Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad **Zarif Yesterday Left Tehran for** Islamabad for a Two-Day Official **Visit to Discuss Bilateral Issues And Regional Developments** With Pakistani Officials



Road and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami Says The Development and Quality of Railway Systems Is Our Priority, **Noting Rail Transportation Is One** Of the Safest Systems in the World

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Iran, Other Countries **Urge U.S. to Stop Violating Human Rights**

TEHRAn (PressTV) - Iran, along with several other countries, has drawn the world body's attention to the long history of human rights violations in the United States, urging Washington at the UN rights council to abandon such abuses and work instead to compensate for them.

Seyed Mohammad Sadati Nejad, who is in charge of human rights issues at the Iranian mission to the UN in Geneva, made the remarks on Monday during the Human Rights Council's 36th Session of Universal Periodic Review that examined the human rights situation in the U.S.

He set forth nine recommendations for the U.S. delegation, which was led by U.S. Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Assistant Secretary Robert A. Destro, Ambassador in Geneva Andrew Bremberg and Acting Legal Adviser Marik String.

Sadati Nejad said America should end its arbitrary and systematic killings using drones and bring to justice those who assassinated five Iranian citizens, including top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, in Iraq in January.

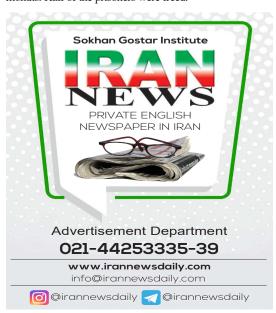
157 Prisoners With **Security Charges Pardoned**

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaeili said on Tuesday that the Judiciary pardoned 157 prisoners with security charges for taking part in the riots of 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Upon a proposal by Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Ebrahim Raeisi on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and Imam Sadeq (AS), Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei agreed to pardon or commute the jail terms of 3,780 prisoners sentenced by the public and Islamic revolutionary courts in Iran, said Gholam-Hossein Esmaeili in a press conference.

Esmaeili said that from the mentioned number, 2301 prisoners were freed from prison, 157 of whom with security charges that had participated over the riots of the past three years. He also added that 16 nationals of other Islamic countries were also among the prisoners pardoned on the occasion of Islamic Unity Week.

The 17th day of Rabi al-Awwal of Islamic lunar year, fallen on November 3 this year, is believed by Shia Muslims to be the birth anniversary of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), while Sunni Muslims mark the 12th day of the month as the birthday of the Prophet [PBUH]. The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, late Imam Khomeini, named the interval between the two dates as the "Islamic Unity Week" back in the 1980s, which has ever since been celebrated every year. Esmaeili said that the sentences of some 40.000 convicts have been either commuted or pardoned in the past 18 months. Half of the prisoners were freed.



Lasting Security Possible Only Via Cooperation With Neighbors



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani said that Iran sees lasting security as possible only through cooperation, partnership, and peace with its neighbors.

Speaking at the 20th Summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of States on Tuesday, Rouhani said, "Iran is ready to share its experiences with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the fight against coronavirus.'

'Iran emphasizes its principled policy of good neighborliness and dialogue with its neighbors, and sees lasting security as possible only through cooperation, partnership, and peace," he added.

"Presenting Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE), participating in the Astana Peace Talks, supporting the peace and stability in Afghanistan and the need for multilateral cooperation between the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are examples of Iran's participation in ensuring lasting security in the region and the world," Rouhani said. Some excerpts of President Rouhani's speech are as follows:

"At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude to His Excellency Mr Vladimir Putin, the Honourable President of the Russian Federation for organising this summit. I am also delighted to have found the opportunity to be participating in the summit, albeit through video-conference.

The world is presently in a precarious situation. On the one hand, COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly ravaged economies, particularly the livelihood of the people, and has posed grave threats to individual lives. On the other hand, U.S.' pursuance of unilateralism and dismissal of respect for international law and institutions has further burdened co-thinking countries to double down their efforts to strengthen cooperation and form a united front in the face of both challenges combined."

"In order to counter the shared challenges of COVID-19 pandemic, it is urgent that SCO member states, in coordination with the UN and WHO, proceed to adopt a coherent and unified approach whereby they should ensure the full, free and equitable access of all regional and global populations to healthcare services and medical equipment intended for better combat against the disease. To this end and for improving on their conditions, the Islamic Republic of Iran provided some regional countries with humanitarian aid. We also register our readiness to share with other member states our experiences in combating COVID-19." See Page 7

Gov't Launches New Plan to Tackle COVID-19

TEHRAN - The fourth stage of a nationwide health program kicked off in Iran on Tuesday to break the chain of transmission of the coronavirus with extensive screening activities and early detection.

A Health Ministry official said on Tuesday that the fourth stage of the 'National Mobilization for Fighting Coronavirus' is oriented around neighborhoods and households. A total of 179 million screenings for the coronavirus infection were carried out in three separate countrywide programs until October 31, Jafar Sadeq Tabrizi said.

He also noted that the new scheme that was launched today focuses on managing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic with a strategy oriented to neighborhoods and families.

People are being screened for infection in the new initiative, the virus carriers are detected, those in close contact with the patients are identified and monitored, and those with the symptoms of illness would be tested at home with rapid test kits, the official explained. Sadeq Tabrizi added that special house healthcare teams have also been organized to take care of the people who have to stay home.

He went on to say that the 4th stage of the health mobilization scheme is carried out in cooperation with people, the Basij forces, the Red Crescent Society of Iran, the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, and the non-governmental organizations.

Meanwhile Health Ministry spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari said on Tuesday that some 453 more Iranians have died from coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past 24 hours. The health ministry spokeswoman said that with the 453 new deaths, the country's total COVID-19 death toll mounted to 39,202.

Some 10,339 new cases of infection with the COVID-19 were found over the past 24 hours, some 3,088 of whom have been hospitalized, Sadat Lari added.

She said that a total of 703,288 Iranians have been confirmed infected with the COVID-19, some 530,694 of whom have recovered or been discharged from the hospitals. Some 5,584 other COVID-19 patients are in critical condition and are being treated in intensive care units, the spokeswoman further said.

Sadat Lari added that 5,302,200 coronavirus tests have so far been carried out in Iran.



Not With Biden But We'll Strike Deal With Xi Jinping

China Government is busy with investment in the West Asian region and it has so far allocated budget worth \$160b in its strategic plan of "One Belt One Road (OBOR)".

On Sunday, November 8, 2019, and exactly one year ago during a specialized conference (One Belt-One Road), Professor of China Study from Tehran University Mr. Behzad Shahandeh explained the policies of China, and elaborated the approach of the strategists of the country regarding the significance of ties with China. He revealed important information which says, "The Chinese have invested heavily in Gwadar Port of Pakistan and soon this port will become the second Dubai while currently, hundreds of cranes in this port are active in unloading and uploading and they transfer China's importing and exporting goods."

He termed political-economic relations of China and Pakistan very deep and strategic, added, "The Chinese look at Pakistan as a partner and friend for all seasons." Mr. Shahandeh is a university teacher politically in alignment with Iran's 12th government (the current government). If the statesmen do not listen to him, so to whom are they to listen?

On the "One Belt One Road Initiative", Mr. Shahandeh says, "At first this project was not to be the strategic policy of China but suddenly in 2015, the Chinese took it seriously and it has currently turned into Xi Jinping (China's President)'s main project. In Iran this point should be noticed that China's GDP is \$27 trillion as the figure is very higher than any of this country's rival especially the U.S. because the current GDP of the U.S. stands at \$18 trillion. Although the aggregate GDP and purchasing power in the U.S. is more than China which indicates an intense competition between these two countries for becoming superpower in the world. According to many experts, the Chinese are today the world economic power number one, and unity with them will provide the ground for the Islamic Republic of Iran's participation with them in the whole region.

China's economic policies abroad are concentrated in two regions, first in the West Asia and second in African states. That why China has been motivated for investment in Africa is because of the continent's untapped environmental condition and infrastructural needs. But in the West Asia, China has to take in technology because the number of implemented projects in the infrastructures in this region is incomparable with Africa. Hence, for optimizing the cost-benefit in the oil and telecommunication projects, China can bring in investment and technology and we also provide them with workforce and market. See Page 7

Iran Trade With SCO **Member States Hits \$15b**

TEHRAN (MNA) - Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) put country's foreign trade value with member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the seven months of the current year at \$15 billion.

Seyed Rouhollah Latifi broke the news on Monday and said, "About 30,356,787 tons of products, valued at \$15,154,767,624, were traded between Islamic Republic of Iran and member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization in seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22).

From among 10 member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Iran's maximum foreign trade volume was exchanged with China, standing at 17,834,121 tons of products, valued at \$9,545,599,065,

In this period, Islamic Republic of Iran exported 24,831,383 tons of products, valued at \$8,039,506, to 10 member states of Shanghai Cooperation Organization, IRICA spokesman highlighted.

In addition, Islamic Republic of Iran imported 5,525,404 tons of products from SCO's member states, valued at \$7,114,873,118, from March 21 to Oct. 22.

See Page 7

Dialogue Key to Settling Longstanding Tensions

TEHRAN (MNA) - President's Chief of Staff has welcomed a new ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, saying dialogue is key to settle longstanding tensions.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes Russia's mediation and the ceasefire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia," Mahmoud Vaezi tweeted on Tuesday.

"We hope that the new agreement will be implemented soon," he added.

The Iranian vice president expressed hope that the two sides will respect the international borders and observe the rights of civilians who have been afflicted by the weeks-long skirmishes.

Judiciary Plans for Evolution To Establish Justice

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi says the judiciary seeks an evolution to establish justice, and a document has been drafted in this regard.

Speaking on Tuesday at the Second National Conference on the Islamic Governance, Raisi said that in line with the second phase of the Islamic Revolution, the judiciary had prepared a document to make changes to help implement justice, which is a principle of the Islamic governance.

According to the judiciary chief, the plan emphasizes the use of new technologies, electronic litigation, and active in addressing various social issues that will lead to crime prevention.

The official stressed the need to use indigenous models for governance in various fields. Raisi called rationality, spirituality, and belief in people among Islamic governance principles and said that the people's vote has an important place in the Islamic system.

"The realization of justice in various sectors is strongly emphasized in Islam and is one of the Islamic governance principles," stressed Iran's judiciary chief.

Economic policies should not be tied to what goes on outside borders: Judiciary chief Stressing that the administration of justice in all sectors of the country is very important, Raisi said: "In the field of justice, the administration of justice is the most important axis for us; What can stop crimes and social corruption is economic justice



He noted: "Under no circumstances should economic policies and national interests be tied to what is going on outside these borders; It is possible to do sustainable work in the country with the existing capacity and young workforce.'

He pointed out: "I totally believe in the words of the Leader of Islamic Revolution that the solution to the problems is within our country and there are no unsolvable problems in the country." The Second National Conference on Islamic Governance was held at Tehran's Supreme National Defense University on Tuesday in the presence of Iran's Judiciary Chief Sayed Ebrahim Raisi and top Iranian cleric, Ayatollah Mohsen Araki.

Tehran, Tashkent Stress Need For Intra-Afghan Dialogue

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

IRAN (IP) - Special envoy of the Iranian Foreign Minister for Afghanistan and the Deputy Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan stressed the end of violence in Afghanistan and the need for dialogue between Afghans.



Special Envoy of Iran's Foreign Minister for Afghanistan Mohammad Ebrahim Taherianfard and Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Representative of Uzbekistan's President for Afghanistan Esmatullah Ergashev discussed the developments in Afghanistan especially the intra-Afghan talks over the telephone.

Stressing the need to reduce violence and establish a ceasefire as an important step in alleviating the suffering of the Afghan people, the two sides described negotiation and reaching an understanding as the only reassuring way to establish lasting stability in the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been developing relations with Afghanistan in the political, cultural and economic sectors for the past 20 years, and has always supported the peace of a country led by the government and people of Afghanistan.

Rouhani Advises Biden **Administration to Restore U.S.** Tarnished Image



TEHRAN (MNA) - President said the new U.S. administration needs to restore the tarnished image of the country as well as its international ties.

President Hassan Rouhani in his Tuesday remarks, addressing the Government Economic Coordination Headquarters, noted that the new U.S. administration must, more than anything else, reconsider the U.S.' inhumane behavior with other nations in order to restore its tarnished image in the international community.

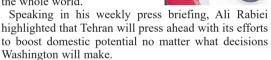
In this meeting, the Iranian foreign ministry and the Central Bank of Iran agreed to enhance cooperation on having Iran's frozen assets in

The U.S. enmity towards the Islamic Republic of Iran has been so high that it started a full-fledged economic war against the Iranian nation.

Trump's enmity and hostility towards the Iranian nation were unprecedented which had been formed under the influence of Zionists, Saudis, and extremist groups in the United States.

Spokesman Hopes Biden Will Correct Trump's Wrong Policies

TEHRAN (IFP) government spokesman has expressed hope that the administration of the new US president will adopt decisions which would serve the interests of both Iran and America and the whole world.



"Regardless of the decisions which the new U.S. government will make, and which we hope will be in the interests of the international community as well as both nations, we will continue our programs to enhance our capabilities," he noted.

"During the economic war, we learned how to cement the pillars of domestic economy and prop up people's livelihoods harmed by this major war," he said.

The spokesman said Iran will wait and see what approach the White House will adopt, and will act accordingly.

"Based on what scenarios are adopted [by the U.S.], the required decisions will be made in due time based on the circumstances," he said.

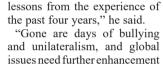
The spokesman then touched upon U.S. Presidentelect Joe Biden's election pledge that he wants to restore the United States' credibility in the world.

"Biden also believes that America's credibility has been severely undermined," he said.

The spokesman said Iranian people's share of global economy is more than what it is now, adding Iran will seize every opportunity and even confront the US to secure its share.

He also expressed hope US leaders will correct

"I hope the United States" new leaders have learned



of international cooperation and respect for international law and nations, rights," he added.

"They must have realized that the language of force and pressure doesn't work with regards to Iran, and they saw that Iran did not give in; rather, it stood more firmly to defend its dignity, independence and rights," he said.

The spokesman urged Washington to put right its mistakes. "Our expectations are completely clear. We hope the

next U.S. administration will stop continuing its past mistakes and try to compensate for them," he said. "Reentering the JCPOA and unconditionally living up

to all its commitments under the deal is the first step toward correcting these policies," the spokesman added. "We hope the future U.S. government will realize that

the policy of pressuring Iran is a failed one, and that the toughest sanctions ever imposed on a country in history not only failed to force us into submission, but made our nation stronger in its insistence on the principles of its independence and national dignity," Rabiei noted.

"The costs imposed on the Iranian nation should be compensated, and Iranian people are entitled to enjoy the best life in the best conditions, and we are committed to making that happen and will try to achieve that goal," the spokesman said.

Rabiei highlighted that it is only the language of peace, respect and dignity that works in dealing with Iran and all independent nations across the world.

"We will closely watch the deeds and words of the future U.S. government," he added.

"We know that Mr. Biden has promised to return to multilateral agreements, the rule of law and multilateralism. The world is waiting to see how the U.S. government will end a major instance of lawbreaking whose price the Iranian nation paid with its possessions and lives at a time of the coronavirus pandemic," he said.

"We hope, this time, the U.S. government will seize this historic opportunity to change its path toward a better future and to reflect the real views of peace-loving American people," said the spokesman.

He then criticized the U.S. for preventing South Korea, Japan and the Swiss government from sending medicines and basic goods to Iran via the Swiss channel.

Global, National Experiences Required to Contain COVID-19

TEHRAN (IP) - Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli stressed that the coronavirus death and infection rates are tragic, therefore all global and national experiences are required to contain the virus.

During the 2nd meeting of the country's Operation Headquarters of the National Task Force for Combating Coronavirus, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said a people-based movement which screens and defects the coronavirus patients will kick off on Tuesday, November 10 from Kermanshah province, and it is organized by Health Ministry, Red Crescent Society and municipalities of each city.

The People-based movement aims at reducing the infections and hospitalization rates, Rahmani

He expressed hope that with people's and other related organizations' cooperation, the coronavirus will be contained.

Iranian, Syrian Diplomats Discuss Return Home of Syrian Refugees

TEHRAN (IFP) - Ali-Asghar Khaji, a senior assistant to Iran's foreign minister, held talks with Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

In the Monday meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in Syria, particularly the holding of a meeting on the return of refugees as well as the latest activities of the Syrian Constitutional Committee along with Tehran-Damascus relations.

The two sides said they were content with the growing trend of mutual relations, and highlighted the humanitarian and political aspects of the repatriation of Syrian refugees.

They also supported the activities of the Syrian Constitutional Committee aimed at resolving the Syrian crisis and cementing peace and stability in the country.

The top Iranian official is in Syria to hold consultations with ranking Damascus officials and attend an international meeting on the return of Syrian refugees to their homeland.

Trump Era Over Due to Resistance **Against Policy of Maximum Pressure**

TEHRAN (IRNA) - First Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri said on Monday that with the adoption of the strategy of resistance against the policy of maximum pressure, the Trump era is over, but the nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran have maintained their dignity.

Addressing a meeting of members of the Association of Ethnic Unions of Islamic Iran, he referred to U.S. presidential elections, saying that a change of U.S. president does not mean a change in the country's macro-policies towards the Iranian people, but Trump's enmity with the Iranian people was unprecedented, which was formed under the influence of Zionists, Saudis and extremist groups in the U.S.



The U.S. enmity with Iran was to such an extent that they started an economic war against the Iranian people and their goal was the collapse of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the country's economy,

He pointed out that the Iranian nation, which patiently and generously endured economic pressures in recent years, took away the opportunity from its enemies to disintegrate the country and the system.

"One of the hallmarks of Iran is the presence of different ethnic groups alongside each other and the existence of civil institutions such as the Association of Ethnic Unions of Islamic Iran can help solve the problems facing the ethnic groups in the country," Jahangiri added.

Iran's First Air Taxi Route to Become Operational Early 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) - The head of Iran Aviation Industries Organization says the air taxi fleet has obtained an operational flight permit and will conduct its first trip early next vear.

"The first flight will definitely be operated in the [calendar] month of Bahman [January-February 2021] from Tehran's Mehrabad Airport," Manouchehr Manteghi said on Tuesday.

He added that the special instructions for the operation of passenger-grade air taxis have been devised to prevent any challenges for the airports. The separation of air taxi lines from commercial flights is one of the top criteria included in the mentioned instructions, Manteghi said.

For instance, he added, a specific line for air taxis will be built at Mehrabad Airport in the coming weeks to resolve possible issues in managing the incoming and outgoing flights in this major airport.

The CAO official noted that currently 18 domestic knowledge-based companies are involved in air taxi project across the country, and 36 more are on the list to join the field. An air taxi is a small commercial aircraft that makes short flights on demand.

Tehran, Doha Review Cooperation on Electricity

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Energy Reza Ardakanian and Qatari Minister of State for energy affairs reviewed ways to advance the agenda of cooperation on electricity sector.

The two ministers underlined to develop and continue with cooperation on The Regional Centre on Urban Water Management (RCUWM-Tehran) under the auspices of UNESCO. Both sides announced their readiness to cooperate on establishing the he Center for Global Cooperation for "Unconventional Waters."

Ardakanian met and held talk with Qatari Minister of Commerce and Industry Ali bin Ahmed Al Kuwari in Doha on Monday.

In this meeting, the two sides, while emphasizing good relations between the two friendly and neighboring countries, explored avenues for expanding these amicable relations.

The two sides also stressed to hold 7th Joint Economic Cooperation Commission between the two countries as soon as possible in the Islamic Republic of Iran according to the scheduled program.

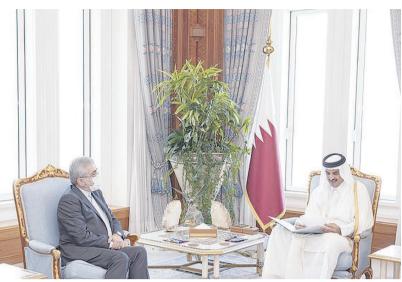
While appointing their representatives to follow up the issue, the two sides expressed hope that holding seventh meeting of Joint Cooperation Commission could play an effective role in developing relations between the two countries.

In the meantime, Iran and Qatar agreed to develop and broaden their cooperation in the field of renewable energies and Iranian side announced readiness to host Qatari delegations in order to get more familiarity with the high capabilities and potentials of Iran in the field of renewable energies.

Earlier Ardakanian and Qatari Minister of State for Energy Affairs Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi underlined developing cooperation in electricity field.

Both sides stressed continuation of cooperation under the shadow of the Regional Center on Urban Water Management.

Al-Kaabi expressed readiness for maintaining cooperation in establishing unconventional waters centers, including desalination device.



Both sides agreed to hold joint economic commission meeting on November 24-25. If the situation is normal, the event will be held in Isfahan otherwise it will be held online. Meanwhile on Ardakanian on Monday submitted Iranian president's written letter to Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, stressing the need to promote all-out relations.

In this message, the President Rouhani referred to the previous agreements signed by the two countries, especially during the visit of Emir of Qatar to Tehran last year, emphasizing his country's readiness to implement all agreements.

During the meeting, Ardakanian thanked the Qatari government for its medical assistance in dealing with the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Emir of Qatar, for his part, appreciated Rouhani for his letter, saying, "We consider Iran our strategic partner and cooperation between Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran is of great importance to us. We hope that the relations between the two countries will further expand every year."

Ardakanian was scheduled later to hold talks with the ministers of trade and industry, president of Water and Electricity Company, as well as the heads of the Qatar Investment Organization and the Chamber of Commerce.

Ardakanian, also head of the Iran-Qatar Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, arrived in Doha on Monday morning to hand over President Rouhani's written message to the Emir of Qatar.

TEHRAN - The first shipment of 60,500 tons of cement was exported to Kuwait from Iran's Parsian city. The governor of Hormozgan,

Fereydoun Hemmati, announced the value of this export consignment as more than one million and 496,000 dollars and added: The

export of cement from Parsian has been done to obtain currency in the conditions of sanctions and also to realize the non-oil economy.

Hemmati said: The consignment was exported by 2 vessels with a total tonnage of 33,500 tons.

133 Iranian Inventions

World-Registered TEHRAN (IP) - Vice President for Science and Technology announced the registration of 133 Iranian

The Vice President for Science and Technology of the Islamic Republic of Iran Sorena Sattari announced in a

report that currently more than 1,900 patent applications have been sent to the system of the vice president for

science and technology of the presidency of Iran,

which after detailed review and evaluation, 324 of these cases were approved for international support and

The report adds that 227 applications have also been

60,500 Tons of Cement

Exported to Kuwait

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

inventions in reputable international offices.

registration in reputable foreign offices.

issued in reputable foreign patent offices.

A total of \$31 million worth of non-oil commodities were reportedly exported from Iran to Kuwait during the first quarter of the current fiscal year (March 20-June 20), to register a 40% decline compared with the corresponding period of last year.

According to Director General of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran's Arab-African Affairs Office Farzad Piltan, the decline in exports is due to the lack of direct contacts between Iranian and Kuwaiti business leaders, as well as obstacles to visa issuance for small-scale exchanges, IRNA reported.

Iran's exports to Kuwait in the last fiscal year (ended March 19) stood at \$180 million, indicating a 26.87% drop compared with the year before (March 2018-19). The outbreak of coronavirus should be blamed for the decline in trade.

Iran Carpet Export in Very Bad Condition



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A member of Tehran Chamber of Commerce believes Iran's carpet export is in a very bad condition due to several existing problems.

Speaking to ILNA, Mr. Razi Miri said that the current condition because of the Coronavirus has put the people in bad a situation in the target countries for exports, and by the way Iran is currently under the U.S. sanctions and it has problem in trade and transfer of money and transportation.

He added due to these problems, Iran's exports are currently in a very bad condition. On using method of bartering goods for carpet exports, he said export of carpet and the like goods like traditional goods is not like the export of industrial goods which are in great number. He added it means one consignment of carpet export may value between 10,000 to 20,000 dollars, adding that carpet export can on aggregate have huge amount of turnover but the figure for each individual is not a big number. So this method is not compatible with bartering because importers need a big amount of money and exporter of carpet cannot provide it, he noted.

Miri went on to say that so bartering cannot happen in this case and this issue creates many problems for exporters of carpet.

On the effects of volatile forex rate in the market, he said the rise and fall of the dollar rate not only is a disaster for the carpet exporter but also for all exporters. Miri stated that this is the worst condition for an exporter who does not know his future of trade.

Touching upon the condition of carpet producers and exporters, he said the condition is very bad because carpet is not a basic commodity and it is considered a luxurious commodity. He said in normal condition, the target markets can help the industry but currently due to the coronavirus pandemic, all of the target markets are in bad condition, and by the way Iran is under sanctions and traders have problem for trade with the target markets especially in transfer of money and transportation. Miri concluded his words by saying that the carpet export condition is currently very bad.

Majlis Seeks Organizing Market, Helping **Interests of Steel Producers, Consumers**

ISFAHAN - Two Majlis lawmakers paid a visit to Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) and during the visit they said Majlis is working to organize the steel market and to help the interests of both consumers and producers.

During the visit representative of Zanjan and Tarem to Majlis Mr. Taheri said that a motion has been raised in Majlis about organizing the offer of steel chain products in the country, and several meetings on this topic have been held at the Mines and Industries Commission with presence of national steel industry officials

He added that so, lawmakers by visiting steel industries like ESCO and Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) try to get the viewpoints of experts of this industry and to get familiar with steelmakers' problems.

He noted this motion of Majlis is for pricing and ways of offering in the steel chain in order to organize the market of these products.

Meanwhile representative of Tehran to Majlis Mr. Mojtaba Rezakhah on the sidelines of the visit to ESCO said that ESCO is the veteran of the national steel industry and viewpoints of its officials are very crucial for this industry and for this reason they used viewpoints of the company's experts for studying





the condition of steel chain in the country. He reiterated that the goal behind presenting this motion by

lawmakers is to resolve problems in the steel chain, profits of both producers and consumers of the steel products, and elimination of profiteers' role in the market. Meanwhile the CEO of ESCO Mr. Mansour Yazdizadeh, for his part, in

the meeting said that ESCO is the only big national steel company which uses the blast furnace technique in its production, a technique which is used by almost more than 90 percent of world steel-makers and for this reason its voice is not heard and its problems are not seen.

He added that Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) can help transparency but command pricing not only is not to the benefit of consumer but also leads to rent.

He reiterated that the company is fully committed to offer its products on the IME and to meet the domestic needs, reiterating that exports for steel industries and especially for ESCO is very crucial because they provide their needed forex.

Yazdizadeh added that exporting products with high value added earns good amount of the forex for the country and this needs provision of the raw material.

Kish Free Zone Organization Admitted to WFZO

KISH (IRNA) - Director of Kish Free Zone Organization Gholamhossein Mozaffari said on Tuesday that KFZO has been admitted to the World Free Zones Organization (WFZO) honorary membership.

WFZO with more than 620 members, is the leading international organization for free zones.

Mozaffari said that the Dubai-based organization can play a significant role in promoting the status of its members.

The organization provides support for member free zones and shares the achievements of the members to help them improve quality standard of services the official said.

Kish Free Zone Organization is the first Iranian free zone to be admitted a member of World Free Zones Organization.

Iran, Ghana Seek Boosting Banking

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The Governor of Iran Central Bank Mr. Abdolnasser Hemmati yesterday had a virtual meeting with Ghana's Economy Minister and during the meeting they explored ways for boosting their banking cooperation.

In the meeting which was held upon the request of Ghanaian Economy Minister Ken Ofori-Atta, both sides exchanged views and experiences, and talked about some remained issues from the previous meeting and about the current condition of G24 and its future as well as

discussing ways for their expansion and coordination with IMF and World Bank.

By the way, both parties expressed views on forming a specialized group with participation of private sector and Mr. Hemmati welcomed the proposal for more bilateral cooperation and called for continuity of contacts between both states.



122 Rail Fleets to Enter Iran Rail Network

TEHRAN (IP) - Managing-Director of the Railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saeed Rasouli said that in the sixth and seventh stages of operation of the new railway fleet, 122 railway fleets will enter the country's railway network.

Rasouli pointed out that the country's factories have used all the facilities for maximum production, adding that the country's rail modernization movement is on the agenda of the railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran since last year.

He stated that in order to reduce dependency on foreign countries, the first national braking system of the country's freight wagons will be produced and used.

The managing-director of the railways of Iran highlighted that the railway talent

management project has been planned since last year, and in the first pha 3,775 railway experts and managers will be evaluated.

He noted that the database evaluates the talent of individuals to select key managers and jobs in the railways of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ceremony of the sixth and seventh stages of operation of the new railway fleet held in the presence of the minister of roads and urban development and the managing-director of railways in Tehran on Tuesday. This (Iranian) year is the year of 'Surge in Production' and in a total of seven stages, 451 rail fleets worth 933 billion tomans have been put into operation, which shows a 16% increase compared to the same period last year.

Morales Makes Bolivia Return From Exile

LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Leftist former president Evo Morales crossed the border from Argentina into Bolivia on Monday, ending a year-long exile that followed a failed bid for a controversial fourth term.

Morales was accompanied to the border by Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, before crossing on foot.

He is due to travel more than 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) by land from the border as part of a vehicle caravan that will pass through several villages and areas where he remains hugely popular. "I had no doubt I would return, but I didn't know it would be so soon," Morales declared before crossing into Bolivia from the Argentine border town of La Quaica.



Swiss Army Back on **COVID Front Line**

MOUDON (AFP) - Swiss army reservists have been called up once again to help do battle against one of the worst coronavirus outbreaks in Europe.

"This is a new effort which is being asked of you. The army has been requested to help" combat the virus, Lieutenant-Colonel Raul Barca told about 100 freshly-mobilised reservists, all wearing facemasks.

Small groups of men and women from the "Hospital 2 Battalion", some carrying rifles on their shoulders, arrived in military trucks on Sunday at the Moudon military base in the Vaud region of western Switzerland.



Russia Deploys Troops To Nagorno-Karabakh



YEREVAN (Reuters) - Russian peacekeeping troops deployed to the war-ravaged enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in the early hours of Tuesday as part of a ceasefire deal President Vladimir Putin said should pave the way for a lasting political settlement of the conflict there.

The deal, agreed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia, ushered in a full ceasefire from midnight Moscow time on Nov. 10, freezing a conflict that has killed thousands, displaced many more and threatened to plunge the wider region into war.

The territory is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan but populated and, until recently, fully controlled by ethnic Armenians who have been relentlessly pushed back by the armed forces of Azerbaijan in six weeks of heavy fighting. Under the deal, Azerbaijan will get to keep all of its territorial gains, including the enclave's second city of Shusha/Shushi, and ethnic Armenian forces must hand over control of a slew of other territories between now and Dec. 1.

Russian peacekeepers will stay in place for at least five years. Putin said they would be deployed along the frontline in Nagorno-Karabakh and in a corridor between the region and Armenia. The Russian defence ministry said it had started deploying 1,960

servicemen, who were en route to an unnamed air base to be airlifted along with their equipment and vehicles.

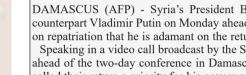
The deal is likely to be seen as a sign that Russia is still the main arbiter in a region it regards as its own backyard, though the scale of Turkish involvement remained unclear and Ankara's interest in the region has sharply increased. Turkey staunchly supported Azerbaijan, while Russia has a defence pact with Armenia and a military base there.

Putin said displaced people would now be able to return to Nagorno-Karabakh, and prisoners of war and the war dead be exchanged, while all economic and transport links in the area would be reopened with the help of Russian border guards. "We are operating on the premise that the agreements will create the necessary conditions for a long-term and fully-fledged settlement of the crisis around Nagorno-Karabakh on a fair basis and in the interests of the Armenian and Azeri peoples," Putin said.

Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, said Turkey would also be involved in peacekeeping efforts. There was no immediate word from Ankara. In Armenia, Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan tried to put a brave face on the situation.

"The decision was made based on a deep analysis of the combat situation and in conjunction with the best experts," he said of the deal on social media. "This is not a victory, but there is no defeat until you consider yourself defeated. We will never consider ourselves defeated and this shall become a new start of an era of our national unity and rebirth."

Unrest broke out in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, however, as several hundred protesters gathered in front of government buildings to protest against the deal and demand to see Pashinyan. They shouted "We will not give it up," referring to Nagorno-Karabakh.



"For us, as a government, it is a number one priority in the coming stage,"

"The Syrian government is not just ready, but also eager, for the results of the conference so that we can see the largest number of refugees return in the coming few months." Assad's forces control more than 70 percent of Syria, while remaining areas are held by U.S.-backed Kurdish forces as well as rebels

population has been forced to flee their homes, including 5.5 million abroad. Neighbouring Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are hosting the highest number of Syrian refugees. Last month, Russia pitched an international conference to facilitate their repatriation despite warnings from international agencies and

Lebanon -- which says it hosts some 1.5 million refugees -- will send its caretaker minister of social affairs.

UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Syria Imran Riza is to attend as an observer. Apart from ongoing violence in some parts of the country, a

> on Syria is the "biggest obstacle" to refugee returns, Assad told Putin, referring to a spate of Western sanctions since the war started.

Afghan President Says Ties With U.S. Expected to Deepen

KABUL (Dispatches) - Afghan President Ashraf Ghani said Sunday that ties between Kabul and Washington are expected to deepen in areas of counter-terrorism and building peace as he congratulated Joe Biden on his election victory.

"Afghanistan looks forward to continuing/deepening our multilayered strategic partnership w/ the United States -- our foundational partner -- including in counterterrorism & bringing peace to Afghanistan," Ghani wrote on Twitter.

Biden's victory was also welcomed by ordinary citizens, who thought he might slow what some see as a too-hasty withdrawal of US troops.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration signed a deal with the Taliban on February 29 that agreed to withdraw all American forces from Afghanistan by May 2021.

"Biden will also finish the war, but he wants to bring the war to a responsible end, not rushing like Trump,"

Assad Says Refugee Returns a Priority for Syria

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad told his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Monday ahead of a Moscow-backed conference on repatriation that he is adamant on the return of refugees.

Speaking in a video call broadcast by the Syrian presidency's Facebook page shead of the two-day conference in Damascus opening on Wednesday, Assad called their return a priority for his government.

especially since large parts of Syria had been recaptured by Damascus and battles have subsided, he told Putin.

and jihadists opposed to the Damascus government. Since the Syrian conflict started in 2011, more than half of its pre-war

Western nations that it is not yet safe to return. It remains to be seen which countries will take part in the conference but

"siege" imposed by Western nations

deal with the Taliban was "terrible" and gave no leverage to the government. For all the latest headlines follow our Google News channel online or via the app.

said Mohammad Dawood, a garment seller in Kabul.

"He will slow down the withdrawal from Afghanistan and will keep some troops

The withdrawal of troops

His administration agreed

to fully disengage in

exchange for a commitment from the Taliban to stop

trans-national extremist

groups such as Al-Qaeda and

Islamic State from operating

The U.S. military has already

shut several bases across the

country and pulled out

thousands of troops as agreed.

Timor Sharan, a lecturer at

the American University in

Afghanistan, said on Twitter

that the incoming Biden

administration will have a

"more tolerant" approach to

peace talks, as Washington's

in Afghanistan.

has been a cornerstone of Trump's plans to end

here, which is good news."

America's longest war.

Trump Fires Defense Chief Esper

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday fired Defense Secretary Mark Esper, further unsettling a government facing uncertainty over Trump's refusal to concede defeat to Democrat Joe Biden.



The move came with just 10 weeks left in Trump's White House tenure, capping a stormy four-year relationship with the Pentagon that has seen him go through four defense chiefs, in part because they would not serve his political goals. Like his predecessors Esper had sought to fly below the political radar to avoid Trump's ire.

But they ultimately collided over White House pressure to deploy federal troops to quash civil unrest, and Trump's desire for a rapid withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan before the defense establishment felt it was safe.

"Mark Esper has been terminated," Trump declared abruptly on Twitter.

"I would like to thank him for his service." While not surprised, Democrats blasted Trump for destabilizing the

transition between administrations. Top Democrat Nancy Pelosi called Esper's firing "disturbing evidence that President Trump is intent on using his final days in office to sow chaos in our American Democracy and around the world."

"Again and again, Trump's recklessness endangers our national security,"

added the speaker of the House of Representatives in a statement.

Trump named Christopher Miller, head of the National Counterterrorism Center, as acting defense secretary. Miller is a retired 31-year army veteran who deployed in Afghanistan in

2001 and Iraq in 2003 with the special forces, was Trump's White House advisor on counterterrorism, and from January to August 2020, deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations. Esper, 56, was fired after 16 months in the job trying to keep his head down

politically as he pursued fundamental reforms to the massive Pentagon bureaucracy and sought to reshape the US defense posture to focus on China.

Peru's President Ousted in **Congress Impeachment Vote**

LIMA (AFP) - Peru's Congress voted Monday to impeach and oust President Martin Vizcarra over allegations he took kickbacks from developers while serving as a regional governor in 2014.

After an impeachment trial that lasted nearly eight hours, the motion to remove the popular president was approved by 105 votes to 19, with four abstentions -- far exceeding the 87 votes needed to impeach.

"The resolution declaring the vacancy of the presidency of the republic has been approved," declared Congress leader Manuel Marino, who under the constitution will take over the presidential functions until the end of the current term in July 2021.

Vizcarra's tumultuous presidency ended in a similar fashion to that of the man he replaced, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, a former Wall Street banker who was forced to resign under threat of imminent impeachment over corruption allegations in 2018.

"Peru comes out weaker institutionally. Merino will be a weak president, that is the scenario in the context of general elections against the backdrop of a pandemic,"

political analyst Augusto Alvarez Rodrich told AFP.

Peru will hold general and presidential elections in April 2021. Merino, 59, will be sworn in at a special session of Congress on Tuesday, becoming Peru's third president since 2016, reflecting the institutional fragility which has characterized the South American country since independence from Spain in 1821.

Constitutionally, succession falls to Merino because Vizcarra's vice-president, Mercedes Araoz, resigned a year ago in the wake of a separate political crisis.

Speaking in his defense at the start of the impeachment trial earlier Monday, the 57-year-old president rounded on his critics, vehemently denying that he had ever accepted bribes.

"I emphatically and categorically reject these accusations," Vizcarra told lawmakers ahead of the vote over charges that he accepted some \$620,000 in bribes in 2014 when he was a regional governor.

Several businessmen claim Vizcarra received kickbacks in exchange for public works contracts while he was governor of the southern department of Moquegua.



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General Motors to Add 3,000 Tech Jobs

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. automaker General Motors Co said on Monday it would hire 3,000 employees across its engineering, design and IT divisions to increase diversity and contribute to its electric vehicle platform.

The hiring is expected to take place from now, through the first quarter of 2021, the company said. "This will clearly show that we're committed to further developing the software we need to lead in EVs," GM President Mark Reuss said.

General Motors' Chief Executive Mary Barra said here last week the automaker will boost capital spending over the next three years to speed up development of electric vehicles.

Agency (IEA) said.





Seeks Better Ties Witl BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Union will "regrettably" impose tariffs on imports of \$4 billion in U.S. goods from Tuesday, EU Trade

Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis said, while hoping that President-elect Joe Biden will foster a sharp improvement in transatlantic ties. The bloc will exercise the right to counter-measures awarded to it last month by the World Trade Organization in a case against U.S.

planemaker Boeing BA.N, part of a long-running U.S.-EU battle over civil aviation subsidies. 'We have made clear at every stage that we want to settle this long-running issue," Dombrovskis told a news conference after an

online meeting of EU trade ministers on Monday. However, he said the bloc would impose tariffs on U.S. exports of planes and parts and a range of farm and industrial products from Tuesday.

"Regrettably, despite our best efforts (and) due to lack of progress on the U.S. side, we can confirm that the European Union will later today exercise our rights and impose counter-measures awarded to us by the WTO in respect to Boeing," he said.

U.S. tariffs on \$7.5 billion of EU products after a parallel WTO case against Airbus AIR.PA have been in place for over a year.

The European Union says the main objective of its own measures is to persuade the United States to negotiate a solution, arguing that the chief beneficiaries of the 16-year-old dispute are competitors, such as China's COMAC.

Dombrovskis said the EU tariffs would mirror those set by the United States in the Airbus case, such as 15% for aircraft and 25% for agricultural and industrial products.

However, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer last month warned any EU measures would "force a U.S. response", while Donald Trump, who remains U.S. president until Jan. 20, threatened to "strike back harder"

Washington could, for example, choose to hike its tariffs on EU cheese, olives and whisky to 100%. It argues there is no legal basis for EU measures because underlying subsidies to Boeing have been repealed. The dispute and EU complaints over U.S. tariffs on EU steel and aluminium look set to transfer to the next president's desk.

Dombrovskis repeated an EU offer that the bloc would suspend its measures if the United States did the same, but said Washington had so far not agreed to do so. "We are ready to withdraw or suspend our tariffs any time, when the U.S. is ready to do so, whether under the current or the next administration," he said.

German Economy Minister Peter Altmaier told the same news conference that many EU countries saw Biden's election victory as a chance for an improvement.

"We will try to get a new start in trade policy between the United States and all member states," said Altmaier, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency. He added Europe's goal was to find common ground with the future Biden administration and then reduce overall tariffs as much as possible.

Trump, with whom Europe has had strained relations, has not conceded and is making legal challenges to the outcome of the Nov. 3 election.

"There are great expectations and the hope that the American presidential elections will lead to a return to multilateral engagement in international trade and that it will be possible to overcome past conflicts," Altmaier said.

Dombrovskis said there was a full list of things to do - from coordinating on the reform of global trade rules to incorporating climate change goals into trade. He added the commission, which coordinates trade policy for the 27 EU nations, had made some informal contacts with Team Biden.

"So some first contacts have been made, among other things also to discuss trade issues," he said. "But at the same time, concerning ongoing issues.... we continue to work with the current administration."

lockdown for the second time this year, the central bank said on Monday.

than the first time to limit the impact to the euro zone's second-biggest economy.

French Economy Operating Down 12% Under New Lockdown

PARIS (Reuters) - France's economic activity is 12% lower than normal this month after the country entered a coronavirus

The government imposed the new lockdown on Oct. 30 to rein in a surge in new cases although the restrictions were softer

The Bank of France said economic activity was expected to be reduced by 12% of normal levels as a result, worse than the

"Before the second wave we thought we'd have a recession of a bit less than 9%, we now expect that for the whole of 2020

4% drop in October but far better than the 31% loss seen in April during one of the strictest lockdowns in Europe.

Suga Signals Readiness for New Stimulus Package

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said the government will do all it can to help the economy recover, signalling his readiness to compile another stimulus package to cushion the blow from the coronavirus pandemic.

Laying the groundwork for more spending, private sector members of a key government council urged Suga's administration to put together measures to support the economy, financed by an extra budget of 'sufficient size" by the end of the year.

"We'd like to come up with measures to put Japan's economy back on a recovery path by deploying all available means in a timely fashion," Suga told the council's meeting on Monday.

In a separate meeting with ruling party executives, Suga said he would instruct his cabinet on Tuesday to

begin work on a third extra budget, Jiji news agency reported. After posting its worst contraction in the second quarter since World War Two, Japan's economy is

xpected to have rebounded in the three months through September. But the recovery has been fragile, keeping policymakers under pressure to top up fiscal and monetary support.

Although the size of the package has yet to be decided, requests from ruling party lawmakers have ranged between 10 trillion yen (\$96.49 billion) and 30 trillion yen.

That will come on top of a combined \$2.2 trillion rolled out in two earlier stimulus packages this year, which would strain Japan's already tattered finances.

China's Tech Industry Relieved by Biden Win

SHANGHAI (Reuters) - China's technology industry, one of President Donald Trump's main targets in Washington's tussles with Beijing, hopes Joe Biden can create a more constructive relationship - but few think the rivalry will

Trump's four-year term has already taught the industry the importance of self-reliance, and China's intentions to improve its domestic

"When Biden takes office, tech companies in China might be relieved," said Fang Xingdong, director of the Consortium of Internet and Society

"At least, the United States is supposed to re-advocate openness, re-respect fair competition, and re-advocate innovation," Fang added. "However, in the high-tech field, competition and game theory will not

end, and China and the U.S. will compete with each other with true innovation

Chinese tech giants Huawei Technologies to TikTok owner ByteDance to Tencent Holdings have seen their supply chains upended or global expansion efforts stymied by sanctions issued by the Trump administration after Washington accused them of being national security risks.

from U.S. suppliers by a trade blacklist while ByteDance and Huawei, in particular, have been pushed into a corner by the Trump administration. ByteDance is finalising a preliminary deal to create a new company with Walmart Inc and Oracle Corp to oversee TikTok's U.S. operations after Trump ordered it to sell the popular short video app's U.S. unit or face a ban.

U.S. trade curbs have choked off access by Huawei, world's biggest maker of mobile telecommunications equipment and smartphones, to commercially available chips, leaving it short of the components that power its high-end phones.

Jefferies analysts said in a note on Monday that China would likely decline in terms of Biden's policy priorities, as he focuses first on domestic issues, and that a blanket U.S. ban on China's semiconductor industry would be less likely under Biden.

had exposed how vulnerable the Chinese technology industry was. They said shoring it up was now a policy priority for the country.

new "dual circulation" model of growth to steer China's economy. This sees it reducing its reliance on overseas markets and technology by, for example, spending billions of dollars to

"It is possible that China and the United States may have a chance to negotiate to ease some of the technology issues," said a senior staff member at one of the blacklisted Chinese companies who declined to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.



Keisuke Sadamori, IEA director for energy markets and security, told Reuters the impact would, however, likely be less severe than under lockdowns earlier in the year.

"Major parts of the European continent are in lockdown. This would surely work toward the negative side," he said in an interview, but stopped short of saying the group would formally lower its forecast.

"We certainly expect this time for there to be a lower impact than the last lockdown ... This time schools are kept open and some of the stores are still open."

Oil prices have recovered from sharp falls earlier in the year to hover around \$40 a barrel but demand fears persist, while markets remain on edge over a knife-edge U.S. election result which appears headed for legal challenges.

"The oil and gas industry, in the U.S. in particular, is looking at the outcome of this election with a huge amount of interest," Sadamori said.

"If the Democrats plan for radical energy low-carbon transformation -- if the Senate remains in the hands of Republicans, there will be obstacles to that legislation. Overall, we need to see the entire outcome."

The IEA kept its 2020 and 2021 oil demand forecast steady in its monthly report on Oct. 14, before major European countries including Germany, France and the United Kingdom

imposed strict new curbs on movement to check the spread of the virus.

The Paris-based agency is set to publish its next analysis of the oil market on Thursday.

China remains the world's major bright spot after suppressing the virus earlier this year and is on track to be the only major country to boost its year-on-year demand for oil, Sadamori said.

Products demand presents a mixed picture, he added, with jet fuel and kerosene continuing to suffer but diesel, fuel oil and gasoline performing better.

Rise in Exports Offers Germany Hope of Avoiding Fourth Quarter Slump



BERLIN (Reuters) - German exports rose by more than expected in September, and foreign trade gave Europe's largest economy a boost going into the fourth quarter as it struggles to avoid slipping into a double dip contraction.

Seasonally adjusted exports rose 2.3% on the month after an upwardly revised 2.9% rise in August, the Federal Statistics Office said. Imports fell by 0.1% after a rise of 5.8% the previous month. The trade surplus expanded to 17.8 billion euros (16 billion pounds), the Office said.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected exports to rise by 2.0% and imports to increase by 2.1%. The trade surplus was predicted to come in at 15.8 billion euros.

"Looking ahead, exports (and industrial production) could still prevent the economy from falling into a second lockdown depression in the final quarter of the year," ING economist Carsten Brzeski said.

"With U.S. President-elect Biden, the threat of U.S. tariffs on European (read German) automotives should disappear," he added.

The economy grew by a record 8.2% in the third quarter on higher consumer spending and exports, but an aggressive second wave of infections and a new partial lockdown are now clouding the outlook for the fourth quarter and beyond.

Annual figures showed exports to China rose 10.6% from the previous September. Exports to the United States, which the Office said were particularly affected by the coronavirus pandemic, fell 5.8% on the year and those to the UK fell 12.4%.

A picture is emerging of German industry growing despite the pandemic, while services struggle. Industrial output rose in September, data showed on Friday.

A survey released last Wednesday showed that German services activity shrank for the first time in four months in October.

Germany closed bars, restaurants, gyms, cinemas, theatres and domestic tourism last Monday for a month to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

deescalate, executives and analysts say.

tech capabilities will not change, they said.

at the Communication University of Zhejiang.

capabilities in the next decade.

Several other Chinese firms have been cut off

Still, many executives said Trump's actions

Beijing has in recent months announced a encourage a domestic chip industry.



1st Indigenized Freight Wagon **Brake System Unveiled**

TEHRAN (MNA) - Roads and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami on Tuesday unveiled the country's first fully-indigenized brake system for freight wagons, ILNA reported.

According to the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli, the mentioned

system was one of the most important equipments that the country's rail industry always depended on foreign sources to supply it.

"Over the past few years some of its parts were indigenized, but today we have become completely self-sufficient in manufacturing this type of brake system," Rasouli said.



"Milestone" Virus Vaccine Claims Boost Hope

WASHINGTON (AFP) - One of the teams racing to develop a coronavirus vaccine announced Monday its drug had shown 90 percent effectiveness against the illness, sending stock markets soaring and raising hopes of an end to draconian restrictions

U.S. pharmaceutical giant Pfizer said tests involving more than 40,000 people had provided results that were a "critical milestone" in the search for a vaccine, as global infections soared passed 50 million -- almost one-fifth of them in the United States.

Stock markets had already jumped after Joe Biden was called as the winner of the US presidential election at the weekend, and accelerated rapidly on the vaccine news.

An effective vaccine is seen as the best hope to break the cycle of virus surges followed by severe restrictions across much of the world since the Covid-19 first emerged in China late last year.

Tens of millions of people in Europe are currently living under restrictions preventing them from leaving their homes, and millions of business owners are enduring forced shutdowns.

Lockdowns and other restrictions have shredded the global economy but with few other tools at their disposal to protect vulnerable populations, politicians have felt their hands forced.

"We are a significant step closer to providing people around the world with a much-needed breakthrough to help bring an end to this global health crisis," Pfizer chairman and CEO Albert Bourla said in a statement.

The drug, being developed jointly with German firm BioNTech, is one of more than 40 candidate vaccines, but no other has yet made similar claims about its effectiveness.

The companies said they could pass the final hurdles for a U.S. rollout later this month, and could supply up to 50 million doses globally this year and up to 1.3 billion next year. The scientific community reacted positively to the news, with top US expert Anthony Fauci describing the results as "extraordinary".

But others pointed out that no information had yet been disclosed about the ages of the participants in the trial.

"If a vaccine is to reduce severe disease and death, and thus enable the population at large to return to their normal day-to-day lives, it will need to be effective in older and elderly members of our society," said Eleanor Riley of the University of Edinburgh.

Biden quickly followed, congratulating "the brilliant women and men who helped produce this breakthrough".

American voters handed victory to Biden at least partly because of Trump's failure to rein in the epidemic -- often refusing to back restrictive measures or even mask-wearing in public and repeatedly undermining his own experts.

Biden, who will not be sworn in until January, has already announced a taskforce



charged with handling the virus, promising to be informed by science and experts. The vaccine news will be of particular relief to people in Europe -- the current focal point of the pandemic and the region subject to the most widespread restrictions.

Italy was edging closer to a full lockdown, with experts warning of a drastic situation in hospitals.

"I am afraid there is no doubt that the situation is largely out of control," said Massimo Galli, head of the infectious diseases department at Milan's Sacco hospital. And the grim news kept on coming elsewhere, with Russia surpassed its record for daily infections again Monday, testing the government's resolve after it said it would

Hungary is now one of the hardest-hit countries in terms of deaths proportionate to its population, and the government announced new national restrictions to come into force Wednesday.

In France, which has imposed nationwide stay-at-home orders and is clocking more than 40,000 cases a day, the central bank revised its expectations of the damage wrought by the curbs.

"Before the second wave, we thought the recession would be a little less than nine percent, we think today that for 2020 as a whole it will be between nine and 10 percent," Banque de France chief Francois Villeroy de Galhau said.

"We might be tired of Covid-19. But it is not tired of us," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebrevesus

Not With Biden But...

FROM PAGE 1

So these conditions, if are managed properly and not destroyed, will be very useful for us but why the 12th government when it started its job did not respond positively to China raises a question mark that one day the truth behind it will be revealed to the Iranian



nation. What seems obvious is that on January 24, 2016, exactly eight days after the nuclear deal (JCPOA) came into effect and when Iran was in a fairly stronger position, albeit propagative, and all countries in the world which were seeking seemingly investment in the Islamic Republic of Iran, China's President Xi visited Tehran at the invitation of the head of 12th government and during the second term of President Hassan Rouhani. The Chinese President had an important proposal: increasing the industrial, commercial and trade relations with Iran to \$600b in ten years, in other words, \$60b per year till 2025. But the statesmen focused on the JCPOA and the West and did not care this unique proposal.

There is a reasonable criticism to President Rouhani and one day he should split the reason for snubbing China's proposal and answer to it.

Even after the first JCPOA or we give discount and accept that China is the second world economic power, if a small portion of that \$600b had been invested in Iran by the Chinese, the next sanctions of the U.S. could have been a blow to the Chinese government's interests. Then could U.S. President Donald Trump dare to tear apart the JCPOA so easily? Today those who voted for President Rouhani for his second term should ask themselves what the reason was for not cooperating with China. If our economy due to the rise in the volume of liquidity needs to rein the balance, and experts believe that arrival of investment is the solution, so why has not this important issue been heeded?

Celebration of Allama Iqbal Day by ECO Member States



Celebration of Allama Iqbal Day by ECO Member States At ECO Cultural Institute in Collaboration with Embassy of Pakistan

TEHRAN (Press Release) - ECO Cultural Institute and Allama Tabataba'i University, in cooperation with Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran organized a webinar to celebrate the 143rd Anniversary of Pakistan's National Poet Dr. Allama Muhammad Iqbal who is popularly known in the ECO region as Iqbal Lahori. The webinar attracted wider participation especially from the ECO region.

The ECO region is one of the world's richest areas in terms of history and cultural heritage. The 10 Member States not only share a common religion, but also have strong commonalities in arts and crafts, language and literature as well as the history. The ECO Cultural Institute is instrumental for further promoting these shared cultural values. one of its Founding Member

The guest speakers included Senator Waleed Iqbal, Allama Iqbal's grandson, Dr. Nargis Jahiri Nasb from Islamic Azad University, Iran, Dr. Faiza Zahra Mirza, Karachi University and Mr. Muhammad Afsar Rahbeen, a research scholar on Iqbal and Director of National Archives of Afghanistan.

The meeting was inaugurated by President ECI H.E Sarvar Bakhti who hails from Tajikistan. In his speech he paid rich tribute to Dr. Allama Iqbal and highlighted various themes of his poetry. Mr. Ali Anser Zaidi, Charge d' Affaires a.i. underlined the significance of Iqbal's work that was not limited to his contemporary times but had global appeal for all times to come. He especially highlighted Iqbal's love for Persian language in which Iqbal produced the best and the finest part of his poetry.

Senator Waleed Iqbal, in his remarks, elaborated Iqbal's concept of an ideal society. Iqbal gave equal prominence to the concept of individual selfhood or Khudi and the primacy of society. He dedicated his life to bring about a renaissance of thought and action in the Muslim world, he added.

Dr. Narges Jaberi Nasab, Dr. Faizeh Zahra Mirza, Mr. Mohammad Afsar Rahbin also highlighted significance of Igbal's poetry and shared their national as well as regional perspectives to trace the social and intellectual impact on the Muslims. They praised that hardly any other Muslim figure was able to articulate his message in immaculate and diverse poetry as Iqbal did.

Lasting Security...

FROM PAGE 1

He went on to say, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has invariably emphasized its principled policy of strengthening good neighborliness, confidence-building and dialogue with its neighbors in such regions as Eurasia, the Persian Gulf and West and South Asia. For the Islamic Republic of Iran, sustainable security is viable but through cooperation, participation and peace. The proposal of the Hormuz Peace Endeavour (HOPE), involvement in the Astana Peace Process, supporting peace and stability in Afghanistan and emphasis on increased multilateral cooperation among SCO member states are notable examples, to name a few, of the attention extended by the Islamic Republic of Iran to participation and cooperation for sustainable regional and global security."

President Rouhani added, "In order to address regional challenges in security, political and economic fronts, the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes cooperation within the framework of the SCO Iran has always equalised the security of the surrounding region with its own security and has unfailingly exercise efforts to preserve regional peace and stability. Along similar lines, we will continue our cooperation with our partners as also with the SCO to effectively counter terrorism, extremism and drug trafficking.

He said, "Combating terrorism, extremism and separatism is a pivotal principle in cooperation bids among regional countries and SCO members. Averting the spread of an ideology of violence and extremism, collectively dealing with currants and entities that breed and disseminate extremist thinking in the region, and identifying inception grounds of terrorist groups as well as their sponsors and financial resources are one of the crucial joint missions of the SCO under collective security. Owing to years of extensive experience in combating terrorist groups in Syria and Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran registers its readiness for action against such terrorist groups as also against extremism. Earlier this year, one of the greatest commanders of the forefront of the Islamic Republic of Iran's struggle against terrorism, Lieutenant General Qasem Soleimani, was, in an act of cowardice, assassinated and martyred by the very creators and sponsor of Takfiri and terrorist currents. Nevertheless, we are still determined to pursue our cause of complete suppression of extremist terrorists and extermination of occupation by outsiders. In this regard, the resolution tabled by Iran titled "World Against Violence and Extremism (WAVE)" passed by UNGA with 190 affirmative votes in December 2013, could serve SCO for further practical measures."

The president further said, "The foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran has consistently been based on good neighbourliness, peaceful coexistence and ever-increasing development of trade and economic ties with neighbours and friendly countries to serve the goal of regional economic growth and development. In this context, we have presented initiatives and have welcomed the initiatives of friendly countries as well. It is necessary to make maximum use of joint cooperation opportunities for the betterment of welfare and livelihoods of the residents of this region as also for regional sustainable development and poverty alleviation."

President Rouhani continued, "Political and economic multilateralism has been seriously threatened in recent years with the US attempting to impose, with unmitigated bullying, its domestic policies and laws on the world order and countries with political independence. The U.S. presidential election results showed, yet again, that the world is not alone in opposing the wrong policies of the incumbent U.S. administration. The very U.S. public has been beset by such policies. The U.S. people saw the world's response to bullying, law aversion, breaches of international commitments, threatening and functioning and decided to bring about a change. Once again, the history imposed the eats reality on the ruling arena and the political sphere and taught another lesson to adventurers, war-mongers, adversaries of nations' rights and violators of undisputed international rights. The US presidential election results shows that a country constantly wielding threats, sanctions and sticks and taking a bullying tone with other nations must be pursuing a misled foreign policy."

Iran, Other Countries...

FROM PAGE 1

General Soleimani and four other Iranians were martyred in a US drone strike, ordered by US President Donald Trump, upon their arrival in Baghdad International Airport on January 3 at the invitation of the Iraqi government.

The attack also killed Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU). The two commanders were highly popular because of the key role they played in eliminating the US-sponsored Daesh terrorist group in the region. Renowned American scholar Noam Chomsky criticizes as an "extraordinarily dangerous act" America's assassination of top Iranian anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in violation of international law. Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian diplomat called on the U.S. to take necessary legal and judicial measures towards ending systematic racism against minorities, including African-Americans

He also urged an end to the unilateral U.S. sanctions against other nations, which have led to serious rights breaches.

The U.S., he added, should also cooperate with the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative effects of its coercive actions. Sadati Neiad further said Washington should halt the arbitrary detention of Iranians on take charges of violating US sanctions

The United States must end its complicity in the crimes committed by Saudi Arabia and Israel against the Yemenis and the Palestinians, respectively, and stop selling weapons to both regimes, he said.

Additionally, he recommended Washington to cooperate with the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate war crimes committed by U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The U.S. should also end the practice of separating migrant children from their parents and putting them in cages,

the diplomat concluded. Besides Iran, other countries, including Syria, Venezuela, Russia and China, criticized Washington's rights record Counselor Khawla Youssef of Syria said the U.S. should end its executive orders imposing sanctions, halt occupation of her country, and hold its military personnel to account for any war crimes and end support for militants operating in the Arab country.

In turn. Chinese representative Jiang Duan cited nine points of concern regarding the U.S., among them the systemic racism, the politicization of the coronavirus pandemic, the proliferation of guns and military interventions abroad.

"Stop interfering for political reasons in other countries' internal affairs under the pretext of human rights," he said.

Washington's own allies, including Austria, the Netherlands and German, also called for the US to ratify various treaties aimed at guaranteeing human rights and expressed concerns about racial inequalities and gun violence in the U.S., among other things.

Iran Trade With SCO...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran's maximum products were exported to China, valued at \$4,403,220,892, he said, adding, "In this period, Tajikistan accounted for minimum export share of Iranian products, valued at \$9,552,807."

Iran's total foreign trade value in the first seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22) hit \$38.278 billion. Total volume of products exchanged between Iran and SCO's member states hit 85 million tons from March 21 to Oct. 22,

showing a 17.5 percent decline as compared to the same period of last year. China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Belarus, Pakistan, and India are permanent members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Islamic Republic of Iran joined this Organization in 2005 as observer.



Celta Sack Coach Oscar

MADRID (Reuters) - Celta Vigo have sacked head coach Oscar Garcia following their disappointing start to the 2020-21 campaign, the Spanish La Liga side said in a statement on Monday here.

Celta have one win from nine matches this season and drew 1-1 against promoted Elche last time out to sit 17th in the standings with seven points.

"Oscar Garcia and his coaching staff will no longer be coach RC Celta," the club said.

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Garcia out of Masters After **Positive COVID-19 Test**

ONDON (Reuters) - Former Masters champion Sergio Garcia has pulled out of this week's major tournament after testing positive for COVID-19, he announced on Monday. Garcia said he began experiencing a sore throat and a cough on Saturday while he was driving back from the Houston Open, where he missed the cut, and got tested on Sunday. "After 21 years of not missing a Major Championship, I will sadly miss @themasters this week," the 40-year-old Spaniard wrote on Twitter.

IRAN NEWS SPORTS WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Nadal Upbeat Des **Pairs Masters Semifinal Exit**

ONDON (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal said the Paris Masters has been a "positive Lytournament" for him despite his semi-final defeat by Alexander Zverey, and hopes it will help him in his bid for a maiden ATP Finals title this month.

The world No. 2 went down 6-4, 7-5 to Zverev at the Accor Arena yesterday morning (Singapore time), once again failing to add the elusive title to his burgeoning cabinet that is adorned with 20 Grand Slam singles trophies.

"I have been competitive, I have been there until the end against a player who is playing great on a surface that he's winning a lot," Nadal said.

"So (it) has been a positive tournament for me. Of course, not happy about the loss, but... I played against a great player and I accept the defeat."

The Finals, which is contested by the top eight men's singles players and doubles teams, is another tournament that Nadal, 34, has failed to win.

"I need to adjust a couple of things, but I am doing well on all the important things. So let's see. I have one week and a little bit more to keep working, and I hope be ready for it."

Meanwhile ahead of his debut appearance at the Sofia Open, Denis Shapovalov took a moment to reflect on his career progression in 2020. The 21-year-old may not have added to his trophy collection this year, but he has earned three Top 10 wins and a career-high position in the FedEx ATP Rankings.

Valverde Sustains Fractured Leg

MADRID (Reuters) - Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde is set for a spell on the sidelines after suffering a fracture in his right leg during Sunday's 4-1 defeat at Valencia in La Liga, the Spanish champions said on Monday.

Real did not say when the Uruguay midfielder could expect to return from the injury, although Spanish media reports said he would be out of action for at least a month.

"Following tests carried out on our player, Federico Valverde he has been diagnosed with a fracture in the posterior tibial bone in his right leg. His recovery will continue to be assessed," Real said in a statement here.

The injury means Valverde will miss Uruguay's World Cup qualifying matches against Colombia and Brazil this month.

Real, who are fourth in La Liga with 16 points, visit Villarreal in their first game after the international break.

Kimmich out Until January **After Knee Surgery**

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich midfielder Joshua Kimmich underwent surgery on his right knee on Sunday and will be out of action until January, the German champions announced.

The German international, 25, suffered the injury in the first half of Saturday's 3-2 win at Borussia Dortmund which sent them top of the Bundesliga.

"Joshua Kimmich underwent successful surgery on his right lateral meniscus on Sunday evening," said Bayern in a statement.

"The FC Bayern medical department expect the midfielder to be available again in January."

Bayern board member Hasan Salihamidzic added: "We're glad that Joshua will probably be available again in a matter of weeks. We'll support him in his rehabilitation as best we can." The lay-off will sideline him for the final three games of the Champions League group stage as well as six Bundesliga fixtures.



"I feel like I have been playing some really good tennis [this year]. I am really happy with the way the season has went... I think I played really well throughout the season and I am really happy with where my game is.

"I feel like I have definitely improved and I feel like my level is with these [top] guys. If I am not able to reach Top 10 again this season, I will definitely try to go for it next season. The important thing is, I feel like my level is there with these guys and I am able to compete with anyone."

Shapovalov has enjoyed success since the resumption of the ATP Tour in August, but the 6'1" left-hander will aim to end a three-match losing streak in his opening match in Sofia. The Canadian No. 1 will face Radu Albot of Moldova for the first time on Tuesday.

"I feel great. I had a good break, so I am fresh and feeling good. [I have been] practising well, so I feel good and [I am] excited for the tournament.

"[Radu] is a very tough opponent. The draw is very difficult. Every tournament this year has been pretty stacked, so it is definitely not an easy match... I am excited to get going." Shapovalov is not the only Canadian aiming to take the trophy in Sofia. The top seed is joined in the draw by second seed and good friend Felix Auger-Aliassime. The 20-year-old arrived late to Sofia after picking up his maiden ATP Tour doubles trophy alongside Hubert Hurkacz at the Rolex Paris Masters on Sunday.

"It is definitely great for Canada and for tennis in Canada. It is amazing to see us both [in] the top [positions] of the draw and hopefully this continues, inspires a lot of Canadian kids and keeps advancing the sport in the country."



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India captain Virat Kohli has been granted "paternity leave" to miss three of the country's four Tests in Australia starting in December.

But the Board of Control for Cricket in India also announced Monday that another key batsman, Rohit Sharma, has been added back to the Test squad despite his injury worries.

Kohli, 32, and his Bollywood actress wife Anushka Sharma are expecting their first child in January and the team captain has been given special dispensation to be present. India leave for Australia this week and the BCCI said Kohli told them in October that he would return after the first Test ends in Adelaide on December 21. "The BCCI has granted paternity leave to the Indian captain," said a board statement which also confirmed his return date.

That means the world's top ranked one-day batsman will lead India in the three one-day internationals, three Twenty20 matches in November and December and the opening Test, a day-night fixture starting December 17. The second Test starts in Melbourne on December 26 followed by matches in Sydney and Brisbane in strict bio-bubbles during the pandemic crisis.

Sharma, who picked up a hamstring injury in the Indian Premier League, will start late, despite taking part for defending champions Mumbai Indians in Tuesday's final against Delhi Capitals.

Last year's Stockholm champion advanced

to his first Grand Slam quarter-final at the

US Open and cracked the Top 10 for the first

time with a semi-final run at the

Internazionali BNL d'Italia in September.

Shapovalov's Top 10 breakthrough has provided the Canadian with added

confidence and he will be hoping to rejoin

the elite group with a strong run this week in

the Bulgarian capital.

teenager Fati Out for Four Months

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona expect Ansu Fati to be out for four months after the club confirmed the 18-year-old underwent surgery on his knee injury on Monday.

Fati had the operation after tearing the internal meniscus of his left knee during Barca's 5-2 win over

He will miss the majority of the rest of the season but could return for the run-in and will

hope to be fit again in time to play for Spain in next summer's European Championship. Barca's chances in La Liga and the Champions League have been dealt a blow by Fati's injury, given the forward had emerged as one of Ronald Koeman's most exciting players.

Fati has already scored five goals and provided two assists in his 10 appearances

"Ansu Fati has been operated on successfully by Dr. Ramon Cugat for the injury to the internal meniscus of his left knee under the supervision of the Club's medical staff. The player will be out for approximately four months," Barcelona said in a statement.

Thiem Starts Preparations For ATP Finals

Real Betis on Saturday.

ONDON (Reuters) - Austrian LDominic Thiem said he has recovered from a foot injury he suffered during a tournament in Vienna and will travel to London this week to take part in the season-ending ATP Finals.

U.S. Open champion Thiem struggled with blisters during the Vienna Open last month and his title defence at his home tournament ended when he lost in the quarter-finals.

The world number three subsequently pulled out of the Paris Masters to give himself time to recover for the ATP Finals, which is played between the top eight men's single players and doubles teams and will be held in London from Nov. 15-22.

"Nothing is quiet in fall - the last weeks have been busy," the 27-year-old said in a post on his website. "After losing in the quarter-final at my home tournament in Vienna I recovered from my foot injury. It took me two, three days to recover, then I started my preparation for the final in London at the O2-Arena."

Thiem went down narrowly to Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of last year's tournament after defeating Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals and Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic in the group stages.

"On Wednesday I am leaving for London with a 'mini-team'. The final goal of 2020, the memories of last year are nice!" he said.

Last week, Thiem's home country reported record number of infections from the novel coronavirus. The capital Vienna witnessed a lone gunman kill four people in a rampage on Monday.

Spurs Collapse **Against West Ham Changed Mindset**

▼ ONDON (Dispatches) - Jose LMourinho says the pain of Tottenham's late collapse against West Ham has changed the way his side play as they eye a Premier League title challenge.



Tottenham briefly sat top of the Premier League after a 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion on Sunday before being dislodged by Leicester later in the afternoon.

The hard-fought manner of the victory, secured when Harry Kane scored his 150th Premier League goal in the final moments, contrasted sharply with the way Tottenham were playing earlier in the season.

Mourinho's team were cutting teams open and scoring freely, including a 6-1 demolition of Manchester United, before squandering a 3-0 lead at home to West Ham, who scored three late goals to grab a point.

Tottenham have not taken as many risks since that wake-up call, grinding out a 1-0 win at Burnley and a 2-1 victory against Brighton, which was followed by the late victory at West Brom. Asked about the impact of the West Ham game, Mourinho said: "We felt the pain against West Ham and since then strategically the team is behaving in a different way.

"The two clean sheets at Burnley and at West Brom showed the lesson -- a team in the last five minutes that was very solid, it looked like the pain made a positive effort and the team improved after that. "The reality is that the players understand the need of being a team in every moment of every game."