Health Ministry Spokeswoman Yesterday Confirmed 5,616 New Cases of COVID-19 Infection in 24 Hours While 312 Patients Lost Their Lives in the Same Period and the Overall Death Increased to 31,346



Chief of Staff of the President Mahmoud Vaezi Said U.S. **Maximum Pressures May Cause Inconvenience to People But It Can Increase Government, Industry,** Defense, and Economic Resilience

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DOMESTIC

President Hails Arms Embargo Lifting as Victory of Logic Over Force



DOMESTIC

ECO Members Urged To Take Seriously Reinforcing Intra-Bloc Trade > SEE PAGE 3



Zarif Urges Neighbors to Choose Peace Over Tension

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called on neighboring countries to choose peace, security, stability and prosperity for all instead of remaining prisoners of the past and perpetuate instability and tension in the region.

Zarif made the remarks in an address to a virtual debate of the United Nations Security Council under the title "Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Comprehensive Review of the Situation in the Persian Gulf" on Tuesday.

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said that Muslim nations will not accept the humiliation of compromising with the Zionist regime in any way.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

"Muslim nations will never accept the humiliation of compromising with the Zionist regime," said Ayatollah Khamenei according to the English Twitter account of the Leader.

Muslims Urged Not to Accept Disdain Of Compromising With Zionists



"If the U.S. thinks they can solve the region's problem in this way, they are wrong."

"The status of any regime that negotiates with the usurping Zionist regime will be shaken before its nation."

The UAE and Bahraini foreign ministers signed an agreement at the White House on September 15 to normalize relations with Israel in the presence of US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

An official delegation from the UAE visited Israel yesterday (Tuesday) for the first time. The Emirati Minister of Economy Abdulla Bin Touq was among the officials.

Meanwhile the president of the Islamic Culture and Relation Organization (ICRO) said, he Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should act to fulfill its duty in response to normalization of relations with the Zionist regime.

Speaking at the consultative meeting of the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the ICRO President Abuzar Ebrahimi Turkaman said the OIC should fulfill its duty according to the legal opinion (fatwa) of the Muslim scholars in boycotting the normalization of relations by some Arab countries with the Zionist regime.

Ebrahimi-Turkaman, on October 20, stressed that today the Islamic world needs unity and solidarity more than ever before.

He continued that the terrorist groups, supported by the global arrogance, seek to destroy Islam's image in the world, and distort Islamic principles.

Ebrahimi-Turkaman said remaining silent in the face of such atrocities is, in fact, partnership with the oppressors, adding that the arrogant powers try to promote the wave of Islamophobia, Muslimophobia, and Iranophobia, and that silence of the international community will result in the continuation of oppression by the arrogant governments.

Ebrahimi-Turkaman called the Palestine question as a common issue of the Islamic world, saying the silence of the international community in the face of oppression by the arrogant powers is treason committed against the Islamic Ummah and the Palestinian cause.

The liberation of Palestine through the roadman drawn by Iran's Leader

The president of the Islamic Culture and Relation Organization then referred to the roadmap for settlement of the Palestinian issue from the perspective of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei and said



INTERNATIONAL U.S., Russia Edge Back

Nuclear Arms Pact > SEE PAGE 4

Towards Talks on

Rashford Sinks PSG as

Barca Send Message



Armed Forces Conduct Massive Electronic Warfare Drills

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Armed Forces have launched large-scale aerial drills involving electronic warfare units and featuring the country's domestically-built air defense systems and equipment.

Air defense divisions of Iran's Army and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are participating in the joint aerial maneuvers codenamed Modafean Aseman Velayat 99.

On the first day of the drills, the participating troops practiced a wide range of electronic warfare tactics.

During the exercises, the performance and capabilities of Iranian air defense systems were evaluated by simulating real electronic warfare conditions and exposing them to jamming generated by drones equipped with jammer devices.

Meanwhile, air defense units carried out jamming operations against mock hostile drones and successfully took control of them, preventing them from reaching the drill zone, which covers more than half of the country.

See Page 7

Three Persian Gulf Islands Are Iranian Forever

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations has reiterated the country's sovereignty over three Persian Gulf islands, saying those territories have always been and will always remain Iranian.

Speaking at a virtual meeting of the UN Security Council on Tuesday, Majid Takht-Ravanchi reacted to some unsubstantiated accusations raised against Iran's regional role and attempts to dispute the country's sovereignty over the trio.

Earlier at the session, Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Nayef Falah al-Hajraf had urged Iran to respond to the body's call to resolve the dispute over the islands through negotiations.

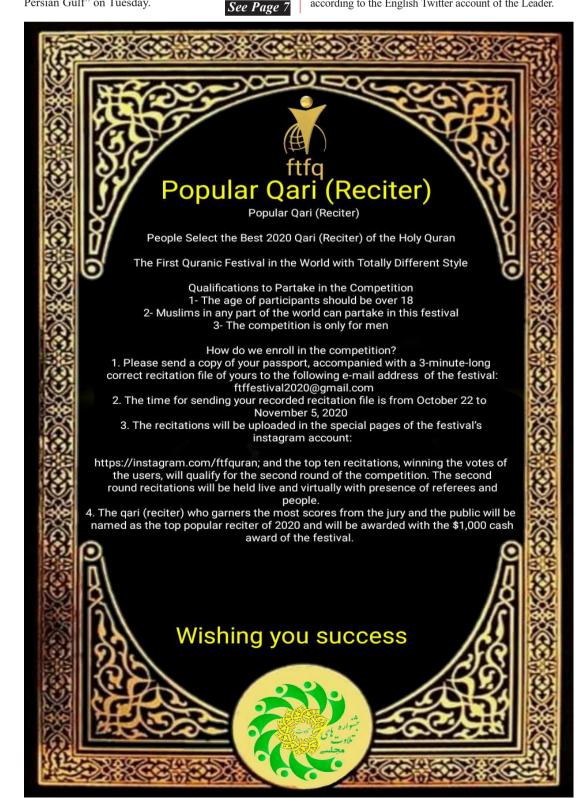
"Since the issue related to Iranian islands has been mentioned here, I have to say that Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb islands have always been part of Iran. These islands are Iranian and will remain so," Takht-Ravanchi said in response.

APMC Traders Import 600 Tons of Onions From Iran

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - With the price of onions increasing, traders at the APMC market in Vashi have imported around 600 tons of onions from Iran, which reached the JNPT port on Monday. While some of them have been taken to the APMC market, some will be taken to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

"Around 25 tons of the 600 tons have been brought to the APMC market. Those have been sold at 51 rupees per kg in wholesale while the Indian onions are priced between 60 rupees and 70 rupees," Abdul Razak Memon, a trader from APMC market, said.

Mr. Memon said more onions are expected from Egypt by the last week of October. "We had ordered the onions from Iran around 25 days ago. The process from Iran is slow and the payment methods are also tedious. Instead, we would be importing onions from Egypt. Onions from Turkey are also imported. This time, the rate there is also at the higher side and hence, we are going with Egypt," he said. See Page 7



Next Round of Iran-Ukraine Talks Due in November

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Iranian Ambassador to Ukraine Manouchahr Moradi said on Wednesday that the third round of Iran-Ukraine talks on January 8 crash of a Ukrainian passenger plane will be held in November in Ukrainian capital, Kiev.

"The second round of talks between Iran and Ukraine on plane crash was constructive, Moradi wrote in his Twitter account on Wednesday, saying that the second round of talks between the Iranian and Ukrainian deputy foreign ministers and expert delegations in Tehran has ended.

The two sides assessed the talks as "constructive" and stressed the need to resolve issues in accordance with international law, Moradi said.

The first round of talks was held on July 30-31, 2020, under the supervision of deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand, in Kiev, Ukraine.

Iranian and Ukrainian officials started the second round of talks on the passenger plane crash on October 19 expected to continue until October 21.

President Hails Arms Embargo Lifting as Victory Of Logic Over Force

TEHRAN (IFP) - The termination of the UN arms embargo on Iran marks a victory for rationalism and rule of law against force and bullying, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has said.

Addressing a weekly cabinet session on Wednesday, President Rouhani lauded the country's major victory after the U.S. government's attempts and obstructive tactics failed to prevent the termination of the UN arms embargo on Tehran.

"It doesn't matter how much weapons we purchase or sell with the arms embargo lifted. What is important is that the logic of right and righteousness and the logic of law and rationalism defeated force and bullying, and that the Iranian nation achieved its rights," the president added.

President Rouhani also highlighted the failure of the U.S. and the Zionist regime to convince the JCPOA parties to withdraw from the nuclear deal, saying the Islamic Republic behaved wisely and adopted a "very complicated and calculated policy" after Washington's unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear accord. Today, one can definitely conclude that the U.S.' actions against the Iranian nation have ended in failure, the president underlined.



"It is by no means important for the Islamic Republic of Iran who wins the U.S. presidential election, because any government taking power in the US would have to surrender to the Iranian nation," President Rouhani noted.

The president further highlighted Iran's efforts to boost the non-oil exports despite the enemy's disruptive measures, adding, "Diversification of the country's non-oil exports prevented the enemy from obstructing or disrupting our country's non-oil exports."

Boosting Relations With Iranians, a Priority For Turkey



TEHRAN (MNA) – Hailing the great volume of relations between Iranians and Turkish people, Turkish official called boosting relations with Iran as one of the priorities of his government.

The 18th Iran-Turkey Joint Consular Commission held virtually with the presence of "Hossein Jaberi Ansari", the consular Deputy of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and "Yavuz Selim Kiran", consular Deputy of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as consular generals of the two countries, the Iranian and Turkish ambassadors as well as other related officials.

In this meeting, Ansari hailed Iran and Turkey's historical and brotherly relations, adding, "We hope that through joint efforts and the assistance of our nations we will overcome, the COVID-19 crisis and its negative impacts on common consular issues."

Stressing on the need to support the citizens of the two countries who need more support from their respective governments amid the pandemic, he called on his Turkish counterpart to pave the way for solving the issues like visiting prisoners, facilitating the travel of Iranian families to visit their relatives, and also the problems of Iranian students in Turkey.

Turkish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, for his part, considered the noticeable volume of relations between the Turkish and Iranian people as a positive point, adding, "Strengthening relations between the two nations is one of the priorities of the Turkish government."

He also noted, "Despite the current situation in which all countries have imposed many restrictions on their borders, we have made great efforts to keep the borders open for flight lines."

Travel problems to Turkey, issues of Iranian students in Turkey, supporting prisoners of the two countries, law enforcement cooperation, visa facilities, anti-narcotics issues, immigration management were the important issues discussed in this virtual meeting.

Germany Is Iran's Traditional Trade Partner

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of Iran's Presidential Office Mahmoud Vaezi referred to various grounds of cooperation between Tehran and Berlin and termed Germany as one of Iran's traditional trade partners.

Speaking in a meeting with the German Ambassador to Tehran Hans-Udo Muzel, Vaezi said Tehran welcomes

developing joint cooperation with Berlin.

Referring to the U.S. withdrawal from Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), he said Iran will stay committed to the deal if other parties comply with the JCPOA commitments.

He also referred to Germany's participation in

nuclear talks, saying U.S.' destructive measures and sabotage made preserving the JCPOA difficult though the remaining parties saved this international agreement.

Iran is ready to restore to its commitments under the JCPOA if other parties comply, he noted.

He also referred to various crises in the Middle East and

emphasized the importance of holding talks for resolving disputes.

Meanwhile, Hans-Udo Muzel stressed the importance of holding negotiations between cultures and countries. He also highlighted Iran significant role in the region. He described talks as solution to regional problems.

Regional States Better to Mediate in Karabakh Conflict

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Azeri Ambassador to Tehran Bunyad Huseynov appreciated Iran's [regional] stance and said that regional countries have greater capacity for mediating in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Huseynov made the remarks in an interview with Iranian official newspaper, IRAN, on Wednesday.

About three weeks ago, Azerbaijan and Armenia came into a conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, a conflict which started in 1988 and led to military conflict in 1992. Speaking to Russia's news agency, TASS, on October 19, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan expressed their readiness to resolve the conflict.

The Azeri ambassador says that Baku is really ready to do so; meanwhile, Azerbaijan believes that exit of Armenian forces from Azeri lands is its right.

Further, Huseynov rejected the claim that Azerbaijan's Army has used Takfiri forces in the conflict as it is basically against Azeri people's beliefs.

Pointing to the role of the Minsk Group which has not been positive, the ambassador highlighted the important participation of the regional countries in mediation efforts.

The Azeri ambassador also praised Iran's constructive stance on dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Asked whether peace will be settled in the disputed region, the ambassador said his country is after end of the conflict through dialogue while the Armenian side has not shown determination to it.

As he noted, Azerbaijan has agreed on Russia' initiative to end the conflict via ceasefire, but the Armenian side broke the truce.

As Huseynov said, military information can confirm which side has violated the truce.

In Azerbaijan's opinion, ceasefire can be settled and conflict will be resolved only under a condition that

Armenian armed forces leave Azerbaijan's soil, he underlined.

Speaking about several drones crashed in cities in Iranian borders, the ambassador said Baku sees borders with Tehran as opportunity, so it does not make military threat in borders.

Also, if it might happen, Azeri officials would talk about the issue with their Iranian brothers, he added.

About how much Azerbaijan attaches importance to its relations with Iran, the ambassador said Baku did not

close borders with Tehran even for an hour since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic in Dec 2019.

Political determination is behind strengthening relations with Iran, he stressed.

In a related development, Iran has repeatedly asked for settlement of the conflict and urged cessation of hostilities in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Iran Not to Join West Asia Arms Race

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Diplomatic Mission in the European Union in a message referred to the arms race in the West Asia which it said is destroying the region by American weapons and stressed that Iran does not intend to join the arms race.

"Iran does NOT intend to join the arms race in West Asia which has stashed the region with American 'beautiful weapons'", Iranian mission wrote in its Twitter account on Wednesday.

"It is a bitter irony though that a country that spends billions of dollars on weapons tramps around and sheds crocodile tears over the termination of UN

arms restriction on 18 October," the message read.

"In fact, Saudi Arabia is among the 5 largest military spenders in the world and has its hands soaked in innocent Yemeni blood. The enormous Saudi military expenditure in West Asia has turned the region into an arsenal ready to blow up," it added.

Iranian Foreign Ministry released a statement on October 18 about the termination of the UNSC arms restrictions and travel ban, saying the definitive and unconditional termination of arms restrictions and travel bans requires no new resolution.

Ensuring Security, Health, Main Task of Iran Police

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Police Chief Brigadier General Hossein Ashtari says the police forces have stood beside medical staff to ensuring security and health for the people.



Referring to security and health as two critical issues and the motto of Police Week as "Together for Security and Health," Ashatari said on Wednesday that police forces have stood beside medical staff and have prepared all its hospitals for patients amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Delivering a speech in the open session of the parliament and on the occasion of 'Police Week,' he added: "Cooperating with Basij forces, the police forces have paved the way for social distancing and observing health protocols." The police chief said that the police forces are active in 8755 km of Iran's border.

"Police force has more than 10000 permanent and 30000 mobile headquarters," he highlighted.

"The police forces are in charge of supporting the security of the Islamic society as the most valued property of the country, and we owe this security to the veterans, armed forces, martyrs, and police staff," Ashatari said. "More than 70 million various services are given to people annually since security is essential to achieve all goals," he stated.

"One of the most important goals of the police force is to have smart police, and we hope to achieve this goal with the latest equipment and technology," he concluded.

At the same parliament session, the parliamentarians issued a statement praising the police force and expressed that Iran's security, peace, and authority owe much to the selfless efforts of the police force who resolutely and authoritatively stand up against lawbreakers and violators

New Decisions Made About Forex Supply, Exports, Imports

TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker announced that the body has made new decisions about the swap of goods, supply of foreign exchange as well as improving imports and export procedures.

"In this closed session on Wednesday, attended by the Industry Minister Razm Hosseini, economic subjects including the priorities of the ministry, setting the goods' prices, supply and distribution of goods, and issues related to steel companies were discussed," Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said.

"Some new decisions about the swap of goods, reforming export and import processes and supply of foreign exchange currencies were made during the session," he added. He hoped that these decisions will have the necessary impact on stabilizing the domestic stock market and reducing the forex rates.

After a long period of climbing, the foreign exchange rates and gold prices declined on Tuesday, following renewed intervention by the Central Bank of Iran.

Earlier in the week, the CBI said it was pumping \$50 million in the chaotic market every day to curb prices. The CBI has reportedly injected \$385 million in the regulated forex market in the past five days. As the domestic gold market is heavily influenced by forex rates, the precious metal also experienced a steep decline on Tuesday.

Iran, Afghanistan Emphasize Serious Fight Against Drug Trafficking

TEHRAN (IP) - The Border Commander of the Iranian Police and Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter Narcotics emphasized serious cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking.

Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goodarzi, Commander of the Border Guards of the Iranian Police, on Wednesday during a meeting with Hashim Aurtaq, Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter Narcotics, in Tehran, said: "Cooperation and coordination between Iranian and Afghan border guards in the fight against narcotics should be practical and serious."

Saying that border guards are at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, Brigadier General Goodarzi added that joint and simultaneous patrols on the Iranian-Afghan border will contribute to the sustainable security of the borders.

Afghanistan Deputy Minister of Interior for Counter Narcotics, Mohammad Hashim Aurtaq, referring to the production of 84% of the world's opium in Afghanistan, said that due to the presence of Taliban forces in some border areas and provinces of Afghanistan, the country is struggling to fight drug cultivation and production.

"Afghanistan understands the concern and sensitivity of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against drugs," Aurtaq said and expressed hope that part of the existing gaps would be filled by amending and revising the anti-narcotics laws and take more effective steps to deal with drug traffickers.

Tomorrow's Sunrise

ECO Members Urged to Take Seriously Reinforcing Intra-Bloc Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The 18th general assembly meeting of the executive committee of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the **Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was held on Tuesday** virtually with presence of Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and during the meeting, Iran was appointed as the rotating president of the ECO Chamber for two years and the next meeting will be held by Afghanistan.

During the virtual meeting, participants called for using all capacities of the ECO member states for playing a key role in the region and all emphasized that ECO member states should unite more for improving trade in the ECO region. Meanwhile heads of chambers of commerce of Turkey, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iran urged the private sectors of ECO countries for playing more roles and called for shaping trade among ECO members and implementation of preferential trade agreements.

Addressing the meeting, Head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce Mr. Gholamhossein Shafei emphasized the necessity for reinforcing the trade among the ECO member states and reminded that achieving the goals set by the ECO for 2025 relies on the cooperation between private and government sectors of the member states.

He added that despite neighborhood and having joint borders and as the result the lower transportation cost which is a strong point for boosting trade, unfortunately the intra-bloc trade has not grown significantly.

Shafei added that ECO members had trade worth around \$780b with the world in

Goods Worth of \$30b

Exported in H1

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Iranian year (March 20, 2020-September 21, 2020).

Director General of Provincial Affairs of the

Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade Iraj

Hassanpour made the remarks during the induction

ceremony held for introducing caretaker of

Northern Khorasan Industry, Mines and Trade

Over 74 percent of the items were exported to

China, UAE, Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan, he said,

noting that the amount of exports from the country

Referring to some of the adverse impacts of

sanctions and economic problems, he said, "The

enemy is trying to close all the economic breathing

Hassanpour hailed surge in producing sanitary

items in Iran, saying, "With the outbreak of

coronavirus, we faced a shortage of hygienic items,

but now the production of face masks has increased from 200,000 a day to 14 million."

Sarajevo Mayor Underlines

Urban Cooperation With Tehran

In a meeting with Iran's Ambassador in Sarajevo

Reza Qelichkhan late on Tuesday, he appreciated the

country's embassy for paving the ground for

He also explored ways of enhancing cooperation

Recalling Iranian people's support during the war

in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the mayor of Sarajevo

reaffirmed Bosnian people's support for the Iranian

nation in fighting coronavirus pandemic and

expressed condolences to the families of the

Iran's ambassador, for his part, highlighted

numerous cultural and historic commonalities

between the two nations, saying that urban diplomacy

is an opportunity that promotes friendship among the

nations and sisterhood agreement between Tehran

and Sarajevo has created excellent capacities for

cooperation between the two capitals.

collaboration between Tehran and Sarajevo.

between the two countries in various fields.

victims in Iran.

reached 36 billion dollars by October 13, 2020.

holes of the country with sanctions."

Department on Tuesday.



2019 but the share of intra-bloc trade was only 7.6 percent of the figure, namely, around \$59b which shows no major significant change comparing to 2018.

He noted that one of the reasons for the decline in the intra-bloc trade is the lack of preferential agreements among the member states or delay in implementation of the ECO Trade Agreement (ECOTA) which is one of the trade agreements in the ECO level group, reiterating that all member states should move in the direction of

He also urged the ECO members to take necessary measures for achieving the ECO

transportation, using rail or road corridors and launching new corridors as well as cooperation in the fields of oil, gas and petchems especially in the private sector

He expressed hope with the persistence of the ECO Chamber and its secretariat, development of cooperation in the said fields would get favorable results.

Shafei further said that one of the grounds which have been delayed by the members for cooperation especially in the private sector is the industrial investment and joint production with utilizing the existing knowhow and raw material in the region.

He also called on the ECO members to develop e-trade especially in the coronavirus condition. At the end of the meeting, Iran was officially named as the rotating president of ECO Chamber for two years.

Iran's Net Debt. 44% of its GDP

Tehran, Baghdad Hold Talks on

Implementation of Agreements

focused on border issues, dredging of Arvandroud in

southwestern Iran and railroad cooperation, was co-chaired by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for

International and Legal Affairs Mohsen Baharvand and

Iraq's senior Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign

The meeting was held in Tehran in line with following

up implementation of agreement signed between the

Iran and Iraq have long joint border crossings in

TEHRAN (IRNA) -Members of Iranian and Iraqi delegations held a

Wednesday and reviewed ways to implement

Affairs Abdul Karim Hashim.

southwest and western Iran.

two countries about two years ago.

mutual agreements. The meeting, which

here on

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - In its latest report released on Monday, the International Monetary Fund estimates that the Iranian government's net debt will reach about \$260 billion by 2020, which is equivalent to 44 percent of Iran's gross domestic product.

Before the reimposition of U.S. sanctions on Tehran in 2018, Iran's net debt amounted to less than \$118 billion.

Therefore, the Iranian government's net debt from 2018 to the end of this year will be almost 2.2 times more.

Local news outlets and the Majlis Parliament Research Center had both reported a significant budget deficit for the current Iranian calendar year starting

In the previous year, President Hassan Rouhani's government faced a significant budget deficit since it had included selling 1.5 million oil barrels per day, but it failed to export even half of it.

In December 2019, the Majlis Research Center published a report saying that, even with borrowing, half of Iran's budget between March 20, 2020. and March 20, 2021 would still be in deficit and could not be achieved.

Currently, according to the International Monetary Fund, Iran's total budget deficit, including the government's, will be about \$58 billion this year, equivalent to about one-tenth of the country's economy. The Iranian government's total net debt will reach

\$258 billion, \$11.6 billion in foreign debt. Another critical point in the IMF's report is that the available foreign exchange reserves for Iran this year will be less than \$9 billion, while in 2018, it was about \$122 billion.

Tehran Ready to Accept Islamabad Investment in Chabahar

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) -Iran has announced its readiness to accept the investment from Pakistani businessmen and companies in Chabahar Special TEHRAN - Over \$30b worth of goods, including Economic Zone, Mirjaveh gasoline and methanol as major export items, were and the new Rimdan exported from Iran over the first six months of the current border crossing.

Mandana Zanganeh, the deputy governor of the southeastern province of

Sistan and Baluchestan for economic affairs said this while heading an Iranian delegation at a two-day meeting of the Pakistan-Iran Joint Border Trade Committee in Quetta on Wednesday.

"Chabahar, Mirjaveh and Rimdan of Iran are open to Pakistani investors," she said.

She also emphasized on launching of new border crossings between Iran and Pakistan, especially "Rimdan-Gabd" gate next month.

The official added there are suitable and productive capacities between the two countries, especially Sistan and Baluchestan province and Baluchestan province and we must seize these opportunities, especially in the areas of transport, trade and tourism.

The head of the Iranian delegation proposed to increase the customs working hours at the Mirjaveh-Taftan border checkpoint to 12 hours per day from November 1 2020 and 24 hours in the next three months, which was welcomed by the Pakistani side.

Zanganeh said that the holding of a new round of meetings of the Joint Border Trade Committee shows the interest of the Islamic Republic of Iran and

border provinces, and naming Iran-Pakistan border two neighboring countries.

border security will be paved.

Iran, announcing her country's readiness to participate in the establishment of border markets in Pakistan, where Prime Minister Imran Khan has issued special instructions in recent months, said: "Iran can share its experience in building and

The Iranian side agreed to set up a separate gate at

The Iranian side agreed to allocate land to the



committee and a dispute resolution committee to deal with financial and legal problems. Take action. Collector Pakistani Customs Abdul Waheed Marwat leading Pakistani delegation said Iran and Pakistan

have more than 900 kilometers of common border, which is called the border of peace and friendship. "We seek to improve the lives of the border residents of the two countries, help develop employment and find mechanisms to strengthen

bilateral trade," he added. He stressed that the holding of the latest meeting of the Joint Committee on Border Trade shows Pakistan's interest and commitment to develop relations and cooperation with the

Company (ESCO) believes officials should forbid export of iron ore because its export harms the national steel industry.

Pakistani side for the

Mohammad Jafar Salehi said that export of good quality of iron ore from southern Iran which is needed by the steel-making units of the country has come under the spotlight and ultimately with the interference of economic security police of Hormuzgan Province, the efforts for stopping the raw material sale continue.

He added that the company has conveyed its opinion to the Judiciary and announced its needs to iron ore both in terms of quality and quantity, adding that the good quality iron ore of the southern part of the country is exported and the reason is that the officials have not forbidden its export.

Salehi further said that with the rise in the price of the forex and devaluation of the national currency, exporters are ready to pay the export tariffs and in return to have forex revenues, rather than to sell the iron ore to the domestic steel-makers or domestic consumers because the global price of iron ore has soared and the export of this commodity has become attractive for the domestic exporters. He admitted that exports of iron ore would ultimately be against the domestic steel-makers' interests.

He noted that in order to save the national steel industry, imposition of ban on export of iron ore is the only solution and it has its own legal process.

On the provision of the raw material for the company via the project for revival of the small scale mines, he said the company, parallel to the revival of the small scale mines activities in collaboration with Iran Minerals Production and Supply Company (IMPSC) has launched Poyesh Mines of ESCO and started investment in a manganese-rich iron ore mine in Taybad.

It is noteworthy to mention that provision of raw material is one of the major needs in the national steel industry and a company like ESCO has been forced to reduce some part of its production because of shortage of raw material and this will lead to the loss of job opportunities in the national steel industry chain.





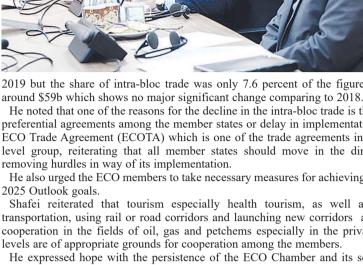
IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK Pakistan in deepening relations between them. TEHRAN - Sarajevo Mayor Abdulah Skaka on Tuesday The two countries are connected by neighboring voiced readiness to help promote urban cooperation between capitals of Iran and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

as the border of peace and friendship is an exceptional opportunity to strengthen cooperation, especially in establishing security on the borders of the

She expressed the hope that by taking effective and constructive decisions in this meeting, the path of economic prosperity in the region, improving the lives of the border residents of the two countries, creating sustainable employment and strengthening

The Deputy Governor of Sistan and Baluchestan of operating new border markets."

the Mirjaveh border for Pakistani traders to Iran.



removing hurdles in way of its implementation. 2025 Outlook goals. Shafei reiterated that tourism especially health tourism, as well as transit,

Khashoggi Fiancee Sues Saudi Prince in U.S.

ANKARA (Dispatches) - The fiancee of journalist Jamal Khashoggi sued Saudi Arabia's crown prince and other officials Tuesday in a U.S. court, seeking damages for his brutal murder in Istanbul two years ago.

Turkish citizen Hatice Cengiz and the human rights group Khashoggi formed before his death, Democracy for the Arab World Now (DAWN), is pursuing Mohammed bin Salman and 28 others for damages over the October 2, 2018 killing of the US-based writer.

Cengiz claims personal injury and financial losses over Khashoggi's death, while DAWN said its operations and objectives were hampered by the loss of its founder and central figure.



MUMBAI (Reuters) - India has recorded 54,044 new coronavirus infections, taking its tally to 7.65 million, health ministry data showed on Wednesday.

The world's second most populous nation also has the second highest caseload, after the United States, which has a total of 8.2 million.

India's death toll from the virus stood at 115,914, with 717 deaths in the last 24 hours, the ministry said. Infections in India have been on the decline since a September peak, but experts have warned there could be a surge as the festival season approaches.





MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia and the United States on Tuesday were edging closer to breaking an impasse in long-running talks aimed at extending a landmark nuclear arms deal, due to expire within months.

U.S. officials said they were ready to meet Russian diplomats as soon as possible, shortly after Moscow stated it could compromise on an American demand.

The two sides have struggled to find common ground over the fate over the New START treaty, which limits both sides to 1,550 deployed warheads but is due to expire next February.

While the U.S. wants to rework the deal to include China and cover new kinds of weapons, Russia is willing to extend the agreement for five years without any new conditions -- and each side has repeatedly shot down the other's proposals.

The agreement was signed in 2010 at the peak of hopes for a "reset" in relations between the two countries.

Together with the Cold War-era Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, it was considered a centrepiece of international arms control.

However, the United States withdrew from the INF last year after accusing Moscow of violations.

As recently as last week, the U.S. seemed unwilling to compromise on New START -officials dismissing a proposal from Russian President Vladimir Putin to extend the deal for a year without restricting new weapons development as a "non-starter".

But with U.S. President Donald Trump trailing in polls for next month's election, his administration has indicated it would support preserving the treaty.

And Russia's foreign ministry on Tuesday signalled a willingness to compromise, saying it would agree to a U.S. demand for a one-year freeze on developing weapons.

"We appreciate the Russian Federation's willingness to make progress on the issue of nuclear arms control," state department spokeswoman Morgan Ortgaus said.

"The United States is prepared to meet immediately to finalise a verifiable agreement. We expect Russia to empower its diplomats to do the same."

Over the course of months of talks, Washington had demanded that tactical nuclear weapons be covered by the treaty and insisted China must be included -- even though Beijing had shown no interest.



Soldiers Open Fire on Protesters in Nigeria's Capital LAGOS (Dispatches) - Nigerian soldiers opened fire on demonstrators protesting against police brutality in Lagos

and at least two people were shot, according to several witnesses, as authorities imposed a curfew and promised

Four witnesses told Reuters news agency that soldiers fired at the protesters who had gathered in the Lekki district of Nigeria's largest city in defiance of an indefinite curfew imposed hours earlier by the authorities.

Hundreds of people were at the site at the time of the shooting, which witnesses said took place around 7pm (18:00 GMT). "They started firing ammunition toward the crowd. They were firing into the crowd," said Alfred Ononugbo, 55, a security officer. "I saw the bullet hit one or two persons," he said.

Inyene Akpan, 26, a photographer, said more than 20 soldiers arrived at the toll gate in Lekki and opened fire. He said he saw two people being shot. Akinbosola Ogunsanya, a third witness, also told Reuters he saw soldiers remove bodies.

Scenes of protesters removing a bullet from someone's wound and pleading for help were broadcast in a live video on Instagram by DJ

Nearly 300K Excess U.S. Deaths Since January, Most From Virus

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The United States has seen around 300,000 more deaths than usual since late January, with two-thirds attributable to Covid-19 and the rest due to other causes, a government study said Tuesday.

The report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that overall, an estimated 299,028 excess deaths occurred from late January through October 3, 2020, with 198,081 of them (66 percent) caused by Covid-19.

Excess deaths are defined as the number of people who have died from all causes, in excess of the expected number of deaths for a given place and time. Deaths from circulatory diseases (including high blood pressure, heart attacks and strokes), Alzheimer disease and dementia, and respiratory diseases all increased in 2020, the report said.

For reference, the CDC compared weekly deaths in 2020 to the average of veekly deaths from 2015-2019.

While the highest number of excess deaths (94,646) was registered among those aged 75–84, the group that saw the biggest increase was idults aged 25-44.

Their excess death rate was up 26.5 percent, while excess deaths among those under the age of 25 were in fact down by two percent.

Latinos and Blacks were hit hard, with excess deaths up 53.6 percent and 32.9 percent, respectively. Excess deaths among Asians were up 36.6 percent.

For white people, deaths were 11.9 percent higher when compared to average numbers during 2015–2019.

Some of these deaths may have been misclassified and were in fact attributable to Covid-19 -- while others may have occurred "because of

disruptions in health care access or utilization," the report said.

As of Tuesday, the U.S. coronavirus death toll stood at more than 220,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

Switch, a popular disc jockey.

Amnesty International said it had received "credible but disturbing evidence of excessive use of force occasioning deaths of protesters at Lekki toll gate in Lagos", adding that it was investigating "the killings".

Another witness, Chika Dibia, said soldiers hemmed in people as they shot at them.

Video verified by Reuters showed men walking slowly in formation toward demonstrators, followed by trucks with flashing lights, and the sound of gunfire popping. Another video showed the toll gate itself, with a protester waving a Nigerian flag, as people ran amid the sound of gunfire.

In a Twitter post, the Nigerian Army said no soldiers were at the scene of the shooting on Tuesday night. Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu tweeted pictures of him visiting people in hospital who were victims of what he referred to as the "unfortunate shooting incident at Lekki".

He said 25 people were being treated for mild to moderate injuries, two were receiving intensive care and three had been discharged.

Germany Issues Int'l Arrest Warrant For Founders of Panama Papers Firm

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany has issued international arrest warrants for the two founders of the firm at the center of the tax haven scandal exposed by the Panama Papers data leak, German media reported.

Mossack Fonseca founders Juergen Mossack and Ramon Fonseca, suspected of tax evasion and associating with criminals, will be arrested if they enter the European Union, German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung reported.

A spokesman for the Cologne public prosecutor's office confirmed that two international arrest warrants had been issued in connection with ongoing investigations, but did not identify those involved.

Mossack and Fonesca hold Panamanian passports and are currently in the Caribbean archipelago, which does not have any extradition treaties, the newspaper said.

However investigators hope that Mossack, who has family in Germany, may surrender to officials in order to negotiate a reduced sentence and avoid U.S. charges.

The Panama Papers, a massive data leak in April 2016, exposed widespread tax avoidance and evasion using complex structures of offshore shell companies and caused an international outcry.

At least 150 investigations have been opened in 79 countries to examine potential tax evasion or money laundering, according to the American Center for Public Integrity.

In 2018, Mossack Fonseca said it would close due to "irreparable damage" to its reputation. Panama's government meanwhile continues to petition the international community to remove it from several tax haven blacklists.



Luis Arce Says No Role for Morales in New Gov't

LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Bolivia's presidentelect Luis Arce said there was "no role" in his government for socialist party leader Evo Morales, who governed for almost 14 years before resigning under pressure last year and fleeing the country.

Arce swept to power in a Sunday ballot, with the official count – technically still under way – showing him with a majority of the vote, ushering the Andean country's socialists back into office just a year after Morales left.

From exile in Argentina, Morales remains the president of Arce's party, the Movement for Socialism, or MAS, but Arce said any influence will be limited to that position.

"He will not have any role in our government," Arce told Reuters at the MAS headquarters in Bolivia's administrative capital La Paz.

"He can return to the country whenever he wants because he's Bolivian ... but in the government it's me who has to decide who forms a part of the administration and who does not."

A divisive former coca grower who is lauded by some for improving the fortunes of the poorest in one of South America's most impoverished countries, Morales has lived outside Bolivia since he fled last year following a vote shrouded by allegations of fraud. Morales disputes the allegations and says he was toppled in a right-wing coup.

Morales also faces a raft of corruption allegations, which he has denied.

"Due process rights have not been respected in several cases against him (Morales)," Arce said. "I regret that politics have been judicialised, the right has judicialised politics."

As finance minister under Morales, Arce helped preside over an economy that was growing faster than almost any in the region. But when he assumes Bolivia's presidency next month, he will be taking over a country facing a crippling recession.

"We will have to have austerity measures. There's no other option if we don't have enough income to cover our current expenditures," Arce said.

The 57-year-old said the economic model he helped implement under Morales worked and will work once again.



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No More Trade Talks Unless EU Changes Position

LONDON (Reuters) - There will be no more trade talks with the European Union unless the bloc fundamentally changes its stance on the discussions, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told his Greek counterpart in a call on Tuesday.

"He reaffirmed that the EU have effectively ended those negotiations by stating they did not want to change their negotiating position," Johnson's spokesman said following the call with Prime Minster

"Should the EU fundamentally change their position, then the UK would be willing to talk on that new basis."





LONDON (Reuters) - The Bank of England is likely to supplement its quantitative easing war chest next month to offer more support to an economy still struggling amid coronavirus restrictions on activity and fears of a no-deal Brexit, a Reuters poll found.

Surging coronavirus infection numbers have pushed the government to tighten curbs across swathes of the country to try to stop the spread. More areas face tougher lockdowns in coming days.

A national lockdown earlier this year that forced businesses to close and citizens to stay home meant the UK economy contracted an historic 19.8% in the second quarter.

expand 2.6% this quarter and 1.0% next - weaker than the respective 3.4% and 1.3% median forecasts given last month. For all of 2020, the economy will contract 10.1% but expand 6.1% next year, according to the poll of 78 economists, compared with the respective -10.0% and +6.1% forecasts given last month.

"The resurgence of COVID-19 across the UK and the resulting restrictions mean the recovery is set to stall. It now looks fairly inevitable that the Monetary Policy Committee will top-up its asset purchase program," said James Smith at ING.

With Bank Rate already at a record low of 0.10%, and 59 of 64 economists who responded to an extra question saying the MPC would not take it below zero, the focus will be on bond buying, or quantitative easing.

Having added 300 billion pounds to the program earlier this year, taking its total projected spend on gilts to 725 billion pounds, the median forecast in the poll was for a 100 billion pound top-up on Nov. 5.

"That would give policymakers scope to continue making purchases until early summer next year if the pace of purchases stays broadly similar," ING's Smith said.

Bank Rate was not expected to move until 2023 at least and only two of the 68 economists polled expected any change next month.

London said on Monday the door was still open if the European Union wanted to make some small concessions to save Brexit trade talks but unless the bloc budged there would be a no-deal exit in 10 weeks. Britain's informal EU membership - known as the transition period - ends on Dec. 31.

"Enough progress has been made to keep the talks alive so that negotiators return to the table and a deal will eventually be done and be in place by the end of the year," said Liz Martins at HSBC.

The latest Reuters poll gave a median 40% chance no deal is made, unchanged from last month, and as in all Reuters polls since the June 2016 decision to leave the bloc, it said the most likely outcome was still some form of free trade agreement.

"It remains in everyone's interest to avoid a no-deal outcome," said Peter Dixon at Commerzbank. "The economic headwinds posed by COVID-19 will exacerbate the costs of a no-deal Brexit, and the British government would be wise to do whatever is necessary to avoid it."

FRANKFURT (Reuters) -

European Central Bank would still have 1 trillion euros (910 billion pounds) worth of corporate bonds to choose from if it excluded polluters from its

purchases as part of President Christine Lagarde's green push, research showed on Tuesday. The study, published by UK think-tank New Economics Foundation and backed by environmental activist group Greenpeace, urged the ECB to take companies' carbon footprint into account when choosing which corporate debt to buy as part of its multi-trillion-euro quantitative easing (QE) scheme.

Lagarde opened the door to this notion last week, saying the market had failed to correctly price climate risk and the ECB should consider addressing that failure as part of an ongoing

The NEF researchers found the ECB could still draw from a pool of 1,829 corporate bonds worth a total 1.062 trillion euros if it excluded fossil fuel companies and those with relatively high carbon intensity, a spokeswoman said in a written response to Reuters' questions.

On both measures this equalled a reduction of just under 30% compared with the size of the ECB's current eligible bonds.

The authors estimated the ECB could even axe all bonds issued by carbon-intensive sectors apart from green bonds and still have 1.078 trillion euros worth of debt in which to invest if it included junk-rated paper.

"It is now time for Europe's most powerful financial institution to decarbonise its QE program," said Yannis Dafermos, one of the authors of the study and a lecturer in economics at SOAS University of London. "Our data analysis shows how this can be done."

He and co-authors Daniela Gabor, Maria Nikolaidi, Adam Pawloff and Frank van Lerven said in the study the ECB's purchases had rewarded polluting industries such as oil producers, non-renewable utilities and car manufacturers out of proportion to their contribution to euro area employment and value added.

The ECB has bought 236 billion of euros worth of debt in the past four years under its Corporate Sector Purchase Program, plus 52.4 billion euros in its Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme, which also includes commercial debt.

It has bought those bonds in proportion to their outstanding amounts but this so-called market-neutrality principle" is now being thrown into question by Lagarde and board member Isabel Schnabel.

While the Oct. 13-19 poll predicted 16.7% growth last quarter, the outlook has darkened. The economy is expected to Swiss Gold Exports to Asia Tumble as Bullion Flows to London

LONDON (Reuters) - Switzerland's gold exports to China and India dwindled in September, with the country instead mporting record volumes of bullion from Hong Kong and ending metal to Britain, customs data showed on Tuesday.

The figures underline how Western investors have overtaken Asian iewellery buyers as the main driver of gold demand since the COVID-19 pandemic struck.

The pandemic has resulted in jewellery shop closures and reduced disposable income among consumers while triggering a rush by investors to stockpile an asset they think will hold its

Switzerland is a major gold refining and transit center, while London is a storage and trading hub where nvestors around the world hoard gold.

Swiss exports of gold to the United States, which surged earlier this year because of higher prices in the J.S. market, fell sharply for a second consecutive month in September.

Switzerland exported 1.5 tons of gold to China in September, with 2.4 tons exported to Hong Kong and 5 tons to India, the customs data shows.

The previous month, it shipped 10 tons to China, nothing to Hong Kong and 20.2 tons to India as demand n those markets appeared to be recovering.

The dominant flow of gold in September was from east to west. Switzerland imported 37.7 tons from Hong Kong, up from 25.5 tons in August and the most for any month since Swiss data became vailable in 2012.

It exported 50.9 tons to Britain, up from 18.4 tons in August and the most since September last year. Swiss shipments to the United States fell to 13.5 tons from 28.5 tons in August and for a second month vere almost entirely offset by imports of gold into Switzerland from the United States.

In total, Switzerland exported 105.9 tons of gold in September, down from 112 tons in August.

EU Makes Bond Market History With Record \$275b Demand for SURE Issue

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - The European Union attracted the highest demand ever for a bond sale on Tuesday at over 233 billion euros (\$275 billion), bankers involved in the deal said, as it kicked off fund raising for its SURE unemployment scheme.

Demand was nearly 14 times the 17 billion euros the EU raised from the issue, comprising 10 and 20-year social bonds, bankers said.

"I can't think of a major account that's not in the (investor order) book," said Jamie Stirling, global head of sovereign, supranational and agency debt capital markets at BNP Paribas, one of the lead managers.

Tuesday's sale is the first stage of the EU's ambitious plan to increase its debt pile 15-fold in less than a decade to fund its two coronavirus support programmes for member states, which brings it closer to debt mutualisation than ever before.

In time the EU, until now a tiny borrower on a par with Slovakia, will become one of Europe's biggest borrowers.

Tuesday's sale was closely watched to see how successful the EU might be at ramping up its borrowing at such speed and how much it would cost.

With the sale the EU has already funded over half of the 30 billion euros of debt it expects to sell this year.

The shorter bond, which will raise 10 billion euros, attracted over 145 billion euros of final demand on its own, also a record high for a single European bond tranche, lead managers said.

"This is sending a strong signal that they can upsize their issuance without many difficulties," said Antoine Bouvet, senior rates strategist at ING.





TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan will join forces with the United States and Europe to take on any market abuses by the four Big Tech companies, the new head of its antitrust watchdog said, a sign Tokyo will join global efforts to regulate digital platform operators.

Kazuyuki Furuya, chairman of Japan's Fair Trade Commission (FTC), also said Tokyo could open a probe into any merger or business tie-up involving fitness tracker maker Fitbit FIT.N if the size of such deals are big enough. "If the size of any merger or business-tie up is big, we can launch an anti-monopoly investigation into the buyer's process of acquiring a start-up (like Fitbit)," he told Reuters. "We're closely watching developments including in Europe."

EU antitrust regulators in August launched an investigation into a \$2.1 billion deal by Alphabet unit Google's bid to buy Fitbit that aimed to take on Apple and Samsung in the wearable technology market.

Japan is laying the groundwork to regulate platform operators. Among them are big tech giants dubbed "GAFA" - Google, Apple, Amazon and Facebook FB.O - that face various antitrust probes in western nations. Multi-national companies like GAFA have similar business practices across the globe, which makes global coordination crucial, Furuya said.

"We'll work closely with our U.S. and European counterparts, and respond if to any moves that hamper competition," he said.

"This is an area I will push through aggressively," he said, adding the FTC was ready to open probes if digital platformers abuse their dominant market positions against consumers.

Furuya, who assumed the post in September, also said the FTC would conduct research into Japan's mobile phone market to see whether there is any room for improvement to spur competition. Any such move would help Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's push to slash Japan's mobile phone charges, which he has repeatedly criticized as too high.

BP May Cut Oil Supply to Caribbean Refinery If It Stays Idle

LONDON (Reuters) - The problem-plagued Limetree Bay refinery in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, may lose its main supplier of crude, oil major BP, if it isn't successfully up and running by December, according to two people familiar with the matter.

The Caribbean refinery's owner, Limetree Bay Ventures, has spent at least \$2.7 billion restoring the facility, initially hoping to tap rising demand for low-sulfur fuels and markets in Latin American and Caribbean. But the plant's restart date has been delayed by nearly a year now. BP Plc BP.L invested in the plant with an agreement to supply its crude and market the fuels produced in anticipation of a late 2019 startup. BP can terminate that contract if the plant cannot reach a certain production target by year-end, the people said, threatening the future of the largest new refining capacity in the Americas.

Limetree owners EIG Global Energy Partners and Arclight Capital Partners embarked on the overhaul in expectation of a surge in demand for marine fuels that comply with new maritime rules for low sulfur content. BP's investment was to be repaid from product sales. The goal was to have the refinery produce as much as 210,000 barrels per day of refined product, but the COVID-19 pandemic has crushed refining margins for fuels across the globe.

BP and EIG declined comment. Arclight could not be reached for comment.

In recent weeks, Limetree experienced problems trying to restart the crude unit, according to one of the people familiar with

With the problems the refinery is having, it is less attractive for BP to remain involved, according to sources familiar with the plant. The oil major is in the midst of a global overhaul of its operations, with plans to boost renewable investments and cut fossil fuel development, which also now makes this contract less attractive.

At least one vessel carrying crude oil booked by BP has been moored outside the refinery since the end of August, waiting to unload crude loaded from Guyana, according to two sources and data from Refinitiv Eikon. Companies usually pay demurrage fees when ships idle without unloading.



the matter. That followed a series of delays due to corrosion uncovered during renovations.

"Yalda" to Be Screened In Switzerland

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian feature film 'Yalda, A Night for Forgiveness' directed by Masoud Bakhshi, will be screened in Switzerland.

The film is to screened in German cinemas in late October. '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, Faqiheh Soltani, Fereshteh Sadr-Orafaee, Bahram Afshar, Fereshteh Hosseini and Babak Karimi are among the cast members of the flick.



EU and UK Tell Each Other to Budge on Brexit

LONDON (Reuters) - A frustrated European Union and piqued Britain both exhorted the other on Tuesday to compromise to avoid a fast-approaching disruptive finale to the five-year Brexit drama that would add to economic pain from the coronavirus crisis.

Failure to clinch a trade deal when Britain leaves a standstill transition period on Dec. 31 would sow chaos through supply chains and undermine Europe's economy as it already sees jobs and businesses pulverised by the COVID-19 disease.

After an EU demand for concessions, Prime Minister Boris Johnson broke off talks and said it was time to prepare for a no-deal Brexit.

The EU has since offered to intensify talks and open discussions on legal texts of a draft deal, but Britain maintains there is no basis to resume discussions without a fundamental change in approach.

"My message: we should be making the most out of the little time left," Michel Barnier, the EU's chief negotiator, said after a telephone call with British counterpart David Frost.

"Our door remains open."

Bangladesh Garment

Workers Pray for Orders as

Pandemic Shreds Exports

DHAKA (Reuters) - Bangladesh garment factory owner

Shahidullah Azim laid off 20% of his workers in the wake

of the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic. Now

watching the second wave build in Europe and the United

He's not alone. Bangladesh is the world's second-largest

apparel producer after China, but its industry leaders

say international retailers are either refraining from

placing orders, delaying buying decisions or

"This is a disaster. We are taking orders just to survive,"

said Siddiqur Rahman, a garment supplier to international

retailers including H&M HMb.ST and GAP Inc GPS.N.

"We anticipated orders could look up before the

Rahman said customers were demanding price cuts of

as much as 15%, making the recovery that much harder.

In the financial year that ended in June, Bangladesh's

garment exports totaled \$27.94 billion (21.6 billion pounds),

There was a rebound of less than 1% in the

July-September quarter, thanks to a surge in demand

States, Azim is staring at "an unprecedented crisis".

demanding steep price cuts.

Christmas but that didn't happen."

down 18% from the previous year.

The European Commission said it was ready to negotiate though both sides would have to compromise.

Johnson's spokesman said the EU had to show it was taking a fundamentally different approach.

EU diplomats cast Britain's moves as bluster and a frantic bid to secure concessions before a last-minute deal, though an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said chances of a deal were narrowing.

"At the moment, I see the chances worse than 50-50," Detlef Seif, Brexit rapporteur for Merkel's conservatives in the lower house of parliament, told Reuters. "The ball is still in Britain's court at the moment."

There is concern in some European capitals that Johnson may judge that the domestic political benefits and potentially the long-term economic freedom of a noisy no-deal exit outweigh the benefits of a shallow trade deal.



"If they want to get back to the negotiating table, they can," said one EU diplomat. "If they want to jump – we won't be able to stop them."

"All this posturing is only aimed at strengthening Johnson's hand. If they don't want to talk, that's their choice. There is no point at this stage to give them anything more," said another EU diplomat.

Britain formally left the EU at the end of January, but the two sides have been haggling over a deal that would govern \$900 billion in trade from car parts to medicines.

Johnson and his Brexit supremo Michael Gove will tell businesses on a video call on Tuesday to step up preparations for the end of the transition period.

Failure to strike a deal with the EU would be "extremely damaging" and cut profits by up to a quarter at carmaker Bentley, its boss told Reuters, as the government urges firms to plan for potential disruption.

Armed Forces...

FROM PAGE 1

The maneuvers featured different types of homegrown missiles, radar systems, reconnaissance, electronic warfare and communication systems as well as an optical surveillance network.

During the first stage, the deployment of defense systems, including missile and radar systems, was drilled with an emphasis on mobility and rapid response, said Second Brigadier General Abbas Farajpour, the spokesman for the maneuvers. Also exercised during the first stage were passive defense strategy and deception techniques.

Farajpour further explained that cohesive and effective coordination, direction and control of air defense systems within the framework of an integrated network are among the key objectives of the drills.

The senior military official highlighted that Army and IRGC officers will jointly exercise actual combat and defense tactics against aerial system threats at Special Operations Commands (SOCs), which are controlled and monitored by the national integrated air defense system and Khatam-al Anbiya (PBUH) Central Headquarter.

Farajpour also pointed to surveillance and reconnaissance flights by unmanned aircraft over the area where the drills are being staged, noting, "Tactical and defensive measures were also employed by ground-based reconnaissance and combat systems against strike aircraft. Moreover, all air defense measures, including detection, interception, combat and electronic warfare methods were exercised."

Domestically-built Fakour (Thoughtful) and Ashura Tactical Command and Control Systems (ATCCSs), besides homegrown Moraqeb (Vigilant), Fath-2 (Conquest-2) and Bashir radar systems, tactical reconnaissance systems, electro-optical systems, electronic warfare systems and the visual monitoring network of the Army were tapped as well, according to the spokesman for the maneuvers.

"New defense systems and hardware will be tested and evaluated operationally during the exercise. They will be showcased in the future, and their capabilities will be used to boost our deterrence and defense might," Farajpour said.

APMC Traders...

FROM PAGE 1

He said that last year, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed) too had got onions from Turkey.

On Monday, around 79 vehicles with 13,722 sacks of Indian onions entered the APMC market. They are sold up to 80 rupees per kg in retail.

According to traders, the monsoon and loss of crops have led to the rise in the onion price.

Zarif...

FROM PAGE 1

Pointing to the Hormuz Peace Endeavor—or HOPE—that was proposed by President Rouhani in his address to the UN General Assembly last year, Zarif said Iran stands by that initiative which is the culmination of various Iranian proposals for security and confidence building in the Persian Gulf region.

He said in the past couple of decades, the region has been the scene of several wars, massive foreign military buildups, ensuing nightmare of extremism and terrorism, dangerous accumulation of the most sophisticated weaponry, and aggression and power projection by various actors.

The foreign minister added, "The disparities in power, geographic size, and natural and human resources are very real. Historical anxieties and rivalries among many regional countries cannot be overlooked."

"We know that most of our neighbors prefer peace and dialogue... That cannot be achieved if one or two pursue confrontation and wishfully wait for alien vampires to 'cut their neighbor's head'. That delusion will never be realized."

He named three flawed prescriptions that have caused catastrophic consequences, saying, "First, that you can purchase security from others: Be it from Saddam Hussein invading Iran on some of our neighbor's behalf; or from the U.S. coming to rescue our neighbors from the monster that they had together created; or through unprecedented purchase of military hardware."

According to Zarif, the second flawed prescription is that "you can have security at the expense of the insecurity of your neighbors: Be it Iran, Kuwait or Qatar at one time or another." The third, he continued, is that "you can establish regional hegemony: Be it in Yemen, North Africa or the Horn of Africa."

He condemned extra-regional actors for looking at the regional disparities, unending rivalries, and new hegemonic illusions as opportunities to expand their military presence and to sell more weapons.

The U.S. has deployed nearly 50,000 troops in the Persian Gulf region in 29 military installations with more than 300 combat aircraft, he said, adding that the U.S. has "at least one aircraft carrier patrolling our waters at any given time, as well as tens of destroyers and other vessels with four Central Command Headquarters for its Army and its Special Forces, Air Force, and Navy."

Zarif also voiced Tehran's appreciation to the overwhelming majority of Security Council members for rejecting U.S. efforts to kill the JCPOA and Security Council Resolution 2231. Iran does not intend to engage in an arms race in the region and start a buying spree in spite of the end of Security Council restrictions, the foreign minister highlighted.

Zarif called on regional countries to envisage a broad spectrum of cooperation and confidence-building measures that include water management, environmental protection, nuclear safety, energy security, education, tourism, economic cooperation, trade, investment, poverty eradication and people empowerment.

"We know that most of our neighbors prefer peace and dialogue," he stated. "That cannot be achieved if one or two pursue confrontation and wishfully wait for alien vampires to 'cut their neighbor's head'. That delusion will never be realized."

"We all have anxieties and grievances. Certainly, Iranians will never forget 8 years of an imposed war: the aggressor fully financed by our neighbors," Zarif reminded the regional countries. "So, we can choose to remain prisoners of the past and perpetuate instability and tension. Or, all of us—and I stress all—can choose peace, security, stability and prosperity for all. The choice, surely, should be obvious to everyone," the chief Iranian diplomat concluded.

Three Persian Gulf...

FROM PAGE 1

The strategically-positioned islands of the Greater Tunb, the Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa have always been part of Iran, the proof of which can be found in and corroborated by countless historical, legal, and geographical documents in Iran and other parts of the world. However, the United Arab Emirates has repeatedly laid baseless claims to the islands.

Referring to Iran's peaceful role in the Persian Gulf region, the envoy said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has played an incontestable role in ensuring energy security, commercial navigation and stability in the Persian Gulf region and we will continue to contribute to the promotion of peace and security in this sensitive region."

He also stressed that the Islamic Republic's defensive requirements, including its missile program, stem from "geostrategic calculations and a significant historical experience."

Iran, he added, is building up its defense capabilities in a bid to protect itself from the crimes similar to those committed by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during the 1980-88 imposed war.

"During Saddam Hossein's eight-year aggression against Iran that was supported through different means by the US and a number of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries, our cities were showered by Iraqi missiles and our people [fell] victim to chemical and other lethal weapons provided to Saddam mainly by the West. Simultaneously, unjust sanctions and restrictions deprived us of rudimentary means of self-defense.

It is our responsibility now to prevent the recurrence of such appalling situation," Takht-Ravanchi said.

Elsewhere in his address, the Iranian ambassador criticized certain Persian Gulf states with huge military expenditures for turning the region into "a powder keg" and committing war crimes against the Yemenis.

"It should be borne in mind that security must originate from within and cannot be purchased from outside. Those in our region who spend hundreds of billions of dollars on sophisticated armaments annually should realize that huge military expenditures neither create legitimacy nor long-lasting security," he said.

"They have only turned our region into a powder keg. And the only beneficiaries are the exporters of these deadly weapons. Some GCC forces are using these sophisticated armaments against the innocent people of Yemen who are experiencing the worst man-made humanitarian catastrophe of contemporary history; a clear case of war crime."

Nonetheless, Takht-Ravanchi underlined the need for promoting cooperation on an equal footing as well as building mutual trust and respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and no interference in their internal affairs.

"Let me conclude by once again reiterating our call for a constructive dialog with our neighbors with a view to dispelling misunderstandings and restoring friendly relations among all littoral States of the Persian Gulf," he added.

for knitwear items, which account for half of Bangladesh's total garment exports.

But nearly half of factories producing knitwear products like t-shirts and sweaters are finding it difficult to remain open, said Selim Osman, president of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association. "A second wave could further delay the recovery," Osman said. Low wages have helped Bangladesh build its garment industry, with some 4,000 factories employing 4 million workers. Readymade garments are a

Factory owner Azim, who supplies European and North American retailers, says he has been forced to cut one-in-five jobs. "That's the case for most of the factories," he said. "Now the second wave has started. We don't know what future holds for us."

mainstay of the economy, contributing almost 16% of

country's GDP, according to the central bank.

Experts fear the South Asian country might itself face another surge in infections during the winter, having so far confirmed 390,206 cases, including 5,681 deaths.

About a third of the one million workers who were either furloughed or laid off have been rehired since July, according to union leaders. But many workers are struggling without overtime pay, which often accounts for 20% of their monthly income.

"Without overtime, it is too difficult to meet expenses," said Banesa Begum, a worker in Gazipur, on the outskirt of the capital city Dhaka.

"I just pray that my factory gets more orders so that we can survive."



Leeds Midfielder Phillips Out for Up to Six Weeks

ONDON (Reuters) - Leeds United's England midfielder Kalvin Phillips will be out of action for up to six weeks with a shoulder injury, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

Phillips sustained the injury during Monday's 1-0 defeat at home to Wolverhampton Wanderers but does not require surgery.

"Kalvin began his rehab at Thorp Arch this morning and will be working hard with the medical team to return to action as soon as possible," the Yorkshire club said in a statement here.

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Roglic Wins Explosive Vuelta a Espana

MADRID (Dispatches) - Defending champion Primoz Roglic won stage one of the Vuelta a Espana on Tuesday after outsprinting an elite group that had survived the steep final 5km climb to Alto de Arrate.

Team Ineos had set the pace up most of the climb and their leader Richard Carapaz was second, while Irishman Dan Martin of Israel Start-Up Nation finished third. Roglic used his trademark late kick in the final 500m to open a gap of just a few seconds for a comfortable win that puts him in the race leader's red jersey.

IRAN NEWS SPORTS THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020

Rashford Sii PSG as Barca

ONDON (Dispatches) - Marcus Rashford once again sank Paris Saint-Germain after Lenetting the decisive goal in a 2-1 Champions League win in the French capital on Tuesday, while Barcelona sent a message with a thumping 5-1 victory over Ferencearos. Rashford, who scored the winning spot-kick when United knocked PSG out in 2019, drilled home a low shot three minutes from the end which won a thrilling Group H contest at a near-empty Parc des Princes.

United had taken the lead in the 23rd minute when Bruno Fernandes slotted home from the spot at the second attempt, but Anthony Martial inexplicably headed Neymar's corner into his own net 10 minutes after the break.

The win sets United up nicely for next week's home clash with RB Leipzig, who are top of the group after beating Istanbul Basaksehir 2-0 in Germany.

Ronald Koeman got his first Champions League campaign as Barcelona coach off to a winning start with a confident win over Ferencearos that gives them control of Group G, top but level on three points with Juventus.

Ferencearos, the first Hungarian team to make the group stage in 11 years, started brightly and even had the ball in the net via Tokmac Nguen only for the powerful 12th-minute strike to be ruled out for offside.

Messi won and converted the penalty to give the Catalans a 27th-minute lead and the match was as good as done when Ansu Fati clipped home Frenkie de Jong's sumptuous

pass just before the break.

Philippe Coutinho lashed home the third before Ihor Kharatin pulled one back from the penalty spot after Gerard Pique was sent off for pulling back Nguen as he charged towards goal.

Pique's red card means he will miss next week's game away at Juventus, a greater test of Barca's capabilities.



Pedri and Ousmane Dembele finished the scoring for the 10-man hosts as they prepare for the weekend's Clasico with Real Madrid.

Juventus looked comfortable in their 2-0 win at Dynamo Kiev in what was the Andrea Pirlo's first ever Champions League match in the dugout, with Alvaro Morata scoring twice to take the points for the Italians. It was a good night for Italy as Ciro Immobile got revenge on his old club Borussia Dortmund by scoring in Lazio's 3-1 win over the Bundesliga club in Rome, their first Champions League match in 13 years.

Immobile managed just three goals in 24 Bundesliga games for Dortmund in 2014/15, but last season's European Golden Shoe winner outshone Dortmund's star forward Erling Braut Haaland by netting the opening goal for the hosts after just six minutes.

Lazio went two ahead midway through the first half thanks to Marwin Hitz deflected Luis Alberto's whipped corner into his own goal.

Haaland pulled one back with a thumping finish but Immobile laid on an easy finish for Jean-Daniel Akpa-Akpro to hand Lazio a big win.

Simone Inzaghi's men are level on three points with Club Brugge in Group F following their dramatic 2-1 win at Zenit Saint Petersburg earned thanks to Charles De Ketelaere 93rd minute winner. Chelsea are still waiting for a £220 million (\$284 million) spending spree to pay off they began their campaign with an uninspiring 0-0 Group E draw with Sevilla at Stamford Bridge.

PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal announced on Tuesday that he will compete in the Paris Masters next month, despite previously saying he might not play again this season.

The 34-year-old won a record-extending 13th French Open title earlier this month with a one-sided final victory over world number one Novak Djokovic at Roland Garros.

"It's indoor season time... this picture was earlier today practicing at @rnadalacademy," he posted on Twitter alongside a photo of him training.

"And yes... getting ready for #ParisBercy." The Paris Masters is scheduled to run from November 2-8.

Any health rules to be implemented for the event due to the coronavirus are yet to be announced.

After moving level with Roger Federer on a men's record 20 Grand Slam titles, Nadal said: "I don't know what I'm going to do after Roland Garros.

"I can't tell you if I'm going to play again or not in the next two months.' Nadal has never won the Paris Masters

in his career.

He pulled out before a scheduled semi-final against Denis Shapovalov at

Tratnik Wins Giro d'Italia 16th Stage

ROME (Dispatches) - Slovenian Jan Tratnik soloed to victory in Tuesday's 16th stage of the Giro d'Italia with Portugal's Joao Almeida holding the leader's pink jersey in the final week of the race around Italy.

Tratnik, a 30-year-old Bahrain McLaren rider, crossed the line seven seconds ahead of Australian Ben O'Connor, after the run from Udine on the border with Slovenia. Deceuninck's Almeida finished nearly 13 minutes off the pace among the peloton of favourites to keep the overall lead. The race finishes in Milan on October 25.

Colombian sprinter Fernando Gaviria was among two positive coronavirus tests announced before the stage from a batch of 492 during Monday's rest day. The second was an AG2R La Mondiale team employee. "Gaviria went straight into isolation after the test result. He feels fine and is completely asymptomatic," his UAE Emirates team announced. "All the other riders and staff members returned negative tests and will have other tests today," the team said.

Gaviria, who also tested positive for the virus in February, had been 126th out of 138 in the general classification, almost three and a half hours behind Almeida.

Leipzig's Haidara Tests **Positive for Covid-19**

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bundesliga leaders RB Leipzig said on Tuesday Mali midfielder Amadou Haidara had tested positive for coronavirus after a previous test returned an ambiguous result, hours before their Champions League match with Istanbul Basaksehir.

Leipzig said the rest of their squad all tested negative for Covid-19 ahead of hosting the Turkish side in their opening game of the group stage which kicks off at 1900GMT.

The 22-year-old, who scored his first international goal in September's 3-0 friendly win over Ghana, has been isolated from the Leipzig squad since last Thursday as a preventive measure.

He was absent from Saturday's 2-0 win at Augsburg which kept Leipzig top of the German top-flight after four games.

Woes Continue for Nishikori in 2020



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese favorite Kei Nishikori has withdrawn from the ATP Antwerp Open with a right shoulder injury. This is disappointing news for Nishikori as he was just recovering from a long injury prior to the tennis lockdown. Nishikori has played a handful of matches in 2020 with injuries with the pandemic halting his season.

The Japanese player was scheduled to play singles and doubles in Antwerp. He has now been replaced by Federico Coria in singles.

After the 2019 U.S. Open, Nishikori had suffered an elbow injury that ruled him out for

the start of the 2020 season. The pandemic kicked in soon after, and Nishikori had to wait for his season to start. But his comeback was further delayed after multiple positive COVID-19 tests stopped him from participating in the resuming season. He missed the Cincinnati Masters and the US Open 2020.

After recovering from the coronavirus, Nishikori started his 2020 season in Kitzbuhel, Austria, but was ousted in the first round. The former World No. 4 then played in the Italian Open and the French Open but lacked his old prowess as he bowed out in the early rounds. Now, his latest injury has taken him back further.

In a recent interview, Nishikori had expressed his eagerness to play in Antwerp, but the Japanese player will now have to settle on the sidelines. He had said, "First time here in Antwerp and you know this tournament has a lot of history, great facility, so yeah I am looking forward to play."

Japan Will Take Steps To Guard Against **Olympics Cyberattacks**

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan said on Tuesday it would take countermeasures to ensure next year's Tokyo Olympics are not derailed by cyberattacks after Britain and the United States accused Russia of orchestrating efforts to disrupt the Games.

Olympics organisers reported no significant impact on their operations for the 2020 Games, which were postponed until next year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Britain and the United States on Monday condemned what they said were a series of malicious cyberattacks orchestrated by Russian military intelligence, including attempts to disrupt the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov denied the allegations, attributing them to "Russophobia". He told reporters: "Russia has never carried out any hacking activities against the Olympics." Japanese chief cabinet secretary Katsunobu Kato said Japan would make every effort to protect the Games from possible hacking attempts.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to malicious cyberattacks that threaten democracy," Kato told a news conference, adding that Japan was gathering and analysing information and in close contact with Britain and the United States.

"The Olympics are a major international event that attract attention, and cybersecurity measures are extremely important." British officials said on Monday the hackers from Russia's GRU military intelligence agency

had also conducted "cyber reconnaissance" operations against Tokyo Games organisers. They declined to give specific details about the latest attacks or say whether they were successful but said they had targeted Games organisers, logistics suppliers and sponsors.

Man United, Liverpool In Talks to Join New European Super League

ONDON (Reuters) - Manchester LUnited and Liverpool are in talks with Europe's elite clubs to join a new FIFA-backed competition that would reshape the sport's global soccer landscape, Sky News reported on Tuesday.



Manchester United declined to comment on the report and Liverpool did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Citing unnamed "football industry" sources, Sky said more than 12 teams from Europe's top five leagues - in England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain - are in negotiations to become the founding members of the new competition, dubbed the European Premier League, with a provisional start date in 2022.

The report added the financiers are looking to raise a \$6 billion funding package to kick start the new tournament.

Sky said that FIFA, football's world governing body, is working on a new format, which is expected to feature 18 teams playing fixtures during the regular European season before a knockout phase. Sky added that neither FIFA nor UEFA had commented on the story.

A FIFA spokesperson told Reuters in an emailed statement: "FIFA does not wish to comment and participate in any speculation about topics which come up every now and then and, for which, institutional structures and regulatory frameworks are well in place at national, European and global level." European governing body UEFA, who run the Champions League, did not immediately respond to a request for comment, but their president Aleksander Ceferin has long expressed his opposition to the idea of a breakaway European league.

The idea of a European super league has been regularly floated over the last 20 years, with UEFA coming out strongly against it.