

Iraq's Transport Minister Yesterday Announced That Flights From Iraq to Cities of Tehran and Mashhad in Iran Will Resume as of Today (Monday) by Observing All Health Protocols

IRAN NEWS

Russia and Iran Held Talks On the Resumption of Flights Between the Two Countries and Expansion of Air Travel After Quarantine Restrictions Are Eased, The Russian Federal Air Transport Agency Announced

VOL. XXVI, No. 7065 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

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One-Day COVID-19 Fatalities Once Again At All-Time High

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has confirmed 251 new fatalities caused by the novel coronavirus, the biggest one-day record since the beginning of the outbreak.

In her press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima-Sadat Lari said the new deaths increase the overall death toll to 28,544.

She also reported 3,822 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of cases to 500,075.

So far, she added, 406,389 patients have recovered from the disease or been discharged from the hospital.

Lari said 4,482 patients are also in critical conditions caused by more severe infection.

The spokeswoman noted that 4,312,514 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country so far.

She said the high-risk "red" zones include Tehran, Qom, Mazandaran, East Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Yazd, Ardebil, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Hamadan, West Azarbaijan, Bushehr, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Alborz, Lorestan, Markazi, Ilam, South Khorasan, Kermanshah, North Khorasan, Semnan, Gilan, Zanjan, Qazvin, and Kerman provinces. The "orange" zones also include Golestan, Hormozgan, Kurdistan, and Fars provinces, she added.

IAEA Says Iran Short of Significant Quantity of Material for Nukes

VIENNA (Dispatches) - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Rafael Grossi has said Iran is not in possession of enough enriched uranium to develop nuclear weapons.

"The Iranians continue to enrich uranium, and to a much higher degree than they have committed themselves to. And this amount is growing by the month," Grossi said in an interview with Austrian paper Die Presse published on Saturday, Reuters reported.

Asked about Iran's "breakout" time — the period it would take to produce enough nuclear material for one weapon — he said, "In the IAEA we do not talk about breakout time. We look at the significant quantity, the minimum amount of enriched uranium or plutonium needed to make an atomic bomb. Iran does not have this significant quantity at the moment."

The Islamic Republic has repeatedly said that it has never sought and will never seek to build nuclear weapons. The decision, Tehran says, is based on a fatwa (religious decree) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The fatwa bans the production, possession and stockpiling of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction

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Iran to Announce Advances In Making COVID-19 Vaccine



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian minister of health said he has good news about a vaccine being developed in the country for the coronavirus disease, saying the world would hear the news of such a breakthrough in the coming weeks.

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran on Sunday, Saeed Namaki said he has good news about the coronavirus vaccine being made in Iran.

The Health Ministry is going to inform the World Health Organization about Iran's advances in the process of developing the coronavirus vaccine, he added.

The news of the breakthrough that Iran has made in making the vaccine will be announced to the world as a major national achievement, the minister said.

Officials say a number of vaccines for the novel coronavirus being developed in Iran have successfully passed the human tests and are ready for clinical trial.

Namaki also stated that the U.S. has imposed cruel and aggressive sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Responding to question on the impact of U.S. sanctions amid the COVID-19 outbreak, he expressed that the U.S. is telling a blatant lie for not sanctioning Iran's medicine, and the US is a compulsive liar.

"The U.S. has never waived sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Trump administration and his team are the most wild and aggressive administration in the U.S. ever," he said.

"Despite sanctions, Iran faces no shortage of medicine," he underlined.

"Iran can produce 'Remdesivir' and 'Favipiravir' and these medicines are even in the exporting line," the minister highlighted.

Regarding the new health protocols by the onset of the third wave of the coronavirus outbreak, Iran's health minister noted that any ignorance to implement the hygienic protocols would end up in disaster, and those who do not implement the protocols would be fined and persecuted officially.

Referring to the infection rate increase, Namaki said: "There are no hospital-bed shortages, but it does not mean that we are allowed to ignore the protocols."

Referring to vaccine production, Iran's Health Minister said that Iranians and the whole world would hear good news in the coming week.

China Backs JCPOA, Calls for New Middle East Forum

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's foreign minister Wang Yi has called for a new forum to defuse tensions in the Middle East after a meeting with his Iranian counterpart where he reiterated Beijing's support for Tehran.

Wang and Iran Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also reaffirmed their commitment to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, according to the Chinese foreign ministry, an implicit rebuke of the United States for abandoning the accord during their Saturday meeting in China's southwestern Tengchong city.

In a meeting with Zarif in Yunnan province late on Saturday, Wang reaffirmed Beijing's commitment to maintain strength and efficiency of the nuclear deal, officially known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Beijing believes preserving a comprehensive deal means to protect achievements of multilateralism and a useful way of resolving issues through dialogue and consultation and safeguarding the authority of the United Nations and the Security Council, he said. Wang further noted that his country proposes establishment of a regional multilateral dialogue platform aimed at protecting the JCPOA in a bid to address the legitimate security concerns of all parties.

Describing Iran and China as strategic partners and with strategic relations, he said that China is willing to strengthen ties with Iran and boost cooperation with it in various fields, including fighting coronavirus.

The world is facing a series of new threats and challenges, Wang said, noting that the international community needs to support multilateralism, fairness and increased cooperation more than ever.

"China proposes to build a regional multilateral dialogue platform with equal participation of all stakeholders," said the Chinese foreign ministry statement. Zarif, for his part, hailed China's great achievements in fighting coronavirus pandemic, saying that a multipolar world is an inevitable process and unipolar hegemony is not sustainable.

China is turning into a major global power and is playing a very important role in restructuring the world, he said.

The forum would "enhance mutual understanding through dialogue and explore political and diplomatic solutions to security issues in the Middle East", the statement added. Wang added that support for the Iranian nuclear deal, negotiated by the Obama administration but ultimately abandoned by Donald Trump, would be a precondition of entry to the forum. Zarif said on Twitter his "fruitful talks" with Wang amounted to a rejection of "U.S. unilateralism" and had also focused on strategic ties and collaboration on the development of a coronavirus vaccine.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Dimensions of Fiqh, Savior of Today's Human

When it is talked about Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence) most of scientists of human sciences notice the dimensions of this field of science on course of processology that it is not observed in any field and school to this extent of precision. In this field of human sciences with applying a title, mujtahid (individual who is qualified to exercise ijtihad in the evaluation of Islamic law), we not only animate the huge dynamism of ports of capacity of life and immortality, but also we give life to a lasting answer-oriented look containing logic of development in this ground.

That ijtihad (Ijtihad is an Islamic legal term referring to independent reasoning or the thorough exertion of a jurist's mental faculty in finding a solution to a legal question) can open the way to facilitate researches of good and pleasant life for today's human is itself of criteria which is not limited to a particular time in the scale of sustainability in this leaven of human science because jurisprudence sciences in Islam has the capacity in the shape and size of human as what defines human as human, in the past, present and future centuries and ages.

The approach of Islamic fiqh towards human, unlike dimensions explained in political and social schools set in the post-powerful and pluralist feudalism era, has been in dimensions from eternal to infinite. It gives human the dynamism of running about wisdom and doubtless survey from one point of existence to the point of ascent in any time. It gives strength to any axis of behavior on course to initiative, forbids treading water and encourages progress and moving ahead. It reduces the choice of the indulgence, annuals extreme and introduces justice, as what defines justice as justice, and appropriate to the dignity of any one of the creation. Islamic fiqh is summarized in the principles that have been inspired by the science of creation for managing and elevating the creation and it is equipped with the knowledge of hidden dimensions of human. **Aham and Mohem** (An Islamic Fiqh term which means choosing between important and more important when there is contradiction) and distinguishing the priority of each one in this life-oriented cosmorama and beyond the understanding of human is option by option acceptable by mysticism. Verification and originality-centrism relying on the series of narrators among the elites, that the principles of the fiqh sciences are based on it, has equipped this science with the transparency of Fountain of Youth and there are few aestheticians who have not been astonished in this field by so many such wisdoms. **See Page 7**

Iraqi Militias Agree Conditional Ceasefire To Halt U.S. Attacks

BAGHDAD (Reuters) - An array of Iraqi militia groups have agreed to suspend rocket attacks on U.S. forces on condition that Iraq's government presents a timetable for a withdrawal of American troops, one of the groups said on Sunday.

"The factions have presented a conditional ceasefire," said Mohammed Mohi, spokesman for the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah group.

"It includes all factions of the (anti-U.S.) resistance, including those who have been targeting U.S. forces," he told Reuters.

Mohi said the Iraqi government must implement a parliamentary resolution in January that called for the withdrawal from Iraq of foreign troops.

The parliament's decision came after a U.S. drone strike at Baghdad airport martyred Iranian military mastermind Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's top Shi'ite paramilitary chief Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, raising fears of a full-scale Iran-U.S. confrontation on Iraqi soil.

Mohi said there was no deadline for the government to implement the decision, but warned: "If America insists on staying and doesn't respect the parliament's decision then the factions will use all the weapons at their disposal". **See Page 7**



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AEOI Chief Tests Positive for COVID-19

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi has contracted novel coronavirus, the public relations department of the AEOI confirmed on Sunday.

Salehi was tested positive for the virus last week and since then he is under homecare, said the report.

"The general health condition of Salehi is favorable and he is constantly following up AEOI affairs," said the report.

President Orders Formation of Committee to Boost Trade With Neighbors

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Hassan Rouhani ordered the formation of a committee comprising multiple organizations tasked with facilitating and promoting trade with neighboring states.

Addressing a Sunday session of the Administration's Economic Coordination Headquarters, Rouhani was briefed on the latest status of trade exchanges and commercial interaction with neighbors.

Highlighting the "strategic significance" of relations with the neighbors, the president ordered the immediate establishment of a task force and committee comprising the organizations involved in trade interaction with the neighbors.

The president urged that the committee should work in a united and integrated manner to resolve the problems in trade with the neighbors and raise the level of trade exchanges.

The Iranian organizations in charge are duty bound to remove the obstacles to economic and trade cooperation with the neighboring states as a priority, he added.

Rouhani also stressed that the responsible agencies are obliged to prioritize the removal of administrative barriers in trade and economic relations with neighbors and fix any inconsistencies in administrative procedures".



The President stated that under the toughest sanctions imposed on the country, efforts have been made to upgrade non-oil export capacities, adding, "The Customs is obliged to calculate the value of petrochemical companies' export products based on the corresponding export base value declared weekly by the National Petrochemical Industrial Company".

In this regard, in order to create a unified management in order to integrate the affairs of the country's border terminals, the management of these terminals, such as air and sea terminals, was entrusted to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.

Emphasizing on addressing the needs and technical and administrative shortcomings in this field, Dr Rouhani added, "The Ministry of Economy is obliged to expedite meeting the needs and provide customs equipment at the border customs to enable the clearance of goods as soon as possible".

Enemies Trying To Prevent Export By Sanctions



TEHRAN (IP) - Defense minister, Brigadier general Amir Hatami said that enemies impose sanctions on us to limit our export.

Delivering a speech at the inauguration ceremony of the permanent exhibition of Self-sufficiency Jihad of the railway industry, Hatami noted that diligence is our nature, and do cooperate in promoting the railway industry too.

He highlighted that our nation would not forget the behavior or savagery of enemies that imposed economic terrorism on our nation.

Hatami went on to say that while other countries can benefit from science, technology, and medicine, our nation cannot enjoy its basic rights.

Our enemies must know that whatever they do, our nation will not give up. The history proves that succumbing to enemies has nothing except humiliation, he stated.

Our only option in the imposed economic war is diligence, he added.

We are supporting the railway industry in this path, and as it has been shown, we have made opportunities out of problems, the high ranking official concluded.

Trump' Insults Will Unite Iranians Against U.S. Bullying

TEHRAN (MNA) –Calling Trump's insults as a sign of anger over the ineffectiveness of U.S. foreign policy, the Chairman of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations said, "Such moves will make Iranians more united in resisting U.S. bullying."

Kamal Kharrazi made the remarks in reaction to the recent anti-Iran insults of the U.S. President, adding, "Trump's insulting words are a sign of his anger and dissatisfaction with the ineffectiveness of sanctions and the failure to achieve U.S. goals against Iran."

Not only such ill-mannered behavior will never help the U.S. to achieve its goals, but also, it will make the Iranian nation more united in the path of resisting U.S. bullying and unilateralism, he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he condemned the U.S. Treasury Department move of imposing fresh sanctions on Iran's financial sector, targeting 18 banks in an effort to further choke off Iranian revenues.



The U.S. has intended to bring Iran to its knees through imposing new sanctions and redoubled pressure, he said added, "The main US policy towards Iran is the maximum pressure that the result of which was US withdrawal from the JCPOA, re-imposition of anti-Iran sanctions and assassination of Lenient General Soleimani."

"Further, the White House purpose of pursuing a policy of maximum pressure, withdrawing from JCPOA, as well as doing various conspiracies was to collapse the establishment of the Islamic Republic Iran," he underlined.

However, fortunately, with the resistance of the Iranian nation, the White House did not achieve its sinister goal, he asserted.

He also referred to the upcoming U.S. presidential election, stressing, "Regarding the fact that the US administration has some problems in terms of the foreign policy, therefore, Trump is resorting to such anti-Iran issues to win the election."

Iran Vows to Use Its Full Capacity to Protect Defenseless Yemenis

TEHRAN (IFP) - Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to the Iranian foreign minister in special political affairs, discussed the latest developments in Yemen with Foreign Minister of the Yemeni National Salvation Government Hisham Sharaf Abdullah.

During the videoconference talks held on Sunday, Abdullah expressed his gratitude to Iran for its political support and humanitarian aid to Yemeni people.

He also presented a report on the latest measures adopted by the Yemeni National Salvation Government on the international stage as well the correspondence made with the UN in order to record the crimes committed by the Saudi-led coalition, including the perpetuation of aggression as well as the seizure of ships carrying fuel and food amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Khaji, in turn, touched upon Tehran's fundamental position which highlights the political settlement of the Yemen crisis.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will tap into its full potential to defend defenceless Yemeni people on the international stage via numerous regional and international consultations.

Karabakh Part of Islamic World, Must Be Liberated



TEHRAN (MNA) – Ayatollah Hossein Nouri Hamedani said that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the Islamic world and must return to the Islamic country.

"I am familiar with Azerbaijan and during my trip I talked to some of the people there. During my visit, I also said that Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the Islamic world and should return to the Islamic country and must be liberated," said Ayatollah Nouri Hamedani when asked about the recent tensions over Nagorno-Karabakh region.

"Considering the revolutionary spirit of the people of the country, Karabakh must be liberated," he added.

"The enemies must know that they cannot even think of dividing the two nations of Iran and Azerbaijan. We are beside the Shiites of that region and believe that their demands must be materialized," he noted.

Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan engaged in military activities in Nagorno-Karabakh on 27 September, after Yerevan and Baku accused each other of violating a 1994 ceasefire.

Iran has been calling for restraint and dialog between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute and most recently has given a stern warning to the two warring sides against violating Iran's territory.

Trump Resorts to Anti-Iran Sanctions To Escape From Criticisms

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to Trump's failure in his policies towards Iran, an Iranian Parliament member noted "Trump resorts to re-announcing sanctions on Iranian banks to ease any criticism in this regard."

Abbas Moghtadaei, Deputy Chairman of the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, slammed the U.S. move of imposing fresh sanctions on Iran's financial sector which is targeting 18 Iranian banks, noting, "The recent U.S. sanctions are more about Trump's need to gain a winning card in the upcoming U.S. election in November, than the need to impose sanctions on Iran."

Trump's critics put a lot of pressure on him because the anti-Iran sanctions could not bring the Islamic Republic to its knees, added the lawmaker.

Therefore, the Trump administration has once again restored to anti-Iran sanctions and raised propagandas in order to reduce such pressures, he explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to Trump claims over bringing Iran back to the negotiation table at the time of withdrawing from JCPOA, adding, "Trump is under the pressures of the critics because of his failure to deliver on his promise, therefore, in order to achieve the desired results in the upcoming election, he has re-announced the previous sanctions."

However, the re-announcement of the previous sanctions will do no good for the Trump administration, the lawmaker noted.



34th Int'l Islamic Unity Conference to Be Held Virtually

TEHRAN (MNA) – The 34th edition of the International Islamic Unity Conference will be held virtually due to conditions imposed by the novel coronavirus pandemic, said the chief of the conference.

The conference will be staged in a webinar format from October 29 to November 3 concurrent with the Unity Week, Hojjat-ul-Islam Hamid Shahriari, the head of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought which organizes the conference, said.

He noted that a special website has been designed for this purpose which offers all the information needed for participants in the online event.

Following the announcement of the week of unity by the founder of Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini (RA) and based on the strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in strengthening unity among Muslims, it was decided to hold the International Islamic Unity Conference, which was taken by the authorities and officials. Since 1990, Islamic Development Organization was in charge of holding four of the conference, but after the establishment of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought by the order of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, this Forum became responsible for the mission of holding this important conference, according to the Conference's website.

The purpose of the International Islamic Unity Conference is creating unity and solidarity among Muslims, developing consensus among scholars and scientists to approximate their scientific and cultural viewpoints and presenting practical solutions in order to reach the Islamic Unity and Unified Islamic Ummah in the Islamic World and solving the problems of Muslims and presenting solutions for them.

Iran Marks National Hafez Day

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian people annually gather at the mausoleum of prominent 14th century poet Hafez on Oct. 11 to mark his national day, but this year the ceremony has been called off due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Hafez (1315-1390) was a Persian poet who "lauded the joys of love and wine but also targeted religious hypocrisy".

His collected works are regarded by many Iranians as a pinnacle of Persian literature and are often found in the homes of people in the Persian-speaking world, who learn his poems by heart and still use them as proverbs and sayings.

His life and poems have become the subjects of much analysis, commentary and interpretation, influencing post-14th century Persian writing more than any other author.

Hafiz Shirazi who is considered as the symbol of the Iranian nation's identity and their historical and cultural memory also serves as the subconscious conscience of Iranian society and the most popular Persian poet.

Hafiz's sonnets are familiar to everyone and the great Iranian poet is considered as the most effective poets whose poems have been translated to different European languages and whose name has been

heard in the western literary circles.

Hafiz's tomb which is called Hafezieh is located in Shiraz, the capital of Fars province Southern Iran.

It is home to beautiful flowers whose fragrance has been mingled with the emotions and passions of his poems.

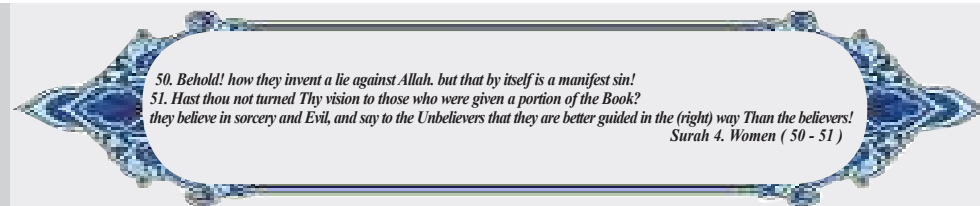
Hafezieh is considered one of the most important tourist attractions in Shiraz and it attracts many Hafiz's poems enthusiasts from Iran and all across the globe to this land of literary works.





PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:50
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:46
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:09



Iran Railway Capacities Increased by %40

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami says the capacity of rail lines in the country during the current government's term has increased by 40 percent, adding that the capacity of rail lines would be increased by 60 percent comparing to the past by the end of this government in mid-2021.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony of exhibition on self-sufficiency in rail industry, Eslami said that an important action has been taken and all rail companies and manufacturers have been encouraged to use the domestic capacity and in these days while Coronavirus has gripped the country, the country witnesses joining new railways to the railway fleet.

Eslami said that over 1200 wagons and locomotives have been domestically or renovated, and joined the fleet.

Pointing to the national rail, he said that production of domestic –made rail was materialized last year and today, the talks between related bodies for getting more rails are underway.

Eslami said that in the current economic condition and while the country is in economic war, all should take advantage of domestic capacities.

He reiterated that the policy of the country is to expand rail system and soon five provinces will be connected by the railway network.

Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Ardebil, Kurdistan, and part of Northern Khorasan will enjoy railways and north to the south corridor which is the biggest project at the moment aiming at increasing the share of the railway in transferring cargo and passengers, he noted.

Meanwhile in the ceremony Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI)



Saeed Rasouli said by completing rail infrastructures like Khaf-Herat railway, Iran would be able to access transit markets with over 35 million tons of annual capacity.

Rasouli underlined Iran's geopolitical and strategic position which has turned the country into a vital gateway for regional and international trade and said: "We must make the most of this position and these capacities."

We only have the capacity to transit 18 million tons of goods in the region, a large part of which is transported through sea, he said, adding: "With the development of rail infrastructure, including the Khaf-Herat, Chabahar-Zahedan and Shalamchah-Basra railway projects, we will access a market of 35 million tons in the region and we must step up our efforts to increase the share of rail transportation in transit."

"The Khaf-Herat line has a transit potential of nearly two million tons; with the expansion of the rail network in Afghanistan, this capacity will definitely increase exponentially and we can reach much larger markets," Rasouli said.

Khaf-Herat is part of the Iran-Afghanistan rail corridor. The project started in the fiscal year of 2007-2008, connects Iran's eastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan's western city of Ghoryan.

Iran has been following new strategies for increasing the share of transit in its foreign trade basket and the country's railway network has become the center of the government plans for achieving the said goal.

Parsian Refinery Boosts Gas Output By 8% Y/Y



TEHRAN (Shana) -- The CEO of Parsian Gas Refining Company announced a 9% year-on-year increase in the production of gas and gas condensate in the first six months of the current calendar year, which began on March 21.

According to the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Farshid Ebdali Dehdezi said his company supplied 10.34 billion cubic meters of natural gas and 3.88 million barrels of gas condensate in the first half of the year which was 9 percent higher than the plant's output in the same period last year.

The CEO of Parsian Gas Refining Company stated that this increase occurred despite the excruciating heat of the south, and stated: "In the first half of the year, we also saw an increase of more than 9% in the production of gas condensate compared to the first 6 months of last year."

Parsian Gas Refining Company, as the largest sweet gas refinery and the second largest gas producer in the country, has an effective role in preserving and protecting the environment by supplying natural gas as a source of clean energy.

Iran Non-Oil Exports Grows 24% in Value

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's foreign trade from August 22 to September 21 reached about 11 million tons of goods worth 5 billion and 767 million dollars, which in terms of value compared to the same period last month increased by more than 24 percent.

Iranian Customs Administration spokesman Rouhollah Latifi, referring to the trade of 11 million tons of goods from August 22 to September 21 this year stated that of this amount, 8 million and 252,000 tons worth 2 billion and 691 million dollars was the share of exports.

Iran's customs spokesman added, "Exports in this period compared to the previous month (July 22 to August 21), has grown 6 percent in terms of weight and 24.5 percent in terms of value."

Tehran, Kabu Stress Cooperation in Economic Projects

KABUL (IRNA) - Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian and Afghanistan's acting Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar in a video conference underlined cooperation in joint economic projects and the ways to develop relations.

Atmar appreciated the Iranian government and people for helping Afghan people over the last 19 years and emphasized promoting ties.

He reviewed import electricity, customs tariffs, creating preferential tariffs for exporting Afghanistan agricultural products to Iran, and trade balance between the two countries.



Both sides discussed readiness for holding joint economic commission and producing electricity in the framework of joint projects.

Meanwhile, Ardakanian stressed the continuation of support and cooperation with Afghanistan in production and energy transfer to Afghanistan.

Iran and Afghanistan enjoy close relations in political, economic, social, and cultural fields.

Over the last 19 years, the Iranian government has established cooperation with the Afghan government in different fields and the most important one was the Khaf-Herat railway.

Over \$1b Investment Applications Registered in Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - The head of Iran's Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance Organization announced that it has received more than \$ 1 billion in foreign investment applications.

Ali-Mohammad Mousavi, Director General of the Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance Organization of Iran, at the invitation of the Regional Director of the World Association of Foreign Investment Promotion Agencies (WIPA), participated in the first regional meeting of investment incentive agencies in the Middle East and North Africa.

During the videoconference, Mousavi stressed Iran's support and cooperation with other countries in sharing Coronavirus experiences and trying to mitigate the negative consequences of the epidemic on businesses and investors.

The head of the Organization for Investment and Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, while condemning the illegal and unilateral US sanctions in the difficult conditions of the fight against Corona, said: "According to available statistics, the request for investment in Iran is 1.4 billion dollars, which has had an upward trend compared to the same period last year."

Tehran, Minsk Explore Ways of Developing Economic Cooperation

TEHRAN - The Iranian ambassador to Minsk and the Minister of Industry and Chairman of the Belarusian side of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Belarus reviewed the latest state of cooperation between the two countries in various economic sectors.

Iranian envoy Saeed Yari, in a meeting with Belarusian Minister of Industry Piotr Parkhomchik, expressed his hope that due to the long executive record of the Belarusian Minister in the field

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



of industry, the process of industrial cooperation between Iran and Belarus will be pursued more rapidly.

Parkhomchik also stressed the need to accelerate the development of industrial cooperation between Iran and Belarus and announced his readiness for any cooperation in this field.

At the end of the meeting, it was decided to make the necessary arrangements for holding the 15th meeting of the Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Commission in the near future.

Yemen Calls for Setting Up Iranian Tractor Assembling Line

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Yemeni Ambassador to Iran called for Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company to set up tractor assembling line in Yemen.

We expect our brothers in Iran to provide good tractors for Yemen to develop its agricultural sector, Ibrahim Mohammad Mohammad al-Deilami said.

He added that due to sanctions and blockade on Yemen, no imports are available.

He noted that despite cruel and unfair sanctions, Yemeni people are trying to materialize their aspirations.

Meanwhile, managing director of Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company Abolfath Ebrahimi expressed readiness for cooperation and supplying Yemeni farmers with tractors.

We are ready to supply light and heavy tractors for Yemen, he said.

He noted that Iran Tractor Manufacturing Company is also ready to provide after-sale services.

Iran Ranks First Among Muslim States in Aerospace Sector

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Iran is the number one country in the Muslim world when it comes to aerospace technology, according to Head of Iran's Aerospace Research Institute Fathollah Ommi.

Ommi said that naming this week as the World Space Week is a source of pride for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said that Iran, the U.S., and Russia had made proposals to the United Nations for naming a week as World Space Week and the United Nations finally agreed with Iran's proposal.

Iran's Aerospace Research Institute is among the top 20 world space institutes, Ommi said.

He stressed that world people cannot live without space technologies as they owe the function of their cell phones to launching different satellites.

MSC Shareholders Carefreely Put Shares of the Co. in Their Baskets

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company says the group currently produces over 10.2m tons of steel products especially steel sheets for industries, and the existence of full chain of steel production in Mobarakeh Steel Company is one of the advantages of the company.



Mr. Hamid Reza Azimian pointed to the stability in the value of shares of Mobarakeh Steel Company in the stock market as one of blessings of this company and reminded that due to the good performance of his tireless colleagues in the company, today in the stock market many shareholders put the shares of this company in their baskets carefreely.

Azimian added that in 2013, some 5 million tons of different steel sheets were imported into the country, stipulating that according to the long-term planning of the management and efforts of the staff in the company, the volume of steel imports was reduced to 500,000 in 2019 and his colleagues in the company could meet major demands of the country.

He pointed to breaking promises by foreign contractors regarding implementation of mega national projects like oil and gas projects and the project for transfer of oil from Gohar Port to Jask, adding that MSC was assigned to provide this project with its needed steel for producing pipes and the government assisted this mega project.

He added that although this strategic product had no significant marginal profit for the company, MSC tried its best to fulfill its national responsibility well by entering such scenes.

In some part of his speech, Azimian pointed to production of sheets needed in the home appliance and auto industries as the major achievement of the company, adding that with production of these sheets, the country does not need imports of them and it will prevent the flight of considerable forex from the country annually.

In the end, he said commitment of the company to its social responsibilities is one of the major tasks of it and expressed hope the company would still be source of pride and blessing for the country.

Peru President to Face Corruption Probe

LIMA 9Dispatches) - Peru state prosecutors have said they intend to open a corruption investigation into President Martin Vizcarra when his term ends in July next year.

"We have decided that there are reasons to investigate the president of the Republic," said a statement Friday from the prosecutors' office, based on a report from a provincial prosecutor focusing on public sector corruption.

The head of state enjoys immunity from prosecution, meaning the investigation is suspended until he leaves office on July 28, 2020, the statement said.



Canary Islands Sees Biggest Migrant Surge Since 2006

BARCELONA (Reuters) - More than 1,000 migrants reached the Canary Islands in the past 48 hours, the Red Cross said on Saturday, the largest number since a 2006 crisis in the archipelago.

Beefed-up security on Morocco's Mediterranean coast is pushing traffickers and migrants south to risk the perilous crossing to the Canaries, located around 60 miles (97 km) to the west of the Atlantic coast, analysts and rights groups say.

Between Thursday and Saturday, 1,015 migrants landed in 485 boats in the seven Spanish islands, a Red Cross spokesman said.



Kyrgyz President Strengthens Hold on Power as New PM Named



BISHKEK (Reuters) - Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov strengthened his grip on power on Saturday, reshuffling top security officials as his principal opponent, ex-president Almazbek Atambayev, was detained again just days after leaving prison.

Jeenbekov's allies in parliament elected a new prime minister, moving to impose order on what close ally Russia has called a state of political chaos a day after the president deployed troops in and around the capital Bishkek.

Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian nation that hosts a Russian military airbase and is a hub for trade with neighbouring China, has been gripped by unrest since Oct. 4, the date of a contested election that was subsequently annulled.

On Saturday night Bishkek was calm, as a state of emergency declared by Jeenbekov and incorporating a ban on public rallies and a curfew took effect.

Lawmakers earlier voted in the only candidate for premier, 51-year-old Sadyr Zhaparov, who some opposition factions accused of being in league with the president. There was no immediate reaction from Russia to his appointment.

Jeenbekov had on Friday instructed troops to re-establish order amid flare-ups of violence, and military checkpoints were put up overnight around Bishkek while personnel carriers patrolled the city. He also sacked top security council officials who had either supported his opponents or failed to intervene when the opposition said on Tuesday it was seizing power.

More than 1,200 people have been injured and one person has been killed, according to health ministry figures, in clashes that erupted on Monday following the election, in which establishment parties had claimed a landslide victory.

With the parliament building ransacked by protesters, lawmakers gathered on Saturday in the presidential residence on the outskirts of Bishkek to vote in Zhaparov.

He previously served as adviser to another former president, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who was succeeded by Atambayev in 2011.

Atambayev's supporters had on Tuesday secured his release from prison, where he was serving a lengthy sentence for corruption, and said he survived an assassination attempt on Friday.

The state security service said it had rearrested Atambayev on charges of inciting unrest. The ex-president is Jeenbekov's former patron and now his arch-enemy. Among others detained on Saturday was former deputy interior minister Kursan Asanov, who had assumed leadership of the ministry when the unrest began.

Prior to his appointment as premier, Zhaparov called for constitutional reforms before fresh presidential and parliamentary elections.

He told parliament that Jeenbekov had reaffirmed to him his intention to resign once a new cabinet was approved.

Trump Holds First Public Event Since COVID-19 Diagnosis

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Donald Trump held his first public event Saturday since being diagnosed with COVID-19, as the United States president seeks to show the public he is fit to resume campaigning ahead of the November 3 elections.

Trump was not wearing a mask as he addressed a crowd of a few hundred cheering supporters Saturday afternoon from a White House balcony, where he spoke about "law and order" issues in the country.

"I'm honored to welcome you. We call this a peaceful protest in the White House in support of the incredible men and women of law enforcement and all of the people that work so well with us," Trump said.

The speech came after White House physician Sean Conley said the president could once again hold public events as of Saturday, 10 days after he tested positive for COVID-19.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says people infected with COVID-19 can see others 10 days after their symptoms first appeared, provided their symptoms are improving and they have not had a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication.

But public health experts have cautioned against holding large public events where congregants do not wear masks to prevent the potential spread of the novel coronavirus



Pope Calls for Pulling Investments From Companies Not Committed to Environment

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Pope Francis on Saturday urged people to pull investments from companies that are not committed to protecting the environment, adding his voice to calls for the economic model that emerges from the coronavirus pandemic to be a sustainable one.

Francis spoke in a video message for an online event called "Countdown Global Launch, A Call to Action on Climate Change".

"Science tells us, every day with more precision, that we need to act urgently ... if we are to have any hope of avoiding radical and catastrophic climate change," he said.

The pope listed three action points: better education about the environment, sustainable agriculture and access to clean water, and a transition away from fossil fuels.

"One way to encourage this change is to lead companies towards the urgent need to commit to the integral care of our common home, excluding from investments companies that do not meet (these) parameters ... and rewarding those that (do)," he said.

He said the pandemic had made the need to address the climate crisis and related social problems even more pressing.

"The current economic system is unsustainable. We are faced with a moral imperative ... to rethink many things," he said, listing means of production, consumerism, waste, indifference to the poor, and harmful energy sources.

In June, a Vatican document urged Catholics to disinvest from the armaments and fossil fuel industries and to monitor companies in sectors such as mining for possible damage to the environment.

Other speakers and activists at the online event included actress Jane Fonda, Britain's Prince William, former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

and some observers questioned Trump's decision to hold Saturday's address.

The country's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, on Friday said an event held late last month in the White House Rose Garden for Trump's Supreme Court nominee, Amy Coney Barrett, was a "superspreader event" that is believed to have infected numerous people.

"I was not surprised to see a super-spreader event given the circumstances. Crowded, congregate setting, not wearing masks. It is not surprising to see an outbreak," Fauci told The Associated Press news agency.

Maevie Reston, a CNN political reporter, said White House safety protocols did not appear to have changed much since Trump tested positive for COVID-19. An unnamed source told CNN that Saturday's event attendees would be subject to temperature checks.

Taiwan President Calls for Meaningful Dialogue With China

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan wants to have "meaningful dialogue" with China on an equal basis, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Saturday, extending an olive branch at a time of heightened military tension with Beijing, which claims the island as sovereign Chinese territory.

Democratic Taiwan has come under increasing pressure from Beijing, which has ramped up air force activity near the island in the past few weeks, including crossing the Taiwan Strait's sensitive mid line that normally serves as an unofficial buffer zone.

China says it is responding to "collusion" between Washington and Taipei, angered at growing U.S. support for the self-governed island. Beijing views this a precursor to Taiwan declaring formal independence, a red line for China.

Speaking at National Day celebrations, Tsai described the situation in the Taiwan Strait as "quite tense." This, along with disputes in the South China Sea, a China-India border conflict and China's crackdown in Hong Kong, showed democracy and peace in the

region were facing big challenges, she said.

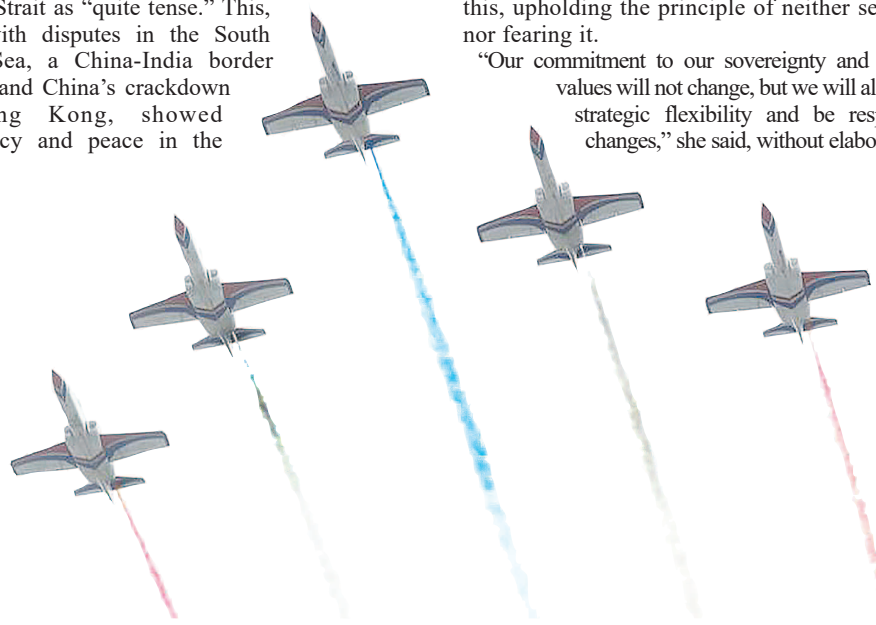
If Beijing can heed Taiwan's voice and jointly facilitate reconciliation and peaceful dialogue, regional tension can surely be resolved, she added.

"As long as the Beijing authorities are willing to resolve antagonisms and improve cross-strait relations, while parity and dignity are maintained, we are willing to work together to facilitate meaningful dialogue," Tsai said.

But China, which cut off a formal talks mechanism in 2016 after she first won office, said on Saturday that Taiwan continued to pursue independence and still held a confrontational mindset. Tsai said she was committed to maintaining stability in the Taiwan Strait, but that this was the responsibility of both sides.

Still, she has made strengthening Taiwan's armed forces a priority, and said she would keep pushing this, upholding the principle of neither seeking war nor fearing it.

"Our commitment to our sovereignty and democratic values will not change, but we will also maintain strategic flexibility and be responsive to changes," she said, without elaborating.



North Korea Unveils Monster New Intercontinental Ballistic Missile

SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korea unveiled previously unseen intercontinental ballistic missiles at an unprecedented predawn military parade on Saturday that showcased the country's long-range weapons for the first time in two years.

Analysts said the missile, which was shown on a transporter vehicle with 11 axles, would be one of the largest road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in the world if it becomes operational.

"This missile is a monster," said Melissa Hanham, deputy director of the Open Nuclear Network. Also displayed were the Hwasong-15, which is the longest-range missile ever tested by North Korea, and what appeared to be a new submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

Ahead of the parade, which was held to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of its ruling Workers' Party, officials in South Korea and the United States said Kim Jong Un could use the event to unveil a new "strategic weapon" as promised earlier this year.

A senior U.S. administration official called the display of the ICBM "disappointing" and called on the government to negotiate to achieve a complete denuclearization.

The parade featured North Korea's ballistic missiles for the first time since Kim began meeting with international leaders, including U.S. President Donald Trump, in 2018. The U.S. official said Washington was holding fast to four commitments made by Trump and Kim at their historic meeting in June of that year, including a pledge by Pyongyang to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Kim made no direct mention of the United States or the now-stalled denuclearization talks. "We will continue to build our national defence power and self-defensive war deterrence," Kim said, but vowed that the country's military power would not be used preemptively.

Kim blamed international sanctions, typhoons, and the coronavirus for preventing him from delivering on promises of economic progress.

"I am ashamed that I have never been able to repay you properly for your enormous trust," he said. "My efforts and devotion were not sufficient to bring our people out of difficult livelihoods."





Zaferanieh Apt (\$2800)
250sq.m, 4bdrs
S/pool, S, J
L.balcony
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Shariati Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
Fully Furn

Parsian

Velenjak (\$1400)
2bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

Kamranieh Apt (\$2800)
300sq.m, 4bdrs
S/pool, S, J, pkg
balcony, & F.F

Niavaran Villa
800sq.m, 4bdrs, yard

Vanak (\$1000)
2bdrs, pkg, F.F

Elahieh bldg (\$5000)
4storey, 13bdrs, pkgs

Gheitarieh Apt (\$2700)
250sq.m, 3bdrs, balcony
S/p, Sauna, Jacuzzi, pkg, F.F

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Britain, EU to Pursue Mini-Deals If Talks Fail

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain and the European Union have agreed to pursue 'mini-deals' in areas of mutual interest, such as aviation and road transport, even if trade negotiations for a wider deal break down next week, The Times here reported on Saturday.

European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier and Britain's chief negotiator David Frost have agreed that even if a wider deal proves impossible to reach on Oct. 15, contact will continue, The Times said.

In such an event, the two sides would spend November attempting to put together mini-deals to offset the likely disruption when the transition period ends on Dec. 31, the newspaper said, without citing sources.



India to Surpass Japan to Become The Third Largest Economy by 2050

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The Indian economy is set to become the third largest in the world behind China and the US by 2050 and retain the same position in 2100, a study published in the medical journal Lancet found by translating working age population of countries into scenarios for total GDP.

Taking 2017 as the base year when India was the seventh largest economy, the Lancet paper said India will move up to become the fourth largest economy behind the US, China, Japan by 2030 and subsequently will overtake Japan in 2050. India is currently the fifth largest economy in the world, closely followed by France and UK.

Indian government's aspirations are also on similar line. Niti Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar in May this year said India should aspire to become the 3rd largest economy by 2047. However, the current estimates are less optimistic compared to some earlier projections, possibly reflecting the economic slowdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. A study by Japan Centre for Economic Research in December last year, just before the outbreak of the pandemic said India would surpass Japan to become the third largest economy by 2029. Indian government's own ambitious target to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 is also set to be missed post the pandemic.

The Lancet paper warned that there would be huge declines in working age population in China and India, alongside steady increases in Nigeria, though India would maintain the top position. "By 2100, India was forecasted to still have the largest working-age population in the world, followed by Nigeria, China, and the USA. In our reference scenario, despite fertility rates lower than the replacement level, immigration sustained the US workforce," it added.

Other countries bolstered by immigration that rose up in the global rankings by GDP were Australia and Israel. Despite huge declines in population forecasted this century, the paper said Japan will remain the fourth-largest economy in 2100.

The key findings of the paper suggest that continued trends in female educational attainment and access to contraception will hasten declines in fertility and slow population growth. "A sustained TFR (total fertility rate) lower than the replacement level in many countries, including China and India, would have economic, social, environmental, and geopolitical consequences. Policy options to adapt to continued low fertility, while sustaining and enhancing female reproductive health, will be crucial in the years to come," it said.

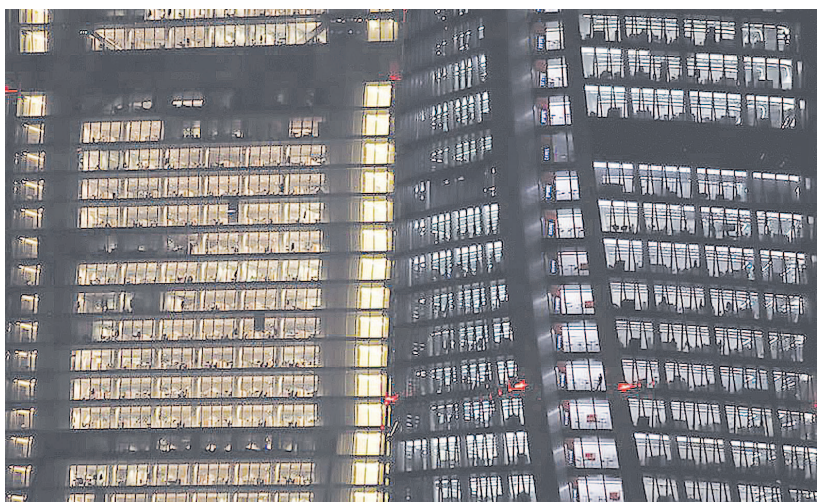
Italy Business Lobby sees 10% GDP Contraction This Year

MILAN (Reuters) - Italy's business lobby Confindustria said on Saturday it saw just a "partial" rebound for the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2021 after an expected 10% contraction this year, as the coronavirus epidemic still loomed.

Confindustria's research unit CSC said a recent spike in new COVID-19 cases was a source of uncertainty and a cause for expected economic weakness in the last quarter of this year.

"A recovery of GDP should restart in a gradual fashion from start-2021, on the condition that the COVID-19 spread is contained in an effective way," it said.

CSC estimates Italian GDP to grow 4.8% next year. However such projection does not include the effects of Rome's



next budget manoeuvre and resources made available by the European union, it said.

Daily new coronavirus infections on Friday topped 5,000 for the first time since March.

Italian GDP, hit by one of the world's strictest coronavirus lockdowns between March and May, shrank by 13% in the second quarter from the previous three months, the steepest GDP fall since national statistic bureau ISTAT's current series began in 1995.

Italy's government expects its coronavirus-hit economy to shrink by 9% this year and to grow 6% in 2021, according to its latest macroeconomic and public finance projections issued last month.

Africa Needs \$1.2 Trillion of Financing to Beat Covid-19 Hit

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - African countries will need \$1.2 trillion through 2023 to repair the economic damage inflicted by the coronavirus pandemic, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said.

About \$345 billion in financing has not yet been pledged, Georgieva said in a speech, while commitments from official lenders and international institutions cover less than a quarter of the projected need.

"All of us -- countries and institutions -- must do more to support Africa to cope with the next phase, which is building a recovery from this crisis," Georgieva said.

The Washington-based crisis lender estimates Africa will see its GDP contract 2.5 percent in 2020, one of the worst downturns the continent has ever seen. And while recovery will begin next year, pre-crisis levels of growth won't be reached until 2022.

With private sector financing limited, the IMF projects a funding gap of \$44 billion for this year alone, and 43 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty on the continent, wiping out five years of progress in poverty reduction.

The IMF has significantly increased its financial assistance to the continent, providing about \$26 billion to more than 40 countries this year, while the World Bank has provided around \$21.9 billion in loans.

African countries have more than a million cases of Covid-19 with 23,000 deaths, the IMF said.



Turkish Companies Call Saudi Arabia to Take Concrete Steps

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The Turkish businesspeople called on Saudi authorities on Oct. 10 to take concrete initiatives to resolve problems in trade and economic relations.

Referring to complaints reported by Turkish companies and the press, Turkish NGOs of the business world stressed in a joint statement that they are expecting Saudi authorities to take concrete initiatives to resolve the problems in trade and economic relations.

Stressing the significance of conducting commercial and economic relations smoothly with Saudi Arabia, the statement added: "We regret to see that Saudi Arabia is taking an increasingly negative stance against Turkish companies."

"We learn from the complaints reported by Turkish companies, which are also taken up by the press, that Saudi authorities state that no imports would be made from Turkey."

"Furthermore, it is stated that many Saudi companies which supply goods from Turkish companies are forced to sign a letter of commitment not to import goods from Turkey," it added.

The statement also drew attention to the global logistics companies' warnings to their customers about the obstacles Turkish companies face in Saudi Arabia, that they should be prepared for long waiting times at Saudi customs for goods arriving from Turkey and that imports from Turkey might even be blocked.

"Finally, it has been a massive disappointment for the businesspeople of both countries that the President of the Council of Saudi Chambers Mr. Ajlan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Ajlan tweeted on October 3, 2020 that it is the duty of all Saudi nationals to boycott Turkish products," it said.

Stressing that any official or unofficial initiative to block bilateral trade will have negative repercussions on trade relations and be detrimental to economies and people of the both countries, the statement also said: "We deeply regret the discriminatory treatment that our companies face in Saudi Arabia."

"We are confident that we can surmount any kind of problem with constructive dialogue and cooperation," it added.

German Exports Rise in August, But at Slower Pace

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German exports grew for the fourth straight month in August, official data showed Thursday, but the pace is slowing as Europe's largest economy settles into a new economic normality after the coronavirus lockdowns of the spring.

Exports grew 2.4 per cent month-on-month in August, after a 4.7 percent jump in July, federal statistics agency Destatis said in seasonally adjusted figures.

Imports grew 5.8 percent in August.

Germany shipped goods abroad worth 91.2 billion euros (\$107.3 billion) and imported goods worth 78.5 billion euros. The fourth consecutive monthly rise follows a steep plunge in activity in March and April when coronavirus lockdowns brought factories and businesses to a standstill.

Exports remain 10.2 percent below the same month a year earlier -- and 9.9 percent below pre-crisis levels in February -- while imports were down 7.9 percent on August 2019. The German economy has shown signs of a strong rebound in the third quarter, mainly led by domestic demand as the country began easing virus restrictions in May.

Exports, a key driver of German growth, have played catch-up since then but remain highly dependent on how other countries are coping with the pandemic.

Experts say the momentum of Germany's recovery appears to be slowing as countries around the world grapple with a resurgence in Covid-19 cases.

While German exports to China fell by only 1.1 percent compared with August 2019, exports to the United States, which continues to be more affected by the pandemic, fell 21.1 percent.

"New restrictions on the back of increasing infections in many countries will also leave their marks on German exports... Clearly there are more headwinds than tailwinds for the export sector," ING economist Carsten Brzeski said.

Concerns are also mounting about Germany's own spike in cases. The country's disease control agency recorded more than 4,000 new daily infections on Thursday for the first time since early April, prompting its head Lothar Wieler to warn that Germany could see an uncontrollable spread of the virus.

Savings Rate in Japan Hits 20-Year High



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's savings rate rose to its highest level in two decades, as anxiety over the pandemic and the economic outlook appeared to encourage people to pocket cash handouts from the government instead of spending them.

On average, people saved 44 percent of their income in the five months through August this year, up from 33 percent in the same period last year, according to household spending data released Friday by the internal affairs ministry.

Higher savings rates means less spending, which is bad for the country's overall recovery. Private consumption accounts for more than half the economy and a rebound is especially important with the virus hitting exports markets even harder than Japan.

"Until the virus is gone, it's hard to see the savings rate going back down to where it was," said economist Takeshi Minami at Norinchukin Research Institute. "Consumer sentiment has improved somewhat but behavior hasn't returned to normal. As long as people are reluctant to travel and eat out spending isn't going to recover to what it was."

The savings rate was particularly high in June, when a lot of the government's cash handouts arrived in people's bank accounts, the data showed. People in both high and low income brackets increased savings, but low earners saved more.

The overall jump in savings mirrors the findings of a report last week that showed net income for Japanese households hit a record high during the second quarter as government handouts swelled bank balances and people staying at home spent less money.

"Compared to the falls seen during the global financial crisis, the decline in consumption this time is remarkable," added Minami. While people have been coming around to the idea of consuming again recently, actual spending hasn't fully recovered, he said.

Cash and deposits held by households rose to a record ¥1.03 quadrillion (\$9.7 trillion) in the April-June period.

“Yalda” Wins at Antalya Film Festival

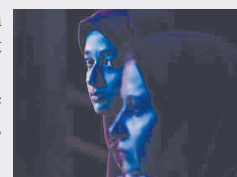
TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian feature film ‘Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness’ has won at the 57th edition of the Antalya Golden Orange Film Festival, in Turkey.

Directed by Masoud Bakhshi, the film won the award at the “World Cinema” section of the festival, which was held from October 3-10.

‘Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness’ depicts the future of a young woman facing retributive justice play out live on the country’s most popular reality show.

Behnaz Jafari, Faqih Soltani, Fereshteh Sadr-Orafaee, Bahram Afshar, Fereshteh Hosseini and Babak Karimi are among the cast members of the flick.

The film has won a top prize at the Sundance Film Festival in the US. The festival’s World Cinema dramatic section gave its grand jury award to ‘Yalda, a Night for Forgiveness’, a drama by Iranian filmmaker Masoud Bakhshi.



Dollar Makes a Comeback as Cuba Readies Currency Devaluation

HAVANA (AFP) - The U.S. dollar is making a comeback as the favored currency in communist-run Cuba as the country prepares to devalue the peso to relieve pressure on a battered economy.

Cuba has a unique system whereby two official currencies have existed side-by-side for nearly three decades, the Cuban peso and convertible peso, the CUC.

Long lines outside food stores are a common sight in Havana amid chronic shortages of basic goods, and with the government planning to call time on the CUC shopkeepers are already rejecting the currency, driving a rush to dollars for those who can get them.

“CUC not accepted” reads the sign at the entry to one Havana shop.

The island’s economy, buffeted by ever-tightening U.S. sanctions, has been hammered by the coronavirus pandemic, which has left Cuba without much-needed foreign revenue provided by its Caribbean beach tourism.

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America forecasts GDP to plummet 8.0 percent this year.

In July, Havana opened dozens of state-run “dollar stores” in an effort to rake in foreign currency.

The relatively well-stocked stores are a magnet for well-off Cubans and those with dollar remittances sent from U.S.-based Cubans.

Customers first have to open a dollar-denominated bank account, then use a debit card to pay for the goods in the stores.

Economists warn of the creation of a two-tier economy -- for the haves who can afford to buy in dollars, and the have-nots in the normal domestic economy.

“Of the 11 million inhabitants, if one million can buy in dollars, what about the other 10? If I don’t have family abroad, to send dollars home, I don’t have that opportunity,” said Aleskis Rodriguez, 31, as he lined up to buy coffee at a Havana market still accepting CUC.

Economy Minister Alejandro Gil denied the move would herald “economic apartheid” in Cuba. Instead, he said, it will satisfy the demands of people with the most purchasing power, and add to state coffers.

Economists like Pavel Vidal, a specialist on Cuba from Colombia’s Javeriana University, have long argued that the dual-currency system is unwieldy, particularly for exporters.

Vidal says Cuba’s embrace of the dollar is an admission of failure by the authorities, a consequence of reforms that are “incomplete and well below expectations.”

The long-mooted monetary reform is coming “at the worst possible moment,” Vidal said.



“Because this is monetary reform that implies a significant devaluation of the official currency against the dollar. Something that has never been done.”

The government in Havana has for years maintained the CUC artificially pegged to the dollar, as a shield for the vulnerable Cuban currency.

“I spent \$30.90 and look at what I bought! Some packages of juice, five packages of spaghetti and five packets of tomato puree, really nothing,” said Niurka Romera, 50, outside a dollar store.

Whatever the currency, one thing is a constant in Cuban life: the long lines outside shops.

“I’ve been here since 5.15 in the morning. It’s 11.30 now, but they’re already closing the shop and I have to come back tomorrow to buy my coffee,” said Magalis, a 52-year-old teacher.

She said the government was not doing enough to limit the size of the lines during the pandemic.

“If Commander Fidel Castro was still alive, he would have done something beautiful for the people.”

Govt Issues Foreign Currency Account Rules



ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - In a bid to stop money laundering, the federal government has issued rules pertaining to foreign currency accounts.

According to a document issued by the finance ministry, the rules have been based on the Protection of Economic Reforms Act 1992, under which “a foreign currency account of an individual may be credited with the remittances received from abroad through banking channel except payment for goods exported from Pakistan”.

“Other than this, payment for services rendered in or from Pakistan, proceeds of securities issued or sold to non-residents, and any foreign exchange borrowed from abroad under any general or special permission of the State Bank will also not be allowed.”

However, the new rules do allow people in foreign countries to send money to Pakistan in different ways, for example, a foreign currency account may be credited through transfer from another individual foreign currency account.

Under the rules, proceeds realised on account of profit, return, and principal amount of investment made in any foreign currency denominated or foreign currency linked scheme of Government of Pakistan may be credited into the account.

Furthermore, the State Bank may issue any general or special permission for credit to the account, documents state. A foreign currency account shall not be credited with any foreign exchange purchased from an authorized dealer, exchange company or money changer except as allowed by the State Bank through general or special permission under any law.

However, foreign currency brought in from abroad and duly declared at the point of entry into Pakistan with Pakistan Customs may be credited in the account and lastly the rules state that there shall be no restriction on cash withdrawals or transfers from the foreign currency account.

Bangladesh Economy Shows Early Signs of Pandemic Recovery

DHAKA (AP) — A rebound in garment orders after demand crashed during spring shutdowns is helping to revive the Bangladesh economy.

Apparel makers, the country’s main export industry, say they are looking ahead to Christmas orders from the U.S. and other major markets.

Remittances from Bangladeshi workers employed overseas have also recovered, helping to relieve pressures from a pandemic quasi-shutdown during the spring.

The Asian Development Bank reported this week that the economic comeback was encouraging. It is forecasting the economy will grow at a robust 6.8% annual pace in the fiscal year that ends in June if current conditions persist.

That’s a much brighter outlook than in April-May, when global clothing brands suspended or cancelled orders worth more than \$3 billion, affecting about 4 million workers and thousands of factories.

“At the moment we can say that the ready-made garment industry has been able to regain its growth trajectory upward compared to March-May,” Rubana Huq, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, or BGMEA, told The Associated Press.

“As economies in the West were turning around we were successfully able to get the buyers back to the negotiating table, which is why 80% to 90% of the \$3.18 billion in cancelled orders have been reinstated,” she said.

Bangladesh earns about \$35 billion annually from garment exports, mainly to the United States and Europe. The industry is the world’s second largest after China’s.

Bangladesh’s exports rose 0.6% to \$3.9 billion in July, after plummeting 83% to \$520 million in April. Imports, which are reported on a quarterly basis, began recovering earlier, rising 36% in May-June.



In August, exports rose 4.3% from a year earlier, to \$2.96 billion, mostly driven by apparel shipments, according to the government’s Export Promotion Bureau. Garment shipments totaled \$5.7 billion in July and August.

“The garment sector is making a good comeback. Our agriculture is doing well. Remittances are coming. These all are good signs for the economy,” said Ahsan H. Mansur, executive director of the Policy Research Institute, a think tank in Dhaka.

“The pace of the recovery is clearly visible. But challenges have been there too. The pace of the recovery will depend on how the pandemic behaves in the West over the next few months,” Mansur said.

That’s the inestimable question facing everyone.

As of Thursday, Bangladesh had reported more than 342,000 confirmed coronavirus infections and 4,823 deaths. The country confirmed its first positive case on March 8.

Some experts say the actual number of infections is higher than the official count. The garment industry says few workers in its factories have fallen ill thanks to precautions such as employing fewer people on the production lines and imposing safety guidelines. The government imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 26, and the garments sector was closed for nearly three months, reopening only gradually.

The country director for the ADB, Manmohan Parkash, said the government has managed the crisis well, “with appropriate economic stimulus and social protection measures.”

“We are encouraged by the increase in exports and remittances, and hope the recovery will be sustained, which will help in achieving the projected growth rate,” Parkash said.

EU Urges Western Balkans to Create a Single Economic Area

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union’s enlargement commissioner urged the countries of the Western Balkans to create a single economic area to better feel the benefits of the bloc’s investment plans.

Oliver Varhelyi was in Kosovo as part of a tour of the Balkans. He urged Kosovo to “speed up the reforms because these investments go hand in hand with the reform efforts.” The EU this week approved a 9 billion-euro (\$10.58 billion) package of grants for the Western Balkan countries through 2027.

Varhelyi said they are “in coordination with our international financial institution partners to create an additional 20 billion euros (\$23.5 billion) in guarantees for the region.” The sum would amount to a third of the region’s gross domestic product (GDP), and the EU expects it to boost the economy by 3% to 4%.

“It is crucial to have a single economic area in the Balkans, because these investments will only bring the benefits if these investments work regionally,” Varhelyi said at a news conference with Kosovo Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti.

“The economic investment plan can be a game-changer for the region. It can change significantly the landscape of this region within four to five years,” he said.

Dimensions of Fiqh...

FROM PAGE 1

Maturation of the guide in this series of teachings is decorated with infallibility and this phenomenon, except having Divine criteria and concepts, has not rooted in this implication. The most sublime method of management which keeps these sciences away from making error is its macro axes of reliance on marjaiyat (Islamic term means following) in the process of upgrading of the commands.

I wish all humanity had the power of understanding and realized that the law, as what defines law as law, today which has turned as a methodical tool in the human lives is itself the offspring of fiqh principles which gives shape to the politics, economics, laws and relations.

The philosophy and reasoning have been laid in contrasting the Islamic fiqh principles. Ulema in the human sciences today believe that the limited power of human makes human face with expansion of realm of individual and collective life on one hand, with conflict of interests and clash of profit and loss, on the other hand, and all make him choose, prioritize and identify his important priorities.

Who is that has a hand at preliminaries and human sciences studies and does not know that contradictions exist for all humans in all scenes of the life? and this very knowledge confirms sufficiently that rule of common sense for choosing the best and prioritizing the best has always existed but determining the precise criteria for prioritizing is not an easy task because all Divine religions especially Islam have come to the help of the sense in this issue and have helped it in identifying the examples.

Without the assistance of religions, human has never had comprehensiveness of achieving so many progresses in the world. These directed guides whose roots can be considered as Divine have always directed the scientific growth of human being. Although today human with a childish pride considers all scientific achievements as humanistic, the volume of his knowledge in comparison to his unknowns is incomputable.

A microscopic-size virus with fat layer called Coronavirus (COVID-19) has confirmed human’s little knowledge and today all the world from all walks of the life acknowledges it. In this atheist West or East world, we sometimes hear voices that bow down to the grandeur of human’s reliance on the Divine and Revelation. The nature of human can be covered but cannot be ignored. Islamic jurisprudence principles have been written in accordance with this very nature and if human had not gone astray, he would have had fewer plights.

IAEA Says...

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Iran has also signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) — whose aim is to prevent the spread of nuclear arms and weapons technology — in July 1968 and ratified it in February 1970.

In order to address the commotion created by the United States and its allies over the Islamic Republic’s nuclear program, Tehran signed a nuclear deal with six world powers in 2015. Under the deal, Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for a lifting of sanctions.

However, in May 2018, President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and restored the sanctions on Iran.

In response, Iran gradually reduced its commitments to the JCPOA under a process beginning a year after the U.S. withdrawal.

Iran is currently enriching uranium to up to 4.5% purity, far below the 20% it achieved before the deal and the 90% that is considered weapons-grade.

Iraqi Militias...

FROM PAGE 1

He said the firing of Katyusha rockets at U.S. forces and diplomatic compounds had been merely “a message that you’re not welcome in the country” and that worse attacks could follow.

U.S. officials blame Kataib Hezbollah for dozens of rocket attacks against U.S. installations in Iraq.

Kataib Hezbollah denies carrying them out. Smaller and previously unknown militias have claimed some of the attacks. Iraqi security sources believe those groups are linked to Kataib Hezbollah and other larger Iran-aligned militias.

Dowsett Wins Giro d'Italia Eighth Stage

ROME (Dispatches) - British rider Alex Dowsett made a solo break from a long range escape group to win the eighth stage of the Giro d'Italia on Saturday as Portugal's Joao Almeida retained the leader's pink jersey.

Simon Yates withdrew before the start of the stage after becoming the first rider to test positive for coronavirus at a Grand Tour.

Dowsett also gave the Israel Start-Up Nation team their first win in a stage race or at a WorldTour event.

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Switchboard: (+98) (21) 44253448	E-Mail Address: info@irannewsdaily.com
Public Relations Tel: (+98)(21) 44253450	ISSN 1024-6053
Editorial Board: 44253449	P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Public Relations Fax: (+98)(21) 44253395	Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Advertising Department: Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234	Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Website: http://www.irannewsdaily.com	Distributed by: Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute
	Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Hatton Leads PGA Championship Ahead of Final Round

LONDON (Dispatches) - England's Tyrrell Hatton takes a three-shot lead into the final round of the PGA Championship after a dominant display on Saturday.

Hatton shot 69 in the third round and that was enough to move him ahead of Denmark's JB Hansen and France's Victor Perez at Wentworth.

British Open champion Shane Lowry, Tommy Fleetwood, Patrick Reed and David Horsey are four strokes behind the leader.

Spain Edge Swiss, Germany Beat Ukraine

MADRID (Dispatches) - Mikel Oyarzabal pounced on a horror slip by Swiss captain Granit Xhaka to seal a 1-0 victory for Spain in the Nations League on Saturday.

The night's other League A Group 4 match saw Germany beat Ukraine 2-1 in Kiev.

At the Estadio Alfredo Di Stefano in Madrid, usually home of Real Madrid's second string side, Real Sociedad striker Oyarzabal struck in the 14th minute.

The Swiss boldly tried to play out from the back, but Xhaka slipped as he sought to collect goalkeeper Yann Sommer's pass.

Mikel Merino pounced and threaded the ball through to clubmate Oyarzabal, who finished superbly past Sommer.

"I am happy for the victory and for adding three points," Oyarzabal told Spanish television.

"We knew that (Switzerland) were a powerful team, that they liked to play a lot and that they had fewer points than they deserved.

"We also knew they were risking a lot from behind and we wanted to pressure them because we believed we could rob them and hurt them and that's the way it worked out."

There was a golden opportunity for Oyarzabal to double his tally in the 52nd minute.

Switzerland again struggled to clear their lines, Jesus Navas fizzed a cross-shot into the area which Sommer could only push into the path of Oyarzabal.

The striker's effort, however, hit the post and went wide.

It was then the turn of Merino to scuff another prime chance. On the hour mark, a badly cleared corner fell to his unfavoured right foot and he shot high and wide directly in front of goal.

Sergio Ramos then saw an effort shielded away by Xhaka before a header went just wide moments later with Spain in the driving seat.



a foul on Sergio Busquets in the build-up.

It was then the turn of Gerard Moreno to blast high after a smart twist and turn in front of the Swiss goal after a nice ball from Sergio Canales.

Luis Enrique's side then contented themselves with seeing out the game, extending to 14 their current unbeaten run. They have also not lost in Madrid in 20 games dating back to 1987.

The Spaniards top their group, having kicked off with a creditable 1-1 away draw against Germany before a sparkling 4-0 victory over Ukraine, whom they now face on Tuesday.

In Kiev, Germany picked up a first win in their Nations League group with a workmanlike 2-1 away victory over the Ukrainians. Defender Matthias Ginter gave Germany a first-half lead, then Leon Goretzka capitalised on a horrible mistake by the Ukraine goalkeeper before Ruslan Malinovskyi converted a late penalty for the hosts.

Germany coach Joachim Loew said he was "satisfied" with the away win, but admitted "we should have been three or four goals ahead before they scored".

After drawing their opening Nations League games against Spain and Switzerland, then being held 3-3 by Turkey in a friendly on Wednesday, the win lifted Germany to second in the group behind Spain. However, Germany can expect a much tougher task against the Swiss in Cologne on Tuesday and should have scored more having enjoyed around 75% possession against a weakened Ukraine side.

Hassan Smashes European 10,000m Record

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) - Ethiopian-born Dutch runner Sifan Hassan smashed Paula Ratcliffe's long-standing European record for the women's 10,000m on Saturday.

Hassan, who won double gold in the 1,500m and 10,000m at last year's world championships in Doha, timed 29min 36:67sec after 25 laps in rainy conditions at Hengelo. It obliterated by more than 24 seconds the previous record of 30:01:09 set by Britain's Ratcliffe in 2002. Only seven other female runners have been below the 30min mark, and Hassan becomes the first European to do so.

"I am so happy to have run a new European record, especially a record that has stood for so long by such a strong athlete as Paula," said Hassan, who is the world record holder for both the 5km road race and the mile, both set in 2019, as well as the one hour run, set in Brussels in September.

"It was a very difficult race today as it was so cold and wet. I was feeling really strong today and wished for a bit better conditions, but this record gives me a lot of confidence."

Despite being aided by the new Wavelight technology built into the track, conditions proved too difficult for Hassan, who was coached by the now-banned Alberto Salazar, to really launch a world record attempt.

That record belongs to Ethiopia's Almaz Ayana, who timed 29:17:45 when winning gold at the Rio Olympics in 2016.

Man City Have Financial Muscle To Pull Off Messi Deal

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester City will be in a position to sign Lionel Messi if the opportunity presents itself next season, the Premier League club's chief operating officer said.

City were the frontrunners to land Messi's services after the 33-year-old Argentine handed Barcelona an official notice in August of his desire to terminate his contract.

However, the six-times world player of the year eventually decided to stay in Spain for the coming season, the last on his current deal, as he did not want to face a legal battle with the club he joined as a teenager and with whom he has amassed more than 30 major trophies.



Cavani Hoping to Do Justice to Iconic No. 7 Shirt

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United's new recruit Edinson Cavani says he is relishing the challenge of playing in the Premier League and is confident he can handle the pressure of wearing the club's iconic No. 7 jersey.

Cavani, who left Ligue 1 champions PSG after his contract expired last season, joined United on a free transfer, penning a one-year deal with an option to extend for a further 12 months.

He will sport the No. 7 jersey previously worn by United greats George Best, Eric Cantona, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"I know that once you're out on the pitch, the number you have on your shirt has no influence," the 33-year-old striker told the United website.

"But when you get the chance to pull on the No. 7 shirt at United... it really is a nice responsibility to have. I hope that I can do it great justice and leave it in as high regard as the many great players who have worn it before me."

Cavani scored 200 goals in 301 appearances for PSG and departed the French champions as their all-time leading goal scorer. The Uruguayan hopes to have similar success in England.

"It's right up there with the best leagues anywhere in the world," he said. "For me that's a real honour and a new challenge, which really excites me a lot."

"I've been lucky enough to have played against a lot of English sides, but now it's my turn to experience playing and competing every weekend and in every match in the Premier League."

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side, who are 16th in the standings, face Newcastle United on Oct. 17 when they return to action after the international break.

Butler's Herculean NBA Effort Lifts Heat Over Lakers

ORLANDO (Dispatches) - Jimmy Butler put the Miami Heat on his back in the final minutes and refused to let their championship dreams die, outdueling LeBron James down the stretch in the NBA Finals.

Playing to the point of exhaustion and beyond, Butler scored 35 points, grabbed 12 rebounds, passed off 11 assists and made five steals in Miami's 111-108 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers, pulling within 3-2 in the best-of-seven series.

"His will to win is remarkable," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "To do that in 47-plus minutes and take the challenge on the other end, every young player coming into this league should study footage on Jimmy Butler." Butler shot 11-of-19 from the floor and 12-of-12 from the free throw line in a game-high 47 minutes for a Miami squad that used only seven players.

The weary playmaker slumped on an advertisement board beyond the end of the court before hitting the free throws that put the Heat ahead to stay with 16.8 seconds remaining.

"I left it all out there on the floor along with my guys," Butler said. "And that's what we're going to have to do the rest of the way. We've got two more games to get."

Butler traded scores with four-time NBA Most Valuable Player James on six straight possessions in the final two minutes, carrying Miami just far enough to force a game six on Sunday.

"That's what the team asked of me. That's what they need me to do," Butler said. "I know I'm capable of it. I have a great group of guys around me. That gives me a lot of confidence to go out there and hoop."

James admitted Butler outplayed him down the stretch.

"That was back and forth, big play after big play," James said. "That's the beauty of the game, being able to compete at the highest level."



Swiatek Dazzles in Paris to Claim First Grand Slam Title

PARIS (Reuters) - Securing a first Grand Slam title is supposed to be an arduous undertaking but 19-year-old Iga Swiatek crowned an extraordinary fortnight to win the French Open in a blaze of winners on Saturday, crushing Sofia Kenin 6-4 6-1.

Swiatek, who had dropped only 23 games en route to the final, produced another audacious display of shot-making to become Poland's first Grand Slam singles champion.

Only briefly did Swiatek falter, letting slip a 3-0 lead, but having edged a tight opening set she romped to victory.

Not since German great Steffi Graf went through the fortnight dropping only 20 games in 1988 has a woman won the French Open in such commanding style.

Australian Open champion Kenin, herself only 21, needed treatment at 1-2 in the second set and on the resumption Swiatek was utterly ruthless, conceding only three more points, sealing the title with an unstoppable forehand, her 25th winner.

Swiatek, ranked 54th at the start of the tournament but now into the top 20, is the youngest woman to win the French Open since Monica Seles in 1992 and the first to do so without dropping a set during the fortnight since Justine Henin in 2007.

After claiming victory, the former Wimbledon junior champion made her way into the stands to celebrate with her team including father Tomasz, a former Olympic rower, coach Piotr Sierzputowski and sport psychologist Daria Abramowicz.

"I'm overwhelmed. Two years ago I won a junior grand slam and now I'm here. It feels like such a short time," Swiatek, the lowest-ranked woman to win the French Open since rankings were introduced in 1975, said after returning to court to lift the Suzanne Lenglen trophy.

