

Health Ministry Spokeswoman
Yesterday Confirmed 5,191
New Cases of COVID-19 Infection in
24 Hours While 296 Patients Lost
Their Lives in the Same Period and
The Overall Death Increased to 32,616

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Ministry Spokesman
Saeed Khatibzadeh Denounced Fatal
Terrorist Attack in Afghanistan, Saying
That Afghan Students Fell Victim to
The Ugly Violence and Unending War
They Had Never Chosen

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U.S.-Brokered Sudan-Israel Deal Secured By 'Ransom'

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Iran's foreign ministry on Saturday described a U.S.-brokered Sudan-Israel deal to normalise ties as "phony" and accused Khartoum of paying a ransom in return for Washington removing it from a list of state sponsors of terrorism.

The deal agreed on Friday marked the third Arab government after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to set aside hostilities with Israel in the last two months.

"Pay enough ransom, close your eyes to the crimes against Palestinians, then you'll be taken off the so-called 'terrorism' blacklist," the ministry tweeted in English. "Obviously, the list is as phoney as the U.S. fight against terrorism. Shameful." U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Monday he would take Sudan off the list once it had deposited \$335 million it had pledged to pay in compensation.

Khartoum has since placed the funds in a special escrow account for victims of al Qaeda attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

The military and civilian leaders of Sudan's transitional government have been divided over how fast and how far to go in establishing ties with Israel. A sticking point in the negotiations was Sudan's insistence that any announcement of Khartoum's delisting from terrorism designation not be explicitly linked to relations with Israel.

Sudan's 1993 designation as a state sponsor of terrorism dates to its toppled ruler Omar al-Bashir and has made it difficult for the transitional government in Khartoum to access urgently needed debt relief and foreign financing.

FATF Agrees to Toughen Rules on Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global anti-money laundering watchdog, has agreed to a demand by the United States to toughen rules and regulations vis-à-vis Iran because the country has been evading sanctions imposed by Washington.

The U.S. Treasury Department said on Saturday that the FATF members had agreed in their three days of meeting ending Friday that the body should change its standards to strengthen checks on efforts by countries like Iran and North Korea to evade US as well as United Nations sanctions.

That comes as Iran, unlike North Korea, is under no sanctions by the UN since it signed a major agreement with world powers on its nuclear program in 2015.

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Leader Calls for Unity, Solidarity To Overcome Problems



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says Iran at the current critical time requires "cooperation, unity and solidarity" more than ever.

He made the remarks during the first in-person meeting with President Hassan Rouhani and members of the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the Coronavirus in Tehran on Saturday since the outbreak began.

"In some countries, such as the United States, the worst management has been applied, but we must try to deal with this phenomenon which is linked to the lives and health of the people and their security and economy with the best management," the Leader said.

The prerequisite for proper management is "taking decisive governance decisions", "convincing public opinion" and securing "cooperation of all institutions as well as the cooperation of the people," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

"This cooperation, however, is not limited to countering the coronavirus; rather, it must exist in all issues, especially political issues, because the country, which has a strong nation, a new system and a new discourse, is naturally faced with major problems in the global and domestic arenas," he said.

Despite all these problems, "great work is underway in the country, and by God's grace, no incident has been able to stop the Islamic Republic, but these obstacles, which are slowing down the momentum, must be removed as soon as possible," the Leader added.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the Coronavirus and its affiliated committees, calling the performance of the medical and health personnel "very brilliant" and their practice as "jihad in the way of Allah".

The Leader said there is need to immediately launch a follow-up base and affiliated committees to implement the decisions of the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the Coronavirus and monitor their implementation.

The Ministry of Health should also be given centrality in determining and charting out restrictions related to the new coronavirus, he said.

"Once the Ministry of Health has determined the instances of the restriction, other bodies must comply with them, without taking into account any considerations."

Ayatollah Khamenei said strict control of the country's entry points, restriction of unnecessary intercity traffic along with public persuasion and strict application of rules in the urban transport fleet and public environments are examples of restrictions and the main responsibility for implementing and supervising them lies with the National Headquarters for Managing and Fighting the Coronavirus and law enforcement forces.

The Leader also touched on the living and employment conditions of some people which have become more difficult by the implementation of strict coronavirus regulations.

"In this regard, the government should consider support packages, while donors and other people should also enter the field and come to the aid of these people, because this is one of the best deeds and the best means of approaching God."

Before the speech, President Hassan Rouhani briefed the Leader on measures taken by his administration to counter the coronavirus in the past eight months.

IRGC Deploys Mechanized Brigade to NW Border Amid Karabakh Conflict

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Ground Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has deployed a mechanized brigade to protect the country's northwestern border amid ongoing firefight between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The Corps' Sepah News outlet reported the deployment on Sunday. It specified the dispatched force as the Ground Force's Emam-e Zaman Mechanized Brigade comprising tanks and other military equipment.

The location of the deployment was identified as the areas running alongside the border in the Khoda Afarin and Jolfa Counties.

The precaution has been taken towards "preservation of the northwestern borders' security," according to the report.

An IRGC member said the brigade has been tasked with "defending the country's territorial integrity" and the people residing in those areas. Since September 27, Armenian separatists in Azerbaijan's breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh have been engaged in intense clashes against Azeri forces.

The clashes have so far killed more than 1,000, including civilians, most of whom belong to the Azeri side. The flare-up has been the worst violence to break out between the two sides since 1992, when the separatists invaded the region, forcing the Azeri side into a retreat.

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

"JCPOA Plus" Through Americans' Eyes

The U.S. presidential election is to be held in a condition that each one of the two major candidates has not missed talking about Iran in their debates and rallies. Of course Iran issue is not just limited to this year's election campaign.

In every edition of the U.S. election, one of the dominant issues in the debates has been the approach regarding dealing with Iran which has been used as a criterion for propagation and winning the votes of American people, and of course the pro-political parties' media have been, and are still, the leaders of stoking such conditions. This issue, since the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 and in the almost the almost past four decades, has been repeated 11 times and each time during any round election campaign.

Perhaps this topic has come under the spotlight by the U.S. media in the current condition because in the past seven years, Iran's leaning towards Europe has revealed the intra-conflicts in the Western camp with deeper crack, especially Europe and the U.S. The most evident crack can be seen in two different ways in dealing with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

U.S. President Donald Trump and his like-minded allies even during Barack Obama's presidency had emphasized that the next government would resist accepting the JCPOA but Iranians acted naively and did not take it seriously.

But today and on the threshold of the presidential campaign clash between Mr. Trump and his Democrat rival Joe Biden, this issue has become more serious. On one hand, Trump in his campaign threatens that with a stricter policy, Iran would start negotiations after the election, and on the other hand, the Democrats have revealed their decision that should they succeed in the election they will be after a complement to the JCPOA. U.S. Democrat Senator Robert Menendez has acknowledged that even before the pullout of the U.S. from the JCPOA, the French had been after completing the JCPOA. See Page 7

Pakistan Examines Aspects of Lifting Arms Embargo From Iran

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Stressing upon close ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said that Islamabad will examine all aspects of lifting of the UN arms embargo from Tehran.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi said this while answering a question by IRNA about the position of the Pakistani government regarding the lifting of an arms embargo on Iran on the sidelines of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in Islamabad.

"There are two types of sanctions on Iran, some are the UN sanctions and the others are the U.S. sanctions, U.S. sanctions are still in place," he said.

Qureshi expressing his views said on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) there is some difference in the position of the U.S. and other signatories of the agreement.

Pakistan's foreign minister said we will examine all aspects of the lifting of the UN arms embargo from Iran.

He added Pakistan is a responsible country and fully aware of its international obligations and would not like to violate any international sanctions.

"Iran is our neighbor with whom we have historical and close ties so we will move forward keeping in view all these things in our mind," said Shah Mahmood Qureshi

Earlier Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesperson Zahid Hafeez Chaudhri responding to a question of IRNA during his Weekly Press Briefing, about the lifting of the arms embargo on Iran said Pakistan enjoys deep-rooted ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran and desires strong cooperation with the friendly state in all areas.

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Countries Affected by Sanctions to Hold Virtual Seminar

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's Permanent Envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that countries affected by sanctions will hold a virtual seminar in the near future.

In a tweet, Kazem Gharibabadi wrote, "The meeting with Cuban and Venezuelan ambassadors was held in Vienna to discuss measures to counter unilateral sanctions within the framework of international organizations."

"Among other things, it was agreed that a virtual seminar for the ambassadors of countries affected by sanctions would be held in the near future," he added.

Gov't Announces Tougher Restrictions to Rein in COVID-19 Outbreak

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has approved new restriction to combat the spread of the deadly coronavirus which is killing over 300 people across the country every day.

Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei announced on Saturday that as of today, October 26 until November 20, only half of the government employees will be at work.

The government spokesman noted that the National Coronavirus Headquarters has approved tough restrictions for 43 cities that are in emergency situation due to non-compliance with health protocols; and these restrictions will be applied as of Monday this week. He said the list of these cities will be announced to the governors later on.

Rabiei stated that with these restrictions, occupation groups 2, 3 and 4 will be shut down to harness the disease prevalence.

"Obviously, jobs related to daily life and essential needs of the people, including emergency services, service and administrative centers, security centres, chain stores, supermarkets, bakeries, etc., will continue their operation," he noted.

According to a government directive, the occupation group 2 includes: Shopping malls that sell non-edible stuff, sports activities, holy places, civil service and organisations, mosques, confectionaries, nuts stores, juice and ice-cream shops, restaurants, barber shops, car dealing centres, car plate centres, rug and carpet shops, toy stores, home appliances shops, printing centres, interior designing shops, gift shops, garment wholesale and retailers, clothes markets, photo ateliers, real estate agencies, curtain shops, furniture stores, shoes and bags stores, stationary shops, tailor shops, and cosmetics stores.



Occupation group 3 includes: Universities, schools, seminaries, technical schools, language centers, libraries, kindergartens, indoor swimming pools, cinemas, theatres, museums, reception halls, hairdressing shops, mosques, public transportation (with limited activity), and in-person exams.

Occupation group 4 are social, cultural and religious events, sports such as wrestling, karate, and judo, holy shrines, dorms, cafes, teahouses, zoos, fun fairs, indoor sports, and aqua recreational centres.

In his Saturday remarks, Rabiei said the heads of the organisations must do the necessary planning so that there will be no disruption in giving service to the clients, and the organisations must do all the duties assigned to them.

FM Condemns Continued Insults in France to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)

TEHRAN (IFP) - Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh has strongly condemned the obstinate continuation of French moves insulting the Prophet of Islam, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

In a statement released on Saturday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Khatibzadeh vehemently condemned any offensive action against or disrespect for the divine messengers of God, particularly the seal of the prophets, the highly-revered prophet of Islam.

Deploing the rude continuation of actions in France that have been offensive to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), the spokesman bemoaned the fact that such insulting moves have received support from the French officials in some cases.

"Undoubtedly, the unacceptable and violent moves and measures of a few extremists deriving from a radical and deviant ideology in the Islamic world, whose holders are interestingly among the political partners close to the West and the US, could by no means justify an offense and disrespect for the celestial figure revered by 1.8 billion Muslims around the world," Khatibzadeh added.

"There is no doubt that the unjustifiable stance adopted by the French officials is not the appropriate and prudent response to extremism and violence that is condemned itself, and would further promote hatred," the Iranian diplomat stated.

He also strongly condemned the "suspicious and deplorable" moves by a few "extremist anti-Islamic currents" that have desecrated holy Quran in a number of European countries.

The spokesperson finally expressed Iran's support for the Muslim countries' stances in condemnation of such moves, and denounced any insult to the Islamic values and Muslim beliefs as unacceptable and rejected.

President Expresses Iran's Support for New Bolivian Gov't

TEHRAN (IFP) - President Hassan Rouhani has offered congratulations to Bolivia on the election of its new president, expressing Tehran's support for the country's new government.

In a Saturday message to the Bolivian president-elect, President Rouhani voiced support for the elected government of Luis Arce, and announced the readiness of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore bilateral relations and expand cooperation with the Latin American country. "I sincerely congratulate you on the successful holding of the Bolivian general elections and on your success in this election," Rouhani said.

"The recent election, which resulted in the decisive

victory of Your Excellency and Mr David Choquehuanca as Vice President, was not only a strengthening of the foundations of democracy, but also a glorious demonstration of the administration of justice by the great nation of Bolivia," he added.

"In the new era of the return of power to the people's representatives, I express support for the Your Excellency's elected government, and express the readiness of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to revive bilateral relations and expand cooperation with the friendly country of Bolivia in all fields."

Rouhani finally wished health and success for Arce, and prosperity and felicity for the Bolivian people.

Tehran, Ankara Keen on Enhanced Cooperation to Fight Illicit Drug Trafficking

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian and Turkish anti-narcotic police chiefs said that they are keen on enhanced cooperation to fight illicit drug trafficking by setting up a work group to share information quickly.

Brigadier-General Majid Karimi told his Turkish counterpart in video-conference held on Saturday that Iran is willing to share information with the Turkish police in the context of regular cooperation with Turkey taking appropriate measures against drug trafficking.

Referring to the UN report on the conditions of narcotics in the world, he said that even during the coronavirus outbreak intercepting the contraband of Afghan-made methamphetamine has increased in Iran, adding that 10 tons of the industrial drug has been found in spring and summer.

Karimi said that in addition to opium, morphine, heroine, and hashish, Afghanistan has been producing methamphetamine in the past two years, which is due to low prices of the product in Afghanistan and good market in Europe, and southwestern and southeastern Asia.

He added that according to the police of Afghanistan, the reason of the increase in production of methamphetamine is lack of police control over certain parts of the country. He added that fortunately discovery of drugs at Iranian borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan has increased by 34%.

Karimi said that Iran and Turkey can share information about methods of trafficking and transit of narcotics, arrested drug-dealers and fight against crimes and trafficking.

The head of Turkish anti-drug police Ibrahim Hagi Saeeduglu said that according to the international reports, Iran has had a lot of success fighting drugs. He said that due to the coronavirus outbreak, land and air borders of Turkey have been closed, most of the trafficking take place through the sea, and added due to measures taken by Iranian police, there has been a drop in transit of drugs to Turkey through Iran.

Iran on UN Day: World Has to Reject Unilateralism, Coercion

TEHRAN (PressTV) - On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations foundation, Iran says the world has to reject "unilateralism and coercion."

In a tweet on Saturday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said the UN was established 75 years ago with "a shared vision of building a better world based on multilateralism & cooperation."

As a founding member of the UN, it added, Iran has a "proven record" of commitment to the goals of the international body's Charter.

"#UNDay is a reminder that the world has to reject unilateralism & coercion," the ministry pointed out.

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations.

The 24th of October has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.

Iran, Russia Welcome More Economic Cooperation

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Iran and Russia as two neighbors connected through the Caspian Sea have great capacities to foster bilateral cooperation but their trade relations are not at favorable level now despite boost in strategic ties in recent years.

From two sides of the Caspian Sea, efforts have been made to remove obstacles and develop cooperation in economic issues.

Importance of strengthening relations between Iran and Russia after the 2015 landmark agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Moscow's strong support for Iran's stance in the international arenas and the two sides' cooperation in Syria have doubled.

Iran, Russia and Turkey are three guarantors of peace in Syria.

Experts believe that Tehran and Moscow have enormous capacities to expand their economic relations in both sanctions and pandemic eras.

The two countries aim at increasing the volume of trade exchange as they formed a high council to follow the issue; however, no tangible change has been seen yet.

Meanwhile, Tehran-Moscow cooperation has not decreased despite the pandemic which has postponed many world meetings and exchanges as it has killed over 1,100,000 people worldwide.

Earlier, the head of the Russia-Iran chamber of commerce Vladimir Obidnov announced that the level of trade between the two countries is less than two billion dollars in a year, but it is not acceptable regarding capacities in both countries.

Obidnov referred to the banking issue as an obstacle to boost bilateral economic cooperation.

Two days ago, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said her country continues cooperation with Iran at an excellent level despite the US threats and the pandemic.

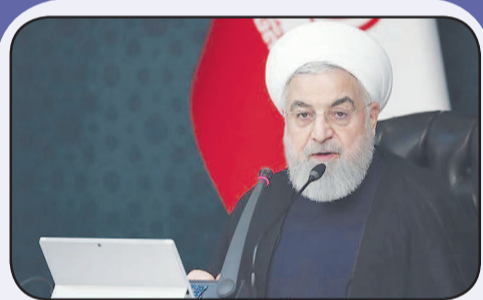
Iran Puts U.S. Envoy to Iraq in Sanctions List

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced on Friday that the Islamic Republic has sanctioned the US Ambassador in Baghdad Matthew Tueller for his main role in coordinating terrorist acts in Iraq and the assassination of the late anti-terror Commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani.

"U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, Matthew Tueller, has had a central role in coordinating terrorist acts in Iraq & beyond, in the criminal assassination of General Soleimani and in advancing sanctions against our people," Khatibzadeh wrote on his Twitter account.

"Today, Iran designated him and two other officials involved. Anti-Iran moves won't go unanswered," he added.

Observing Health Protocols the Only Way To Deal With COVID-19



TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that "there is no other way to deal with the coronavirus than to comply with the health and prevention protocols".

During the session, President Rouhani presented a report on the measures taken by the National Task Force for Fighting coronavirus, as well as the plans of the task force.

He said that "there is no other way to deal with the coronavirus than to comply with health and prevention protocols".

He added that "as during the imposed war, when we were not allowed to obtain war equipment, at the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, almost no one provided us with the equipment needed, such as diagnostic kits, breathing apparatus, ICU facilities, and even masks, but we produced this equipment quickly and now we have no problems by relying on domestic knowledge-based companies".

Complaining about the lack of serious legal advice from some people, Rouhani said that severe restrictions are in place in high-risk areas, care is needed to prevent violations of the quarantine of patients, and legal fines for the health protocols violators.

He also reported on funding drug and vaccine research, government assistance to families in need during the coronavirus pandemic, and the payment of parts of the medical staff's work.

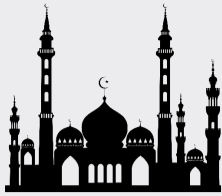
Tehran Welcomes Peace Deal Between Warring Sides in Libya

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has welcomed the ceasefire agreement between the warring sides in Libya.

In a statement on Saturday, Khatibzadeh appreciated the role of the United Nations and the Libyan negotiating parties in clinching the agreement, expressing hope that the ceasefire would be lasting and that all parties would live up to their commitments.

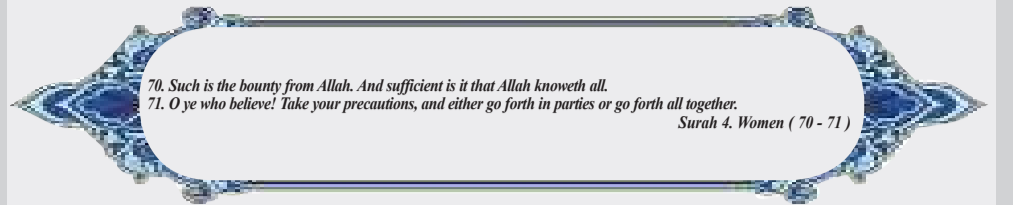
Emphasizing the need to cut off foreign interference in the process of negotiations between the negotiating parties in Libya, Khatibzadeh reiterated Iran's opposition to a military solution to the crisis and called for the political settlement of the Libyan crisis through dialogue. Libya's warring sides signed an agreement for a permanent ceasefire in all areas in what the UN called a "historic achievement".

For months, the two sides were engaged in a tense standoff around Surt, in central Libya, where the country's long-time dictator Col. Muammar el-Qaddafi was born and died in 2011. Surt is the gateway to a region known as the oil crescent, where most of Libya's oil production takes place.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:33
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:57
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:22



Iran Expresses Satisfaction Over Indians' Performance in Chabahar

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Mohammad Rastad says Indians' performance in Chabahar Port has been satisfactory, adding he anticipates a good horizon for bilateral cooperation in the future.



In an interview, Mr. Rastad talked about the performance and output of the ports in the current year, saying that some 70m tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded in the national ports since the beginning of the year.

He then highlighted major programs and the goals of the organization, reiterating that turning the traditional and old fleet of Iran's marine into a modern and trustable fleet is the priority of the organization.

He also announced the first batch strategic equipment of Indians in Chabahar Port will arrive by the yearend, noting that the current contract of Indians is a temporary exploitation and then, the BOT agreement will be taken into consideration which is mainly for the supply of strategic port equipment and according to this agreement, the first batch of equipment will arrive in the country and will be exploited by the yearend.

He added that this port operator has caused the Indian Government to consider a 40 percent discount for carrying goods from Indian ports to Chabahar port or vice versa for shipping lines, transit of goods, exporters and importers. He reiterated that the organization is fully satisfied with the activities of Indians in Chabahar.

On developing Makran and Chabahar Port coasts, he said by completing the first phase of development of Chabahar Port, its capacity will increase to 8m tons and one of the most

modern container and multifunctional terminals of the region will be set up which includes new wharfs, equipment with capability for docking the 100,000-ton vessels.

Rastad said receiving big ships is very important and Chabahar enjoys very good condition in this regard and this year comparing to the preceding year, it has experienced 90 percent growth in load and unload of non-oil goods.

He then noted that since load and unload of goods is very important for ports, the organization has started plans for renovating the infrastructure for load and unload of goods, adding that so far since the beginning of the year, 70m tons of goods have been loaded and unloaded, reiterating that the existing goods stored in the warehouses of the ports is around 7.5m tons of which 3.5m tons is basic goods and 4m tons is other commodities.

Rastad went on to say that PMO is focused on the domestic capabilities and almost all of its needs are met by the domestic manufacturers and producers. He said some 760 needed parts for marine and port equipment have been provided by the domestic producers and PMO has ordered building of 83 vessels to the domestic producers which is a long step in support of domestic capability.

He added that by smartization of ports, traditional ports will turn into modern ones and the pace of loading and unloading will speed up.

Single Channel for Importing Goods Through Oil Exports Opens

TEHRAN (Shana) – Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh said President Rouhani had signed off on the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum's proposal to create a single window for the import of goods through oil exports with the aim of speeding up the work.



According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), Zangeneh said, "With the consent of the President at the suggestion of the Ministry of Petroleum, we need to create a single window so that things can be done quickly and people do not waste time moving between government bodies."

He added the result of the proceedings should be announced to the applicant immediately so that the task can be determined. "We have to decide on the framework for the formation of this single window, and the applicant agencies and bodies that have to carry out the operations to start importing goods through oil exports, and God willing, the operational work will start next week."

Over 398k Tons of Commodities Traded on IME

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - During weekdays ending up to October 22, 2020, more than 398,846 MT of commodities worth over \$190m were traded last week on the Iran Mercantile Exchange.



According to the report from IME International Affairs and PR, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 162,476 MT of various products worth close to \$102m were traded last week.

On this trading floor, 145,484 MT of steel, 8,700 MT of aluminum, 7,400 MT of copper, 120 MT of molybdenum concentrates, 12 MT of precious metal concentrates as well as 700 MT of zinc ingot were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 236,062 MT of different commodities with the total value of \$91m were traded.

On this trading floor, 55,000 MT of VB feed stock, 30,831 MT of bitumen, 63,568 MT of polymer products, 30,648 MT of chemical products, 43,500 MT of lube cut oil, 1,420 MT of insulation, 2,965 MT of base oil, 150 MT of argon as well as 8,000 MT of sulfur were traded.

Furthermore, 308 MT of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

Launching Trade Centers In Countries Best Way To Boost Exports



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce Majid-Reza Hariri says in order to improve exports, Iran trade centers should be launched in countries as venues for barter of forex between exporters and importers.

In an interview, Hariri said that due to the sanctions, Coronavirus pandemic and closure of borders, national exports have been under excessive pressure. He added that as the statistics of the Customs Administration show, our forecast is that by the yearend our non-oil exports would decline between 35 to 40 percent comparing to last year.

He went on to say that some other factors should also be blamed for the drop in exports, adding that most of exports of the country is the raw material and the demand for raw material has dropped internationally.

Hariri who was speaking on the occasion of the national export day said that almost 60 to 70 percent of the country's exports are petrochemicals, gas, condensates, metal and non-metal minerals that their prices have decreased globally.

He added that in the early months, the prices were falling sharply but gradually they are recovering, however, it is expected the country's non-oil exports to fall by 35 to 40 percent this year. Hariri noted that there are some fundamental problems in the country's exports like exporting raw material which is the major exports of the country, adding that our exports are mainly bound to two markets of Iraq and Afghanistan.

He stated that the other problem which is related to our political interaction with the world is that if China, the UAE and Iraq are eliminated from the country's list of destinations for export, 70 percent of exports will drop.

Hariri reiterated that almost Iran's non-oil exports are restricted to five countries and this limitation of markets is a strategic danger for its foreign trade, adding that if one of these markets faces problem and suffers loss, our export will see a sharp drop.

He further said that he believes the country should launch trade centers in foreign countries for barter of forex between exporters and importers of the country. It means we should have Iranian companies in a certain country that they could deliver the forex of exporters for purchase to the Iranian importers, namely, we set up bartering forex fund, he reiterated.

33rd ICFF Wraps Up With Announcing Award Winners

The 33rd International Film Festival for Children and Youth in different sections ended with announcing and awarded in a ceremony held at Tehran's Book Garden, the 33rd ICFF Public Relations Office reports.

This year's festival was held virtually and ended on Friday night. The winners of the festival announced as follows:

International Section Awards:

- *CIFEJ Special Award, received by Ralf Kukula and Matthias Bruhn for "Fritzi (A Revolutionary Tale)"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor in Animated Short Film Section, received by Maryam Kashkoulinia for "The Eleventh Step"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor in Short Fiction Film Section, received by Abdenoure Ziane for "Summer Fasting"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor in Technical Achievement Section, received by Abbas Askari for "Loopetou"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor for Best Acting, received by Rouhollah Zamani for his role in "The Sun"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor for Best Screenplay, received by Arvind Sivakumaran and Vijay K. Patel from India for writing "The Other Side of the River"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor for Best Directing, received by Majid Majidi for "The Sun"
- *Golden Butterfly and Diploma of Honor for Best Picture, received by Majid Majidi and Amir Banan for "The Sun"
- *Special Jury Award, received by Fereydoun Najafi for "Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley"
- *Special Young Jury Award, received by Ralf Kukula and Matthias Bruhn for "Fritzi (A Revolutionary Tale)"
- Special Awards:
 - *UNICEF Section Award, to "After the Incident" directed by Pouria Heidari and produced by Shahab Hosseini
 - *Corona-Narrative Section Special Award, to Mohammad Mehdi Fekrian for the great care he showed regarding healthcare workers and heroes and for directing the short "The Last Visit"

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



*Special Director's Award, to Roghayyeh Tavakkoli for paying attention to resistance culture and her tangible interpretation of that in the film "Mehran"

*Special Director's Award, to "Loopetou" producer, Mohammad-Hossein Sadeghi for being innovative in business and boosting the motion picture industry

Zaven Ghokasian Section: Zaven Ghokasian Award went to Majid Majidi for "The Sun"

Web Series Section: Diploma of Honor to Ali Derakhshi for the series "COVID-19"

Behnam Mohammadi Award: Golden Butterfly, received by "Mehran" director, Roghayyeh Tavakkoli, for her appreciative look at Iranian soldiers' sacrifices throughout the Imposed War

National Section Awards:

- *Golden Butterfly for Best Animated Short Film, to Maryam Kashkoulinia for "The Eleventh Step"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Short Fiction Film, to Reza Nejati for directing "The Driver"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Feature Film, to Mohammad Salehinejad for directing "Cocoon and Butterfly"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Technical / Artistic Achievement, to Keivan Moghaddam for the Scenic Design of "The Sun"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Acting, to Mohammadreza Alivar for his role in "Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Screenplay, to Fereydoun Najafi for writing "Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Directing, to Majid Majidi for "The Sun"
- *Golden Butterfly for Best Picture, received by Majid Barzegar (producer) for "Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley"
- *Special Jury Award, to Mahin Javaherian for directing "Ba'le"
- *Special Young Jury Award, to Nadereh Torkamani for "The Playful"

Iranian Crude, Non-Oil Exports Rising

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The governor of the Central Bank of Iran said a growing trend in the export of crude and non-oil products in recent months has increased the supply of foreign currency needed for the imports.

In a post on his Instagram page on Friday, Abdolnasser Hemmati said the Central Bank of Iran has managed to provide a sum of \$18.5 billion over the past seven months despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus outbreak on the oil prices and the export of non-oil products. "The growing trend in the export of crude and oil products, coupled with the acceleration of non-oil products in recent months, have improved the conditions for supplying the currency for the imports," he added.

He also noted that the Oil Ministry has devised plans to barter oil for the basic commodities as part of efforts to raise the level of foreign trade. In July, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani stressed the need to boost the export of non-oil products as a strategy to strengthen the economy, saying trade ties with the neighboring countries is a main priority of his administration.

Turkish Airlines Flights From Tabriz to Istanbul Resumed

TABRIZ (IP) - The Director-General of East Azerbaijan Airports said that flights of Turkish Airlines on the Istanbul-Tabriz-Istanbul route were resumed.

The Director-General of East Azerbaijan Airports Ramin Azari on Saturday stated: "In these flights at Tabriz International Airport, all health protocols and instructions, as well as social distancing related to coping with the spread of coronavirus, are carefully observed."

Turkish Airlines flights had been canceled since Feb 24, 2020, to prevent the spread of Coronavirus.

Tabriz International Airport is located in the northwest of Tabriz city. Prior to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, there was an average of 45 domestic and 6 international flights a day at the airport.

Belarus President Lukashenko Speaks by Phone to Pompeo

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko, who is facing an opposition threat of a national strike, spoke by phone with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday, state media reported.

No details of the call were immediately available, the Belta news agency said.

Lukashenko, who is holding on to power despite major protests in recent weeks calling for him to resign, is facing the prospect of a national strike that could begin on Monday following an ultimatum set by opposition leaders.

Lukashenko has shown no sign he will heed the ultimatum and step down. Protests against his 26-year rule began following an Aug. 9 election victory his opponents say was rigged.



Conde Officially Endorsed As Guinean President

PARIS (Dispatches) - Incumbent Alpha Conde has won Guinea's disputed presidential election with 59.5 percent of the vote to secure a controversial third term, according to a full preliminary tally from the election commission.

The announcement on Saturday came after days of deadly violence in the wake of the October 18 vote. The opposition says 27 people have been killed, while officials have put the death toll at 10.

The victory, which requires confirmation by the Constitutional Court, gives a third term in office to the 82-year-old after a bitterly fought election in which the opposition said he had no right to participate.



Sudan Political Parties Reject Israel Deal



KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudanese political parties have rejected the government's decision to normalise relations with Israel, with officials saying they will form an opposition front against the agreement.

Dozens of Sudanese people demonstrated in the capital Khartoum on Friday following the joint statement from Israel, Sudan and the United States on Friday saying that the two countries agreed to "end the state of belligerence between their nations". A statement from Sudan's Popular Congress Party, the second most prominent component of the Forces of Freedom and Change (FFC) political coalition, said Sudanese people are not obligated to accept the normalisation deal.

"We see that our people, who are being systematically isolated and marginalised from secret deals, are not bound by the normalisation agreement," the statement said. "Our people will abide by their historical positions and work through a broad front to resist normalisation and maintain our support for the Palestinian people in order for them to obtain all their legitimate rights."

Sudan's former Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi also slammed the announcement, adding that he withdrew from a government-organised religious conference on Saturday in Khartoum in protest.

Al-Mahdi, who is the country's last democratically elected premier and heads the country's largest political party, said: "This statement contradicts the Sudanese national law ... and contributes to the elimination of the peace project in the

Middle East and to preparing for the ignition of a new war." Kamal Omar, a leader in the Popular Congress Party, said in a separate statement that Sudan's transitional government is not elected and therefore not authorised to normalise relations with Israel.

"This transitional government hijacked the Sudanese position to satisfy regional and international intelligence agencies," he said.

Protesters in Khartoum took to the streets and chanted "no peace, no negotiation, no reconciliation with the occupying entity" and "we will not surrender, we will always stand with Palestine". Muhammad Wadaa, a leader in the Sudanese Baath Party, which is part of the FFC, said the anti-normalisation front includes a civil force and influential parties from within and outside the forces of freedom and change.

Wadaa said there are a number of parties within the FFC that warned the transitional government they will withdraw their support if normalisation with Israel was agreed to. "Normalisation with Israel is a move that is rejected. The government is not authorised to take such a decision with a racist state that practises religious discrimination," he said.

Wadaa told Al Jazeera that "the government made a big mistake and it is a step that will not achieve economic abundance". Palestinian officials reacted with dismay as Sudan became the third country to normalise relations recently, after the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas denounced the deal and said the only path towards peace is by resorting to international law to make Israel end its occupation of Palestinian territories. However, according to Al Jazeera's Nida Ibrahim, many Palestinians believe the PA does not have much to offer other than condemnation.

Erdogan Tells Macron to Undergo Mental Checks

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday slammed his French counterpart, Emmanuel Macron, over his policies toward Muslims, saying that he needed "mental checks."

Macron and Erdogan are feuding about maritime rights in the eastern Mediterranean, Libya, Syria and -- most recently -- the escalating conflict in Azerbaijan's Armenian separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

"What can one say about a head of state who treats millions of members from different faith groups this way: first of all, have mental checks," Erdogan said in a televised address in the central Anatolian city of Kayseri.

Macron's proposal to defend his country's secular values against radical Islam has angered the Turkish government. Macron this month described Islam as a religion "in crisis" worldwide and said the government would present a bill in December to strengthen a 1905 law that officially separated church and state in France.

He announced stricter oversight of schooling and better control over foreign funding of mosques.

Turkey is a majority Muslim but secular country which is a part of NATO but not the EU, where its membership bid has stalled for decades over a range of disputes.

"What's the problem of the individual called Macron with Islam and with the Muslims?" Erdogan asked.

"Macron needs mental treatment."

Erdogan also predicted Macron would not do well in the French presidential election in 2022.

"You are constantly picking on Erdogan. This will not earn you anything," said the Turkish leader.

"There will be elections (in France) ... We will see your fate. I don't think he has a long way to go. Why? He has not

achieved anything for France and he should do for himself."

The latest rift between the two leaders is over Nagorno-Karabakh -- a majority ethnic Armenian breakaway region inside Azerbaijan, declared independence after the fall of the Iron Curtain, sparking a war in the early 1990s that claimed 30,000 lives.

Macron this month demanded that Turkey explain what he said was the arrival of jihadist fighters in Azerbaijan and said: "A red line has been crossed."

Erdogan on Saturday accused France -- a member of the Minsk trio tasked to resolve the conflict -- of "being behind the disasters and the occupations in Azerbaijan."

He told France: "You are in the Minsk trio. What have you done so far? Have you saved Azerbaijani lands from occupation? No. You only send arms to Armenians."



Nine Civilians Killed in Bomb Attack on Bus in Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) - A roadside bomb tore through a passenger bus east of the Afghan capital, killing nine civilians.

Four policemen were also wounded, Ghazni police spokesman Adam Khan Seerat said, blaming the Taliban for the attack.

There was no comment from the Taliban on the incident.

Violence on the ground has spiked in recent weeks despite the Taliban and the Afghan government holding peace talks in Qatar to end the country's grinding war.

The top U.S. envoy to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, said earlier this week that fighting is threatening the peace process.

On Friday, rights group Amnesty International said at least 50 people had been killed in attacks just in the preceding week, accusing the warring sides of failing to protect civilians.

"The world must sit up and take notice. Afghan civilians are being slaughtered on a daily basis," said the rights group's Omar Waraich.

"The international community must make the protection of civilians a core demand for their ongoing support of the peace process."

Afghan authorities also faced criticism this week after 11 children were killed in an air attack by the military that hit a mosque in the northeastern province of Takhar on Wednesday. The authorities in Kabul insist that those killed were Taliban fighters operating in that area.

Kyrgyz Election Body Calls New Presidential Vote as Police Raid

BISHKEK (AFP) - Kyrgyz election officials on Saturday announced presidential elections for January 10 even as police raided their offices, in what appeared to be a power struggle with the country's acting leader.

The impoverished ex-Soviet state in Central Asia has been embroiled in political chaos since the unrest following the results of parliamentary elections held earlier this month. The Central Elections Committee (CEC) finally annulled them following mass protests.

Sadyr Japarov, a populist politician who had been serving a prison sentence for hostage-taking but who was released during the unrest, is now both acting president and prime minister.

Since Japarov, 51, took power he has promised fresh parliamentary and presidential elections -- but only after making changes to the constitution.

He has also called for the elections commission to be disbanded and reformed, saying it was something the people had called for along with the recent resignation of former president Sooronbay Jeenbekov.

The law requires that presidential elections within three months of Jeenbekov's departure.

But on Saturday morning, police raided the CEC headquarters as part of a probe launched by the interior ministry into alleged voting violations during the now-annulled October parliamentary elections.

CEC member Gulnara Djurabayeva denounced the raid as a form of "pressure on a constitutional body", during an interview with local media.

The results of the October 4 vote were cancelled after a protest led by losing parties against vote-buying and other violations escalated into violent clashes pitting protesters against police.

Earlier this week, lawmakers cancelled new parliamentary elections that the CEC had set for December 20 by suspending part of the constitution -- a move some lawyers and politicians argued may not have been legal.

Japarov himself has proposed a number of changes to the constitution, arguing that citizens should be able to decide whether or not to revert to a presidential system from the current mixed system.

Before protesters freed him this month, the former lawmaker was serving a sentence for hostage-taking dating back to a 2013 incident during a rally for the nationalisation of a gold mine.

Russia, which has a military base in Kyrgyzstan and is a destination for hundreds of thousands of Kyrgyz migrants, has expressed concern at the unrest there.

Kyrgyz foreign minister Ruslan Kazakbayev and Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov held talks Friday in the highest-level meeting between the two countries since Japarov became leader.



Trump Votes in Florida Before Rallies in Three States

WEST PALM BEACH (Reuters) - President Donald Trump voted in his adopted home of Florida before hitting the campaign trail for rallies in three swing states on Saturday, joining more than 54 million Americans who have cast early ballots at a record-setting pace ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

Trump voted at a library in West Palm Beach, near his Mar-a-Lago estate, after switching his permanent residence and voter registration last year from New York to Florida, a must-win battleground for his re-election bid.

"I voted for a guy named Trump," he told reporters after casting his ballot. Democratic rival Joe Biden and his wife Jill also hit the campaign trail on Saturday, traveling to the battleground of Pennsylvania for two events. Former President Barack Obama will campaign in Florida, making his second appearance on behalf of his former vice president after a stop in Pennsylvania on Wednesday.

With 10 days to go in the campaign, about 54.2 million Americans have already cast early ballots, a pace that could lead to the highest voter turnout in more than a century, according to data from the U.S. Elections Project.

The rush to vote is a sign of the intense interest in the contest between Trump and Biden, as well as concerns about avoiding crowded polling places on Election Day and reducing the risk of exposure to the coronavirus, which has killed more than 224,000 Americans.

The United States set a single-day record of more than 84,000 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, according to a Reuters tally, with the spike in infections hitting battlegrounds including Ohio, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

Democratic U.S. presidential nominee Joe Biden negative for COVID-19-campaign Many states have expanded in-person early voting and mail-in ballots as a safer way to vote during the pandemic.

Trump, who has regularly condemned mail-in voting without evidence as prone to fraud, even though experts say it is as safe as any other method, voted by mail in two elections since he switched his address to Florida, a presidential primary in March and a state election in August.



Shanon
(adviser)

Parsian

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J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Tajrish Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green yard
Fully Furn

Jordan (\$1800)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Velenjak (\$1400)
150sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p
S, J, gym, yard
roof garden
pkg, F.F

Darrous bldg (\$4000)
3storey, 8bdrs, & yard

Farmanieh (\$2400)
300sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, & F.F

Mollasadra bldg (\$10000)
5storey, 20bdrs, & pkg lots

Sa`adat abad (\$1000)
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Singapore Third-Quarter Office Rents See Biggest Fall in 11 Years

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Office rents in Singapore saw their steepest decline in 11 years in the third quarter, official data showed on Friday, as the COVID-19 pandemic hit leasing demand for commercial real estate in the regional business hub.

Rents for office space fell 4.5% on a quarterly basis in July-September, data from the Urban Redevelopment

Authority showed. That was the biggest quarterly decline since the April-June period in 2009, when rents fell by 7.7%.

The city-state, which is facing its deepest recession ever due to the pandemic, had implemented lockdown measures earlier this year and has been encouraging office workers to work from home, although some rules are easing as coronavirus cases fall.



Euro Zone Economy at Risk Of Double-Dip Recession

LONDON (Reuters) - Euro zone economic activity slipped back into decline this month as a second wave of the coronavirus sweeps across the continent, heightening expectations for a double-dip recession, surveys showed on Friday.

Renewed restrictions to control the pandemic forced many businesses in the bloc's dominant service industry to limit operations and nearly 90% of economists polled by Reuters this week said there was a high risk the coronavirus resurgence would halt the nascent euro zone economic recovery.

"The euro zone PMI confirms that the second wave of the coronavirus is weighing more and more on the economy. A double-dip in the fourth quarter is becoming more likely at this rate," said Bert Colijn at ING.

IHS Markit's Flash Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good gauge of economic health, fell to 49.4 from September's final reading of 50.4.

That was below the 50-mark separating growth from contraction and only fractionally better than the 49.3 predicted in a Reuters poll.

That headline PMI was dragged down by the service industry's PMI, which sank more than expected to 46.2 from 48.0.

"The further decline in the euro zone Composite PMI in October adds to the evidence that the second wave of infections, and the new wave of containment measures, is taking a heavy toll on the economy," said Jack Allen-Reynolds at Capital Economics.

Friday's surveys showed the bloc's economy is running at two speeds, with manufacturing benefiting from strong global demand and services struggling to remain active as lockdowns force consumers to stay home and businesses to close.

Echoing the divide between services and manufacturing, German factories powered ahead this month, while in France activity contracted as a resurgence of the virus hit the euro zone's second-biggest economy.

Outside the currency bloc and now outside the European Union, Britain's economic recovery also lost more momentum as restrictions hit businesses in the hospitality and transport sectors. European stocks pushed 0.8% higher for their best day in five trading sessions as strong third-quarter results offset the survey data.

It will likely be a chilling winter for the job market which until now has been shielded by government furlough schemes as the uncertain outlook meant firms reduced headcount for an eighth month. The composite employment subindex nudged up slightly, but remained in negative territory, while the Reuters poll concluded that the bloc's jobless rate would not peak for at least six months.

Chinese Energy Giant CNOOC Reports Major Drop in Revenue

BEIJING (OilPrice) - CNOOC, the Chinese state energy giant focused on offshore and overseas exploration and production, reported a 27-percent drop in revenues for the third quarter, as quoted by Reuters, as business got pressured by low oil prices.

Production of oil increased during the reporting period, but the price war started by Saudi Arabia in early spring, and the effects of the coronavirus pandemic on oil demand had a severe effect on sales.

The realized oil prices of CNOOC averaged \$43.03 a barrel during the third quarter, the company said in a regulatory filing, while production rose by 29 percent to 131.2 million barrels of oil equivalent in the period. Domestic production, in particular, grew by a sizeable 10.4 percent. This, however, did not help revenues.

While it boosted domestic production following a government call to all state oil majors to increase China's self-reliance on oil, CNOOC curbed production overseas in response to market conditions. Production from assets abroad fell by 4.6 percent during the third quarter.

Earlier this year, when the pandemic started to affect oil prices, CNOOC, like all other oil companies, announced spending cuts and said it would pick its investments more carefully in the new price environment.

"As the coronavirus outbreak increases uncertainties in global economy and oil prices fall sharply ... the company will implement more stringent cost controls and more prudent investment decisions," CNOOC said, as quoted by Reuters, in late March.

Despite its efforts to boost local production, China has remained dependent on imports for most of the oil it consumes. This has made it the number-one factor for the oil price recovery since April. While OPEC+ curbs on production went some way towards calming traders down, it was China's rising imports that drove the improvement, as buyers stocked up on cheap oil while it lasted.

Iraq's Kurdistan Region Says It Is Committed to OPEC+ Cuts

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - The semi-autonomous Kurdistan region in Iraq has agreed to reduce the region's crude oil production as part of the ongoing OPEC+ agreement, the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) said on Thursday.

The statement came after Iraq's Oil Minister Ihsan Abdul Jabbar said earlier this week at an online petroleum conference that

"the Kurdistan Region has not been contributing to OPEC+ cuts."

Iraq, the least compliant member of the OPEC+ production cut pact, has promised for months to reduce its oil production and fall in line with its quota—something it hasn't done since 2017.

In recent months, Iraq has come under pressure from its fellow OPEC+ partners led by Saudi Arabia to stop cheating on their production quotas and finally start complying with the agreement.

OPEC's second-largest producer after Saudi Arabia still has to fully comply with its commitment and needs to make additional cuts by the end of the year to compensate for its lack of compliance since the new OPEC+ deal began in May 2020.

In response to the Iraqi oil minister's remarks earlier this week, KRG spokesperson Jotiar Adil said on Thursday:

"The KRG has committed to reducing its crude oil production in line with the decisions of the OPEC Plus (OPEC+) meetings, at rates consistent with the quantities of oil produced from its fields."

"KRG has no objection to the continuation of production reduction in accordance with the fair rate that has been agreed, provided that the federal government is fully committed to covering the dues and expenses of KRG loses as a result of reduced production levels," the spokesperson added.

The agreement between the federal government and Kurdistan about the production cuts from April 18 stressed the need that oil production cuts do not cause additional significant financial damage to KRG, the region said.

Last week, Iraqi media reported that the federal Iraqi government had proposed the establishment of a new oil company that would be managed jointly by Baghdad and Erbil to operate crude oil production and exports from Kurdistan.

India's Refinery Processing Limpers to Six-Month Peak

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Crude oil processed by Indian refiners hit the highest in six months in September, in another sign that demand for fuel is recovering from the blow to economic activity and transportation from coronavirus restrictions.

Crude oil throughput in September rose 13.4% from the previous month to 4.33 million barrels per day (17.71 million tons). This was the highest since the onset of the country's coronavirus restrictions in March, when refiners processed 5.01 million bpd of crude oil.

Fuel demand also rose for the first time since June last month, data showed earlier.

October gasoil sales rose for the first time since March, preliminary data showed, signalling a pick-up in industrial activity ahead of key festivals.

"There have been some promising signs of recovery in India, which in recent years has been the second demand engine after China," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo.

"Despite the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the country, the removal of mobility restrictions has supported oil demand."

India has reported a downward trend in coronavirus infections since hitting a single-day high of 97,894 new cases on Sept. 17, although it still remains the world's second worst-affected country.



Having posted its biggest drop since at least 2003 in April, crude processing has recovered about 20% in September, although it still remains 8.7% lower compared to the same month a year ago, government data showed on Friday.

Indian refiners operated at about 86.22% of their overall capacity in September compared to 76.10% in August, data showed. This was the highest refinery utilization rate since March.

Top refiner Indian Oil Corp (IOC) operated its directly owned plants at 81% capacity, the data showed.

Reliance, owner of the world's biggest refining complex, operated its plants at 89.37% capacity.

Crude oil production fell by 6% from a year earlier to 2.49 million tons (608,000 bpd), the monthly report showed.

Turkish Lira Is on Its Worst Losing Streak Since 1999

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's lira headed for its longest weekly slide since 1999, abandoning a tentative rebound after the central bank spooked investors by refraining from an interest-rate hike just when economic and geopolitical risks are mounting.

The ninth week of declines also took the currency closer to the psychological 8-per-U.S. dollar mark, underscoring markets' concern that the country's monetary policy remains too loose for its economic and credit conditions. After an unexpected rate hike in September encouraged wagers that the central bank had shifted to a hawkish stance, policy makers surprised the markets by keeping the policy rate on hold in their latest meeting Thursday. While the bank continued tightening by expanding another rate corridor, traders saw it as inadequate to defend the lira.

"The willingness is not there yet," said Viktor Szabo, a senior fixed-income manager at Aberdeen Asset Management in London. "Years of policy mistakes are now culminating in the loss of reserves and pressure on the currency. Yesterday's decision also underlined that authorities are not willing to slow down credit growth, which is essential to restore the balances."

The current streak of losses evoked memories of 1999, a turbulent year for Turkey. The government was dissolved, early elections were called, and two devastating earthquakes killed thousands. The troubles eventually led to the economic crisis of 2001.

Low real rates and waning foreign-investor interest in Turkish assets are piling pressure on the lira as the country faces the risk of U.S. sanctions, disputes in the eastern Mediterranean and Caucasus and economic pain from the pandemic. Turkey has already spent foreign-exchange reserves faster than any other major developing economy in a bid to support the currency. Foreign investors sold \$13.3 billion of Turkish equities and bonds this year, the most since at least 2005.

The drop in the lira is the latest blow for a currency that used to trade almost at par with the U.S. currency less than two decades ago. It has posted losses every year since 2012, pressured by the credit-driven economy's dependence on imports and dollar funding as well as a monetary policy that's usually criticized by investors for being too loose.

Turkey could benefit from a competitive lira in a move toward an export-focused economy, Treasury and Finance Minister Berat Albayrak said in response to emailed questions from Bloomberg last month. The lira weakened 0.4% to 7.9629 per U.S. dollar as of 5:41 p.m. Istanbul time.

Stocks Will Do Better If Trump Wins the Election



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - If you own stocks, hope for a come-from-behind win for sitting president Donald J. Trump on Election Day.

Or so says the number crunchers at LPL Financial. Since 1950, the S&P 500 has added an average of 9.6% in the year after a president wins re-election. For instance, LPL Financial points to the re-elections of presidents Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama as being particularly bullish for equities — stocks after each re-election rose close to 30%.

The opposite has tended to happen when someone new enters the Oval Office. LPL Financial data shows the S&P 500 added only 4.8% the following year of a new presidency. It has been higher only 50% of the time.

"Think about it—usually when a president wins re-election, it means the economy is going pretty strong, so stocks tend to do well," LPL Financial chief market strategist Ryan Detrick explained of the disparity. "The flip side is that new leadership in Washington can bring with it potential change that could rock the boat and hold stocks back." That said, the upcoming election and aftermath is anything but normal — in many respects it could prove to be a real statistical outlier.

Stocks are flirting with record highs again on hopes of a blue wave on Election Day. In turn, that would make it easier for a president Biden to pass a badly needed stimulus plan north of \$2 trillion to jumpstart an economy ailing from the coronavirus.

Moreover, polls suggest voters believe Biden would be better equipped to handle the COVID-19 relief effort moving forward rather than Trump. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine safely into the arms of Americans is vital to re-opening large swaths of the economy and getting back to some form of normalcy in 2021.

"I talk to retail and institutional investors all day long and the one thing I am finding is it's universal that people expect a catastrophe after the election — whether that is a big jump in volatility or some sort of social unrest. As my grandmother told me — a warm pot never boils. The sellers have already sold. So I am a little bit more bullish than I think most people are," Riverfront head of global strategy Doug Sandler told Yahoo Finance's The First Trade.

The data on post-election market performance, at least, supports Sandler's bullishness.

Iraq Enjoys 60% Share of Iranian Gasoline Exports

TEHRAN (IP) - Spokesman of Iran's Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union said that currently, 60 percent of Iran's gasoline exports go to the Iraqi market.

Hamid Hosseini stated on Sunday that the export process of Iranian petroleum products is favorable at the moment and all shipments are being purchased. Hosseini added:

"There have been some financial openings regarding settling Iraq's gas and electricity export debt to Iran, which we hope will be resolved as soon as possible."

Earlier, one of the Iranian trade officials pointed to the export of gas to Iraq and said Iran's gas export level has got promoted and the product is exported to Iraq with full capacity.



The United Nations, 75 Years Young: Engaging Youth Social Entrepreneurs to Accelerate the SDGs

By: Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana

This year, the United Nations is marking its 75th anniversary – a milestone of extraordinary economic and social progress in Asia and the Pacific. While the Organization enjoys a lifespan almost equal to the world's improved average life expectancy, the future lies with those who have recently embarked on theirs: our young people.

As they continue breaking ground with entrepreneurial spirit to address defining issues of our time like climate change, technology and inequality, our investments in them will win the battle for sustainability.

Young entrepreneurs have been a source of innovation and economic dynamism, creating jobs and providing livelihoods to millions. To achieve and accelerate action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we urgently need their expertise and voices on creating solutions to social and environmental challenges, as well as economic opportunities.

Yet, they have needed no prompting: the social entrepreneurship movement has emerged in Asia and the Pacific in response to pressing issues, including COVID-19. Spearheaded by the region's young people with a strong sense of social justice, social entrepreneurs are providing innovative, market-based solutions that break the mold of traditional models focused on economic growth. But we must do more to truly realize the transformative potential of young social entrepreneurs.

First, we need to ensure that the next generation of business leaders think about social purpose as well as profit. To achieve this, education will be critical. Governments play a key role, like the Government of Pakistan's Centre for Social Entrepreneurship. The Centre's mission is to support students and young entrepreneurs identify innovative business solutions to urgent problems related to the SDGs.

Second, we need to scale up innovative financing solutions. It is encouraging to see governments embracing impact investing as a policy tool to provide much-needed finance to young social entrepreneurs. As an example, ESCAP supported the Government of Malaysia to launch the Social Impact Exchange. The Exchange mirrors a traditional stock exchange and links social purpose organizations to impact investors.

ESCAP and its partner the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) are also supporting organizations like iFarmer in Bangladesh. The joint effort has supported iFarmer in creating a digital app to establish a profit-sharing model between urban investors and rural women farm entrepreneurs that involves the purchase and management of livestock. After successful livestock management (raising and selling cattle), the investor and woman entrepreneur share the profits, while iFarmer receives support through a management fee.

Third, as we are living in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, digitally savvy young social entrepreneurs hold much promise. While Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies pose challenges to the economy – most notably relating to jobs and



the future of work – they also have the potential to spur mass entrepreneurship and new ways of doing business. ESCAP is currently supporting FinTech start-ups like Aeloi Technologies to develop digital finance and green solutions for women entrepreneurs. Aeloi's goal is to make impact funding for women microentrepreneurs accountable and accessible using digital tokens, providing an assured digital link between funders and carbon offset providers. They work specifically with the electric minibus sector in Kathmandu, Nepal. Their system helps ensure that each \$1 of investment is used towards building renewable energy powered transportation by providing real-time climate and social impact tracking.

The United Nations' 75th anniversary comes at the critical juncture of a new decade to accelerate the SDGs and recover from an unprecedented crisis. The need for innovative solutions and stronger cooperation across all stakeholders, particularly the youth, is clear.

In this context, the UN family's anniversary event in Asia and the Pacific will bring together young social innovators and entrepreneurs from across the region whose ideas, platforms and businesses have made an impact. These innovators will discuss how technology and innovative solutions of today can be scaled up to build back better towards more inclusive, resilience and green economies and societies.

We stand ready to support these young people and their innovative solutions for tackling inequality and promoting inclusion, economic empowerment of women and girls and moving towards decarbonization and tackling air pollution. In many ways, it is they who are carrying the mantle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana is the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Colossal Challenges Can Be Overcome With Global Solidarity, Cooperation



TEHRAN (UNIC) - UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in his message on the United Nations Day, marked on October 24 that the "colossal challenges" facing the world -- from COVID-19 to climate emergency -- can be overcome with global solidarity and cooperation.

According to the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) in Tehran, the UN Secretary-General in his message said that the 75th anniversary of the United Nations falls in the middle of a global pandemic. Our founding mission is more critical than ever and to promote human dignity. Protect human rights. Respect international law. And save humanity from war.

"We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them. That's what the United Nations is all about," Guterres said. UN Day, observed on October 24, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter.

"We face colossal challenges. With global solidarity and cooperation, we can overcome them. That's what the United Nations is all about," Guterres said. UN Day, observed on October 24, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter.

Guterres added that when the pandemic hit, he called for a global ceasefire. "In our world today, we have one common enemy: COVID-19. Now is the time for a stepped-up push for peace to achieve a global ceasefire. The clock is ticking," he added. Sounding an alarm on climate emergency, he said the whole world must be mobilized to reach carbon neutrality — net zero emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050.

He called on nations to build on progress and lauded the "remarkable global" collaboration under way for a safe, affordable and accessible COVID-19 vaccine for all. October 24 is also being commemorated as International Day of Diplomats by some diplomats around the world.

China Eyes More Corn Imports as Shipments Surge

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - China's government is discussing permits for millions of tonnes of additional corn imports over the next year, three industry sources told Reuters, amid a surge in animal feed demand and after storms and drought damage tightened domestic supplies.

A round of new import orders from China would make it the world's top importer of corn for the first time and likely drive up global prices of corn and other grains. That would amplify food inflation caused by disruptions to global supply chains due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Food security has emerged as a global theme during the pandemic, exacerbated in China by a disease that has devastated the hog herd over the past two years and left pork supply tight. China is the world's largest pork consumer and second-largest corn consumer.

Beijing previously held massive reserves but has almost emptied them at auctions, leading to grain buyers buying alternatives such as rice and wheat, as well as boosting corn imports. Domestic corn prices hit record highs this month on shortages after a typhoon, a drought and a pest hit crops.

Two China-based sources and a Singapore-based trader with knowledge of import discussions said Beijing was considering issuing more lower-tariff quotas for buyers to ease the domestic shortage. These quotas encourage imports by exempting shipments from most of the 65% tariffs that would otherwise be levied by Chinese customs.

"(The government) will review the market supply-demand situation, and might issue more quotas later that could go into the state reserves," said one of the sources familiar with the government plan.

The people with knowledge of the deals declined to be identified because they are not authorised to speak to media.

China's state planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), which sets import quotas, did not immediately respond to faxes seeking comment on future additional imports. COFCO, China's top grain trader, and state stockpiler Sinograin did not respond to faxed requests for comment.

China's emergence as the top importer as it moves away from a long-standing policy to encourage domestic self-sufficiency in corn will change global grain trade and encourage corn growers worldwide to plant more to meet Chinese demand.

After China began importing soy - another crop used



for animal feed - in the 1990s it rapidly became the top buyer. Farmers in Argentina, Brazil and the United States responded by switching to soy crops.

"China over the next decade may change the landscape of the world corn balance sheet by becoming a major import player," said Terry Reilly, senior analyst at Chicago brokerage Futures International.

Beijing routinely issues 7.2 million tons in annual low-tariff quotas for corn imports, and meets most of its 280 million tons of annual demand through domestic crops. China has never before used its full annual quota.

Analysts have estimated it may need more than four times that quota, or 30 million tonnes, in the 2020-2021 October to September crop year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture attache in Beijing said in a report issued earlier this month there was talk in China that state-owned companies were drafting a report to the NDRC recommending allocating an additional 20 million tons in lower-tariff quotas.

Even before further additional quotas are awarded, Chinese importers have ordered more than double the annual allowance. They have booked around 12 million tons of corn imports from the United States and around 5 million tons from elsewhere including Ukraine for the crop year, according to a Singapore-based international trading source and two other people with knowledge of the deals.

That would put China just behind Mexico, the world's largest importer. Mexico is forecast to import 18.3 million tons, according to United States Department of Agriculture estimates. Beijing has already authorised a 5 million tonne special low-tariff quota to top grains trader COFCO, which was mainly used to book U.S. supplies, according to one of the sources familiar with the details of the trades.

Under the terms of that extra allowance, COFCO would import the corn at the lower tariff rate, but its profits will be capped at 30 yuan (\$4.49) per ton and any additional windfall will go to the state, the person said.

"I think this is done out of considerations from two perspectives," the person said. "One is we do need corn. Secondly, we have this deal with the United States that we need to fulfil."

China committed to buying billions of dollars of additional agricultural imports from the United States under the terms of a deal signed in January to end a trade war between the two countries.

"JCPOA Plus"...

FROM PAGE 1

Despite being a Democrat, Menendez has been one of the opponents of the Obama government's stance regarding nuclear deal with Iran and at the time of striking the deal, he openly and officially said, "I know that even our closest allies, namely, those who currently have close relations with us (he meant UK and France) know that it is necessary the JCPOA to be built on other topics even without believing that the JCPOA is the beginning and the end of the works needed to be done. The reality is that it needs more works to be done."

Menendez meant France's intention for completing the JCPOA talks which were held between European countries and Mr. Trump before the U.S. pullout of the nuclear deal. During those talks, the French suggested proposed the U.S. the Complementary Agreement on the JCPOA which had included some proposals for reaching agreements on the missile programs and regional activities of Iran.

Regarding the U.S. rejoining the JCPOA, Biden has said he would be after an agreement beyond the JCPOA. In a response to a question of a reporter regarding Biden's view, Menendez says, "Look, I think Biden will also face with realities which show Iran nuclear agreement and its perishable contents are today a more important issue till the time the U.S. rejoins it." He then adds, "The truth is that any government comes to power will face this reality that Iran has moved more towards developing its arms, conducted more tests on ballistic missiles and it has become skillful in it and it still continues its destructive activities."

On the probable agreement that Biden is after reaching it with Iran, Menendez believes, "We should call it JCPOA Plus because the truth is that we will need an agreement beyond the JCPOA for confronting challenges with Iran."

So with such remarks it is very natural that Iran's stand regarding election of one of these two rivals as the U.S. President to be the same because both of them are not to rejoin the deal that they have signed. Both parties are captive in the claws of Zionist regime policies. It is impossible that the U.S., because of losing its self-confidence since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, can make an independent decision from the interests and policies of Tel Aviv.

Today the JCPOA Plus in the eyes of Americans is a step forward on course of toppling the Islamic Republic establishment and one can see it very well among minor and major remarks and decisions in the pillars of the two major American political parties.

FATF Agrees to...

FROM PAGE 1

Tehran came under U.S. secondary sanctions after Washington pulled out of the nuclear agreement in 2018.

Iran has been blacklisted by the FATF since February for its lack of cooperation on money-laundering and terrorism financing conventions.

However, authorities in Tehran believe that Iran's legitimate efforts to get round U.S. sanctions would be in danger if it ratifies FATF conventions and accepts requirements on releasing sensitive financial data.

The U.S. Treasury claimed in its Saturday statement that Iran has been setting up front and shell companies in countries that are member to the FATF.

It described networks established by Iran to circumvent sanctions as complex and elaborate, reflecting Washington's desire to access secret information on how Tehran is dealing with major trade partners while it is banned from the dollar system.

IRGC Deploys...

FROM PAGE 1

Two rounds of truce talks have so far failed to calm the situation that took a turn for the worse earlier on Sunday.

A number of stray shells and projectiles have crossed the Iranian border, prompting stern warnings from Tehran.

Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami put the warring sides on notice early this month, saying Tehran would respond beyond only warnings if the security of Iran's border regions were endangered.

IRGC Ground Force Commander, Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, also visited the border area on Saturday. He said even though some of the projectiles had landed on the Iranian soil during the firefight, "security prevails over [our] borders, and no danger threatens the country."

The Islamic Republic has strongly advised both Azerbaijan and Armenia to refrain from seeking any military solution to the conflict and resume negotiations. Tehran has also offered to provide diplomatic intervention if a request was ever made.

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Alisson, Jesus Recalled by Brazil for WC Qualifiers

RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson Becker and Manchester City forward Gabriel Jesus were recalled by Brazil coach Tite on Friday as he named his squad for next month's World Cup qualifiers against Venezuela and Uruguay.

Real Madrid pair Vinicius Junior and Eder Militao, and Juventus midfielder Arthur have also been brought back into the squad alongside stars Neymar, Coutinho, Casemiro and Thiago Silva.

Swiatek to Quarantine After President Duda Tests Positive With COVID-19

WARSAW (Reuters) - French Open winner Iga Swiatek said on Saturday she feels good, but will quarantine, after she met Polish President Andrzej Duda who subsequently tested positive for coronavirus.

"Neither I nor members of my team have symptoms of coronavirus. We carry out tests regularly. We will quarantine ourselves in accordance with current procedures," the 19-year-old tennis star said in a Twitter post.

Liverpool Resume Normal Service as Man City Stumble Again

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool came from behind to beat struggling Sheffield United 2-1 and join Everton at the top of the Premier League table on Saturday after Manchester City squandered more points in the topsy-turvy English top-flight.

Earlier, Manchester United and Chelsea played out a soggy stalemate at Old Trafford, leaving Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's men languishing 15th in the table and without a home win this season.

Jürgen Klopp's champions, without injured defensive talisman Virgil van Dijk, are now unbeaten in 62 Premier League home games at Anfield but had to dig deep after falling behind to an early penalty scored by Sander Berge.

Roberto Firmino hauled them level shortly before half-time and the home side overcame the disappointment of seeing an audacious Mohamed Salah goal ruled out for offside to score the winner through a Diogo Jota header.

The victory at Anfield means the champions have 13 points, level with neighbours Everton, who still lead the table on goal difference, with a game in hand.

"I'm not surprised at all -- you always have to work hard against Sheffield United," said Klopp. "It's hard to take for (manager) Chris Wilder. The penalty was not even a foul. During a season there are so many different periods, we have had an injustice and we have had to go again."

In the day's opening match, Phil Foden rescued a 1-1 draw for City at the London Stadium but the disappointing result means Pep Guardiola's team have taken just five points from their past four matches.

Injury-hit City, without Fernandinho, Aymeric Laporte, Nathan Ake and Gabriel Jesus, dominated possession but rarely found top gear against West Ham.

They are already five points behind Everton, who play Southampton on Sunday, and look more vulnerable than at any time since Guardiola's first season in charge.

West Ham went ahead against the run of play



in the first half through Michail Antonio's superb overhead kick from Vladimir Coufal's cross. Foden, who came on at half-time, restored parity minutes later, coolly controlling Joao Cancelo's cross before slotting home.

But the visitors could not turn their dominance into goals, with West Ham indebted to Lukasz Fabianski, who produced some vital late saves. A frustrated Guardiola, whose side are 12th in the table, said City were struggling with injuries and a hectic schedule.

"I would prefer to have results but we have to analyse where we are," he said. "Many injuries, a lack of preparation, no recovery time, and tough games we've played so far. But the players gave everything on the pitch. Now we recover and think about the next game."

There could be more grim injury news for Guardiola, who said Argentine forward Sergio Aguero, who only last week returned after a long lay-off, had picked up a suspected hamstring injury. Edinson Cavani made his debut for Manchester United against big-spending Chelsea but the teams cancelled each other out in a 0-0 draw on a night of torrential rain at Old Trafford.

United's previous two Premier League home games this season resulted in a 9-2 aggregate scoreline against them in defeats by Crystal Palace and Tottenham.

Marcus Rashford came close to breaking the deadlock but Cesar Azpilicueta had a strong penalty appeal rejected when Harry Maguire wrestled him down at a Chelsea set-piece.

The result means United have failed to win any of their opening three home league games in a season for the first time since the 1972/73 season.

Djokovic Handed Tricky Draws In Loaded Vienna Field

VIENNA (Dispatches) - World No. 1 Novak Djokovic, who is making his first appearance in the Erste Bank Open field for 13 years, and defending champion Dominic Thiem lead the ATP 500 tournament this week, which includes 18 players in the Top 30 of the FedEx ATP Rankings.

Djokovic, who beat Stan Wawrinka for the 2007 crown, will have his work cut out if he is to capture his fifth tour-level trophy this year. The Serbian star is in the same half of the Vienna draw as Stefanos Tsitsipas, who the Serbian beat in the Roland Garros semi-finals, and Nitto ATP Finals contenders Diego Schwartzman and Denis Shapovalov.

Djokovic opens his campaign against compatriot Filip Krajinovic, a semi-finalist at the Open 13 Provence and the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament (1. to Monfils both times). Schwartzman, who lost to Djokovic in the Internazionali BNL d'Italia final and reached the Roland Garros semi-finals (1. to Nadal) is a potential quarter-final opponent in Vienna.

The 33-year-old Djokovic has a 37-2 match record on the season and will be playing his first match since losing to Nadal in the Roland Garros final on 11 October.

Lewandowski Scores Hat-Trick as Bayern Demolish Frankfurt

MUNICH (Reuters) - Unstoppable Bayern Munich forward Robert Lewandowski scored a hat-trick, taking his tally to 10 goals in five Bundesliga games, as the defending champions thumped hapless Eintracht Frankfurt 5-0 on Saturday.

In a typically ruthless Bayern performance, the prolific Poland forward struck twice in the first half hour and added a third after halftime before substitutes Leroy Sane and Jamal Musiala completed the rout.

The only disappointment for Bayern was an early injury to Alphonso Davies who had to be carried off after twisting his ankle in the fifth minute.

Bayern moved into second place with 12 points from five games, one behind RB Leipzig who beat Hertha Berlin 2-1. Eintracht have eight points.

Eintracht were unbeaten in their opening four games but that record never looked likely to remain intact after they gave Lewandowski far too much room and he scored almost nonchalantly in the 10th minute.

Lewandowski outjumped his marker to head the second from a corner in the 28th minute and could have completed his hat-trick before halftime but sent one effort wide from Leon Goretzka's pass and then saw another blocked by goalkeeper Kevin Trapp.

He made no mistake, however, in the 61st minute, holding off two defenders to slot his effort past Trapp after Douglas Costa threaded the ball to him.

Tiger's Latest Bid For PGA Tour Record Once Again Out of Grasp

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Tiger Woods' bid for a record-setting 83rd PGA Tour victory will have to wait despite a solid round on Friday, after he finished 12 strokes off the lead and tied for 66th at the halfway point of the Zozo Championship.

The 15-time major winner equaled Sam Snead's record 82 wins at Zozo in 2019 after clinching his fifth Masters title to cap a remarkable redemption arc.

But the returning champion's second-round 66 was not enough to offset his horrid opening round, where he failed to capitalize on the short course's par-fives.



discussions over a bumper new deal at the Premier League club. Son has scored nine goals in eight games this season and has also provided four assists, teaming up with Harry Kane to devastating effect.

Mourinho believes that form is likely to see him rewarded with a hefty new deal that

Son Heung-min Deserves Bumper Spurs Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham boss Jose Mourinho said that expects Son Heung-min to be handed a lucrative new long-term contract "sooner or later" after the South Korean's blistering start to the season.

The 28-year-old forward, whose current deal expires in 2023, is reportedly in discussions over a bumper new deal at the Premier League club.

Son has scored nine goals in eight games this season and has also provided four assists, teaming up with Harry Kane to devastating effect.

Mourinho believes that form is likely to see him rewarded with a hefty new deal that

would make him one of the club's top earners.

"I would love that," he said. "Son has three years of contract so it's not like we're in an extreme situation of everybody being worried."

"It's more that Son loves it here. I believe that he would like to commit his future to the club for a long time."

"Everybody at the club is totally in love with this player and this boy and is trying also to make him feel part of the furniture."

Kane and Dele Alli have taken the limelight at Spurs in recent years but Son has become one of the club's key players.

"He cannot do more than what he does. Season after season after season, Sonny is showing how good he is," Mourinho said.

Real Madrid Sink Barca In 'Clasico'

BARCELONA (Reuters) - Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos once again proved to be the man for the big occasion as he converted a fiercely debated penalty to help his side to a 3-1 win over rivals Barcelona at an empty Camp Nou in La Liga on Saturday.

Ramos, making a record 45th appearance in the 'Clasico' fixture, was awarded the spot-kick following a VAR review, after falling in the area when his shirt was tugged by Barca's Clement Lenglet as the pair contested a corner.

The defender showed his customary calm to score from the spot in the 63rd minute and restore the champions' lead, after Federico Valverde had opened the scoring in the fifth minute only for Barca's 17-year-old forward Ansu Fati to equalise less than three minutes later.

Barca ran out of steam in the second half and Madrid missed two big chances to seal the points after Ramos' penalty before substitute Luka Modric finally put the result beyond doubt with a goal in added time. The victory took La Liga champions Madrid back to the top of the standings on 13 points from six games, while Barca, who have only taken one point from their last three league outings, are all the way down in 10th on seven points from five games.

The win is a huge boost for Zinedine Zidane's side, who went into the match reeling from back-to-back home defeats to promoted Cadiz and a depleted Shakhtar Donetsk.

"This win gives us three points but it also gives us confidence after a difficult week for us," said keeper Thibaut Courtois. "People were doubting us but we didn't doubt ourselves, we were always with the manager. When you wear this badge you have to give everything in the 90 minutes, and we really put in a big effort today and deserved to get the win."



Games Cannot Be Marketplace of Demonstrations

LONDON (Reuters) - International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach said the Olympic Games are not about politics and must guard against becoming a "marketplace of demonstrations".

Against the backdrop of the Black Lives Matter movement to protest racial injustice, calls have increased this year for a change to Rule 50 of the Olympic Charter, which bans any form political protest during the Games.

World Athletics chief Sebastian Coe said earlier this month he believes athletes should have the right to make gestures of political protest during the Games, contrary to official IOC policy.

"The Olympic Games are firstly about sport. The athletes personify the values of excellence, solidarity and peace," Bach wrote in The Guardian here newspaper.

"They express this inclusiveness and mutual respect also by being politically neutral on the field of play and during the ceremonies. At times this focus on sport needs to be reconciled with the freedom of speech all athletes also enjoy at the Games."

"The unifying power of the Games can only unfold if everyone shows respect for and solidarity to one another. Otherwise, the Games will descend into a marketplace of demonstrations of all kinds, dividing and not uniting the world." Bach said he experienced the "political impotence" of sport when West Germany was among several countries to boycott the 1980 Moscow Games.

"As chair of the West German athletes' commission I strongly opposed this boycott because it punished us for something we had nothing to do with - the invasion of Afghanistan by the Soviet army," Bach, the winner of team fencing gold at Montreal 1976, wrote.

