

TEDPIX, the Main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Lost 22,401 Points to 1.24 Million on Sunday as Over 2.347 Billion Securities Worth 22.885 Trillion Rials (About \$544.88m) Were Traded at the TSE

IRAN NEWS

Hormozgan Border Guard Commander General Hossein Dehaki informed of the Seizure of 113,000 Liters of Smuggled Fuel At Hormozgan Maritime Boundaries by Maritime Guards

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2

DOMESTIC

Political, Civil Decline of U.S. Regime Definite



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Iran-Italy Webinar On Tourism to Be Held on Nov. 20

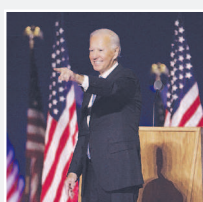


> SEE PAGE 3

4

INTERNATIONAL

Biden Urges Unity After Beating Trump



> SEE PAGE 4

8

SPORTS

Man Utd Set Up To Fail as Chelsea Climb to Third



> SEE PAGE 8

Single-Day COVID-19 Deaths Break Records Again

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has reported the highest-ever number of daily fatalities caused by the novel coronavirus, confirming 459 new deaths in 24 hours which increase the overall death toll to 38,291.

In her press briefing on Sunday, Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima-Sadat Lari reported 9,236 new cases of COVID-19 infection, raising the total number of cases to 682,486.

So far, she added, 520,329 patients have recovered from the disease or been discharged from the hospital.

Lari said 5,523 patients are also in critical conditions caused by more severe infection. The spokeswoman noted that 5,224,252 COVID-19 tests have been taken across the country so far.

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

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

Iran Rules Out Participating in Any Event Held by Zionist Regime

TEHRAN (MNA) – Sport For All Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the news regarding Iranian athletes competing with the Zionist regime in e-sports competitions.

In a statement on Saturday, Sport For All Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the news regarding Iranian athletes competing with the Zionist regime in e-sports competitions.

The following is the full text of the statement:

According to the office of International Affairs of the Ministry of Sports and Youth and as quoted by Afshin Molaei, the Director of Sport For All Federation, the news of Iranian gamers participating in international e-sports competitions held by the Zionist regime in February 2021 in the occupied territories is a complete lie.

Due to the superiority of Iranian representatives over their rivals in the region, some foreign media outlets falsely claimed that Iranian representatives will participate in the final stage of this competition which is scheduled to be held in the occupied Palestinian territories next February.

See Page 7

Time for U.S. to Make Up for Mistakes



TEHRAN (IFP) - President Hassan Rouhani has highlighted the American people's rejection of the wrong and harmful policies of their government over the past three years, saying the next U.S. administration has an opportunity to correct the mistakes and return to the international commitments.

Addressing a session of the government's Economic Coordination Headquarters on Sunday, President Rouhani said the results of the U.S. presidential election reveal that Washington's "damaging and wrong" policies over the past three years have been rejected not only by the world's people, but also by the American citizens.

"The next U.S. administration has now an opportunity to make up for the past mistakes and return to the path of commitment to international undertakings by respecting the global rules," the Iranian president added.

President Rouhani reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to the policy of constructive interaction with the world and always carries out its commitments if all parties honor their responsibly.

The Iranian nation has overcome an economic war imposed by the U.S., the president underlined, adding, "With their heroic resistance against the imposed economic war, the Iranian people proved that the U.S. policy of maximum pressure is doomed to failure."

President Rouhani then stressed the need to promote cooperation and interaction between Iran and the neighbors in order to ensure regional security and development, saying the path to economic stability and growth in Iran should be followed strongly and immediately.

The president also pointed to the Iranian administration's policies for economic growth by boosting domestic production, stimulating investment, and strengthening the national currency.

The President stated, "Now is the time to witness the promotion of security and development in the region in the shadow of cooperation and synergy between Iran and its neighbors, and to follow the path of stability and economic growth of the country with as much strength and speed as possible".

Referring to the government's economic program, Rouhani emphasized, "In the improving economic conditions, the government is pursuing the empowering the national currency and contributing to national production and economic growth of the country by adopting appropriate monetary policies and controlling and directing liquidity towards production and development of investment".

The President also instructed the Minister of Economy to continue selling government shares and surplus assets and issuing government bonds in accordance with the approved plan in order to improve financial and budgetary discipline.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Biden's Helplessness for Cooperation With Zarif

Nowadays some people have put in front of themselves Iran Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif's recollections with the U.S. Democrat President-elect Joe Biden and are constantly reviewing them, and try to delight themselves that Biden can help Zarif to restore his lost reputation during the nuclear talks, the JCPOA. But and definitely, even if Biden can move into the White House sooner than experts' expectations and takes the helm of the White House, the only thing that he can do for Zarif is to lift the travel sanctions on him for entering the U.S. or to give him and his family U.S. passports in order that Zarif could get rid of consular procedures for getting visa like he once had in Turkey.

Perhaps it comes to one's mind that I am analyzing it pessimistically, but we should consider this point that if we go back and review our historical memory, Zionist lobbying has always had deeper influence and cast its shadow over the U.S. Democratic Party. This deep influence shows us that Biden without setting conditions which are decided by the Zionists will not reach an agreement to rejoin the JCPOA.

If we do not even look at it through the eyes of the Americans, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in his deep and strategic speech on November 3 and on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) which also coincided with National Day of Fighting Arrogance said, "Our strategy is the same and it will not change with the change of the individuals."

So, one can realize that the road to the JCPOA will be blocked as far as we are concerned and even if we assume (It is impossible to assume that it is not impossible) that the U.S. with apologizing for its former President Donald Trump's behavior and rejoins the JCPOA without any preconditions, this time this is us who would refuse rejoining the JCPOA. By the way, our condition now comparing to the past has changed drastically because Trump with its malignant, vicious and unjust peace plan tried to convince Arab states to normalize ties with the Quds Occupier regime (Israel).

This normalization, for thousand reasons like ignoring fair Palestinians' rights, was vicious and malignant because it both sparked the anger of Palestinians and caused the hidden and open shame of the Arab leaders loyal and committed to the ideals of Palestinians in the public opinion of the region by the normalization.

See Page 7

Bolivia Keen on Promoting Ties With Iran

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Bolivian President-elect Luis Arce in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that his country seeks to further develop relations with Iran.

Arce appreciated Zarif's participation in his inauguration ceremony.

Earlier, Zarif in a Twitter message said: "Just arrived in La Paz, to celebrate with Bolivians the fruits of their struggle to restore their democracy."

"And honored to participate in the inauguration of President Arce on Sun. Great to witness the joy people exhibit celebrating their restoration of liberty & democracy," he added.

In another tweet, Zarif noted that he had exchanged views with Arce and Bolivia's vice president-elect David Choquehuanca on ways to develop political and economic ties between Tehran and La Paz.

"Just met with President-elect Luis Arce and Vice President-elect David Choquehuanca of Bolivia. Conveyed my country's congratulations on their victory and wished them and the nation the best," he said.

"We discussed our brotherly ties—political and economic—and ways to expand them."

Arce, for his part, thanked Zarif for visiting Bolivia, saying his country intends to enhance relations with the Islamic Republic.

Earlier before leaving Havana for La Paz, Zarif in a message referred to his meetings in Cuba and hailed Cuba achievements in nano-technology and coronavirus.

"In Havana for talks with Cuba's FM Rodriguez, DPM Cabrisas & Pres. Díaz-Canel (VC)," Zarif wrote in his Twitter account on Saturday.

"Focus: Global solidarity—especially vs US' #EconomicTerrorism—and bilateral coop, esp on health, science & energy. Visiting CEA and CIGB, I was impressed by Cuba's Nano & #COVID-19 achievements," he added.

The Iranian foreign minister visited Caracas and Havana on his three-nation Latin American tour and ended it by visiting Bolivia and meeting with Bolivian officials.

Tehran Rebukes Arab Parliament Speaker for Propaganda Campaign

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of Iran's Interest Section in Cairo rebuked speaker of the Arab Parliament Adel Al-Asoomi for his propaganda campaign against Iran.

Egypt's Al-Akhbar newspaper published an interview with Al-Asoomi, in which he made a few unfounded accusations against Iran.

Head of the Interest section in Egypt, Naser Kanaani, has responded the accusation in an article, a copy of which was sent to IRNA.

Kanaani wrote that the interview consisted of 16 questions, seven of which concerned Iran and were engineered in a way to draw anti-Iranian answers from the interviewee. And in three other questions that did not concern Iran,

Kanaani said that Al-Asoomi preferred to target Iran with unfounded accusations.

Kanaani also expressed surprise that Al-Assomi gave a very short answer to a question that concerned Palestine.

Congratulating Al-Asoomi's election to chair the important Arab institution, Kanaani expressed readiness to have dialogue with him to help the joint Islamic and Iranian-Arab causes.

See Page 7



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Iranian, Nicaraguan Top Diplomats Discuss Mutual Cooperation

TEHRAN PressTV) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who is on a trip to Bolivia, has held a phone conversation with his Nicaraguan counterpart Denis Moncada Colindres.

During the phone talk, Zarif highlighted cordial relations between the two countries, expressing hope he will travel to Nicaragua in the near future.

The top Nicaraguan diplomat, in turn, welcomed Iranian officials visiting his country. He also called for the enhancement of reciprocal ties.

Violating Int'l Treaties, Backing Terrorism Formed Trump's Agenda

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri wrote in a Twitter message on Sunday that violating international treaties, including climate change, imposing inhumane sanctions on Iranian people, and supporting terrorism and racism formed the foundations of U.S. President Donald Trump's agenda.

With the results of U.S. elections, the age of Trump and his adventurous and belligerent team is over, wrote Jahangiri.

Jahangiri added that Iranians who withstood the sufferings from Trump's maximum pressure policy and the disruption of their livelihood, lack of access to medicine, and assassination of dear General Qasem Soleimani.

He hoped to see a change in U.S. destructive policies, return to the law and international treaties, as well as respect to the nations.

He expressed hope that the U.S. destructive policies changes, Washington returns to



law and international treaties, and respects other nations.

"I hope that we will see a change in the destructive policies of the United States and a return to law and international obligations and respect for nations," he added.

After days of vote-counting, U.S. media outlets projected Joe Biden as the winner of the Presidential Election on Saturday. This is while incumbent President Donald Trump has rejected Biden's claim of victory, noting that the "election is far from over". The Trump campaign has vowed to pursue several lawsuits in some states, noting that there has been extensive voter fraud in the country.

Qalibaf Urges Cooperation of Regional States to Uproot Terrorism

TEHRAN (IRNA)- Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf in a message on Saturday called for the cooperation of regional countries to uproot terrorism.

Condemning the terrorist attack at Kabul University that left dozens killed and wounded, Qalibaf noted that cooperation can prevent such crimes that violate peace and security from being repeated.

He wished health and recovery for the wounded and patience for the survivors.

Last Monday, three armed assailants stormed Kabul University after a bomb blast killed a number of students at the university, killing 35 students and wounding more than 40 others.

Shamkhani: Trump Lesson for Posterity

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran said Donald Trump should be remembered as a lesson for posterity rather than the 45th president of the United States.

In a post on his Twitter account on Sunday, Ali Shamkhani said an end to the tenure of Trump was not a surprise, but a verdict ordained by history.

"Most American people rejected the record full of failures from an ideology that saw bullying and coercion as a solution to problems," he said.

Shamkhani also said the next U.S. administration should realize that the picture of Donald Trump at the White House should bear the phrase 'Lesson for Posterity' instead of the 45th POTUS. Democratic candidate Joe Biden has become the projected president-elect of the U.S., the Associated Press and other media outlets said on Saturday night.

Trump, however, has repeated unfounded voting fraud claims and said Biden is "rushing to falsely pose as the winner".

Political, Civil Decline of U.S. Regime Definite



TEHRAN (MNA) – Leader of Islamic Revolution said that the situation in the U.S. and what they themselves say about their elections is a spectacle.

In a tweet on Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei wrote, "The situation in the US & what they themselves say about their elections is a spectacle! This is an example of the ugly face of liberal democracy in the U.S. Regardless of the outcome, one thing is absolutely clear, the definite political, civil, & moral decline of the U.S. regime."

After days of vote-counting, U.S. media outlets projected Joe Biden as the winner of the Presidential Election on Saturday. This is while incumbent President Donald Trump has rejected Biden's claim of victory, noting that the "election is far from over". The Trump campaign has vowed to pursue several lawsuits in some states, noting that there has been extensive voter fraud in the country.

Message of Pakistan President on Birth Anniversary of Allama Iqbal

TEHRAN (Pakistan Embassy) - I would like to pay rich homage to the great Muslim Philosopher and Poet of the East, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, on his birth anniversary. He was the great benefactor of the Muslims of sub-continent, who envisioned the idea of a separate homeland for them and later his dream was translated into reality.

He was a great thinker who imbibed in Muslims the spirit of unity, through his writings and poetry, that greatly helped them to achieve a separate homeland. Allama Iqbal has rendered great services for the promotion of Muslim cause by infusing a revolutionary spirit in them and playing a prominent role in the renaissance of Muslim society in sub-continent. Following his philosophy of "Khudi" can take us to the heights of development. Our countrymen, particularly the younger generation, need to follow his path and ideals that would greatly help Muslim Ummah in overcoming the modern day's challenges.

In order to make Pakistan a prosperous nation, we need to follow Allama Iqbal's teachings on Islam and his philosophy of "Khudi" that believed in the promotion of self-respect and human dignity. It is high time to stand united, set aside our differences and work committedly for the socio-economic uplift of the country.

Let us pledge on this day to work for the unity of Muslim Ummah, and progress and prosperity of the country.



World Waiting for U.S. to Abandon Bullying

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister said that the world is waiting for the new US administration to abandon disastrous lawless bullying.

In a tweet on Sunday, Mohammad Javad Zarif wrote, "The American people have spoken. And the world is watching whether the new leaders will abandon disastrous lawless bullying of outgoing regime—and accept multilateralism, cooperation & respect for law.

Iran's record: dignity, interest & responsible diplomacy."

After days of vote-counting, U.S. media outlets projected Joe Biden as the winner of the Presidential Election on Saturday. This is while incumbent President Donald Trump has rejected Biden's claim of victory, noting that the "election is far from over". The Trump campaign has vowed to pursue several lawsuits in some states, noting that there has been extensive voter fraud in the country.

Yemen Calls for Sharing Iran's Experiences in Fisheries

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Fisheries in Yemen's national salvation government Mohammed al-Zubairi called for sharing Iran's experiences and know-how in fisheries.

Yemeni media said on Sunday that Iran's Envoy to Yemen Hassan Irloo held a meeting with Yemeni Minister of Fisheries, Mohammed al-Zubairi.

The Yemeni minister called for Iranian cooperation to develop the fisheries industry in his country.

Iranian ambassador to Yemen Hassan Irloo said that Iran is ready to share knowledge and expertise to the Yemeni Ministry of Fisheries.

The ambassador said in his Twitter account said,

"Glad to have a meeting with Minister of Fisheries in Yemen's national salvation government Mohammed al-Zubairi, we exchanged views on the aspects of ties development on fisheries industry.

On October 17, the spokesman of the Iranian foreign ministry informed that the country's new ambassador to Yemen has arrived in Sana'a.

Khatibzadeh said that the new Iranian ambassador, Hassan Irloo, has arrived in Sana'a and will soon submit a copy of his credentials to the Foreign Minister of the Yemeni National Salvation Government Hisham Sharaf and the chairman of the Supreme Political Council of Yemen Mahdi al-Mashat.

Majidi's "The Sun" to Represent Iran in Oscar 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran will display 'The Sun' directed by Majid Majidi, in the 2021 Oscar Academy Awards.

Spokesman of Iranian Cinema Selection Committee Raed Farizadeh said that after having reviewed 12 films shortlisted as the country's preliminary nominees for this year's Academy Awards, this committee finally decided to select 'The Sun' as Iran's representative at the Foreign Language Film section of the 2021 Academy Awards.

'The Sun' is about 12-year-old Ali and his three friends who do small jobs and petty crimes to survive and support their families. In a timely turn of events, Ali is entrusted to find a hidden underground treasure. However, in order to gain access to the tunnel where the treasure is buried, Ali and his gang have first to enroll at the near Sun School, a charitable institution that tries to educate street kids and child laborers.

The film was very well received by critics at last year's Fajr Film Festival and won several awards such as the best screenplay and best film. It is directed by Majid Majidi and co-written by Nima Javidi. Actors such as Ali Nasirian, Javad Ezzati, and Tanaz Tabatabai star in the film.

It has won the Magic Lantern award at 77th Venice Film Festival in Italy.

Rouhollah Zamani, the actor of the film has won Marcello Mastroianni Award at the Venice International Film Festival for his role in 'The Sun'.

It has been screened at the Rome International Film Festival in Italy and was selected to be screened at the inauguration ceremony of the 8th edition of the Ajyal Film Festival in Doha, Qatar.



Presidential Election to Be Held on June 18

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The presidential and municipal elections in Iran will be held on June 18, 2021, the Deputy Minister of Interior of Iran, Jamal Orf told journalists.

According to the deputy minister, the Election Commission for the 13th presidential elections in Iran will begin its operation on February 1.

Orf added that the registration of candidates, the

appointment of powers and other issues related to the elections will be determined next year.

"The registration of municipal candidates will begin on February 19, and registration of candidates for the presidential election will begin on May 21, 2021," he said.

The deputy minister emphasized that in addition to these elections, periodic elections of the Assembly of Experts and the Iranian Parliament will also be organized.

Iran Not Dealing Passively With West on Its Int'l Rights

TEHRAN (MNA) – An Iranian lawmaker says the Parliament's new 'strategic action plan' to counter the anti-Iran sanctions shows the country's non-passive position in interaction with Western countries.

"With the new 'strategic plan' in place, we are sending a message to the 4+1 group that we no longer deal passively with the West," Member of National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iranian Parliament Mohammad Ebrahim Rezaei said.

"It is logical to remain as much committed to the 2015 nuclear deal [JCPOA] as the other parties are sticking to their obligations," he said.

Noting that Iran has exerted every effort in recent years to fulfill its responsibilities under the nuclear deal's framework, the lawmaker said, "However, the other side almost showed no obligation to the pact, and we saw that the Americans withdrew from deal."

He said that the strategic action plan emphasizes the resistance strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, "and our message is that we are standing firmly on our position no matter who takes office after the U.S. presidential election."

"Besides, we will continue our path of resistance and will never fall for any miscalculations in this regard," he stressed.

He noted that the details of the plan will be publicized after finalization.

Earlier in November, the Iranian Parliament put forward a bill on "strategic action" for lifting the sanctions after the failure of the JCPOA's European parties to fulfill the country's interests under the nuclear deal and the escalation of American sanctions and hostile measures.

The Iranian lawmakers have agreed to discuss the ratification of the bill entitled "the strategic measure for the removal of sanctions."

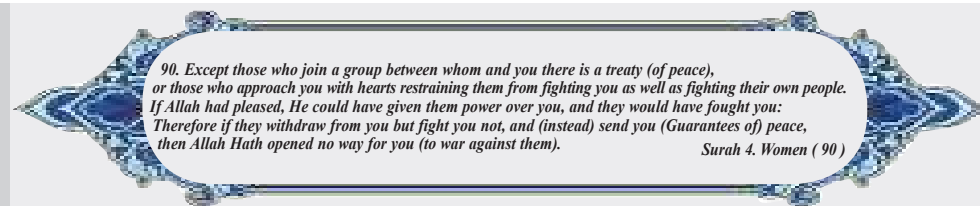
The bill has been proposed after a phased reduction in Iran's commitments to the JCPOA and the Iranian president's warning to the EU3 about their support for the constant intensification of cruel American sanctions against Tehran.

The lawmakers have also cited the American assassination of top Iranian commander Lt. General Qasem Soleimani, acts of sabotage in Iran's Natanz nuclear site, the U.S.' illegal attempts to reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran, and Washington's plots to disrupt foreign cooperation with Iran.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:20
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:09
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:35



90. Except those who join a group between whom and you there is a treaty (of peace), or those who approach you with hearts restraining them from fighting you as well as fighting their own people. If Allah had pleased, He could have given them power over you, and they would have fought you: Therefore if they withdraw from you but fight you not, and (instead) send you (Guarantees of) peace, then Allah Hath opened no way for you (to war against them).
Surah 4. Women (90)

Iran-Italy Webinar On Tourism to Be Held on Nov. 20

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Pourfallah says Iran and Italy will hold a webinar on tourism on November 20 with ambassadors of Italy and Iran as well as EU Commissioner on tourism in presence.

During a meeting on elaborating the details of this international webinar on tourism, Mr Fallahian said that according to the forecasts, tourists were to spend some \$2000b in the tourist destinations in 2020 but it did not materialize due to the outbreak of coronavirus. He added that in some countries like Spain, the restrictions were lifted in order that they do not lose their tourism assets.

Fallahian further said that Iran is among the top 10 countries with high tourism attractions and they are related to nature, pilgrim, historic and health but despite such potentials, the country has not been able to allocate one percent of the global tourism revenues. He added that lack of belief in tourism and reliance on the oil revenues as well as sanctions did not let us obtain our share from the global tourism revenues.

Fallahian admitted that when the oil revenues are good, officials do not find any reason to bother about tourism issues and when the government's oil revenues drop, they think of this industry.

He went on to say that maximum pressure of sanctions had its great impact on tourism industry; Iran visa was questioned and also in coronavirus issue, Iran's chance of curbing it became slim and slimmer because the number of infected patients comparing to our population was high and even in this period, the number of Iranian students' travels dropped.

He then pointed to the advantages of tourism industry, noting that tourism helps the



national forex earnings, adding that every eight tourists mean creation of one job and it can also turn into a propagation media for the country.

Fallahian added that Italy is Iran's sister country in Europe which is one of the tourist destinations in the world. He stated the chamber can take advantage of Italians' experience in tourism sector and in the current condition, the country can keep the tourism issue alive in the virtual space rather than it waits for normalization of the condition. He reiterated the chamber decided to hold this webinar.

Meanwhile secretary of the chamber Mr. Shokrvand in the meeting said that 85 percent of the world tourism industry declined in the Coronavirus era and in order to prevent from complete collapse of this industry, countries like the U.S., France, Britain and Italy opened their domestic tourism spaces.

He said that tourism revenues account for 11 percent of Spain's and 13.4 percent of Italy's GDP while tourism revenues of Iran in 2018 when it had the highest tourism revenues was only 2.8 percent of its GDP.

Shokrvand went on to say that in 2019, Middle East hosted some 64m tourists and Dubai had the most share of the tourism revenues with \$20b.

Touching upon the Iran-Italy webinar, he said that it is aimed at getting familiar with Iran and having specialized writing regarding the modern tourism in Iran and Italy.

He said the webinar will be held on November 20 where ambassadors of both countries as well as EU Commissioner on tourism are to attend.

Shokrvand said that the meeting will not cost too much because there is no need to travel or book rooms.

Kazakhstan -Turkmenistan - Iran Railway Is of Strategic Importance for Silk Road Revival

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan - Iran railway has opened up new opportunities for further development of bilateral cooperation between countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan said.

Meanwhile, this railway link has become an important transport corridor connecting North with South and East with West. The railway has a strategic importance for the revival of the Silk Road and the development of mutual trade between the countries of Central Asia, the Caspian region and neighboring regions.

"This railway has become a symbol of friendship and brotherhood between the three countries and a successful practical example of pragmatic and effective cooperation," said the ministry.

The construction of the Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran railway began in 2009.

First President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov opened the Bolashak (Kazakhstan) - Serkhetayaka (Turkmenistan) border crossing on May 11, 2013.

The official opening of the Kazakhstan - Turkmenistan - Iran railway took place on December 3, 2014.

South Pars Refinery Yields 10 bcm Gas in 7 Months

TEHRAN (Shana) -- The director of operation of the eighth refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex said the facility supplied over 10 billion cubic meters of gas in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year which began on March 20.

According to the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Kambiz Sefati said the refinery, by relying on young and efficient forces, had been able to display an outstanding performance in terms of safety and production during the period. He added: "Specialists and staff of this refinery with production of 10 billion and 660 million cubic meters of gas since the beginning of the year and 77,760 man-hours without accidents, were able to take a big step in the Year of Production Leap."

The director of operation of the eighth refinery of the South Pars Gas Complex stated: "This refinery has a very good and constructive interaction with the technical and professional centers of the neighboring cities and is now fully prepared to provide any cooperation of any sort."

Mobile Broadband Now Available to 91.07% of Population

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's telecoms ministry says access to mobile broadband in the country has increased exponentially over the past seven years to cover 91.07% of the population.

The ministry published a report on major internet penetration indicators in Iran on Saturday, saying that access to mobile broadband was zero when current administrative government took office in summer of 2013.

The report, titled Iran on Path of Intelligence, said total number of SIM card holders with access to mobile broadband in Iran had reached 76 million.

It said wired broadband availability had also increased from 58,310 subscriptions in 2013 to over nine million this year.

Authorities said on Thursday that Iran has the highest number of internet users in the Middle East with nearly 67 million active users, or nearly 37 percent of all users in the region.

The figures mean internet penetration rate in Iran has reached nearly 80 percent, they said.

Iran Inflation Expectations Decline With Biden

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Joe Biden's presidency lowers inflation expectations in the Iranian market," an economic analyst said.

The chairman of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that the impact of Biden's presence in the White House on sanctions is a political issue and a series of political events must take place so that we can talk about its economic implications.

Majid Reza Hariri added "What can naturally happen in the Iranian market is the removal of negative psychological expectations from the market."

"What happens in the market for a week cannot be investigated and we have to wait for the excitement to disappear."

However, if sanctions are removed, Iran's exports would bounce back quickly, as they did in the period of the JCPOA, starting in January 2016.

All major U.S. TV networks projected Joe Biden would win the presidency on Saturday, though Trump vowed to continue to challenge the outcome in the courts. But some of the United States' biggest and closest allies quickly congratulated Joe Biden on his presidential election victory on Saturday even though Donald Trump, with whom several have had rocky relations, had yet to concede.

Earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani, while hailing what he termed "Iranian nation's resistance" against the Trump administration's "maximum pressure campaign" against Iran, said he hopes the new government in Washington will turn the page.

Iran Capable of Producing 30m Remdesivir, Favipiravir

TEHRAN (IP) - Head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration Mohamad-Reza Shanesaz stated that three Iranian companies are capable of producing 30 million Remdesivir and Favipiravir medicines weekly.

The 5th virtual meeting of Iran's medical universities and faculties' presidents with Health Minister Saeed Namaki was held on November 7 to discuss the latest on COVID-19.

During the meeting, Shanesaz noted that Iran's Food and Drug Administration has taken significant measures to produce Remdesivir in Iran after it was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), while it faced challenges in mass-production during coronavirus infection peak.

Deputy Health Minister and gastroenterologist Reza Malekzadeh also highlighted that the virus's transmission and spread rate have surged rapidly because of genetic changes.

"By studying the infected cases, it is proved that those with pre-existing conditions such as cancer are 90 percent shedding to infect others," he said.

"Significant plans are carried out to combat the COVID-19," said Malekzadeh.

Iran's Deputy Health Minister Qasem Janbabaei stated that outpatient treatment of COVID-19 is highly essential, adding that patients should not be afraid to be hospitalized because the coronavirus is curable.

Because of a potential risk of pulmonary fibrosis or respiratory failure in less than 24 hours, said Janbabaei, if a patient needs to be hospitalized, there must be no hesitation to do so.

He also emphasized that providing and checking the patients' oxygen is pivotal because if the patients receive more or less oxygen, their health will be threatened, noting that forming a respiratory-specialist team in each hospital admitting COVID-19 patients is a must.

Chicken Exports Banned To Meet Domestic Demand

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's Market Regulation Headquarters has released a decree to ban the exports of chicken as domestic markets are facing shortage.

The new regulation has come into force in collaboration with the Agriculture Ministry as of the beginning of the current Iranian calendar month of Aban (October 22) and will be effective until further notice.

Earlier this year, due to the overproduction of chicken, the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRICA) temporarily reduced the duty for chicken exports from June 9 up to July 20 to facilitate the exports of the said commodity.

However, the reduction of the duty on the poultry products resulted in the flow of most of the country's production to the foreign export destinations, and consequently the prices in the domestic market increase sharply.

Iran could be a poultry production center in the region and in the world, with Iranian poultry farmers having the potential to boost exports to 500,000 tons of meat per year, but external factors like the U.S. sanctions and the shortage of feed remain an invincible obstacle on this path.

The sanctions have led to increased cost for imported inputs like feed ingredients and caused sharp price fluctuations on the consumer market. But the industry adapted to the new reality. When sanctions were renewed by the U.S. in 2019 the industry was much better prepared. The country is now self-sufficient in both poultry and eggs and has the highest production effectiveness in West Asia.

According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, Iran exported over 7,000 tons of chicken worth \$13.28 million in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

Project of MSC's Hot Rolling Mill No. 2 in Line With National Interests



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN - The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company explained the performance of the company in the current year and its upcoming developmental plans, and said two mega projects of hot rolling mill no. 2 and smart management of Mobarakeh Steel Company will have great share of the national steel production.

Eng. Hamid Reza Azimian said that implementing the hot rolling mill no. 2 of MSC is in line with national interests, noting that in case the projects are implemented and come on stream, all current limits and problems in the national steel market and needs of rolling users will be fully resolved.

He then pointed to indigenization of manufacturing 54 percent of parts and equipment needed in the hot rolling line of mill no.2 as the main advantages of this process, adding that with this approach, the knowhow for manufacturing will improve, and many opportunities will be provided for job creation and employing technical knowledge of the domestic youths.

Azimian further said that in case hot rolling mill no. 2 is implemented, the sheet production capacity of the company will be doubled, and since the total need of the country to steel sheet is 8m tons per year, the capacity for exports and earning forex will increase.

He noted that by implementation of the project, the width of the produced sheets will increase from 1850 to 2100 millimeters. He also urged the government and Majlis lawmakers to support this national project.

He also said that by implementing the project for smart production, the amount of involvement of people in production and manpower productivity as well as the production of the company will increase considerably.

Azimian further said that currently some 1500 factories and production lines in the country use the production of MSC for producing their products.

He also said that due to the support of shareholders and positive approach of the management, the company increases the budget for observing its social responsibilities.

Egypt Holds Second Stage of Parliamentary Elections

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Egyptians voted on Saturday in the second phase of parliamentary elections in which supporters of President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi are expected to win.

Some 63 million of Egypt's more than 100 million people are eligible to elect 568 of the 596 legislators in the lower house, widely seen as a rubber-stamp body for executive policies.

The remaining 28 deputies will be appointed by el-Sisi, a former general, whose government over the past six years has launched a severe crackdown on dissent, targeting journalists, bloggers, lawyers and intellectuals.



Trump Says This Election Is Far From Over

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President Donald Trump said on Saturday his campaign would begin challenging U.S. election results in court next week after media outlets called the race for Democrat Joe Biden, saying "this election is far from over."

"We all know why Joe Biden is rushing to falsely pose as the winner, and why his media allies are trying so hard to help him: they don't want the truth to be exposed," he said in a statement. "The simple fact is this election is far from over."

Trump has repeatedly made unfounded claims of fraud in the election.



Biden Urges Unity After Beating Trump



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Democrat Joe Biden urged unity Saturday and promised "a new day for America" in his first national address since he won the tense US election and ended the historically turbulent and divisive era of Donald Trump.

After jogging onto the outdoor stage to the sounds of Bruce Springsteen in his hometown of Wilmington, Delaware, Biden delivered a message of hope and healing to a crowd of cheering supporters and tens of millions more on television. The victory speech followed a desperately bitter election conducted in the midst of a raging coronavirus pandemic. But instead of sounding triumphant, Biden's accent was more on changing hearts in a country split down the middle between Democrats and Republicans. Promising "not to divide but unify," Biden reached out directly to Trump supporters, declaring "they're not our enemies, they're Americans."

"Let's give each other a chance," he said, urging the country to "lower the temperature."

"Let this grim era of demonization in America begin to end, here and now."

Casting his eye further, Biden said he would "make America respected around the world again" -- a reference to Trump's tearing up of traditional diplomatic ties. "Tonight, the whole world is watching America and I believe that at our best America is a beacon for the globe," he said. Addressing the coronavirus, which has killed more than 237,000 Americans amid Trump's erratic leadership, Biden said he would form a task force of "leading scientists" already this Monday.

While attendance was limited for social distancing purposes to about 360 cars at the drive-in style event, crowds numbering thousands of people, many of them dancing and waving American flags, lined the highway leading to the facility.

This was Biden's first public appearance since U.S. television networks declared earlier Saturday that he'd taken an insurmountable lead in the nearly complete count from Tuesday's election, giving him victory against Trump, who will now become a rare one-term president. The celebratory event, which featured a confetti canon, fireworks and a soundtrack including Springsteen and Tina Turner, also gave Americans a closer look at Biden's running mate Kamala Harris, who will make history as the country's first female and first Black vice president. In her speech, cheered every few seconds by the ecstatic crowd, Harris lauded the record turnout of some 160 million people in the election and said that after so much division, "Joe is a healer."

"When our very democracy was on the ballot in this election, with the very soul of America at stake, and the world watching, you ushered in a new day for America," she said. Biden, who is 77 and turns 78 later this month, will be the oldest person to become president when he takes office on January 20. Crowds took to the streets in major cities across the United States in celebration of Trump's defeat, while key Western allies like Germany, which had a tempestuous relationship with the Republican, quickly congratulated Biden.

But Trump -- becoming the first one-term president since George H. W. Bush at the start of the 1990s -- refused to concede and continued to claim he was a victim of fraud.

Biden was "rushing to falsely pose" as the winner, Trump said in a statement as he arrived at a golf course he owns in Virginia, in his first trip outside the White House since Election Day.

There is no evidence to support Trump's unprecedented claims of mass fraud. Tuesday's polling went off without any reported serious incidents or even technical glitches, despite the shadow of a still out-of-control Covid-19 pandemic and volcanic political tensions.

With vote counting nearly complete around the huge country, Biden built up an irreversible lead. New tallies from the state of Pennsylvania early Saturday put him over the top, ending four days of tense waiting and allowing the TV networks' specialized data analysts to call the overall result, as they do every election. In Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Washington and other majority-Democratic cities, people poured spontaneously into the streets to celebrate, car horns honked.

An excited crowd of several thousand gathered on Black Lives Matter Plaza next to the White House, giving a hostile reception to Trump as his motorcade passed nearby on return from the golf course.

"It's been so many years waiting for this day to happen," said Jack Nugent, a 24-year-old software engineer. There were similar scenes in New York, Trump's birthplace.

Erdogan Says Armenia Must Negotiate Over Nagorno-Karabakh



ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan told Russian leader Vladimir Putin on Saturday that Armenia must be convinced to negotiate in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict with Azerbaijan and called for a peaceful resolution, the Turkish Presidency said.

At least 1,000 people have died in nearly six weeks of fighting in and around Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous enclave internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and controlled by ethnic Armenians. Erdogan has previously said Turkey and Russia could work together to solve the conflict.

In a statement, the presidency said Erdogan told Putin in a phone call that Armenia must withdraw from Azeri lands it is occupying and "stated the Armenian leadership must be convinced to sit down at the negotiating table".

In a separate statement, the Kremlin said Putin had informed Erdogan about his phone calls with the leaders of Azerbaijan and Armenia, adding "these exchanges were focused on finding options for a swift cessation of hostilities and a political and diplomatic settlement".

"A mutual readiness to cooperate in order to achieve a peaceful resolution to the conflict was confirmed," it said. Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also held a phone call with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov to discuss the issue, the Turkish foreign ministry said.

The conflict has underlined the influence of Turkey, an ally of Azerbaijan, in a former Soviet region long dominated by Moscow, which has a defence pact with Armenia. It also threatens the security of Azeri oil and gas pipelines.

Three ceasefires have failed to halt the bloodiest fighting in the South Caucasus for more than 25 years. Both sides accused each other of launching attacks within hours of the agreements.

Belarusian Police Detain Dozens of Doctors Ahead of Anti-Gov't Rally

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Belarusian police on Saturday detained dozens of medical professionals who had planned to take part in an anti-government protest in the capital Minsk, a prominent human rights group said.

Viasna, which is based in Minsk, said 60 doctors and other medical staff who had gathered for a rally were taken to police stations.

Natalia Ganusevich, a spokeswoman for the Minsk police, confirmed that some of the demonstrators had been detained and called on the population not to take part in unauthorized protests, TASS news agency reported.

At least 14 people were detained at a separate women's march on Saturday in the Belarusian capital, Viasna said.

Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko is facing a weeks-long political crisis in which tens of thousands of Belarusians have regularly taken to the streets of Minsk calling for him to resign.

Thousands of people have been arrested at demonstrations since a disputed Aug. 9 presidential election. Rights groups say hundreds of detainees reported being subjected to beatings and other abuse.

The opposition has accused Lukashenko of rigging the election that granted him a sixth term.

A former collective farm manager in power since 1994, he has rejected that accusation and ignored the opposition's calls for him to step down.

The 66-year-old has faced strong criticism from the medical community and general population for having resisted calls for strict lockdown measures to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

He publicly dismissed fears about COVID-19 as a "psychosis" and recommended remedies such as drinking vodka, taking saunas and playing ice hockey. The former Soviet country of 9.5 million has so far reported 105,283 cases, with 1,004 deaths.

Iraq PM Warns Against Use of Live Rounds

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has warned security forces not to fire at protesters, a day after a demonstrator was killed in the southern city of Basra.

"The state will not be lenient with any member of the security forces who violates orders of not using bullets against protesters," al-Kadhimi said in a tweet on Saturday, adding that the person who killed the protester will be arrested and tried.

Security forces opened fire during clashes with protesters in Basra on Friday, killing one and wounding at least five others. The protesters were calling for better living conditions and an end to corruption in the country.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry earlier said that a suspect was arrested in Friday's killing, but without specifying whether he was a security agent.

It was the first killing of a protester by security forces in Basra since al-Kadhimi took office in May. During months of anti-government protests that

erupted under al-Kadhimi's predecessor Adel Abdul Mahdi in October 2019, more than 500 people were killed, mostly young unarmed demonstrators.

Deadly flare-ups have been rare since protests against Iraq's ruling elite subsided earlier this year.

The Basra security sources and a rights official told Reuters news agency that several dozen protesters had taken to the streets in the country's southern oil hub on Friday.

They were angry that al-Kadhimi had generally failed to deliver on jobs and basic services and that protest camps had been cleared by security forces in Basra and Baghdad, the rights official said.

Al-Kadhimi, who visited Basra on Thursday to tour energy projects and meet provincial officials, has pledged to protect non-violent Iraqi protesters and bring justice to the families of those killed last year by security forces and unidentified gunmen.

Security forces in Baghdad last month were ordered not to use live fire in dealing with protests to mark the anniversary of the 2019 demonstrations.



Myanmar's Suu Kyi Favored To Win in Election



YANGON (Reuters) - Myanmar voted on Sunday in an election seen as a referendum on a fledgling democratic government whose reputation collapsed overseas amid allegations of genocide but which remains popular at home.

Leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) is expected to win a second term in the second general election since the end of decades of military-backed rule.

She is supported by a population that largely sees her as a heroine of democracy, though her win will likely be by a slender margin than the landslide victory that propelled her to power in 2015.

More than 37 million people are registered to vote, but fears over the rapid spread of COVID-19 in recent months may dampen turnout.

In the biggest city, Yangon, queues formed at polling stations even before balloting started, with voters in masks, face shields and with hair coverings waiting patiently in evenly spaced lines as the sun came up.

Sai Kyaw Latt Phyoo, 31, said it was the first time he had left his home in three months. Myanmar is seeing on average nearly 1,100 new daily coronavirus cases, compared to a handful each day in early August.

"I think it is worth the risk," he told Reuters. "We must take the risk in such a crucial situation for our country."

Chaw Ei Twin, 38, said she was doing her civic duty.

"I gave my vote to a party which can transform the country. I voted the same party last time," she said, without disclosing which party. Suu Kyi's defenders say critics are unrealistic to expect rapid change in the country after half a century of military rule and are hampering efforts to secure gradual progress.

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres said on Friday he hoped for "peaceful, orderly and credible elections" that could enable hundreds of thousands of ethnic Rohingya in camps in neighboring Bangladesh to return "in safety and dignity". More than 730,000 Rohingya, members of a persecuted Muslim minority, fled the country following a 2017 military crackdown that the UN has said was executed with genocidal intent. Myanmar says it was carrying out legitimate operations against militants who attacked police posts.



Velenjak Apt (\$2200)
250sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Apt (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
marble floor
Fully Furn

Farmanieh Apt (\$2300)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

Jordan (\$1700)
150sq.m, 2bdrs, F.F

(\$2400)
Nice view
Gheitarieh
220sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, S, J
gym, & F.F

(\$10000)
Zaferanieh bldg
5storey, 20bdrs
S/pool, S, J, pkg
yard, storages
Brand new

Shahrak-e-gharb (\$1800)
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marble floor & Fully Furn

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Volvo Recalls 54,000 U.S. Defect Vehicles

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Volvo Cars is recalling 54,000 U.S. vehicles for an air bag defect after one crash death tied to the issue, according to a filing with U.S. regulators.

The unit of Geely Automotive 0175.HK is recalling 2001-2003 model S80 and S60 vehicles sold or registered in high humidity U.S. states because the driver side frontal air bag inflator may rupture, sending metal fragments flying, when the air bag is deployed.

According to the Volvo filing with the government, Volvo will replace the inflators with a modern propellant and inflator. Parts are expected to be available by March.



EU Set to Impose Tariffs on \$4b U.S. Goods

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union is poised to move next week to impose tariffs on \$4 billion of U.S. imports in retaliation for U.S. subsidies for planemaker Boeing B.A.N, EU diplomats said, teeing up an eleventh-hour showdown with U.S. President Donald Trump.

A majority of EU governments have backed imposing the widely expected tariffs once EU trade ministers meet next Monday - the latest twist in a transatlantic trade saga that has spanned 16 years and four U.S. presidents.

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden is edging closer to victory in the U.S. election, but Republican Trump would remain president until Jan. 20 and has plenty of leeway to increase U.S. tariffs on Europe that were imposed in a parallel case over subsidies for Airbus.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer last month warned any EU tariffs would "force a U.S. response" and Trump has threatened to "strike back harder".

Brussels views its own tariffs - authorized by the World Trade Organization last month - as important leverage in negotiations to end a dispute that began in 2004. "I would expect the tariffs to be imposed next Tuesday or Wednesday," an EU diplomat said.

In October 2019, Washington imposed tariffs on Airbus planes and other European products from cheese to olives and single-malt whisky. Combined, the two cases represent the world's largest ever corporate trade dispute.

Washington argues there is no legal basis for EU tariffs because underlying subsidies to Boeing have been repealed. European officials argue it is only the WTO that can decide on compliance and that last month's green light stands.

Both sides accuse the other of failing to obey WTO rulings but are seen as determined to maximize their positions ahead of probable negotiations. If Biden wins, the avowed transatlanticist is expected to work quickly to mend fences with Brussels on a host of issues, and could use talks over the aircraft subsidies as a gesture of goodwill as he tries to build a more united front against China.

After holding off on tariffs to avoid clashing with the U.S. presidential campaign, EU governments formally cleared tariffs on Tuesday, Election Day, but must now decide their timing.

Tariffs will hit U.S. planes and parts, fruits, nuts and other farm produce, orange juice, some spirits and other goods from construction equipment to casino tables, diplomats said.

The European Commission said it was fine tuning what it regards as its retaliation rights in case no agreed solution could be found with Washington, including an immediate suspension of U.S. tariffs.

Lighthizer's office had no immediate comment. One senior U.S. source said Trump was not expected to feel constraint about expanding U.S. tariffs, even if he loses the election.

The United States is authorized to impose tariffs on \$7.5 billion of European goods, but has not used the whole quota. It could raise duties on various goods or expand the target list. Chris Swonger, president and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., said any EU tariffs on spirits would further devastate an industry that has already seen a 41% drop in U.S. whisky exports to Europe due to previous EU tariffs.

Airbus Monthly Jet Deliveries Surge in October to Near-2019 Level

PARIS (Reuters) - Europe's Airbus AIR.PA booked 72 jet deliveries in October, approaching last year's monthly pace for the first time since the start of the coronavirus crisis and easing concerns over a cash-depleting overhang of unwanted jets.

It said Jan-Oct deliveries reached 413 aircraft, down 36% from a year earlier. However, October deliveries were down just 6.5% from 77 in the same month of 2019.

Airbus sold 11 jets last month, mainly to private jet operators amid a slump in airline demand, and received another three A220 cancellations from Australia's Macquarie.

So far this year Airbus has sold 381 jets, or 308 after cancellations, outstripping Boeing B.A.N in orders and deliveries as the U.S. planemaker's 737 MAX remains grounded by a 19-month-old safety ban, expected to be lifted this month.

Airbus issued the update after reaffirming plans internally to reach cash breakeven in the last quarter, boosted by deliveries of the narrow-body A320neo family, while expressing worries over the market for wide-body jets.

Still, Airbus handed over 10 more wide-bodies than it produced last month, further denting a surplus of 135 jets of all types that it has been unable to deliver during the crisis.

It handed over 43 single-aisle planes and 12 smaller A220s, suggesting a total potential inventory drawdown of 21 aircraft. Deliveries should further ease cash concerns, though October appeared an unusual month, Jefferies analyst Sandy Morris said.

Most A220s went to Delta Air Lines DAL.N, while the U.S. carrier is said to be reluctant to take larger A330neos, which are affected by a transatlantic trade dispute. Deliveries - brought to a near-halt in April by the pandemic - have rebounded as Airbus



Italy Approves 2.9b Euro Aid Package

MILAN (Reuters) - Italy has approved a new aid package to cushion the blow to the economy from restrictions it introduced earlier this week in an effort to stem a resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The measures agreed by cabinet overnight are worth 2.9 billion euros (\$3.4 billion), a person with knowledge of the matter said. Coronavirus curbs which came into force on Friday divide the country into three zones according to the severity of the latest outbreak. The limitations are less severe than the nationwide lockdown Rome imposed when the coronavirus first took hold in March, but many shops have been shut in the highest-risk zones such as Milan's Lombardy region, where people can only leave their homes for work, health reasons or emergencies.

The package delays to the spring tax payments due in November and increases transfers to businesses operating in regions classed as "red" or "orange" which have been hit by the strictest limitations.

"We have increased compensations because we realised that what was granted for the spring lockdown wasn't enough," Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte told Corriere della Sera daily in an interview. "We've also widened the number of beneficiaries." The package provides funds for childcare or work leave for parents who are not able to work from home, after the government moved classes online for high schools and the last two years of middle school.

Conte said funds had also been set aside for regions that could turn into high-risk zones under the current system, which has been attacked by some politicians in the worst-hit areas.

"There's no turning back. The alternative is to shut down the entire country causing enormous damage. It would not be a case of 'a sorrow shared is a sorrow halved', just disaster for everyone," Conte said.

GDP of India to Touch \$5 Trillion by FY 2026-27

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The economy is going to attain its fastest growth trajectory from the next financial year 2021-22 onwards Sanjay Aggarwal, President, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in a press statement issued on Saturday.

He appreciated the dynamic reforms undertaken by the Government during the last 7 months to mitigate the daunting impact of pandemic COVID-19 on trade and industry. According to the recent growth estimates

by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is projected to become the fastest growing economy among the top 10 major economies in the world economic system from 2021 to 2025.

Sanjay Aggarwal stated that the average GDP growth of Indian economy in next five years from 2021 to 2025 will be at 7.8%, highest as compared with top 10 economies including 6.2% of China, 3% of France, 2.9% of United Kingdom, 2.9% of Canada, 2.4% of United States, 2.3% of Germany, 2.3% of Italy, 2.3% of Brazil and 1.4% of Japan.

The size of the economy will increase from Rs 203 trillion in FY 2019-20 to Rs 331 trillion in FY 2025-26 at current prices, which becomes at around US\$ 4.42 trillion considering the exchange rate at 74.9 (average of current fiscal year 2020-21; April-October), he added.

Sanjay Aggarwal said "Percolation of more and more economic reforms at the ground level with effective implementation would be crucial to attain the potential trajectory of US\$ 5 trillion in the next 6 financial years by FY 2026-27 (GDP at current prices; considering the exchange rate between 74-75)."

Recently, PHD Chamber on the basis of Economic and Business Momentum (EBM) Index, estimated that the GDP growth will be at around (-) 7.9% for the current financial year 2020-21 as compared with the median forecasts of (-) 9.3% by various national and international forecasting organizations, he said.

At this juncture, demand creation measures are needed to attain a positive growth trajectory sooner rather than later, he added.

Aggarwal said that demand creation along with increased spending on infrastructure will have multiplier effects on the economic growth trajectory by boosting private investments, creating new employment opportunities in the country, generating demand for commodities such as steel, cement and power.

China October Exports Surge, Imports Rise Amid Global Recovery

BEIJING (Reuters) - China exports grew at the fastest pace in 19 months in October, while imports also rose,

official data showed on Saturday, as the world's second largest economy continued to recover after being hit hard by the coronavirus crisis earlier this year.

Exports in October rose 11.4% from a year earlier, beating analysts' expectations of a 9.3% increase and quickening from a solid 9.9% increase in September.

The surge in exports pushed the trade surplus for October up to \$58.44 billion, compared with the poll's forecast for a \$46 billion surplus and a \$37 billion surplus in September. China's trade surplus with the United States widened to \$31.37 billion in October from \$30.75 billion in September.

China's exports have stayed largely resilient amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, as strong demand for medical supplies and reduced manufacturing capacity elsewhere worked in China's favour.

"Exports growth quickened further and significantly exceeded expectations, indicating a relatively strong momentum," said Liu Xuezhi, an analyst at Bank of Communications in Shanghai.

China's exports could stay strong in the rest of 2020 as domestic firms resume production faster than global rivals and sell more COVID-19 related goods such as face masks, Liu said.

However, some analysts said exports could come under pressure in the coming months, as major European economies, including France, Germany and the United Kingdom, went back into lockdown as a second wave of coronavirus cases gathered strength. Factory activity accelerated at the fastest pace in nearly a decade in October, a private survey showed, although the official survey pointed to some slowdown in the expansion. Export orders expanded.

Imports rose 4.7% year-on-year in October, slower than September's 13.2% growth, and underperforming expectations in a Reuters poll for a 9.5% increase, but still marking a second straight month of growth.

Chinese airlines are shunning some deliveries of Airbus AIR.PA aircraft, citing fears of coronavirus infection for their staff in the latest tussle over efforts to keep delayed deliveries on track despite the pandemic, industry sources said. Analysts said the solid trade performance could provide a boost to China's broader economic recovery, which has gained steam after suffering from a deep slump earlier this year.

China's economy grew 4.9% in the third-quarter from a year earlier, but growth could slow to just over 2% this year - the weakest in over three decades but still much stronger than other major economies.

"China has a better recovery from the pandemic and has a comparative advantage, so it has gained a larger market," said Zhou Hao, an economist at Commerzbank in Singapore.

"Of course, this advantage is also temporary and may last until the end of the year."

OPEC Would Miss Friend Trump



LONDON (Reuters) - Key members of OPEC are wary that strains in the OPEC+ alliance could reemerge with Joe Biden as U.S. President, sources close to the organization said, and would miss President Donald Trump who went from criticizing the group to helping bring about a record oil output cut.

Biden could modify U.S. diplomatic relations with three members of OPEC - de facto leader Saudi Arabia, and sanctioned countries Iran and Venezuela, as well as with key non-OPEC producer Russia. Russia is the leader of oil producers allied with OPEC, a group known as OPEC+.

Strict enforcement of U.S. sanctions on Iran and Venezuela has kept millions of barrels of oil per day off the market, and if Biden should relax measures on either in years to come an increase in production could make it harder for OPEC to balance supply with demand.

Biden has said he would prefer multilateral diplomacy to the unilateral sanctions Trump has imposed, although that may not mean a relaxation in sanctions any time soon. In his campaign, Biden said he'd return to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal if Tehran resumes compliance with the pact.

Trump quit the pact in 2018, reimposing sanctions that cut Iran's oil exports. Some in OPEC fear that a return of Iranian volumes will add to oversupply without cutbacks elsewhere and worry about Moscow's continued participation in OPEC+.

"Iran sanctions can be re-evaluated and then Iran will be back to the market, so again there would be oversupply and the current cut deal will be at risk," an OPEC source said before the election result was known.

"There is the risk of Russia leaving the OPEC+ deal too which means a collapse of the agreement, as it was Trump who brought Moscow on board," the source said.

Biden has named Russia as Washington's most serious global threat. During his campaign, he also pledged to reassess ties with Saudi Arabia.

Iran Attracts Some \$50m of Foreign Investment in Arvand Free Zone

ABADAN (IRNA) - Iran has attracted some \$50 million in the form of foreign investment projects in Arvand Free Zone, southwest of Iran, since the Iranian current calendar year began on March 20, a senior official at the free zone said on Sunday.

Ali Mousavi said that the volume of investment in Arvand

Free Zone is favorable despite all the hardship caused by the global spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

This year's foreign investment in Arvand Free Zone shows a significant increase in comparison to 2 million dollars of foreign investment in the same period last year, the official said.



Turkey Replaces Central Bank Governor as Lira Plummets

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan removed the central bank governor from his post on Saturday and replaced him with former finance minister Naci Agbal after the lira currency hit record lows, losing 30 percent of its value since the start of the year.

The decision to replace Murat Uysal as governor was made by presidential decree, which was announced in the country's Official Gazette. It was not immediately clear why Uysal had been replaced.

The lira closed at 8.5445 against the dollar on Friday after a touching a record low of 8.58 despite dollar weakness as votes were still being counted in the US election.

Erdogan appointed then-Deputy Governor Uysal to head the central bank in July 2019 when he sacked his predecessor Murat Cetinkaya amid the president's frustration that the bank had not cut interest rates to boost the economy.

Erdogan, a self-described enemy of high interest rates, has repeatedly called for lower borrowing costs. Last weekend, he said Turkey was fighting an economic war against those squeezing it in "the devil's triangle of interest and exchange rates and inflation".

Naci Agbal had been finance minister from 2015 until 2018 when he was appointed to head the directorate of presidential strategy and budget.

At the last meeting of its monetary policy committee on October 22, the central bank bucked expectations for a big interest rate hike and held its policy rate steady at 10.25 percent, triggering sharp losses in the lira.

The bank, which also surprised markets a month earlier when it hiked rates, said it would continue with liquidity measures to tighten the money supply. It raised the uppermost rate in its corridor, the late liquidity window, to 14.75 percent from 13.25 percent.

However, the lira has continued to slide despite those measures, weakening 30 percent against the US currency this year to become the worst performer in emerging markets.

The next decision by the bank's monetary policy committee on interest rates will be on November 19.

Bearishness towards the lira stems from concerns about possible Western sanctions against Turkey, depleted reserves, high inflation and political interference in monetary policy.



Analysts are concerned Turkey's ties could suffer if Democrat Joe Biden becomes US president. Turkey's Milliyet newspaper reported on Thursday that finance minister Berat Albayrak had ruled out intervening to support the lira, reiterating government concerns that raising interest rates could hurt the economy.

Hotspots in Four Countries On Brink of Famine



GENEVA (Dispatches) - Hotspots in four countries – Burkina Faso, Yemen, South Sudan and Nigeria – are on the brink of severe levels of food insecurity and could potentially fall into famine within three to six months as the coronavirus pandemic erodes people's ability to access food, a new United Nations report warned.

The Early Warning Analysis of Acute Food Insecurity Hotspots report conducted by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP) found that millions of people who were already facing hunger are on the brink of famine as the pandemic plunders employment, disrupts agricultural activities, slashes remittances and sends crude prices spiralling.

"We are at a catastrophic turning point. Once again, we face the risk of famine in four different parts of the world at the same time," said Margot van der Velden, WFP director of emergencies. Burkina Faso, Yemen, Nigeria and South Sudan were already facing a dangerous combination of conflict, mass displacement, economic crisis and climate and agricultural calamity. COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions and lockdowns that followed have only exacerbated the pain.

Up to 80 percent of the people experiencing acute food insecurity are farmers, herders, fishers and foresters. COVID-19 has disrupted their ability to work their land, care for their animals, go fishing and access markets to sell their produce, Luca Russo, an agricultural economist at FAO, told Al Jazeera.

"They have little cash reserves to fall back on and could be forced to abandon their livelihoods," Russo warned. "Once a poor family does that, getting back on their feet again becomes difficult."

"Declines in farming household mean that poor farming families will have less money to buy food and meet critical needs. The amount available for other expenses like education, health spending will be cut. So we are not just talking about hunger here," Russo added.

The FAO and WFP analysis lists another 16 countries and territories – from Haiti to Zimbabwe – as at risk of rising levels of acute hunger and urges developed countries to take urgent action to avoid an international food emergency.

Already in 2019, 135 million people were facing a food crisis or emergency in 55 countries and territories.

How conflicts play out, whether humanitarian agencies have access to populations in need, what the pandemic does to food prices, and how governments deal with the currently burgeoning COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect food systems.

Rainfall and harvest outcomes are also an important factor.

Pakistan May Return \$2b Saudi Arabian Loan

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan may return USD 2 billion loan to Saudi Arabia and the cash-strapped country is looking for various options to secure more lending aimed at retaining gross official foreign exchange reserves at their current level of over USD 12 billion, a media report said on Saturday.

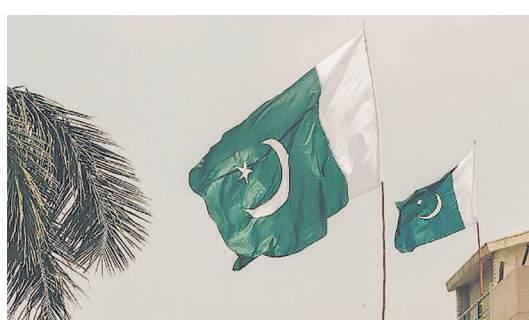
The Saudi Arabian financial assistance package, originally estimated at USD 6.2 billion, had helped the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to avoid looming default on international debt obligations.

The second tranche of USD 1 billion of Saudi loan is maturing next month and there is likelihood that the government will return the money two years after the borrowings, The Express Tribune quoted sources in the Ministry of Finance as saying. "It is a bilateral confidential matter," said the Ministry of Finance in a terse response on Friday.

But a top government official said on condition of anonymity that there was a possibility that Pakistan will be returning the money next month.

After coming into power, Prime Minister Khan had twice flown to Saudi Arabia to secure the package, which enabled his government to negotiate a deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Saudi Arabia had agreed to provide USD 6.2 billion worth of financial package to Pakistan for three years. This included USD 3 billion in cash assistance and USD 3.2 billion worth of annual oil and gas supply on deferred payments.



As per the agreement, the Saudi cash and oil facility were for one year with an option to roll over the amount at the end of the year for a period of three years, the report said.

Pakistan was paying 3.2 per cent interest on the USD 3-billion facility, according to the information that the Ministry of Finance shared

with the National Assembly.

The Saudi oil facility has already been suspended while Pakistan has also paid back Saudi Arabia USD 1 billion out of the USD 3 billion in May this year.

The sources said the government was considering various options to repay the Saudi loan, which is booked on the balance sheet of the State Bank of Pakistan.

A senior Finance Ministry official said that Pakistan could get USD 2 billion from China, like it did last time when it paid back USD 1 billion to Saudi Arabia. The official did not explain whether the Chinese lending will be concessional or the commercial loans.

Chinese authorities have privately expressed reservations over slow progress on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) but they are likely to bail out Islamabad due to the strategic nature of the relations, the report said.

The government has also not been able to get the suspended USD 6 billion IMF programme restored, which is making it difficult for it to continue uninterrupted foreign inflows. The sources said if the IMF program is not restored in near future, the World Bank inflows may start drying up.

Tehran Rebukes Arab...

FROM PAGE 1

He said that as a reader, I expected to see a more comprehensive and transnational approach about issues of the Arab World in his first interview, but unfortunately that was not what happened.

Iranian diplomat Kanaani provided a response to the Egyptian newspaper.

Firstly, the Arab World is not a geography separate from the region and the world. It is clear that there are several issues between Iran and the Arab states, some of which enjoy commonalities and cooperation, and some others have differences. These issues are quite natural in the Middle East region with geopolitical complications, as Arab countries have differences and disputes in some issues. In such a situation, constructive dialog are of great importance.

Secondly, questions engineered to draw anti-Iranian answers will not help the readers to have a correct understanding of the regional situation and Iran-Arab relations. These criticisms may exist in the minds of Iranians about Arab governments and states as well.

Thirdly, restricting the challenges and problems of the Arab world to Iranian interference is naivety and it will have few listeners. The Arab world is a huge part of Iranian geography, history, religion, and society. Iran considers any disruption in the Arab world as instability in its own vital immediate environment.

Can repeating accusations against Iran hide the real problems of the Arab world, a big part of which is due to domestic developments of the Arab states and the other part is thanks to interference of extra-regional powers and establishment of the Zionist regime.

Kanaani wondered why is that the interviewer asked no questions about the

Zionist regime and its vast illegal security and military interference in the Arab world.

He then gave some points about the strange remarks made by the Arab Parliament speaker.

While Iran has close relations with some Arab states and nations, such accusations seem more like the stances of his respective country – Bahrain.

His accusations against Iran and disparaging some Arab states by calling them Iranian colonies will not help the present complex conditions of the region.

By calling Iran the enemy of the Arab states, al-Asoomi looks as if he is drawing a war plan between Iran and Arabs. This is while Iran and the Arabs have been and will be neighbors and have undeniable commonalities and strong links which are centuries long.

Advising al-Asoomi to be fairer and more honest, Kanaani wrote several member states of the Arab Parliament will undoubtedly consider these remarks as personal opinion.

He added, "Our common enemies are creating these rifts, we had better speak constructively and not help the real and known enemy."

Iran has always shown its good faith by proposing initiatives for dialog and constructive cooperation, as well as for providing collective security for the region with partnership of all the regional governments.

Are there any partners for such constructive dialogue that provide joint interests for the real owners of the region and disappoint the domineering enemies of it? he asked.

Biden's Helplessness...

FROM PAGE 1

Today the resistance camp has different expectation from us. The least expectation is that we do not easily give in to negotiations with the U.S. and in fact we should not turn our frown, regarding the treacherous Arabs' ignoring the ideals of resistance and Palestine, into a smile. But Zionist regime will strive to put on the agenda its efforts for normalization, and in this stage to reach an aligned understanding for improving or at least keeping the current normalization relation with Arabs. Of course, it will make the condition for the U.S. for talks with Iran more difficult.

By the way in Iran, the 12th government (the ruling government), which unfortunately has trespassed all redlines in the past and caused relation with the U.S. through the collective framework (P5+1) and pretext, does not have its past position to move in this direction to boost its survival, and its life will not last too long in order that it can re-ignore the redlines easily like the past. So neither the foreign ministry nor President Hassan Rouhani's government has any appropriate ground for repeating the trespass from the Supreme Leader's demands.

Of course, this truth is very understandable that Biden's collaboration with Europe and his announcement of easing of Iran sanctions in the oil and banking sectors would put the government and likely the establishment and even the Leader in a tough choosing condition. So tackling with the seemingly beautiful but deceptive concessions of Europe and regroup of P5+1 will become a little bit complicated and difficult, especially China and Russia are in this group. China needs a strategy for getting closer to Biden to lessen the tensions which costs others, and Russia should rebuild its relation with Biden in reducing its past events and connection with Trump.

That analysis of the future condition is somewhat complicated is not important and I am sure that today we predominate the political condition of the region and the world. Definitely, we will change the scenario with the subtlest condition into the favor of Iranian people's condition, and of course, this is in a condition that we have to wait and see how Biden enters the White House after settling the election dispute, and how the U.S. strategy in its current Coronavirus condition, its declining economy and internal chaos due to polarization could survive and gets ready to come out of this condition.

Iran Rules Out...

FROM PAGE 1

However, the Zionist regime has no athletes or representatives in these competitions, and the published news is just media mischief aiming at taking advantage of sports to justify the normalization of relations between a number of countries with the Zionist regime and its generalization to other countries which has been repeatedly condemned by the sports community and athletes of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



Mancini Tests Positive For Covid-19

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy coach Roberto Mancini has contracted coronavirus but is asymptomatic, the Italian football federation (FIGC) announced.

“As part of the periodic controls undertaken by the FIGC on the Italy coaching staff ahead of the coming break for UEFA competitions, head coach Roberto Mancini tested positive for COVID-19,” the governing body said. “He remains asymptomatic and, in compliance with the active guidelines, the Azzurri head coach went into self-isolation at his home in Rome,” it added.

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Rossi to Race in European MotoGP

VALENCIA (AFP) - Valentino Rossi was Friday cleared to race in the European MotoGP after recovering from coronavirus but Yamaha's joy at seeing the return of their seven-time world champion was tempered when title-chasing Maverick Vinales was ordered to start Sunday's race from the pit lane.

Rossi flew to Valencia from Italy on Thursday evening after a first negative Covid-19 test. “This morning, Rossi took a second PCR test, as per FIM (International Motorcycling Federation) regulations, and this afternoon it came back negative,” said Yamaha in a statement.

8 IRAN NEWS

SPORTS

MONDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Man Utd Set Up to Fail as Chelsea Climb to Third

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ole Gunnar Solskjaer launched a tirade against the Premier League's fixture schedule after his side's vital win against Everton on Saturday as Chelsea pummelled Sheffield United 4-1 to climb to third.

The United boss was under intense pressure before the match at Goodison Park after defeat to Arsenal and an embarrassing loss to Istanbul Basaksehir in the Champions League.

But man-of-the-match Bruno Fernandes scored twice and new signing Edinson Cavani opened his account as United won 3-1, giving Solskjaer some much-needed breathing space before the international break.

Crystal Palace beat Leeds 4-1 to make it three defeats in four for Marcelo Bielsa's men before Frank Lampard's Chelsea came from behind thump Sheffield United by the same scoreline.

United started the match a lowly 15th in the table but showed grit and style as they recovered from going behind to a Bernard goal in the 19th minute.

Fernandes was the standout player for the 20-times champions, thriving in a creative midfield role in the absence of the benched Paul Pogba.

The Portuguese powered a header from a Luke Shaw cross past a flailing Jordan Pickford and scored again when an intended cross for Marcus Rashford was missed by the England international and the ball crept in off the far post.

Former Paris Saint-Germain striker Cavani made the points safe with a goal deep into stoppage time. A visibly angry Solskjaer praised his players but fired a broadside at league bosses for scheduling United's match early on Saturday after their midweek Champions League commitments.

“We were set up to fail,” the Norwegian told BT Sport.

“The kick-off time set us up to fail. We have been to Turkey, played loads of games this season already, we got back Thursday morning and we are playing Saturday lunchtime, it's an absolute shambles.”

“These boys deserve better. Luke Shaw has got injured because of it. It's a hamstring which might be a long one and Marcus Rashford might be struggling.”

The victory at the home of Carlo Ancelotti's early-season pacesetters was United's seventh straight Premier League away win.



Their form on the road contrasts sharply with their struggles at Old Trafford, where they have not won a single league game so far this season. Everton, who topped the Premier League table earlier this season, have now suffered three consecutive league defeats.

Chelsea are beginning to pick up the pace after their expensive summer rebuild and are now just one point behind Southampton and Liverpool, who play Manchester City on Sunday.

Lampard's side, now unbeaten in six Premier League matches, went behind early at Stamford Bridge when David McGoldrick's neat flick put Sheffield United in front.

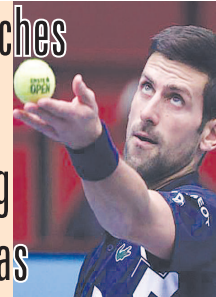
But they hit back quickly, with England forward Tammy Abraham slotting home from Matteo Kovacic's cutback and Ben Chilwell put Chelsea into a 2-1 lead just past the half-hour.

Brazilian veteran Thiago Silva bagged his first Chelsea goal to put the Blues 3-1 up before Timo Werner blasted past Aaron Ramsdale to put the home side in total control.

Leeds' fine start to their first top-flight season after a 16-year absence is fading fast as they conceded four for the second time in a week at Crystal Palace. Goals from Scott Dann and Eberechi Eze gave Palace a 2-0 lead before Patrick Bamford pulled one back. But an own goal from Leeds winger Helder Costa restored the home side's two-goal cushion and Jordan Ayew completed the rout in the second half.

Speaking about his side's defensive issues, Bielsa added: “How could it not worry me? It's not a question of training more, and -- apart from that -- the international break doesn't help us to train on this as most players will be away.”

Djokovic Clinches Sixth Year-end No. 1 Ranking To Tie Sampras



LONDON (Reuters) - Novak Djokovic has sealed the year-end men's world number one tennis ranking for the sixth time to go level with childhood hero Pete Sampras after closest rival Rafael Nadal opted against playing in the ATP Tour event in Sofia next week.

Spain's 20-time Grand Slam champion Nadal, ranked second, was the only player who had a chance to stop the Serbian from finishing as the top-ranked player in 2020.

“Pete was somebody I looked up to when I was growing up, so to match his record is a dream come true” Djokovic said in an ATP statement.

“I will also keep striving to be a better player, hopefully have more success and break more records in a sport I love with all my heart.”

During the year Djokovic won the ATP Cup in January before picking up a record-extending eight Australian Open Grand Slam in Melbourne. He also won the Cincinnati Masters and a record 36th ATP Masters title in Rome.

In September Djokovic also overtook American Pete Sampras, who ended as No. 1 for six straight years between 1993 and 1998, for the most weeks overall at the top ranking and will begin his 294th week in first spot on Monday.

Saudi Arabia to Host F1 Night Race In Jeddah in 2021

LONDON (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia will host a Formula One grand prix for the first time next year with a night race on the streets of the country's second city Jeddah, the sport and organisers announced.

The November race -- along Jeddah's corniche facing the Red Sea -- will be the third in the Middle East with Bahrain and Abu Dhabi, subject to confirmation of a 2021 calendar that has yet to be published.

Formula One's current season has been restricted by the COVID-19 pandemic to 17 races in Europe and the Middle East but the sport is hoping for a fuller season in 2021, possibly even a record 23 races.

Saudi Arabia is set to be paired with next year's season-ending round at Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina, also held under floodlights.

“Saudi Arabia is a country that is rapidly becoming a hub for sports and entertainment with many major events taking place there in recent years and we are very pleased that Formula One will be racing there from next season,” said F1 chairman Chase Carey in a statement.

“The region is hugely important to us and with 70% of the population of Saudi being under 30 we are excited about the potential to reach new fans and bring our existing fans around the world exciting racing from an incredible and historic location.”

The Saudi round is expected to move eventually to Qiddiya, a planned entertainment resort about an hour's drive from the capital Riyadh, once a permanent circuit has been built and as part of a long-term deal.

Qiddiya is at the heart of an ambitious strategy to open the economy and ease social restrictions.

Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Al Faisal, President of the Saudi Automobile and Motorcycle Federation, hailed the race as ground-breaking.



Zverev Downs Nadal to Play Final With Medvedev

PARIS (Dispatches) - Alexander Zverev overpowered Rafael Nadal in straight sets on Saturday to reach his first Paris Masters final, where he will face third seed Daniil Medvedev.

The German claimed his second successive win over Nadal in impressive fashion, easing to a 6-4, 7-5 victory after Medvedev's earlier 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) win over Milos Raonic.

It ended Nadal's hopes of a first title at Bercy Arena and the 20-time Grand Slam champion remains with only one tournament win on indoor hard courts in his career.

The 34-year-old will now prepare to challenge for a maiden ATP Tour Finals trophy in London, with the season-ending event starting on November 15.

“I was there until the end against a player who is playing great on a surface that he's winning a lot (on),” said Nadal. “So it has been a positive tournament for me.”

Zverev will be confident of claiming a third successive title, after back-to-back triumphs on home soil in Cologne, when he takes on Medvedev in Sunday's final.

Messi Scores Twice to Lead Barca to Betis Win

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi came on at half-time to rescue Barcelona by scoring twice, including his first goal from open play this season, in a 5-2 victory over Real Betis on Saturday.

Messi had been rested by Ronald Koeman but was thrown on with the game in the balance after Antoine Griezmann missed a penalty in the Argentinian's absence, before Antonio Sanabria cancelled out Ousmane Dembele's opener.

But within four minutes of his introduction, Messi gave Griezmann an open goal with a superb dummy and then scored twice himself, the first a penalty that saw Betis' Aissa Mandi sent off for a handball on the line.

In between, Loren Moron had given Betis brief hope but Messi's second and a late strike from Pedri ensured Barcelona ended their four-match winless run and climbed to eighth in La Liga.

“Leo finished the match against Kiev with some problems,” said Koeman. “He wasn't in a position to play in the first half but we talked about him being on the bench and said he would come on if he felt good. “He's a player who in principle always plays, but today he didn't because of some minor problems.” Messi gave a resounding answer to those suggesting his performances this season have been evidence of decline.

Even before registering his first goal of the season from open play, the 33-year-old had turned this game, putting Barcelona in control with his brilliant dummy for Griezmann and then a penalty won from a Dembele shot, teed up by his pass.

Griezmann also got his goal with Messi on the pitch but was unable to prove a point without him.



Bayern Munich Down Dortmund To Go Top

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Robert Lewandowski scored his 11th goal in just his sixth Bundesliga game this season as Bayern Munich went top of the table on Saturday with a 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund.

After Marco Reus put Dortmund ahead, David Alaba blasted home a free-kick to make it 1-1 at half-time behind closed doors at Signal Iduna Park. Lewandowski gave Bayern the lead with a superb header early in the second half before Leroy Sane grabbed the visitors' third.

Erling Braut Haaland gave Dortmund hope with a late goal.

The 32-year-old Lewandowski could have finished with a hat-trick against his former club after also having two goals disallowed by the VAR. The win leaves Bayern two points clear of second-placed RB Leipzig with Dortmund third, three points behind Munich.

The away win could have come at a cost, however, as Bayern midfielder Joshua Kimmich had to be helped off in clear distress with a first-half knee injury.

After the hosts made a bright start with Haaland firing wide, Lewandowski's effort on 24 minutes was ruled out by the VAR who spotted the Poland star offside in the build up.

Dortmund took the lead on 45 minutes when centre-half Mats Hummels sent a superb pass down the left flank for Jadon Sancho. The England winger played Raphael Guerreiro into the area to provide the final pass which Reus fired home.

However, Bayern levelled four minutes later.

After Dortmund's midfield enforcer Thomas Delaney brought down Serge Gnabry on the edge of the area, Alaba blasted home a superb free-kick to make it 1-1 at the break.

