

**Iran Ambassador to Belarus
Stressed the Need to Develop
Economic Cooperation and Use the
Capacities of the Eurasian
Economic Union (EAEU) to Increase
Trade Between the Two Countries**

IRAN NEWS

**Iran's New Ambassador to
Sana'a Says Saudi-Emirati Military
Coalition That Has Waged a War
On Yemen Will Become Orphaned
If U.S. President Donald Trump
Loses the Presidential Election**

VOL. XXVI, No. 7084 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2020 - ABAN 17, 1399

2 DOMESTIC

**Any Threat to Our
Borders Will Be Met
With Firm, Timely**

> SEE PAGE 2



3 DOMESTIC

**Three Shipping
Lanes Available Between
Iran and India**

> SEE PAGE 3



4 INTERNATIONAL

**Vote Counts Push Biden
Closer to Victory**

> SEE PAGE 4



8 SPORTS

**Barca, Juve Win in
Champions League**

> SEE PAGE 8



Iran Finally Brings Desalinated Persian Gulf Water to Arid Desert

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani has opened a mega project for transferring desalinated sea water to arid deserts in the Iranian Plateau, the first in the history of a country where water shortage has always been a major impediment to economic development.

Rouhani used a video conference call on Thursday to supervise the start of water transfer from desalination facilities off the Persian Gulf in southern Hormozgan province to water-intensive industries in southeastern province of Kerman.

The transfer line, which includes dozens of tunnels, pumping stations and storage facilities, takes desalinated water some 305 kilometers to one of Iran's largest mining and metals plants in Sirjan.

The first phase of the project has cost nearly 165 trillion rials (over \$600 million). The Iranian Energy Ministry said that around a third of the total water desalinated in the project, some 150 million m3 per year from a total of 450 million m3 of sea water, would be purchased on a guaranteed basis for household consumption in two coastal cities.

See Page 7

424 Died From COVID-19 In a Single Day

TEHRAN (IP) - The Spokeswoman for Iran's Ministry of Health, Sima Sadat Lari, announced on Friday that 663,800 people in the country have been infected with the coronavirus, and 509,952 of the total infected people have recovered.

"According to definitive laboratory findings from yesterday to November 6, 2020, newly diagnosed patients with COVID-19 reached 8,864 cases out of whom 3,234 patients were hospitalized," Lari stated.

She added that in the past 24 hours, 424 COVID-19 patients had lost their lives, bringing the total death toll to 37,409.

5,495 COVID-19 patients are in critical condition. "So far, 5,147,249 COVID-19 diagnosis tests have been conducted across the country," the Health Ministry spokeswoman noted.

She pointed out that Provinces of Tehran, Isfahan, Qom, East Azerbaijan, South Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin, Lorestan, Ardabil, Khuzestan, Kermanshah, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Gilan, Bushehr, Zanjan, Ilam, Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Alborz, West Azerbaijan, Markazi, Kerman, North Khorasan, Hamedan, Yazd, and Kurdistan are regarded as red zones.

See Page 7

Era of Western Hegemony Over



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the times when the industrialized West would determine what goes on in the rest of the world is over, reminding how the U.S. has been on a campaign of incessant warmongering to prevent this inevitable change in the course of history.

Zarif made the remarks at a forum in the Venezuelan capital, Caracas, on Thursday during a three-leg tour of Latin America that is to take him to Cuba and Bolivia next.

"The West is fighting for its survival ..., the era of Western hegemony is over," he said, speaking alongside his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza.

"Today, the United States and all its allies combined cannot control what happens in the world, they have lost control ... The West is losing its integrity, it is losing its coherence, its cohesion," he said.

The remarks came after the U.S. failed to prevent Iran from sending two massive sets of shipments featuring gasoline supplies and refinery equipment to Venezuela earlier this year. The exports came in blunt defiance of the US' economic war on both the countries that has seen Washington targeting them with across-the-board sanctions. Zarif said Western states have lost their monopoly and power has been decentralized due to emergence of "sources of power that are independent and inspire others, such as Iran and Venezuela."

Once it sensed the unpreventable change in the global order, the Iranian top diplomat said, the U.S. began waging back-to-back wars across the world, the top Iranian diplomat said.

During the last decades, the U.S. "has waged one war per year" in the world, that is against Iraq, Somalia, Libya, Syria, among other countries, because it has realized that in the unfolding of history, "the industrial Western world is losing its central role," Zarif said. "The U.S. wages a war every year to prevent precisely this change in the movement of history," he added.

The American officials, who were alarmed by the receding Western sphere of control, set off this campaign of spreading violence across the world so they would be able to "institutionalize the domination of the West" by "instrumentalizing military supremacy," the Iranian official concluded.

Meanwhile Zarif and Nicolas Maduro discussed and exchanged views on various aspects and issues of relations between the two countries and the most important international issues.

Zarif also had a meeting with his Venezuelan counterpart in Caracas.

During the Thursday meeting, the two sides conferred on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Later Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza in a message on Twitter said that the Venezuela's nation feels love today more than gratitude for the nation and government of Iran.

"The people of Venezuela today feel more than gratitude, love for the people and government of Iran, for their solidarity and courage when it comes to helping us in times of difficulty," Arreaza tweeted.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived in the Venezuelan capital on Wednesday at the first leg of a three-nation Latin American tour which will also take him to Bolivia after he wraps up his visit to Cuba.

Zarif was welcomed by his Venezuelan counterpart, Jorge Arreaza, upon his arrival in Caracas on Wednesday. Zarif and Rodriguez discussed issues of mutual interest in Caracas on Thursday.

The Iranian diplomat earlier held a joint meeting with his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza on Thursday. Zarif then left Venezuela for Havana, Cuba, to continue his Latin American journey as he will later fly to Bolivia.

Tehran Raps Western Hate Speeches

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's representative at the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly has warned that the recent increase in hate-mongering speeches by Western politicians is a serious threat to human rights.

Mohammad Zare'ian made the remarks while addressing a virtual meeting of the committee on Thursday evening, which was held on the subject of a report by the UN Human Rights Council.

Expressing concern about the hateful remarks recently made by politicians in the West, Zare'ian said the Islamic Republic fully believes in freedom of speech but not the sort that incites hatred against others. "Muslims, migrant communities and Africans have been the target of dangerous rhetoric, which is a flagrant abuse of freedom of expression," the Iranian official said. "We also express our serious concern about the increase in insults to Muslim sanctities in Western countries." Over the past two months, French President Emmanuel Macron has attacked the faith of nearly two billion Muslims worldwide on several occasions.

In September, Macron defended the "right to blasphemy" in France after French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo republished sacrilegious cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). On October 2, he claimed in a speech that Islam was "in crisis globally" and announced his plan "to reform Islam" to bring Later, Macron supported a French teacher's displaying of cartoons insulting the Prophet in his class. "France will never renounce caricatures," Macron declared, defending the teacher for "promoting freedom."

See Page 7

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

For Us, Neither Biden Nor Trump; None of Them

The U.S. presidential election finally ended and most Iranian people and politicians are waiting for its result. Regardless of Joe Biden winning the election and entering the White House or Donald Trump's team's resorting to the pretexts like rigging, vote recount or even not accepting the result of the election as a tool for staying at the White House, one should wait and see what the impact of the election would be on the current climate in Iran.

We should thank God that in the current condition and with distribution of the minimum handout in the country among the public, either distribution of poverty or wealth, we can still have enough strength to resist in order to survive the current imposed domestic and international political and economic condition. Resistance against the U.S. maximum pressure policy against Iran during the Trump's presidency and also President Hassan Rouhani government's extroversionist policy, and to some extent the meltdown of Iran economy, on one hand because of these cruel policies and on the other hand non-national policies, has created two different approaches in Iran.

Some people believe with Biden in the office, the condition will be paved for the revival of the JCPOA and improvement of Iran national economy. Some people essentially believe that Trump's re-election would be better; first, it would help the collapse of the U.S. federative and secondly he had no hegemonic harmony with Europe, and in order to escape from the current catastrophic condition in competition with China and Russia, he could open the economic scene for presence of oil companies into the Persian Gulf.

But why are we able to resist? Perhaps we should say that it is because with devaluation of national currency against the foreign currencies, they have increased pressure on the public, but the other side of the coin was in favor of us and it has helped the non-oil exports to increase and it has helped the country to earn major part of its forex for meeting the national needs through this increase.

Even in the oil, gas and petrochemical sector, the daily gas production for consumption domestically has increased and equaled to 1.65m bpd of crude oil which is offered to the industries almost for free, and some 650,000 oil products from the total extraction and refining are exported based on the international prices. So the petrochemical products in the current year has increased 8 percent which provides some portion of domestic needs and some portion of exports.

See Page 7

India's Basmati Exports To Iran to Resume Soon

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's basmati rice exports to Iran are likely to resume as the country has lifted its ban on imports from India and indicated that it will make payments of over Rs 1,700 crore to Indian exporters which have been due since last year.

The lack of an effective payment system has hit trade with Iran, which is the largest importer of Indian basmati rice and absorbs about one-third of this variety.

"Exports of basmati rice to Iran from India have seen a drop of 36% in April - August of this year compared to the previous year, largely due to stalled remittances," said Vinod Kaul, executive director of All India Rice Exporters Association. "However, we have got positive indications on resolution of the payments issue against shipment since December 2019. Also, the Iranian government has opened its seasonal ban on imports a month in advance, which is good news for exporters."

The association has requested the government to work out a safe payment mechanism and see if it can permit third-party payment mechanism in dollar and UAE dirham.

India and Iran have been trading through a rupee account in UCO and IDBI Bank NSE 1.12 %, but since May 2019, there was no inflow of funds in the accounts as there was no import of crude oil by India. Exporters said that they are in talks with buyers in Iran and were expecting exports to pick up.

Sokhan Gostar Institute

**IRAN
NEWS**

PRIVATE ENGLISH
NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department

021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com

info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Iranian Prisoners in Georgia Repatriated to Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Georgia handed over 6 Iranian prisoners to the Islamic Republic due to the efforts made by the Iranian Embassy in Tbilisi.

At the continuous efforts and numerous follow-ups of the Iranian Embassy to Tbilisi, six more Iranian prisoners were transferred to the Islamic Republic to serve the rest of their sentences in the country.

It should be noted that 110 Iranian detainees in Georgian prisoners were transferred to Urmia and handed over to Iranian judicial authorities in April. In this regard, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that the Ministry seeks to address the situation of Iranian citizens, especially prisoners in other countries as one of its priorities.

Any Threat to Our Borders Will Be Met With Firm, Timely Response

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says any possible threat posed to the country’s border areas as a result of the ongoing conflict between the Republic of Azerbaijan and neighboring Armenia will be met with a “firm and timely” response.

“Necessary measures have been taken to give a firm and timely response to any threat or [act of] aggression against border areas,” Major General Hossein Salami said on Thursday as he was inspecting the situation along Iran’s northwestern border with the Caucasus region.

Warning the warring parties in Caucasus against posing any possible threat to Iran’s border areas, IRGC’s chief commander emphasized that necessary defensive and security measures have been taken commensurate with the situation in the border areas together with vigilant presence of military units along the border.

Major General Salami’s comments came after Iran’s Armed Forces warned the warring sides in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict about a tough response if its



border security is jeopardized.

Elsewhere in his Thursday remarks, the IRGC’s chief commander said, “Sustainable security is our red line and any form of insecurity and threat along borders, which would harm security and peace of mind of our dear people, would be unacceptable.”

Since late September, heavy clashes have been underway between Azerbaijani and Armenian military forces over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. Both sides blame each other for initiating the fighting in the Caucasus Mountains.

It has been the worst spate of fighting between the two former Soviet republics since the 1990s.

Takfiri Terrorism Only Produces Bloodshed, Insecurity Everywhere

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi in a message said that Takfiri terrorism only produces bloodshed and insecurity everywhere.

“Today I recorded my sympathy & condolences in the Afghanistan Embassy following the barbaric attack on Kabul University which claimed lives of 20+ innocent students,” Araghchi wrote in is Twitter account on Wednesday.

“Takfiri terrorism has only produced bloodshed & insecurity everywhere in the region & beyond,” he added. He wrote in the memorial book of the victims of Kabul terror attack that takfiri terrorism has no limitation for committing crimes.

From Afghanistan to Iraq and Syria and other Islamic countries, and from West Asia to North Africa and the Caucasus and even Europe, it has only brought instability and insecurity and made people mourn.

He added that Iran is standing by Afghan people and government in fighting terrorism and reaching peace and reconciliation. Araqchi wished God blessing for those who were killed and patience for their bereaved families.

Dollar Tumbles in Iranian Market

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The American dollar has fallen by around a fifth against the Iranian rial as people flock to the markets to sell their currency savings amid fears that change of government in the United States elections might strengthen the rial.

A report by the IRIB News on Thursday said the dollar was trading nearly 18 percent lower compared to earlier this week to sell 240,000 against the rial.

The report said panic selling came as people feared the dollar would further plunge on the first day of the Iranian week on Saturday.

“Many people have been selling their currencies since yesterday evening due to fear about further falling of the prices,” said the report while citing prices from an official currency exchange service run by the Central Bank of Iran.

However, currency price monitoring websites and social media trends suggested that the dollar had closed

at 274,000 against the rial on Thursday.

The dollar’s fall in Iran come amid growing evidence that incumbent US President Donald Trump, who has been pressuring Iran economically for the past three years, has underperformed against his rival Joe Biden in the November 3 presidential elections in the US.

Market speculators say the rial would rebound from bottom lows seen in recent months if Biden returns the US government to a 2015 international agreement on Iran’s nuclear program and lifts the sanctions imposed by Trump since 2018.

That comes as the Iranian authorities have downplayed the impact of Biden’s presidency on wider Iran-US relations, saying Tehran’s stance toward the US would not depend on who occupies the White House.

The IRIB report said the dollar’s rout had also caused a fall in the price of gold in Iran despite a spike in international gold prices seen in recent days.

Assault on Iran to Cost Aggressors Dearly

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Deputy Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warned the enemies of the heavy costs they would have to pay in case of any military action against Iran.

In a meeting with the IRGC personnel in Iran’s southeastern city of Zahedan on Thursday, IRGC Deputy Commander for Coordination Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi highlighted the Islamic Republic’s great “deterrent power”.

Iran’s deterrent power is so effective that any aggressors intending to attack Iran would realize the severe disadvantages of an assault after assessment of the situation, he added.

“That’s why they (enemies) do not begin an aggression (against Iran).”

Not many countries in the world enjoy deterrent power, Fadavi noted. Iranian military and political officials have repeatedly warned the enemies of the dire consequences of a military strike.

27 Domains of Iranian Websites Seized by U.S.

TEHRAN (IP) - The U.S. Department of Justice seized 27 domains of Iranian websites under the pretext of preventing the expansion of Iran’s global influence.

The United States Department of Justice announced on its official website that a number of websites used by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) had been seized under the pretext of preventing the expansion of Iran’s global influence.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, Iran has been using these domains illegally to promote the country’s influence worldwide.

The U.S. Department of Justice further reports that all of these websites have violated the U.S. sanctions against the Iranian government and IRGC.

The takedown was done in coordination with U.S. technology companies.

Next U.S. Administration Should Submit to Iranian Nation’s Will



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Hassan Rouhani says regardless of who becomes the president of the United States, the next U.S. administration will have to submit to the will of the Iranian nation.

“It is not important that the result of the U.S. [presidential] election will become known till tonight or tomorrow and who becomes the president, because the next U.S. administration will submit to the Iranian nation [anyway],” Rouhani said on Thursday while addressing the inauguration ceremony of a major water supply project.

“They have no choice, but to give in to the law, the pressure of the public opinion and the resistance of this great nation,” Iran’s chief executive added.

The Foreign Ministry says Iran is unconcerned about who will become the United States’ next president and only looks towards the US administration’s political choices.

Under its now-outgoing President Donald Trump, the US left a historic multi-party nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that is officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Washington then returned the sanctions that the deal had lifted and began forcing other countries into committing to the bans too.

Both actions defied the fact that the JCPOA has been ratified in the form of a United Nations Security Council resolution, and came in sheer disregard for the deal’s multilateral nature.

The International Court of Justice, the UN’s legal arm, has obliged the US to suspend those of its bans that have come to affect such vital items as foodstuffs, medicinal items, and plane parts, while the tribunal issues a final verdict on the coercive measures.

Rouhani described as “unprecedented in Iran’s history,” the hardship that came to face the Iranian nation and government during his tenure in terms of the American economic war and the outbreak of the new coronavirus. The country, he said, has always been struggling with economic hardship, but “never an economic war of such scale.”

Unbound by whatever principle, Trump’s administration brutally escalated the economic warfare even as the Islamic Republic was battling an uphill struggle against the virus, the president noted.

“Our nation both withstood the coronavirus and confronted sanctions and adversities,” Rouhani said.

The Iranian chief executive, however, reminded how the people “managed to stand tall” notwithstanding the hard times, reasserting, “I’m under no illusion about the government and people’s success. The Iranian nation will ultimately come victorious [out of this situation].”

Bosnia Eyes Developing Parliamentary Ties With Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – First Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina emphasized the need for the expansion of parliamentary ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Borjana Krišto made the remarks in her meeting with the Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Bosnia & Herzegovina Reza Gelichkhan in Sarajevo.

In this bilateral meeting, she pointed to the unsparing support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Bosnia and Herzegovina and added, “We appreciated Iran’s support for the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina and we will support promotion of ties between the two countries in all areas.”

She also emphasized the need for improving relations between Presiding Board, Specialized Commissions and Parliamentary Friendship Groups between Bosnia & Herzegovina and Iran and added, “Parliament of Bosnia & Herzegovina supports the expansion of bilateral relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Iranian envoy to Bosnia & Herzegovina, for his part, stressed the status of parliamentary diplomacy in relations between the two countries and added, “Support of parliaments of the two countries will strengthen friendly and amicable relations between Iran and Bosnia in all areas.”

The two sides also exchanged their views on the latest developments in the fight against the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in two countries.

No Danger Threatens Iranian Border Areas

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Army Ground Forces Commander said that Armed Forces will do their best to maintain the security and peace of border areas and will not tolerate the violation of international law.

Referring to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Brigadier General Kiumars Heidari said that the Islamic Republic of Iran urges both sides to resolves their issues through a political settlement.

“Preserving the geopolitics of the region is our red line, and no power is allowed to change the geography of the region, and we will not tolerate this,” he noted.

He went on to say that Army Ground forces have been deployed in the border areas and they will make their best efforts to maintain the security and peace of the region.

“Armed Forces will do their best to maintain the security and peace of border areas and will not tolerate the violation of international law,” he stressed.

“Our red line is to ensure the security, peace, and comfort of the people,” he added.

Heidari further noted that no danger threatens the northwestern borders of the country and the Armed forces are ready to safeguard the Iranian people.

While emphasizing the need to respect the territorial integrity of regional countries, Brigadier general Heidari said, “Iran has a lot in common with both neighboring countries of Azerbaijan and Armenia and we advise both countries to respect international law, protect international borders and resolve their issues through a political settlement.”

Iran, Afghanistan Railways to Link Within Next Two Weeks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian transportation ministry official says a railway linking the country to neighboring Afghanistan will soon become operational.

Abbas Khatibi told the official IRNA news agency that the new railway links the eastern Iranian city of Khaf to Rowzanak, a small town near the Afghan city of Herat.

“The government has ... prioritized the expansion of transit corridors and links to the neighbors,” said Khatibi.

Afghanistan has no active railway system beyond Herat. The country is reportedly using Italian contractors to build the remaining link between Rowzanak and Herat.

The entire Khaf-Herat railway is 218 kilometers and it will be capable of transferring 1.7 million metric tons of cargoes per year.

Comprehensive Presidential Election Bill, Expertly Developed

TEHRAN (IP) - Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs Hossein-Ali Amiri said that the government believes that the comprehensive bill on the presidential election submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly has a great deal of expertise.

Hossein-Ali Amiri in an exclusive interview with Iran Press stated: “The Comprehensive Election Bill is in fact the product of the accumulated experiences of presenters and observers in different eras and political activists with different tastes.”

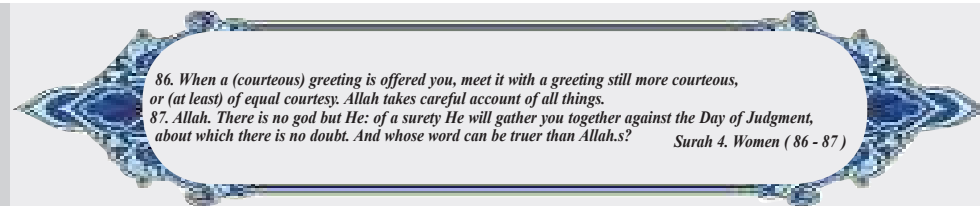
Speaking to IP, Vice President for Parliamentary Affairs highlighted that the government requested that the comprehensive election bill be put on the agenda of the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Given that the comprehensive election bill had earlier been submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the government did not agree with the parliament’s plan to amend the election law, he noted.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:22
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:08
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:33



Three Shipping Lanes Available Between Iran and India

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC NEWS

TEHRAN - Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Head Mohammad Rastad says three shipping lanes are currently active between Iran's Chabahar Port and India which is an important factor for the rise in the transit.

Speaking to reporters on Thursday and on the sidelines of inaugurating port and marine projects, Rastad said that one of the biggest projects of this government came into operation proudly was development of Chabahar which could adjust itself with the demands. He added, despite the major effect of Coronavirus pandemic on the global economy, the region and Iran's ports, Chabahar Port has grown 100 percent and it has registered 180 percent increase in the transit and 38 percent in exports of the non-oil exports.

He further said three shipping lanes are active between Chabahar and India which is an important factor for the increase of transit, adding that the created climate in the port has been accompanied with the growth and it was necessary that the infrastructures should increase in accordance with the trend of demand for marine access. Rastad went on to say that in line with this action, the development of hinterlands began and necessary equipment was provided in order to experience bright and good future in the port.

He further said that our major concern is that simultaneous with the growth and development



of marine access, the capacities of hinterlands should be developed for rail, road and airport in order that this process could be exploited in the best way possible with full readiness.

Rastad added in the set horizon for the port, the 8 million-ton capacity has been planned for the first phase of Chabahar Port, and 30 million-ton capacity for the second phase.

He further said that accession of Shahid Beheshti Port to Chabahar Port is a big achievement that witnessed a good interaction in the form of a MoU between the PMO, as the custodian, and Chabahar Free Trade Zone.

Rastad concluded that the measures and plans in the Chabahar Port have turned it into one of the most important multifunctional terminals and it has been one of the most successful port models.

Iran's Q1-3 Trade With Turkey Down 59% YOY

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's trade with Turkey stood at \$2.28 billion during the first three quarters of 2020 (January-September) to register a decrease of 59.76% compared with the corresponding period of 2019, latest data released by Turkish Statistical Institute show.

Iran exported \$782.3 million worth of goods to Turkey during the period to register a 78.3% year-on-year drop. Imports from Iran's neighboring country stood at \$1.5 billion, down 27.3% YOY.

Monthly trade between Iran and Turkey fell to under \$300 million in the ninth month of the year, mostly due to a fall in Iran's exports to the neighboring country.

Essential Goods' Prices To Drop This Week

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Hours after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei commented on the high cost of goods in Iran, the newly appointed Minister of Industry, Mines and Trade (MIMT), Alireza Razm Hosseini, claimed that the prices of essential goods in the country "will change significantly next week."

Referring to the people's economic situation in Iran, the Leader said on Tuesday that "many of the current economic problems are not related to [the U.S.] sanctions."

He called the high price of products including meat, poultry, tomatoes, and baby diapers "unjustified and unwarranted," adding, "All these soaring prices and issues can be addressed with the coordination of different departments. Such hurdles must be removed from the people's path."

Immediately after the Leader's remarks, Fars news agency reported that several government officials, including two Ministers, convened an "extraordinary meeting" at the market regulation headquarters and promised "significant changes in the market in the short term."

"There is no doubt that with the decisions made at the meeting, we will have significant changes in the prices of essential goods next week," Hosseini said.

Kazem Khavazi, Minister of Agriculture Jihad, also said, "In line with the leadership's speech today, the Ministries of Industry, Mines and Trade, Agriculture Jihad, Central Bank of Iran (CBI), and the Islamic Republic's Customs succeeded to become very well coordinated. The Economic Coordination Headquarters also passed very crucial resolutions."

However, none of the Ministers explained that, while Iran's people have long complained about unaffordable prices, why such decisions had not been made earlier.

Iran-Pakistan Ties Exemplary

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian Consul General Mohammad Reza Nazeri Thursday said that Pakistan and Iran have exemplary trade and economic relations.

He said that other countries have to spend billions of Dollars to establish these kinds of relations which Pakistan and Iran are enjoying naturally.

He expressed these views during his visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI).

LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah, Senior Vice President Nasir Hameed Khan, Vice President Tahir Manzoor Chaudhry, Former President Mian Misbah-ur-Rehman, Sohail Lashari and LCCI Executive Committee members were also present.

Reza Nazeri said that if someone wanted to travel to Tehran, he could reach there in less than three hours as a direct weekly flight from Lahore to Tehran is starting from the next week.

He said Iranian and Pakistani businessmen have a strong relationship which is strengthening with every passing day, adding that Pakistan and Iran and the LCCI and Iranian Consulate should work more to further reinforce the relationship and cooperation.

The Iranian consul general said that before COVID-19 outbreak, our ambassador to Pakistan and the LCCI had agreed to hold webinars between chambers to explore the trade opportunities between two countries, adding that due to coronavirus, the plans were delayed and we hope that now as the situation seems better these webinars will be held along with the Persian language courses in the LCCI.

He also congratulated LCCI former president Sohail Lashari on becoming the president of the Pak-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce. LCCI President Mian Tariq Misbah said that the LCCI takes pride while quoting the excellent working relations between Lahore Chamber and Iran Consulate in Lahore.

Mian Tariq Misbah said the potential sectors where Pakistan and Iran could enhance trade are value-added textiles, pharmaceuticals and rice, adding that Iran is one of the biggest consumers of Denim in the region while Pakistani rice has a strong market in Iran. There is also a great potential for the pharmaceutical industry in Pakistan to enhance its exports by tapping the Iranian market.

NIDC Drills 72 Oil, Gas Wells in 7 Months

TEHRAN (Shana) – The National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) has spudded 72 oil and gas wells in offshore and onshore projects in the first 7 months of the current calendar year, which began on March 21.

According to NIDC, Saeed Akbari, the head of the company's drilling operations, announced the drilling and completion of 72 oil and gas wells during the period, adding of this number, 22 were appraisal wells, 48 workover projects and two were exploratory wells.

He added 56 of the wells were drilled in the field operated by the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), seven in the field operated by the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), five were spudded for the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), one for the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company, one were drilled as projects and two wells were drilled for the exploration department of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The Deputy Head of Drilling Operations of NIDC said since the beginning of the year, operations for drilling 13 wells were completed 233 days earlier than the plan.



According to Akbari, work is underway to relocate 17 light and heavy drilling rigs in the operational area of oil-rich provinces. Meanwhile, in the last seven months, the total drilling lengths of wells reached 41,793 meters.

Meanwhile the director of research, technology and construction engineering of the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) said: "As a result of synergy between the specialists of this company and Iranian manufacturers, in the first half of this [calendar] year, 242 widely-used items were localized in the drilling industry."

Mehdi Arshian said: "The localization of these parts has resulted in more than 25 billion rials in costs savings."

He said among these parts are mud weight sensor, vibrating sieve jacking system, rig poles, valve plate, cement head, etc.

Arshian stated that during this period, in the field of research projects, 6 contracts worth 85 billion Iranian rials between had been signed between NIDC and universities and executive knowledge-based companies.

He added construction of the downhole engine of coiled tubing has also been completed with the cooperation of the Sharif University of Technology.

China Int'l Import Expo Great for Economic Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Consul General in Shanghai Ramezan Parvaz said on Thursday that the third China International Import Expo (CIIE) is a hub for cooperation of regional economy with the global economy and cooperation of the rich and the poor countries.

Ramezan Parvaz said, "Since 2018, Iran has caught the opportunity to participate in all three CIIEs. We actively participated in 2019 at three levels: the national pavilion level, with our minister of commerce and industry leading a big delegation; the private enterprises level with 15 Iranian companies and the culture and tourism sector."

Parvaz said, "Actually, we got prepared for participation this year more than last year, as we had reserved about 500 square meters for our companies to exercise presence. Because of COVID-19 we couldn't go ahead as we wanted."

"But we still managed to have 28 Iranian companies to participate in the third CIIE this year (last year we just had 15 in total). 15 companies are in intelligent industries like information technology, in this part the main product is Nano fiber technology. 13 companies in other sectors will exhibit products such as Persian carpet, pictorial

carpet, herbal medicines, handicrafts and foodstuffs."

Saying that the CIIE is the hub for all of the countries to present themselves, not only exchange of commodities and goods but also of the cultural values, he added that the CIIE shows the maturity and growth of the Chinese economy that could attract and integrate other economies with national economy.

The third China International Import Expo (CIIE) will be held in Shanghai from November 5 to 10 as scheduled despite the impact of COVID-19 outbreak. 28 Iranian companies have participated in the event, which has doubled compared to last year's.

Forecast for Market Demand in the Five-Year Horizon

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company by referring to the programs and strategies of the company announced the forecast for the five-year horizon and drawing the technology roadmap of the company.

Eng. Hamid Reza Azimian pointed to the programs of the company for sales of its steel products, added that regarding his mission for playing a pivotal role in managing the flat steel products market through strategies like adopting the ten-year outlook, forecasting the market demand in the five-year horizon, drawing technology roadmap and by putting on the agenda the national 2025 Development Vision Document in its different consumption markets like auto-industry, oil and gas, construction, home appliances, pipe and profile, he plans developments and investments and accordingly, an annual sale program is to be drawn up in accordance with the macro goals of the company.

Azimian noted that so Mobarakeh Steel Company has planned the sales of 7.6m tons of its different types of steel products like slab, hot, cold, covered and pickling both in the domestic and foreign markets.

He added that by almost end of September, the company sold almost 3.5m tons of its products in the domestic and international markets which was four percent ahead of the schedule. He noted that by delivering some 3.58m tons of the products in the domestic market, the company was 22 percent ahead of the pre-planned schedule and this was materialized due to accompanying the national macro policies in meeting the domestic needs in the year of surge in production, and reducing the exports by 63 percent.

Azimian added that of the total 7.6m-ton target for sales in the international market, the company exported 1.5m tons which equals to 19.7 percent of the set target for exports but the exports decreased by 63 percent in the first half of the year in order to meet the domestic demands, and in the second half, the exports once again will be controlled to help the domestic market. Then he pointed to several awards and certificates that the company has received like prestigious awards of SGS and RINA from famous European and international inspection firms which helps Mobarakeh Steel Company to compete with its rivals in the international market.



In the name of God

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT



International Call for Bids
No. 9903405R1

Project "Coke Spillage Conveyor"

Esfahan Steel Company intends to have the project "Coke Spillage Conveyor" fulfilled for coke-production machines of its Coke Oven Battery 3 to extinguish and collect hot coke back from ovens. The current coke machines do not have the coke spillage conveyor mechanism, and a C.S.C system needs to be designed so that it can be installed and commissioned. Therefore, capable companies with the technology in the above area are invited to let us know their readiness and take further measures for a visit to the project site. A drawing of the discharging machine, the door-opening machine, and a general view of battery 3 is available at <http://esfahansteel.ir/newcmsen-farakhan>

Send your letter of readiness to contractmanager@esfahansteel.ir

Call No.: 00983152572593

Fax No.: 00983152573055

Public Relation of Esfahan Steel Co.

Egypt Sentences 59 Brotherhood Suspects to 15 Years

CAIRO (Dispatches) - An Egyptian court sentenced 59 suspected members of the Muslim Brotherhood to 15 years in prison on Thursday for alleged involvement in a high-profile 2013 sit-in, a judicial source said.

Seven other defendants were handed five-year sentences following the latest mass trial in the government's crackdown on the former ruling party, now blacklisted as a terror group. The court acquitted 29 of the accused. The charges related to a nearly six-week-long sit-in in the capital's Rabaa al-Adaweya Square, triggered by the overthrow by then armed forces chief, now President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, of his Islamist predecessor Mohamed Morsi.

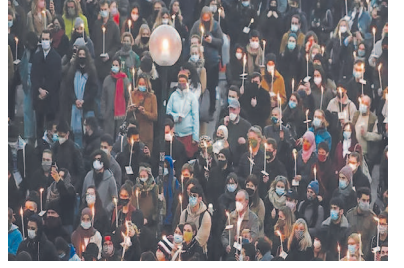


Eight Detained After Vienna Attack Had Previous Convictions

VIENNA (AFP) - Eight of those detained following Monday night's terrorist attack in Vienna had previous convictions, including for terror offences, the Austrian interior minister said Thursday, as the investigation extended to Switzerland and a second, unnamed country.

In the wake of the attack in which an Austrian-born man shot and killed four people in a popular nightlife area of central Vienna on Monday night, police arrested a total of 16 men.

Four of them had been convicted for terrorism-related offences, two for violent crime offences, and two for an attempted "honour killing", Interior Minister Karl Nehammer told a press conference Thursday.



Vote Counts Push Biden Closer to Victory



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With his re-election chances fading as more votes are counted in a handful of battleground states, U.S. President Donald Trump launched an extraordinary assault on the country's democratic process from the White House on Thursday, falsely claiming the election was being "stolen" from him.

Offering no evidence, Trump lambasted election workers and alleged fraud in the states where results from a dwindling set of uncounted votes are pushing Democrat Joe Biden nearer to victory.

"This is a case where they're trying to steal an election," Trump said, who spoke for about 15 minutes in the White House briefing room before leaving without taking questions.

Biden, the former vice president, was steadily eating away the Republican incumbent's leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia even as he maintained narrow advantages in Nevada and Arizona, moving closer to securing the 270 votes in the state-by-state Electoral College that determines the winner.

In Pennsylvania, Trump's lead had shrunk from 319,000 on Wednesday afternoon to around 50,000 by Thursday night, while his margin in Georgia fell from 68,000 to 2,500. Those numbers were expected to continue to move in Biden's favor, with many of the outstanding ballots from areas that typically vote Democratic, including the cities of Philadelphia and Atlanta.

Biden, meanwhile, saw his lead in Arizona contract from 93,000 to around 48,000; he was ahead in Nevada by only 11,000 votes. Biden would become the next president by winning Pennsylvania, or by winning two out of the trio of Georgia, Nevada and Arizona. Trump's likeliest path appeared narrower - he needed to hang onto Pennsylvania and Georgia while overtaking Biden in either Nevada or Arizona.

Most major television networks gave Biden a 253 to 214 lead in Electoral College votes, which are largely determined by state population, after he captured the crucial states of Wisconsin and Michigan on Wednesday.

As demonstrators marched in several U.S. cities for a second straight day, the election lay in the hands of civil employees who were methodically counting hundreds of thousands of ballots, many of which were sent by mail amid the coronavirus pandemic. Final results in each state could take days. Pennsylvania Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar said on Thursday afternoon the state still had about 350,000 ballots yet to count but expected the vast majority to be tallied by Friday.

In Georgia, Gabriel Sterling, an election official, said it would "take time" to process tens of thousands of remaining ballots. Arizona, where there were at least 400,000 ballots remaining, and Nevada, which had 190,000 uncounted votes, were also expected to take days to complete their tallies.

Trump's remarks followed a series of Twitter posts from Trump earlier in the day that called for vote counting to stop, even though he currently trails Biden in enough states to hand the Democrat the presidency.

Trump's campaign, meanwhile, pursued a flurry of lawsuits in Georgia, Michigan, Nevada and Pennsylvania, though judges in Georgia and Michigan quickly rejected the challenges. Legal experts said the cases had little chance of affecting the electoral outcome.

Biden wrote on Twitter shortly after Trump's White House appearance, "No one is going to take our democracy away from us." In earlier remarks from his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden expressed confidence he would win and urged calm as votes were tallied.

"Democracy's sometimes messy," Biden said. "It sometimes requires a little patience as well. But that patience has been rewarded now for more than 240 years in a system of governance that has been the envy of the world." A new Reuters/Ipsos poll showed a bipartisan majority of Americans rejecting Trump's premature victory declaration in favor of counting all votes.

The close election underscored the nation's deep political divides, while the slow count of millions of mail-in ballots served as a reminder of the deadly pandemic that continues to upend American life.

Kosovo's President Thaci Resigns To Face War Crimes Court

PRISTINA (Dispatches) - Kosovo President Hashim Thaci resigned Thursday to face an indictment from a war crimes court in The Hague, a dramatic downfall for a man who has loomed over the former Serbian province for more than a decade.

The 52-year-old said he would step down to "protect the integrity" of the presidency after the court confirmed an indictment against him dating back to the 1990s conflict with Serbia, when Thaci was political chief of Kosovo's rebel army.

"I will cooperate closely with justice. I believe in truth, reconciliation and the future of our country and society," he said at a press conference in the capital Pristina. Thaci, a former premier who has been president since 2016, has long insisted on his innocence over a war that many Kosovars consider a "just" struggle for their independence from Serbian oppression.

Kosovo's majority ethnic Albanian population suffered heavily during the conflict that claimed 13,000 lives and ended only after a NATO bombing forced Serb troops to withdraw from the province.

Serbian military and police officials were later convicted by international justice of war crimes.



New Zealand's Ardern Sworn In for Second Term

WELLINGTON (AFP) - New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was sworn in for a second term Friday, as final election results showed her landslide victory was even bigger than previously thought.

The charismatic leader and her ministers made their oaths of office in English and Maori during a ceremony at Wellington's Government House.

"I would say simply that sitting at this table is Aotearoa New Zealand," Ardern said, gesturing to her gathered team, in which women and Maori are strongly represented.

"They collectively represent a range of different perspectives, huge talent, enormous experience and, as you would expect in any time of crisis, a huge commitment to serving this country."

Ardern, 40, leveraged her success battling Covid-19 into an unprecedented majority at the October 17 election, leading her centre-left Labour Party to its biggest win since World War II.

Final results released Friday showed Ardern won 50.0 percent of the vote, up from 49.0 on election night, giving her 65 seats in the 120-strong parliament, rather than 64.

The main opposition National Party saw its seats reduced from 35 to 33, prompting campaign director Gerry Brownlee to step down as deputy party leader.

Ardern said she had a clear mandate for reform, although her priorities were containing Covid-19 and rebuilding the virus-damaged economy.

The pandemic is one of a string of emergencies that tested Ardern's leadership during a torrid first term, after she rode to an unexpected victory in 2017 polls on the back of a wave of support dubbed "Jacinda mania".

She displayed both empathy and decisive action on gun control after a white supremacist gunman killed 51 Muslim worshippers in the Christchurch mosques attack last year.

Macron Urges Europe to Strengthen Border Controls

PARIS (Dispatches) - Europe must rethink its open-border Schengen area, including a more robust protection of the zone's external frontiers, President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday, after a spate of Islamist attacks in France and Austria.

The tighter controls were needed to curb clandestine immigration, said Macron, adding that the criminal gangs illegally trafficking migrants into Europe were often linked to terror networks.

"I am in favor of a deep overhaul of Schengen to re-think its organization and to strengthen our common border security with a proper border force," Macron said during a visit to the Franco-Spanish border.

The president said he would present proposals to European Union partners at an EU summit in December. Europe is reeling from two attacks in the past week that involved assailants who moved freely between Schengen member states.

On Oct. 29, a Tunisian man killed three people in a church in Nice. Brahim Aouissauoui had arrived on the Italian island of Lampedusa, which lies off North Africa, five weeks earlier. After being transferred to the mainland, Aouissauoui travelled into France by train hours before launching his attack.

The jihadist who killed four people in Vienna on Monday

travelled to neighbouring Slovakia in July in an attempt to - buy ammunition, Austrian officials said.

Macron said the recent attacks were a warning to Europe that "the terrorist risk is everywhere".

The proposals that Macron would put to EU nations would be based on principals he set out in a letter to citizens ahead of European elections last year, a junior minister said.

In that letter, Macron wrote that Europe needed a common border force and a single asylum office, strict border control obligations and for each member state to supply intelligence under the authority of a European Council for Internal Security.

On Thursday, the president said France would double the number of police manning its borders.

Nearly 628,000 non-EU citizens were found to be illegally present in the bloc in 2019, up 10% on the previous year, according to Eurostat data. More than 717,000 non-EU citizens were refused entry, the highest number on record.

France's border police chief told Macron there had been a surge in attempted crossings of the Franco-Spanish frontier since it reopened in June following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. Many came from Algeria and Morocco, agents said.



New Bolivia President's Foes Call Strike in Key Region



LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Conservative opponents of Bolivia's leftist president-elect Luis Arce have announced a two-day strike from Thursday protesting alleged electoral fraud.

The strike will take place across the eastern department of Santa Cruz, the South American country's economic hub as well as home to its biggest city.

Powerful governor Ruben Costas said it was "essential to demand that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal carry out an audit of the electoral process, and particularly the result of the vote, in order to give certainty and confidence to the Bolivian people as a whole."

TSE president Salvador Romero dismissed the demand for an audit, saying the result was validated by several international bodies, including the Organization of American States.

Last week, several hundred right-wing protesters in Santa Cruz called on the armed forces to mobilize to prevent Arce's Movement for Socialism (MAS) party from assuming power.

Arce, successor to exiled ex-president Evo Morales, is to be inaugurated on Sunday after triumphing in last month's presidential election.

Santa Cruz is the stronghold of right-wing civic leader Luis Fernando Camacho, who led protests against Morales last year and finished third in the recent election with 14 percent.

Sporadic anti-Arce protests have also broken out in the Cochabamba region.

Bolivia's outgoing parliament last week approved a motion recommending that outgoing interim president Jeanine Anez and her ministers be prosecuted over last year's unrest which left around 30 people dead.

pasdaran Apt (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Zafar Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
marble floor
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$1500) 140sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Zaferanieh (\$2200) 200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Gheitarieh (\$2500) 250sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F
Fereshteh (\$1800) 180sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

Jordan Apt (\$1400)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, F.F

Cell: +989121907875
Shanon_tari@yahoo.com
Tel : 88510081
Fax : 88506474

Vanak office (\$30 per sq.m)
300sq.m, 3bdrs, & pkg lots

IRAN NEWS ADVERTISING
44253401

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate
Member of **DELTA** Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

IRAN NEWS
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS
ADVERTISING

TEL: 44253448-50
FAX: 44253234
ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM

Singapore Banks' Q3 Profits Skid

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Singapore's top lenders, DBS Group Holdings Ltd and Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp Ltd, reported declines in quarterly profits on Thursday, hit by lower net interest income, but the results still came in above analysts' estimates. The city-state's banks have been under pressure due to low interest rates and weak growth in pandemic-hit markets in Asia, while they also soak up bad loans as regulators prepare to ease conditions for billions of dollars in lending moratoriums. DBS, Southeast Asia's biggest lender, posted a 20% fall in net profit to S\$1.30 billion (\$951 million) from S\$1.63 billion a year earlier. The result was above an average estimate of S\$1.17 billion from four analysts, according to Refinitiv data.



Saudis, Russia Push to Delay Supply Hike

VIENNA (Dispatches) - OPEC+ talks on delaying a January oil-output increase gathered momentum on Tuesday, with some top officials offering support to the effort.

Algeria, which this year holds the OPEC presidency, said that both Saudi Arabia and Russia were pressing fellow members to prolong the current oil-supply cuts into next year, rather than tapering them as planned. Algeria supported the proposal, the first country to publicly do so.

Oil prices rose as the comments followed fresh hints from Secretary-General Mohammad Barkindo that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is preparing to change course. The alliance will move to "accelerate" the oil recovery at its next meeting, scheduled for November 30-December 1, he said.

The 23-nation oil-producers network, led by Riyadh and Moscow, is currently scheduled to restore almost two million of the 7.7 million barrels of daily output currently halted to stave off a glut. But as demand falters and prices retreat to about \$40 a barrel, postponing the move appears increasingly likely.

The "situation in global oil markets" is "very dangerous", Algerian Energy Minister Abdelmadjid Attar said, according to state-run news agency APS. Iraq also supports prolonging the cuts, he said, according to the report.

On Monday, Russian oil companies discussed with Energy Minister Alexander Novak the possibility of delaying the easing of OPEC+ output cuts by three months, according to people familiar with the matter. They also discussed potentially deepening the current curbs, though that was not the base case, said one person.

"We continue to see headwinds," Barkindo said in an interview with the head of the International Energy Forum. "Demand is recovering, so also is the global economic rebound, but at a very slow speed."

The latest wave of the virus "will almost certainly dampen the momentum that we gathered in the third quarter", Barkindo told IEF head Joe Monagle in the podcast. That's casting a shadow on the outlook for next year, even as fuel demand in China and India returns to levels seen before this year's coronavirus outbreak, he said.

Because of the unparalleled disruption caused by the disease, the upcoming meeting "will be one of the most important conferences in the history of OPEC," Barkindo said. The Riyadh-based IEF promotes dialogue between energy producers and users.

OPEC and Russia also held their annual talks on Tuesday. Novak said the partnership between the producers has been instrumental in ensuring market stability, particularly during the pandemic, according to social media posts by the OPEC secretariat.

"We see a lot of uncertainties that prevent the return of economic indicators and global oil consumption to pre-crisis" levels, Novak said in opening remarks at the Russia-OPEC energy dialogue. "We see how difficult the recovery is."

Indonesia Suffers First Recession in Over Two Decades

JAKARTA (Reuters) - Indonesia suffered its first recession in over two decades in the third quarter and millions of people lost their jobs over the past year as the COVID-19 pandemic battered Southeast Asia's largest economy, the statistics bureau said on Thursday.

Gross domestic product (GDP) shrank by a slightly more than expected 3.49% year-on-year as household consumption fell while investment also dropped in the third quarter, official data showed. Economists in a Reuters poll had expected GDP to fall 3% after a 5.32% contraction in the second quarter.

While Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said in a press conference "the worst is over", pointing to a pick-up in quarterly growth, the statistics bureau said some 2.67 million people had lost their jobs in the year to August due to COVID-19.

A 9.8% rise in government spending helped soften the blow, but economists called on more stimulus to help lift the economy out of the doldrums. "Given the unfathomably slow pace of fiscal stimulus disbursement ... the pressure is on monetary policy to do more," said Wellian Wiranto, economist with OCBC.

Indonesia's first recession since the Asian financial crisis in 1998 - normally defined as two consecutive quarters of economic contraction - comes as the country has struggled to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

With the highest case load and COVID-19 death toll in Southeast Asia, Indonesia's government in September introduced a second round of restrictions in the capital Jakarta as it tried to contain the spread of the virus amid rising cases.

Household consumption, normally the economy's main growth engine, fell 4% on an annual basis, while investment dropped 6.5%. Indonesia's exports tumbled 10.8% as global demand remained tepid amid the global pandemic.

The government has pledged to accelerate spending, while Bank Indonesia (BI) Governor Perry Warjiyo has said the central bank has further room to act after 100 basis points of rate cuts this year and more than \$30 billion of government bond purchases. The data comes after thousands of people took to the streets in the youthful nation in October calling for the reversal of a controversial law aimed at job creation but which some say favours business interests at the expense of the environment and labour.

David Sumual, an economist at Bank Central Asia, said the recession was unlikely to trigger social unrest due to the increase in social spending for the most affected communities. On a quarterly, non-seasonally adjusted basis, GDP grew 5.05% in the June-September period, but that was also slightly below expectations for 5.34% rise in the Reuters poll.



Data Point To U.S. Slowing Economic Recovery

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. private payrolls increased less than expected in October and activity in the services industry cooled, providing early signs of a slowdown in economic growth as fiscal stimulus diminishes and new COVID-19 infections surge across the country.

The recovery from the coronavirus pandemic could also be impacted over the next few months by political uncertainty following Tuesday's cliffhanger presidential election, which economists warned could cause businesses to be more cautious about spending decisions.

The election hung in the balance on Wednesday, with a handful of close-fought states set to decide the outcome in the coming hours or days. There are fears of a contested result between President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival Joe Biden, who both still have possible paths to reach the needed 270 Electoral College votes to win the White House.

"This is not a good outcome for the economy since the headwinds from rising Covid cases, troubled state and local government finances and falling incomes as unemployment benefits expire, are growing in strength," said James Knightley, chief international economist at ING in New York.

"Animosity and the threat of legal challenges argues against a swift fiscal support package which will be a concern as activity becomes increasingly constrained."

Private payrolls increased by 365,000 jobs last month after rising 753,000 in September, the ADP National Employment Report showed on Wednesday. Economists polled by Reuters had forecast private payrolls would advance by 650,000 in October.

Job gains last month were broad, though they were concentrated in industries directly impacted by the coronavirus crisis, including the leisure and hospitality sector. The resurgence in COVID-19 cases across the country could lead to renewed business restrictions to slow the spread of the respiratory illness as winter approaches.

Even without new restrictions, Americans are likely to stay away from air travel, hotels, gyms, bars, restaurants and other consumer-facing businesses, worsening already lackluster demand, which has seen the labor market struggling to recoup all the 22.2 million jobs lost during the pandemic.

The ADP report is jointly developed with Moody's Analytics. Though it has fallen short of the government's private payrolls count since May because of methodology differences, it is still watched for clues on the labor market's health.

It was released ahead of the government's closely watched, and comprehensive, monthly employment report on Friday. According to a Reuters survey of economists, private nonfarm payrolls likely increased by 700,000 jobs in October after rising 877,000 in September.

With government payrolls expected to have dropped again last month as more temporary workers hired for the Census departed and state and local governments struggle with tight budgets, overall nonfarm payrolls are forecast increasing by 600,000 jobs after rising 661,000 in September. That would leave employment 10.1 million jobs below its peak in February.

Surprisingly, U.S. financial markets were mostly higher despite the political uncertainty. Stocks on Wall Street rose. U.S. Treasury prices were higher. The dollar was steady against a basket of currencies. "My sense is traders and investors are increasingly comfortable Republicans will hold the Senate and Democrats will hold the House," said Chris Low, chief economist at FHN Financial in New York. "From a markets standpoint, that means whoever emerges with White House control, Trump or Biden, will not be able to do much."

Euro Zone Economy on Track for Double-Dip Recession

LONDON (Reuters) - The euro zone's economic recovery stalled last month as a second wave of coronavirus cases and restrictions imposed to try and contain it whacked activity in the bloc's dominant service industry, pointing to a double-dip recession, a survey showed.

Alongside their peers, Germany and France -- the 19-country bloc's two biggest economies -- have reimposed tough lockdown measures, likely dealing a heavy blow this month as restaurants, gyms and shops remain closed and citizens stay at home.

"With lockdown measures being tightened, it is becoming increasingly hard to see how the euro zone economy will avoid falling back into decline," said Chris Williamson, chief business economist at survey compiler IHS Markit.

"For all countries the outlook has grown increasingly dark."

The euro zone economy contracted 11.8% in the second quarter but expanded a much-better-than-expected 12.7% in July-September after many lockdown restrictions were eased, official data showed on Friday.

But rising coronavirus cases pose a serious risk to the bloc's recovery, a Reuters poll said last month, and IHS Markit's final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index, seen as a good gauge of economic health, dropped to 50.0 last month from September's 50.4, although above a preliminary reading of 49.4.

That was bang on the 50 mark which separates growth from contraction and was dragged down by the services PMI which fell to 46.9 from 48.0, its lowest since May when the first wave of the virus was sweeping across Europe.

"Service providers have been hit especially hard, led by intensifying weakness in consumer-facing sectors such as hospitality, offsetting the brighter news seen in manufacturing during the month," Williamson said.

The IHS Markit survey was conducted largely before many of the new restrictions were put in place across Europe but forward-looking indicators were already bleak.

Services firms cut headcount for an eighth month, demand dropped further, backlogs of work were again depleted and optimism waned. The business expectations index sank to 54.2 from 59.2, and it has mostly only ever been lower this year and during the last two financial crises.

To offer support, the European Central Bank committed last week to take new action in December to contain the growing fallout, having already pumped in unprecedented stimulus.

The Bank's policy mandate is to have inflation just below 2% but it registered -0.3% in October, official flash data showed, so policymakers are likely to be disappointed to see firms cutting prices to drum up demand.

Over 80% of World Poorest Populations May Be Concentrated in States Affected by fragility, Violence by 2030

TEHRAN (UNIC) – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, 6 November 2020, said by 2030, more than 80 per cent of the world's poorest populations may be concentrated in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

The full text of his message reads:

Conflict and the environment are deeply interlinked. Around the world, at least 40 per cent of all intrastate conflicts have had an important natural resource dimension. Rising temperatures due to climate change now threaten to further amplify environmental stresses and tensions. And, all too often, the environment is among the casualties of war, through deliberate acts of destruction or collateral damage, or because, during conflicts, governments fail to control and manage natural resources.

While climate disruption and environmental degradation are not the direct cause of conflict, they can exacerbate conflict risks. Their combined impacts undermine livelihoods, food security, confidence in government, health and education, and social equality. Degradation of natural resources and ecosystems adds to the challenges faced by communities who are already vulnerable in the short and long term. Women and girls are disproportionately affected.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals are inspired by the idea that no one should be left behind. But violent conflict prevents many countries from moving forward. Conflict-affected states are less likely to reach their SDG targets; and, by 2030, more than 80 per cent of the world's poorest populations may be concentrated in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence.

Better management of natural resources and ecosystems could pave a path for peace in war-torn societies, helping crisis-affected countries move a step closer to achieving the SDGs. Not only do natural resources underpin the delivery of many basic services, such as water or electricity, but they can also be used as a platform for trust building and benefit sharing between divided groups.

This requires collaboration among governments, civil society, the private sector and specialized institutions; building local capacity and resilience; harnessing data and digital technologies for risk analysis and collaborative management; investing in women as change agents; and strengthening legal and policy discussions within a coherent framework of international actors.

As we mark the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, approximately one in every five people is living in an area affected by fragility, conflict or violence.

If we are to achieve the SDGs, we need to act boldly and urgently to reduce the risks that environmental degradation and climate change present for conflict and commit to protecting our planet from the debilitating effects of war.

South Pars Phase 14 Refinery Operational by Mar. 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) - The first train of the South Pars Phase 14 refinery is going to go operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2021), the managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said.

As reported by Shana, in a visit to the project's site, Mohammad Meshkinfam said: "Phase 14 refinery is the last refinery of the South Pars, the development of which was delayed due to lack of financial

resources, but the executive operations of this project have been started and are currently underway."

The official put the physical progress of this refinery's project at 85 percent, saying that due to the conditions and limitations caused by the coronavirus outbreak, the first train of this refinery may be put into operation later this year or early next year with a delay of one month.



Win or Lose, Trump's Movement Stronger and Bigger Than Ever

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The U.S. presidential election is still up in the air, but one thing is for certain: the movement created by Donald Trump is alive and well, and more solid than pundits expected.

No matter if he wins or loses, Trumpism looks set to live on.

Republican political pundit Sophia A. Nelson summed it up quickly: "The Trump movement is real. And it's here to stay."

Despite being repeatedly -- and wrongly -- described as only older, white and rural, Trump's base will help deliver the third highest vote total in American political history -- behind only Joe Biden, and Barack Obama in 2008.

Hispanic voters, often expected to lean left, turned to Trump this time around -- their turnout in Florida helped him easily defeat Biden in the Sunshine State in Tuesday's nailbiter of an election. "Ahead of the election, a lot of pundits talked about how Trump wasn't bringing new voters to his camp," said Abraham Gutman, who is on the editorial board at The Philadelphia Inquirer. But he will have, at a minimum, won about five million more votes this time around than he did in 2016 against Hillary Clinton.

"Regardless of the eventual outcome -- in the state contests for electors or in the popular vote margin -- the media needs a serious post mortem to explore how, despite so much ink spilled on Trump voters, the story of the growth of the Trump movement was totally missed," Gutman said. Trump staged dozens of campaign rallies in the run-up to Tuesday's showdown at the polls with the Democratic former vice president. He was regularly greeted by sizeable crowds. Truck parades for the Republican incumbent rolled through town after American town, as did boat processions in waterfront communities.

All were evidence of a wide base of support.

"His supporters love him. They love him for this fact that he keeps America first and Americans first," Jim Worthington, the founder of People4Trump, told AFP in a phone interview.

"They realize that he's fighting for them. We broadened our coalition," added Worthington, who owns two gyms.

Trump's controversial handling of the coronavirus pandemic, which has so far claimed the lives of more than 233,000 Americans, his tough immigration policies and his brash style of speaking have not dissuaded his fans.

The real estate mogul turned world leader is still one of the most popular Republicans in recent memory, since Ronald Reagan.

His supporters "have a real affection for this guy despite all of his flaws or maybe because of his flaws," said John Feehery, a lobbyist with EFB Advocacy who has worked with several Republican lawmakers.

That's a strange thing. I think part of it is because he's so authentic. (...) He says what's on his mind. And people like seeing what's on his mind."

He also strikes a chord with voters who has a "desire for nationalism," Feehery said.

"If Trump hadn't existed, someone would have had to invent him."



If Trump eventually wins the election, his future and political legacy won't be clear for another few years. If he loses, "I don't think the movement goes away," said Worthington. "I think everybody regroups. He'll decide what pathway for all of us that we would take and I think we would galvanize together."

As for his overall influence on the Republican Party, which has massively rallied behind him over the past four years, many think a loss in 2020 would likely not adversely affect it.

Even with a narrow White House defeat, the Republicans are on course to maintain their Senate majority and did not lose in spectacular fashion in the House of Representatives.

"Things worked ok for a party that he led and that will presumably continue to influence the direction that things go once he's not on television so often," said Daniel Schlozman, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University. "These are the circumstances under which parties are more likely to stay the course than say, 'We need to do something very, very different'."

For David Hopkins, an associate professor of political science at Boston College, Trump "has had and will continue to have a major influence on the Republican Party" for at least the next four years, even if he loses.

Feehery said that if Trump loses this time, "I wouldn't be surprised if he ran again."

Worthington said he believed the billionaire businessman would have "a ton of support" if he ran again in four years. When asked about a possible new wave of Trump politicians, Worthington said he saw daughter Ivanka, not eldest son Don Jr, as the "heir apparent."

"She is just a very impressive person," he said, noting he worked with her on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness and Nutrition.

But Hopkins cautioned: "It's clear that part of Trump's appeal is his own personality, which might not be able to transfer to other figures once he himself is gone from the scene."

India Central Bank Exploring Investment Options for Reserves



NEW DELHI (Reuters) - The Reserve Bank of India is looking at diversifying its foreign exchange reserve investments amid the fall in global interest rates caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, according to two government sources aware of the development.

The RBI's foreign exchange reserves stand at a record \$560.63 billion. The central bank, which mostly invests in gold, sovereign debt and other risk-free deposits, has seen returns fall as monetary policy loosened globally. U.S. two-year government bonds ended at 0.16% on Nov. 2. <US2YT=RR>

As a result, the RBI is likely to increase its gold investments, as well buying dollars and exploring investing in AAA-rated corporate bonds for the first time, said the sources, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the issue.

"The RBI is likely to continue to buy dollars. The problem is the dollar deployment and getting good returns," one of the officials said.

The official added that the RBI was studying the possibility of investing in AAA-rated corporate dollar bonds, which offer better returns than sovereign credit. Such investments have not been made in the past, so the central bank would move carefully.

Foreign investors have continued to pour money into the Indian stock market because of its stronger returns. Foreign direct investment flows, particularly towards Reliance Industries <RELI.NS>, have pulled in dollars into the country.

Traders say the RBI has been intervening heavily in the spot market to prevent appreciation of the rupee, in turn adding to its reserves. "The government is comfortable with current rupee levels. It needs to be competitive to help provide an export boost," the official said.

A second source said dollar buying intervention will continue as both the RBI and the government are comfortable with a 73-75 per dollar range on the local currency. Despite a contraction in gross domestic product expected in the current fiscal year to March 2021, foreign flows have remained healthy.

Foreign investors bought shares worth \$2.52 billion in October, taking total investment in 2020 to \$6.47 billion. Though FIIs are net sellers of bonds worth \$13.98 billion in 2020 so far, they bought a net \$459.30 million in October.

Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance Should Help Build Resilience to All Hazards

TEHRAN (UNIC) – United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his message on World Tsunami Awareness Day, 5 November 2020, said strengthening disaster risk governance should help build our resilience to all hazards, natural and man-made.

The full text of his message reads:

We live in a multi-hazard world where risk is systemic and embedded in the very fabric of human development. Currently we are struggling with what some describe as a tsunami of death and disease due to COVID-19.

This metaphor comes easily because living memory remains strong of the worst sudden onset disaster this century, the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 that took more than 227,000 lives.

Pandemic preparedness can borrow much from the progress we have made in reducing large-scale loss of life from tsunamis.

There are now early warning systems wherever coasts are vulnerable.

The United Nations system is working with partners around the globe to educate the public, organize drills, create evacuation routes and to do everything possible to avoid heavy loss of life when the next tsunami comes.

And come it surely will, just like the next pandemic, storm, flood, drought or heatwave.

When tsunamis strike, they are a supreme test of the governance and institutions that have been put in place to manage disaster risk.

Strengthening disaster risk governance is the theme of this year's World Tsunami Awareness Day.

It should help build our resilience to all hazards, natural and man-made.

Fresh Curbs for England, Italy as U.S. Sets New Case Record

LONDON (AFP) - England's 56 million people joined much of western Europe in a second coronavirus lockdown Thursday, as the United States set a fresh daily record with close to 100,000 new infections.

European governments are struggling to contain a fresh wave of the pandemic, which has now infected more than 11 million across the continent.

The new stay-at-home orders from London came as Denmark said it would cull its entire population of more than 15 million minks after a mutation of the virus was found to have spread to people from the otter-like mammals.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced an England-wide shutdown as daily death tolls hit their worst levels since May and with warnings that hospitals could soon be overwhelmed.

It prompted crowds across the nation to queue outside soon-to-close shops, book a last-minute haircut or head to the pub for a final pint, as business owners fretted over the impact of the lockdown on their bottom line.

"We will be paying this off for years," said Joe Curran, landlord of The Queen's Head pub in central London. "This lockdown will cost us thousands on top of the thousands so far."

The new restrictions run until December 2 and mandate a return to working from home where possible, along with the closure of all non-essential shops and services. Schools will stay open.

Britain is among the world's hardest-hit countries with just over a million virus cases and nearly 48,000 deaths.



England's lockdown follows similar measures in the other nations of the United Kingdom -- Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland -- as well as France and Germany.

Parts of Italy will join that list from Friday, with shops selling non-essential goods to be shut in hard-hit areas and people largely confined to their homes except for work, health and emergency reasons.

Authorities have also announced a nationwide curfew between 10:00 pm and 5:00 am. "We don't have alternatives," Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said during a televised press conference on Wednesday night.

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently said he had no plans for a lockdown but that resolve may be tested after the country set two new records Wednesday -- for daily infections, at nearly 20,000, and daily death toll, at nearly 400.

For Us, Neither Biden Nor Trump...

FROM PAGE 1

In the agricultural inputs, we are fairly self-sufficient. That some believe that the Americans may wage a war on Iran is nothing but an illusion. First, in our neighborhood, no one has had, or has, or will have the gut like Saddam Hussein had. Secondly, a little bit farther, Saudis in Trump's era had this potential with high risk to expand the range of Yemen war to Iran's borders but with firing rain of missiles and drone attacks on Aramco facilities in Saudi Arabia by Yemeni forces, Saudis reached an absolute remorse, and ultimately the Americans themselves, who were concerned about attacks on their warships by Iran's missiles and speed boats, dock their ships in Bahrain and it is impossible they dare to risk any attack because its fate would be annihilation of all of their bases in the region, and full halt in shipping of oil and passages from the Persian Gulf. So in some aspects we are very strong and we need to become stronger in some other ones.

Some through fantasy are living in this illusion that Biden is wiser than Trump and his forces have good relations and interactions with our diplomats, and on the whole, deal with him is better than deal with Trump but I myself do not essentially believe it, and believe they are both sides of a coin.

42 years of resistance against arrogance is worth of it that we rejected Trump and even if today we call them, nobody will pick up the phone in the White House. So we should continue this policy with Biden, too, in order that our 42 years of authority cannot be broken; and we should be thankful to the late Imam Khomeini and all should know that this U.S. with leadership of these decrepit old and incapable elements will not survive, and sooner or later these existing cracks in the body of this fake super power would turn into splits that we never imagined it.



Iran Finally...

FROM PAGE 1

The transfer line is planned to continue another 500 kilometers in the next phases of the project to take water to copper smelters in Sarcheshmeh, in north of Kerman, and further into the heart of the Iranian desert in Yazd province where the sprawling Chadormalu mining complex, the largest iron ore producer in the Middle East, is located.

The desalinated water will also be consumed for irrigation, said Rouhani during the inauguration ceremony, as he insisted that the project would relieve a huge burden from underground water resources and would boost environmental conditions in the Iranian Plateau and along the Persian Gulf coast.

"This project had been deemed unimaginable and it materialized in the Government of Discretion and Hope," Rouhani said making a reference to a phrase routinely used to distinguish his two four-year terms in office that began 2013.

424 Died...

FROM PAGE 1

"Hormozgan, Fars, Golestan, and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces are also regarded as orange and yellow zones," Lari added.

Meanwhile on Thursday, Deputy Health Minister said that 20 percent of people who tested positive for coronavirus did not comply with quarantine rules.

"The death toll from the coronavirus in Iran is according to scientific statistics and there are no defects," Iran deputy Minister of Health Iraj Harirchi said.

"In the next few days, the daily coronavirus tests will reach 100,000" he said. "There are now about 30,000 daily tests." Criticizing the non-observance of health protocols by some patients, the Deputy Minister of Health added that "Out of a total of 15,000 positive tests, it was found that 20 percent of them do not remain in quarantine."

"We need at least two-week lockdown," he said. "We need the social responsibility of the people and the officials to control the disease." Harirchi said that the closure should not be such that people do not go to work, but instead walk around in shopping malls.

"We should all be committed to adhering to health protocols and stay home as much as possible and leave home if necessary," he added.

Tehran Raps...

FROM PAGE 1

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zare'ian censured as "illegal and inhumane" the imposition of unilateral sanctions against countries, and said the restrictive measures "openly target the daily lives of ordinary citizens without discrimination and are designed to undermine any achievement of social development."

The Iranian diplomat said the implementation of unilateral and coercive measures continues to fundamentally violate the human rights of all countries, and that "Such sanctions, due to their extraterritorial nature and their illegal application outside national borders, also undermine human rights across the world." U.S. President Donald Trump, a stem critic of the Iran nuclear deal, unilaterally pulled Washington out of the historic pact in May 2018 and unleashed the "toughest ever" sanctions against the Islamic Republic in defiance of global criticism in an attempt to strangle the Iranian economy, particularly in the oil sector.

British Rider Stannard Quits Because of Rheumatoid Arthritis

LONDON (Reuters) - British rider Ian Stannard has been forced to retire from professional cycling because of rheumatoid arthritis, the Ineos Grenadiers team said on Thursday. Stannard has been with the hugely successful British outfit since it was launched as Team Sky in 2010 and was an integral part of five Grand Tour winning lineups. "It's disappointing to have to stop like this but it is clearly the right decision for my health and my family," the 33-year-old Stannard said.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard:

(+98) (21) 44253448

Public Relations Tel:

(+98)(21) 44253450

Editorial Board: 44253449

Public Relations Fax:

(+98)(21) 44253395

Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234

Website:

http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:

info@irannewsdaily.com

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,

Golestan II St, Golestan St. Marzdaran

Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and

Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Boateng Eager to Extend Bayern Deal

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich defender Jerome Boateng wants to start contract extension talks with the European champions his agent said on Wednesday amid uncertainty surrounding the future of fellow centre-back David Alaba. Boateng, 32, a 2014 World Cup winner, is out of contract in June. "We are open to contract talks and would be delighted to have them with Bayern," Boateng's representative Damir Smoljan told Sport1. "Jerome feels unbelievably well here and the team is incredibly focused and professional."

Barca, Juve Win in Champions League

PARIS (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Nine-man Paris Saint-Germain lost to RB Leipzig in a repeat of last season's semi-final and Chelsea proved too strong for Rennes, with Timo Werner twice converting from the penalty spot.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou after he was fouled in the area and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Viktor Tsygankov grabbed a consolation for coronavirus-hit Dynamo as Barca, winless in four games in La Liga, recorded their third successive Group G victory to stay three points clear of Juventus.

Cristiano Ronaldo made his first start for the Italian champions since September after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone by Alvaro Morata in Budapest whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

Paulo Dybala added a third before an own goal from Lasha Dvali, with Franck Boli netting for the hosts in the final minute.

United produced a shambolic first-half defensive display as Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir.

Demba Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

NBA Team Owners, Players Eye Deal for Dec. 22 Start

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - NBA team owners and the players union will conduct separate meetings Thursday that are expected to produce a deal to start the 2020-21 campaign on December 22, according to multiple reports Wednesday. The National Basketball Players Association and the league are expected to agree upon a season reduced to 72 games per club, ESPN and The Athletic reported, with a formal vote of player representatives taking place Thursday night or early Friday. The NBA, according to the reports, says that starting before Christmas Day and keeping those traditional holiday television games while finishing the playoffs before the Tokyo Olympics in mid-July will be worth between \$500 million and \$1 billion to a league already set to lose money by playing without spectators in stands due to Covid-19.

Television broadcasters and advertisers would want the holiday matchups and like to avoid playing opposite the Olympics.

Players would face a salary escrow of about 18% for the next two years, sharing the losses while keeping salary cap levels in place to avoid roster issues for teams.

NBA players had been reluctant to start so soon after an October finish to an NBA Finals played in a quarantine bubble at Orlando, some instead pushing for a January start on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday even if it meant less money for fewer games and an August finish.

Having a season ending in July would allow for the possible return to the NBA's prior schedule of an October start to the season for the 2021-22 campaign.

A deal would be needed quickly to begin a turnaround for the 2020-21 campaign, including a planned November 18 NBA Draft, the start of free agency and pre-season training camps that will open about December 1.

The league and players are looking to spread out Covid-19 losses for players over several seasons to avoid a major one-season hit.

A deadline to keep open the option of ending the collective bargaining agreement has been delayed to Friday to allow time for an agreement.

Anthony Martial's header cut the deficit before half-time but United saw their momentum in Group H halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month. "You don't just turn up and get three points in the Champions League. We weren't good enough, that's it. It's not easy to be positive when you've lost the way we did," Solskjaer told BT Sport.



Emil Forsberg's penalty earned RB Leipzig a 2-1 victory as they came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up. Angel di Maria had given PSG an early lead in Germany but he then crucially missed a penalty for the French champions, who were missing both Neymar and Kylian Mbappe due to injury and ended this game with nine men. Christopher Nkunku equalised before half-time for Leipzig and Forsberg converted from the spot in the 57th minute before the visitors had both Idrissa Gueye and Presnel Kimpembe sent off.

"It's difficult. It's maybe our fault because we didn't get the second goal and then made a mistake on the penalty," said PSG coach Thomas Tuchel.

"There was a red card, it's then hard, 10 against 11. There were too many things going against us." Chelsea strolled to a 3-0 win at home against Rennes who saw defender Dalbert sent off after conceding two penalties in the first half.

Werner took over spot-kick duties from Jorginho and confidently tucked both away before Tammy Abraham turned in a third for the Blues on 50 minutes. Frank Lampard's men have yet to concede in Group E and are level on seven points with Sevilla, who rallied to defeat Krasnodar 3-2 despite the dismissal of captain Jesus Navas late in the first half.

Goals from Magomed Suleymanov and Marcus Berg, the second a penalty, put Krasnodar ahead in Spain but Ivan Rakitic pulled one back for Sevilla before the break.

Morocco striker Youssef En-Nesyri struck twice in four second-half minutes to floor Krasnodar and leave the Russians alongside Rennes on just one point. Erling Braut Haaland notched a brace to lead Borussia Dortmund to a 3-0 win at Club Brugge and send the Germans top of Group F. Thorgan Hazard had opened the scoring in his native Belgium.

Felipe Caicedo's late equaliser earned Lazio a 1-1 draw at Zenit Saint Petersburg after Aleksandr Erokhin had struck in the first half in front of some 17,000 fans in Russia.



The 34-year-old, who won a record-extending 13th French Open title across Paris at Roland Garros last month, followed Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer and Ivan Lendl in reaching the 1,000 mark.

The Spaniard had to fight back against fellow Spanish veteran Lopez, 39, but did enough to win 4-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-4.

Nadal was given a special presentation to celebrate his achievement after the match in a

Nadal Notches 1,000th Win

PARIS (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal became the fourth man to win 1,000 Tour-level matches by beating Feliciano Lopez at the Paris Masters, while Diego Schwartzman and Alexander Zverev also reached the third round.

near-empty Bercy Arena, with the event being played behind closed doors after France entered its second coronavirus lockdown last week.

"It has been a special moment. I know it's a very special number, 1000," said the 20-time Grand Slam champion.

"Even if it's not the same to celebrate something like this without a crowd, I enjoyed it with ATP, with the president of the French Federation, Guy Forget, supervisor and the ball boys.

"I enjoyed it and just can say thanks to all of them to make this moment a little bit more special."

The top seed, bidding for a first Paris Masters title, will face Jordan Thompson in the third round after the Australian beat Croatia's Borna Coric 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Taking the trophy in Paris this week would see Nadal equal Novak Djokovic's record of 36 Masters titles.

Players Concerned Over Qatar Trip for Asian Champions League

HONG KONG (AFP) - Global footballers union FIFPRO has accused the Asian Football Confederation of failing to consult players before moving Champions League games to Qatar, saying some had voiced concerns over making the trip during the pandemic.

FIFPRO said it was "disappointed and concerned" about the lack of consultation, adding that players had complained about the risks of travelling and about quarantine periods that will interfere with family life, games and training.

The delayed AFC Champions League East competition, featuring clubs from Australia, China, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand, will run from November 18 to December 4 in a bio-secure "bubble" in Qatar, followed by knockout games leading up to the final in Doha on December 19.

"FIFPRO is disappointed and concerned by the lack of consultation of professional footballers in the scheduling of the AFC Champions League in Qatar and the planning of Covid-19 protocols," a statement said.

"These matters have implications for their mental and physical health as well as their participation in domestic leagues."

The global players union and affiliated associations in Australia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Thailand, which represent 12 of the 16 clubs involved, were not consulted about the arrangements, FIFPRO said.

"Furthermore, we have not received any information about the outbreak of Covid-19 in the tournament's so-called 'medical bubble' during the western AFC region competition in September," it added.



Maradona Recovering Well After Brain Surgery

LONDON (Dispatches) - Doctors treating Argentine football legend Diego Maradona, who had successful brain surgery to remove a blood clot, are "amazed" at the rate of his recovery, his physician said.

Surgeons at a private clinic in Buenos Aires spent 80 minutes removing the clot on Tuesday night. "I just saw him, he's switched on, in a very good mood. We are amazed at how he's healing," said the doctor, Leopoldo Luque, who provided an update on the 60-year-old's condition.

"But we have to be careful because we are still in the post-operative period," he cautioned. "It is clear that he has no neurological complications," said Luque, speaking to reporters through a mask.

"There are other parameters that we are waiting to evaluate, because it is still very early. But the recovery is excellent."

The comments sparked loud cheering and chanting from fans of Maradona who have hung banners depicting his glory day outside the clinic.

"Once more his health has played a trick on him but he has antibodies to recover with the help of the people," fan Oscar Medina told AFP.

World Cup winner Maradona had been taken to hospital in La Plata -- where he is the coach of top-flight side Gimnasia y Esgrima -- on Monday for a series of tests after feeling unwell.

A scan revealed the blood clot, and on Tuesday he was transferred to the clinic in a northern neighborhood of the capital.

"We managed to successfully remove the clot. Diego coped well with the surgery," Luque said in an earlier update. Maradona, who turned 60 on Friday, has suffered ill health before. He has survived two heart attacks, and also contracted hepatitis and underwent gastric bypass surgery.

