

IRAN NEWS Felicitates Its Muslim Readers Over the Auspicious Birthday Anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). The Next Issue Will Hit the News-Stands On Wednesday

IRAN NEWS

On the Occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei Will Deliver a Speech on Tuesday, November 3

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Zarif Unveils Details of Initiative to Resolve Nagorno-Karabakh Crisis

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian foreign minister has announced details of Tehran's initiative to help settle the Nagorno-Karabakh crisis.

In comments on Sunday, Mohammad Javad Zarif noted Iran's plan to establish peace in the Nagorno-Karabakh region is a move towards resolving the conflict between Armenia and the Azerbaijan Republic as well as the pullout of occupying forces from captured areas.

"Since the beginning of the Karabakh crisis, we have been holding consultations with the regional countries, including the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia as well as Russia and Turkey," he said.

"We believe that the regional countries bear the brunt of this war, and that these very countries can be most influential in ending the war in the region," the top diplomat added.

"Accordingly, we held consultations to achieve that goal (ending the conflict) without trying to rival other mechanisms such as the [measures adopted by the] Minsk [Group]," Zarif said.

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Daily Rise in Iran's COVID-19 Fatalities At All-Time High Again

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has confirmed 434 new fatalities caused by the novel coronavirus, increasing the overall death toll to 35,298.

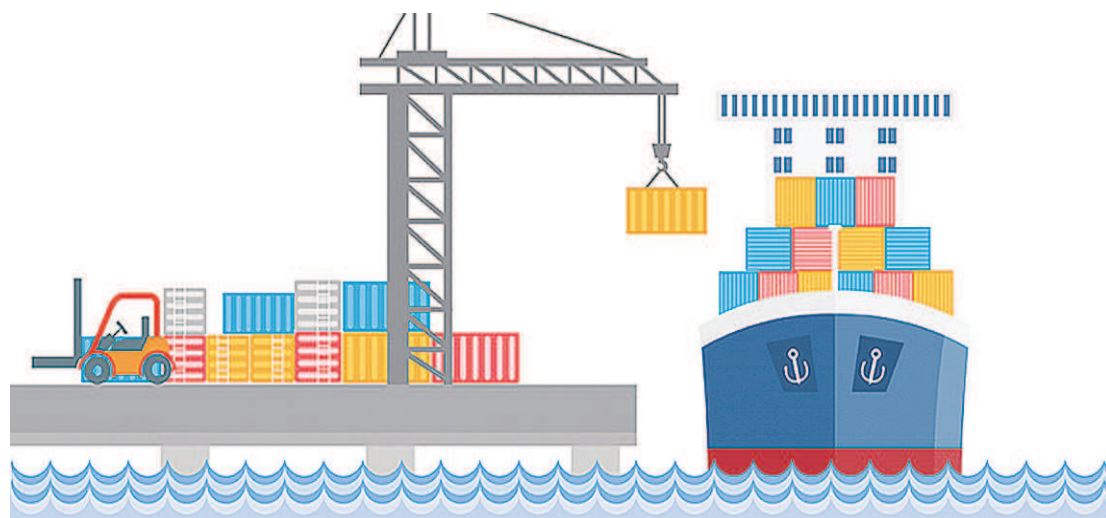
In her press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima-Sadat Lari reported 7,719 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of cases to 620,491. So far, she added, 486,691 patients have recovered from the disease or been discharged from the hospital.

Lari said 5,244 patients are also in critical conditions caused by more severe infection. The spokeswoman noted that 4,965,326 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country so far.

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

The "orange" and "yellow" zones also include Golestan, Hormozgan, Fars, and Sistan-and-Baluchestan provinces, she added.

Iran Non-Oil Exports Grow Positively, Hit \$12b



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization says the trend of Iran's non-oil exports in all categories enjoy positive trend and with easing the repatriation of forex resulted from exports to the national economic cycle, the current trend positive will continue.

Speaking in the first meeting of Foreign Trade Monitoring Committee yesterday, Hamid Zadboum said that the country exported \$12 billion worth of non-oil goods to 17 target countries in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to Sept. 22).

He stated that the export growth trend in all non-oil commodities and products is positive and with opening Letter of Credit (L/C) and facilitating export currency, this positive trend will continue.

Easing import process versus export for accelerating repatriation of export currency to the economy of the country was an important move which was approved at the necessary follow up by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and in cooperation with the responsible organizations at the Government's Economic Coordination Board.

Secretary of Supreme Council of Promotion of Non-Oil Export pointed to the promotion of export of non-oil commodities to 17 prioritized target countries and put the total value of non-oil products exported to these countries in the first half of the current year at over \$12 billion.

Turning to the export growth of non-oil products to Eurasia since Nov. 2019 to August 22, 2020, he said that export of products to five Eurasian countries within the framework of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) registered a 65 percent growth, TPOI chief Zadboum underscored.

He went on to say that the structure of Iran's preferential trade agreement with Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) should be pursued based on implementing the win-win trade policy and development of trade relations in line with the pre-planned goals.

Zadboum reiterated that development of non-oil exports should turn into a national determination especially for the state organs in the macro level, adding that the U.S. cruel sanctions have created huge opportunities for the country and by removing the domestic challenges all should help the country to materialize forex-earning through these opportunities.

Air Force to Conduct War Game in Central Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force will start the final phase of a military drill on Monday in Isfahan province.

Speaking in a press conference on Sunday, Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh noted that the process of the drill, codenamed Fada'eeyan-e Harim-e Velayat 9 (The Devotees of the Velayat Sanctuary 9), has started since Saturday with the transfer of aircraft to Isfahan province.

"In this stage of the drill, dozens of fighter jets, bombers, heavy and semi-heavy transport, refueling, interceptor and reconnaissance aircraft, air patrols and drones will perform the main and operational phase of the exercise for 2 days," said the commander.

The drill is being staged with the aim of boosting military readiness, practicing operations, and achieving suitable patterns for a real conflict using manned and unmanned aircraft, he said.

Commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh addressing the press conference of the drill Carrying out surveillance operations using aerial images taken by manned and unmanned planes, destroying air and ground targets using precision missiles, air patrol operations using interceptor aircraft equipped with indigenous missiles to deal with any air aggression of the enemy, aerial refueling, and modern warfare operations to counter emerging enemy threats are important parts of this large-scale exercise, added the Brigadier General.

Exercising long-range operations of fighters outside the defense ring and witnessing the accuracy of missiles and rockets and their destructive power in air-to-air and air-to-ground combats are among other main aspects of this war game, according to the commander.

The enemy has failed to affect the defense power of the country despite its all-out pressures in recent years, he said.

Noting that the Air Force has staged three drills in the current year alone, Nasirzadeh added this shows the 'readiness and combat capability' of the force and that sanctions 'have had no effect' on Iran's military section. "It is been years that we have experienced sanctions and stood on our feet; we have no reliance on foreigners and whether sanctions are lifted or not it will have no influence on our defense power," he said.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Muslims Unity Indebted To Martyr Soleimani

The media outlets either official or unofficial or virtual and news websites are today filled with empathy and agreement with Muslims against French President Emmanuel Macron who last week and under the pretext of freedom of expression jumped into defense and support of publishing defamatory cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) by the Zionist French weekly Charlie Hebdo.

Even if Charlie Hebdo was after weighing the change in the structure of affection to dear Prophet of Islam (PBUH), and even if Macron with his disgraceful support was after discovering the propagation effects and cultural penetration of anti-religion Freemasonry against commitment of Muslims to their religion, today they fully and to the depths of their miserable souls have noticed that Muslims, hundreds of times more united than ever have joined the united rows with a united demand to shut the mouth of a prater like Macron and his disgraceful magazine.

But truly what issue has been able, despite the danger of Coronavirus, to turn this unity, empathy, these tight rows, with such a glory into an indescribable passion, and to make the silenced rancor and ready-for-explosion roar of Muslims to burst due to the foolishness of an obscene and faceless magazine and the support of a lowbrow president, helpless with spread of resistance spirit?

In this analysis I just go through the irreplaceable role of unjust shed of Martyr Qassem Soleimani's blood that two substantive natures have been able to provide an intellectual, cultural, religious and supportive revolution in the Muslim world which in fact, it has not been left unnoticed. I address first, the impact of the nature of the Islamic Revolution and its special inspiration in drawing up the development of the culture of resistance and justice-seeking for Muslim and freedom-seeking nations in demanding global developments, and injection of hope to the world people towards changing the structure of global power; and secondly the influential role of Martyr Lieutenant General Soleimani and his innocent comrades, who were assassinated defenselessly by the coward White House, in uniting and stabilizing security and inducing the total meaning of monotheistic in the Muslim world.

Today Muslim ummah from the remotest part of the West to the farthest land in the east of the Earth has univocally responded to the call of the Islamic Revolution and created an incredible revolution. Despite those who have hands in thought and pen, this is the blood of martyrs of Baghdad Airport which has gifted this identity to the nations.

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Iran to Test COVID-19 Vaccine on Human Soon

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Health Ministry spokeswoman has unveiled plans to conduct the first human test of a homegrown vaccine for the coronavirus infection in the coming weeks.

In comments, Sima Sadat Lari highlighted the good progress that Iran has made in developing the coronavirus vaccine, which has been already tested on monkeys.

She expressed hope that the Iranian vaccine would undergo human tests within the next couple of weeks.

The spokeswoman also stressed the need to observe the health protocols to prevent a new wave of coronavirus in the wintertime, particularly in the poorly ventilated indoor places.

"The coronavirus completely conforms to our social behavior," Lari noted, warning that lax observance of the health protocols and the failure to take the pandemic seriously would raise the infection rate.

Meanwhile Health Minister Saeed Namaki said Iran's achievement in fighting coronavirus was exemplary in the world despite the intensification of the coronavirus pandemic and severe sanctions, with the cooperation of the Basij, Armed Forces, and all people.

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FM Deplores Iranian Deaths at English Channel

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry on Sunday deplored Iranian deaths at English Channel, saying that it will take home bodies of an Iranian family drowned in sea disaster two days ago.

Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs public relations department said in a statement on Sunday: the director general of the consular affairs and Iran Embassy in Paris, since the first moments of the tragic incident have taken necessary measures to take home bodies of the Iranian family.

The statement added, "there are reports of authenticity and not confirmed in some media, it is obvious that the official announcement of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the center for public and media diplomacy."

Iran Unveils Civil Defense Document

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Defense Ministry on Sunday unveiled a "standard document" on civil defense.

The Defensive Civil Defense Standard Document of Iran was unveiled in Tehran in an event attended by Deputy Defense Minister General Qassem Taqizadeh and Head of Civil Defense Organization Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali.

According to the deputy minister, the homegrown document provides a set of standard civil defense instructions at all levels.

The document has been prepared by Defense Ministry experts in collaboration with the Civil Defense Organization of Iran.

In 2014, General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces unveiled the country's civil defense national strategy document.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Jalali said that none of the region's countries had made as much progress in civil defense as Iran, emphasizing that Iran has the most comprehensive civil defense in the region.



Referring to Iran's significant progress in various branches of civil defense, Jalali said in the fields of economic, political, military, and people-centered defense, Iran has enjoyed great growth in the region and many regional countries do not have majors in many areas.

He also said that the Americans had designed about 20 new strategies on various issues against Iran, which is an example of hybrid warfare, in which Tehran does not face just one model of sanctions.

The head of Iran's Civil defense organization stated that active resistance is the best response to US atrocities against Iran.

Desecration of Prophet of Islam, Sign of French Diplomacy's Fall

TEHRAN (IP) - Ali Akbar Velayati, senior adviser to the leader of the Islamic Revolution on international affairs, says blaspheming the Prophet of Islam (PBUH) in France indicates the fall of diplomacy in the European country.

During a ceremony on Saturday, the advisor said that France is no longer the country whose presidents played a vital role in the world.

The current French president follows the Zionists and does these for the sake of the usurper Israel, the official added.

Velayati added: "Macron's anti-Islamic behavior has caused him to be hated in the Islamic world, and if he continues, the Islamic world will stand against these insults."

Emmanuel Macron has accused Muslims of separatism and vowed not to give up cartoons depicting Prophet Muhammad.

New Ambassador Vows to Cooperate With Yemeni Gov't to Establish Peace

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iran's new Ambassador to Sana'a Hassan Irlou deplored assassination of Yemeni Sports Minister Hassan Zaid, stressing his preparedness to cooperate with the government in Yemen to establish peace and uproot terrorism.

"The Iranian foreign ministry strongly condemns the assassination of Hassan Zaid, Yemen's minister of sports and the youth," Irlou wrote on his twitter page on Sunday.

"We will cooperate with the Yemeni government to establish security and peace and uproot terrorism," he added.

Yemen confirmed last Tuesday that Zaid has been killed in an assassination operation carried out by criminal elements affiliated to the Saudi-led aggressors.

Iran's new ambassador to Sana'a in a meeting with Foreign Minister of the Yemeni National Salvation Government Hisham Sharaf in Sana'a last Tuesday submitted a copy of his credentials.

Irlou was born in Shahr-e Rey district of Tehran in 1959. He holds an MA degree in Arabs and Peninsula politics. Irlou is a veteran Iranian diplomat who managed Yemen desk at the foreign ministry after the start of war in the country in 2015. He has also served efforts to coordinate Iran's humanitarian aid to Yemen once the war ends (sending aid planes and ships and coordination with the UN to dispatch humanitarian aid). Irlou has also been a special aide to the Iranian foreign minister on Yemen issues (2014-2020).

Three Iranian Animations Go to Corti a Ponte festival

TEHRAN (MNA) - Three Iranian animations have been accepted into the 13th edition of Corti a Ponte in Italy.

'The Fisherman and Spring' by Hassan Soltani, 'The Cycling Wind', by Nazanin Sobhan Sarbandi, and 'Am I a Wolf?' by Amir Houshang Moein are to be screened at the international event which started on October 31 and will go on till November 7.

The Fisherman and Spring is based on Mojgan Kalhor's illustrated children's book 'The Fisherman and Spring', which tells the story of a fisherman who lives in a snowy region with a very long winter. The Fisherman supposes that the spring has lost its way to the region, therefore he starts searching for it. A little fish and a group of birds also join him in searching for the missing spring.

The Cycling Wind is a 6-minute animation that tells the story of a young wind that comes into possession of a bike, which helps the wind to blow even faster without spending much energy, and to truly enjoy its time. The freedom and the strength that bike give the wind allows it to embark on new adventures.

"Am I a Wolf?" depicts a number of students who are performing a play called "The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats". The child who plays the wolf knows he will be defeated and feels lonely and irritated. He takes his role too seriously. There is a bit of chaos. In the end, the presence of other children and his friends next to him take him out of this gloomy atmosphere. The 13th edition of Corti a Ponte is being held online in Ponte San Nicolò, Padova.

The festival is considered a unique event in Italy for the presence of a large international section dedicated to children and young people, with projections of short films made by children and young people from all over the world selected for quality and cultural value.

Coronavirus Diagnosis, Screening Must Be Nationwide



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli said yesterday that rapid coronavirus detection and screening nationwide is a priority that all organizations should assist the Ministry of Health to achieve it.

In an operational meeting of the National Task Force, Combating coronavirus, Rahmani-Fazli added that coronavirus screening and diagnosis should be done on a large scale to prevent further disease spread.

Noting that oversight discussions are the Health Ministry's responsibility, the Minister of Interior clarified that to implement the measures to prevent the further spread of corona disease, all bodies should work regionally and locally.

Rahmani-Fazli stated that the Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Trade is responsible for preparing masks in the country, which should be distributed carefully under the Ministry of Health's supervision.

In the meeting, decisions were made regarding the entrance and exit of passengers from the country, which is binding, he highlighted.

Regarding news and content production about the disease, we also have good capacities in the police, the Ministry of Intelligence, and others, which should be presented together with a plan.

He concluded that all committees and executive bodies must work hard and decisively to implement these resolutions.

The first operational meeting of the National Task Force Combating was held in Tehran on Saturday in the presence of the Minister of the interior.

Rahmani Fazli also emphasized the people's self-care against coronavirus.

He said that the focus in today's meeting was the use of people-based organizations to prevent and treat the coronavirus. He stated that previously social organizations were very effective in difficulties such as earthquakes and floods.

Rahmani Fazli noted that in the meeting: "It was suggested that active NGOs (Non-Governmental Organization) would be set up in different provinces and regions with the priority of diagnosing and screening coronavirus."

He called on the media to provide comprehensive information about the coronavirus in the preparation of film and documentary programs.

"An appropriate mechanism should be adopted so that at the same time, the participation of all bodies will be achieved to unite and control the disease," Rahmani Fazli concluded.

Audacity Towards Sanctities Is Violation of Human Dignity

TEHRAN (MNA) - In a reaction to the statements of French President Emmanuel Macron, First Deputy Speaker of the Iranian Parliament said that rudeness towards sanctities is clear violation of dignity of all human beings.

Speaking in an open session of Parliament on Sunday, Seyed Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi first congratulated the birth anniversary of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Ja'far Sadiq (PBUH), marking the Unity Week, and stated, "Founder of the Islamic Revolution the late Imam Khomeini (RA) called the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (BPUH) as Unity Week in order to confront the conspiracies waged by enemies of Islam."

The Unity Week is the best opportunity in clarification of prophetic traditions and characteristics to human communities, he said, adding, "Cultural Commission of the Parliament is duty bound, while preparing plans in supporting publication of basic and fundamental characteristics of Prophet of Mercy, to expand and spread characteristics of Prophet of Islam (PBUH) and theoretical sciences of Imam Ja'far Sadiq (PBUH)."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ghazizadeh Hashemi



pointed to the expansion and development of pure culture of Islam as the important objective of the Islamic Revolution and added, "Relationship between Shia and Sunni is unbreakable in a way that a close and intimate relationship has been created between Shia and Sunni. If anyone says a word that causes division among Muslims, know it for sure that he or she is ignorant."

He then reacted to the shameful remarks of French President in insulting the Holy Prophet of Islam Hazrat Muhammad (BPUH) and added, "The media outlets of the Zionist regime and the United States and their other supporters have taken the most brazen approach to confront pure Islam and prevent independence of European youth and their inclination to the pure religion of Islam."

Western countries do not value the inalienable freedoms of their citizens at all, Ghazizadeh Hashemi emphasized.

The French and European authorities should know that protection of divine sanctities is part of the common human values and that arrogance towards these sanctuaries is a violation of the sanctity of all human beings, he added.

Tehran, La Paz to Develop Bilateral Cooperation

TEHRAN (IP) - During a meeting between the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in La Paz, Morteza Tafreshi, and Luis Arce, President-elect of Bolivia, the two sides discussed ways to develop bilateral cooperation.

The President-elect of Bolivia, Luis Arce, praised the congratulatory message of the President and Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the occasion of his victory in the elections and said that after the start of the new government, he will reactivate the bilateral relations and cooperation that were stagnant during the period of the Bolivian interim government.

Referring to the friendship between the two nations of Iran and Bolivia, Arce expressed hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue to cooperate and support the Bolivian government in the technical, scientific, and industrial fields.

Luis Arce, the left-wing candidate of the Movement for Socialism party, won the Bolivian presidential election on October 18, 2020, with more than 55% of the vote and will take power next week.



West Must Cycle of Insult, Hostility

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri on Saturday emphasized that insult and enmity cannot be promoted in the name of freedom, saying that the West must stop the cycle of insult and violence.

Addressing the seventh session of the Coordination Headquarters for Cultural Engineering Map on Saturday, he congratulated the Iranian people and Muslims worldwide on the Week of Unity, saying that this week has been ornamented with the name of the Prophet of mercy, kindness, and tolerance.

"It is the honor of all Muslims to be educated and grown up in this great school and to follow in the footsteps of the Holy Prophet of Islam (PBUH)," Jahangiri said.

He regretted the unfortunate incidents and news of insults and violence released in the West, saying that no one should insult the Prophet of Islam in the name of freedom and democracy, IRNA reported.

The official went on to say that such behavior is intolerable for the two billion Muslims around the world who treat the Holy Prophet (PBUH) as a role model.

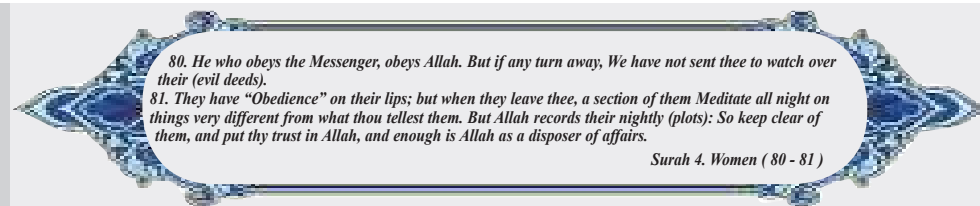
"Beheading people and attacking holy sites of other religions with religious justification is not accepted at all," Iran's first vice-president reiterated.

Noting that insulting Muslims will certainly have its repercussions, Jahangiri hoped that the French President Emmanuel Macron would understand how harmful this can be.



PRAYER TIME

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| ■ Noon (Zohr) | 11:47 |
| ■ Evening (Maghreb) | 17:26 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) | 05:03 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Sunrise | 06:28 |



Industry Minister Vows to Resolve Export Problems

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – New Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini said that improving the country's non-oil exports has been a priority of his ministry since he took office.

In the past month, the first and most important mission defined in the ministry has been to remove the barriers in the way of the country's exports, Razm Hosseini said in a meeting with the country's major exporters on Saturday.

According to the minister, the past five sessions of the Government's Economic Coordination Headquarters have been focusing on the issues related to the exports, and the supply of foreign currency earned from the exports for the imports of the country's needs, that is allowing exports in return for the imports of commodities required by the government.

"President Rouhani is expected to instruct new policies on the process of exports in return for imports, over the next few days," he added.

Razm Hosseini noted that the list of import items required by the country has been prepared, which will be provided to the exporters, and all exporters with a foreign currency commitment from the previous year (ended on March 19) can introduce an importer or be the importer themselves to be allowed to export.

The official further emphasized the need for providing necessary grounds with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to facilitate the conditions for increasing trade with neighboring countries.



Promoting this type of barter trade (allowing exports in return for imports) has been used several times over the past five decades in Iran.

For instance, a program exactly like the one recently proposed, was implemented in the Iranian calendar year 1370 (started in March 1991), in which the government allowed traders to export whatever goods they could manage but expected them to import only the commodity items specified by the government.

Also, the government has recently proposed a scheme for barter trade of oil in return for importing basic goods.

In the mentioned scheme, the government supports the traders to export crude oil in exchange for other commodities.

Razm Hosseini also emphasized the border economy and exports to the neighboring states, saying that 80 percent of Iran's \$13.5b exports in the first half of the year has been to the neighboring states. He added so the road of exports to those countries should be paved and rial-based hurdles for exports to countries like Afghanistan and Iraq should be removed.

He once again reiterated that special attention to the non-oil exports is his ministry's priority and the ministry will do its best to ease the course for economic activists and exporters to continue their exports.

Tehran to Host Webinar On Business in Austria

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce is to hold a webinar on the condition of business and trade in Austria on Monday, November 9.



According to the chamber, the specialized webinar will be held in collaboration with the chamber and Austria's Embassy in Tehran as well as legal Austrian institute DORDA, and it will be focused on the business in Austria for introducing business condition in Austria to Iranian economic activists and companies which are interested in entering this European market.

In this virtual event which will be held on November 9 afternoon, some topics related to the trade opportunities for Iranian trade and companies in Austria and related mechanism for launching companies in this country as well as how they can open banking accounts or get residence.

In this webinar, Austrian Ambassador Christoph Grabmayr, DORDA senior associate Mr. Elmar Drabek as well as some Austrian experts are to participate and to answer the questions.

Exports to EU Rises 4.6%

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran exported \$578.69 million' worth of merchandise to the EU member countries in the first eight months of this year, augmented 4.6 percent year on year.

The Netherlands imported \$110.94 million dollars' value of merchandise from Iran throughout the period in question, posting an upsurge of 714 percent from the same period of 2019, it was reported.

Iran's imports from the EU countries, nevertheless, declined throughout the first eight months.

More than \$2.86 billion ' worth of merchandise were imported from EU states to Iran, marking a year-on-year drop of 15.63 percent, according to the statement.

Iranian Folk Music Sign of Domestic Cultural Diversity



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Abbas Salehi in a message on Saturday said that the Iranian folk music is a sign of domestic cultural diversity.

On the occasion of the 13th edition of Iran's Folk Music Festival, Salehi issued a message, noting that the event is held online and offline in the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic.

The festival is an event that reminds the significance of regional music in Iran and provides the opportunity to introduce this music further and its dynamics in the community, he underlined.

Viewing the performances of bands and artists participating in the festival in cyberspace and documenting regional music and artists' performances has made it possible to watch them in the future, Salehi pointed out.

The Iranian Folk Music Festival can be considered as the most widely held and the most important music festival in Iran.

Preserving the originality of different Iranian music and familiarizing the young generation of Iran and the world with this rich heritage are the main objectives of this festival.

The event also aimed to save some of the lesser-known tunes of Iranian music from oblivion.

Trump's New Sanctions Nothing New

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry says the new sanctions which were imposed by the U.S. administration on Iran and some entities is nothing new and it is just like "playing with names".

Speaking to ILNA, Majid-Reza Hariri talked about new U.S. sanctions which were imposed by the U.S. Treasury on some companies active in China and some part of Iran's Petrochemical industry, saying that there is nothing new in these sanctions because the U.S. has earlier imposed a set of sanctions and in the framework of those sanctions, the country just plays with the names and sanctioning them. He reiterated that recent sanctions are just the same sanctions which had already been imposed and even Chinese media have called it a rehash in order to show these sanctions are redundant.

Hariri noted that it had already been announced that some parts of Iran's petrochemical industry was under sanctions and now those individuals and entities who do not observe the sanctions are slapped with sanctions.

On the impacts of sanctions on the probable talks with the U.S., he said it seems the goal behind these sanctions is mostly to provide a psych atmosphere and it has no certain impact.

He added but the practical impact is that either Joe



Biden who seems in driving seat or Donald Trump wins the election, if we are to take our problems with us to the negotiating table with the U.S., they can be used.

Hariri noted that so, at the time of negotiations if the number of the sanction cases is more, it will have more bulky look on the table and each case will need talks, and as the result, they uselessly make the case heavier just to show it bulky on the table.

He stated that the more the number of cases, the more talks and concessions will be needed.

Over 2.4m Tons of Commodities Traded on IME in October

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - At the end of October 2020, different trading floors of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) witnessed trading of more than 2,462,977 tons of commodities worth over \$983m.

According to the report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, during the last month, the oil and petrochemical trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 1,374,735 MT of commodities worth more than \$439m.

On this trading floor, more than 349,150 MT of bitumen, 269,990 MT of polymer products and 147,633 MT of chemical products, 438,060 MT of VB feed stock, 96,500 MT of lube cut oil, 56,005 MT of sulfur, 7,434 MT of insulation, 700 MT of argon as well as 9,263 MT of oil products were traded by customers.

The metal and mineral trading floor witnessed trading over 1,085,325 MT of commodities worth more than \$541m.

On this trading floor 991,864 MT of steel, 16,695 MT of copper, 480 MT of molybdenum concentrates, 36 MT of precious metals concentrates, 53,420 MT of zinc, 21,290 MT of aluminum, 40 MT of lead ingot, 1,500 MT of coke as well as 50 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

Furthermore, in agricultural trading floor of the IME more than 1,730 kg of saffron worth over \$174,000 was traded by the customers.

The side market of the IME experienced trading of a total of 1,500 empty barrels, 70 MT of industrial soot, 504 MT of tomato paste, 58 MT of used locomotive engine oil, 852 MT of metal scrap, 750 MT of ferrosilicon as well as 280 MT of normal paraffin.

Iran, Bosnia Keen on Boosting Economic Ties

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Ambassador to Sarajevo and Bosnian parliament speaker discussed the ways of expanding cooperation, especially in the economic field.

Meeting with Nikola Špirić on Saturday, Iran's ambassador to Sarajevo Reza Qelichkhan considering parliamentary ties between Iran and Bosnia, stressed that meetings of the two countries' parliamentary chairmen and exchange of parliamentary friendship groups are among the issues for which the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate and develop it.

Qelichkhan pointed to the good ties between Iran and Bosnia and said that respecting Bosnia's territorial integrity and national sovereignty since the beginning of the

independence of the country, the Islamic Republic of Iran has stood by the Bosnian nation and government, supporting the integrity and peaceful co-existence of among all Bosnian tribes.

Nikola Špirić for his part described Iran as a country with a rich culture and kind people and emphasized the expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the will of the parliamentary officials of Bosnia and Iran to further develop relations, Špirić expressed hope that the relations between the economic actors of the two countries in various fields, especially tourism, transportation, and telecommunications, would be further enhanced.

Pardis Technology Park Active to Combat COVID-19

TEHRAN (IP) - Head of Pardis Science and Technology Park (PTP) Mehdi Saffarinia stated that PTP has been very active to combat and contain the coronavirus by utilizing all the world's scientists' capacities.

Saffarinia added that Iran's PTP has the honor to aptly name scientists around the world by sculpting their busts.

Head of Pardis Science and Technology Park reiterated that many ambassadors, politicians, ministers, and scientific figures have visited Iran's PTP.

"Iran's PTP as the biggest technology park has gained global fame for being active in Nano, Technology, Information and Environment, and 6,000 scientific specialists," Saffarinia noted. "Mustafa Prize's 4th edition may be held at one of the Islamic countries rather than Iran if the coronavirus is contained," he said.

Bust unveiling ceremony of 2019 Mustafa (PBUH) Prize laureates (3rd edition) held on 1st November at Tehran Pardis Technology Park (PTP) via webinar.

Climathon Tehran Set to Be Held Online in Matter of Weeks

TEHRAN (IRNA)- This year's edition of Climathon Tehran is to be held in matter of weeks, according Tehran Municipality Department of Environment and Sustainable Development.

The International event, which is held annually since 2015, is to be held in a virtual manner due to restrictions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Climate Tehran is focused on reduction of greenhouse emissions, and urban adaptation to protect the environment and bring about sustainable development and resilience in the face of climate change.



Brazil Health Minister Hospitalized With COVID-19

BRASILIA (Reuters) - Brazilian Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello is in stable condition in a hospital after being diagnosed with COVID-19, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

Pazuello checked into a hospital in Brasilia on Friday for dehydration, having tested positive for the coronavirus on Oct. 21. He will stay in the hospital until Sunday, when he will be reevaluated, the ministry said.

“There has been no need for supportive measures such as oxygen supplementation,” the statement said.



Top Turkish Officials Test Positive for COVID-19

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Two top Turkish officials who work closely with Turkey’s president have said they tested positive for COVID-19.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s spokesman, Ibrahim Kalin, said on Saturday he had light COVID-19 symptoms and was nearing the end of treatment.

He did not say how long he has been sick.

His comments came hours after Interior Minister Suleyman Soyly said he, his wife and daughter all tested positive after feeling unwell on Monday. They are being treated in a hospital.



Macron Understands Muslims’ Shock Over Prophet Cartoons



PARIS (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron says he understands the feelings of Muslims who are shocked by the displaying of cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) but added that the “radical Islam” he is trying to fight is a threat to all people, especially Muslims.

Macron’s comments to Al Jazeera, in an exclusive interview to be aired in full on Saturday, come amid heightened tensions between the French government and the Muslim world over the cartoons, which Muslims consider to be blasphemous.

“I understand the sentiments being expressed and I respect them. But you must understand my role right now, it’s to do two things: to promote calm and also to protect these rights,” Macron said.

“I will always defend in my country the freedom to speak, to write, to think, to draw,” he added.

Macron also hit out at what he described as “distortions” from political leaders, saying people were often led to believe that the caricatures were a creation of the French state. “I think that the reactions came as a result of lies and distortions of my words because people understood that I supported these cartoons,” the president said in the interview.

“The caricatures are not a governmental project, but emerged from free and independent newspapers that are not affiliated with the government,” he added. Macron was referring to the recent republishing of the caricatures by the Charlie Hebdo magazine to mark the opening of the trial for a deadly attack against its staff in 2015 when the Paris-based publication’s cartoons were cited as a reason for the assault.

The president had defended the “right to blaspheme” under free speech rights at the time of the republication in September, weeks before he prompted backlash from Muslim activists on October 2 when he claimed in a speech that Islam was “in crisis globally” and announced his plan “to reform Islam” in order to make it more compatible with his country’s republican values.

Macron reiterated his stance about the cartoons after a French teacher, who showed the caricatures to his pupils in class during a discussion on free speech, was beheaded by an attacker on October 16. Last week, the depictions were projected on French government buildings.

While Muslims in France have condemned the killing of the teacher, they have also expressed fears of collective punishment amid a government crackdown targeting Islamic organizations and attacks by vigilante groups on mosques.

Meanwhile, Macron’s comments stirred anger across the Muslim world, leading tens of thousands of people – from Pakistan to Bangladesh to the Palestinian territories – to join anti-France protests. As a debate over Islam and freedom of expression deepened in recent weeks, many officials and protesters in Muslim-majority countries issued calls for a boycott of French-made products.

Johnson Locks Down England

LONDON (Dispatches) - Prime Minister Boris Johnson has ordered England back into a national lockdown after the United Kingdom passed the milestone of one million COVID-19 cases and a second wave of infections threatened to overwhelm the health service.

The UK, which has the biggest official death toll in Europe from COVID-19, is grappling with more than 20,000 new coronavirus cases a day and scientists have warned the “worst case” scenario of 80,000 dead could be exceeded.

Johnson, at a hastily convened news conference in Downing Street after news of a lockdown leaked to local media, said that the one-month lockdown across England would kick in at a minute past midnight on Thursday morning and last until December 2.

In some of the most onerous restrictions in the UK’s peacetime history, people will only be allowed to leave home for specific reasons such as education, work, exercise, shopping for essentials and medicines or caring for the vulnerable.

Essential shops, schools, and universities will remain open, Johnson said, and while elite sports will continue, amateur sports for adults and children will be asked to stop.

Pubs and restaurants will be shut apart from for takeaways. All non-essential retail will close.

“Now is the time to take action because there is no alternative,” Johnson said, flanked by his chief medical officer, Chris Whitty, and his chief scientific adviser, Patrick Vallance.

“Unless we act, we could see deaths in this country running at several thousand a day.”

A government programme that has paid 80 percent of the wages of millions of furloughed employees during the pandemic was due to end Saturday, but will be extended during the new lockdown.

Al Jazeera’s Neave Barker, reporting from London, said the extension of the furlough scheme “will come with great relief I think to people knowing now that they’re entering a period of lockdown and they do have the support of the government.”

“So, this isn’t just a health issue, it’s a deeply financial and economic one, as well,” Barker said the projections of rapidly rising infections and deaths gave the lockdown added urgency.



U.S. Citizen Freed After Being Abducted by Gunmen in Niger

MASSALATA (Dispatches) - An American citizen kidnapped by gunmen in Niger earlier this week has been freed in a rescue operation by U.S. forces, the Pentagon confirmed Saturday.

The hostage, Philip Walton, described as the son of a missionary living in Niger, was abducted Monday night on the outskirts of Massalata, a village in Niger near the Nigerian border. He had been taken into Nigeria where U.S. forces freed him, the Pentagon said. “The United States is committed to the safe return of all U.S. citizens taken captive,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a separate statement.

Niger’s defence minister Issoufou Katambé told AFP that the hostage had been released without giving further details of the circumstances of the release or the hostage’s whereabouts. However the Pentagon said the hostage was now safe and in the care of the US State Department.

President Donald Trump hailed the rescue operation. “Big win for our very elite U.S. Special Forces today. Details to follow!” he tweeted.

Local officials had said this week that the kidnappers had called the man’s father to demand a ransom, though the family did not confirm this.

Walton had been living in Massalata with his wife and child for two years, according to his father, who himself has been in Niger for nearly 30 years.

Niger lies in the heart of the vast Sahel region, which is struggling with a jihadist insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives and driven hundreds of thousands from their homes.

Several Westerners are currently being held hostage in the region, including American aid worker Jeffery Woodke, who was kidnapped in the central town of Abalak in 2016 and is believed to be in neighbouring Mali now. Three Europeans, including 75-year-old French charity worker Sophie Pétroin, were released by their captors in Mali earlier this month under a prisoner swap arranged by the Malian government.

In August, six French aid workers and two Niger citizens were killed in the Koure wildlife reserve west of Niamey, in an attack claimed by the so-called Islamic State group.

Moldovans Vote in Presidential Election

CHISINAU (Reuters) - Moldovans voted in a presidential election on Sunday in which the pro-Russian incumbent Igor Dodon is bidding for a second term against former Prime Minister Maia Sandu, who wants to pull the country closer to the European Union.

The election in the nation of 3.5 million, where the West and Russia vie for influence, takes place in the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic that has pushed one of Europe’s poorest countries into a sharp economic downturn.

Dodon took power in 2016 after pro-Western political forces became mired in scandals. He has led opinion polls against seven other candidates going into Sunday’s vote but may not win outright, which would lead to a run-off.

Sandu, a Harvard-educated former World Bank economist known for her tough stance on corruption, led a short-lived coalition government last year that was brought down by a no confidence vote within months.

If elected, she has promised to secure more financial support from Brussels, while Dodon has pledged to

roll out a settlement next year for the breakaway Russian-speaking region of Transnistria.

The EU in 2014 forged a deal on closer trade and political ties with the ex-Soviet republic, which is squeezed between EU member Romania and Ukraine, but became increasingly critical of Chisinau’s track record on reforms.

Sandu has received messages of support from German Defence Minister Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, a close ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel, and former European Council President Donald Tusk.

A group of Dodon’s supporters denounced such support as an attempt to destabilise the country.

Sergei Naryshkin, the head of Russia’s SVR Foreign Intelligence Service, last week accused the United States of plotting to instigate mass protests against Dodon as punishment for him fostering good relations with Moscow.

Naryshkin similarly accused Washington of fomenting revolution in Belarus, where the Moscow-backed President Alexander Lukashenko has battled months of protests following a contested election.



Armenia Requests Russia’s Help

YEREVAN (Dispatches) - Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has formally asked Russian President Vladimir Putin



to begin “urgent” consultations on providing security amid a conflict with Azerbaijan, the foreign ministry said Saturday.

The announcement, which further raises the prospect of an escalation in the conflict, came after Armenia and Azerbaijan failed to agree a fresh ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh conflict during talks in Geneva on Friday.

Russia responded on Saturday, saying it would provide “necessary” assistance to Armenia. “Russia will render Yerevan all necessary assistance if clashes take place directly on the territory of Armenia,” the foreign ministry in Moscow said, calling on the warring sides to immediately halt fire.

Russia has a military base in Armenia and has a defence treaty with Yerevan. “The prime minister of Armenia has asked the Russian president to begin urgent consultations with the aim of determining the kind and amount of aid which the Russian Federation can provide Armenia to ensure its security,” the ministry said in a statement.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been locked in a bitter conflict over Karabakh since Armenian separatists backed by Yerevan seized control of the mountainous province in a 1990s war that left 30,000 people dead.

The current clashes broke out on September 27 and fighting has persisted despite the repeated international attempts to secure a ceasefire.

Russia has previously said that its defence pact with Armenia does not extend to the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh.

But Pashinyan in his letter to Putin said that hostilities were getting closer to Armenia’s borders and reiterated that Azerbaijan’s ally Turkey was backing Baku, according to the statement.

He requested Moscow’s help, invoking the two countries’ close ties and a 1997 treaty on friendship, cooperation and mutual assistance. The warring sides have three times agreed to ceasefires during talks mediated by Russia, France and the United States but the truces have all quickly fallen apart.

More than 1,200 people from both sides have been reported dead since the fighting began, but the actual death toll is believed to be substantially higher.



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L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Zafar Villa (\$4000)
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5bdrs, pkg
S/pool, S, J
L.balcony
Fully Furn

Parsian

(\$2400)
Zaferanieh Apt
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S/pool, S, J, pkg
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Farmanieh (\$2200)
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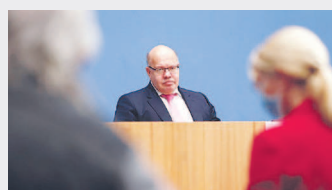
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German Economy Will Shrink 5.5% This Year

BERLIN (Reuters) - Europe's largest economy will likely shrink by 5.5% this year, the German Economy Ministry said on Friday, revising its previous forecast for a 5.8% contraction, before expanding by 4.4% in 2021.

The German economy has taken a thrashing from the coronavirus pandemic this year and a circuit-breaker lockdown is due to come into effect nationwide on Monday in a bid to curb a surge in infections.

The ministry's new 2020 forecast would still mean Germany is in one of the worst recessions of the post-World War Two era this year but means it is not faring as badly as during the 2009 global financial crisis.



China's Factory Activity Growth Slows Slightly in October

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's factory activity expanded at a slightly slower pace in October but was slightly above analysts' expectations, suggesting a continuing economic recovery as the country rebounds from the coronavirus shock.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) fell to 51.4 in October from 51.5 in September, data from the National Bureau of Statistics showed on Saturday, remaining above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction.

Analysts had expected it to slip slightly to 51.3 but said a broader recovery still appeared to be solidly on track.

The data, particularly new export orders, indicates October's trade figures should stay strong, Zhou Maohua, an analyst at China Everbright Bank, said in a note. However, the epidemic's spread overseas could increase uncertainties for China's exports over the next few months, said Zhou.

China's vast industrial sector is steadily returning to the levels seen before the pandemic paralysed huge swathes of the economy.

Pent-up demand, stimulus-driven infrastructure expansion and surprisingly resilient exports are propelling the rebound, though the global outlook is dimming as many Western countries battle renewed surges in the virus that causes COVID-19, with some going back into virus lockdowns.

The official PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, showed overall new orders remained steady at 52.8, while new export orders rose to 51.0, improving from 50.8 a month earlier.

But smaller firms continued to struggle. A sub-index for those companies stood at 49.4 in October, slipping back into contraction from September's 50.1.

Companies also shed jobs for a sixth month in a row, and at a faster pace. A sub-index for employment fell to 49.3 from September's 49.6.

"The manufacturing industry overall continues to pick up," said NBS official Zhao Qinghe, while noting that small companies face weak market demand.

Some companies reported that the resurgence of the epidemic overseas had lengthened procurement periods for imports of raw materials and increased transport costs, Zhao said in a statement released with the data.

China's economy grew a weaker-than-expected 4.9% in the third quarter year-on-year. It is expected to expand around 2% for the full year - the weakest in over three decades but still much stronger than other major economies.

The pandemic has been largely controlled in China, with daily life in much of the country returning to normal, although an outbreak emerged recently in the western region of Xinjiang. A sister survey on the services sector showed activity expanded for the eighth straight month, hitting the highest level since October 2013, as the removal of restrictions on public gatherings and movement bolstered consumer demand.

India's Economy Worst-Hit Among Emerging Markets

CHENNAI (Dispatches) - Among the emerging nations, India seems to be the worst affected by the Covid-19 pandemic as the strength of the economy has deteriorated the most in India in the first half of 2020, finds a study.

The Investors' Macro Ratings Index, which looks at investors' perception of the economy based on parameters like real GDP growth, inflation, fiscal deficit and bank credit, has deteriorated in all the emerging economies, as per a report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services. However, India was the most affected in the first half and Taiwan was the least affected. The study examined macro-economic parameters in emerging economies like India, Brazil, China, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan and Thailand.

As per IMF's projection, India's real GDP growth is expected to contract 10.3 per cent in 2020, which is the highest contraction among the 10 emerging markets. India is also the only economy with a double-digit contraction. On the other hand, China is expected to see 1.9 per cent growth, the highest among all of them.

ECB Survey See Lower Growth, Inflation Next Year

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - The euro zone economy may shrink less this year than feared but its rebound is also likely to be more shallow, the European Central Bank's Survey of Professional Forecasters showed on Friday.

The quarterly survey, done in early October before the most severe pandemic-related lockdown measures were implemented, sees the economy shrinking by 7.8% this year, less than its July prediction for an 8.3% drop, while next year's growth is seen at 5.3%, below a previous forecast for 5.7%.

Although these surveys are often an integral part of the ECB's policy deliberations, its role has likely diminished this time since the economic outlook is rapidly deteriorating as governments implement lockdown



In 2025, deemed as the "longer-term", inflation is seen at 1.7%, above the last forecast for 1.6%, while the longer-term growth projection was

measures to contain the rapid spread of the coronavirus.

Indeed, the ECB on Thursday flagged even more policy easing at its December meeting as fears of a double-dip recession grow and the only question is just how big its move will be.

Inflation in the survey is now seen at 0.3% this year, below a previous forecast for 0.4% while in 2021, it is expected to average 0.9%, down from 1% predicted in July, both well below the ECB's target of almost 2%.



Selma Ashipala-Musavyi

Women Around the Globe Share an Immense Stake in Ending Armed Violence

By: Izumi Nakamitsu, Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and H.E. Amb. Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Chair of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

The global pandemic is forcing us all to experience degrees of hardship and uncertainty. For those who are also contending with violence—sometimes because of armed conflict raging just outside the home, or sometimes because the violence is in the home—insecurity

and suffering can enshroud every hour of every day.

As stay-at-home orders took hold earlier this year, many women and girls around the world found themselves suddenly confined away from view with their abusers, even at gunpoint. Soon thereafter, the UN Secretary-General was reporting signs of a "horrifying global surge in domestic violence".

Ending the pandemic may bring little relief for these women, particularly in societies ravaged by armed conflict and violence. Left unaddressed, the waves of violence will continue to break against these women steadily.

Women everywhere share an equally immense stake in ending armed violence, and the world should give them every possible tool to counter it in homes, in communities, and around the globe. The horrible virus reigning over our lives only makes this task more urgent.

Twenty years ago, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325, the first of several resolutions recognizing and reaffirming women's significant role in promoting peace and security. Today, we understand better than ever how gender shape individual experiences of conflict and violence, including when weapons are involved. We also now better understand the subtle forces that stifle and drive the systematic exclusion of women's voices from peacemaking, peacebuilding, conflict and violence prevention efforts.

Yet even 20 years after the Security Council adopted its first resolution on this issue, fundamental gender inequalities remain a fact in all our lives.

Lack of effective arms control and disarmament is one obstacle to achieving peace and gender justice. The proliferation of small arms enables sexual and gender-based violence in and outside of conflict. Arms races between countries and military spending claim growing shares of public funds that otherwise could improve social and economic opportunities for both women and men. Weapons—from handguns to nuclear bombs—feed into the norms, root causes and power relationships that enable and foster gender inequality.

Addressing these issues is a top priority for the United Nations' Secretary-General, who has said that "disarmament prevents and ends violence. Disarmament supports sustainable development. And disarmament is true to our values and principles."

We believe that governments and organizations can focus their efforts to address the scourge of gender-based violence and remediate gender inequalities rooted in tools of violence. Here are four ways that can allow men and women to contribute equally towards preventing and resolving conflict and building peace and security.

First, all states should adopt arms control and disarmament policies that address how weapons affect men and women differently. For example, civilian men hold most of the estimated 1 billion firearms in global circulation, and a gun in a home makes intimate partner violence against a woman five times likelier to turn lethal.

Second, women should fully participate in professional fields of conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, arms control and disarmament. As women who have dedicated our professional lives to these fields, we each understand all too well what it is like to be the only woman in a crowded room of policymakers. Sadly, the picture at the UN is not particularly encouraging. When diplomats met for last year's General Assembly committee session on disarmament and international security, three of every four statements came from men. In and beyond the UN, countries should make every effort to ensure that women, youth and other underrepresented groups all have a voice.

Third, governments and international agencies should form diverse alliances with women's civil society organizations and other non-governmental groups. Women peacebuilders and advocates are transforming communities around the world as they fight the proliferation of weapons. Globally, women's movements were central to banning atmospheric nuclear tests during the Cold War and to supporting the 2017 nuclear weapons ban treaty, for which the women-led International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons received that year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Fourth, we need more solid evidence in the form of disaggregated data that illuminates the different experiences of women, men, girls and boys with respect to weapons and violence. By collecting this kind of information and sharing practices with each other, governments and organizations can develop better informed responses to peace and security challenges.

In all its chaos, this moment offers a chance to put gender equality at the core of our peace work and build towards a future that benefits us all. Let's seize this time to bring about real change.



Izumi Nakamitsu

Close to 1 Ton of Illicit Drugs Busted in Kerman

TEHRAN (MNA) – The police forces of Kerman province in central Iran seized 950 kilograms of illicit drugs in a single operation on Saturday.

The Police chief of Kerman province, Second Brigadier General Abdolreza Nazeri made the announcement on Sunday, noting that after intelligence

operations, the anti-narcotics police forces busted the big haul in the eastern parts of Kerman, which is one of the main routes to the provinces bordering Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Three offenders have also been arrested and handed to the judiciary, he added.



Former James Bond Actor Sean Connery Dies Aged 90

LONDON (Reuters) - Scottish movie legend Sean Connery, who shot to international stardom as the suave, sexy and sophisticated British agent James Bond and went on to grace the silver screen for four decades, has died aged 90.

“His wife Micheline and his two sons Jason and Stephane have confirmed that he died peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family,” family spokesperson Nancy Seltzer said on Saturday.

Connery was raised in near poverty in the slums of Edinburgh and worked as a coffin polisher, milkman and lifeguard before his bodybuilding hobby helped launch an acting career that made him one of the world’s biggest stars.

“Sean was a global legend but, first and foremost, he was a patriotic and proud Scot,” said Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Connery will be remembered first as British agent 007, the character created by novelist Ian Fleming and immortalized by Connery in films starting with “Dr. No” in 1962.

As Bond, his debonair manner and wry humour in foiling flamboyant villains and cavorting with beautiful women belied a darker, violent edge, and he crafted a depth of character that set the standard for those who followed him in the role.

He would introduce himself in the movies with the signature line, “Bond - James Bond.” But Connery was unhappy being defined by the role and once said he “hated that damned James Bond”.

Tall and handsome, with a throaty voice to match a sometimes crusty personality, Connery played a series of noteworthy roles besides Bond and won an Academy Award for his portrayal of a tough Chicago cop in “The Untouchables” (1987).

He was 59 when People magazine declared him the “sexiest man alive” in 1989.

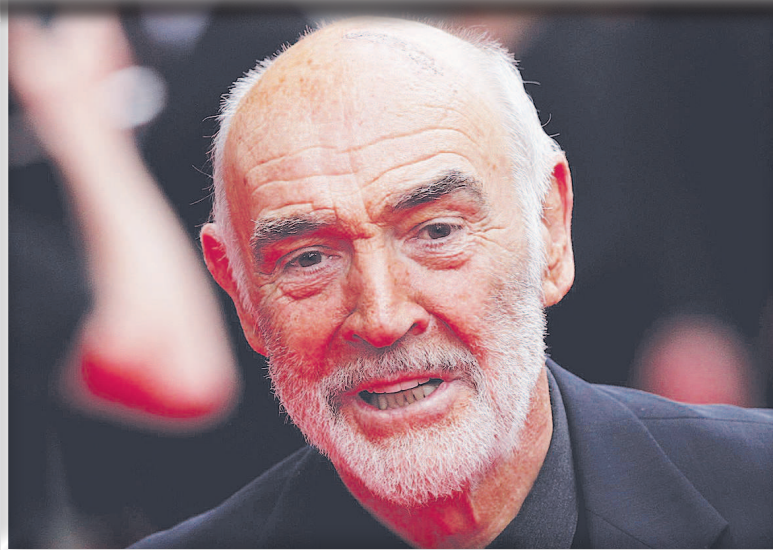
Connery was an ardent supporter of Scotland’s independence and had the words “Scotland Forever” tattooed on his arm while serving in the Royal Navy. When he was knighted at the age of 69 by Britain’s Queen Elizabeth in 2000 at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, he wore full Scottish dress including the green-and-black plaid kilt of his mother’s MacLeod clan.

Some noteworthy non-Bond films included director Alfred Hitchcock’s “Marnie” (1964), “The Wind and the Lion” (1975) with Candice Bergen, director John Huston’s “The Man Who Would Be King” (1975) with Michael Caine, director Steven Spielberg’s “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” (1989) and the Cold War tale “The Hunt for Red October” (1990).

Fans of alternative cinema will always remember him starring as the “Brutal Exterminator” Zed in John Boorman’s mind-bending fantasy epic “Zardoz” (1974), where a heavily moustachioed Connery spent much of the movie running around in a skimpy red loin-cloth, thigh-high leather boots and a pony tail.

Connery retired from movies after disputes with the director of his final outing, the forgettable “The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen” in 2003.

“I get fed up dealing with idiots,” he said.



The Bond franchise was still going strong more than five decades after Connery started it. The lavishly produced movies, packed with high-tech gadgetry and spectacular effects, broke box office records and grossed hundreds of millions of dollars.

After the smashing success of “Dr. No,” more Bond movies followed for Connery in quick succession: “From Russia with Love” (1963), “Goldfinger” (1964), “Thunderball” (1965) and “You Only Live Twice” (1967).

Connery then grew concerned about being typecast and decided to break away. Australian actor George Lazenby succeeded him as Bond in “On Her Majesty’s Secret Service” in 1969.

But without Connery it lacked what the public wanted and he was lured back in 1971 for “Diamonds Are Forever” with temptations that included a slice of the profits, which he said would go to a Scottish educational trust. He insisted it would be his last time as Bond.

Twelve years later, at age 53, Connery was back as 007 in “Never Say Never Again” (1983), an independent production that enraged his old mentor, producer Albert “Cubby” Broccoli.

In a 1983 interview, Connery summed up the ideal Bond film as having “marvellous locations, interesting ambiance, good stories, interesting characters - like a detective story with espionage and exotic settings and nice birds.”

Connery was a very different type from Fleming’s Bond character with his impeccable social background, preferring beer to Bond’s vodka martini cocktails that were “shaken not stirred”.

But Connery’s influence helped shape the character in the books as well as the films. He never attempted to disguise his Scottish accent, leading Fleming to give Bond Scottish heritage in the books that were released after Connery’s debut.

KLM Pilots Reject Dutch Govt’s Wage Freeze Demand



THE HAGUE (Reuters) - The pilots’ union of KLM, the Dutch arm of Air France, on Saturday declined to accept a wage freeze through to 2025, potentially endangering efforts to secure the company’s future amid the coronavirus pandemic.

It said it had already agreed to a freeze lasting until March 2022, and changing the agreement at short notice was not feasible.

Other unions representing ground and cabin crews have agreed to the prolonged wage freeze, which is set to last as long as the airline receives government support.

On Friday the government said it would withhold payments from the 3.4 billion euro bailout package KLM is due to receive unless the company adjusted its restructuring plan to include the freezes.

Air France-KLM on Friday reported 67% drop in third-quarter revenue to 2.52 billion euros, underlining the airline’s dire financial condition as a new COVID-19 surge poses further threats to an industry already crippled by the epidemic and a collapse in long-haul travel.

Air France-KLM has 12.4 billion euros in liquidity, thanks largely to a French and Dutch government-backed bailout, a cash cushion comparable to that of European peers Lufthansa and IAG.

Europe Risks a New Economic Downturn as Lockdowns Return

FRANKFURT (Dispatches)

-- GERMANY: On paper the European economy is snapping back smartly from the pandemic, growing more in the third quarter than it ever had. But images from Paris, Madrid and Frankfurt tell a different story. Cafes are rolling up their awnings, theaters are canceling performances, and it’s starting to look like March again on city streets.

The risk of another severe downturn in Europe is rising as new lockdowns take effect in countries like Germany, France and Belgium, where authorities are desperate to prevent a surge in coronavirus infections from overwhelming hospitals.

Instead of returning to a semblance of normalcy, governments in the European Union, America’s largest trading partner, are straining to find ways to support furloughed and unemployed workers, and to keep restaurants and other businesses from going bankrupt.

This week, in an extraordinary move, the European Central Bank all but promised to unleash new relief measures by December at the latest. Warning that risks are “clearly tilted to the downside,” Christine Lagarde, the central bank’s president, indicated that its Governing Council is just trying to decide what cocktail of lending measures, bond market intervention or rate cuts would best stimulate the eurozone economy.

Even Lagarde, who probably has access to more detailed information about the eurozone economy than anyone on the planet, was unsure whether the region was headed for another big dip or moderately slower growth.

The gloomy and uncertain outlook overshadowed Friday’s news of a record 12.7% quarterly increase in gross domestic product from the previous quarter in the 19 countries that use the euro. That rebound exceeded economists’ expectations but still left output 4.3%



lower than it was a year earlier — a severe recession by any standard.

A few months ago some optimists were talking about a V-shaped recovery, a sharp decline followed by a sharp rebound, or perhaps a check-mark recovery — a decline followed by a gradual rebound.

What is developing looks more saw-toothed, a jagged series of economic ups and

downs coinciding with waves of infection and renewed lockdowns.

“We are completely reliant on the development of the virus,” said Sylvain Broyer, chief economist at S&P Global Ratings in Europe.

The volatile growth pattern repeated itself at the national level. Germany recorded an 8.2% increase in GDP in the third quarter compared with the previous quarter, but business surveys indicate that the pace is likely to slow markedly in months to come.

France grew more than 18% in the quarter, according to official data published Friday. But Bruno Le Maire, the French finance minister, said a tough fourth quarter would cause the economy to shrink by 11% for the full year.

The economic cost is particularly high in industries that depend on person-to-person contact. The longer the pandemic lasts, the greater the risk of mass bankruptcies among service businesses like hotels, fitness studios and nail salons. In Paris, the hotel occupancy rate plunged to 26% in September, when a new curfew was put into effect, according to MKG Group, a French consulting firm. That figure is likely to worsen.

“There is unfortunately still no evidence that you can simply turn on and off an economy like a light switch without causing more structural damage, maybe even a short circuit,” Carsten Brzeski, global head of macroeconomics at ING Bank, said in a note to clients.

Muslims Unity Indebted...

FROM PAGE 1

Haj Qassem himself both believed in the Islamic Republic whole-heartedly and had been dissolved in the Islamic Revolution. His experience of the Sacred Defense era showed him that Islamic Revolution would only become lasting in its dynamism and move, and not in the silence, isolation and passiveness. He has learned that dynamism of the Islamic Revolution is the main appealing and inspirational factor for the nations. So he did his best to enliven elements of jihad and martyrdom which are the main factors of the Islamic Republic’s progressive and dynamism, and he manifested the dynamism factor in creating the resistance spirit. This active resistance based on insight and jihad blinded the greedy eyes of enemies and made hopeful the truth-seekers and the believers’ front in attracting the Divine victory, victory of the truth front and failure of enemies.

This is Haj Qassem who remained in the trench of combat till the last moment of his life for dynamism of the Islamic Revolution and keeping the flag of jihad and martyrdom hoisting, and he could create a strong array of resistance front against the enemies, and for the first time in Gaza and Lebanon wars made Zionist enemy and its Arab, Hebrew and Western allies drink the bitter poison of defeat.

According to some famous person, Haj Qassem has properly realized that the Islamic Revolution is “Built-by-Khomeini” and “Revived-by-Khamenei”. During his lifetime, Martyr Soleimani became a yardstick for distinguishing the right front from the wrong one. His martyrdom like Ammar’s (one of the most loyal and beloved companions of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Ali (A) became exposé of the wrong front and it became an evidence for oppression and cruelty of world arrogance, international Zionism and Arab reactionary who have bred in their skirts the tiny grouplets of Daesh and put them in clash with Islam. This recognition with his blood created a religion-oriented belief movement in each part of the world.

Today the slap at Macron and Charlie Hebdo is not limited to a certain current that Westerners accuse it of extremism. With just a glance, one can notice that hot blood of Muslims, inspired by the blood of people like Soleimani, is boiling against insults to the Prophet and it turns into a global cry.

Today while Macron by his retreat is trying to make the Muslim world believe that he has understood their message forever but roar and anger of Muslims has not cooled down yet. This is the same greatness hidden in the zeal of Muslims that Haj Qassem had realized it and by donating his blood could turn it into a targeted belief for Muslims in order that Freemasonry and Zionist hegemony accepts their era has come to an end and today it is the era of Islam and mastership of Muslims.

Zarif...

FROM PAGE 1

“Unfortunately, over the past thirty years, negotiations were a non-starter and tensions have always existed, tensions which led to our civilians and people on our borders to be threatened by both [warring] sides,” he added.

“Among the key points of our country’s initiative is that it does not concern a ceasefire only; rather, the plan is aimed at settling the conflict within a framework which becomes effective when both sides undertake to remain committed to a series of principles and remains in effect as more measures are adopted, including the withdrawal of occupying forces from all occupied areas,” the foreign minister said.

Among other highlights of Iran’s plan, he added, are that it guarantees people’s rights, establishes connection routes, sees regional countries monitor the trend of the implementation of the initiative and issues as such. “We are waiting for Azerbaijani and Armenia authorities as well as our Russian and Turkish friends to express their views on this plan,” he said. Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarif touched upon the presence of terrorist forces in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

“We did emphasize that such a move will be in the interests of no one. During and before the talks, we reminded officials of the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia as well as Russia and Turkey that Iran will not tolerate such a thing,” the top Iranian diplomat said.

Iran to Test COVID-19...

FROM PAGE 1

Speaking at the meeting of Operational Headquarters of the National Task Force for Fighting Coronavirus Namaki said that bright days are ahead in the fight against the disease.

Noting that no patient was behind the doors of hospitals at the peak of the pandemic, Namaki stated that Iran has been fighting very strongly against COVID-19 under tough sanctions, while countries like France have abandoned the old and saved only the lives of the youth. Iran had a huge move in the production of masks and medical equipment, becoming from a consumer to a manufacturer and even an exporter.

Namaki stressed: “We were able to screen 78 million people in the first phase and 43 million in the second phase, with 300,000 troops, which is unparalleled as a major national movement in global management.” He concluded that protocols should now be mandatory to prevent further coronavirus spread.

Vuelta Start Delayed After Riders Protest

MADRID (Dispatches) - The start of Saturday's 11th stage of the Vuelta a Espana was delayed after Team Ineos led a protest against a decision by stewards the previous day that put Primoz Roglic in the overall lead.

On Friday, after Roglic burst clear in the final stretch, the stewards declared that the first eight finishers had created a large enough gap that every member of the peloton would not be awarded the same time.

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Entire Lazio Squad in Quarantine After Covid-19 Positives

ROME (AFP) - Lazio, already deprived of several players, announced on Saturday that it had put its entire squad in quarantine after positive coronavirus tests.

Lazio fielded a depleted team in Brugge in the Champions League on Wednesday and drew 1-1 without last season's top European scorer Ciro Immobile and midfielders Luis Alberto, Manuel Lazzari, Lucas Leiva and Djavan Anderson.

The club said in a statement on Saturday that it had conducted a further round of tests on Friday.

Jota Caps Liverpool Fightback Against West Ham

LONDON (Dispatches) - Diogo Jota capped Liverpool's dramatic fightback as the Premier League champions beat West Ham 2-1 to move three points clear at the top, while Manchester City and Chelsea both won to keep in touch with the leaders on Saturday.

Jurgen Klopp's side were rocked by Pablo Fornals' early strike at Anfield as the West Ham midfielder punished a poor header from Joe Gomez in the 10th minute.

The Reds drew level in the 42nd minute when Mohamed Salah was fouled by Arthur Masuaku and the Egyptian stepped up to convert the penalty for his eighth goal of the season.

Liverpool thought they had claimed the lead with just over 10 minutes remaining when substitute Jota turned in a loose ball.

Jota had pounced after Lukasz Fabianski saved Sadio Mane's shot but after a lengthy delay that saw referee Kevin Friend make use of the pitchside monitor, the goal was ruled out for a foul by the Senegal winger.

In the 85th minute, Jota ran onto Xherdan Shaqiri's pass to score his fourth goal since joining from Wolves in September.

It was Liverpool's fourth successive victory since influential defender Virgil van Dijk was sidelined for several months with a serious knee injury suffered against Everton.

Despite their defensive issues this term, Liverpool have opened up a three-point lead over second placed Everton, with their Merseyside rivals in action at Newcastle on Sunday.

While Liverpool were completing their win, government officials confirmed the Premier League could continue despite a new national lockdown that will last until at least December.

Title rivals City have yet to hit the free-scoring form of Pep Guardiola's side at their best, as for the third consecutive league game they were held to a solitary goal.

But Kyle Walker's long-range strike against his former club was good enough to earn a 1-0 win at goal-shy Sheffield United.



It was his first goal for a year in his 100th Premier League appearance for City.

A fourth win in five games in all competition edges City up to eighth, five points behind Liverpool.

And there was another boost for City after the game as Guardiola ruled out a return to Barcelona despite interest from presidential candidates at the Catalan giants to bring the club's most successful ever coach back to the Camp Nou.

Chelsea are also finding their form after a slow start to the season as Frank Lampard's men ran out 3-0 winners at Burnley to stretch their unbeaten run to nine games.

Hakim Ziyech was handed his first Premier League start after scoring in a 4-0 Champions League win away to Krasnodar in midweek and the Moroccan's shot wrong-footed Nick Pope to open the floodgates for the visitors on 26 minutes.

Kurt Zouma's bullet header then doubled Chelsea's advantage from Mason Mount's corner just after the hour mark.

Timo Werner was due to be rested until an injury in the warm-up to Christian Pulisic forced the German international into Lampard's line-up.

And Werner rounded off an excellent second-half performance from the Blues with a fine finish from Ziyech's pass.

After much criticism of his side's defending, Lampard will be equally delighted at a fourth straight clean sheet as Chelsea moved up to fourth place.

Bayern Munich Sweep Past Cologne

BERLIN (Dispatches) - European champions Bayern Munich went top of the Bundesliga on Saturday as Thomas Mueller and Serge Gnabry provided the goals with Robert Lewandowski rested for their 2-1 win at Cologne.

Bayern coach Hansi Flick opted to leave out Lewandowski, who scored a record 10 goals in the opening five league games, ahead of their midweek Champions League match at Salzburg and a Bundesliga showdown at Dortmund next Saturday.

However, RB Leipzig, who are now two points behind in third, can go back to the top of the table if they beat Borussia Moenchengladbach on Saturday evening.

Mueller netted an early penalty and Gnabry finished a counter-attack on the stroke of half-time to leave Bayern 2-0 up at the break.

Cologne improved in the second-half and replacement midfielder Dominick Drexler pulled back a late goal.

Borussia Dortmund climbed to second in the table without star striker Erling Braut Haaland as defender Mats Hummels scored both goals in a 2-0 win at Arminia Bielefeld.

Hazard Stunner Gives Real Madrid Win Over Huesca

MADRID (Dispatches) - Eden Hazard scored his first goal for Real Madrid in over a year and his team appeared to turn a corner as they beat newly-promoted Huesca 4-1 in La Liga on Saturday.

Hazard has had a terrible time with injuries since joining Madrid for 100 million euros (\$113 million) from Chelsea in 2019 but the Belgian will hope his stunning strike from distance at the Alfredo di Stefano can kick-start his career in Spain.

"I'm happy with his performance," said Zidane. "The other day he played 20 minutes, now a little more. It's step by step."

Karim Benzema and the excellent Fede Valverde made the win secure before Huesca scored through David Ferreira, only for Benzema to add his second and Madrid's fourth in injury-time.



Guardiola Rules Out Return as Barca Boss

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola ruled out ever taking charge of Barcelona for a second spell as the Manchester City boss insisted he retains the "desire" to succeed in England.

Guardiola is the most decorated coach in Barca's glorious history after winning 14 trophies in four years in charge between 2008 and 2012.

Josep Maria Bartomeu finally bowed to pressure to resign as president of the Catalan giants this week, with one of the leading candidates to take over, Victor Font, saying he wants to bring legends like Guardiola and his former players Xavi and Carles Puyol back to work for the club.

"I said many times, my period as a manager in Barcelona is over. I think in life there is once you have to do things," Guardiola said after City's 1-0 win over Sheffield United on Saturday.

"There are incredible people who can be in charge, now for example (Barcelona coach) Ronald Koeman is an excellent manager. It is over."

A boyhood Barca fan, Guardiola also enjoyed an illustrious playing career at the Camp Nou and still holds season tickets as a supporter.

"I will come back to my seats to see my club to watch a game. I am incredibly happy here, still I have the desire to do well and this is the most important thing."

"Now there will be elections in Barcelona. Hopefully they can choose the right board to maintain this incredible club Barcelona in the highest level." Guardiola is already into the longest managerial spell of his career with this his fifth season at City.

FIFA Faces Increasingly Crowded Legal Fixture List

ZURICH (Dispatches) - The suspended sentence for Jerome Valcke, the former FIFA number two, in a corruption verdict in Switzerland may have spared the football world serious embarrassment but the case was only part of an ever-growing list of court proceedings involving the governing body to which an investigation of president Gianni Infantino was recently added.

The most embarrassing investigations for FIFA, because of the shadow they cast on its marquee competition, are into the awarding of World Cups.

The key decision may have been to award the 2022 World Cup to Qatar, over rivals including the USA and Australia, in December 2010, in a vote which also gave the 2018 World Cup to Russia.

That seems to have piqued the interest of the American judiciary whose investigation led to the high-profile arrests of seven officials in Zurich in on May 27, 2015 over TV rights corruption on the eve of a FIFA meeting at which Sepp Blatter was re-elected president.

FIFA has investigated the Qatar bid. The US Department of Justice this year made clear it still has suspicions. The French justice system is investigating a lunch on November 23, 2010 involving Nicolas Sarkozy, at the time the head of state, two high-ranking Qatari officials and Michel Platini, the head of UEFA, for "active and passive corruption".

While Qatar is the focus of attention, there are also suspicions over the awards of the 2018 World Cup to Russia and the 2010 World Cup to South Africa.

In April, the Swiss abandoned a trial over the award of the 2006 World Cup to Germany because of the statute of limitations, though a case is still pending in Frankfurt over tax evasion.



Bottas Snatches Pole From Hamilton

ROME (Dispatches) - Valtteri Bottas said he had "the shakes" after snatching pole position for Sunday's Emilia Romagna Grand Prix from his Mercedes team-mate Lewis Hamilton with a dramatic late lap in qualifying at Imola.

The Finn, who is 77 points adrift of series leader and six-time champion Hamilton with five races remaining in this year's title, grabbed the prime grid position by a tenth of a second.

Hamilton, who was fastest in the only practice in the morning, had been on top through most of the qualifying session and took provisional pole on his first run in Q3 before Bottas beat him in the final seconds.

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull ahead of his former team-mate Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri, Daniel Ricciardo of Renault and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

Charles Leclerc took seventh for Ferrari with Daniil Kvyat eighth in the second Alpha Tauri ahead of the two McLarens of Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz. Bottas's success brought him his fourth pole of the season and his 15th career pole as the Mercedes team claimed another front row lockout ahead of the race in which they can claim an unprecedented seventh consecutive constructors' championship.

They need only one car to finish in the top four to seal that record success.

"It's never easy to get pole position, but I really enjoyed it around this track," said Bottas.

"I knew I had to improve on my last lap, so I found those little gains - and I had the shakes after the final run, which is always a good sign!"

Hamilton praised his team-mate.

"Valtteri did a great job and it was a pretty poor lap from myself, but you can't always get it right. This track is unbelievable, but I'm pretty certain it will be a boring race tomorrow - just a train after Turn One."

