

Health Ministry Spokeswoman Yesterday Confirmed 10,463 New Cases of COVID-19 Infection in the Past 24 Hours, the Highest Record Since the outbreak and 458 More Patients Died Since Sunday Noon

IRAN NEWS

Iran Foreign Ministry Spokesman Says the Israeli Regime Is a Fond of War, But Would Like to Wage Them With American Soldiers' Blood, Adding Tel Aviv Is Unable to Ensure Security Even in Its Own Backyard

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JCPOA Not Renegotiable

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran will by no means agree to renegotiate the JCPOA, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said after media speculation that the next US administration has plans to rejoin the nuclear deal with changes to the accord.

Speaking to reporters at a weekly press conference on Monday, Khatibzadeh dismissed the idea of any new negotiations on the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal during the tenure of the next U.S. president.

"It would be naive to think that it is possible to renegotiate the JCPOA. The deal has been struck and sealed.

"Iran has announced repeatedly that the JCPOA relates to the past and could not be discussed again or renegotiated."

The spokesperson added that the US government has already inflicted much harm by withdrawing from the JCPOA and violating the UN Security Council resolutions.

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Iran Plans Exporting Gas To Afghanistan



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) announced that the initial plan to export Iranian gas to Afghanistan has been prepared to be developed by the private sector.

Hassan Montazer Torbati said on Monday, at a ceremony to launch 181 gas supply projects in Fars province, southern Iran, said: "Increasing production in South Pars has been one of the supports for the development of the country's gas industry."

He said back in 2013, Iran consumed 34 billion liters of liquid fuel per year which has been replaced with natural gas since then and is hoped to be fully replaced by natural gas by 2024.

Torbati stated that the annual consumption of these 34 billion liters of fuel cost about 17 billion dollars, adding that this cost was gradually reduced and by 2019, about 11 billion dollars of revenue was obtained from this replacement.

He added: "This revenue will reach about 28 billion dollars by March 2024, and this increase will continue after that."

The NIGC CEO further told reporters that the discovery of a new gas field in Turkey had no effect on its gas contract with Iran.

He said: "This issue has no effect on the current contract for Iranian gas exports to Turkey. We must see how the Turkish market would be impacted by the demand in the country. The amount discovered is not a significant figure for their total needs, and we hope to start negotiations on a contract extension soon."

Montazer Torbati said that Iran is going to discuss renewing its gas export deal with Turkey in near future.

"The discovery of the new gas field in the Black Sea has no effect on our contract and the discovered reserve is not significant compared to Turkey's demand. We will start negotiations to renew the contract in the near future," Montazer Torbati said.

"Gas exports to Turkey are ongoing based on the current agreement," the official added.

Regarding Iran's gas exports to Afghanistan, the official said the initial plan for exporting gas to Afghanistan has been prepared by NIGC. The project will be developed by the private sector.

Tehran, Doha Stress Expansion of Regional Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran and Qatar stressed the development of regional cooperation along with trans-regional relations in ensuring the security of both sides.

Iranian Energy Minister and Chairman of Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Cooperation Commission Reza Ardakanian met and held talks with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani on Monday in Doha.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the development of regional cooperation along with trans-regional relations and the important role of these interactions in ensuring the security of both sides.

Emphasizing the need to strengthen mutual relations, they also announced that basic steps should be taken to implement the decisions which have been taken during the Emir of Qatar's meeting with Iranian President in Tehran last year.

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Zarif to Visit Pakistan For Bilateral Talks

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman said that Foreign Minister Zarif will visit Pakistan today (Tuesday) to hold bilateral talks with the neighboring country's senior officials.

Saeed Khatibzadeh said, "In this two-day visit, Iranian foreign minister will meet and hold talks with his Pakistan counterpart and other distinguished figures of this country."

Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif visited three nations of Latin America (Venezuela, Bolivia and Cuba) last week, he said, adding, "In this visit, Iranian foreign minister participated in the inauguration ceremony of the newly-appointed president of Bolivia."

Zarif also held talks with his Chilean and Nicaraguan counterparts for strengthening bilateral ties.

Khatibzadeh added, "In his visit, Foreign Minister Zarif visited Cuba and held high-profile talks with Cuban president and foreign minister. In this meeting, the two sides explored avenues for enhancing the mutual relationships in various areas."

Trade Exchanges to Increase by Connecting Khaf-Herat Railway

TEHRAN (MNA) - It is predicted that three million tons of products would be imported to and exported from the country annually if Khaf-Herat Railway to Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif is connected.

Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami made the comments on Monday and added, "Once Khaf-Herat railway is connected, the objective of transit of 1.8 million tons of goods would be realized."

It is scheduled that Khaf-Herat Railway would be inaugurated in late November, the roads minister added.

He pointed to the key and important role of this railway project in the increasing volume of trade exchanges and transit volume of the country as well as the expansion of economic relations between Iran and Afghanistan and added, "Rail connection of the Islamic Republic of Iran to neighboring countries and its development from all possible routes has always been emphasized to increase the share of transit by rail."

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Pakistan Approves Iran Proposal on Extending Power Agreement

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Pakistan's the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has approved a Power Division proposal to extend power purchase agreement with Iranian firm M/s TAVANIR for import of 104 MW electricity on the basis of existing tariff, official sources told Business Recorder.

Sharing details, the sources said in order to meet the electricity demand of Makran Division, Wapda and Power Generation & Transmission Management Company, Iran (TAVANIR) entered into a contract on Nov 06, for a period of 30 years for sale and purchase of 32MW electricity. Tariff was agreed at cents 3 /kWh for an initial period of three years. Quantum of import of electricity from Iran was subsequently enhanced to 39 MW in 2006, 74 MW in 2010 and 104 MW in 2016. Tariff of the energy supplied was revised at different time intervals and in this regard following five amendments have already been made to the contract so far and FCC of the Cabinet has also granted approvals of these amendments:

(a) amendment No. 1- August 14, 2006 tariff was revised to \$ 0.05 per kWh for a period of three years up to December 31, 2008 and capacity was enhanced to 39 MW;

(b) amendment No 2 - June 18, 2010;(I) effective from January 1, 2009 up to Dec 31, 2010 the tariff @ cents 6.25 per kWh;(ii) effective from Jan 1, 2011 till Dec 31, 2013, the tariff was based on the following formula: R=2.5+ 0.07 x Pi where P is monthly average crude oil price ranging from \$65 to \$110 per barrel. By applying this formula the payable tariff will remain within the range of Cents 7.00 to 10.00/kWh.

(c) Enhancement of capacity up to 74 MW through Jackigur (Iran) - Mand (Pakistan) 132 kv transmission line. Amendment No. 3 - February 23, 2015, effective from Jan 1, 2014 till Dec 31, 2015, for a period of two years, the tariff to remain unchanged on the basis of formula agreed in Amendment No 2. However, the capacity was enhanced to 104 MW from January 2016. Amendment No. 4- March 25, 2016, effective from January 1, 2016 up to Dec 31, 2016, the tariff was agreed through amendment No 4, which is as follows: R = 2.5 +0.07 x P. where P is monthly average crude oil price ranging from \$51.5 to \$ 100 per barrel. However, the tariff will remain within the range of 6.10 to 9.50 cents/ kWh.

Amendment No 5- March 15, 2019, effective from Jan 1, 2017 till Dec 31, 2019, the tariff remained unchanged based on formula agreed in amendment No.4. It was also agreed that electricity price shall be paid by the buyer (CPPA) in Euros. However the seller (TAVANIR) can request the buyer to pay the equivalent amount in other agreed currencies including in Pak Rupees in Pakistan in their nominated accounts and for that purpose parity of exchange rates issued by European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund and National Bank of Pakistan as the case maybe will be used. M/s TAVANIR also consented for novation from NTDC to CPPA as power purchaser.

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Trump Plans Flood Of Sanctions on Iran By Jan 20

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is planning to impose a "flood of sanctions" on Iran by January 20, 2021, after it recently targeted the Islamic Republic's oil and financial sectors, a media report said.

The administration, in coordination with Israel and several Persian Gulf states, is pushing for the new sanctions, informed Israeli sources told the Virginia-based Axios media outlet on Sunday. According to the sources, US envoy for Iran Elliott Abrams arrived in Israel on Sunday and met Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and National Security adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat to discuss the plan.

On Monday, Abrams will meet Defence Minister Benny Gantz and Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi to brief them on the proposal, the sources told Axios.

After Israel, the envoy is scheduled to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to discuss the sanctions plan.

The development comes several days after Abrams said at a closed briefing that the Trump administration wants to announce a new set of sanctions on Iran every week until January 20, when President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the new American President, another informed source told Axios.

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Zarif Congratulates Pakistanis on Iqbal Day

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a message expressed congratulations to all Pakistanis on the arrival of Iqbal Day.

"Allama Iqbal Fakhr has the status of a scholar of Islam and an international poet and thinker and the concerns he had for the unity of Muslims is a concern for the world of Islam today," Zarif wrote in his Twitter account.

Allama Iqbal, born on November 9, 1877 in Eastern city of Sialkot, was great representative of the subcontinent and an important personality for the Pakistan movement.

Gen. Soleimani's Assassination White House Strategic Mistake

TEHRAN (MNA) – Stating that Martyr Soleimani played a major role in the security of the region and the world, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that his assassination by the U.S. was a strategic mistake of the White House.

Majlis Speaker's Special Aide for International Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in his meeting with UK ambassador to Tehran Rob Macaire.

Criticizing the arbitrary actions and violations of peace and security by the United States and some of its allies, Amir-Abdollahian cited the use of terrorism as a tool and attempts to divide Muslim countries in the region as factors that violate the process of world peace and energy security.

Referring to Iran's important role in helping Syria and Iraq to fight against terrorism, he said, "Lt. Gen. Soleimani was an international hero in the fight against terrorism who played a major role in the security of the region and the world."

"His assassination by the U.S. was a strategic mistake of the White House," he added.

Emphasizing the need for peace and security in the region, including Yemen, he noted, "Given the continuing killing of the oppressed and defenseless people of Yemen, establishing a ceasefire and ending this deplorable situation and stopping the sale of weapons in the Yemeni war is a necessity."

He also stressed the need for a political solution in all critical countries in the region, citing systematic human rights abuses in Bahrain.

Elsewhere in his remark, Amir-Abdollahian praised the continuation of the commission talks between the two countries' parliaments but criticized the slow pace of cooperation, including Britain's delay in implementing its commitments.

He called the opening of the banking channel and the flow of commercial transactions part of London's commitments, saying, "The fact that some officials in London not only do not fulfill their obligations to Iran but also attribute baseless



accusations to the Islamic Republic of Iran, is considered unconstructive behavior in the course of relations between the two countries."

"There are good capacities in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Kingdom that can help strengthen cooperation as well as accelerate and facilitate relations between the two countries," he noted referring to the readiness of businessmen of the two countries to increase the level of cooperation.

Rob Macaire, for his part, said that the British Embassy in Tehran will make every effort to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries' parliaments.

Referring to U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the JCPOA, he added, "We are in a complicated situation after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA, but nevertheless, Britain has always declared its support for the nuclear deal."

He referred to the Yemen crisis, saying, "We support a political solution in Yemen, and the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a role in creating peace and security in the region."

Rob Macaire stressed the need for Iran to negotiate and adhere to the JCPOA but Amir-Abdollahian said that Iran's unilateral adherence to the JCPOA is not sustainable and acceptable.

"Tehran has always considered diplomatic negotiations a useful way, but negotiations to negotiate a repetitive game is fruitless," Amir-Abdollahian noted.

Iran, Determined to Pursue Lt. Gen. Soleimani Assassination

TEHRAN (IP) - The head of Iran's judiciary stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran was firm and serious in administering justice to the perpetrators of the assassination of Lt. Gen. Soleimani.

Referring to Trump's defeat in the US presidential election, the Head of Iran's Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi, said on Monday: "A terrorist who supports terrorists and also his hand is stained with the blood of Lt. Gen. Soleimani, the hero of the fight against terrorism, is expelled from the White House."

Raisi stressed that we will definitely continue to pursue the assassination issue.

Gen. Qasem Soleimani, the late Commander of the IRGC's Quds Force, who arrived in Iraq on January 3 at the official invitation of Iraqi officials, along with Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, Deputy Chief of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Committee (Al-Hashd Al-Sha'abi) and eight others were killed in an airstrike by US aggressor and terrorist forces near Baghdad airport in Iraq.

Gov't to Impose Night Curfew In Tehran to Curb Infections

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The governor of Tehran announced the start time of night curfew in the capital.

Referring to the curfew in some European countries, Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandapi said: that some countries, in order to reduce overnight parties, have imposed traffic restriction policies in their cities.

Pointing to the proposal to impose a night curfew from 9 pm, he said that "This proposal was raised and discussed at the National Committee on Combating Coronavirus."

Mohseni Bandapi said that the night curfew in Tehran will be applied from 9 pm on Saturday, November 14.

The rising toll has brought a number of health experts and officials to call for a lockdown in the capital as a minimum measure.

Iran has not imposed a full lockdown since it was hit by Covid-19 in February, with President Hassan Rouhani arguing the country's sanctions-hit economy cannot afford to be shut down for an extended period.

FM Urges Neighbors Not to Rely on Outsiders

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said in a sincere message to neighbors that relying on outsiders will bring no security and "we can build a better future together."

"A sincere message to our neighbors: Trump's gone in 70 days But we'll remain here forever Betting on outsiders to provide security is never a good gamble We extend our hand to our neighbors for dialog to resolve differences Only together can we build a better future for all," Zarif wrote in his Twitter account.

Earlier in a separate message, Zarif said: "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."

"Deeds matter most Iran's record: dignity, interest & responsible diplomacy," he added.

Tehran Vows Support for Peace Process Led by Afghan Gov't



TEHRAN (IFP) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Seyyed Abbas Araqchi and UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan Deborah Lyons have discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan in a meeting in Tehran.

Canadian diplomat Deborah Lyons, who is also head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), conferred with Araqchi on Sunday on the political and security conditions in Afghanistan, the latest developments in the Afghan peace process, and problems in the course of intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha.

Reaffirming Iran's support for the peace process in Afghanistan under the ownership of the Afghan government and with the participation of all Afghan groups, including the Taliban, Araqchi stressed the need to protect the Afghan people's achievements of the past two decades, particularly the Afghan Constitution and democratic structures.

The Afghan problem has no military solution, the Iranian diplomat underscored, saying the US government's wrong and unilateral policies on the peace process have caused trouble to the Afghan people.

Pointing to the UN's role in facilitating the Afghan peace talks, Araqchi voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with the UNAMA in advancing the intra-Afghan negotiations.

For her part, Lyons hailed Iran's positive role in supporting the Afghan people and government, expressing the UN's readiness to contribute to the peace talks in Afghanistan. Both diplomats also voiced concern about the rising war fatalities in Afghanistan, and called for the reduction of violence to prepare the ground for the advancement of intra-Afghan talks.

Military Geographic Products Unveiled

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian Defense Ministry unveiled new products and systems related to geographic data and information for military purposes.

In a ceremony held in Tehran on Monday morning, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami inaugurated a geospatial unit developing small-scale digital maps.

The minister also unveiled a location data management system called 'Samam'.

The homegrown system is utilized for categorizing and managing the geospatial data for the military forces.



In 2016, Iran began to sell a series of aerial topographic maps to a number of regional countries.

Thanks to its homegrown satellites, Iran has acquired the knowledge to produce detailed topographic maps, for both civilian and military applications.

After receiving raw images from the satellites, launched by domestically-made carriers, Iranian experts process the data and produce topographical maps on different scales and for various applications.

The maps are utilized in a broad range of fields, such as ground, sea and air navigation, border protection and environmental studies.

Next U.S. President Should Remove All Anti-Iran Sanctions

TEHRAN (MNA) – The secretary of Iran's Expediency Discernment Council urged the next U.S. president to remove all unilateral sanctions that have been imposed against the Iranian nation.

"The U.S.' president-elect should remove all the sanctions as soon as possible and apologize to the Iranian nation for Washington's past actions," Mohsen Rezaei tweeted on Sunday.

"The optimism of previous [Iranian] governments towards the United States and Europe has hurt the Iranian nation many times," he said, adding, "The 40-year series of sanctions policy and the optimism of some Iranian officials have destroyed many opportunities which were ahead of our national economy."

He pointed out that "a government in the United States imposed sanctions on Iran, and another government will come and remove it from the paper," adding that the fake games and heroism of some people in Iran and the United States have been revealed to the people.

"Therefore, the new U.S. President should lift all sanctions at the earliest opportunity, apologize to the Iranian people for past actions, and compensate for the economic damage caused to the Iranian people by the sanctions," he stressed.

On the other hand, Rezaei highlighted that the country should not wait for the lifting of sanctions, and instead, it should rely on its own capabilities and strengthen its economy, culture, and security.

"We are not looking for war, but we are firmly defending the rights of our people," he concluded.

Zarif Holds Meeting With His Chilean Counterpart

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Foreign Minister held a meeting with his Chilean counterpart in La Paz on Sunday, conferring on the expansion of bilateral relations.

Mohammad Javad Zarif is currently in La Paz to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new Bolivian President.

He also met and held talks with Chilean Foreign Minister Andrés Allamand Zavala on Sunday to discuss bilateral relations and significant issues of mutual interest.

Zarif embarked on a Latin American tour on Tuesday. He first arrived in Caracas to hold talks with high-ranking officials of Venezuela including his counterpart Jorge Arreaza and President Nicolas Maduro. He then headed to Havana to discuss bilateral ties with the Cuban president and foreign minister before departing for La Paz.

Iran Ready to Install Chopper Night Vision System for Friends

TEHRAN (MNA) – Commander of Army Aviation said that Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to install night vision systems of helicopters for any applicant organization or even friend countries.

Second Brigadier General Yousef Ghorbani also said Sunday, "Today, helicopter fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army Aviation is considered as the superior power in West Asia in the field of combat capability and deterrent power"

He pointed to the manufacturing of relevant parts and equipment and added, "We managed to launch and activate parts manufacturing industry in Army Aviation, as emphasized by Leader of the Islamic Revolution." He put the current number of parts and equipment manufactured in Iran's Army Aviation at 500, which have been installed on helicopters.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Brigadier General Ghorbani pointed to the installation of night vision systems on helicopters as one of the salient projects of Army Aviation and added, "Installation of a night vision system on helicopters was one of the measures developed by experts, pilots, technical personnel of Army Aviation Force and knowledge-based companies for the first time in the country and West Asian region."

The night vision systems installed on helicopters were tested at military war games in the various operational region, he added.

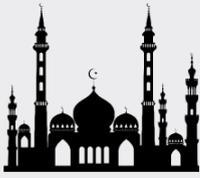
Referring to the measures taken by Army Aviation Force for overhauling helicopters, he said, "Overhauling helicopters was a difficult task which was launched at the unsparing support of commander of Iran's Army Ground Force."

No Place for Trial and Error in Iran's Sky

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – A ranking Iranian commander warned the northwestern neighbors engaged in armed clashes over the Nagorno-Karabakh region that Iran would not tolerate any violation of its airspace.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Deputy Commander of Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Qader Rahimzadeh said the warring sides in Nagorno-Karabakh must be mindful that the Iranian airspace is no place for trial and error. He also assured the northwestern border residents that the Iranian military forces are monitoring the boundaries round the clock to ensure full security along the frontiers.

"We will deal with the violators harshly and seriously," the commander stressed, urging the neighbors to heed Iran's warnings and avoid any harm to the security of Iran's airspace. Last week, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia have been given warnings about the presence of terrorists near the Iranian border amid the escalation of fighting between the two neighbors over Nagorno-Karabakh.



PRAYER TIME

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| ■ Noon (Zohr) | 11:48 |
| ■ Evening (Maghreb) | 17:20 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr) | 05:10 |
| ■ Tomorrow's Sunrise | 06:36 |

91. Others you will find that wish to gain your confidence as well as that of their people: Every time they are sent back to temptation, they succumb thereto: if they withdraw not from you nor give you (guarantees) of peace besides restraining their hands, seize them and slay them wherever ye get them: In their case We have provided you with a clear argument against them.

Surah 4. Women (91)

Trump Sanctions Rooted In Grudges Against Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister Bijan Zangeneh said on Monday that the U.S. sanctions imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump on the Iranian oil industry officials are due to his sense of revenge and grudges against Iran.

Speaking in the opening ceremony of 181 natural gas projects in Fars Province through video conference, Zangeneh said that on his last days in the White House, Trump has imposed sanctions on managers of Iran's oil industry accusing them of supporting terrorism while Iran is the victim of terrorism.

Zangeneh said these sanctions are because of his grudge against Iran.

Referring to the rumors going that a flood of sanctions are on the way, he said there is nothing left to be sanctioned; however, these sanctions have no effects. He added, "Neither are we afraid of sanctions, nor can they impede our plans. They have made us more determined."

Touching on the issue of South Pars Gas Field, he said seven years ago, extraction of gas from the SPGF was 280 million cubic meters but now it stands at 700 cubic meters.

While under severe sanctions, Iran has constructed 17 refineries, installed 30 platforms, dug hundreds of wells, and implemented thousands of kilometers of piping



to reach the gas production level of 1,000 million cubic meters.

Zangeneh, on Monday, inaugurated 181 gas supply projects worth 1.88 trillion rials (about \$44.761 million) in the southern Fars province through video conference, IRNA reported.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Hassan Montazer Torbati and some provincial officials.

As part of the mentioned projects, a city, and 55 rural areas were connected to the national gas network, while natural gas was also supplied to 125 production and industrial units.

As reported, over the past seven years, more than 18,000 villages with 1.6 million households have been connected to the national gas network. Back in August, Zangeneh said that currently about 88 percent of the country's rural areas are supplied with natural gas through the national network, while nearly 95 percent of the country's total population is enjoying natural gas which is unprecedented in the world.

Shift in U.S. Policy May Affect UCO Bank Cooperation With Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Vice President of India-Iran Chamber of Commerce Parham Rezaei believes that change in the U.S. political policy regarding Iran will affect the cooperation of Indian UCO Bank with Iran.



Speaking to ILNA, Rezaei said that UCO Bank has issued an executive directive since the moment Americans imposed sanctions on all Iranian banks one month ago, but it does not seem to come into effect.

On the UCO Bank directive regarding halt in cooperation with Iran as of November 22, he said the bank has taken action in compliance with the list of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. which have targeted all Iranian banks, and as the result, UCO Bank last week issued a directive but due to the political changes in the U.S., it is not clear whether this directive is implemented or not and the trend may change any moment.

Rezaei noted that there have been some directives in the past which have not been implemented, either. He then referred to the volume of transactions between Iran and UCO Bank, saying that if this had happened before, it would have had great impact due to Iran's crude oil sales to India because Iran's oil revenues were transferred to Iran through UCO Bank. But since Iran's oil sales in the past year have significantly decreased, the country does not have much money in the bank, he stated.

Rezaei also pointed to other channels for exchanges, saying that regarding other ways for exchanges which have been announced by Iran's Industry, Mine and Trade Ministry like imports in exchange of exports, it does not seem the bank's decision will have major impact.

Touching upon the fate of Iran's assets at UCO Bank, he noted that Iran's money is not blocked in the bank and it can be used for purchase of medicines and food stuff.

Rezaei reiterated that in the past, most of Iran's transactions were done through UCO Bank as some 70 percent of import exchanges used to be carried out via this bank.

Some \$5b of Iran Assets Blocked in Italy



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Chairman of Iran-Italy Joint Chamber of Commerce Ahmad Pourfallah warned Iranian policy-makers and elites that if the country does not restore link with the SWIFT and join the FATF, the removal of sanctions will have no effect because the country will be unable to transfer money even after lifting the sanctions.

Speaking to ILNA, Pourfallah talked about the current trade condition between Iran and Italy, saying that for many years and especially in decades after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, Italy has been Iran's trade partner number one as Iran has experienced the record of 1.8b euro trade volume with Italy until ten years ago and Italy always used to meet the demands of its refineries by purchasing oil from Iran.

He went on to say that Italians used to buy Iran oil because their refineries' systems were adjusted to Iran crude oil and they changed their refining systems through huge investment to replace Iran oil with oil from other countries. He added that returning to the previous condition is difficult but these are golden opportunities that Iran has missed.

Pourfallah further said that according to the available statistics, the trade volume of Iran and Italy before the outbreak of Coronavirus was around 600m euros which is insignificant but in comparison to other countries, Iran's trade with Italy has not been cut and it still goes on narrowly especially small and medium size companies which have no ties with the U.S. have no problem in trade with Iran.

He admitted these small companies form a small portion of trade and Iran should seek a higher level of trade with major companies in the world.

Pourfallah added that Iran economy ranks 18 or 19 in the world and it should have more share of the global trade. He reiterated that sanctions and snubbing the FATF have great impact on the trade. He said having no SWIFT link with other countries has created headache for the country and opportunists take advantage of this condition and national interests of Iranians are imperiled. He expressed hope with some openings in the international level which are happening, the sanctions would gradually become colorless.

He reiterated that policy-makers and elites should know this fact that even if the sanctions are lifted and the country does not restore link with the SWIFT and join the FATF, they will be useless because if one cannot transfer money, lifting the sanctions will be of no use.

Pourfallah said Italy is still standing by Iran and it has not been carried out by the certain emotions and both countries have kept their trade ties narrowly. On the amount of Iran's blocked assets in Italy, he said the amount of Iran's money in Italy is not as much as in the countries like China, India and Iraq but the blocked money belongs to the last oil consignments sold to Italy which has not been repatriated and it is not a big figure and it is around 4 or 5 billion dollars.

Iran-Qatar Poised to Strengthening Bilateral Economic Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – Islamic Republic of Iran and Qatar are determined to enhance and broaden mutual economic relations.

For this purpose, the Iranian Energy Minister and Chairman of Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Cooperation Commission Reza Ardakanian arrived in the Qatari capital Doha on Monday to discuss the relevant issues.

In this meeting, made for developing and bolstering economic ties, the Iranian energy minister will hold talks with Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari and other senior political and economic officials. Developing economic relations between Iran and Qatar as well as planning to hold the 7th Iran-Qatar Joint Cooperation Commission in near future are of the main programs of the Iranian energy minister in this visit.

It is scheduled that a joint economic cooperation commission between Iran and Qatar will be held before termination of the current year in 2020.

Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian held talks with the Qatari minister of commerce and industry on Oct. 14 through videoconference. In this meeting, the two sides emphasized on evermore development of bilateral ties between two neighboring countries.

While welcoming the evermore development of trade ties between Iran and Qatar, the two sides also stressed the need to hold mutual talk in order to specify the scope of cooperation and way of operationalization of cooperation.

Iran Stands Fourth With Highest Gas Transmission Capacity

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The high-pressure gas transmission pipeline is presently 37,400 kilometers across Iran. Officials from the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) say Iran ranks fourth in this sector's global ranking. Iran appears to enjoy a resilient gas supply system in addition to that.

Iranian Gas Transmission Company (IGTC) CEO Mehdi Jamshidi Dana said Iran's gas transmission capacity has recently reached 870 mcm / d. During the first five months of the current calendar year, Iran's transmission of sweet gas increased by 12% year-on-year.

Iran's current capacity for gas production is 880 mcm / d, which is supposed to hit 1,000 mcm / d by



March 2021. National gas consumption ranges from 550 mcm / d to 750 mcm / d. Long gas pipelines have been constructed in recent years for the distribution of such large volumes of gas to domestic and industrial consumers. That is why the transmission of gas from production to consumption centers has started without stopping.

On a 37,400-km-long high-pressure gas transmission pipeline, a total of 86 gas compressors along with 316 turbochargers are installed to carry gas to consumers. All of these turbochargers are not in operating condition; even so, maximum gas transmission in winter may require the operation of all turbochargers other than the activation of spare turbines.

Direct Flights From Qeshm to Turkey, Afghanistan

QESHM (IRNA) - Qeshm Free Zone Organization has plans to launch direct flights from Qeshm Island, southern Iran, to Istanbul, Turkey, and Kabul and Herat, Afghanistan, and vice versa, according to a provincial official.

Morteza Sheikhzadeh, the deputy-director of Qeshm Free Zone, said that more than 10,000 Afghan nationals are living in Kish Island who had asked for launching a direct flight from Qeshm to Afghanistan.

The Afghan nationals now have to fly to Mashhad airport and then take another flight to Afghanistan, the official said. He said that launching the direct flights to Afghanistan would help save the costs, energy and time of these Afghan people.

Iran Bitumen Export Prices Rise After U.S. Elections

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Bitumen export offers from Iran increased by \$40-50/t on 7 November as market sentiment received a boost from the announcement of the outcome of the US elections.

Bulk cargoes were offered at \$200-210/t fob Bandar Abbas on 7 November and drum cargo offers rose to \$270-280/t.

Vacuum bottom prices were also revised and increased by about 5pc from two weeks earlier.

The news of U.S. elections results also strengthened the Iranian rial against the U.S. dollar. The exchange rate stood at an average of 275,000 rials to a U.S. dollar last week.

Iranian sellers have continued to try to raise prices despite a slew of sanctions-led restrictions. Demand has been patchy with key destination markets like India still recovering from prolonged Covid-19 lockdowns and an economic slowdown. Bitumen prices in Iran were assessed higher at \$155-165/t fob Bandar Abbas on 6 November.

TEDPIX Falls More 25,000 Points on Monday

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 25,369 points to 1.215 million on Monday.

Over 7.901 billion securities worth 59.928 trillion rials (about \$1.426 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index fell 24,755 points and the second market's index 27,087 points.

TEDPIX finally experienced a weekly growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday) after several weeks of falling.

The index increased 2,000 points (less than one percent) to stand at 1.29 million points in the previous week.

Since the week ended on August 14, the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange, witnessed drop of its main index every week, except for the week ended on September 18.

Iran-Afghanistan Economic Cooperation, Needs of Regional Security

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Minister of Energy said that economic cooperation between Islamic Republic of Iran and Afghanistan is one of the requirements of regional security.

In his meeting with the Special Representative of UN Secretary-General for Afghanistan Affairs and Chairwoman of United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Deborah Lyons on Sunday, Reza Ardakanian stated that increasing economic cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan is one of the important requirements for achieving sustainable development and regional security.

In these bilateral talks, Ardakanian pointed to various needs of Afghanistan and the highly specialized and economic capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran to contribute to the scientific, industrial and economic progress of Afghanistan.

As chairman of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, the Iranian minister of energy emphasized the development of cooperation of the two countries in energy, customs, economic fields, etc.

Chairwoman of UNAMA, for her part, pointed to the most important topics of economic cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan and the role of this international body in facilitating bilateral cooperation and expressed the readiness of the United Nations in easing joint cooperation between Iran and Afghanistan.

Ethiopia's Abiy Replaces Army Chief

ADDIS ABABA (Dispatches) - Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed replaced his army chief on Sunday, as reports of wounded soldiers continued to rise in a five-day-old conflict in the country's northern Tigray region.

Deputy army chief Berhanu Jula will take over the Ethiopian National Defence Force, a statement from Abiy's office said, without giving a reason or specifying the fate of Berhanu's predecessor, General Adem Mohammed.

The announcement came as a medical official told AFP that nearly 100 government soldiers had been treated for gunshot wounds at a hospital in the northern Amhara region, the latest indication that fighting has been intense.



Global Coronavirus Cases Exceed 50m

LONDON (Reuters) - Global coronavirus infections exceeded 50 million on Sunday, according to a Reuters tally, with a second wave of the virus in the past 30 days accounting for a quarter of the total.

October was the worst month for the pandemic so far, with the United States becoming the first country to report more than 100,000 daily cases. A surge in Europe contributed to the rise.

The latest seven-day average shows global daily infections are rising by more than 540,000.

More than 1.25 million people have died from the respiratory disease that emerged in China late last year.



Biden to Launch COVID-19 Task Force, Trump to Protest Election



WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President-elect Joe Biden will convene a coronavirus task force on Monday to examine the No. 1 problem confronting him when he takes office in January, while President Donald Trump pursues several long-shot gambits to hold on to his job.

Biden is due to meet with an advisory board led by former Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and former Food and Drug Administration Commissioner David Kessler to examine how best to tame a pandemic that has killed here more than 237,000 Americans. The Democratic former vice president will then give remarks in Wilmington, Delaware, about his plans for tackling COVID-19 and rebuilding the economy. He spent much of the campaign criticizing Trump's handling of the crises and has vowed to listen to scientists to guide his own approach.

Trump has frequently clashed with top health officials over the pandemic. Vice President Mike Pence is due to meet with the White House coronavirus task force on Monday for the first time since Oct. 20.

Biden clinched the presidency on Saturday, four days after the Nov. 3 election, clearing the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House. He beat Trump by more than 4 million votes nationwide, making Trump the first president to lose re-election since 1992. But Trump has not acknowledged defeat and has launched an array of lawsuits to press claims of election fraud for which he has produced no evidence. State officials say they are not aware of any significant irregularities.

Trump has no public events scheduled for Monday, and he has not spoken in public since Thursday. As part of a public campaign to question the election results, he is planning to hold rallies to build support for his fight over the outcome, campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said. Biden's advisers are moving ahead even still, also considering candidates for top Cabinet posts. But the transition cannot shift into high gear until the U.S. General Services Administration, which oversees federal property, certifies the winner. Emily Murphy, the Trump appointee who runs the agency, has not given the go-ahead for the transition to begin. A GSA spokeswoman gave no timetable for the decision.

Until then, the GSA can continue providing Biden's team with offices, computers and background checks for security clearances, but they cannot yet enter federal agencies or access federal funds set aside for the transition.

The Biden campaign on Sunday pressed the agency to move ahead.

"America's national security and economic interests depend on the federal government signalling clearly and swiftly that the United States government will respect the will of the American people and engage in a smooth and peaceful transfer of power," the campaign said in a statement.

Trump, however, has shown no signs he will engage in a transition.

Murtaugh said Trump will hold a series of rallies to build support for the legal fights challenging the outcome, though Murtaugh did not say when and where they would take place.

Trump will seek to back up his as yet unsubstantiated accusations of voting fraud by highlighting obituaries of dead people the campaign said voted in the election, Murtaugh said.

Thousands Rally in Georgia Demanding Snap Polls

TBILISI (AFP) - Thousands of opposition supporters rallied Sunday in ex-Soviet Georgia to demand a snap vote after the opposition accused the ruling party of rigging tightly contested parliamentary elections.

The ruling Georgian Dream party led by billionaire ex-prime minister Bidzina Ivanishvili -- which won the October 31 polls with a two-percent margin -- has flatly denied the accusations of electoral fraud.

But all of Georgia's opposition parties have refused to enter the new parliament, sparking fears of another political crisis in the Caucasus nation where elections are often followed by accusations of fraud and mass demonstrations.

The main thoroughfare of the capital Tbilisi turned into a sea of Georgia's red-and-white five-cross flags as protesters gathered outside parliament, many wearing masks against the coronavirus.

"What Georgian Dream did during the elections amounts to a coup, we will force them to call new polls," said one of the demonstrators, 33-year-old pharmacist Theona Lanchava.



Thai Police Use Water Cannon to Stop Pro-Democracy March

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Thai police on Sunday fired water cannon on pro-democracy protesters who were trying to march to the royal palace to deliver letters demanding reform to the unassailable monarchy.

Student-led rallies have rocked the kingdom since July, with protesters calling for the removal of Premier Prayut Chan-O-Cha -- a former army chief who came into power through a 2014 coup -- and a rewrite to the military-scripted constitution.

The boldest in the leaderless movement have also demanded reforms to the monarchy -- a once-taboo issue -- sending shockwaves through Thailand's arch-royalist establishment.

On Sunday, nearly 7,000 protesters -- a police estimate -- attempted to march from Bangkok's historic Democracy Monument to the Grand Palace to deliver letters to King Maha Vajiralongkorn, with security forces calling for them to stop.

As the marchers got closer, police briefly fired water cannon at them. The protesters reacted angrily, shouting: "Why did you use the water cannons against us?"

Authorities had warned earlier in the day that protesters were banned from breaching a 150-metre radius around the palace, and some 9,000 officials were deployed.

Police defended their brief use of water cannon late Sunday night, saying it was just "a warning".

"Authorities had no intention to cause any harm," deputy police spokesman Colonel Kissana Phathanacharoen said in a press briefing, adding that only "clean water" was used. Sunday's confrontation was the second time police have deployed water cannon against protesters.

Last month, a peaceful rally in downtown Bangkok saw protesters blasted with chemical-laced liquid as police bore down -- images that shocked many in Thailand.

Since then, demonstrators have appeared prepared for any retaliation from authorities, bringing along umbrellas, goggles, and even hard hats.

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The movement has also borrowed tactics from Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters, who shared tips on Twitter using trending hashtags on how to react to police crackdowns.

The youth-led movement's direct challenge to the monarchy is unprecedented in Thailand, where King Maha Vajiralongkorn sits at the apex of power supported by a coup-happy military and its billionaire clans.

Among the students' demands are the abolition of a royal defamation law -- which shields the monarch from criticism -- a clear accounting of the palace's finances, and for the king to "stay out" of Thailand's turbulent politics.



Taliban Expect Biden to Abide by Afghan Pullout Deal



KABUL (Dispatches) - The Taliban said Sunday they expect the next US president, Joe Biden to abide by the deal signed with his predecessor Donald Trump's administration that paved the way for withdrawing American forces from Afghanistan.

In February, Trump's administration signed a deal with the Taliban to fully disengage from Afghanistan in exchange for several security guarantees and a commitment from the insurgents to stop trans-national jihadist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Islamic State from operating in the country.

However, Biden's victory in the U.S. election has raised hopes among ordinary citizens that he might slow what some see as a too-hasty withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan.

The Taliban said they expected Biden's government to stick to the deal signed on February 29.

"We signed the agreement with the American government not a person," Mohammad Naeem, a spokesman for the Taliban, told AFP.

"We hope that the process that has started will not be weakened, but rather strengthened."

The U.S.-Taliban deal agreed to withdraw all American forces from Afghanistan by May 2021.

The withdrawal of troops has been a cornerstone of Trump's plans to end America's longest war.

Since the signing of the deal, the U.S. military has shut several bases and pulled out thousands of troops as agreed.

That deal, however, excluded the Afghan government from negotiations, and also saw almost 6,000 Taliban prisoners released -- much to the displeasure of authorities.

Days after the release of prisoners, peace talks between the Taliban and Afghan government to end the war were launched in the Qatari capital Doha.

The talks, which commenced on September 12, have failed to make any significant progress so far.

Shanon
(adviser)

Parsian

Mahmoodieh Apt (\$2300)
220sq.m
3bdrs, S/p
Sauna, J
roof garden
marble floor
pkg, & F.F

Farmanieh Villa (\$7000)
2000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
Sauna, J
nice yard
terrace, pkg
elegantly Furn

Kamranieh Apts
(\$1800) 160sq.m, 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F
(\$2700) 260sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, pkg, & F.F

Nice mountain View

Gheitarieh Apt (\$1800)
180sq.m, 3bdrs
balcony, & F.F

Niavaran (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
balcony

Elahieh bldg (\$5000)
4storey, 13bdrs
pkg lots

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

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Bangladesh Third Worst Performer in Greenfield FDI Index

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Bangladesh has hit the rock bottom in attracting greenfield foreign direct investment (FDI). It ranked as the third worst-performing country in the Greenfield FDI Performance Index 2020.

Bangladesh scored 0.31 in the index, which looked at inbound greenfield investment in 2019 relative to the size of each country's economy.

A greenfield investment is a project where foreign investors set up a new business or expand an existing one in a country, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. It is the best way to enter a foreign market if the investing company wants to achieve the highest degree of control over foreign activities, says FDI India.



China's Crude Oil Imports Fall as Buying Frenzy Fades

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's crude oil imports slipped 12.2 percent in October from the previous month as refiners hit the brakes after months of a buying frenzy that had raised crude inventory to a near-full level, and as independent refineries run out of import quotas.

China, the world's No.1 crude oil importer, bought 42.56 million tons of the resource last month, data from the General Administration of Customs showed on Saturday. That is equal to 10 million barrels per day (bpd).

The October imports compared with 11.8 million bpd in September and 10.72 million bpd in October of last year.

Over January-October, China took in a total of 458.56 million tons of crude oil, the data showed, equivalent to 11 million bpd, up 10.6 percent from the same period last year.

Analysts had estimated that China's implied crude inventories grew by an average 1.7 million bpd over the first three quarters.

Many independent refineries, who account for almost a quarter of China's total crude oil imports, have nearly used up all import quotas for 2020.

But the tide could be changing.

"Buying interest has shown signs of picking up recently as port congestion has eased further and the government recently issued total import quotas for 2021," said Chen Jiyao, head of China client advisory at FGE.

China will raise 2021 non-state crude oil import quotas by 20 percent from the 2020 level to 243 million tons.

Chinese customs also released data showing that the country's refined oil product exports for October rose 46.6 percent from a month ago to a total of 5.79 million tons.

Natural gas imports, including piped and liquefied natural gas, were 7.53 million tons in October, up 15.5 percent from a year earlier.

State-backed energy giants had predicted China's gas demand to grow about 10 percent this winter.

Turkey's Albayrak Says Resigning

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish Finance Minister Berat Albayrak said on Sunday he was stepping down for health reasons, according to an unconfirmed statement on his Instagram account, but two sources at the Turkish presidency could not immediately confirm the decision.

The statement came a day after Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan - who is Albayrak's father-in-law - replaced the central bank governor after a 30% plunge in the lira currency's value this year to record lows.

"I have decided that I cannot continue as a minister, which I have been carrying out for nearly five years, due to health problems," the statement said. Albayrak became finance minister two years ago after serving as energy minister.



Two sources at the presidency could neither confirm nor deny the statement when reached by Reuters. Finance Ministry spokespeople did not immediately respond to a request to comment or confirm the move.

Albayrak, 42, was appointed energy minister in 2015 and shifted to finance after Erdogan was re-elected with sweeping new executive powers in 2018.

During his tenure at finance, Turkey's economy has been hit by two bad slumps, double-digit inflation and high unemployment.

The lira has shed more than half its value since the beginning of 2018. Deputy Transport Minister Omer Fatih Sayan said on Twitter he hoped Albayrak's resignation would be rejected, adding "our country, our people and our community need you".

Libya's Oil Production Recovers Past 1M Barrel a Day

CAIRO (AP) — Libya's oil production has surged past 1 million barrels a day, national petroleum officials said, marking an important milestone months after its civil war almost choked the country's energy production.

Oil-rich Libya has been pushing to recover production levels in recent weeks, as talks proceed between the warring groups in the

North African country to reach a political settlement to the country's conflict.

Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar's forces announced in September an end to a months-long blockade of the country's vital oil fields and terminals. The move followed on his forces failure to capture the capital of Tripoli earlier in the year, and the growing military intervention of Turkey, which has supported the rival U.N.-backed government there.

The Libyan National Oil Corporation said in a statement on its website it has pumped over one million barrels a day, from a reported 800,000 barrels a day last week. The country's oil production was under 100,000 barrels a day earlier in September.

The Tripoli-based company meanwhile warned that it would not be able to continue pumping at the current levels, because of what it said were work obstructions caused by "entities" it did not name.

The NOC said it has suffered from financial difficulties amid a "huge shortage" in its budget. The oil blockade deprived it of nearly \$10 billion in revenue and led to nationwide fuel shortages, the corporation said in August.

The dramatic rise in Libya's production, however, comes as oil prices have collapsed this year, which is partially a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. On Friday, Brent crude oil for January delivery fell \$1.48 to \$39.45 a barrel.

Libya's oil production had reached at least 1.2 million barrels a day before powerful eastern tribes loyal to Haftar first seized control of the petroleum facilities in January to protest what they said was the inequitable distribution of revenues.

Libya's prized light crude has long featured in the North African country's civil war, with rival militias and foreign powers jostling for control of the continent's largest oil reserves.

EU Trade Deal Is "There to Be Done"

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday a trade deal with the European Union was "there to be done", suggesting his view that the agreement's broad outline was already "pretty clear" was shared in Brussels.



After months of talks on a deal to protect trade between the two neighbours from possible quotas and tariffs, the two sides have yet to close significant differences on at least two main sticking points.

Any deal should be agreed by mid-November to allow for ratification, with some businesses hoping that the time pressure and a COVID-19 crisis spiralling across much of Europe can focus minds to avoid disruption at the end of the year.

The chief negotiators, the EU's Michel Barnier and Britain's David Frost, will resume talks in London on Monday to "redouble efforts to reach a deal", Johnson's office has said.

"I've always been a great enthusiast for a trade deal with our European friends and partners," Johnson told reporters.

"I think it's there to be done, the broad outlines are pretty clear. We just need to get on and do it if we can. And I said that to (European Commission President) Ursula Von der Leyen just yesterday. And she totally agrees with me."

Earlier, foreign minister Dominic Raab told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show that there was "a good chance of a deal if we get the flexibility from the EU on fisheries and a level playing field".

Disagreements on guarantees for fair competition, especially over state aid rules, and fisheries, a sector laden with symbolism for Brexit supporters in Britain, have dogged the talks since Britain left the EU in January.

Both sides have called on each other to compromise to unlock an agreement in increasingly testy exchanges that have underlined a lack of trust, especially after Britain moved to undermine parts of an earlier divorce deal.

Britain wants a separate trade deal with the United States, but some say Johnson might struggle to forge a close bond with President-elect Joe Biden, who has in the past cast doubt over Brexit and has never met the prime minister.

S. Korean Economy Faces Growing Downside Risks

SEOUL (Dispatches)

- The South Korean economy is on a

recovery path, aided by a mild improvement in the manufacturing sector, but it faces growing downside risks amid a global resurgence in new coronavirus cases, a state-run think tank said Sunday.

The country's service industry has slackened as people refrained from making in-person contact and going outside, while the manufacturing sector has undergone a limited recovery on improving demand at home and abroad, according to a monthly economic assessment report by the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

"Despite a modest recovery in the manufacturing sector, the Korean economy shows a continued contraction, mainly in the service industry, and downside risks are high over accelerating COVID-19 in Europe," the English-language report showed.

South Korea's production, consumption and investment returned to growth in September following months of slumps amid the virus outbreak.

The country's industrial output gained 2.3 percent on-month in September, after a 0.8 percent on-month decline in August, according to data from the statistics office.

Retail sales rose 1.7 percent on-month in September, and facility investment gained 7.4 percent, the largest monthly increase in six months.

Asia's fourth-largest economy grew 1.9 percent on-quarter in the third quarter, marking the first quarterly growth after the second straight quarter of contraction, as exports rebounded amid eased global lockdowns.

The KDI said despite signs of economic recovery, external economic conditions are deteriorating amid lockdowns by major European countries over a flare-up in COVID-19 cases since late October.

"The lockdown in Europe may lead to a rapid contraction in world trade volume. This implies that economic uncertainties are mounting centering around external conditions," the report said. (Yonhap)

India to Become Fastest Growing Economy by Financial Year 2022



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India is expected to become the "Fastest Growing" major economy from FY22, Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry said on Saturday.

According to Sanjay Aggarwal, President, Ph.D. Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the country's economy is "going to attain its fastest growth trajectory from the next financial year 2021-22 onwards".

In a recent growth estimate 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.

"The average GDP growth of Indian economy in next five years from 2021 to 2025 will be at 7.8 percent, highest as compared with top 10 economies including 6.2 percent of China, 3 percent of France, 2.9 percent of United Kingdom, 2.9 percent of Canada, 2.4 of United States, 2.3 percent of Germany, 2.3 percent of Italy, 2.3 percent of Brazil and 1.4 percent of Japan," Aggarwal was quoted as saying in a statement.

"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 the current fiscal year 2020-21; April-October)."

Besides, the industry body pointed out that percolation of more and more economic reforms at the ground level with effective implementation would be crucial to attaining the potential trajectory of \$5 trillion in the next 6 financial years by FY 2026-27 (GDP at current prices; considering the exchange rate between 74-75).

"On the back of various reforms undertaken by the government, economic recovery has become visible in the high frequency economic and business indicators of the recent months," he said.

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

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

Sharjah Film Platform to Host Iranian "Careless Crime"

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian film, 'Careless Crime' directed by Shahram Mokri will be screened at the Sharjah Film Platform in UAE. Sharjah Film Platform is an annual Sharjah Art Foundation film festival launched in 2018 to advance film production in the United Arab Emirates and the surrounding region. Iranian "Careless Crime" directed by Sharam Mokri, will be

screened at the closing ceremony of this festival which will be held from November 16 to December 22 in the United Arab Emirates. The synopsis of 'Careless Crime' reads, "Forty years ago, during the uprising to overthrow the Shah's regime in Iran, protestors set fire to movie theatres as a way of showing opposition to Western culture."



TAPI Gas Pipeline to Bring Economic Prosperity to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan Atadjan Movlamov on Sunday announced that the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline is at the stage of practical implementation, adding that the project is certain to be a game changer for Pakistan's economic prosperity.

He stated this while meeting with representatives of the (EJAF) Economic Journalist Association Forum in Islamabad.

Movlamov said that a 1,840km long pipeline transporting natural gas from Turkmenistan to Afghanistan, Pakistan and India would be constructed by the state-owned gas companies under the TAPI project.

"We have been finalising agreements with the Pakistani government and are considering to start construction soon after that", he said, adding that his government will complete the pipeline's construction within this year.

The Turkmenistan ambassador said that the TAPI project can change Pakistan's fortunes as natural gas power generation is significantly cheaper than diesel and fuel oil, besides access to natural gas will stimulate industrialization and investment.

Similarly, Pakistan and Afghanistan will benefit from billions of dollars of transit fees and this project shall also bring a Know-how for the region in terms of modern hi-tech equipment, technologies and so forth.

He said that the project also has social and environmental importance as natural gas offers a safer and cleaner alternative to coal and diesel-fired power generation.

Presently, India and Pakistan are among the world's largest contributors of CO2 emissions; 7.5 per cent of global emissions.

Movlamov said that along with the TAPI pipeline project, a 1635 km fibre-optic line will be laid from the border of Turkmenistan across Afghanistan and Pakistan. "The fibre-optic facility will monitor gas pipelines and provide the data of Europe, Asia and South-East Asia at a speed of 100GBs per second with the ability to



increase up to 6TBs per second.

Apart from this, he said, there is a Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan Power Transmission Project and the new TAP electric line will not only provide TAPI gas pipeline and its facilities with electric energy but also allow export of up to 3000-megawatt energy via Afghanistan to Pakistan.

Responding to a question, the ambassador said that the project would strengthen peace, stability, and security among neighboring countries and create motivation for resolving important issues.

He added that said that anyone can make an investment in the TAPI project.

The Turkmenistan ambassador also said that his country has a desire to participate in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

Russian Economy to Cope With Coronavirus Shock Better Than Expected



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The European Commission has improved its forecast for the Russian economy, while downgrading its global outlook, as the coronavirus crisis continues to batter the world economy.

Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) is set to shrink by 4.2 percent, according to the EU's latest economic forecast, released earlier this week. This is 0.8 percent less than the body predicted in the Summer 2020 Economic Forecast. Next year, the Russian economy is expected to expand more than previously thought – by two percent instead of 1.6 percent. As for 2022, the commission expects Russia's GDP to rise by 1.9 percent.

While the recent forecast for 2020 is almost similar to the updated outlook by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it is still slightly gloomier than Russia's own expectations. In September, the country's Ministry of Economic Development revised its assessment of the coronavirus' impact on the economy, now forecasting a 3.9-percent contraction instead of five percent.

The European Commission warns that the EU and global economies are still prone to an "extremely high degree of uncertainty and risks" due to the resurgence of the virus. The recent developments have resulted in a downward revision of its global economic forecast. This year, global GDP is expected to tumble by 4.3 percent against a 3.5 percent drop outlined in the spring economic outlook. In 2021, the global economy is set to bounce back and expand by 4.6 percent – 0.6 percent less than the commission previously predicted.

"In short, we never counted on a 'V-shaped' recovery. Now we know for sure that we will not have one," said Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni. He also stressed that, despite the recent "very strong upswing" from the historic plunge seen in the first half of the year, another wave of Covid-19 has interrupted Europe's rebound. "Growth will return in 2021, but it will be two years until the European economy comes close to regaining its pre-pandemic level," he added.

A worsening of the coronavirus pandemic remains a major risk for the future of the European economy. A more pessimistic scenario implies that "scars" left by the virus may be "deeper and farther reaching," including bankruptcies, long-term unemployment and supply disruptions.

Pakistan PM Message on the Occasion of Birth Anniversary of Allama Iqbal

TEHRAN (Pakistan Embassy) - Prime Minister Imran Khan has underlined the need of seeking guidance from Allama Iqbal's thoughts to find solution to the issues being faced by the country and the nation, thus transforming it into an Islamic welfare state.

In a message on the birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal being observed on November 9, the Prime Minister said that now it was their individual and collective responsibility to play their role in the building of the nation while exploring thoughts of Allama Iqbal.

The Prime Minister said Allama Iqbal had decided to guide the Muslims of sub-continent with his thoughts and poetry at a time when they were groping in the darkness of slavery in search of their identity.

With his poetry, Allama Iqbal invoked that power with which the Muslims forefathers and stressed upon the need of reorganization



to achieve the impossible, he added.

According to a press release, the Prime Minister further said Allama Iqbal not only dreamt of Pakistan but also reflected upon the issues it would have to face after its creation.

It was due to the farsightedness of his personality who had many years earlier predicted the contemporary problems being faced by us, he added.

The Prime Minister said Iqbal's vision was still a guiding force to overcome issues like sectarianism and extremism.

The Prime Minister specially advised the youth to discover their innate qualities identical with Iqbal's symbol of eagle, with which they could carve a niche in the world.

He urged the nation to concentrate their energies on transforming Pakistan under the visions of its forefathers and stressed upon the need of reorganization of political, social and economic bodies.

Pakistan Approves Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

On Oct 28, Power Division further noted that a delegation from TAVANIR, Iran visited Pakistan from 28th to 30th Jan. Another amendment No 6 on Jan 29, was signed for extension of similar tariff agreed in amendment No 5 from Jan 01 up to Dec 31 along with other related matters. It was also agreed that parties will finalize and conclude the detailed mechanism regarding late payment penalty concept in the subsequent amendment No 7.

Further, the contract and all amendments thereto would be governed, construed and interpreted in every respect in accordance with laws of England and any dispute arising from or related to the present contract and its amendments shall be referred to and settled by London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA). England.

JCPOA...

FROM PAGE 1

He also reminded the next U.S. administration that it must take the realities into account if it intends to shift the policies. "The parties to the JCPOA have different commitments, the most important of which has been the commitment to remove the sanctions. Apart from the U.S.' withdrawal (from the JCPOA), the other parties have sadly failed to lift the sanctions as well."

Khatibzadeh said that the U.S. has gone through the wrong path for years and it was seen that maximum pressure on Iran led to maximum resistance for Iran and consequently maximum failure for the United States.

In response to a question regarding the message of the failure of Donald Trump's maximum pressure on Iran he said that the message has been issued in Washington, and the world and people have reacted to that.

He added that the U.S. government has left dozens of agreements, and its international behavior will be investigated for many years.

"Iran knew that security and loyalty will not be achieved by following the U.S. and has declared to all neighbors that the U.S. thinks about its own benefit rather than the people of the region," he noted.

"Our region has faced a crisis, due to billions of weapons which have been sent to the region by governors," he highlighted. The spokesman went on to say that Iran believes that neighboring countries must accept Iran's invitation and find peace and security through interaction in the region rather than Trump's policies.

"Only the language of peace and respect to Iran and Iranian dignity works," he emphasized.

The spokesman also said Tehran sees no immunity for those behind the assassination of top Iranian commander, Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and they will remain on Iran's "wanted list".

Khatibzadeh said all perpetrators of, and accomplices to General Soleimani's assassination should be brought to justice.

"We basically consider no presidential immunity for the perpetrators [of General Qassem Soleimani's assassination]. Since day one, we have considered no immunity for those who committed this crime," said the spokesman.

"The perpetrators of, as well as accessories to the cowardly assassination of Lieutenant General [Qassem] Soleimani have always been, are and will be on our wanted list," he noted.

He said Iran is going through judicial proceedings to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"Our judiciary is completing the cases, and we hope it will soon release these judicial cases [related to General Soleimani's assassination]," he said.

"They must be brought to justice and must be held accountable. They must be answerable for this assassination," said Khatibzadeh.

He added Iran is responsible for the assassination as the crime was committed on Iraqi soil.

"We have been working very closely with different Iraqi institutions following the assassination. This assassination took place on Iraqi soil. The Iraqi government is responsible and should be brought to account for that," he said.

"Moreover, some top Iraqi officials were killed in the assassination, too. The case remains open and it has different overt and covert dimensions," he said.

"This incident tops the list of issues that the Islamic Republic of Iran is pursuing, and will remain so until our efforts produce a result," Khatibzadeh added.

Tehran, Doha...

FROM PAGE 1

The two sides also stressed that regional cooperation can play a key role in sustainable development and the welfare and security of the people of the two countries, saying that Iran and Qatar, as two friendly and neighboring countries, need to expand their cooperation in the region and be a model for other countries.

It was decided Iran and Qatar to expand their cooperation in all areas mentioned in the documents of the Joint Commission of Economic Cooperation of the two countries.

Expressing his respect to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Emir of Qatar wished the Iranian nation success and pride.

Trump...

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is scheduled to arrive in Israel on November 18.

On October 8, the U.S. designated 18 major banks of Iran, and a few days later on October 22, new sanctions were imposed on five Iranian entities for "attempting to influence" the November 3 American presidential election.

On October 27, the U.S. imposed fresh sanctions against the Iranian oil sector, for its "financial support" to Tehran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force.

Trade...

FROM PAGE 1

By implementing this giant project, which is supported and invested by the Islamic Republic of Iran, suitable ways will be provided for the country to transit cargo and passenger to Afghanistan and also to other destinations including neighboring and European countries such as Turkey and the Indian Ocean, he said, adding, 'Under such circumstances, a new transit route will be activated for the Islamic Republic of Iran.' Elsewhere in his remarks, Eslami pointed to the high potential of this railway for

transporting mining and mineral products on the border between Iran and Afghanistan and added, "It is predicted that about three million tons of products would be imported to and exported from the country annually in the first years of launching this railway project."

The 130-kilometer-long Khaf-Herat railroad connecting Iran and Afghanistan has high potential for transit to the eastern neighboring country. Khaf-Herat railway will be 130 km long, of which 70 km is inside Iran soil and 60 km is inside Afghanistan.

Fati to Undergo Surgery On Knee Injury

MADRID (Dispatches) - Ansu Fati will undergo surgery on a left knee injury on Monday, Barcelona have confirmed. Fati suffered an "internal meniscus tear" during Barca's win over Real Betis on Saturday, the club said after the game. Another club statement on Sunday read: "Ansu Fati will undergo surgery tomorrow for the injury to the meniscus in his left knee." "Once this intervention is completed, a new statement will be provided with information on the result and the approximate time the player will be out," it added.

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Roglic Defends Vuelta Crown

MADRID (Dispatches) - Slovenia's Primoz Roglic won the Vuelta a Espana for the second time in as many years on Sunday to make up for his crushing disappointment at the Tour de France. Jumbo-Visma's Roglic becomes the first rider to defend the Vuelta since Roberto Heras in 2005, with Germany's Pascal Ackermann clinching the 18th and final stage victory in Madrid. Ecuadorian Richard Carapaz finished runner-up after leading the general classification for five stages and putting Roglic under intense pressure in the penultimate stage on Saturday.

City, Liverpool As Kane Joins

LONDON (Dispatches) - Kevin De Bruyne missed a penalty as Manchester City squandered the chance to close the gap on Liverpool on Sunday while Tottenham's Harry Kane celebrated joining the Premier League's 150 club.

A win at the Etihad would have taken the Reds to the summit but the battle between the two dominant powers of recent seasons ended 1-1.

That meant Leicester clung onto top spot after leapfrogging Spurs with a 1-0 win at home to Wolves.

Jurgen Klopp's champions made an aggressive start against City, with Sadio Mane, Mohamed Salah, Roberto Firmino and Diogo Jota all in a fearsome-looking starting line-up.

The visitors went ahead in the 13th minute when Salah converted a penalty after Kyle Walker clipped Mane in the box but City drew level just after the half-hour mark through Gabriel Jesus.

The home side were awarded a penalty themselves just before the interval after a VAR check but De Bruyne skewed wide.

The draw left Liverpool in third place on 17 points after eight games, one point behind Leicester and five clear of City, who have a game in hand.

"Super football game to be honest," Klopp told Sky Sports. "Two top teams ready for a massive fight -- energy levels of both teams incredible."

"We were really good and dangerous," he added. "We were ready to make little passes -- there were moments we played too many long balls. Time to time we just wanted to get rid of the ball."

City boss Pep Guardiola said his side had struggled to cope in the early stages of the match with Liverpool's marauding front four.

"The way they played and the way we behaved in response was incredible," he said. "I'm so proud of my players. The difference today was they got a penalty and we missed a penalty."

Earlier, Kane headed in a late winner in a 1-0 victory against struggling West Brom to briefly lift Jose Mourinho's side to the top of the table after their fourth win in five league games.

Last-Gasp Caicedo Holds Juventus

MILAN (Dispatches) - Ecuador's Felipe Caicedo again came off the bench to rescue Lazio as he claimed a late equaliser in Sunday's 1-1 draw with Juventus after Cristiano Ronaldo's early goal for the visitors in Rome.

Ronaldo had opened the scoring after a quarter of an hour but the Serie A champions let the game slip when the Portugal star limped off with an ankle sprain and Caicedo fired in five minutes into injury time.

"I'm speechless, a goal like this leaves me speechless," said Caicedo, who also scored for in the midweek 1-1 Champions League draw at Zenit Saint-Petersburg and clinched the winner in last weekend's 4-3 victory at Torino.

Juve missed the chance to move second behind Serie A leaders AC Milan. They trail their northern rivals, who host Hellas Verona later on Sunday, by three points.

Elsewhere, Roma moved into third place, one point ahead of fourth-placed Juventus, after a Henrikh Mkhitaryan hat-trick in a 3-1 win for the capital side at Genoa.

Inter Milan and Atalanta also dropped points with a 1-1 draw in Bergamo after Aleksey Miranchuk struck on his first Serie A start to cancel out Lautaro Martinez's header.

"We had a good match, there were no signs of danger," said Juve coach Andrea Pirlo.

"But championships are won on details, too bad only for those last ten seconds."

Simone Inzaghi's hosts, embroiled in coronavirus chaos, are ninth, five points off the leaders. The home side were without striker Ciro Immobile, midfielder Lucas Leiva and goalkeeper Thomas Strakosha, who remain in isolation.

The Roman club are being investigated by the Italian football federation for possible Covid violations after UEFA blocked some players from playing Champions League games at Club Brugge and Zenit after testing positive.

However, the players including Immobile were included against Torino, following negative tests carried out in a lab used by the club.

They were again left out again this weekend after a further round of tests.

Share Spoils 150 Club



Only Alan Shearer and Sergio Aguero have scored 150 Premier League goals in fewer appearances than Kane, who reached the landmark in his 218th match.

Mourinho was effusive in his praise for his star striker, who also has 10 assists in all competitions this season.

"Harry Kane, you have to say has this many goals, this many assists, this number of balls recovered, this number of duels won, this number of balls that he saved his team in a defensive set-piece," he said.

"This is Harry Kane. It's goals plus this and this and this and that."

The landmark effort for Kane, who scored his 200th Tottenham goal in all competitions against Ludogorets on Thursday, was perfectly timed after they had laboured to break down stubborn Albion. Mourinho started with Kane, Gareth Bale and Son Heung-min in his front three for the first time, and while the latter two were quiet, Kane was on hand to clinch Tottenham's third successive league victory.

But Spurs' stay at the top of the Premier League table was short-lived as Jamie Vardy netted his eighth Premier League goal of the season for Leicester.

Vardy scored the decisive goal from the penalty spot in the 15th minute -- following a VAR check -- after Wolves' Max Kilman handled Dennis Praet's cross in the area.

He blew a chance to make it 2-0 from the spot when he was denied by Rui Patricio late in the first half but Brendan Rodgers' team held on to take all three points.

"We couldn't have asked for a better start," said Rodgers, whose side travel to Liverpool after the international break "I have always said failure is learning and if anyone says us not getting into the Champions League last season was failing then, OK. For us it was about learning and developing."

Kyrgios Reveals Depression Battle



LONDON (Dispatches) - Polarising Australian Nick Kyrgios Sunday admitted to being in a "lonely, dark place" during recent years as he battled depression sparked by the relentless grind of the tennis tour.

The temperamental star is one of the sport's biggest drawcards, but has also faced intense criticism for his combustible antics on court, with a long list of misdemeanors to his name.

They include an explosive racquet-smashing and expletive-ridden meltdown at last year's Cincinnati Masters that saw him put on probation by the ATP and ordered to seek professional help.

"I don't think people understand how lonely tennis can be," he told Sydney's Sunday Telegraph magazine.

"You're out there on the court on your own. You can't really talk to anyone. You have to figure things out for yourself. I did struggle with that."

Kyrgios said he had always been emotional and found it tough spending so long away from his Canberra home and family while on tour, admitting there were times when he was "seriously depressed".

Bayern Face Long Trek to Kiel in German Cup



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Holders Bayern Munich face an 880-kilometre (546-mile) trip north to Holstein Kiel next month after being paired with the second division club in

Sunday's German Cup draw.

Bayern, who have won the competition each of the past two seasons, will play Kiel in the second round on December 22 or 23.

It will be the European champions' seventh game in December and their 25th since the season started in mid-September.

There were three all-Bundesliga ties, with Augsburg hosting RB Leipzig, last season's runners-up Bayer Leverkusen at home to Eintracht Frankfurt, and Stuttgart playing Freiburg in a south-west derby.

Borussia Dortmund are away to second division Eintracht Braunschweig.

Both top-tier teams Schalke and Borussia Moenchengladbach face tricky ties away to fourth-tier clubs Ulm and Elversberg respectively.

The German Cup final is scheduled to take place at Berlin's Olympic Stadium on May 13.

Froome Ends 11-Year Love Story

MADRID (AFP) - Chris Froome brought down the curtain on his Team Sky/Ineos career on Sunday, describing it as "a love story which lasted 11 years".

The 35-year-old captured the Tour de France four times with the outfit as well as the Vuelta a Espana twice and a single Giro d'Italia.

Next year, he will compete for Israel Start-Up Nation.

"It's a love story which lasted 11 years," Froome said at the end of the 2020 Vuelta.

"It was a very emotional day, my last with the team. I had this on my mind and a lot of memories came back to me."

The Kenya-born British rider won the Tour de France in 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017.

He was Giro winner in 2018 and Vuelta champion in 2011 and 2017.

On Sunday, he was finally presented with his 2011 Vuelta trophy after original winner Juan Jose Cobo was disqualified for doping last year.

"What comes back to me is 2011, my first victory on a Grand Tour, it was the first time that I reached this level and I received this trophy this morning," said Froome.

He first knew about his 2011 Vuelta win as he recovered in an intensive care unit after a horror training crash last year which kept him out of the 2019 Tour de France.

This year's Vuelta was his first Grand Tour since that nightmare.

"I was in ICU still when I was told: 'Congratulations, you've won La Vuelta.' That was a really strange feeling," he said.

"That was such a special race. It's where I first discovered myself as a Grand Tour rider and a GC contender.



Medvedev Wins His 1st Paris Masters Final

PARIS (Dispatches) - Daniil Medvedev won the Paris Masters for the first time by beating Alexander Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-1 Sunday for his eighth career title and third at a Masters event.

The third-seeded Russian secured just his second win against the fourth-seeded Zverev in seven matches, and his previous victory against the imposing German was also in a Masters final last year in Shanghai.

"I'm sure we'll play many more matches together. We've known each other since we were 10, it's great the journey we're having," Zverev said. "I hope I can do even better next year."

It was Medvedev's first final and title of the year, while Zverev was playing in his third straight final after winning back-to-back tournaments in Cologne, Germany.

The battle between first-time finalists here and the last two U.S. Open runners-up went with serve -- and with no break points -- until Zverev broke Medvedev in the 12th game to take the opening set.

When Medvedev hit a forehand long on that point, Zverev let out a loud roar that pierced the silence at the Bercy Arena left empty by the coronavirus pandemic.

Medvedev's relentless accuracy from the baseline induced a loose shot from Zverev in the ninth game of the second set when he hit long from the back of the court. Medvedev's pinpoint returning is among the best on the ATP Tour, and that chipped away at Zverev's confidence as he won only 57% of points on first serve compared to 75% for Medvedev.

Medvedev held to love and clinched the second set with his 13th ace, then took control when Zverev padded a weak forehand into the net and was broken to love. After Zverev missed four break-point chances in the next game, he was punished when Medvedev broke him for a 3-0 lead.

