

Health Ministry Spokeswoman
Sima Sadat Lari Said on Tuesday
That Some 346 More Iranians Have
Died From the Coronavirus
Disease Over the Past 24 Hours as
The Death Toll Mounted to 33,299

IRAN NEWS

Iran's New Ambassador to
Yemen Hassan Irloo Submitted
A Copy of His Credentials to
The Foreign Minister of the
Yemeni National Salvation
Government Hisham Sharaf

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2

DOMESTIC

President Says Plans
Without Providing Resources
To Cause Inflation



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Fate of Unblocking
Iran Assets in S. Korea
Tied to U.S. Election



> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Turkish President Calls
For Sweeping Boycott of
French Goods



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Djokovic Eyes
"Amazing" Sampras Yearend
WorldNo.1 in Vienna



> SEE PAGE 8

Oil Minister Shrugs Off U.S. Sanctions on Key Energy Officials

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh played down the US Treasury's move to impose sanctions on him and a number of key Iranian oil and energy officials, saying, "I have no assets or wealth outside of Iran to be subject to the sanctions."

In a tweet on Monday evening, Mr. Zangeneh said the move was a passive reaction to Washington's failed policy of bringing Iran's oil exports to zero," he tweeted.

"Imposition of sanctions on me and my colleagues is a passive reaction to the failure of Washington's policy of reducing [Iran's] crude oil exports to zero," he tweeted.

Zangeneh further said in his tweet: "The era of unilateralism is over in the world. Iran's oil industry will not be hamstrung. I have no assets or wealth outside of Iran to be subject to the sanctions."

"I would sacrifice my life, belongings and reputation for Iran," he said.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has imposed a fresh round of sanctions on a number of Iranian individuals and entities affiliated with the Islamic Republic's oil sector, including Zangeneh.

See Page 7

Zarif Urges UN to Stand Against Unilateralism, War

TEHRAN (IP) - On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, Iran's foreign minister called on the United Nations to stand up against unilateralism and war.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday at the ceremony of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations stated: "75 years ago, the United Nations was established to restore international peace and security after two terrible wars. But how successful have we been?"

He continued: "According to a new study, since 2001 – during the 'Year of the Dialogue of United Nations Civilizations' - 37 million people have been displaced as a result of the 'eternal wars' of the United States."

The foreign minister added: "Eight violent wars that the United States has started or joined since 2001, under the title 'War on Terror,' have resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of innocent lives, the disintegration of countless communities and families, the failure of governments and unprecedented extremism."

See Page 7

Tehran Slams UN Human Rights Report as Baseless Claim



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iranian Judiciary's Headquarters for Human Rights Ali Bagheri-Kani on Monday dismissed special rapporteur's report on Iran's human rights situation, saying that the report has no legal basis.

In a live televised speech on Monday night, he said that politicization prevails in the report, as it has been drafted based on political considerations and lacks any legal standing.

All the report is full of views based on those of Western countries and powers that are in conflict with the policies and approaches of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said.

This report is mainly based on allegations, accusations and information provided by groups affiliated to obstinate governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and terrorist groups, he said, noting that it lacks any expert view on the issue of human rights.

Earlier, he said that the special rapporteur for Iran was appointed by a country that has refused to sell medical equipment for the treatment of innocent sick children.

Emphasizing that the process of appointing a reporter was politically motivated, he added that even at the meeting of the Human Rights Council, the number of countries that agreed to appoint a reporter was less than those disagreed.

Furthermore, the assassination of Lieutenant-general Qasem Soleimani has not been mentioned in the report while the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions called this crime a violation of human rights, a violation of humanitarian law and a clear violation of the right to life, he said.

He also stated that the United States is not a negotiator and does not have a strategic view in this regard.

Delivering a speech at the International Conference on United States' decline, Bagheri Kani expressed that what caused the U.S.' failure in Iraq was the power of Islamic Revelation's thoughts in Iraq, meaning that people went on streets because of their beliefs.

"U.S.' decline is not a new topic, it has many reasons that in our point of view the effects of the Islamic Republic of Iran were the main causes of U.S.' decline at the international level," he added.

"The U.S. thought that it could be the only power, so it focused on reducing the gap between 'will' and 'goal'. Moreover, it tried to reduce costs to achieve its goals by just focusing on the tolls that they have at their disposal," Bagheri Kani noted.

"A look at recent decades represents that the U.S. could not impose its thoughts on countries like Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine which were under the auspices of the Islamic Revolution and did not let them fulfill their aims," he highlighted.

"Soft power components have been challenged in the U.S. like freedom and human rights, so the US has to withdraw because they have to solve their internal issues first," Bagheri noted.

"Although the U.S. is declining, it has not lessened its predatory to compensate its structural weakness, they do not even observe human rights and freedom in appearance," he pointed.

New Human Rights Report Part of Maximum Pressure Against Iranians

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Iran's representative to UN General Assembly's Third Committee, Mohammad Zare'yan, says a new report by the UN rights rapporteur on the human rights situation in country is part of the U.S. 'maximum pressure' strategy and aims to mount pressure on Iranian people.

"Those who have drawn up this report, have manipulated human rights issues against my government to distort our realities through use of incorrect information. It is not secret that taking advantage of the 'so-called human rights issues is part of the U.S. 'maximum pressure' strategy against Iranians," Iran's UN representative said.

His remarks came after Iran released a detailed report earlier the same day, strongly rejecting the recent report on the situation of human rights in the country, mentioning fundamental and structural weaknesses and shortcomings in the report prepared by the UN special rapporteur.

The review of the human rights situation in Iran was put on the agenda at the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council dated June 22, 2020, during which Sweden proposed a resolution extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran with support of other Western countries.

Iran's rights authorities, in a report released on Monday, strongly refuted the measure and the Sweden-drafted resolution mentioning a number of fundamental shortcomings in the report. "Unfortunately, the report focuses entirely on the negative cases and ignores the efforts, measures and actions which resulted in the promotion of the human rights situation in Iran."

Iran has also argued that the report is based on false information received from some terrorist sects and groups that have a dark history of killing thousands of innocent Iranians, and presently trying every possible course of animosity against the Iranian people and alliance with the enemies, leaves no room for the "Special Rapporteur to claim neutrality."

See Page 7

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Macron Is Symbol of Today's Freemasonry

Profanity against the sanctity and enlightening teacher of ethics for humanity, Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), cannot have come out of a mouth which has a hand in with the culture, ethics, science and sociology with affection and kindness.

Today French President Emanuel Macron has turned into a symbol out of what one can call it culture and civilization. Today in the world, who is that does not consider Macron as a marionette of civilization-evading nature of the same material of its predecessor Masonry? What today has caused French President's anti-Islamism, and the current, which has employed him for implementing this very inauspicious way, knows it well that today it is the era of Islam, and the young and the old in the world the more they become educated, the more they take shelter in a belief which promotes nothing but ethics and love and affection, and today all the world know that anti-Islamism is a baseless project which has failed from its root.

The Satanic scenario of anti-Islamism, which has kickstarted recently with repetition of the derogatory act by the French satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo and publishing defamatory cartoons on the dear Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) followed by the support of the hapless, unwise, lowbrow and adventurist French president, has entered a new stage, and this stage of enlightening the world opinion, which is put forward with the flag of the so-called anti-Islamism, paves the ground for joining of very large number of world people to Islam.

Today the big contradiction in the West like the flag-bearer of the so-called, freedom of expression in Europe is seen more vividly than ever for its covering of its failure in cultural basics resulted from its false and bankrupt liberalism in preventing the spread of the culture of Islam and tendency of western citizens to the perspicuous religion of Islam and the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Who is, with the least study, that doesn't know that Islam and Muslims today are more committed to Jesus Christ than Christians especially the government agents in the west?

Muslims know Christ as the close ally of their Imam Mahdi (A). Freemasons have never believed in Christ and they have used his name as a tool for befooling the people in their governance. Muslims consider their Prophet, who has brought the true and undistorted history of Christ, as the sign of blessing for all Divine religions and humanity of today.

See Page 7

Iran China Trade Plummets Further

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Official data released by Iran's major trading partners, including China, show the continuing widespread impact of U.S. government sanctions on Tehran's foreign trade and the significant decline in Iranian exports to these countries in the first nine months of 2020.

China Customs released its nine-month trade report on Sunday, October 25. It shows that Tehran's exports to Beijing dropped more than 58 percent compared with 2019, falling to \$4.7 billion.

Meanwhile, China's exports to Iran also fell by more than 8 percent to \$6.6 billion.

Therefore, China's exports to Iran are \$2 billion more than its imports from the country.

Statistics from other major foreign trade partners of Iran also show that their trade balance with Iran has changed by a significant margin for the first time.

China Customs says it bought an average of 167,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Iran in September, up 25 percent from the same period in 2019. But the average daily import of Chinese oil from Iran in the first nine months of 2020 was about 79,000 barrels, which is 78 percent less than the same period last year.

See Page 7



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Iranian Nation, Gov't United in Defeating U.S. Sanctions

LONDON (IP) - In response to Washington's new sanctions against Tehran, Iran's ambassador to London in his tweet stated that the Iranian nation and government are united in defeating the US policy of sanctions and maximum pressure.

Hamid Baidi Nejad, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in London, added: "The U.S. government enforces a sanctions law a hundred times and adds an Iranian ambassador, minister or company to its list every day, but these measures do not solve their problem."

President Says Plans Without Providing Resources To Cause Inflation

TEHRAN (IP) – President Hassan Rouhani underlined at the 176th meeting of the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board held on Tuesday morning that plans which their sources have not been predicted may cause inflation problems or fuel unrealistic expectations.

In this meeting, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization presented a report on the measures taken to match the pensions of retirees and increase the income of workers and employees in order to provide livelihood and alleviate some of the effects of inflation on the prices of goods and services.

Referring to the sensitivities and complexities in managing the economic situation, President Hassan Rouhani emphasized, "The government considers it its duty to provide a livelihood for the people and compensate for inflation, and welcomes all the plans and proposals of other branches, activists and economic experts in solving people's problems".

At the same time, the President stressed that care must be taken when presenting



some plans whose sources have not been predicted and that they cannot help solve the problems and may cause inflation problems or fuel unrealistic expectations. Therefore, considering the resources and providing the conditions for their implementation is a prerequisite for success in serving the people and gaining their satisfaction.

In the meeting, the proposals of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) regarding the necessary loans for expanding exports and using the export currency to supply the required imports of the country's production units were examined.

Making decisions on these proposals was postponed to another time in the extraordinary meeting in the cabinet's economic coordination board this afternoon.

Araqchi to Visit Baku, Yerevan, Ankara, Moscow to Discuss Karabakh

TEHRAN (IFP) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyed Abbas Araqchi is to set off on a regional tour, as Iran's special envoy, to promote Tehran's initiative to settle the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis and the clashes between the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia.

According to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh, Araqchi will first visit Iranian border regions to see first-hand the latest developments on the ground.

Araqchi's tour will later take him to Baku, Moscow, Yerevan and Ankara, Khatibzadeh said.

During his Tuesday visit to border areas in the northwestern province of Ardabil, near the Republic of Azerbaijan, Araqchi warned the warring parties in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to prevent any harm to the security of Iranian territories.

Commenting on the escalation of fighting between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region, the Iranian diplomat said, "The security of border regions, dams, and constructions is highly significant for the Islamic Republic of Iran and is a red line."

The deputy foreign minister underlined that the two neighboring states must prevent any damage to the Iranian border sites and zones amid the fighting.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has major water and electricity facilities at the Aras border river," Araqchi noted, saying he would visit those sites in the trip.

The ranking Iranian diplomat visited a number of dams in the provinces of Ardabil and East Azarbaijan during the Tuesday visit.

Anti-Islamic Moves Accelerate Decline of U.S., Zionists

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps condemned the French officials' insulting remarks against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), saying such anti-Islamic moves would only expedite the collapse of the U.S. and the Israeli regime.

In a statement released on Monday, the IRGC condemned the French president's stances in support of the insults to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), describing the anti-Islamic moves as a "failed project that would accelerate the inevitable fall of the US and the Zionist regime."

The satanic scenario for anti-Islamism has entered a new phase after the recent move by Charlie Hebdo to republish offensive cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the subsequent support from the "witless and adventurous French president", the statement deplored.

The IRGC also said the insults to Islam reveal the great paradox in the West, particularly in the so-called

flag-bearer of freedom of expression in Europe, as France is attempting to cover up its failure to prevent the spread of Islam and growing enthusiasm for Islamic teachings, IFP reported.

"The rulers of the hegemony system and Zionism, which are the main supporters of the extremist and Takfiri currents and creation of horror and violence in the world, would be unable to save the crisis-hit and anti-human West from a self-created quagmire," the statement noted.

The IRGC finally warned that the recent insults to Islam will soon draw an appropriate response from the Islamic community, beyond just a boycott of French products or protests.

Several trade associations in the Muslim nations have announced a boycott of French products, in response to recent comments made by President Emmanuel Macron on Islam.

French Charge d' Affaires Summoned

TEHRAN (IP) - The French Chargé d' Affaires, Florent Aydalot, was summoned to Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran to protest the French authorities' insistence on supporting the publication of insulting cartoons about the Holy Prophet (PBUH).

The Foreign Ministry expressed in a statement on Tuesday that in protest to the French authorities' insistence on supporting the publication of insulting cartoons against the Holy Prophet (PBUH), Chargé d' Affaires of the French Embassy in Tehran Florent Aydalot on Monday was summoned by Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the meeting, the Deputy Director-General for Europe of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while condemning the unacceptable actions of the French authorities that have hurt the feelings of millions of Muslims in Europe and the world, emphasized: "Any insult and disrespect to the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) as well as to the pure values of Islam by every person and in every position are strongly condemned and rejected."

He added: "It is deeply regrettable to incite Islamophobia and the spread of hatred in the name of freedom of expression, which should serve communication, empathy and peaceful coexistence between human societies."

"The irrational reaction of the French authorities to the actions of extremists who resort to violence in the name of Islam only provides ground for the growth of deviant tendencies and inconsistencies with this divine religion, which always promises tolerance, rationalism, peace, and tranquility as well as seeking justice".

Chargé d' Affaires of the French Embassy promised to reflect the Islamic Republic of Iran's protest against the French government's actions in this regard to the relevant authorities of his country as soon as possible.

U.S. Hinders Iran Progress



TEHRAN (IP) - Secretary of the Expediency Council, Mohsen Rezaee stated that the United States is the main barrier to Iran's progress both before and after the Islamic Revelation and that is why the U.S.' decline matters for Iran.

Delivering a speech at the opening ceremony of the International Conference on U.S. decline, Mohsen Rezaee pointed out that Iran has new ideas in the region and the world which is in contrast to U.S. culture and civilization.

Referring to the fact that the U.S. humiliates nations and countries, he added: "In the last two decades we can see the U.S. behaved based on arrogance with their own people."

"Us economy is withdrawing and lots of debts and lack of enough sources have created the economic crisis in the West," Rezaee highlighted.

"U.S. defense power has weakened, and they have decreased their military forces in the region and faced failure in Syria and Afghanistan," the official noted.

Secretary of the Expediency Council highlighted that the U.S.' recent plot in uniting Iraq and Israel against Iran will face failure too. "Moral, economic and political crisis leads to the West's collapse and consequently western values," he noted.

Rezaee stated that lack of justice and freedom is another cause of the U.S.' decline; that is, freedom without justice and justice without freedom is only a lie.

"People's distrust of the U.S. means that a new trend in managing societies is needed. Next decades will be full of big crises in the United States and Europe," he pointed. Regarding the economic condition of Iran, Rezaee stated: "The U.S. taught us that sanctions have targeted people's livelihood and if we want to progress during the U.S. decline period, we need to be powerful in all areas."

The international conference on 'United States' decline' held on Monday in the ex-embassy of the U.S. in Tehran.

Tehran Condemns Terror Attack on Pakistani School

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has condemned a deadly terrorist attack on a school in the Pakistani city of Peshawar, which killed and injured a number of citizens, including children.

In a statement on Tuesday, Khatibzadeh said the killing of innocent civilians, including defenceless children, indicates that the perpetrators of such terrorist activities do not respect any moral and humanitarian principles.

The spokesperson also described the targeted acts of terrorism in a number of neighbouring countries in recent weeks as part of the vicious plots to escalate the sectarian and religious conflicts in the region.

He also called for vigilance, collective efforts and concerted action by all regional governments to deal with the problem.

An explosion at a religious school in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar has killed at least seven people and wounded 109 others on Tuesday. The blast occurred at the Speen Jamaat mosque, which also serves as a religious school for the local community in the city's Dir Colony area.

It's Time for U.S. Gov't To Set Aside Obstinacy

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – The government spokesman says the United States' so-called "maximum-pressure" policy has failed, and now the time is ripe for the US government to stop its arrogance.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, Ali Rabiei said Washington has underestimated the power of Iranians.

The new sanctions imposed by the U.S. government are "not only a frank admission of an end to the sanctions, but also an admission of the failure of the maximum-pressure policy aimed at bringing the Iranian nation to its knees," he said.

"The U.S. government's wrong assessment whereby it [falsely] aggrandized its power to exert pressure on Iran on the one hand, and its underestimating of Iran's willpower in standing up to bullying on the other, have entangled U.S. leaders in a self-made predicament today," the spokesman noted. "Not it's time the U.S. government set aside vanity and obstinacy, and moved to make up for its past mistakes," he added.

"The U.S. cannot change the fact that exerting maximum pressure on the Iranian nation may have no result other than crime against humanity and breach of the law on an unprecedented scale in modern times, and bring discredit to the United States worldwide," he added.

"Washington should rest assured that no better results are ahead if it continues on the same path," he said.

The spokesman underlined that Iran will never bow to bullying, whatsoever. "We hope the U.S. regime will learn lessons from history and, at the end of the day, behave as befits the U.S. nation's dignity," he said.

When asked by a reporter how Iran would react if Biden wins the U.S. presidential elections and then decides to return to JCPOA, Rabiei said: Iran had said from the very beginning that as soon as the other parties to the deal honor their pledges, Iran will return to its previous commitments.

Iran's reduction of its nuclear commitments was a proper reaction to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and its prevention of other countries from fulfillment of their commitments, he noted.

France Warned to Stop Dangerous Game of Insulting Islam

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran's highest-ranking military commander condemned the French president's backing for the insults to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), advising France to stop playing with the sentiments of more than 1.5 billion Muslims in the world.

In remarks on Monday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri denounced the "anti-human rights comments" from President of France Emmanuel Macron who has voiced support for the caricatures insulting Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in the guise of backing the values of secularism.

He also called on world intellectuals and elites to advise the French authorities -who blatantly violate human rights and insult divine religions under the guise of politics- to stop such a "dangerous game" and avoid playing with the sentiments of more than 1.5 billion Muslims.

It is surprising that the Western governments, including France, which have given birth to Takfiri and terrorist groups like Daesh (ISIL or ISIS), are attempting to attribute the brutal terrorist activities to Islam, the religion of wisdom and rationalism, the Iranian general said.

Air Defense Stepped Up in NW Iran

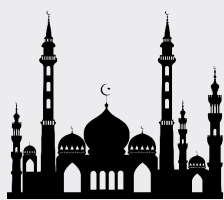
TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iran has increased the presence of Air Defense units in the northwestern areas of the country, Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said.

Major General Mousavi said on Tuesday that the Army has strengthened the Air Defense units in the northwestern regions and may even deploy more forces to those areas if necessary.

His comments came after the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia agreed on a temporary ceasefire in a new round of armed clashes over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

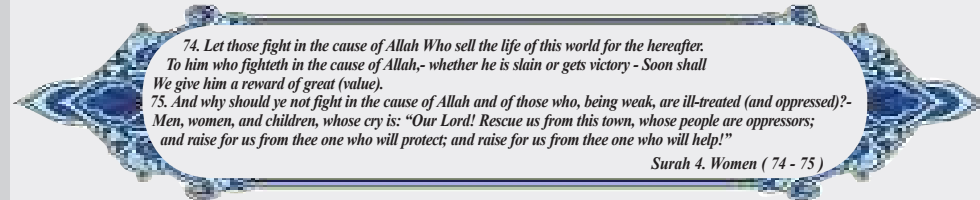
"Respecting the territorial integrity of countries and protecting the official international borders are among our definite principles, and we would not tolerate any change in them (borders) and have been and are opposed to it," the Iranian Army commander added.

Decrying Takfiri terrorists, Daesh forces and Zionists as pariahs around the world who only bring about insecurity and hatred, the general underlined that the Iranian military forces would take harsh action without any consideration against such elements near the country's borders.



PRAYER TIME

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| ■ Noon (Zohr) | 11:48 |
| ■ Evening (Maghreb) | 17:31 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) | 04:59 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Sunrise | 06:24 |



Fate of Unblocking Iran Assets in S. Korea Tied to U.S. Election

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-South Korea Chamber of Commerce says the chamber is still working on unblocking Iran's frozen assets in South Korean banks and it does not mean that the money will be definitely unblocked.

Speaking to ILNA, Hossein Tanhaei said that talks are underway for unblocking in a way some part of the frozen money but it has not reached the implementation stage.

Speaking on the latest development of unfreezing Iran's assets in South Korea, he said his recent interviews have been misunderstood that some part of the frozen money in South Korea is to be unblocked but the truth is that the chamber is in a planning stage for two countries for unblocking the assets. He reiterated it does not mean unblocking because talks have not reached the implementation stage.

Tanhaei went on to say that they are in negotiation stage and nothing has happened in practice, noting that central banks of both countries are working on plans for unblocking the asset in a way.

He reiterated that all plannings depend on the result of the U.S. election and both countries are waiting for the result of the U.S. election.

Tanhaei noted that in the past some South Korean officials had attempted to return Iran's money in a way but their efforts have not born fruits yet and for this reason, the chamber avoided announcing any useless delight to the people and it has tried to inform them based on the facts and realities.

On the amount of Iran's frozen money in South Korea, he said different figures are announced but according to the chamber estimate the figure is around \$8.5b.

On the possible bartering goods in exchange of unblocking Iran assets, he said Iran had earlier proposed bartering goods, and bartering goods like food stuff and



medicines are Iran's priorities and then goods like petrochemicals, home appliances and vehicles would be other options.

Earlier a senior member of the Iranian parliament had warned that South Korea could risk its entire relations with Iran if it refuses to release funds blocked over U.S. sanctions.

Mohammad Reza Pourebrahimi said on Monday that South Korea should await major diplomatic consequences if it refuses to release funds that Iran needs most at the current "difficult" circumstances.

"If South Korea wants to have continuous relations with Iran, it should not abandon the Iranian nation in difficult days," said Pourebrahimi who chairs the Iranian parliament's economic committee.

The funds accrued in accounts in two banks are related to Iran's sale of oil to South Korea before the United States imposed sanctions on Tehran in November 2018.

Seoul has tried to assuage Iran's concerns about the funds by proposing to release a small portion of them to finance Iran's purchases of food and medicine in South Korea.

Pourebrahimi reiterated that Iran would take a tougher approach toward South Korea once it gets rid of the sanctions, a scenario that has become increasingly likely in light of speculations about the outcome of the November 3 presidential elections in the U.S.

"Iran would exit the space of sanctions with future political changes in the region and in the world and under those conditions the policy for Iran's relations with South Korea would differ from today," he said.

Iran Produces 450-Tonne Telescopic Crane



TEHRAN (IFP) - An Iranian knowledge-based company has produced and unveiled a telescopic crane capable of carrying up to 450 tones.

Present at the unveiling ceremony was Iranian Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari, who said the government will increase its support for knowledge-based firms and innovative industries on the back of new decisions by the cabinet and parliament.

"Telescopic cranes are used in different projects, so the country needs to be able to produce them," he said.

"The manufacturing of telescopic cranes in Iran has broken new ground in that domain, and the Science and Technology Department of the Presidential Office backs such ground-breaking moves," he said.

National Housing Projects Completes Throughout Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami in the open session of the Iranian Parliament began this morning, chaired by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, stated that it is important to implement programs to achieve stability in the housing section.

Mohammad Eslami also said: "We have completed and handed over the houses of the Mehr Housing Project, and today national housing projects have been completed throughout the country."

"We hope to use all our capacities with the support of the parliament," the minister noted. In today's session, the report of the Industries and Mines Commission on reviewing the steel market continued.

Isfahan Permanent Fairground To Come on Stream This Year

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Managing Director of Isfahan International Exhibitions Company Ali Yar-Mohammadian says the permanent fairground of Isfahan will come on stream this year on a land around 47 hectares.

Pointing to this fact that Isfahan is considered as one of the most active and effective provinces in the national economy and industry, Mr. Yar-Mohammadian said this province has suffered lack of having a standard venue for holding exhibition events but due to the actions taken by the company, the new venue for holding international exhibition in the province has been completed and it will come on stream in mid-November.

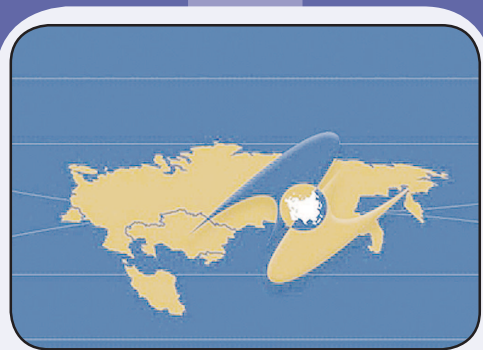
Noting that Isfahan Province is the top province of the country in fields like steel, stone, gold, livestock, flower and plan, carpet and handicrafts, he said in such a condition it is necessary Isfahan International Exhibition, as a tool for introducing and creating relations and trade interactions among economic activists, to play a special role, and this will happen when there is a standard and unique venue for holding exhibition events.

He went on to say that a plot of land around 47 hectares was allocated for construction of the permanent fairground of the province, reiterating that this exhibition is the most standard exhibition project which has been carried out in the country because it has a 21,000-meter hall and 30,000 square meters of indoor area for holding exhibition events, and it facilitates holding modern international exhibitions with appropriate infrastructures for the participants.

Yar-Mohammadian added that economic activists can expand their trade connections in the exhibition, adding that before construction of this venue, most of foreign companies were not ready to take part in the exhibitions because there was no appropriate space for holding the exhibitions but now the condition has been facilitated for the presence of foreign companies in Isfahan exhibition and for their trade exchanges with their Isfahani and Iranian counterparts.

He reiterated that now Isfahan hosts one of the most standard exhibition centers of the country.

Eurasia States, Customer of Iran Knowledge-Based Companies



TEHRAN (IRNA)- Iranian knowledge-based companies can now export products and services to markets of five members of Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), international center at Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology said on Tuesday.

Russia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Kazakhstan as five members of the Union agreed last year on Iran's temporary membership in the EAEU for a three-year period.

From 2015, EAEU with five members started work to adopt economic policies on free trade agreements with other states.

Currently, EAEU agreements with Iran, Vietnam and Singapore are temporary and that talks are underway for accession of Serbia, Egypt, Argentina, Jordan and Thailand to the Union.

Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology says that Iranian knowledge-based companies enjoy satisfactory capacities for customers at the Eurasian markets.

Since the beginning of the Iranian year on March 20, 2020, a plan was presented to review the ways to export products of the knowledge-based companies and remove obstacles to this end.

Some 140 Iranian companies have been identified, and they will have access to the EAEU market.

About a year ago, Iran and EAEU reached a barter trade agreement covering 860 items of commodities. Statistics show that Iran has witnessed 63 percent increase in its trade exchanges with the EAEU countries.

Petchem Output at Over 35m Tons in 7 Month

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's petrochemical output increases by 8% y/y to 35 million tons in seven months to October 21.

Iran has reported an 8-percent increase in its petrochemical output in the seven months ending October 21 despite problems faced in the sector because of American sanctions.

Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said on Monday that output had reached over 35 million metric tons in the first seven months of the current calendar year.

Jalal Mir Hashemi, who leads output control operations at the NPC, said production could show a further increase by the end of the fiscal year in late March due to favorable conditions that exist in both sales and manufacturing.

Iran's petchem output topped 66 million tons per annum (Mtpa) in the year ending March 2020, an increase of over 10 Mtpa in six years.

The surge has come despite growing pressures on



Iran's energy sector where a series of American sanctions have hampered investment and technology transfer.

However, the NPC says US sanctions have largely failed to halt Iran's massive development plans for the petrochemical sector as the state-run company goes continues to build new

plants across the country.

Booming sales of petrochemicals have also helped the government compensate for the losses suffered in lower sales of crude because of the US bans.

Experts say sanctions have caused a restructuring in the petrochemical sector in Iran as plants now boast of more diversified production processes.

The Iranian government plans to reach 100 Mtpa of petrochemical output by March 2020 to create nearly \$25 billion in revenues.

A target defined for March 2025 stipulates that production should top 133 Mtpa or \$37 billion in value terms.

Pakistan Embassy in Tehran Observes Kashmir Black Day

TEHRAN (Pakistan Embassy) - To observe the Kashmir Black Day, the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran organized a webinar today to express support of Pakistani government and the nation for the Kashmiri people in their struggle against the continued Indian illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir. A number of Iranian scholars, academicians, media persons, member of Pakistani community and Pakistani and Iranian students virtually participated in the event.

On the occasion, the messages from the President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were readout.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi emphasized that Kashmiris have been subjected to the use of brute force from the Indian occupation forces since 27 October 1947. Beginning from that day, the Indian security forces have systematically maimed, executed, murdered, blinded and raped thousands of innocent Kashmiris through state-sponsored terrorism. Expressing his gratitude to the Iranian leadership, the Ambassador highlighted that it has always given a great regard to the struggle for self-determination in IJOK. He also thanked the Iranian print and electronic media for projecting the Kashmir cause and in highlighting the systematic human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces.

The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's call to the world leaders, international community including the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to urge India to halt the brute use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people and resolve the Kashmir Dispute as per the charter of the United Nations and various UNSC Resolutions.

Hujjat-ul-Islam Dr. Salman Naqvi and senior students from Ferdowsi University, Mashhad and Tehran University, in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IJOK.

The speeches were followed by a question-answer session. At the end, a special prayer was held for the alleviation of sufferings of innocent Kashmiris and for their freedom from barbaric and illegal Indian rule.



Europe Needs Serious Acceleration In Fight Against Coronavirus

GENEVA (Reuters) - Europe needs some “serious acceleration” in the fight against the coronavirus but the World Health Organization is still optimistic European countries will not need to go into national lockdowns, WHO officials said on Monday.

“We are still hopeful that countries will not have to go into so-called national lockdowns,” Maria van Kerkhove, the WHO’s technical head for COVID-19, told an online briefing, when asked about Europe’s rising case numbers.

“Right now we are well behind this virus in Europe, so getting ahead of it is going to take some serious acceleration in measures,” added Mike Ryan, the WHO’s top emergency expert.



Rwandan Genocide Suspect In Detention in The Hague

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Rwandan genocide suspect Félicien Kabuga was in custody in The Hague on Monday after his transfer from France following a United Nations court order.

Kabuga, who was on the run for 22 years until his arrest in France in May, will soon be brought before a judge, the United Nations tribunal said in a statement.

Last week a U.N. judge ordered his transfer to the Netherlands, rather than to a U.N. detention unit in Tanzania, out of health considerations amid the coronavirus pandemic.



Turkish President Calls for Sweeping Boycott of French Goods



ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned Turkish citizens against buying French goods, amid growing calls across the Muslim world for a boycott.

His remarks on Monday widened a rift between Turkey and France.

“I call on my people here. Never give credit to French-labelled goods, don’t buy them,” Erdogan said in a televised speech in Ankara, TRT reported.

Muslims are threatening a boycott over French President Emmanuel Macron’s speech earlier this month, in which he claimed Islam was a religion in crisis across the world. Many are also angry about the level of support in France for caricatures depicting the Prophet Muhammad.

While those in France say the caricatures should be allowed as a matter of free speech, Muslims find the images deeply offensive as they link Islam to “terrorism”, and as any depiction of the prophet is forbidden in Islam.

Decrying rising Islamophobia in Europe, Erdogan said hostility towards Islam and Muslims has become state policy in some European countries.

Addressing world leaders, he said: “If there is persecution in France, let’s protect Muslims together.

“European politicians should say ‘stop’ to the hate campaign led by French President Macron.”

The fallout between Macron and the Muslim world escalated on Monday, with prominent figures and groups in Asia and the Middle East condemning the French leader.

In many Muslim-majority countries, street rallies accompanied campaigns on social media protesting against Macron and France.

Erdogan said on Saturday Macron had a problem with Muslims and needed mental checks, insisting a day after that he had “lost his mind” – a rebuke that caused France to recall its ambassador from Ankara.

Macron and Erdogan have sparred over several issues in recent months, including tensions in the eastern Mediterranean, the war in Libya and the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh.

France’s fragile relationship with its Muslim minority, the largest in Europe, is being tested in the aftermath of the killing of Samuel Paty. The French teacher had shown caricatures of the prophet – previously published by a satirical magazine – in a class on freedom of expression. He was beheaded in broad daylight near his school.

The crime has renewed the debate over the caricatures and comes amid the trial over the deadly 2015 Charlie Hebdo shooting.

On Wednesday, Macron said France would continue “the fight for freedom” at a national tribute in Paris. The caricatures were projected on government buildings a few days later.

U.S.-Backed Truce Crumbles as Nagorno-Karabakh Fighting Resumes

BAKU (Reuters) - A U.S.-backed ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh was in jeopardy on Monday as Azerbaijan and ethnic Armenian forces renewed fighting in the mountain enclave, defying international efforts to end a conflict that has killed hundreds in the last month.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said in a televised address that he wanted to resolve the conflict “by political and military means” after both sides accused each other of breaking a truce agreed hours earlier in Washington.

Speaking live on Facebook later on Monday, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan said he did not believe Azerbaijan was interested in a peaceful resolution to the conflict. “The Armenian people are ready for mutual concessions, even painful ones, but not for the capitulation of Karabakh,” he said. The latest fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous part of Azerbaijan populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians, erupted on Sept. 27 and is the worst in the South Caucasus since the 1990s. Two Russian-brokered ceasefires have failed to hold.



Duterte Wants Gov’t-to-Gov’t Deal for COVID-19 Vaccines

MANILA (Dispatches) - President Rodrigo Duterte said that he would favor a government-to-government deal for the purchase of coronavirus vaccines in the Philippines to prevent the risk of corruption.

Duterte made his latest pronouncement even as his Science and Technology Department secretary admitted that in the “most optimistic” scenario, a vaccine would not be available until mid-2021. “Let me tell everybody that we will not beg, we will pay,” Duterte said in a prerecorded address that aired on Tuesday morning. “To the Chinese government, you need not look for partners, we can make it government to government,” added Duterte, who repeatedly said that he received assurance from Beijing that the Philippines would be a priority when a vaccine is available.

This is a modal window.

The Philippines has the second-highest number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in Southeast Asia behind Indonesia.

The country’s coronavirus cases reached 372,000, with more than 7,000 reported deaths as of Monday.

Duterte made his latest pronouncement as he also ordered the extension of quarantine in Metro Manila and six other areas across the country until the end of November. Earlier, Duterte declared that he wanted to inoculate every one of the country’s 113 million people but priority would be given to the poor, the police and military personnel.

“All should have the vaccine without exception,” Duterte said in a previous televised address. He repeated that he preferred COVID-19 vaccine supplies to come from either China or Russia. Both have submitted applications to conduct clinical trials for their inoculations in the Philippines.

“For me, either China or Russia, I am ok,” Duterte said. Apart from China’s Sinovac Biotech and Russia’s Gamaleya Research Institute, the Philippines is also evaluating Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen unit’s application to conduct Phase 3 trials of its COVID-19 vaccine.

World powers want to prevent a wider war that might draw in Turkey, which voices strong support for Azerbaijan, and Russia, which has a defence pact with Armenia. The conflict, close to pipelines that carry Azeri oil and gas to international markets, has also strained relations between Ankara and its NATO allies.

A third ceasefire since Oct. 10 was agreed on Sunday after separate talks in Washington between U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Within minutes of its coming into force at 8 a.m. (0400 GMT), Azerbaijan’s defence ministry said in a statement that Armenian forces had shelled villages in the Terter and Lachin regions, located at opposite ends of the conflict zone.

Arayik Harutyunyan, president of the ethnic Armenian enclave, said in a statement that Azeri forces resumed attacks along the entire line of contact in the second half of the day.

Pompeo is now in India on the first leg of a five-day Asian trip.

Thai Protesters March in Challenge to King

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Describing themselves as “human beings, not dust”, thousands of Thai protesters demanding reforms of the monarchy marched to the German embassy in Bangkok on Monday to put pressure on King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who spends much of his time in Germany.

Germany has said it would be unacceptable for King Maha Vajiralongkorn, 68, to conduct politics there and Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the European power continued to look into his behaviour during sojourns in Bavaria. Months of student-led protests that began by calling for the removal of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, 66, a former military ruler, have become the biggest challenge in decades to a monarchy that the Thai constitution says must be revered.

The Palace has made no comment since the start of the protests. A government spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday’s protest. At the German embassy, a statement was read from “the People” accusing the king of interfering in Thai politics. It said that having failed to get “the royal puppet” to listen - a reference to Prayuth - they had come to “the puppet owner”.

“The era of change has arrived. The flowing stream of democracy cannot be stopped,” it said. “Down with

feudalism, Long live the people.”

It was signed: “Best regards from fellow human beings, not dust” - referring to a Thai expression that people are but dust under the king’s feet. Criticising the monarchy can mean 15 years in jail, but the protests have swept away the taboo on discussing it.

Protesters accuse the monarchy of helping enable decades military domination. They also complain about royal spending in Europe when the coronavirus has hit the tourism-reliant economy hard.

Thailand’s political crisis has made the king’s presence a challenge for Germany. “We are monitoring this long-term,” Maas said. “It will have immediate consequences if there are things that we assess to be illegal.”

The king is currently in Thailand.

In a special session of the Thai parliament on the crisis, Prayuth’s opponents urged him to stop using the monarchy to justify his hold on power and resign.

The opposition Move Forward party referred to an incident around a royal motorcade that was used to justify tough emergency measures on Oct. 15. The measures, now lifted, backfired when tens of thousands of people took to the streets.



Protesters in Italy Clash With Police

ROME (Dispatches) -

Thousands of Italian protesters angry over new restrictions announced to control the spread of coronavirus clashed with police in cities on Monday as European governments toughened their responses to the contagion.

Following weekend demonstrations that saw violence in Italy, crowds ranging in size from several hundred to several thousand took to the streets again on Monday evening.

In Milan, several trams were vandalised and bins were set on fire, while anti-riot police fired teargas at groups of young people throwing glass bottles and other projectiles, with similar scenes found in neighbouring Turin and in southern Naples.

The scenes of unrest came after Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte ordered restaurants and bars to shut from 6:00 pm, while theatres, cinemas and gyms were ordered closed for a month -- much to the annoyance of business owners, opposition politicians and even some scientists.

The violence in Italy, which imposed one of the toughest lockdowns in the first wave of infections in March and April, is likely to reverberate around Europe where governments are weighing the need for tougher measures against the fatigue and frustration felt by many.

“There’s no question that the European region is an epicenter for disease right now,” WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan said on Monday.

Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s technical expert on the pandemic, also voiced concern about the situation in Europe -- and in particular a surge in hospitalisations and rapidly filling intensive care units.

“In many cities we’re seeing beds filling up too quickly, and we’re seeing many projections saying the ICU beds will reach capacity in the coming days and weeks,” she told Monday’s briefing.

The Czech Republic said it would impose a night-time curfew, mimicking measures already introduced in France and Spain, Slovenia imposed border closures, while even Norway, with one of Europe’s lowest infection rates, tightened its rules on social gatherings on Monday.





Elahieh Apt (\$2300)
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S/pool, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
green yard
Fully Furn

Parsian

Zaferanieh Apt
250sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, balcony
(\$3000)

Farmanieh Apt
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, S, J, pkg
(\$2000) F.F

Darrous bldg
4storey, 20bdrs
enough pkg lots
(\$10000)

Jordan Apts
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UK Consumer Confidence Falls After 5 Months of Gains

LONDON (Dispatches) - A measure of consumer confidence among people in Britain fell for the first time in six months in October as worries mounted about new COVID-19 restrictions, polling firm YouGov and the Centre for Economics and Business Research said.

Concerns about household finances and property values pushed down the index to 101.3, down 1.1 points from September.

"The first fall in the Consumer Confidence Index in six months may prove to be a turning point in consumer sentiment as the reality of a second wave sets in," Kay Neufeld, head of macroeconomics at Cebr said.

The separate GfK Consumer Confidence Index published on Friday showed sentiment fell this month by the most since a slump at the start of the coronavirus pandemic.



German Business Morale Falls on Virus Angst

BERLIN (Reuters) - German business morale fell for the first time in six months in October, weighed down by companies' concerns about rising coronavirus infection rates that are making them more cautious about the coming months, a survey showed on Monday.

The Ifo institute said its business climate index fell to 92.7 from a downwardly revised 93.2 in September. A Reuters poll had foreseen a decline to 93.0.

"Companies are considerably more sceptical regarding developments over the coming months," Ifo President Clemens Fuest said in a statement. "In view of rising infection numbers, German business is becoming increasingly worried."

The cooling of the sentiment in Europe's largest economy coincides with a survey showing British consumer confidence also falling for the first time in six months.

An easing of lockdown measures, coupled with an unprecedented array of rescue and stimulus packages, led to a robust recovery in the third quarter from a 9.7% second-quarter slump, but a spike in new coronavirus cases has caused concern activity could slow again.

The number of confirmed cases in Germany rose by 8,685 to 437,866, data from the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) for infectious diseases showed on Monday.

The Ifo survey did not point to another economic slump, said ING economist Carsten Brzeski. "But as all of Europe is in the second wave of the virus, today's Ifo index definitely marks the end of the rebound and the start of double-dip fears," he added.

Ifo economist Klaus Wohlrabe forecast fourth-quarter growth of 2.1%, but said that could prove too optimistic if rising infection rates triggered a second lockdown. Rising infections in France, Italy and Spain were also hitting exports, he added.

"The real hit would come if schools and kindergartens had to close," he said. "That would have a massive impact on the economy and industry."

Chancellor Angela Merkel wants to avoid that scenario and on Saturday reinforced her appeal to Germans to curb social contacts and keep travel to a minimum.

Wohlrabe said the auto industry was one bright spot. "The carmakers are doing really well at the moment."

Recent German data has been mixed.

Consumer morale fell heading into November as fears about a second coronavirus wave made Germans less willing to spend, a survey showed last Thursday. A separate survey on Friday showed private sector activity grew for the fourth month running in October. Manufacturing expansion accelerated, but services activity shrank, suggesting the economy is operating at two speeds.

Saudi Imports From Turkey Rise in August

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia's imports from Turkey rose in August from the previous month, official data showed on Sunday, despite an informal boycott that has gained momentum with Saudi businessmen and retailers calling for a ban on Turkish imports.

For over a year, some Saudi and Turkish traders have speculated that Riyadh was enforcing an informal boycott due to political tensions between the two countries, but that has yet to be reflected in trade figures. The value of imports from Turkey increased to 833.6 million riyals (\$222.28 million) in August from 693.4 million in July, according to the Saudi General Authority for Statistics, making Turkey the ninth biggest exporter to Saudi Arabia. Saudi imports from Turkey were also up month on month in July.

Exporters in Turkey said they have recently experienced growing difficulties with the kingdom. The head of Saudi Arabia's non-governmental Chambers of Commerce this month called for a boycott of Turkish products, and the main supermarket chains have said they would not restock Turkish goods.

On social media, hashtags urging a boycott of Turkish products have been trending over the last month.

Saudi Arabia and Turkey have been at odds for some years over foreign policy and attitudes towards Islamist political groups. The murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi's Istanbul consulate in 2018 escalated tensions sharply. The Saudi government has said authorities have not placed any restrictions on Turkish goods. Overall Saudi exports rose more than 12% to around \$15.3 billion in August month on month, Sunday's data showed, but exports to Turkey fell to 879.4 million riyals from 966.4 million riyals in July.

On an annual basis, the exports by Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, fell in August by 25.1%, mainly because of crude exports, whose value decreased by some \$5.4 billion amid lower oil prices and production. Saudi Arabia is facing a deep recession this year due to the coronavirus crisis and lower oil income.



Rising Infections May Delay Oil Recovery

LONDON (Reuters) - OPEC's secretary general said on Monday an oil market recovery may take longer than hoped as coronavirus inflections rise around the world, and OPEC and its allies would "stay the course" in balancing the market.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia made a record oil output cut in April as the pandemic hit demand. They are scheduled to increase output in January as part of a gradual easing of supply curbs.

OPEC's Mohammad Barkindo, asked at the virtual India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK if the second wave of the virus required any changes to OPEC+ strategy, said hopes earlier this year of a demand rebound had been disappointed. "We were hopeful the second half of 2020 would begin to see a recovery," Barkindo said. "Unfortunately, both the economic growth and demand recovery remain anaemic at the moment due largely to the virus."

"We remain cautiously optimistic that the recovery will continue. It may take longer, maybe at lower levels, but we are determined to stay the course," Barkindo added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, speaking last Thursday, did not rule out extending the oil cuts for longer if market conditions warranted.

Barkindo said producers did not expect a renewed oil-price collapse as seen in the second quarter, when oil hit historic lows with U.S. crude briefly trading in negative territory.

OPEC+ producers had met an average of 100% of their supply cut commitments and would continue to implement the curbs so that inventories fall further, Barkindo said. "We are determined to assist the market to restore stability by ensuring that the stock drawdowns continue."



"Orderly" Trump Win Most Favorable Outcome for Equities

LONDON (Dispatches) - U.S. investment bank JPMorgan expects the S&P500 index to surge to 3,900 points if U.S. President Donald Trump is re-elected next week,

calling such an outcome the most favorable for stock markets.

A rise to 3,900 would mark a 12.6% jump from Friday's closing level.

A clean sweep by Democrats would be "mostly neutral" for markets, JPM said in a note received on Monday, adding: "We see an 'orderly' Trump victory as the most favourable outcome for equities."

The odds of a "blue wave" have narrowed slightly since mid-October. Former vice president Joe Biden has a substantial lead in national opinion polls, although the contest is closer in battleground states likely to decide the race.

JPMorgan said several of its data gatherings, such as voter registration, Twitter sentiment, point to a "tightening race". The bank sees a gridlock in the election as a "net positive" for stocks.

Within sectors, JPM sees beaten down energy and financial stocks to likely be key beneficiaries of a Trump victory, while a Biden win could trigger a rotation from U.S. growth stocks to non U.S. growth stocks, given the risk of higher taxes.

"We find that energy, financials and healthcare sectors could likely see the most outsized moves as they have been explicitly referenced by each candidate on the campaign trail,"

India to Drive Global Energy Demand While Cutting Emissions

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India will be the major driver of global energy demand in the years to come, but will hold down carbon emissions even as its power consumption soars, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

The world's third biggest oil importer has implemented a series of reforms in recent years, including setting up a gas trading exchange and granting marketing freedom to producers, to boost its local output.

"India is set to nearly double its energy consumption over the long term," Modi said in the inaugural address at the conference India Energy Forum by CERAWEEK.

He said even international agencies that project a contraction in global energy demand to continue for next few years expect Indian demand to rise.

"Our energy sector will be growth-centric, industry friendly and environment conscious... We are well on track to meet the commitment we made to the global community," he said.

"India's Energy Plan aims to ensure energy justice. That too while fully following our global commitments for sustainable growth. This means more energy to improve the lives of Indians. But, with a smaller carbon foot-print."

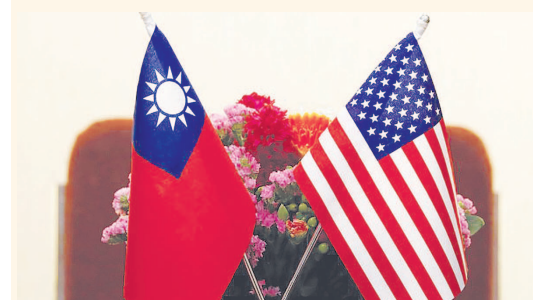
To cut its carbon emissions India aims to raise the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from the current 6.2% and lift its renewable energy generation to 175 gigawatts by 2022 and to 450 gigawatts by 2030.

India is set to raise its annual refining capacity from 250 million tonnes to 400 million tonnes by 2025, while Indian airlines are projected to double their fleet size to 1200 by 2024, Modi said.

The South Asian nation, which depend on overseas purchases for about 80% of its oil needs, is seeking mechanisms for the responsible pricing of crude oil and greater transparency and flexibility in oil and gas markets to end volatility.



China to Impose Sanctions on U.S. Firms Over Taiwan Arms Sales



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China will impose sanctions on Lockheed Martin, Boeing Defense, Raytheon and other U.S. companies it says are involved in Washington's arms sales to Taiwan, a foreign ministry spokesman said on Monday.

Zhao Lijian told journalists that China was acting to protect its national interest, but did not spell out what form the sanctions would take.

The U.S. State Department has approved the potential sale of three weapons systems to Taiwan, including sensors, missiles and artillery that could have a total value of \$1.8 billion, the Pentagon said last week.

Beijing considers Taiwan a wayward province it has vowed to bring under control, by force if necessary.

"To safeguard our national interests, China decided to take necessary measures and levy sanctions on U.S. companies such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing Defence, and Raytheon, and those individuals and companies who behaved badly in the process of the arms sales," Zhao said.

China has imposed sanctions on Lockheed Martin and other U.S. companies in the past for selling weapons to Taiwan, though it is unclear what form the penalties have taken.

The United States, like most countries, has no official diplomatic ties with Taiwan, but Washington is bound by law to provide the island with the means to defend itself.

The Trump administration has ramped up support for Taiwan through arms sales and visits by senior U.S. officials, adding to tensions in relations between Beijing and Washington, already strained by disagreements over the South China Sea, Hong Kong, human rights and trade.

A spokesman for Boeing said in an emailed statement that the company's partnership with China's aviation community had long-term benefits and that Boeing remained committed to it.

Lockheed Martin said in an emailed statement that all of its international military sales are strictly regulated by the U.S. government, and that its presence in China is limited.

Raytheon did not immediately respond to emailed requests for comment.

U.S. Hostility Towards Iranians Has No Limit

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Spokesman for the Iranian mission to the United Nations Alireza Miryousefi said in a message citing the U.S. new sanctions against Iranian individuals and entities that the U.S. hostility to Iranians has no limit.

“U.S.’s hostility towards Iranian people has no limit,” Miryousefi wrote in his Twitter account.

“U.S. is sanctioning entities that have already been sanctioned under other phoney charges,” he added.



Japan Aims for Zero Emissions, Carbon Neutral Society by 2050

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan is aiming to cut greenhouse gases to zero by 2050 and become a carbon-neutral society, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said on Monday as he unveiled a major shift in position on climate change.

Japan had previously said it would be carbon neutral as soon as possible in the second half of the century, rather than set an explicit date.

“Responding to climate change is no longer a constraint on economic growth,” Suga said in his first policy address to parliament since taking office last month.

“We need to change our thinking to the view that taking assertive measures against climate change will lead to changes in industrial structure and the economy that will bring about great growth.”

Japan’s target of no greenhouse gases emissions on a net basis by 2050 brings it into line with the European Union, which set a target of being carbon neutral by that same date last year. Chinese President Xi Jinping in September pledged to make his country “carbon neutral” by 2060.

Japan is the world’s fifth-biggest emitter of carbon dioxide, and while steps are being taken to increase renewable energy, it also plans to roll out new coal-burning power stations.

Later, Industry Minister Hiroshi Kajiyama told a news conference that plans for attaining key parts of the goal would be drawn up by the end of the year.

“Carbon neutrality itself is a growth strategy, and we must carry it out with all we have,” he added.

To achieve its goals, Suga said new solar cells and carbon recycling would be key, and Japan would intensify research and development in those areas, along with digitalising society - a policy he has pushed since taking over from Shinzo Abe.

The announcement was cheered by policy makers and investors.

“Japan joining the EU in targeting carbon neutrality by 2050 is very welcome, and so is PM Suga’s focus on green technologies and especially solar, as a growth driver,” said Eric Pedersen, Nordea Asset Management’s head of responsible investment.

But he also warned that Japan would need to start decommissioning coal power and stop building and financing new coal power abroad.

In a nod to Japan’s deep economic ties with giant neighbour China, Suga said a



stable bilateral relationship was essential - but also said that Japan would maintain contact with “all like-minded nations for a free and open Indo-Pacific”.

Suga last week made his first visit to Vietnam and Indonesia, part of Japan’s efforts to strengthen ties with Southeast Asian countries as a counter to China’s growing push to assert claims over disputed East China Sea isles.

Suga initially was buoyed by strong support, but a poll conducted by the Nikkei and TV Tokyo at the weekend said his approval had fallen by 11 points to 63% since a poll after he took office a month ago.

Disapproval rose by 9 points to 26%, partly due to limited easing of international travel restrictions along with his rejection of six scholars for membership in a science advisory panel, raising concern about academic freedom, the Nikkei said.

Brazil Soars to China’s No. 3 Crude Oil Supplier in Sept

BEIJING (Reuters) - Brazil jumped to China’s third-biggest crude oil supplier in September, import data showed on Sunday, as China’s independent refiners scooped up cheap supplies of the South American exporter’s relatively high quality oil.

Imports from Brazil hit 4.49 million tons, up from 2.96 million tons a year earlier, data from China’s General Administration of Customs showed. Brazil overtook Iraq, which fell to fifth-biggest supplier.

China’s January-September imports from Brazil were 33.69 million tons, up 15.6% from a year earlier, according to Reuters calculations based on the data. China makes up 70% of Brazil’s oil exports, the country’s state oil firm Petrobras said in July.

Saudi Arabia regained the top spot in China’s oil purchases last month after losing that rank to Russia for the previous two months, data showed.

Imports from the kingdom were 7.78 million tons, equivalent to 1.89 million barrels per day (bpd), up from August’s 1.24 million bpd.

Russia supplied 7.48 million tons last month, or 1.82 million bpd, up 18.6% from a year earlier and up 32.8% from August, according to Reuters calculations.

For the first nine months of 2020, Russia remained the top seller with supplies totalling 64.62 million tons, 16% above year-ago level. Saudi Arabia trailed at 63.57 million tons, which was 6.5% higher on year.

U.S. shipments soared to 3.9 million tons in September, versus a year-earlier 517,982 tons.

China snapped up 13% more crude in the first nine months than a year earlier, as refiners ramped up production to meet speedy demand recovery from the pandemic and stock up at record rates on cheap oil.

Moon Richer in Water Than Once Thought

PARIS (AFP) - There may be far more water on the Moon than previously thought, according to two studies published Monday raising the tantalizing prospect that astronauts on future space missions could find refreshment -- and maybe even fuel -- on the lunar surface.

The Moon was believed to be bone dry until around a decade ago when a series of findings suggested that our nearest celestial neighbor has traces of water trapped in the surface.

Two new studies published in Nature Astronomy on Monday suggest there could be much more water than previously thought, including ice stored in permanently shadowed “cold traps” at lunar polar regions.

Previous research has found indications of water by scanning the surface -- but these were unable to distinguish between water (H2O) and hydroxyl, a molecule made up of one hydrogen atom and one oxygen atom.

But a new study provides further chemical proof that the Moon holds molecular water, even in sunlit areas.

Using data from the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) Airborne Telescope, researchers scanned the lunar surface at a more precise wavelength than had been used before -- six microns instead of three.

This allowed them to “unambiguously” distinguish the spectral fingerprint of molecular water, said co-author Casey Honniball, of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology.



Researchers believe the water might be trapped in glass beads, or another substance that protects it from the harsh lunar environment, Honniball told AFP, adding that further observation understand s would help better where the water may have come from and how it is stored.

“If we find the water is abundant enough in certain

locations we may be able to use it as a resource for human exploration,” Honniball said. “It could be used as drinking water, breathable oxygen, and rocket fuel.”

A second study looks at areas of the Moon’s polar regions, where water ice is believed to be trapped in lunar craters that never see sunlight.

Large hollows had previously been discovered -- NASA in 2009 found water crystals in a deep crater near the Moon’s southern pole.

But the new study found evidence of billions of micro-craters that could each cradle a miniscule amount of water ice.

“If you were standing on the Moon near one of the poles, you would see a whole ‘galaxy’ of little shadows speckled across the surface,” said lead author Paul Hayne of the Department of Astrophysics at the University of Colorado.

“Each of these tiny shadows -- most of them smaller than a coin -- would be extremely cold, and most of them cold enough to harbor ice.” This “suggests that water could be much more widespread on the Moon than previously thought”, Hayne told AFP.

Iran China...

FROM PAGE 1

Before the U.S. sanctions, China received about 700,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran.

The significant drop in Chinese oil imports from Iran comes as Beijing increased its oil imports from the United States by 7.5 times in September. The average Chinese oil imports from the United States in the first nine months of 2020 more than doubled compared to the same period last year.

Over the past few months, authorities in Iran have been promoting a draft of another 25-year agreement with China to turn Beijing into Tehran’s strategic partner.

Discussion over the agreement’s endorsement has been going on since 2015, while the Chinese party has not yet published its version of the draft. Beijing has so far preferred to avoid any official comment on the draft publicized by Tehran.

India, South Korea, Japan, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were Iran’s most important Asian trading partners in the pre-sanctions’ era.

For the past nine months, the Indian government’s data show that New Delhi’s imports from Iran have fallen by about 95 percent from the same period in 2019.

New Human...

FROM PAGE 1

“It is important to note that not only is the content of the recent report of the Special Rapporteur was based on the information and reports received from the terrorist groups affiliated with hostile governments against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including delusive allegations and unsubstantiated allegations, rather, the main text of the report is prepared with the provisions of these allegations and accusations, and wherever the Special Rapporteur wished, he cited the official views of the Iranian side, at the end of each issue and specified the “opinion of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Iran further said, “Surprisingly, in the report of the Special Rapporteur on Iran,

there is no single trace of and reference to tens of innocent children and hundreds of innocent patients who died due to the difficulty of accessing necessary medicine and medical equipment due to the imposition of cruel, illegal and criminal sanctions by the U.S. regime.”

“The politicized and inhumane approach injected in the recent report is to the extent that, firstly, implicitly justifies and legitimizes the illegal, oppressive and criminal U.S. sanctions, and in a seemingly humanitarian position calls on the countries who have carryout the illegal, oppressive and criminal sanctions against the Iranian people,” it added.

Macron Is...

FROM PAGE 1

Muslim people worldwide react to this unethical insult by launching protests and condemning it in the Islamic and non-Islamic societies against this stupid act of French President, and with boycotting French-made products, and consider it a new era of rise of global tendency to Islam, and they call it an opportunity for exposing the behind-the-scene reasons, Zionist factors and Freemasons in insulting the Islamic sanctities.

The leaders of hegemony system and Zionists, who are the main supporters of the extremist and takfiri currents as well as generating horror and violence in the world, will not be able to save the crisis-ridden and anti-humanity West from the self-made quagmire of anti-spirituality, and undoubtedly in the not-too-distant future, they will face with more deserved responses from the Islamic ummah rather than only boycotting the goods and protests in the streets.

Today according to the acknowledgements of teachers of the reputed European universities, birth of new generation of truth-seeking youths in all universities of the world like French university Sorbonne has driven Western government nuts.

Many groups of people, from Jews and Christians to Catholics and others have set the modus operandi of the Islamic Republic of Iran as the base for their thought, and they basically fight continuously with the ruling Freemasons. The number of prisoners of this struggle is confidentially in the hands of individuals who have chosen the Islamic Republic of Iran as their confident.

Today in the fake cradle of the so-called liberty, some thought is suppressed which predisposes the Re-Appearance of Hazrat Mahdi (A) in the world. The failure of foundations based on the thought and promotion of American, British and French Lodge (basic organizational unit of Freemasonry) has been revealed in anger of people like Macron.

Who is that is aware of the current condition in the world and does not see the hidden layers of the presence, mixed with anger, of Zionism and Freemasons in this divergence from liberalism in the structures of European parties? Today all of what is about to happen is in full accordance with written narrations of Re-Appearance of the Savior.

Nations are more awake so that Masonism can take them as its slaves. Hearts are clear and aware and see the dawn very near despite the night-lover bats have lurked in the darkness. People like Macron should also wait and see and taste the result of what has been poured out of their stinking existence.

Oil Minister...

FROM PAGE 1

The U.S. Treasury Department made the announcement in a statement on Monday, saying the sanctions targeted eight officials and entities as well as the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC).

The British-based companies of Madanipour, Mobin Holding Limited and Oman Fuel Trading Ltd were also blacklisted. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Washington was slapping sanctions on “key actors” in Iran’s oil sector for what he claimed was supporting the Quds Force of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), which has already been blacklisted.

The Treasury also said that four of the individuals were accused of being involved in the recent sale of Iranian gasoline to the government of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Under the imposed sanctions, as the statement said, all the property and interests in possession of these persons would be blocked, and US citizens would be prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.

Zarif...

FROM PAGE 1

“So today, we have to ask ourselves, ‘Is our world more secure or less secure than it was in 1945?’ How can we counter the unilateralism and humiliation of the international law by a bully who only knows how to use a big stick and speak arrogantly?” asked Zarif.

He also highlighted: “And how can we contain a power that has spent more than 220 of its 244-year history in war; and 39 military conflicts and nearly 120 economic wars since 1945 - which are deceptively called “sanctions?”

Zarif reminded that in fact, no one wins in a war, adding: “It’s time to change the approach; save the blood and wealth of Americans and the world from further misery.”

“Carefree is the oxygen the United States needs to continue bullying,” he told the countries of the world. “The United States’ appetite grows only by appeasement, by bowing down to its illegal actions against others, in the hope of curbing its anger. It does not work my friends.”

“At the age of 75, the United Nations needs to commit and unite itself and stand up to unilateralism and war,” he said.

Cantlay Wins Zozo Championship

LONDON (Dispatches) - Patrick Cantlay staged a back-nine charge to speed past world number two Jon Rahm and number three Justin Thomas and claim a one-shot win at the Zozo Championship in Thousand Oaks, California.

American Cantlay, who began the day three back of overnight leader Thomas, carded a final round seven-under-par 65 at the Sherwood Country Club to collect his third career PGA Tour title with a winning total of 23-under 265.

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Rohit, Ishant Omitted From India's Australia Tour Squads

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India left out the injured duo of opener Rohit Sharma and quick Ishant Sharma from the test and limited-overs squads for their upcoming tour of Australia but will continue to monitor their progress, the cricket board said on Monday.

Ishant has been ruled out of remainder of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) in the United Arab Emirates after suffering an abdominal muscle tear earlier in the tournament.

Djokovic Eyes "Amazing" Sampras Yearend WorldNo.1 in Vienna

VIENNA (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic said it will be "amazing" to equal childhood idol Pete Sampras's all-time record of ending the year as world number one on six occasions.

Djokovic will make sure he matches the great American by winning two matches at this week's Vienna ATP tournament.

The 33-year-old Serb has been the top-ranked player at the end of a season five times: in 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2018.

He shares that mark with career rivals Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Sampras achieved the feat six years in succession between 1993 and 1998.

"Sampras was my childhood idol growing up and it will be amazing to tie his record by being the year-end world number one six time," Djokovic told a news conference on Sunday. Djokovic has another target -- beating Federer's all-time best of 310 weeks spent on top of the rankings.

On Monday, Djokovic began his 292nd week in total as world number one.

Should he stay in pole position, he will pass Federer in early March 2021 although he admits that in the current climate everything in the sport remains "unpredictable".

"It's my great goal to achieve that and it's something I am working towards," said Djokovic.

"I hope it happens in March, but let's see. So many unpredictable things can happen and things change week by week."

Djokovic will play in Vienna for the first time since he won the title there in 2007.



However, his path to a fifth title of 2020 will likely run into defending Vienna champion and home star Dominic Thiem in the final. Djokovic and US Open winner Thiem are two of six top 10 players in the draw in the Austrian capital.

"The quality of matches from the first round will be very, very high," said Djokovic.

Djokovic said he was surprised when he saw the draw, which revealed he will play countryman Krajcinovic in the first round.

They are tied 1-1 in their head-to-head series, with Djokovic beating Krajcinovic in straight sets last month at the Rome Masters.

"I practised with Filip for a few days in Belgrade before coming here and we joked around that we might draw each other and that's what happened," Djokovic said.

"The odds of this happening are very slim. But it is what it is. We are great friends, I've known Filip for a long time.

"He's a very talented guy, hard court is his preferred surface. He can play very quick tennis. We have similar games actually because we kind of grew up together."

Thiem faces Japan's Kei Nishikori in the first round.

Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas, the ATP Finals champion, is the third seed with Russia's Daniil Medvedev taking the fourth seeding.

Humbert Lifts Antwerp Title



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - France's Ugo Humbert produced a masterful performance to beat Australian eighth seed Alex de Minaur 6-1 7-6(4) and win his second ATP Tour title at the European Open in Antwerp on Sunday.

Having won his maiden title in Auckland in January, the 22-year-old Humbert impressed this week with a notable win over second seed Pablo Carreno Busta and was put to the test in the semi-final when he saved four match points against Dan Evans.

Humbert did not drop serve against De Minaur, winning an impressive 80% of his second serve points while he also dictated rallies, with forehand winners down the line a constant feature in a dominant opening set.

Humbert had the chance to break at 4-4 in the second set but De Minaur found his rhythm to take it to a tiebreak where the Frenchman converted his first match point with a drop volley.

"It is one of my biggest wins. I'm super happy to win my second title this year against a really great player," Humbert said. "I was aggressive like (in) the previous matches and I am super happy to do it."

Champions League Is "Our Competition"

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich forward Thomas Mueller said on Monday the Champions League holders are "happy to be playing in our competition again" ahead of their group-stage game at Lokomotiv Moscow.

Bayern visit the Russian capital looking to build on a 4-0 thrashing of Atletico Madrid in last week's Group A opener.

"We're happy to be playing in our competition again," Mueller told a pre-match press conference.

"We want to continue the flow we currently find ourselves in. "We're confident, the team is in form, the omens are positive."

Bayern, who have won their last six matches in all competitions, have reached the Champions League knockout stage in each of the last 12 seasons.

"Bayern are always among the favourites, we are always in the mix in spring," added Mueller, who has won the European Cup twice with the Bavarian giants.

"At the moment, we feel very, very strong, but that won't help us in March and April when it comes to the knockout stage. However, I have faith in the club and the team."

Lokomotiv had to settle for a 2-2 draw at Salzburg last week before suffering a shock defeat in the Russian Premier League by Rotor Volgograd.

Man City Ready to Win Champions League

PARIS (Dispatches) - Marseille coach Andre Villas-Boas said on Monday Manchester City are "a machine ready to win the Champions League", on the eve of the two teams' group-stage meeting.

City have never reached the Champions League final and are yet to even reach the semi-finals in four attempts under Pep Guardiola.

"(City) are a machine ready to win the Champions League," said Villas-Boas. "They may not be at their best level, their coach admitted that."

"That's why I allow myself to say that, but they are still at a higher level than us and remain the favorites tomorrow."



6-3 to win the bett1HULKS Indoor title at the same venue last Sunday. Zverev, this year's U.S. Open runner-up, sent down nine aces and won an incredible

Zverev Completes Cologne Double

COLOGNE (Reuters) - Top seed Alexander Zverev won his second ATP title in Cologne in the space of a week with a quickfire 6-2 6-1 demolition of Argentine Diego Schwartzman in the final of the bett1HULKS Championship on Sunday.

The German world number seven had claimed his first ATP crown of the year by besting Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3

83% of his first serve points as he cruised through the clash with 28-year-old second seed Schwartzman in 71 minutes without being broken.

"Two days ago I wasn't sure if I was going to finish the tournament. Now I'm here as the champion," a beaming Zverev said while accepting the trophy.

Schwartzman, the world number nine, had beaten Zverev in two of their three previous meetings but looked strangely out of his depth in the final, winning 60% of his first serves and just 23% of his second serves while making five double faults.

Zverev broke the Argentine to go 3-2 up in the first set and never looked back, breaking his hapless opponent four more times during the course of the match.

"Sascha was much better today," Schwartzman said. "He deserved to win last week here and today he was perfect on court."

Pogba Denies Quitting France Team Over Macron Comments



PARIS (Reuters) - Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba on Monday denied media reports that said he quit the France national team over comments made by the country's President Emmanuel Macron which were perceived to be against Islam.

The French leader this month declared war on "Islamist separatism", which he believes is taking over some Muslim communities in France.

The Sun newspaper alleged that Pogba, a practising Muslim, reacted to Macron's comments by quitting the national team.

"Unacceptable," the 27-year-old wrote on a Twitter post along with a "fake news" sticker on a screenshot of the headline from The Sun.

"So The Sun did it again," he added. "Absolutely 100% unfounded news about me are going around, stating things I have never said or thought."

"I am appalled, angry, shocked and frustrated some 'media' sources use me to make total fake headlines in the sensible subject of French current events and adding the French national team to the pot."

"I am against any and all forms of terror and violence. Unfortunately, some press people don't act responsibly when writing the news, abusing their press freedom, not verifying if what they write/reproduce is true, creating a gossip chain without caring (if) it affects people's lives and my life."

Pogba added that he was taking legal action against the publishers.

"We reported on a story that Paul Pogba had taken the decision to quit the French national football team after it was published on a sports website," The Sun newspaper said in a statement. "The story was also published by The Mirror, Mail Online and other websites."

Man Utd to Provide 5,000 Free School Meals in October Holidays



LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United said on Monday that they will provide 5,000 free school meals during the October half-term holidays to help forward Marcus Rashford's campaign to end child food poverty in the United Kingdom.

Rashford has campaigned for the government to provide food vouchers during school holidays to children who normally receive free meals during term time if their parents receive welfare support. Dozens of local organisations all over the country came forward last week to supply free school meals in response to the 22-year-old's plea on social media.

Now, working together with the charity FareShare, meals will be prepared and packaged individually at Old Trafford by club staff before being shipped to local Manchester United Foundation partner schools.

Six local schools will receive the meals while others will be delivered to local charities.

"Many of Manchester's children are going hungry and they are particularly vulnerable during school holidays when they cannot benefit from the meal voucher programme," Collette Roche, Chief Operating Officer at United said.

"In parallel with the brilliant work being done individually by Marcus Rashford, we're proud that the club continues to step in alongside FareShare, the Foundation and their partner schools to help fill this void."

Rashford forced a government U-turn in July when he won his battle to ensure free school meals during the summer holidays. He then proposed extending the campaign for families receiving financial assistance from the government. Parliament on Wednesday rejected a Labour Party motion to extend free school meals until Easter 2021 from the cut-off before the half-term and winter holidays, prompting the England international to launch his campaign on social media.