

Iran's Judiciary Is Due to Set Up a Special Court to Start Litigation and Prosecution of the U.S. Government For Its Crimes Against the Nation, Specially Inhuman Sanctions

IRAN NEWS

Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a Letter to President Hassan Rouhani Said That Majlis Will Not Accept the Next Year Budget Bill Unless the Structural Changes In The Bill Are Applied

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FM Critical of UK For Further Delay In Payment of Arrears

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran is critical of further delay in payment of arrears the UK Government owes to Iran, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday.

He said that Mohammad Javad Zarif contacted his British counterpart to seek disbursement of the arrears.

Khatibzadeh said that the two foreign ministers also exchanged views about Nazanin Zaghari's case.

Addressing the Monday press conference, Khatibzadeh said that Iran's Judiciary is independent and Zaghari is passing her prison term based on court ruling.

Asked about the statement made by some republican senators for removing Iran's name from SWIFT, he said, "You will hear such issues until the US elections."

Extremists think about Trump Administration as an opportunity but it is a fact that US has become more isolated during Trump's term in office. What they think of tactical opportunity is a strategic failure for US in foreign policy.

Commenting on Astana peace talks on Syria, Khatibzadeh said foreign ministries of three countries are in touch and the troika contact group is trying to follow up the peace talks by the end of October focusing on Eastern Euphrates, Idlib and Syria Constitution.

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Envoy Criticizes IAEA Chief's Remarks on Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna Kazem Gharibabadi criticized recent remarks made by Director General of the Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Mariano Grossi on Iran's nuclear activities.

"Am. @Gharibabadi : Drawing self-made criteria such as "break out" and "significant quantity" for countries which are enriching uranium under the IAEA's surveillance is non-relevant and has no status in the IAEA legal documents," Permanent Mission of Iran in Vienna wrote on its official Twitter account.

"There are more than 1300 tons of HEU and 300 tons of Plutonium in the world and according to the SIR 2019, total SQ also amounts to 216448 (8 pct more since 2015). What a dangerous world we are living in?!", embassy further quoted Ambassador Gharibabadi as saying.

"Can @rafaelmgrossi tell us that what is the number of SQ for N5 and NNWSs such as the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Brazil, and Argentina? Better not to measure the activities under Safeguards in this way! Weapon/civilian grade material may be a better definition."

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U.S. Nonsenses Are Due to Fear of Iran Capabilities



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, said that the U.S. nonsense is due to fear of Iran's capabilities.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of the cadets of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran via videoconference on Monday, Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces, Ayatollah Khamenei said that Iran's armed forces have other important tasks besides providing security, one of the greatest of which providing services to the nation, including infrastructure services such as dams, roads, and refineries as well as healthcare.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that even today, the Iranian Armed Forces are vigorously present concerning the coronavirus pandemic, and very good work is being done by the Armed Forces in livelihood assistance as well as empathy and pious help maneuver arenas.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Iranian Armed Forces considered studying in military universities and universities of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran as one of the most honorable and valuable tasks, stating that by studying in these universities, our youth will enter the armed forces that ensure the country's security.

Ayatollah Khamenei also added that security for the country is a very high and fundamental value and a vital element.

The Leader emphasized that without security, all the important values of the country, including welfare, justice and developing knowledge, will be disrupted.

Speaking during the graduation ceremony of the cadets of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran via videoconference on Monday, the Leader said, "prater thugs in the United States have made a fuss about Iran's defense and missile and regional capabilities, and the reason is the accurate and rational calculations of the Islamic Republic to achieve these capabilities."

He added that these nonsenses are due to fear and also their backwardness in this field, but we must act rationally regardless of this propaganda.

Referring to "economic strength and stability," Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the economy is under pressure, and people are facing problems in terms of livelihood, but all these problems can be solved.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that the solution for economic problems depends on focusing on production, preventing the non-stop fall of the value of the national currency and combating smuggling, illegal imports, and financial corruption.

Referring to good managers and the need for tireless efforts around the clock, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted that of course, to solve the economic issues, we do not ignore the malicious role of the Americans and their sanctions, which is really a crime, but Iranians will continue to resist to turn 'Maximum Pressure' into 'Maximum Disgrace' and despair them.

Referring to the U.S. President's satisfaction with the disruption of the country's economy and the crime against the Iranian nation, he said: "The honor for such a crime comes only from vile people like you."

"The Leader of the Islamic Revolution added that of course, the situation of the United States today is terrible with a budget deficit of thousands of billions of dollars and tens of millions hungry and under the poverty line. Iranians will use sanctions as a tool to really strengthen the country's economy."

Mena Gas Investments Surge 29% Despite Global Slump

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Planned gas investments in the Middle East and North Africa region surged 29 per cent to \$126 billion in spite of a slump in demand for cleaner fuel this year due to the pandemic, according to the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation.

The rise in planned investments in the region comes amid a 4 per cent year-on-year reduction in demand for gas globally this year due to the pandemic.

The crunch in demand for gas, considered a clean fuel, was largely caused due to mobility restrictions and slowing industrial activity across the world.

The outlook for demand for 2020 is "in stark contrast" to last year, Apicorp said. Year 2019 was a record year for liquefied natural gas final investments decisions across the world.

The economic crisis triggered by the pandemic is expected slow the growth rate for global gas demand between the five-year outlook period between 2020 and 2024 to 1.5 per cent from 1.8 per cent previously estimated.

"The decrease in gas demand has put fiscal pressures on government and private sectors alike," Apicorp chief executive Ahmed Ali Attiga said "We expect a few committed projects to continue facing strong headwinds in terms of payments, supply chain issues and potential project delays." Strong policy support would be needed from governments to enhance collaboration between the private and public sectors, he added.

The Mena region is expected to see continued integration of the downstream value chain.

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Iran Eyes Attracting \$6b of Foreign Investment by 2021

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran is expected to attract \$6 billion of foreign investment by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), Director-General of Foreign Investment Office of the Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran (OIETAI) Abolfazl Koudeie said.

"In the first half of the previous year, the amount of foreign investment attracted was \$1.463 billion, which has currently reached \$3.8 billion and by the end of this year, the amount of foreign investment is expected to reach \$6 billion," Koudeie said.

The official noted that according to the goals set for the country's economic development, including eight percent economic growth, the government plans to boost attracting foreign investment.

"In order to achieve that, in addition to external problems such as sanctions and money transfer issues, we must remove domestic barriers and problems. In this critical situation, we can make the most of the opportunity for foreign investment," he added.

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Tehran Eyes Exporting Construction Materials To African States

TEHRAN (MNA) – Islamic Republic of Iran eyes exporting home appliances and construction materials to African countries, so that Regional-Commodity Desk will be held at TPOI for exporting building materials to African countries.

The Director General of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries Farzad Piltan revealed the news on Sunday and added, "Regional-Commodity Desk will be held at the venue of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) on Monday Oct. 12 in the presence of Iranian envoys in Kenya, Congo, Kinshasa and Ghana to study strategies of promoting export of construction materials to African states within the framework of programs devised by the organization for introducing new export target markets to producers and exporters."

In addition to participation of private companies producing and exporting the mentioned products, representatives of public and state-owned organizations (including Ministry of Foreign Affairs, African Headquarters, Chamber of Commerce, relevant unions and freight companies) are expected to attend the Regional-Commodity Desk."

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One-Day Record of COVID-19 Deaths Shattered For 2nd Day in Row

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has confirmed 272 new fatalities caused by the novel coronavirus, breaking its one-day record of COVID-19 deaths for the second consecutive day.

In her press briefing on Monday, Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima-Sadat Lari said the new deaths increase the overall death toll to 28,816.

She also reported 4,206 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of cases to 504,281.

So far, she added, 409,121 patients have recovered from the disease or been discharged from the hospital.

Lari said 4,533 patients are also in critical conditions caused by more severe infection. The spokeswoman noted that 4,340,831 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, Ardabil, 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.



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IRGC Launches Operation Against Terrorists

TEHRAN (MNA) –IRGC's Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters announced that its forces have mounted two operations against terrorist groups in Kamyaran and Marivan during the current week.

In a statement on Monday, IRGC's Hamzeh Seyyed al-Shohada headquarters announced that its forces have launched two successful operations against terrorist groups in Kamyaran and Marivan in Kurdistan province.

Three terrorist elements were killed and three others were injured, one of whom was captured by the IRGC.

Collaboration, Key to Overcome COVID-19

TEHRAN (IP) - Health Minister Saeed Namaki expressed that the first virtual session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean is taking place in unprecedented circumstances with the surge of the COVID-19.

"Preparation of this session was exceptional in many ways, as we had to establish special procedures for the conduct of its deliberations. Now finally, that we have reached this point in time, I am sure, like me, you are all looking forward to taking part in the productive discussions which will take place over the coming two days," said Namaki on Monday at the sixty-seventh session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO).

Namaki noted that during the EMRO session, key technical health issues that are of regional significance were discussed such as the implementation framework on ending preventable newborn, child, and adolescent deaths and improving health and development; strengthening the nursing personnel to advance universal health coverage in the Eastern Mediterranean region; and the introduction of the strategic action framework for the hospital sector.

He noted: "We were gearing our efforts to respond to the pandemic at the very time we did not want to jeopardize the provision of the essential health services, schooling, nutrition, and livelihoods. It was rather a challenge for both policymakers and health workers."

The official added: "COVID-19, which strikes our region very severely, had offered



several lessons to be learned at national, regional, and global levels. Leadership, solidarity, community engagement, inter-sectoral collaborations, evidence-based interventions, and inter-country coordination are necessary instruments for pandemic management. Besides, we have to strengthen the IT infrastructure to provide more reliable data and Tele-medicine and Tele-education in the new era."

Iran's health minister noted: "Meanwhile, unilateral coercive measures may not only hamper effective interventions in combating the pandemic but in general terms, will hinder our global goals and regional commitment to achieve Universal Health Coverage."

"WHO has the central role in global coordination of activities to fight and manage the disease," he said.

Namaki stated: "Together we could overcome the pandemic, and in this sustained fight, our brave and dedicated health professionals and community health workers have offered a critical role."

Last Week Was U.S. Governance Madness Week

TEHRAN (IP) - Reacting to the U.S. president's impertinent remarks and the imposition of new sanctions on the Iranian people, Iran's judiciary chief Hojjatoleslam Ebrahim Reisi expressed that last week was the week of U.S. governance madness.



Raisi stated that the new U.S. sanctions against the Iranian people are not a new issue, adding that this action was carried out with the aim of psychological war.

He stressed that the hostile actions of the United States make the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran more determined.

He pointed out that the aim of the enemies is to create dissatisfaction, despair, and induce inefficiency of the system and officials to the people by imposing pressure and sanctions; but with maximum resistance, all their conspiracies and plans will be ineffective.

In a radio interview on Friday, the U.S. president repeated his blatant anti-Iranian rhetoric, claiming that his administration had issued a stern warning to the Islamic Republic of Iran against any action against the United States.

President Stresses Expansion of Relations With Spain



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani, in a message of congratulation on Spain National Day, stated that constructive interaction and expansion of relations with Madrid has been one of Tehran's priorities.

In separate messages to the king and head of government of the kingdom of Spain, the Iranian president congratulated the occasion of Spain National Day.

In the congratulatory message to King Felipe VI of Spain, Rouhani stated that Tehran and Madrid have a close and historical relationship that supports the friendship of the two nations and will strengthen mutual ties in the future.

In his congratulatory message to Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón, the Iranian president also stated that constructive interaction and expansion of relations with the friendly country of Spain, as one of the important countries of the European Union, has been one of the priorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran based on respect and mutual interests over the past years.

In these messages, Rouhani wished health and success, and prosperity for the king and the head of the government of the Kingdom of Spain and the people of this country.

Iran Congratulates Rahmon on Reelection

TEHRAN (Tasnim) –President Hassan Rouhani congratulated Emomali Rahmon on winning the presidential election in Tajikistan for another term.

In a message on Monday, Rouhani congratulated the Tajik leader on his reelection.

He also expressed confidence that the cultural and historical commonalities between the two friendly and brotherly nations of Iran and Tajikistan would allow for the promotion of ties during Rahmon's new term to fulfil the common interests and strengthen regional peace and stability.

Rahmon secured another seven-year term after garnering 90 percent of votes in a nationwide poll in Tajikistan.

Around 85 per cent of the country's five million eligible voters handed in their ballots, according to authorities. Rahmon, 68, has led the former Soviet republic for nearly three decades. He came to power amid a devastating civil war in the early 1990s following Tajikistan's transition to independence from the Soviet Union.

Tehran Ready to Facilitate Azerbaijan-Armenia Negotiations

TEHRAN (MNA) – In a tweet on Monday, Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan announced the Islamic Republic's readiness to easing the talks between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Karabakh-Nagorno.

Abbas Mousavi voiced Iran's readiness to facilitate negotiations between the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict in accordance with international law,

emphasizing respect for territorial integrity and the evacuation of the occupied territories.

"Iran has regretted the Armenia-Azerbaijan ceasefire violation & condemned the attack to the civilians, residential places," he tweeted. "Iran expresses its readiness to facilitate the talks between the warring parties based on Intl. law, respect to the territorial integrity & evacuation of occupied territories," he added.

Independence Is a Must, Not a Choice

TEHRAN (IP) - Head of the Budget and Planning Commission of the parliament said that independence is not a choice but urgency in the current economic situation.

Delivering a speech in the inauguration ceremony of the permanent exhibition of Self-Sufficiency Jihad of Railway, Hamidreza Hajibabaei said that railway transportation is our priority in the Sixth Development Plan.

The MP said based on the Sixth Program, 30% of transferring cargo and 20% of transferring passengers is planned to be done through railways. Economic centers can be connected via railways, and one percent of oil and gas income to be allocated to railway transportation. However, sanctions have caused problems for us, he added.

Even though we are in a terrible situation this year, our country has no problem with currency and credit, and we have not had any serious problem in this year's budget, the MP noted.

"All the parliament's resources are at the government's service to leave behind the economic war, and victory is definitely for Iran's nation," he added. The Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Support signed a bilateral MoU on cooperation.

This memorandum was signed with the participation of the Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Minister of Defense and Support of the Armed Forces by Saeed Rasouli, Director General of Railways, and Amir Mozaffarinia, Deputy Minister of Defense for Industrial Affairs. According to the memorandum, the two sides will provide and develop strategic joint ventures in production and financing.

Iran Not After a Borrowed Fragile Security

TEHRAN (MNA) – Stating that security will be fragile if it is borrowed, the Commander of the Iranian Navy hailed Iran Army's efforts for relying on indigenous knowledge to produce homegrown defense equipment rather than being dependent.

Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi emphasized the duty of the IRGC and the Army in maintaining the security of the Iranian nation in terms of producing defense equipment indigenously. "Security will be fragile if it is borrowed," he said and explained, "If a country provides its security through purchasing weapons and defense equipment from another country, this kind of security won't be stable and permanent when the other party refuses to sell such equipment."

Therefore, Iran Armed Force, specifically Iran Navy attaches great importance on relying on indigenous knowledge to produce its defense equipment, he said and added, "Not only Iran Army produces homegrown defense equipment, but also, under the leader's guidelines, it is doing its best to improve this equipment in terms of quality and quantity."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said, "As the Iran Navy has achieved good results in the field of vessels, planes and drones, therefore, by the end of the current year, every few months, the Iranian nation will hear good news about a piece of new defense equipment."

U.S. Destroyed Chances of Talks With Iran by Reneging on JCPOA

TEHRAN (MNA) - Mohammad Hossein Asafari, a lawmaker, said on Sunday that the U.S. unilateral withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers has destroyed the windows of talks with the U.S.

"If Iran were to renegotiate, the U.S. non-compliance with the JCPOA destroyed the windows [of negotiations]," the lawmaker told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He was responding to a question on Iran's conditions for a resumption of talks with the U.S.

"First of all, the Americans should unblock our country's assets, return to the JCPOA, and implement their obligations to lift the sanctions, otherwise there would be no negotiations," Asafari pointed out.

Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's remarks that the U.S. will continue to put pressure on Iran until it agrees to a comprehensive deal with the U.S., the lawmaker said, "It can be understood that these anti-Iran remarks are only meant to compensate the decrease in votes during the United States presidential election."

According to Asafari, Iran has proved to the world that it welcomes talks and it also gave a number of concessions to the West in the 2015 nuclear deal but the Americans did nothing to reciprocate Iran's moves.

Nicaraguans Interested In Iranian Culture, Art

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Nicaraguan Ambassador to Iran Isaac Lenin Bravo Jaen on Monday said that Nicaraguans are interested in the Iranian culture, art.

According to Farabi Cinema Foundation, Bravo Jaen paid a visit to the Foundation in Tehran and had a meeting with its managing director, Alireza Tabesh.

Expressing satisfaction with Farabi Cinema Foundation, Nicaraguan Ambassador to Iran explained the activities and functions of the national cinema center as a specialized cinematic organization in Nicaragua and emphasized the strengthening and expansion of cultural and cinematic adaptation between the two countries.

Mentioning the ancient history of cinematic productions in Iran's Film industry and cinema, he said that the Nicaraguan people are interested in Iranian films and being acquainted with Iran's culture and art and we hope that with more interaction and cooperation of cinema centers and television networks, the culture and art of Iran be introduced to the peoples of Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Honduras.

The managing director of Farabi Cinema Foundation, for his part, while referring to the 120 - year history of cinema in Iran, introduced the structure and specialized institutions of Iran in cinema industry.

Tabesh stressed cooperation on exchanging experiences in the form of workshops and specialized meetings, setting up cultural and artistic weeks, and joint production.



In the name of God

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



BRIEF NOTICE OF TWO-STAGE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL Tender No.9901360

It is hereby respectfully notified that Esfahan Steel Company intends to purchase 2000 ton High Grade Tap-hole Oil Clay for Blast Furnace through two-stage International tender.

Accordingly, the prospective bidders specialized and experienced in the said area may visit Esfahan Steel Company's Website at www.esfahansteel.ir to get the Tender documents no later than 28.10.2020, and deliver their bids max. up to 25.11.2020 through one of the following addresses:

ESCO's Confidential Secretariat Office, Near to Bank Melli, Esfahan Steel Company, End of Zob-Ahan Highway, Esfahan, Iran. Or Email address toa@esfahansteel.ir

For further information, prospective bidders may contact us through

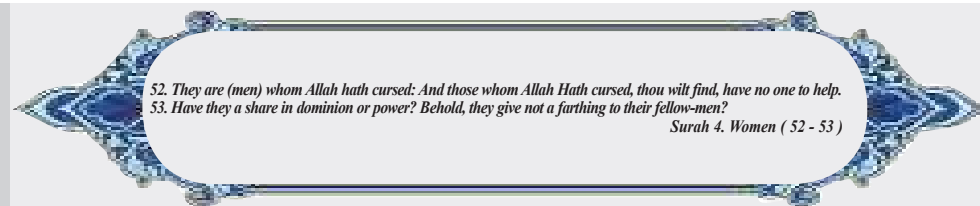
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Public Relation of Esfahan Steel Co.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:50
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:49
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:47
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:10



15 Neighboring States Account for 70% of Iran's Exports

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization says that 15 neighboring states accounted for 70 percent of Iran's exports in the first half of the year while the figure was 55 percent in 2018 and 60% in 2019.

Hamid Zadboum said that Iran had exports worth over \$24b to its neighboring states and according to the conducted studies, there is currently a 125-billion-dollar capacity for exports to 15 neighboring countries.

He added that the existing capacity has been assessed based on the history of exports of goods and needed items by the neighboring countries.

Zadboum also pointed to the 14-percent decline in international trade, adding that due to the Coronavirus pandemic in the world, most countries are currently challenging with the virus and land borders have been closed and they have faced with more declines in exports.

He added that Iran is also not an exception, adding that 20 joint land borders of Iran with neighboring states were closed in this period and it stroke a heavy blow to Iran's economy.

Zadboum also referred to the rise in exports to the Eurasian Union member states especially to Russia and Kazakhstan during the pandemic, noting that with reopening of the land borders with neighboring states, the 50-percent decline in exports in April improved to 34% in the first half of the year.

He then explained about the great difference between imports and exports, saying that one of the reasons is the halt in export of gas to Turkey.

Zadboum said that Iran's exports to Turkey were around \$513m in the first five months of the year while the figure was \$2.47b in the same period last year and this \$2b difference is because of halt in export of natural gas to Turkey.



He also blamed the closure of land borders for the decline in exports, saying that the almost-two-month-closure of borders with neighboring states as well as the virus pandemic was the major reasons in the decline in exports, reiterating that Iran still faces restrictions for exports in the Turkmenistan border.

Zadboum added that despite reopening of land borders, due to the huge number of trucks in the borders, exports have faced a sluggish move in some borders due to the traffic of trucks.

On the problems related to exports, he said the most important challenge in front of exports to neighboring states is trade infrastructures and border terminals as well as lack of appropriate support of exporters by national banking system.

Zadboum also said that to increase the number of trade agreements with other states, it is necessary to reach a balance in trade exchanges. He further said that trade restrictions with some countries that we have agreements should reduce and the imports should be directed to those countries whose imports from Iran are more.

He also blamed the large number of decision-making bodies in the country and regulations which harm the foreign trade, adding that it should be organized but in the current condition, some part of decisions are made due to the special condition of the country and restrictions for the Coronavirus and sanctions.

Tehran Starts Bartering Trade With Hanoi



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – A member of industries commission in Iran Chamber of Commerce says Iran has started bartering trade exchanges with Vietnam, adding that by launching barter system, the country's exports would increase by 40 percent.

Mohammad Hassan Didehvar in an interview with ILNA said that launching the bartering trade system is the easiest way for transfer of goods into the country, adding that perhaps in the past years bartering system was an appropriate way for easy exports but currently there is no harmony in this system because the country's exports have significantly declined and it is not as much as imports, reiterating that barter will be good and useful issue if there are some facilities for exports.

On the restrictions for exports, he said that unfortunately exports have been limited, for example, Iran has huge amount of money in South Korea which has been blocked and due to sanctions the country is unable to export to South Korea but with country like Russia this method is still on.

He noted unfortunately what Iranian exporters are after it does not exist in Eastern Bloc and all are related to European states, South Korea and Japan which do not have barter trade exchange with Iran. He added that Iranian traders have recently started bartering trade exchange with Vietnam.

Didehvar went on to say that bartering trade is an appropriate way in case those countries which have blocked our money let us have barter trade with them.

He urged the government and officials to step in to solve the issue of frozen money in those countries and to work on bartering trade with those countries.

He reiterated that in case bartering trade with those countries begins, Iran will see 30 to 40 percent growths in exports and foreign ministry should interfere.

He admitted recent U.S. sanctions on 18 Iranian banks and financial institutes have stepped up the problems for exporters.

Official Calls for Launching Iran-Switzerland Financial Channel

TEHRAN (MNA) – Chairman of Iran-Switzerland Joint Chamber of Commerce expressed his hope that financial mechanism between Iran and Switzerland will be launched in the first half of the next fiscal year (starts March 20, 2021).

So far, the efficiency of the Iran-Switzerland financial channel has not been as expected, but it is hoped that in the coming months, especially as new sanctions have been reimposed on Iranian banks, this channel will be able to cover a large volume of trade between Iran and Switzerland.

Sharif Nezam Mafi added, "Imposing sanctions on the remaining 18 banks in the U.S. Treasury Department's list makes Iran's international trade too difficult, especially in the field of humanitarian goods such as food and medicine."

He went on to say that the U.S. reimposition of sanctions on 18 Iranian banks is not good news. However, the imposition of these sanctions at such a time is also considered a pre-election propaganda move taken by the United States. In particular, it seems that



the Trump team is somewhat behind its rival and there is a possibility of his defeat of U.S. elections in Nov. 4.

The U.S. is trying to make lifting of sanctions restrictions such as restoring banking conditions to the time of JCPOA difficult or even impossible for the next government, he said, adding, "If Trump fails in the election, it will take three to four months for the next administration to take office and Iran must be prepared for exacerbation of sanctions as well."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nezam Mafi pointed to the launching of financial mechanism between Iran and Switzerland and added, "A lot of time was spent on launching financial mechanism between Iran and Switzerland and complex negotiations were held on it. The spread of the coronavirus global pandemic and then, blocking Iran's financial resources in various countries did not meet the expectations of the country in this regard. It is expected that in the coming months, especially now that new sanctions have been imposed, the channel will be able to cover a large volume of trade between Iran and Switzerland."

SP Daily Gas Condensate Production Tops 40,000 Barrels

TEHRAN (MNA) – Site Manager of 11th Gas Refinery Unit of South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) put the production volume of gas condensates in Phase 13 of the company at over 40,000 barrels per day (bpd).

As a completely-manufactured Iranian refinery, this refinery will soon reach its full production capacity, Mohammad Saaidian said on Monday.

Currently, 11th Refinery at South Pars Gas Company (SPGC) produces more than 40,000 barrels per day of gas condensate, he reiterated.

According to the scheduled program, this refinery should produce 50 million cubic meters of gas per day, he said, adding, "Currently, the amount of daily gas produced at the refinery stands at more than 35 million cubic meters with the gas delivered from the platforms."

Presently, about 1,400 million cubic feet of gas is sent to the refinery via sea as feed which is expandable before the termination of the current year (to end March 20, 2021), Saaidian stressed.

Based on the scheduled program, this refinery should produce 2,500 tons of ethane, 2,000 tons of propane, 1,200 tons of butane and also 80,000 barrels of condensate per day.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the project manager pointed to the refined sweet gas of South Pars Gas Company and added, "the volume of sweet gas refined at the company recorded about 155 percent growth last year (ended March 20, 2020) as compared to 2013, so that this volume will be increased by yearend."

According to the officials at the Ministry of Oil and National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), gas production volume at South Pars Gas Field will hit from 280 million cubic meter in 2012 to 750,000 million cubic meters by yearend, he emphasized.



Iran Names New Representative to OPEC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh has appointed Afshin Javan as the country's new national representative to OPEC, replacing Mohammad Taeb, who had been serving in the role since the middle of 2019.

Javan, who is a board member of Iranian oil ministry think tank, the Institute for International Energy Studies (IIES), takes on the position after spending more than seven years at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, where

Baghdad Underlines Solving Banking Issues With Tehran



BAGHDAD (IRNA) - Governor of Iraq's Central bank Mustafa Ghalib Mukheef in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Abdolnasser Hemmati stressed resolve to settle banking issues with Iran and said Iraq will soon adopt necessary mechanisms.

Ghalib Mukheef stressed that Iraq is trying to continue banking cooperation with Iran and to take advantage of Tehran's cooperation in financial and banking fields.

There are some mechanisms for helping reinforce banking and monetary cooperation between two countries and solving problems, he said.

The Iraqi senior official further said that he has proposed forming a joint committee with participation of both countries' banking and financial officials with the aim of working out solutions for the existing issues.

Hemmati, for his part, expressed hope that the complicated banking issues between two countries will be solved soon.

Tehran attaches importance to developing cooperation with Baghdad more than ever, he added.

Hemmati heading a delegation arrived in Baghdad on Monday to confer with Iraqi officials and Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi.

Tehran, Muscat Confer on Cementing Cultural, Artistic Ties



TEHRAN (IP)- The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Muscat and the Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Oman discussed ways to expand and develop cultural and artistic cooperation between the two countries.

Tehran and Muscat have good political and economic relations," said, Iran's ambassador to Muscat Ali Najafi Khoshroudi, on Sunday during a meeting with, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth and the eldest son of the Sultan of Oman Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik al-Said.

"Tehran and Muscat have good political and economic relations, and this creates a good platform for the development of cultural and sports cooperation."

Najafi also considered the activities of Iranians residing in Oman in the fields of trade, culture, and science as an opportunity to take advantage of their presence in joint activities and stressed: "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to hold joint activities such as a cultural week, film and serial production and sports competitions and sports camps in the two countries to cement the bond of peace, friendship and love between the two nations."

The Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth of Oman also described the deep relations between Muscat and Tehran in various fields and welcomed the development of bilateral cultural, artistic, and sports relations.

Sayyid Theyazin bin Haitham bin Tarik al-Said also expressed hope that the cooperation between Iran and Oman, especially in the field of culture and sports during the reign of Sultan Haytham, will be raised to a desirable level.

we worked as a modeling and forecasting analyst.

He has since relocated back to Tehran to assume his new post. The oil ministry said he will also serve as the director general of OPEC affairs at Iran's oil ministry. Javan comes into what is now a new-look OPEC team for Iran following the naming of deputy oil minister Amir Hossein Zamaninia as the Mideast Gulf country's new governor to OPEC in June.

Zamaninia was drafted in following the death of his predecessor, the long-serving Hossein Kazempour-Ardebili, in mid-May after suffering a brain haemorrhage.

India's Coronavirus Infections Rise to 7.12m

BENGALURU (Reuters) - India's total coronavirus cases rose by 66,732 in the last 24 hours to 7.12 million on Monday morning, data from the health ministry showed.

Deaths from COVID-19 infections rose by 816 to 109,150, the ministry said.

India's coronavirus case load topped 7 million on Sunday and the country has added a million cases in just 13 days. It has the second-highest number of infections, behind the United States which is approaching the 8 million mark.



Hong Kong Leader Postpones Annual Policy Address

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has postponed her annual policy address scheduled for Wednesday in order to go to Beijing for talks on how the central government can help with the financial hub's economic recovery.

Lam said she would go to Beijing this month and aimed to hold her policy address by the end of November.

She said she would discuss wide-ranging measures with the central government, including some related to the Greater Bay area - a region that includes Hong Kong, Macao and nine cities in China's Guangdong province - the finance sector and tech innovation, without giving details.



Police Break UP Belarus Opposition Protest With Water Cannon



MINSK (Dispatches) - Police deployed water cannon and stun grenades against opposition demonstrators in Minsk Sunday after strongman leader Alexander Lukashenko raised hopes for change by meeting jailed opposition figures.

Large numbers of black-clad masked police, internal troops and men in plain clothes emerged from unmarked minibuses and ran towards protesters in the capital Minsk, pulling some to the ground and hitting them with batons, witness footage on independent news sites showed.

In one video, filmed by a reporter for the Nasha Niva independent newspaper, internal troops appear to run towards demonstrators while threatening them with guns.

"In Minsk at least, water cannon and stun grenades were used," interior ministry spokeswoman Olga Chemodanova told AFP.

She said that the number of detainees would only be released Monday, while the Viasna rights group, which monitors detentions at political protests, said at least 140 people had been detained in Minsk as well as around 30 in other cities.

Among those detained were journalists from Russia's TASS state news agency, although they were later released, the agency reported.

Protesters have gathered every weekend since Lukashenko claimed victory in August 9 elections over a popular opposition candidate, Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who claims to have been the true winner.

The European Union and the United States have refused to recognise Lukashenko's inauguration for a sixth term, saying the polls were not free and fair and condemning alleged abuse and torture of detained protesters.

The United States and the EU have also hit Belarus with sanctions for allegedly rigging the vote and orchestrating the crackdown on protesters, targeting key officials -- but not Lukashenko himself.

Protesters came out with umbrellas on a rainy afternoon for the latest in a series of mass protests urging Lukashenko to step down, called the "March of Pride". Independent media reported that several thousand people were taking part in scattered demonstrations as police blocked roads in the city centre.

The protest came after the 66-year-old authoritarian leader, in power since 1994, on Saturday took the unusual step of visiting a group of recently jailed opposition politicians.

Officially, the meetings were over Lukashenko's plans for constitutional reforms, which he has presented as a response to public demands for change.

The opposition hailed this as a sign that Lukashenko senses his weakness and is seeking some compromise with the protest movement, as Tikhanovskaya has recently met national leaders including French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Nagorno-Karabakh Truce Frays As Both Sides Allege Attacks

BAKU (Reuters) - Azerbaijan and Armenia accused each other of serious violations and crimes against civilians, and Azerbaijan also said it had launched airstrikes as a day-old humanitarian ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh looked increasingly frayed on Sunday.

The Russian-brokered ceasefire, clinched after marathon talks in Moscow, was meant to halt fighting to allow ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh and Azeri forces to swap prisoners and war dead.

The talks were the first diplomatic contact between the two since fighting over the mountainous enclave erupted on Sept. 27, killing hundreds of people. Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but is populated and governed by ethnic Armenians.

Both sides accused one another of breaking the ceasefire almost immediately, and Azerbaijan gave the impression in public comments from top officials that it saw it as only a brief breathing space anyway.



Kyrgyzstan Names Freed Populist Politician Acting PM

BISHKEK (Dispatches) - Kyrgyzstan's parliament on Saturday made a populist politician recently freed from jail prime minister, with Sadyr Japarov immediately saying he expected the country's embattled president to step down.

Hundreds of Japarov's supporters took to the streets of the capital Bishkek to celebrate, after a week that saw opposition supporters demonstrate and clash with police over a contested election on Sunday. At least one person has died and over 1,000 have been injured in Kyrgyzstan, a Central Asian country with close ties to Russia.

The violence also saw shots fired as groups of rival supporters clashed on Friday. Japarov was made acting prime minister after a majority of lawmakers supported his candidacy at an extraordinary session of parliament.

He said he expected President Sooronbay Jeenbekov to resign "in two to three days" in comments at his confirmation on Saturday. "I met with (Jeenbekov) here at the state residency. He said that after confirming the cabinet and government structures, he would resign," Japarov said at his confirmation.

A deputy speaker at the extraordinary session on Saturday noted that Japarov would become acting president if Jeenbekov resigned.

The speaker of parliament would normally step in, but the post is currently unfilled. Two sources in the parliament, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP that they expected Jeenbekov to honour his pledge to step down.

Japarov, a former lawmaker with a reputation as a headstrong nationalist, and former president Almazbek Atambayev were freed from prisons by their supporters in the early hours of Tuesday, along with several other prominent politicians.

But whilst Japarov's political star appeared on the rise Friday, Atambayev was rearrested by police and security forces following a raid on his compound outside Bishkek.

"Special forces stormed (Atambayev's) compound" and "arrested the former president," his spokeswoman Kunduz Joldubayeva told AFP. The State Committee for National Security confirmed the arrest on fresh charges of organising mass disorder.

North Cyprus President to Face Prime Minister in Runoff

ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Northern Cyprus's President Mustafa Akinci and Prime Minister Ersin Tatar will go to a run-off in a week's time after each won about 30% support in Sunday's presidential poll, official media said.

Career politician Akinci, 72, supports reuniting the Mediterranean island which split after a 1974 Turkish invasion in response to a brief Greek-inspired coup.

Tatar, 60, who has also served as finance minister, supports separate sovereign administrations.

There were 11 candidates in total in Sunday's vote where Turkish Cypriot voters cast ballots in masks and gloves to curb the risk of coronavirus infection. With a population of 326,000, Northern Cyprus has reported 807 infections and four deaths.

Northern Cyprus is recognised as an independent state only by Turkey. Other countries consider it part of Cyprus.

The latest United Nations-mediated peace negotiations failed in 2017 and there has been no progress in talks since.

On Thursday, Northern Cyprus reopened part of the beachfront of a resort abandoned for 46 years in a move that could hurt efforts to revive dispute settlement talks.

The president of Cyprus, Nicos Anastasiades, called the move "illegal".

As well as having an impact on inter-island talks, the result of North Cyprus' election may influence negotiations between Turkey and Greece over their contested maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean.



Coronavirus Can Survive for 28 Days On Some Surfaces

LONDON (Dispatches) - The virus that causes COVID-19 can survive on banknotes, glass and stainless steel for up to 28 days, much longer than the flu virus, Australian researchers said on Monday, highlighting the need for effective cleaning and handwashing to help combat the disease.

Findings from the study by Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, appear to show that in a tightly controlled environment the virus remained infectious for longer than other studies have found.

CSIRO researchers said that at 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) the SARS-COV-2 virus was "extremely robust" and remained infectious for 28 days on smooth surfaces such as plastic banknotes and glass found on mobile phone screens. The study was published in Virology Journal.

By comparison, Influenza A virus has been found to survive on surfaces for 17 days.

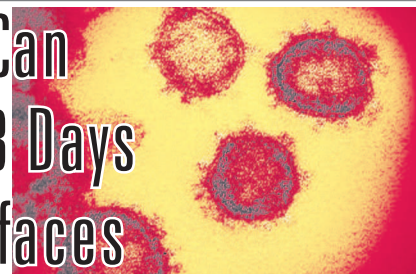
"It really reinforces the importance of washing hands and sanitising where possible and certainly wiping down surfaces that may be in contact with the virus," said the study's lead researcher Shane Riddell.

Experiments done at 20, 30 and 40 degrees Celsius (68, 86, and 104 Fahrenheit) showed the virus survived longer at cooler temperatures, smooth surfaces, and on paper banknotes rather than plastic ones.

The researchers said that on cloth at 20 degrees they were unable to detect any viable virus beyond 14 days. At 30 degrees, the virus' viability fell to just three days on cotton, compared with seven days for steel and smoother surfaces. Viability dropped further at 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit).

All the experiments were done in the dark to remove the impact of ultraviolet light, as research has shown direct sunlight can kill the virus.

"So in the real world results would likely be shorter than what we were able to show," Riddell told Reuters news agency.



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Spain's Budget Minister Rules Out Corporation Tax Rise

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Spain will not raise corporation tax while its economy struggles to recover from the damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the budget minister said in an interview published on Sunday.

In a country that has not managed to approve a full-year budget since 2016 because of a prolonged political paralysis, Spain's minority left-wing coalition government is currently trying to garner support from other parties to pass the 2021 spending plan.

A fresh surge in infections is compounding the hit to the economy, which is expected to shrink by more than 11% in the year as a whole, according to Spanish government estimates.



Global Economic Recovery From Covid Pandemic Is Fragile and Patchy

LONDON (FT) - The global economy has achieved only a fragile recovery from the depths of the coronavirus pandemic and many emerging economies are still suffering severe hardship, according to the latest Brookings-FT tracking index.

Growth in the world's largest economies has been uneven according to the index, which highlights the precarious outlook that will form the backdrop for the annual meetings of the IMF and World Bank this week.

With a second wave of coronavirus undermining efforts to return to normal, businesses', households' and investors' confidence shaken and little scope for additional monetary policy stimulus, most countries have a long way to go before output reaches pre-pandemic levels.

"A broad-based and robust recovery does not appear on the horizon," said Professor Eswar Prasad of the Brookings Institution, adding that the "risks of substantial and long-lasting scarring effects on economies are rising".

The meetings will be held virtually from Washington this week. Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the IMF, said last week the recovery from the Covid-19 crisis would be, "long, uneven and uncertain. And prone to setbacks."

Economic data from across the world are weaker than the worst point in any previous downturn since the Brookings-FT Tracking Index for the Global Economic Recovery (Tiger) started in 2012.

The index compares indicators of real activity, financial markets and confidence with their historical averages for the global economy and for individual countries, capturing the extent to which data in the current period is normal.

It showed the recovery in advanced economies is far from complete after a historic drop in the spring, and the situation in emerging markets is much worse with indicators still far removed from normal levels.

Even though manufacturing has recovered strongly, boosting world trade, and household spending has generally remained strong as governments in developed economies have replaced lost earnings with wage subsidies, the corporate outlook is troubled and businesses', households' and investors' confidence is low, threatening to undermine the strength of any recovery.

Prof Prasad said: "Private sector confidence has been battered, which does not bode well for business investment and employment creation."

However, financial markets have been stable after the initial shock, ensuring that they did not amplify the health emergency.

Although the recovery has been tepid, the world escaped much greater harm because of the enormous use of fiscal policy, said Prof Prasad. Central banks also did what they could but monetary policy was shown to be running short of ammunition, he said, with the limits of their remaining scope for policy action becoming "increasingly apparent".

"Central banks are in peril of increasing entanglement in their economies through purchases of corporate and government bonds and direct financing of firms, which could leave them vulnerable to political pressures and threats to their independence in the future," he said.

The U.S. has performed more strongly than many European countries, with unemployment falling over the summer. However its recovery slowed in recent months as the country lost control of coronavirus outbreaks and politicians fought over renewing support for unemployed households.

UK Urges Businesses to Prepare for End of Brexit Transition

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's government on Sunday urged businesses to prepare for the end of the Brexit transition period, saying that they need to take action whether or not a trade deal with the European Union is clinched.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has said Britain won't extend the transition period, which ends on Dec 31, and that progress must be made to bridge significant gaps between the two sides in the coming days if a deal is to be struck.

The business ministry argues that most of what businesses need to do is the same regardless of the outcome of the negotiations and has planned a series of sector specific webinars in October.

"With just 81 days until the end of the transition period, businesses must act now to ensure they are ready for the UK's new start come January," said business minister Alok Sharma, who will write to businesses regarding the changes.

"There will be no extension to the transition period, so there is no time to waste."

Businesses needed to do things like ensure staff register for residency rights and prepare for customs procedures when trading with the EU, the government said.

The United Kingdom formally left the EU on Jan. 31, but more than four years since voting 52%-48% for Brexit in a 2016 referendum, the two sides are haggling over a trade deal to take effect when informal membership ends on Dec. 31.

The two chief negotiators, the EU's Michel Barnier and Britain's David Frost, say they are inching towards a deal ahead of an Oct. 15 deadline, but that important gaps remain on fishing, level playing field issues and governance. Both sides have planned for a no-deal scenario.

China's Central Bank to Cut FX Risk Reserve Ratio to Zero

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's central bank said it lowered the reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions when conducting some foreign exchange forwards trading to zero with effect from Monday.

Under current rules, financial institutions must set aside 20% of the previous month's yuan forwards settlement amount as foreign exchange risk reserves.

"The People's Bank of China (PBOC) will continue to maintain flexibility in the exchange rate, stabilize market expectations,

and keep the yuan basically stable at reasonable and balanced levels," the central bank said on its website.

The move came after the onshore spot yuan rate ended at a 17-month high on Friday against the dollar, its biggest one-day percentage gain since 2005.

Tommy Xie, economist at OCBC Bank in Singapore, said the PBOC's move could serve to keep the yuan's appreciation in check, and that it also reinforced how policymakers are keen to open up domestic financial markets to foreign investors.

"It is the exit of intervention, which marks the further step for RMB to move towards market driven pricing mechanism," Xie said, referring to the renminbi, or yuan.

"By removing the restrictions on derivatives, it will create a more flexible (hedging) environment for foreign investors."

Ken Cheung, chief Asian FX strategist at Mizuho Bank in Hong Kong, said the PBOC's move was not meant to reverse the yuan's rising trend, but had come earlier than he expected.

"The authorities might be worried about yuan appreciation risk driven by the U.S. presidential election," he said.

Friday's gains in the yuan were largely prompted by speculation that Democrat challenger Joe Biden might win the U.S. presidency and improving Sino-U.S. relations.

The yuan has gained more than 6% against the dollar since late May, largely driven by a favourable yield differential between China and other major economies.

The 20% reserve requirement ratio was imposed in 2018.

The PBOC has adjusted reserve requirements for the foreign exchange forward yuan positions of financial institutions several times in the past few years.

EU Trade Chief Calls On U.S. to Drop Tariffs In Airbus-Boeing Dispute

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union's new trade chief has told the U.S. to withdraw tariffs on more than \$7 billion of EU products or face additional duties on exports to Europe, as he urged a settlement to the dispute over Airbus SE



AIR.PA and Boeing Co BA.N, the Financial Times reported on Sunday.

Repairing the transatlantic relationship would be EU's top priority, and the U.S. should withdraw its Airbus-related tariffs as a confidence-building measure, the EU's new trade chief Valdis Dombrovskis told on.ft.com/2GEqmap the FT.

"Of course, if the US is not withdrawing their tariffs we have no choice but to then introduce our tariffs," he was quoted as saying.

Washington was awarded the right by the World Trade Organization (WTO) last October, to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion of annual EU imports in its case against Airbus. Washington then imposed 25% duties on products ranging from single-malt whisky to olives and cheese and 10% tariffs on most European-made Airbus jets.

In mid-February, the U.S. government said it would increase tariffs on aircraft imported from the EU to 15% from 10%, ratcheting up pressure on Brussels in a nearly 16-year dispute over aircraft subsidies.

The EU for its part, has been cleared by the WTO to impose tariffs on U.S. products worth \$4 billion to retaliate against subsidies for American planemaker Boeing, sources told Reuters last month, with the award expected to be published within weeks.

Dombrovskis refused to speculate about the impact a Joe Biden presidency might have on the dispute, but told the FT that a more protectionist approach was something that came with the administration of Donald Trump.

"But in any case we will be engaging . . . and trying to bring the US administration back within the framework of multilateralism," he added.

Support Girls to Shape Their Own Destinies



TEHRAN (UNIC) – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on the International Day of the Girl, 11 October 2020, called for supporting girls by giving them access to the tools they need to shape their own destinies.

The full text of his message reads:

This year, we mark the International Day of the Girl against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, and resurgent movements for social justice.

As we strengthen the response to the pandemic and plan for a strong recovery, we have an opportunity to create a better, fairer, more equal world for girls everywhere. The best way to achieve this is by following the leadership of girls themselves.

This year's theme, "My Voice: Our Equal Future" calls on us to amplify the voices of adolescent girls, and put their needs at the forefront of laws, policies and practices in every country and community around the world.

The gaps between girls and boys remain unacceptably wide. Adolescent girls are locked out of opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), not for lack of talent or ambition — but because they are girls. Globally, the percentage of women among graduates in these subjects is below 15 percent in over two-thirds of countries.

It doesn't have to be this way.

Generation Equality is our global campaign and call to commit to working with and for girls, everywhere.

We must support girls by giving them access to the tools they need to shape their own destinies. That includes the technological skills, connectivity and safety they need to thrive in a digital world.

We can all draw inspiration from the adolescent girls who are taking the lead and shaping better lives for themselves — and for others.

Teenage girls are the new leaders of our time, creating global movements for change. They're ready for the challenge.

On this International Day of the Girl, let's stand together with them and for them.

Let's nourish their talents, amplify their voices and work together for a better, more equal future for us all.

Dubai Non-Oil Private Sector Continues Modest Growth

DUBAI (Reuters) - Dubai's non-oil private sector expanded for a third consecutive month in September as it continued to see a modest improvement in business conditions, a survey showed on Sunday.

The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit Dubai Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 51.5 in September from 50.9 in August.

The sector emerged from three months of contraction in June, when it settled at the 50.0 mark that represents no change.

The coronavirus crisis has badly hit vital economic sectors of Dubai, the Middle East trade and tourism hub.

While the data was below July's reading and markedly below the series average of 54.7, it "indicated stronger increases in both output and new business across the private sector in September," the report said.

"September PMI data finalised a third-quarter period of modest economic recovery in Dubai," said David Owen, economist at survey compiler IHS Markit.

The output sub-index rose to 53.8 in September from 52.7 in August. It peaked at 56.1 this year in July.

"On the downside, the PMI has failed to lift off or signal any strong rebounds in output so far, with firms often initiating price cuts in order to drive sales higher. Meanwhile, employment data signalled a cautious outlook as firms often shed workers to manage cost pressures and enable discounting," Owen said. The United Arab Emirates, with a tally at more than 105,000 infections and 443 deaths, has seen the number of daily new coronavirus cases surge over the past two months.

Business sentiment for the next six months improved slightly in the survey, though the outlook overall was relatively subdued and hopes of further growth were pinned on higher sales as lockdown measures are eased.

Owen said the rise in COVID-19 cases could lead to a dip in activity later this year. "Firms will thus be wary of expanding too much or too quickly" he said.



“Headless” to Go on Screen At Brazilian Festiva

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian movie ‘Headless’, directed by Kaveh Sajjadi Hosseini, will be screened at the 44th International Cinema Show in Sao Paulo, which is to be held from October 22nd to November 4th, 2020.

A brief synopsis of the flick reads, “Why do you want to kill them? They understand as much as a two-year-old understands.”

Elham Korda and Mehdi Kushki are the main actors of the film co-written by Payam Larian, Sadeq Khoshhal, and Kaveh Sajjadi Hosseini.

Roya Teymourian, Kazem Sayyahi, Nasser Sajjadi, Mahsa Bagheri, Alireza Riahi, Iraj Shahzadi, and Mohammad-Reza Farzad are also among the cast members of the flick.



China Is Winning the Global Economic Recovery

HONG KONG (CNN) - While much of the world scrambles to prevent new coronavirus cases from stalling the fragile recovery from recession, China’s economy is hitting its stride again and will end the year more influential than ever.

The world’s second largest economy was the only major world power to avoid a recession this year as Covid-19 forced lockdowns and crippled businesses. China’s GDP is expected to grow 1.6% this year, while the global economy as a whole will contract 5.2%, according to summer projections from the World Bank.

China built its relatively quick recovery through several measures, including stringent lockdown and population tracking policies intended to contain the virus. The government also set aside hundreds of billions of dollars for major infrastructure projects, and offered cash incentives to stimulate spending among its populace. The payoff has been evident, as tourism and spending rebounded during last week’s busy Golden Week holiday period.

By the end of the year, China’s share of global GDP is likely to rise by about 1.1 percentage points, according to a CNN Business calculation using World Bank data. That’s more than triple the share it gained in 2019. By contrast, the United States and Europe will see their shares dip slightly. All told, China’s economy is expected to be worth about \$14.6 trillion by the end of 2020, roughly equivalent to 17.5% of global GDP.

Even without the disruption caused by the virus, China’s share would have ticked up this year, according to Larry Hu, chief China economist for Macquarie Group. But China’s ability to buck the worldwide trend is accelerating the growth in its importance to the global economy. “The recovery in China has been much stronger than the rest of the world,” Hu added. The economic improvement has been no more apparent than during this past week, when the country celebrated one of its annual Golden Week holidays. This season’s festivities marked the founding of the People’s Republic of China and the Moon Festival, and was one of the country’s busiest travel seasons of the year.

More than 630 million people traveled around the country during Golden Week, which ended Thursday, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. That’s nearly 80% of the numbers who traveled during the same period last year.

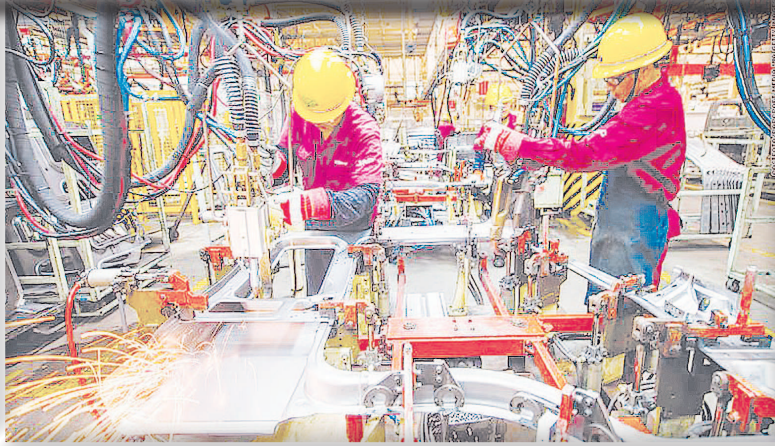
Tourist spending, meanwhile, recovered to nearly 70% of last year’s level, reaching \$70 billion. And movie ticket sales surpassed \$580 million during the Golden Week holiday — just 12% shy of last year’s record high.

The holiday week’s numbers are “encouraging,” said Macquarie’s Hu.

“As life is returning to normal in mainland China, consumption, especially the service consumption, is under recovery,” he said, added that pent-up demand has finally been unleashed.

Even before the holiday, China’s economy had been picking up momentum.

An official gauge of manufacturing activity rose to a six-month high in September. A private survey from the media group Caixin, which measures smaller businesses, also showed the sector continued to expand last month.



The services sector is also doing well. An official survey released last week put activity at its highest level in nearly seven years. And on Friday, a Caixin survey revealed that services experienced one of the quickest paces of expansion in the past decade in September. “Overall, the economy remained in a post-epidemic recovery phase and improved at a faster pace,” Wang Zhe, senior economist at Caixin Insight Group, said in a report accompanying Friday’s data.

Consumer spending is rebounding, too, in yet another encouraging sign. Economists were concerned earlier this year that China’s recovery was too unbalanced, having been driven by lots of state-led infrastructure projects and not enough consumer spending.

And despite trade tensions, China’s economy has also benefited from its vital role in global supply chains, according to Louis Kuijs, chief Asia economist at Oxford Economics. The research and advisory group’s own calculations also indicate that China will increase its share of global GDP by about a percentage point this year.

“In contrast to expectations of ... changes in global supply chains away from China, it looks as if, at least for now, China’s success in shaking off the Covid-19 outbreak and keeping factories operating has strengthened its role in global value chains,” Kuijs said. He pointed out that US foreign direct investment into China actually rose 6% in the first half of this year, according to China’s Ministry of Commerce.

“Even as U.S.-China tensions have worsened dramatically recently, many US multinationals remain keen to engage with China,” Kuijs said, adding that American firms were likely encouraged by Beijing’s decision to remove some barriers to investing in the country’s financial sector.

Campaigners Urge IMF to Sell Gold to Provide Debt Relief



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Debt campaigners are calling for the International Monetary Fund to sell some of its stockpile of gold to cover the debt payments owed by the world’s poorest countries for the next 15 months.

With a looming developing world debt crisis high on the agenda at this week’s annual meetings of the IMF, the Jubilee Debt Campaign (JDC) said gold sales would help the most vulnerable countries cope with the Covid-19 shock and pave the way for a broader debt deal.

The IMF holds 90.5m ounces of gold, or 2,814 metric tons, worth about \$175bn (£134bn) at current prices.

A sharp rise in the price of the precious metal means that since the start of 2020 the value of the IMF’s gold reserves has increased in value by \$38bn.

The JDC said selling less than 7% of the IMF’s gold would generate a \$12bn profit, which is enough to cancel the debts owed by the 73 poorest countries until the end of 2021 and still leave the Washington-based organization with \$26bn more gold than it held at the start of the year.

Both the IMF and its sister organization, the World Bank, have identified the need for a comprehensive debt relief plan for poor countries, which would include debts owed to governments, multilateral organizations and the private sector. The JDC said gold sales would act as a catalyst for a broad debt deal and help convince China, a big creditor, that it would not be asked to shoulder a disproportionate share of the relief effort.

Sarah-Jayne Clifton, the director of the JDC, said: “There is enormous inequality in the resources available to countries to help them weather the Covid crisis. Poorer countries simply don’t have the monetary and other tools available to them that rich countries are using to keep their economies afloat.

“The IMF has the tools and resources to help plug this gap. It has the ability now to unlock a comprehensive debt payment cancellation scheme that could save the poorest countries \$180bn in debt payments in the next four years. This would have a huge impact, helping poorer countries to tackle the current economic and health crisis and supporting their faster economic recovery in years to come.”

World Bank Fears 150m People Will Join Extreme Poor

JOHANNESBURG (Dispatches) - Up to 150 million people could slip into extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.90 a day, by late next year depending on how badly economies shrink during the covid-19 pandemic, the World Bank said last week in an outlook grimmer than before.

Middle-income countries are expected to have 82% of the new extreme poor, including India, Nigeria and Indonesia. Many of the new extreme poor will be more educated urban residents, meaning cities will see an increase in the kind of poverty traditionally rooted in rural areas.

Most of the new extreme poor, more than 110 million even by the World Bank’s baseline estimate, will be in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

The pandemic has abruptly halted years of progress against global extreme poverty, expected to rise this year for the first time in over two decades. It also threatens to worsen global inequality and make it “harder for countries to return to inclusive growth,”

World Bank President David Malpass said.

Global economic growth is expected to fall by 5.2% this year, more than in the past eight decades.

Almost a quarter of the world’s population lives below \$3.20 a day, an enormous number of people vulnerable to the kind of economic shocks that this year have come in waves. Unemployment is rising, and those who scraped together savings have watched them disappear. Families are eating less. Many children, who account for half of the world’s poor, miss out on distance learning.

“Many of the new poor are likely to be engaged in informal services, construction and manufacturing -- the sectors in which economic activity is most affected by lockdowns and other mobility restrictions,” the report says, citing phone surveys in countries around the world.

Recovery, experts say, could take a decade -- a shattering blow to people who had pulled themselves from poverty and saw a better life ahead.

Tehran Eyes...

FROM PAGE 1

African countries are considered as a good and lucrative market for many of Iranian construction materials and equipment due to burgeoning population growth and moving towards the development path and urbanization, the director general emphasized.

Currently, China, Spain, Italy, India, France, Turkey and Belgium are main exporters of construction materials to African continent, Piltan highlighted.

Islamic Republic of Iran exported about \$620 million worth of construction equipment such as wires, cables, tiles, ceramic, glasses, faucet wares, doors, windows, pipes and profiles, etc. to target markets last year (ended March 20, 2020), about \$1.5 million of which was exported to the African countries, he added.

Trade Promotion Organization of Iran hopes that, by cooperating and interacting closely with the Iranian embassies in African countries, it will be able to bring the level of trade relations with the African continent to the pre-corona era in the field of introducing African markets and traders to Iranian sides, Director General of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)’s Office of Arabian and African Countries Farzad Piltan underscored.

Mena Gas...

FROM PAGE 1

Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq will take the lead in terms of gas investments. Developments in Saudi Arabia as well as Iran’s South Pars will drive gas-to-power schemes.

The UAE, which has significantly ramped up gas investments following the discovery of several significant reserves, pushing it to the sixth position globally has allocated \$22bn for development of unconventional and sour gas.

Egypt leads the region in petrochemicals investments, followed by Iran and Saudi Arabia. The North African country saw a \$10bn uptick in gas activities, particularly relating to gas blocks awarded to Chevron, BP and Noble.

These were the details of the news Mena gas investments surge 29% despite global slump for this day. We hope that we have succeeded by giving you the full details and information. To follow all our news, you can subscribe to the alerts system or to one of our different systems to provide you with all that is new.

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Tehran Critical...

FROM PAGE 1

He also pointed to Iran’s plan to help resolve Karabakh crisis, saying we welcome truce in Karabakh but we regret violation of ceasefire by both sides.

Iran condemns bombarding residential areas and infrastructures and killing civilians.

We invite both sides to exercise self-restraint and believe that political talks, respecting territorial integrity and withdrawal from occupied areas will help establish sustainable peace, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Iranian diplomat commented on reconciliation meeting of Palestinian groups and the possibility of holding its next round in Tehran, saying it would be the most logical method.

We will take advantage of all capacities for materializing such negotiations.

Regarding Iran’s response to possibility of lifting arms embargo, Khatibzadeh said anti-Iran groups in Washington spare no efforts to wage psychological war against Iranian nation.

Iran has proved that it will solve the issue by patience, calculation and accuracy.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he criticized Kiev Government for not extending Iranian students’ residence in Ukraine, saying Iranian diplomats and Iran consulate in Kiev are following the issue seriously.

Pointing to US officials’ offer to help Iran in fighting COVID19, he said we do not expect anyone to do favor for Iranians.

We have repeatedly mentioned that Europe has taken a false approach and it was not able to comply with its commitments to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

He made clear that the U.S.’ internal affairs and election are nothing to do with Iran.

He said that Iran had targeted Ain al-Asad airbase based on calculations, saying anyone who enters our territory with any intention will be slapped.

He warned the U.S. for strategic mistake in understanding Iran and said that any action based on misunderstanding will be a nightmare for the U.S.

Commenting on Iran oil sale to China based on Tehran-Beijing strategic document, Khatibzadeh said the document does not deal with ordinary affairs but it is a roadmap.

U.S. did not dream that its hostile attempts against Iran regarding oil sales would be failed.

In response to a question on phone conversation of Zarif and his British counterpart, he said both sides discussed regional and bilateral issues.

Khatibzadeh derided the U.S. court ruling that Iran was sentenced to pay \$ 1.46 billion reparation to the family of the US missing citizen Robert Levinson, saying US Department of State has openly announced that Levinson had left Iran.

Envoy Criticizes...

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier speaking in an interview with ‘Die Presse’, Grossi had said “we do not talk about breakout time in the IAEA. We look at the significant quantity, the minimum amount of enriched uranium or plutonium required for making an atomic bomb. Iran does not have a considerable quantity at this moment.”

He expressed concerns over Iran’s uranium enrichment in a large scale, saying Iran continues enrichment more than what it had been committed to.

Iran Eyes...

FROM PAGE 1

Underlining the great capacities of the country for attracting foreign investment, he said: “Attracting foreign capital has a preliminary process that must be completed, first, the financing is defined in Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran, then it goes to the Foreign Investment Board for approval, and finally it will lead to the issuance of a license. So, the process is not simple.”

As the situation in the country improves, the pace of encouraging and attraction of foreign investment will definitely increase, however, even if the situation remains the same, there are still methods and strategies to be utilized to facilitate the process, the official stressed.

After the Supreme Council for Economic Coordination, the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry, the Interior Ministry, and other influential organizations in Iran decided to facilitate the conditions of foreign investment in the country, Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri announced the Foreign Investment Promotion and Protecting Act (FIPPA) last year.

Although there are easier conditions and better incentives than in the past, the experts and economists believe that these are not adequate and the situation needs reconsideration.

Vietti Wins French Moto3

LE MANS (AFP) - Italian teenager Celestino Vietti shrugged off a warm-up crash, his third of the weekend, to win the French Moto3 Grand Prix at Le Mans on Sunday. The 18-year-old held off his compatriot Tony Arbolino and new championship leader Albert Arenas on the last lap for his second career win from 33 Moto3 starts. "It was a strange race, I didn't expect this result," said the KTM rider, now third in the championship on 119 points, 16 shy of Arenas with five races left.

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Petrucchi Wins French MotoGP

LE MANS (AFP) - Danilo Petrucci sprang an "unbelievable" surprise to hold off rookie Alex Marquez and win the rain-hit French MotoGP at Le Mans on Sunday. Home favourite Fabio Quartararo, supported by 5,000 fans allowed in to the Bugatti circuit under strict Covid-19 protocols, held onto the championship lead despite struggling from pole to take ninth. Petrucci, riding for Ducati, won for only the second time from 146 MotoGPs. The 29-year-old was the seventh different winner of the nine races staged so far in this coronavirus-disrupted campaign.

Hamilton Takes Eifel GP, Equals Schumacher's Record

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton equalled Michael Schumacher's record of 91 Formula One wins on Sunday when he guided his Mercedes to a narrow, if measured, victory at a frantic Eifel Grand Prix.

Taking full advantage of team-mate and pole-sitter Valtteri Bottas' early retirement with engine problems, the runaway series leader and six-time champion drove a well-judged race to claim his seventh victory from 11 contests this year.

"What a result," he said on the Mercedes team radio after taking the chequered flag clear of Max Verstappen for Red Bull with Renault's Daniel Ricciardo in third.

Schumacher's 21-year-old son Mick, a rising star and leader of the F2 series, presented Hamilton with a red helmet from his father's career collection.

"Congratulations on a great achievement," said Schumacher junior.

"It's such an honor," said a surprised Hamilton as many of the 20,000 fans scattered around the circuit gave the Englishman a standing ovation.

"Thank you, I don't know what to say.

"When you grow up watching someone that you idolise as a driver, week in and week out, year on year, and to see his dominance, I didn't imagine that I would ever be here. It's an incredible honour."

Bottas' bad luck handed Hamilton his chance and almost certainly ended his own title bid as the Briton moved 69 points clear in the drivers' championship.

Ricciardo's podium success meant that he had won a bet with Renault team boss Cyril Abiteboul, requiring the Frenchman to take a tattoo prescribed by the Australian.

Sergio Perez finished fourth for Racing Point ahead of Carlos Sainz of McLaren, Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri, Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and 'super-sub' Nico Hulkenberg of Racing Point.

For Hulkenberg, it was a remarkable result coming only 24 hours after he had jumped into the cockpit of Lance Stroll's car after a late call to action while he was in a cafe in Cologne. Romain Grosjean, with an injured finger, was ninth for Haas ahead of Antonio Giovinazzi of Alfa Romeo.



It was Mercedes' first win at the Nurburgring since Juan-Manuel Fangio triumphed at the daunting Nordschleife circuit in 1954.

On a cold and damp afternoon, Hamilton gained the lead into Turn One at the start, but Bottas, from his 14th pole position, switched back to regain the initiative in Turn Two.

By lap five, Bottas led from Hamilton and Verstappen, the leading trio soon 15 seconds ahead of Leclerc's Ferrari as he battled to resist Ricciardo's Renault.

On lap 13, Bottas locked up into Turn One and Hamilton pounced to lead. The Finn had to pit and Verstappen began chasing Hamilton who, by lap 15, had a 4.3 seconds advantage. Bottas rejoined fourth behind Ricciardo.

Bottas' race ended on lap 19 when, after a loss of power, he retired. "Unlucky -- what can I say?" said Bottas. "It was a big loss of power."

As Bottas exited, F1's other Finn, Kimi Raikkonen, in a record 323rd race, was handed a 10-second penalty for ramming George Russell's Williams.

In another incident on a frantic day, Alex Albon collided with Daniil Kvyat at Turn 14, tearing the front wing off the Russian's car. Albon was given a five-second penalty, but did not serve it -- instead retiring with hydraulic problems. At the front, Hamilton reported his tyres were finally warm and working as he pulled away from Verstappen.

Lando Norris, a distant third, was struggling with power sensor problems and he pulled up and retired on lap 45, his abandonment requiring deployment of the Safety Car.

Hamilton, Verstappen and Ricciardo pitted for new rubber and resumed in the same order when the action restarted with a 10-lap dash to the flag.

Hatton Storms to PGA Championship Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - England's Tyrrell Hatton achieved a childhood dream by storming to the PGA Championship at Wentworth on Sunday.

Hatton carded a closing 67 at Wentworth to claim his fifth European Tour title on 19 under par, four shots clear of France's Victor Perez. The victory will see Hatton break into the world's top 10 for the first time when the rankings are updated on Monday, two days before he celebrates his 29th birthday.

"It's unbelievable," Hatton told Sky Sports. "This was a goal of mine to win this tournament in my career and part of me is sad I didn't get to experience the crowds, but it's just amazing to win this trophy." Hatton, who won the Arnold Palmer Invitational in March, saw his three-shot overnight lead wiped out in the space of four holes as Perez birdied the second and holed from 22 feet for an eagle on the fourth.

A birdie on the fifth edged Hatton back in front. Although Perez quickly responded with a birdie on the seventh, Hatton rolled in a hat-trick of birdies from the ninth to move two shots clear.

The leading pair traded near-identical birdies on the 11th. Both bogeyed the 13th after Perez had picked up a shot on the par-five 12th, but Hatton struck a decisive blow with his fifth birdie of the day on the difficult 15th.

A wild drive from Perez then led to a bogey on the 17th and left Hatton clear to enjoy the final two holes as he claimed the first prize of £868,000 (957,000 euros, 1.32 million dollars).

Pedersen Claims Belgian Cobbled Classic Gent-Wevelgem

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - Denmark's former world champion Mads Pedersen of Trek-Segafredo won an ultra-competitive Gent-Wevelgem on Sunday after outspurring an elite escape group.

The race was billed as a clash between the two up-and-coming superpowers of one day racing in Mathieu van der Poel and Wout van Aert, who finished with the winning riders but in 8th and 9th.

The pair seemed to cancel each-other's threat and allowed others to steal in at the end.



Brazil Forward Robinho Rejoins Santos

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Veteran Brazilian striker Robinho has rejoined his boyhood club Santos, who he left to join Real Madrid as a 21-year-old rising star before spells with Manchester City and AC Milan.

The 36-year-old penned a five-month deal paying the nominal amount of about 230 euros (250 dollars) per month with bonuses and an extension if things go well.

"This has always been my home, it's so special to come back here where my career began," he said.

He is currently a fugitive from Italian justice, having been condemned to jail for rape in Italy in 2017.

Robinho shot to fame with goals galore for the Rio outfit, which also produced Neymar and Pele, before Real Madrid signed him to great fanfare in 2006.

A slight and sublimely talented centre forward, Robinho won league titles with Real and Milan and also turned out 100 times for Brazil, winning the Copa America and the Confederations Cup.

France, Portugal Play to Scoreless Draw

LISBON (Dispatches) - France drew 0-0 at home to Portugal in the UEFA Nations League on Sunday in a cagey clash between the world and European champions which largely failed to live up to its billing.

The teams could only manage one shot on target in the first half, a hopeful attempt by Antoine Griezmann from the tightest of angles which stung the hands of keeper Rui Patricio.

Cristiano Ronaldo came closest to scoring when he fired a left-footed strike at goal in added time but his deflected shot was well saved by France goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Ronaldo also nearly scored in the first half but France defender Lucas Hernandez produced an excellent sliding block, while Ronaldo vented his frustration at teammate Joao Felix after the forward skewed wide as he met a cross which Ronaldo was waiting to turn into the net.

Portugal defender Pepe looked to have finally broken the deadlock late on when he placed a diving header in the net following a free kick but he was ruled offside.

This was the teams' first meeting since Portugal's extra-time win over France in the Euro 2016 final but the game could hardly have felt more different, with only nine players who started that showpiece game starting the match on Sunday.

Only 1,000 fans were let in to the 80,000-capacity Stade de France due to coronavirus restrictions and neither side played with much urgency, looking content enough to cancel each other out.



Nadal Storms To 13th French Open Title

PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal swept Novak Djokovic aside to win the French Open for the 13th time and equal Roger Federer's record of 20 grand slam titles.

The two great rivals now sit atop the men's all-time standings after Nadal's quite brilliant 6-0 6-2 7-5 victory over world number one Djokovic.

The Spaniard has been dominant for so long at Roland Garros that it seemed nothing he did could surprise but to produce such a performance against a man who had not lost a completed match all season was breath-taking.

Nadal hit 31 winners and made only 14 unforced errors, leaving Djokovic, who had been hoping to become the first man in the Open era to lift every slam trophy at least twice, unable to find any answers.

The third set was at least competitive, and ensured Djokovic avoided his worst ever slam defeat, but this was unquestionably Nadal's day.

Federer was quick to pay tribute to the Spaniard, saying on Twitter: "I have always had the utmost respect for my friend Rafa as a person and as a champion. As my greatest rival over many years, I believe we have pushed each other to become better players."

"Therefore, it is a true honour for me to congratulate him on his 20th grand slam victory. It is especially amazing that he has now won Roland Garros an incredible 13 times, which is one of the greatest achievements in sport."

"I also congratulate his team because nobody can do this alone. I hope 20 is just another step on the continuing journey for both of us. Well done Rafa. You deserve it."

Having started the tournament by saying the cool and damp autumnal conditions, coupled with heavier balls, would make this the most difficult French Open to win for him, Nadal has ended it without losing a set.

