

Health Ministry spokeswoman
Sima Sadat Lari Said on Friday
That Some 461 More Iranians Have
Died From the Coronavirus
Disease Over the Past 24 Hours
Bringing the Total Deaths to 40,582

IRAN NEWS

Iraqi Minister of Defense Juma
Inad Is Scheduled to Pay an
Official Visit to Tehran Today
(Saturday) to Discuss Issues of
Bilateral Importance With
High-Ranking Iranian Officials

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Tehran Urges Saudi Arabia, Israel to Come Clean On Nuclear Activities

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations says nuclear activities of Saudi Arabia and the Israeli regime should be "transparent."

Majid Takht-Ravanchi underlined that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should maintain its independence, neutrality and professionalism.

"If Saudi Arabia is seeking a peaceful atomic program, it should act transparently and allow IAEA inspectors to verify its nuclear work," said Takht-Ravanchi at a meeting of the UN General Assembly on the annual report of the IAEA.

He then highlighted that the Israeli regime has not yet joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has not allowed verification of its nuclear activities. He urged the IAEA to adopt an independent and professional approach to settle this issue. The Iranian ambassador also rejected any restrictions on peaceful nuclear activities, and highlighted the important role of nuclear energy in promoting countries' economic and social development.

Takht-Ravanchi said the importance of nuclear energy is stipulated in the NPT and the Statute of the IAEA. He said one of the duties of the IAEA is to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy and boost international cooperation among member states in that regard.

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IAEA New Report Confirms Iran Continuous Cooperation

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Referring to the IAEA new report on the implementation of JCPOA, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative in Vienna stated that this report, in addition to confirming the reduction of JCPOA obligations and Iran's actions in this regard, refers to the cooperation between Tehran and the IAEA in various fields.

Kazem Gharibabadi told the media that, according to the newly published report, "the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has continued its verification and monitoring activities regarding Iran's related commitments."

He said: "according to this report, in addition to heavy water production and storage, Iran has also exported more than 2.2 tons of its heavy water and also consumed 1.3 tons in line with its research and development activities."

Iran's representative continued to say: "the report of the Agency states enrichment activities continue in Natanz and Fordow, including with new machines and enrichment up to 4.5% and beyond 3.67% as it is set in JCPOA."

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U.S. Responsible for COVID-19 Deaths in Iran



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh says the United States is responsible for deaths of over 400 Iranians per day due to coronavirus infection as Washington prevents Tehran's access to financial resources it needs to fight the pandemic.

"The U.S.' sanctions and depriving Iran of [its] hydrocarbon revenues has caused the country to face problems in handling the new coronavirus [pandemic]," Zanganeh said on the sidelines of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF)'s 22nd ministerial meeting that was being held via video-link on Thursday.

"Therefore, I believe that the U.S. administration is responsible for the deaths of [more than] 400 Iranian people every day due to the coronavirus' pandemic," he added.

The administration of outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump returned its sanctions against Iran after leaving an international nuclear deal between Iran and world powers that has been ratified by the United Nations Security Council.

The administration has refused to relax the bans, even in the case of foodstuffs and medicinal items, despite the deadly march of the November 2019-present pandemic and a UN court ruling that has obliged it to suspend the coercive measures.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zanganeh denounced the U.S.' departure from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the nuclear deal's official name, and Washington's restoration of the sanctions as nothing but "[acts of] bullying against Iran and the world."

At a time when international markets have already been battered by the viral outbreak, Washington has compounded matters by preventing Iran from using its assets and revenues to facilitate its people's lives, especially in the humanitarian and medical areas, the minister said.

The Iranian official reminded how the U.S. has acted in a similar unilateral manner by leaving the Paris climate deal, imposing tariffs on Chinese imports, which has led to a Sino-American trade war, and unprecedentedly damaging its transatlantic ties with Europe.

However, the key to realization of a peaceful world, where energy products such as gas enjoy sustainable and mutually beneficial production levels, "lies in expansion of international cooperation, attention towards multilateralism, and refrain from one-upmanship," he concluded.

Iran to Open Another Border Point for Trade With Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Iran announced the opening of a border crossing point with Pakistan for facilitating trade, as the two countries agreed to deepen their bilateral cooperation.

The announcement was made by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Javad Zarif during his meetings in Islamabad. He was on a two-day visit to Pakistan, leading a senior delegation comprising political and economic experts.

The Iranian foreign minister, who arrived on Tuesday evening, met Prime Minister Imran Khan, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

This was his fourth visit to Pakistan since the PTI came to power about two-and-a-half years ago.

The Foreign Office said the trip was part of the regular high-level exchanges between the two countries aimed at strengthening bilateral relations and developing a better understanding of each other's perspective on regional issues.

Dr Zarif told the Pakistani leaders that Iran would open the Rimdan crossing point, located about 130km from Chahbahar port in its Sistan and Baluchestan province, next week. He expressed the hope that Pakistani authorities too would open their side of the border — Gabd crossing point — so that trade could be promoted.

Rimdan border crossing is believed to be suitably located for export and import of fruits, livestock, construction material, and petroleum products. The Iranian side of the crossing point has been equipped with modern communication systems, livestock and vegetable quarantine and other required facilities for import of mango and livestock.

Dr Zarif urged Pakistan to open Pishin-Mand crossing as well. Prime Minister Khan, in his meeting with Dr Zarif, said that increased bilateral cooperation, particularly better trade and economic ties, would be mutually beneficial for the two countries. Foreign Minister Qureshi, in his meeting with Dr Zarif at the Foreign Office, apprised the latter of the steps taken by the Pakistan government to develop trade and economic cooperation with Iran. He said the government had decided to promote cross-border exports between the two countries. The two countries also agreed to set up a joint economic commission for steering bilateral trade and economic ties.

The establishment of border markets and crossing points was also discussed during Dr Zarif's meeting with Army Chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

Border security was the other major agenda item during Dr Zarif's meetings.

The Iranian minister, speaking after his meeting at the Foreign Office, expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by Pakistan for improved border security.

Dr Zarif reaffirmed Iran's steadfast support for the Kashmir cause.

Foreign Minister Qureshi informed Dr Zarif about the worsening humanitarian and human rights situation in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted India's illegal actions to change the demographic structure of the occupied territory.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



Why Is Trump Right?

Almost one hundred prominent and experienced and even experts in the politics in the U.S. either in their articles or in their interviews and sometimes by writing books have expressed their beliefs that Donald Trump is the last U.S. president.

In fact, if we are to analyze this theory for better understanding and making clear the intention, then we would reach these points that in order to create a climate for U.S. President Trump to remain as president who have won the votes, the U.S. should first be divided into two halves according to the number of votes each candidate has won. To this end, undoubtedly some useful and short incidents would happen, firstly based on the red-colored states, the U.S. would be a country with another name, secondly, the remaining blue states should be considered as the Blue U.S. or even with better name against Canada like Kinada. So Joe Biden will remain president of some part of the U.S. and Trump will attain his deserved right of presidency of some 50 percent of the voters.

Hence, it gives Trump this right to take action to prove himself as some of the actions have so far been cautiously uttered. Some of writers and analysts believe that Trump may take action to materialize his goal to remain in power based on the obtained evidences. The Biden front, including the Democrat Party and its supporters, will take tough stand against these actions.

The Washington Post's famous journalist and columnist David Ignatius on Wednesday, November 11, in an article briefly went through in an article with the title of "behind-the-scenes battle to counter Trump's threat to national security" and wrote, President Trump's senior military and intelligence officials have been warning him strongly against declassifying information about Russia that his advisers say would compromise sensitive collection methods and anger key allies."

Nevertheless, Trump and his camp believe that declassification of information can undo the allegations of the Russian government's role in his winning in the 2016 presidential election. Some European security officials reacting to this issue have told Business Insider that they were concerned that disclosure of the information from the White House could expose the sources who have collected those information. These people who are working on issues related to Russia have said that those centers that they are working with them are worried about Trump hastily to publish the confidential documents which can expose the sources and methods of collecting information about Russians and even put in danger the lives of their spies.

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U.S. Envoy Sees New Iran Sanctions, Rules Out Military Action

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. will impose new sanctions on Iran while President Donald Trump remains in office, according to a senior American diplomat who described speculation over military action against the Islamic Republic as "garbage."

Elliott Abrams, the State Department's Special Representative for Iran and Venezuela, declined to specify which Iranian entities would be targeted or when penalties were likely in an interview with Bloomberg TV.

The U.S. has ratcheted up its pressure on Iran since Trump left the 2015 multi-party deal that offered sanctions relief in return for caps on the Iranian nuclear program.

Iran's oil exports were slashed while its banking system and military have also been sanctioned as Washington and its Arab Persian Gulf allies put countering Tehran's ambitions in the Middle East at the center of their foreign policy. This week the U.S. Treasury penalized six companies and four individuals that facilitated the procurement of U.S.-origin electronic components for the Iranian military.

Abrams spoke a day after United Nations inspectors confirmed Iran continued to add to its stockpile of enriched nuclear material, a breach of the 2015 deal prompted by the U.S. exit.

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Saudi King Has No Right to Accuse Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker's Special Aide for International Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said that Saudi Arabia has no right to accuse Iran.

In a tweet on Friday, he wrote, "The Saudi King, invading Yemen & aiding the DAESH's American terrorism in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon & Yemen, has no right to accuse Iran."

"It's better for Riyadh to stop serving Israel & respect the neighbors. #Iran has always been advocate of the neighbors' & region's peace/security," he added.

U.S. Admin Dreaming Of Iran's Collapse Toppled Humiliatingly

TEHRAN (IFP) - President Hassan Rouhani says his US counterpart's administration that sought the fall of the Iranian establishment has faced a "humiliating" defeat itself after being opposed by the American voters.

Addressing a weekly cabinet session, President Rouhani said the U.S. administration that dreamed about the Iranian establishment's collapse has been toppled in a humiliating manner.

"Last week, the world saw a considerable development. The (U.S.) arrogant policies that came with the humiliation of a number of nations, even a number of nations in our region -as he (Trump) had explicitly called them milking cows- and the policies that had disgusted the whole world nations and even the people of the US itself, were decisively opposed by people in election," President Rouhani said about the defeat of Donald Trump in the last week's US presidential election.

"This was highly significant, meaning that the regime that dreamed about the collapse of Iran and the collapse of the Iranian establishment has been itself overthrown very humiliatingly. Today, you can see that apart from (the support for the US provided by) a number of tiny countries that have been always among the cohorts of that (US) regime, they (American officials) are now facing and experiencing new conditions across the country," the Iranian president added.

"Also inside our country, the expectations of the society and people are undergoing a change and evolution, meaning that the inflation expectations and the stagnation expectations have turned into expectations of boom with the hope about the future conditions," the president stated.



"However, it doesn't mean that such hope is based on how our relations with the US government are... The basis of our relations are founded on (ties) with the neighboring countries and our friends," President Rouhani underlined.

"The U.S. government, as the regime of the outgoing American administration, has been unfortunately playing a role as a disturbance to our relations with the other countries. They (friends of Iran) sense that such disturbance is being removed, and the situation has been further prepared for activities on the basis of their interests," the Iranian president said.

"Over the past years, we've established very good relations, particularly with a number of our neighbors, like Iraq, Turkey, Afghanistan, (the Republic of) Azerbaijan, and the other countries that are our friends in this region, (including) with Russia, China, and the others. We have the feeling that the atmosphere has become more prepared for closer ties and better interaction with all of our friends," he concluded.

VP Hails Iranian Women's Key Role in Struggle With Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP) - Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs Massoumeh Ebtekar has highlighted the prominent role of the country's women in dealing with the tough foreign sanctions.

Speaking at a meeting, held in commemoration of female Iranian entrepreneurs, Vice-President Ebtekar lauded the Iranian women for working shoulder to shoulder with the men in withstanding the harshest sanctions and pressures against Iran with fortitude.

Highlighting the great responsibilities that Iranian women have shouldered in the social, economic and scientific spheres, she said a growing number of women have become involved in the scientific activities and knowledge-based programs in recent years and have brought glory to the country with their great scientific achievements.

Iran is currently at the cutting edge of science in many fields, the vice-president noted, saying the achievements of the Iranian scientists and researchers indicate the great potential for scientific and



knowledge-based activities.

She further explained that any country and organization with remarkable scientific, economic and industrial advances has first reformed its local ecosystem and adapted it to the purposes.

Ebtekar finally pointed to the strategies she has adopted after taking office to make the necessary changes to the country's technology ecosystem in order to pay the way for the promotion of knowledge-based activities.

"Today, I'm delighted to say that the number of knowledge-based companies have risen from some 500 to around 5,400," she added, noting that the value of products of the Iranian knowledge-based firms exceeded 120 trillion toman in the last Iranian year.

In remarks in September, Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said more than 5,300 knowledge-based companies had been established in the country under the aegis of the administration over the past six years.

According to Sattari, the governmental supports for the domestic enterprises have resulted in the opening of over 5,300 knowledge-based companies in the past six years.

Iran Calls on U.S. to Live Up to Int'l Commitments

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Vice President for Legal Affairs Laya Joneidi on Thursday called on the United States to comply with its international commitments.

Joneidi made the remarks in a meeting with the newly-appointed Ambassador of Norway to Iran Sigvald Hauge while pointing out Iran calls on Europe to participate in bilateral and multilateral relations.

She also called for establishing economical and trade ties with Europe, terming the US' behavior, particularly in the recent era, as contrary to diplomatic norms.

The Norwegian side, for his part, touched on Iran's civilizational and cultural history, adding that friendly relations with the country are of importance to the Norwegian government.

Norway is closely following the developments of the JCPOA, he said, adding that the Norwegian officials hope to witness an opening in the issues by returning to international laws and regulations.



Regional Cooperation, Key to Bring Peace, Stability to Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (IP) - The special representatives of Iran and Pakistan for Afghanistan stressed the need for regional cooperation to bring peace and stability to Afghanistan.

During the meeting held in Islamabad between Iran's Special Envoy for Afghanistan Mohammad-Ebrahim Taherianfard and the Special Representative of Pakistan for Afghanistan Sadiq Khan, the two sides discussed regional cooperation for peace and

stability in Afghanistan.

Taherianfard recently had a telephone conversation with the special envoys of Uzbekistan and Germany about the situation in Afghanistan.

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.

Judiciary Chief Stresses People's Security Is Iran's Red Line



TEHRAN (IP) – Judiciary Chief called the civil security of people a red line and called on all relevant organizations to strongly confront the security violators.

In a speech at the 19th National Conference of Attorneys on Thursday, Sayyed Ebrahim Raisi said one with the criminal record of theft and threatening the security of society should not be spared in any way.

Raisi stressed the judicial center's attention to the clients' requests and called for monitoring the performance of the courts and implementation of circulations of the judiciary.

Terrorist Ringleader Behind 2018 Ahvaz Attack Nabbed

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The ringleader of a terrorist group behind the deadly attacks in the southern Iranian city of Ahvaz in 2018 has been apprehended by Iran's Intelligence Ministry.

Habib Farajollah Cha'ab, the leader of the Harekatonnazal terror group, was identified and arrested by Iranian intelligence agents.

He intended to carry out several other major terrorist operations in Tehran and Khuzestan province in recent years.

He had also been recently planning to conduct a terror operation before being arrested.

The terror group is operating under the direct support of Saudi and Israeli intelligence services.

Despite international warrants for the group's senior members, it kept leading terrorist operations in Iran.

Cha'ab, the mastermind behind Ahvaz attacks, has also shed light on other terror operations carried out by the group.

On 22 September 2018, a military parade was attacked by terrorists in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz. The assailants killed 25 people, including troops attending the parade as well as and civilian bystanders.

Iran Hopes to Begin Phase III Trials For COVID-19 Vaccine in June

TEHRA (PressTV) - Iranian authorities say a home-grown vaccine for COVID-19 may reach clinical trials in June.

A coronavirus vaccine being developed in Iran could reach Phase III trials in June, says a senior Iranian official.

Mostafa Qanei, from Iranian presidency's office for science and technology, said on Thursday that the third phase of the trial, which normally monitors the impacts and effectiveness of the vaccine on a relatively large population, would be carried out in a limited form in the country.

Qanei expressed hope that the two earlier phases of the vaccine testing would fully end by the end of the Iranian year in March.

"For the next (Iranian) year we have the hope that we could start the human injection on a certain level," he was quoted as saying by the ILNA news agency.

Iranian health ministry officials have declared that they would place orders for foreign-made vaccines once they have passed effectiveness and safety tests.

Iran pays \$200mlm in extra wages to health staff amid pandemic

Iran pays \$200mlm in extra wages to health staff amid pandemic

The Iranian government pays \$200 million in extra wages to health staff amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

That comes as the government has relied on home-grown efforts to combat COVID-19 as its main strategy since the disease was first reported in Iran in late February.

Several groups have been carrying out research and trials to come up with a vaccine for the virus, including a partnership between Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, the Pasteur Institute of Iran and several start-up companies.

U.S. Should Return to Its Commitments Unconditionally

TEHRAN (IP) – The government spokesman stressed that the new White House officials should unconditionally return to all previous U.S. commitments.

Ali Rabiei stated: "In the first step, sanctions and barriers to the transfer of Iran's money must be lifted and the US government must be held accountable for the losses it has inflicted on the Iranian nation during this period."

Pointing out that the White House's current administration has caused a lot of trouble in the world and within the United States, Rabiei stated that the next U.S. administration should represent the U.S. people in saying no to Donald Trump's policies.

In the U.S. elections, he said, the American people have said no to their governments' racist, bullying, and interventionist policies.

Rabiei also referred to Iran's trade relations with its neighbors and the good work that has been done in this regard despite U.S. grudges and noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue its policy regardless of the U.S. elections and will pursue its relations with its neighbors and regional security and economic agreements.

Bolivia Always Welcoming Iranians

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Newly-elected President of Bolivia Luis Arce announced restoration of relations between La Paz and Tehran, and said his country has always welcomed Iranians.

According to report released by foreign media on Wednesday, President Arce in a meeting received credential of Iran's ambassador to La Paz.

Bolivia is after reestablishment of diplomatic relations which had been damaged during the previous government, the new president noted.

Bolivia continues strengthening of joint projects with Iran, Arce added.

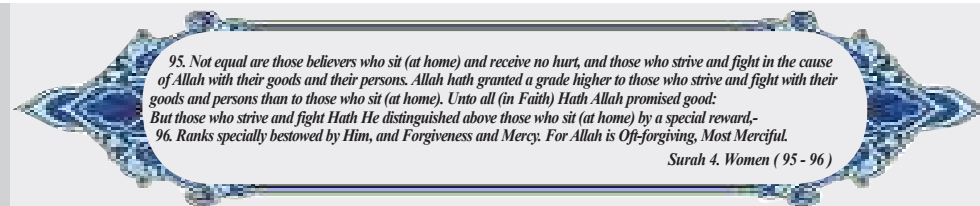
Arce, who won the Bolivian election with 55 percent of the votes, is to take office next week.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif during his recent visit to Bolivia attended swearing-in ceremony of Arce and held talks with the new president.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:17
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:13
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:40



Trump Virus More Lethal Than COVID-19

TEHRAN (Shana) – Iran's OPEC governor says the impact of the sanctions imposed by Donald Trump Administration on Iran was more severe to its gas production than the coronavirus pandemic.

Addressing a virtual Ministerial Roundtable ahead of the 22nd Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) at his Tehran office on Wednesday evening, Amir Hossein Zamaninia said, "I would say that the very meeting that we have through video conference is the antithesis of our fossil fuel market expansion. By having this meeting on video conference, more than 200 cars did not drive to airports, more than 200 or 300 tickets were not purchased; planes did not fly from all across the world to Algeria and did not come back; and that is the definition of a new normal."

"This is a very interesting term to me, the new normal; you're learning new things, new way of doing business more efficiently, perhaps with more consideration for the environment and also recognizing the role of technology in our business," the official, who is also an ad-hoc member of the executive board of GECF, said.

"Now, as far as Iran is concerned, coronavirus had less impact on our gas business than the Donald Trump virus in 2018," Mr. Zamaninia added, saying: "We got used to viruses and coronavirus did not reduce our production, I mean, gas production. Now, we produce close to a billion cubic meters of gas a day; unfortunately, we consume it like a hungry man domestically. About 95% of our 80 million population have access to piped gas in their homes, even in remote areas. But the silver lining for the Trump Virus for us or the sanctions against us is that we are increasingly learning to decouple our national economy from revenues of fossil fuels."

He further seconded remarks by the Secretary General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo regarding a recovery under way in the gas market, saying, "We think that the recovery will take place even though at a slower rate than expected in the past. As far as we in Iran are concerned, the COVID-19 has inflicted a great toll on us."



Over 400 people lose their lives in Iran because of COVID-19, said Zamaninia, who is also deputy Iranian petroleum minister for international affairs and trade. Close to 10,000 people are afflicted with this coronavirus in Iran every day which is partly the result of plummeting income for the country, he added.

"Now, the sanctions have ripped us off, have deprived us of hundreds of billions of dollar of income for a developing country with 80 million population, and that has somewhat compromised our health services to attend to the people who get afflicted with COVID-19. Now, the combination of the sanctions and COVID-19 has resulted in this tragic figure of 400 people dead every day."

"Now, globally speaking, taking after the Secretary General, his Excellency, Mr. Barkindo, we remain hopeful. We remain hopeful that recovery will take place, if not in the mid-term, in the long term. As a global gas outlook study pointed out, in 2050 it is anticipated that the share of gas will be somewhere around 28% compared to 23% today. Therefore, we do remain hopeful and we think that the change of consumer behavior also will work to the benefit of market expansion."

The yearly Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) will take place on 12 November under the rotating Presidency of the Democratic People's Republic of Algeria. The meeting, and its related events, will convene virtually owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tehran, Islamabad Urged To Launch Joint Bank

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce Mahmoud Tohidast has urged Iran and Pakistan to launch a joint bank to ease transfer of money and to open the way for boosting trade.

Speaking to ILNA on the forex exchanges between Iran and Pakistan, Tohidast said that for years Iran's trade with Pakistan has been traditional and currently there is no forex exchange between both states and all works are done traditionally.

He said central banks of Iran and Pakistan should reach an agreement for easing the forex transfer, and launching the joint bank between Iran and Pakistan can help it or both countries by announcing a reference bank for doing their banking transactions can make it happen and Pakistan can work with Iran with the forex.

Tohidast noted that in the past, both countries decided to set up joint funds for doing forex exchanges but no practical action has been taken yet, adding that of course if trade exchanges are done based on banking procedure and through opening LCs, it will definitely affect Iran's exports.

He reiterated that Iran and Pakistan trade is traditional and he is not aware of how much money of Iran's gas and electricity exports to Pakistan has not been repatriated.

New Note With Pale Zeros Signals Removing Zeros



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has launched a new version of the most frequently-used bank note in the country to signify a transition to the new currency toman.

Four zeros on CBI's new 100,000 rials note were light-hued, a picture of the note circulating in the local media on Wednesday showed. That signified Iran's ongoing move toward toman, the new currency which will be equal to 10,000 rials once it is introduced in Iran in early 2022.

A law endorsed by the previous Iranian parliament in May stipulated that a full transition to toman would need at least two years to allow markets and businesses to adapt to the new situation. CBI chief Abdolnasser Hemmati said recently that printing bank notes with four pale zeroes had already started with a change of design applied to large denomination currency bills.

"The plan to slash four zeroes is being pursued in the new parliament but the CBI would print zeroes in a light-hued form in the new notes it prints so that it could symbolize a transition," said Hemmati.

Toman is still used as the popular denomination currency in Iran less than a century after it was dropped in favor of the rial. The popular toman is equal to 10 rials, much lower in value compared to the toman that is planned to be circulated. Government authorities have repeatedly insisted that introducing a higher currency would only serve to simplify administrative and financial processes and it has nothing to do with efforts to contain inflation in the country.

Russia to Resume Flights to Iran

TEHRAN (IP) - Russia's Aeroflot Airlines will resume direct flights between Tehran and Moscow on November 18.

The first flight of Aeroflot Airlines will resume as of Wednesday next week from Imam Khomeini International Airport in Tehran to Moscow's Sheremetyevo International Airport.

According to the report, Tehran-Moscow flights are operated two days a week (Sunday and Wednesday) by Russian Sukhoi aircraft.

Aeroflot and Mahan airlines operate passenger flights between Iran and Russia considering the restrictions imposed due to the coronavirus outbreak. Mahan Airlines also operates Tehran-Moscow flights and vice versa on Thursdays.



Iran, Kazakhstan to Expand Bilateral Cooperation



TEHRAN (IP) - The consul-general of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the governor-general of Almaty, Kazakhstan, stressed the expansion of relations between the two countries.

Consul-General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Almaty Mohsen Faghani on Thursday met with Almaty Governor Amandyk Batalov.

Noting the growing trend of relations between the two countries and historical and cultural commonalities, Faghani announced the readiness of different Iranian provinces to cooperate with Kazakhstan provinces in various fields.

Faghani also stated that the signing of a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with the Eurasian Economic Union by Iran, of which Kazakhstan is a member, and the two countries' presence on the Caspian Sea coast paves the way for the development of bilateral cooperation.

Referring to the talks between the presidents of Iran and Kazakhstan in 2016 as a basis for the development of bilateral relations, Amandyk Batalov noted that Almaty has good potential for cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fields of industry, agriculture, and tourism.

5th Episode of 8 ½ Theater Clips on COVID-19 Screened at Italian Embassy



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Embassy of Italy on Wednesday screened the 5th episode of "8 ½ Theater Clips. How COVID-19 Pandemic Changed Our Lives Video Series" with Italian Ambassador H.E. Giuseppe Perrone in attendance.

Addressing the guests in the screening of the video clip, Italian Ambassador H.E. Perrone explained the goals behind producing such video clips in the time of pandemic.

He then said "Alone" was the title of the fifth episode of the series "8 1/2 Theatre Clips. How Covid-19 Pandemic Changed Our Lives" which was , a virtual production by the Italian Embassy in Tehran in cooperation with the Italian theatre company 'Instabili Vaganti' and the Iranian company "Don Quixote".

The episode, directed by Anna Dorno in collaboration with Ali Shams and performed by Nicola Pianzola and Danial Kheirikhah on the musical notes by Riccardo Nanni, describes the absence of social interaction during the peak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The narrating voices in Farsi by Danial Kheirikhah and in Italian by Nicola Pianzola describe a "new normal" made of closed theatres and lonely performers. The powerful images of Kheirikhah looking for lost handshakes and hugs and of a confused Pianzola while standing on an empty stage without spectators in a Northern Italian small town theater, deliver a feeling of loneliness, emptiness and distance.

The theatre series is based on an original idea by the Italian Embassy in Tehran and "Instabili Vaganti".

The ambassador expressed hope that producing such video clips would boost cultural cooperation between both countries and also help the society come out of the isolation caused by the pandemic.

Meanwhile First Secretary of Italian Embassy Ms. Yaroslava Romanova briefed the guests in the screening of the episode, saying that three more episode are in the pipeline and the sixth episode will come late November.

She also noted that those who are interested to watch the other screened episodes can watch them on the social media addresses of the embassy. "Alone", as well as the previous episodes "Don't Call Me a Hero", "Notes of Absence", "The Night Shift" and "Beyond the Mirror", can be watched on YouTube, Twitter and Instagram channels of the Italian Embassy in Tehran, she added.

At the end of the screening of the episode, the participants exchanged views on the screened work as well as the current pandemic condition.

Meanwhile Iranian director of the episode Mr. Shakri briefed the participants of the goals behind making such videos.

Tehran, Damascus Review Ways to Implement Water Projects

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Energy Minister Qasem Taghizadeh Khamesi and his Syrian counterpart reviewed ways to implement MoUs in water field.

Taghizade Khamesi introduced potentials in water sector and the grounds for implementing major projects such as supplying, transferring, water and wastewater treatment, pumping equipment and desalination devices.

Meanwhile, the Syrian official voiced interest in taking advantage of Iran's capacities in water and waste water industry. Based on the MoU signed by both sides, problems of the Iranian companies in water and waste water field will be solved as soon as possible.

He added that Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous who had earlier been Water Resources Minister of Syria has followed up the issue.

He vowed that the Syrian side will take serious measures for removing impediments.

Cooperation in designing and implementing dam projects, irrigation and drainage networks, construction of water transmission lines in Syria by using the capacity of the private and public sectors, designing and constructing sewage treatment plants and water transmission and distribution networks and desalination plants in Syria, implementation of research plans, sharing experiences in water resources management are among the most important articles of the MoU.

Suga to Host Australian PM in First Visit by Foreign Leader

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison will travel to Tokyo next week to meet his Japanese counterpart Yoshihide Suga against the backdrop of increasing tensions with China.

Morrison said Thursday he was “honoured” to be the first foreign leader to pay an official visit to Japan since Suga took office in September.

“Our relationship with Japan over the past few years has really gone from strength to strength,” he told reporters in Canberra. “They are an important partner on so many issues within our region,” he said, naming trade, security and defence as key to the relationship.



Major Floods in Manila as Typhoon Batters Philippines

MANILA (AFP) - The third typhoon to hit the storm-battered Philippines in as many weeks caused major flooding in Manila on Thursday, trapping people on rooftops and claiming at least one life in another part of the country.

Authorities warned of landslides and potentially deadly storm surges along the coast.

Heavy rain effectively shut down Manila, the sprawling capital of 12 million people, and surrounding areas.



World Leaders and NGOs Press For Vaccine Cash at Paris Forum



PARIS (AFP) - European and world leaders on Thursday said insisted that when Covid-19 vaccines are launched they should be made an available to everyone, under an international project which still needs \$28 billion of funding.

“We aren’t going to beat the virus if we abandon part of humanity,” French President Emmanuel Macron told the Paris Peace Forum, which seeks concrete solutions to global issues.

The third edition of the forum is dedicated to finding ways to ease the pain caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The three-day international conference aims to raise more than \$500 million towards ensuring fair access to coronavirus tests, treatment and vaccines for all, including poor countries. It takes place as the number of cases is rising rapidly across Europe and beyond but with hopes rising for the roll-out of a coronavirus vaccine, perhaps even before the end of the year, Top U.S. government scientist Anthony Fauci said Thursday the coronavirus vaccine “cavalry” was on its way, bringing fresh hope as the world registered more than 10,000 deaths in just 24 hours, a record.

The world-leading expert on infectious diseases said that after this week’s much-trumpeted news that a vaccine developed by U.S.

drug giant Pfizer and Germany’s BioNTech was 90 percent effective, another is “literally on the threshold of being announced.”

During the online Paris forum, several countries are expected to announce funding for the so-called ACT-Accelerator, a mechanism led by the World Health Organization that aims to ensure access to tests, treatments and vaccines for all. In September, the United Nations estimated that the ACT-Accelerator had only received around \$3 billion of the \$38 billion needed to meet the goal of producing and delivering two billion vaccine doses, 245 million treatments and 500 million diagnostic tests over the next year.

On Thursday World Health Organization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said that a ‘financing gap’ of \$28.5 billion remains and that \$4.5 billion is urgently required ‘to maintain momentum’.

“The international community must ensure that fair and equitable access to a vaccine is ensured for everyone,” Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping exhorted world leaders to “put human life above everything... and provide a targeted and concerted response” to the health crisis.

Senegalese President Macky Sall asked for assurances that enough doses of a virus vaccine would be produced and would reach the poorest countries “which have the most need”.

Senegal, a poor nation with a population of about 16 million people, has so far been spared a large coronavirus outbreak.

Day one of the meeting saw France offer 100 million euros, with another 50 million euros pledged by Spain and 100 million euros from the European Commission. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation pledged \$70 million, bringing its total donations to \$226 million for the vaccine project. “We are talking about the largest public health effort in the history of the world and it won’t be inexpensive,” said Melinda Gates.

U.S., France Play Catch-Up On Karabakh After Russia Deploys Troops

MOSCOW (Reuters) - France and the United States are expected to send diplomats to Moscow soon to discuss the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, Russia said on Thursday, two days after the Kremlin deployed troops to the ethnic Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan to secure a truce.

The arrival on Tuesday of the peacekeepers to oversee the ceasefire between Azeri troops and ethnic Armenian forces in the enclave extends Russia’s military footprint among the former Soviet republics it views as its strategic back yard.

Moscow co-chairs an international group overseeing the Nagorno-Karabakh dispute with Washington and Paris, but they were not involved in the deal signed by Russia, Armenia and Azerbaijan to end six weeks of fighting over the enclave.

“By no means do we want to distance ourselves from our American and French colleagues,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said. “Moreover, we have invited them to Moscow. They will arrive within the next few days to discuss how they can contribute to the implementation of the achieved agreements.”

The accord, which locked in territorial gains by Azeri troops against ethnic Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh, triggered protests in Armenia calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan when it was announced early on Tuesday. Hundreds of protesters rallied for a third day in the Armenian capital Yerevan on Thursday chanting “Nikol is a traitor!” They then marched to the Security Service headquarters to demand the release of some opposition leaders and activists detained on Wednesday.

Pashinyan, elected in 2018 after street protests against alleged corruption ousted the former elite, said on Thursday he had signed the accord to secure peace and save lives. Armenians living nearer to Nagorno-Karabakh, which has reported more than 1,300 losses among its fighters, had mixed feelings but welcomed the small columns of Russian peacekeepers making their way to the enclave on Thursday.

“We are happy that peacekeepers came but at the same time we are sad that we are giving up that territory,” Armen Manjoyan, a 45-year-old driver, said outside the Armenian village of Yelpin between Yerevan and the Azeri border. “We all fought for it, but it turned out in vain,” he said. “I think it was not the right decision.”

“We will continue to strike with an iron fist against all those who want to harm our security and stability,” he said, according to the transcript of his speech published by the official Saudi Press Agency.

Prince Mohammed, the kingdom’s de facto ruler, warned those seeking to carry out jihadist acts of a “painful and severe punishment”.

Wednesday’s attack in Jeddah left at least two people wounded, including a Greek policeman and a Saudi official.

A British citizen was also believed to have been wounded.

Diplomats from France, Greece, Italy, Britain and the United States attended the Armistice Day commemoration ceremony in Jeddah, their embassies said, condemning the attack as “cowardly”.



Saudi Prince Vows Iron Fist Against Extremists

RIYADH (AFP) - Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledged Thursday to strike extremists with an “iron fist”, a day after a bombing against a gathering of Western diplomats was claimed by the Islamic State group.

A bomb blast struck a World War I commemoration at a non-Muslim cemetery in Jeddah on Wednesday, just two weeks after a guard at the French consulate in the Red Sea city was wounded by a knife-wielding Saudi citizen.

The attacks, which underscore Muslim fury over French satirical cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, come as Saudi Arabia prepares for the G20 leaders’ summit later this month -- the first to be hosted by an Arab nation.

“We will continue to confront any extremist... behavior and ideas,” Prince Mohammed said in an address to the Shura Council, the top government advisory body.

“We will continue to strike with an iron fist against all those who want to harm our security and stability,” he said, according to the transcript of his speech published by the official Saudi Press Agency.

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Amnesty Says Scores Dad in Ethiopia Massacre

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) - Amnesty International said Thursday that scores of civilians were killed in a “massacre” in Ethiopia’s Tigray region that witnesses blamed on forces backing the local ruling party in its fight against the federal government.

It was the first reported incident of large-scale civilian fatalities in a week-old conflict between the Tigray People’s Liberation Front (TPLF) party and the government of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, winner of last year’s Nobel Peace Prize.

The Amnesty report came the same day Abiy said government forces had made gains in western Tigray, and as thousands of Ethiopians continued to flee across the border into neighbouring Sudan, stoking fears of a humanitarian crisis.

“Amnesty International can today confirm... that scores, and likely hundreds, of people were stabbed or hacked to death in Mai-Kadra (May Cadera) town in the South West Zone of

Ethiopia’s Tigray Region on the night of 9 November,” the rights group said in a report.

Amnesty said it had “digitally verified gruesome photographs and videos of bodies strewn across the town or being carried away on stretchers.”

The dead “had gaping wounds that appear to have been inflicted by sharp weapons such as knives and machetes,” Amnesty said, citing witness accounts.

Witnesses said the attack was carried out by TPLF-aligned forces after a defeat at the hands of the Ethiopian military, though Amnesty said it “has not been able to confirm who was responsible for the killings”.

There was no immediate reaction from the TPLF, which dominated national politics for nearly three decades before Abiy took office in 2018.

Abiy ordered military operations in Tigray on November 4, saying they were prompted by a TPLF attack on federal military camps -- a claim the party denies.





Velenjak Apt (\$3000)
280sq.m, 4bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Darrous Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony
marble floor
Fully Furn

Parsian

(\$2300)
Darrous Apt
270sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, Sauna, J
balcony, & F.F

Farmanieh Apt (\$2400)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/pool, S, J
Large balcony, pkg, & F.F

(\$5000)
Elahieh bldg
5storey, 12bdrs
yard, storages
enough pkg lots

Vanak (\$1300)
2bdrs, 120sq.m, F.F

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Lufthansa Reaches Deal With Union to Cut Costs

BERLIN (Reuters) - German airline Lufthansa said it had reached a new deal with trade union Verdi to cut 200 million euros (£178 million) in costs in return for making no compulsory redundancies in 2021.

Lufthansa warned last week it would burn through more cash in the fourth quarter than in the third and that further restructuring measures would weigh on its

results as it struggles to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The airline and its subsidiaries, Eurowings, Swiss, Austrian and Brussels Airlines, are slashing their schedules, fleet and staff, with air travel not expected to recover to pre-pandemic levels before 2025. It aims to cut 22,000 full-time jobs.



Japan's Machinery Orders Fall, Clouding Outlook for Capital Spending Recovery

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's core machinery orders fell for the first time in three months in September and at faster than expected pace, denting hopes that a quick pickup in business spending could help the economy stage a brisk recovery from its COVID-19 crisis.

The decrease in core orders underscored corporate Japan's reluctance to commit to more capital investment as a resurgence in coronavirus infections darkened the outlook for global demand.

Core machinery orders, a highly volatile data series regarded as an indicator of capital spending in the coming six to nine months, lost 4.4% in September after a 0.2% rise in the previous month.

The drop, which marked the first decline since June, was much larger than a 0.7% contraction seen by economists in a Reuters poll.

"Production and exports are recovering at a fast pace, so corporate earnings are also likely to improve quite quickly," said Hideo Kumano, executive chief economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

"But with output dropping so much in the second quarter, firms remain cautious about capital spending."

Manufacturers expected core orders to fall 1.9% in October-December, after a 0.1% drop in the previous quarter that marked the fifth straight quarter of declines, the Cabinet Office data showed on Thursday.

Core orders were dragged down by lower spending on electrical measuring instruments and information services, such as communication networks, a government official said.

Japan's economy is gradually recovering from the shock of the coronavirus pandemic largely thanks to stronger overseas demand in recent months, which fuelled a pickup in output.

Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga instructed his cabinet on Tuesday to put together a package of stimulus measures focused on spurring structural change and boosting productivity and digitalisation.

But the prospect of deeper cuts in capital expenditure - or, at best, a slow recovery in capital spending - are clouding the outlook, analysts say.

By sector, orders from manufacturers rose 2.0%, boosted by food and beverages, while those from non-manufacturers advanced 3.2%. Both sectors' gains were due to a seasonal adjustment in the data, the government official said, even as overall core orders declined.

From a year earlier, core machinery orders, which exclude those for ships and electricity, slumped 11.5% in September, almost exactly matching an 11.6% decline expected by economists.

UK Economy Loses More Speed in September

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's economy, which has struggled to maintain its recovery from its coronavirus lockdown crash, grew by a slower than expected 1.1% in September from August, even before the latest restrictions on businesses, official data showed.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected a monthly growth rate of 1.5% in September.

In the July-September period, gross domestic product grew by a record 15.5% compared with the previous three months, the Office for National Statistics said. But that failed to make up for its nearly 20% crash in the second quarter, which included most of the period when the country was in the grip of its first coronavirus lockdown.

Last week, the Bank of England said the world's sixth-biggest economy was likely to shrink by a record 11% in 2020 before growing by just over 7% in 2021. However, since then news of a potentially effective COVID-19 vaccine has raised hopes that next year's bounce-back could be stronger than the BoE's forecast.

Britain's economy is being propped up by more than 200 billion pounds' worth of emergency spending and tax cuts ordered by finance minister Rishi Sunak and by the BoE's bond-buying programme which has been expanded to almost 900 billion pounds.

Despite the huge support, Britain's economy suffered the biggest drop among major economies in an ONS comparison. GDP remained almost 10% smaller than before the pandemic in the latest figures, twice as big as the falls in Italy, Germany and France and nearly three times the size of the drop in the United States, the ONS said. Sunak said steps taken to restrict the spread of COVID-19 had likely slowed economic growth since September.

IMF Eyes New Relationship With Biggest Shareholder After Biden Win

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The election of Joe Biden as U.S. president gives the International Monetary Fund a chance to reset its relationship with the United States, its largest shareholder, and make green initiatives a bigger part of its global economic recovery plan.

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva sent "personal" letters to President-elect Biden and running mate Kamala Harris this week, an IMF spokesman told Reuters, without providing any details about their contents.

Trump has mounted legal challenges to the election results, thus far without evidence, but the Fund typically shies away from publicly commenting on elections until they are concluded.

Sources familiar with Georgieva's goals say Biden's commitment to multilateral institutions and his pledge to re-enter the Paris climate agreement should help the IMF advance its own targets.

Biden's transition team did not respond to a question about communications with Georgieva and the IMF. One IMF source said that some member countries are hoping Biden will reconsider the Trump administration's opposition to new IMF resources, including a general allocation of new Special Drawing Rights that could boost members' currency reserves by hundreds of billions of dollars.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has opposed such measures, which were last deployed during the 2009 financial crisis when Biden was vice president. Mnuchin has also opposed a new increase in the IMF's quota resources that could boost the shareholding of China and other big emerging market countries, a move also executed when Biden was last in office.

"On SDR allocation, we certainly hope that it will be possible to return to the issue," the source said, adding that past experience shows that a new quota agreement will be complicated no matter which party holds the White House.

In nearly every speech, Georgieva also emphasizes the need to target fiscal stimulus spending to build a "greener, smarter and fairer" global economy while cutting emissions and building more inclusive societies - goals widely shared by the Biden team, whose transition slogan is "Build Back Better."

But the Trump administration has blocked inclusion of climate change in communiques issued by the Group of 20 major economies.

The IMF last month forecast the global economy would contract by 4.4% in 2020, returning to growth of 5.2% in 2021, with emerging markets other than China hit considerably harder.

Georgieva has also run into resistance in her push for the G20 to look beyond a debt freeze for the poorest countries to include heavily-indebted small island states and other countries hit hard by the pandemic and the collapse of tourism.

Gov'ts Uphold Support for Women's, Girls' Health, After Historic ICPD25 Nairobi Summit

TEHRAN (UNFPA) -- As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take a heavy toll on the health and economies of countries around the world, governments, non-governmental organizations, international financial institutions and the private sector are stepping up political, financial and in-kind support for programs that protect the health of women and girls in developing countries.

A year ago, at the landmark Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, the world came together to commit to

ending preventable maternal death, the unmet need for contraception, and gender-based violence and harmful practices like child marriage and female genital mutilation, by 2030. At that Summit, more than 8,000 delegates from 170 countries made 1,250 financial and other commitments in support of sexual and reproductive health.

Today, UNFPA, the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency, reports that major donor governments are already substantially delivering on the amounts they pledged in Nairobi. And some are even surpassing what they promised, demonstrating their steadfast commitment to the rights of women and girls at the time it is most needed.

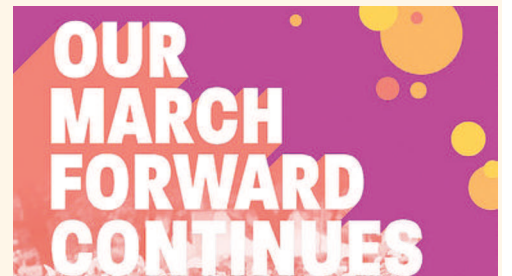
"The commitments made in Nairobi are more critical now than ever before. Far from dampening our ambition, COVID-19 has only sharpened our focus and resolve," says UNFPA Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem. "I am heartened to see so many government, private sector and civil society partners take bold steps to sustain our collective efforts and deliver on our promises to women and girls. As long as we stand together, we will prevail."

Civil society, the private sector, academia, and others rallied behind the cause on an unprecedented scale, pledging over \$8 billion towards achieving zero preventable maternal deaths, zero unmet need for family planning, and zero gender-based violence and harmful practices by 2030. Governments also announced major commitments, including:

***GBP 425 million (approx. USD 552 million) from the United Kingdom to UNFPA to boost supplies of contraceptives**

***Over NOK 11 billion (approx. USD 1.2 billion) from Norway for sexual and reproductive health in development and humanitarian settings between 2019 and 2025**

***EUR 20 million (approx. USD 23 million) from Germany for sexual and reproductive health, followed by EUR 30 million (approx. USD 35 million) for UNFPA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic**



***EUR 29 million (approx. USD 34 million) from the EU for adolescent sexual and reproductive health**

***DKK 100 million (approx. USD 16 million) from Denmark to UNFPA for sexual and reproductive health**

In September 2020, UNFPA established a High-Level Commission to ensure all the commitments made at the Nairobi Summit stay on track, even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Chaired by Jakaya Kikwete, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada, the Commission will make recommendations so that the momentum created in Nairobi continues towards a world of choices for all. "We will never lose sight of the world we are fighting for -- one of sexual and reproductive health for all," Dr. Kanem concluded.

Note: The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in Cairo in 1994 put individual choices at the heart of sustainable development - with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health for all, and women and girls in particular. Grounded in gender equality and human rights, the ICPD Programme of Action has guided the work of UNFPA in over 150 countries, including 36 countries in Asia and the Pacific through 22 country offices across the region and a Pacific Sub-Regional Office.

Indian Central Bank Data Point to First Ever Recession

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's economy probably shrank for a second straight quarter, according to a team of economists including Michael Patra, the central bank's deputy governor in charge of monetary policy, pushing the country into an unprecedented recession.

Gross domestic product contracted 8.6% in the quarter ended September, the Reserve Bank of India showed in its first ever published 'nowcast,' which is an estimate based on high-frequency data. The economy had slumped about 24% in April to June.

"India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history," the authors wrote. The government is due to publish official statistics Nov. 27. The median forecast in a Bloomberg survey of economists sees a contraction of 10.4% in the July-September quarter.

The Reserve Bank's number is buoyed by cost cuts at companies, which boosted operating profits even as sales dipped. The team of authors also used a range of indicators from vehicle sales to flush banking liquidity to signal brightening prospects for October. If this upturn is sustained, the Indian economy will return to growth in the October-December quarter, earlier than projected by Governor Shaktikanta Das last month, when he pledged to keep monetary policy accommodative.

However, "there is a grave risk of generalization of price pressures, unanchoring of inflation expectations feeding into a loss of credibility in policy interventions," the team of economists wrote in the Reserve Bank's bulletin. They also highlighted risks to global growth from a second wave of coronavirus infections.



"Lurking around the corner is the third major risk -- stress intensifying among households and corporations that has been delayed but not mitigated, and could spill over into the financial sector," the economists concluded. "We live in challenging times."

Consumers cut back on spending as millions lost their jobs, preferring instead to squirrel away cash. Preliminary estimates presented in the central bank's bulletin showed a jump in household financial savings to 21.4% of GDP in April-June, up from 7.9% in the same period a year ago and 10% in January-March. The bulk of these savings are bank deposits.

"The trend of higher than usual household financial savings can persist for some time till the pandemic recedes and consumption levels get normalized," the RBI's Sanjay Kumar Hansda, Anupam Prakash and Anand Prakash Ekka wrote, adding that this could taper as the virus curve flattens and economic activity revives.

Iran Defeat Bosnia 2-0 in Friendly

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian National Football Team gained a 2-0 win against Bosnia and Herzegovina in a friendly match staged in Sarajevo on Thursday.

Showing a promising performance, Team Melli acquired its second consecutive victory under the tutelage of Croatian coach Dragan Skocic. Iran had won Uzbekistan 2-1 in a friendly on October 28 in Tashkent.

Charleroi's striker Kave Rezaei found the net seconds into the second half with a left-foot shot from inside the box. The second goal was scored by Mehdi Ghaedi in the injury time.



Erdogan Vows to Win Trust of Investors After Lira Plunge

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has vowed to turn over a new leaf with investors after concerns over the country's economic policies sent the lira tumbling to a record low earlier this month.

Speaking after a dramatic overhaul of the country's economic management, Mr Erdogan said Turkey would "swallow a bitter pill" if necessary to improve the economy, and promised to foster a better environment for local and international investors.

"In the period ahead, we will be more focused on earning trust and credibility in our economic policies, and we will bring down the country's risk premium," he said in a speech to members of parliament from his ruling party. "We will make things easier for foreign and local investors and provide them with support by viewing their gain as our gain."

Mr Erdogan, who abruptly replaced Turkey's central bank governor over the weekend, and this week accepted the resignation of his son-in-law Berat Albayrak as finance minister, said that Ankara planned a series of meetings with investors.

He insisted he would support the central bank in "every step that it takes" to tackle inflation, despite having sacked a previous central bank governor last year because he "wouldn't follow instructions".

The Turkish president, who is a life-long opponent of high interest rates, also appeared to repeat his unconventional belief that high borrowing costs cause rather than curb inflation. "Don't forget: interest is the cause, inflation is the result," he said. "We will overcome this."

Turkish markets rallied strongly in response to his comments. The Turkish lira, which had fallen through a succession of record lows in the weeks prior to the recent shake-up, climbed more than 3 per cent to 7.87 to the dollar. The Bist 100 stock index climbed 3.3 per cent.

The currency is still down 25 per cent this year, reflecting concerns about Turkey's handling of its economy and financial markets.

The Turkish central bank's reluctance to raise interest rates even as inflation has remained high and the currency has plunged has been a key driver of the decline, analysts say.

Turkish authorities also on Wednesday eased curbs on foreign investors' ability to trade the lira in an attempt to signal a change of direction after months of interventionism that shook the confidence of investors.



The banking regulator said it would reduce restrictions on derivatives transactions between local banks and foreign investors, in which the lira is traded for foreign currencies such as the dollar, euro and yen.

Derivatives such as swaps and options are a common way traders are able to bet on a currency without having to trade it outright.

Earlier this year, Turkey placed tight limitations on derivatives in a move analysts said was aimed at making it very difficult to bet against the currency. It had the side-effect of effectively freezing the market — something that was deeply unsettling for many local and foreign investors.

Enver Erkan, an economist at Istanbul-based Tera Investments, described Wednesday's decision by Turkey's banking regulator as a step towards "normalisation" that would ease "the squeezed liquidity in the market".

"This will also increase investor confidence before the November 19 [central bank meeting] in which transition to orthodox monetary policy and interest rate hike is expected," he said.

Wednesday's move marks the second time the restrictions have been eased, after a similar decision in late September.

China-Backed Trade Deal to Be Signed at Southeast Asian Summit



BEIJING (Dispatches) - Fifteen Asia-Pacific nations are set to sign an enormous free trade deal at an online summit that started Thursday, with the pact seen as a coup for China in extending its influence across the region.

Once signed, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) will be the world's largest trade pact in terms of GDP, according to analysts.

The pact, which was first proposed in 2012 and viewed as a Chinese-led rival to a now-defunct US trade initiative, loops in 10 Southeast Asian economies along with China, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Australia.

"After eight years of negotiating with blood, sweat and tears, we have finally come to the moment where we will seal the RCEP Agreement this Sunday," said Malaysia's trade minister Mohamed Azmin Ali, ahead of the virtual meeting.

Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc also confirmed the pact would be signed this week during opening remarks at the online summit.

India had been due to sign the pact but pulled out last year over concerns about cheap Chinese goods entering the country, though it can join at a later date if it reverses its position.

The RCEP -- whose members account for around 30 percent of global GDP -- would be a "major positive step forward for trade and investment liberalisation" in the region, said Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist at global business consultancy IHS Markit.

"RCEP will be the world's biggest free trade area measured in terms of GDP," he told AFP.

The pact's expected signing comes as the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) fight to mitigate the crippling cost of the coronavirus, which has ravaged their economies and left many battling a severe public health crisis.

The pact is also seen as a mechanism for China to draft the rules of Asia-Pacific trade, following years of U.S. retreat under President Donald Trump.

"It certainly lends advantage to China's geopolitical ambitions," said Alexander Capri, a trade expert at the National University of Singapore Business School.

But U.S. President-elect Joe Biden may engage more actively with the region, Capri added, in much the same way as former President Barack Obama did.

"Think of the Biden administration as sort of a continuation of the Obama administration, certainly when it comes to the pivot to Asia," he said.

While the region waits to see how its relationship with the U.S. will unfold, it is battling several other thorny issues -- including disputes over the South China Sea.

Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 Vaccine Is 92% Effective

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's Sputnik V vaccine is 92% effective at protecting people from COVID-19 according to interim trial results, the country's sovereign wealth fund said on Wednesday (11 November), as Moscow rushes to keep pace with Western drugmakers in the race for a shot, writes Polina Ivanova.



The initial results are only the second to be published from a late-stage human trial in the global effort to produce vaccines that could halt a pandemic that has killed more than 1.2 million people and ravaged the world economy. Russia registered its COVID-19 vaccine for public use in August, the first country to do so, though the approval came before the start of the large-scale trial in September.

"We are showing, based on the data, that we have a very effective vaccine," said RDIF head Kirill Dmitriev, adding that it was the sort of news that the vaccine's developers would talk about one day with their grandchildren. The interim results are based on data from the first 16,000 trial participants to receive both shots of the two-dose vaccine, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which has been backing the vaccine and marketing it globally, said.

The interim analysis was conducted after 20 participants in the trial developed COVID-19 and examined how many had received the vaccine versus a placebo. That is significantly lower than the 94 infections in the trial of a vaccine being developed by Pfizer Inc and BioNTech. To confirm the efficacy rate, Pfizer said it would continue its trial until there were 164 COVID-19 cases.

The Russian trial will continue for six more months, RDIF said in a statement, and data from the trial will also be published in a leading international medical journal following a peer review.

The so-called Phase III trial of the shot developed by the Gamaleya Institute is taking place in 29 clinics across Moscow and will involve 40,000 volunteers in total, with a quarter receiving a placebo shot. The chances of contracting COVID-19 were 92% lower among people vaccinated with Sputnik V than those who received the placebo, the RDIF said. That's well above the 50% effectiveness threshold for COVID-19 vaccines set by the

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Russia's announcement follows swiftly on from results posted on Monday by Pfizer and BioNTech BNTX.O, who said their shot was also more than 90% effective.

The Pfizer and BioNTech vaccine uses messenger RNA (mRNA) technology and is designed to trigger an immune response without

using pathogens, such as actual virus particles. The Sputnik V vaccine is designed to trigger a response from two shots administered 21 days apart each based on different viral vectors that normally cause the common cold: human adenoviruses Ad5 and Ad26.

The drug is named Sputnik V after the Soviet-era satellite that triggered the space race, a nod to the project's geopolitical importance for Putin. Russia is also testing a different vaccine, produced by the Vector Institute in Siberia, and is on the cusp of registering a third, Putin said on Tuesday, adding that all of the country's vaccines were effective. "Studies have already shown and confirmed that, firstly, these vaccines are safe and have no serious side effects after use, and secondly, they are all effective," the RIA news agency quoted Putin as saying.

RDIF said no serious side effects had been reported during the Sputnik V Phase III trial so far. Successful vaccines are seen as a crucial to restoring daily life around the world by helping end the health crisis that shuttered businesses and put millions out of work. Russia registered the vaccine for domestic use in August, prior to the start of the large-scale trial, and has also inoculated 10,000 people considered at high risk of COVID-19 outside of the trial.

Putin has said that Russia expects to start mass vaccinations by the end of the year. "The publication of the interim results of the post-registration clinical trials that convincingly demonstrate Sputnik V vaccine's efficacy gives way to mass vaccination in Russia against COVID-19 in the coming weeks," Alexander Gintsburg, director of the Gamaleya Institute, said. Moscow is rolling out a large network of vaccination rooms and residents who want the shot may be able to get it as early as next month if large volumes of doses are supplied by then, Deputy Mayor Anastasia Rakova said on 30 October.

U.S. Envoy Sees...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran denies it ever pursued nuclear weapons research and has continued working with inspectors, even after the U.S. abandoned its commitments. Yet since May 2018, the country's store of low-enriched uranium has risen eight-fold, complicating pledges by President-elect Joe Biden to re-enter the agreement if Iran returns to compliance. Abrams dismissed concerns that Trump may be planning to launch military action against Iran, saying the so-called "maximum pressure" economic strategy had created "an enormous amount of leverage" for the next occupant of the White House.

The New York Times has pondered whether Trump's post-election appointment of Pentagon officials who back more aggressive action against Iran made covert or overt military action more likely in the remaining weeks of his presidency. "There will be a negotiation no matter who's president of the United States in 2021," Abrams said of relations with Iran. He declined to answer questions over the handover of power following the Nov. 3 election as Trump refuses to concede.

Why Is Trump Right?

FROM PAGE 1

Every president during his term collects some information and documents as some of them are archived in his private library and some other are destroyed. Every president has properties that he may not want to be revealed after he leaves the power. Trump does not know that he is not the first and he will not be the last president who does it.



Imagination of how much the dimension and volume of these documents is will depend on the power of imagination of the people. If Trump is determined to rein the power, although it is difficult task but not impossible for the one who is the commander of the armed forces and law enforcement.

Pretexts like rigging in counting of some 70m votes and almost votes of 50 percent of Americans, and arousing the people to take emotional actions like what has happened in the color revolutions like bringing supporters into the streets, creating riots in the cities and even killing scenario and resorting to pretexts for charging the opposite side and innovating hundreds of ways for convincing the supporters, all and all can be named as tools of materializing his viewpoint and even justice-seeking. And it is just enough these incidents to happen in two months or even to prolong in order that, for example, Trump would reach his legal right or even fulfill his imaginations.

Tehran Urges Saudi Arabia...

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"By making a lot of efforts and investment in this field, the Islamic Republic of Iran has secured significant achievements and, at the moment, uses nuclear energy in the domains of power generation, medicine, agriculture and industry," said Iran's UN envoy.

"From the Islamic Republic of Iran's standpoint, the IAEA's verification duty, as stipulated in the agency's statute, should be fulfilled in such a way that it does not eclipse member states' inalienable right to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy," he said.

He underscored even proliferation concerns should not restrict member states' entitlement to peaceful use of nuclear energy. "Accordingly, any attempts to restrict the peaceful use of nuclear energy should be rejected," he said. He further said that last year, 22 percent of the IAEA's total inspections were conducted in Iran. "Even at the height of the coronavirus outbreak, the agency's activities in Iran did not stop," said the ambassador.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Takht-Ravanchi touched upon the United States' illegal withdrawal from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The U.S. pullout from the JCPOA and the re-imposition of illegal sanctions against Iran and the United States' failure to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 2231 have kept the Islamic Republic of Iran from enjoying the rights stipulated in the resolution," Takht-Ravanchi noted. "The JCPOA, as an important multilateral accomplishment which enjoys unflinching international support, is under intense pressure due to the United States' unilateral actions," he said.

IAEA New Report...

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In addition, the report indicates Iran's recent decision to relocate R&D centrifuges underground in Natanz and states that Iran has declared that it will consider safeguard requirements.

The ambassador and permanent representative of our country added: "the IAEA report has announced the amount of Iran's uranium reserves as of November 2, is about 2442.9 kg, which is equal to about 3600 kg of low-enriched uranium."

Also regarding the report's reference to the results of the IAEA's visit to one of the places in 2018, Gharibabadi said that despite the differences in our technical views with the IAEA, interactions in this area between the two sides with the aim of resolving the issue are still ongoing and any hasty comments should be avoided. The IAEA had previously made claims about what it called undeclared nuclear activities in places in Iran.

Following the U.S. unilateral and illegal withdrawal from the JCPOA, Iran sought to maintain the nuclear deal, if the other parties to the agreement remained committed.

But after nearly two years and the inability of European parties to meet their commitments, Iran began steps to reduce its commitments over 60-day periods in order to maintain economic benefits.

However, on Wednesday, September 26, 2020, at the end of the visit of Rafael Grossi Director-General of the Agency to Tehran and negotiations with Iranian officials, the two sides agreed to further strengthen their cooperation and build mutual trust in order to facilitate the full implementation of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and the Additional Protocol, which has been provisionally implemented by Iran since January 16, 2016.

Liverpool's Gomez Out for Significant Part of Season

LONDON (Reuters) - Liverpool defender Joe Gomez will miss a "significant part" of the rest of the season after having surgery on his left knee, the Premier League champions said on Thursday. Gomez sustained the injury during a training session with England on Wednesday and was withdrawn from the squad before Thursday's friendly against Ireland. Liverpool said in a statement that Gomez had undergone surgery to repair a tendon in his left knee, with "no damage to any other associated knee ligaments".

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Milivojevic Out of Euro Playoff After Positive COVID-19 Test

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Serbia midfielder Luka Milivojevic has tested positive for COVID-19 and will miss their Euro 2020 playoff clash at home to Scotland later on Thursday. The 29-year-old Crystal Palace captain, who has 38 caps, tested positive on Monday after arriving at the national team's training centre in Stara Pazova from England and a follow-up test was also positive, said the Serbia Football Federation. "He will stay in Serbia in accordance with current laws of the Republic of Serbia related to the COVID-19 pandemic," the federation statement added.

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SPORTS

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2020

Ronaldo Inches Towards Int'l Goals Record

LISBON (Dispatches) - Finland spoiled Marcus Thuram's party on Wednesday after beating France 2-0 on the day the Borussia Moenchengladbach attacker emulated his father Lilian Thuram by making his debut for Les Bleus. Thuram was picked by Didier Deschamps for the friendly at the Stade de France over 22 years after his dad won the World Cup at the same ground, but despite a strong performance on the left wing could not stop the Finns from coming out on top. The 23-year-old hit the bar with less 15 minutes gone and soon after flashed a difficult volley over as he and Lucas Digne caused continual problems down the left flank for the away side. However, Marcus Forss stunned the hosts when he collected the ball after a Moussa Sissoko mistake and rammed home at Steve Mandanda's near post. France barely had any time to react before Onni Valakari doubled the away side's lead with a stunning effort after being left to stroll towards goal. Deschamps brought on Antoine Griezmann, Anthony Martial and N'Golo Kante just before the hour mark but could not break down the well-organised Finns. The result will disappoint Deschamps but he will likely have been happy with the performance of Thuram, who made more of an impression than some of the more established international players on display, including Paul Pogba and Olivier Giroud. "It was a good first half despite the goals," Thuram told TV channel M6. "I'm trying to learn a lot alongside the other internationals... and to gain as much experience as possible. I hope that will continue." He could be in contention for World Cup holders France's upcoming Nations League matches against European champions Portugal and Sweden. Deschamps said last week that the son of his old France teammate had "gone up a level" since joining Moenchengladbach from French side Guingamp in July 2019. Thuram has scored three times in 11 appearances for the Bundesliga side this season and was



Cristiano Ronaldo continued his quest to snatch the all-time record for most international goals when he struck his 102nd Portugal goal in their in a 7-0 win over Andorra. France's opponents on Saturday in what could be a Nations League A, Group 3 decider strolled past their weak opponents in Lisbon despite not starting a single player from the team that beat Sweden 3-0 last month. Ronaldo missed that match after testing positive for coronavirus and was introduced at half-time on Wednesday, but had to wait until there were only five minutes remaining to boost his record bid with a close-range header. Former Iran striker Ali Daei holds the record on 109 goals. Italy extended their unbeaten streak to 20 games after a second-string line-up comfortably beat Estonia a 4-0. Vincenzo Grifo scored his first senior international goal with a long-range drive in the 14th minute and Federico Bernardeschi put the hosts two goals ahead 13 minutes later when he drifted in from the right and crashed a low shot past Marko Meerits in the Estonia goal. Grifo stepped up and scored his second from the penalty spot when Roberto Gagliardini was tripped with 15 minutes remaining and Riccardo Orsolini added a fourth also from the spot four minutes from the end to complete the rout. Frank de Boer's wait for a first win as Netherlands coach goes on after his team drew 1-1 with Spain in a friendly in Amsterdam on Wednesday. De Boer has now gone four matches without a victory since being appointed in September to succeed Ronald Koeman, who left to take over at Barcelona. A first-half goal by Benfica striker Luca Waldschmidt sealed Germany a 1-0 win over the Czech Republic, while two Michy Batshuayi goals helped Belgium to a 2-1 victory over Switzerland.

Maradona Leaves Hospital Following Surgery

Buenos Aires (Dispatches) - Argentine football legend Diego Maradona left hospital followed by a convoy of supporters, eight days after undergoing surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain. Maradona did not speak to the crowd of journalists and chanting fans gathered outside in masks as he left the Olivos clinic in Buenos Aires by ambulance shortly after his doctor Leopoldo Luque told reporters he could go home. Private security personnel held up dividers to screen the ambulance before it left. A convoy of Maradona's supporters followed the ambulance after dozens had waited outside the clinic for days, holding photos of him and chanting their encouragement. One banner read "Eternally Thanks." Luque had earlier published on Instagram a photo of himself hugging the 60-year-old, who wore a bandage on his head. Maradona is expected to continue his rehabilitation in Tigre, 30 kilometers (19 miles) north of Buenos Aires, near his daughter Giannina's home. "Diego has gone through perhaps the hardest time of his life," his lawyer Matias Morla said earlier Wednesday, adding it was a "miracle" that the clot "which could have taken his life, was detected."

Djokovic Leads Cast as London Bids Farewell to ATP Finals

LONDON (Reuters) - It will not be the party envisaged as London bids farewell to the ATP Finals but despite the strangest of circumstances the season-ender should provide an upbeat note on which to finish a difficult year for tennis. The ATP's blue-riband event has proved a huge success since it switched to London's cavernous O2 Arena in 2009, drawing sell-out crowds to watch the world's top eight singles players and doubles pairs go head-to-head. Last year nearly 250,000 fans flocked to the Thames-side dome over the eight days of the tournament won by Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas. This time, with London in COVID-19 lockdown, the 20,000-seater arena will be eerily empty, barring the players, their coaches, tournament officials and a smattering of media. Players must live in a strict 'bubble' and even line judges will be missing, replaced by the Hawk-eye live system used recently at the U.S. Open. In these straitened times prize money has also been slashed from last year's total pot of \$9 million to \$5.7 million with an undefeated champion to pocket \$1.56 million compared to the \$2.6 million Tsitsipas earned despite losing one round-robin match. Not that cash will be the motivator for world number one Novak Djokovic, Rafa Nadal, Dominic Thiem, Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev, Alexander Zverev and debutants Andrey Rublev and Diego Schwartzman when the tournament's 50th edition starts on Sunday. Serbian Djokovic, 33, is guaranteed to end the year as number one for a sixth time, equalling Pete Sampras's record. But the last of his five titles at the year-ender came in 2015 and, after his recent default in the U.S. Open and thrashing by Nadal in the French Open final he will be eager to put the year to bed with a powerful statement. Djokovic, denied the chance to defend his Wimbledon title this year when it was cancelled for the first time since World War II, can match the absent Roger Federer's six ATP Finals titles. Nadal, incredibly, still awaits his first.

Hulk Nears China Exit



SHANGHAI (AFP) - Hulk looks to have played his last game in the Chinese Super League after the Brazilian striker wrote a message of thanks to his club Shanghai SIPG and football in the country. The 34-year-old former international signed from Russian side Zenit Saint Petersburg in July 2016 for a reported 55.8 million euros and went on to score 75 goals in 142 matches for SIPG. However, the physically imposing forward was reported as telling Brazilian media in July that he would not remain with the club when his contract finishes at the end of this year. Writing on social media, Hulk said: "I want to express all my pride, affection, gratitude and respect for Chinese football."

"I arrived in China in 2016 and since then I have always been very well treated and respected by all." Hulk, who has played 48 times for Brazil, scoring 11 goals, captained SIPG to their only CSL crown, in 2018, alongside former Chelsea star Oscar. However, the former Porto player found himself on the bench at times in recent matches as the Shanghai club finished fourth in the league. He started Wednesday's clash with Beijing Guoan but failed to score in a 1-1 draw, in what was his 100th CSL appearance and SIPG's final match of the league campaign. SIPG will now compete in the Asian Champions League in Qatar, in what Hulk will hope is a triumphant finale to his spell. "Thank you to everyone at the club," he wrote in his Weibo post before Wednesday's game, adding: "(And) to the fans who have always had affection and respect for me."

Footballers Are Just Puppets for UEFA and FIFA

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany midfielder Toni Kroos feels that footballers are just "puppets" used by governing bodies FIFA and UEFA and are powerless in discussions about competitions such as the Nations League or a possible new European Super League. "At the end of the day, as players we're just puppets for all these new things which are invented by FIFA and UEFA. Nobody asks us," Kroos said in his podcast 'Einfach mal Luppen'. Kroos, who made his 100th appearances for Germany last month, is in the squad for Wednesday's friendly against the Czech Republic as well as Nations League matches against Ukraine and Spain. The 2014 World Cup winner feels if players had more say they "wouldn't be playing in the Nations League, nor a Spanish Super Cup in Saudi Arabia, nor a Club World Cup with 20 or more teams." The Real Madrid star said he feels such tournaments are planned "to suck out everything financially, and, of course, physically from every single player - and then some." Last month, outgoing Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu claimed a European Super League could soon become a reality. Kroos said a league comprising Europe's top 18 clubs would be "a very, very interesting thing in sporting terms" which would generate large television audiences, but it risks widening the gap between the continent's elite and the rest.



Barcelona to Sue Neymar After Allegedly Overpaying Him

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona will sue Neymar for 10.2 million euros (\$12 million) that they believe they overpaid the Brazilian during his time at the club, according to a report in El Mundo. Barcelona will sue Neymar for 10.2 million euros (\$12 million) that they believe they overpaid the Brazilian during his time at the club, according to a report in El Mundo on Wednesday. Neymar enjoyed a successful spell at Barca between 2013 and 2017 before joining Paris Saint-Germain for 222 million euros, a world record fee. But according to Spanish newspaper El Mundo, an inspection from the tax office in Spain showed Barcelona "did not make the appropriate reductions when paying Neymar's taxes, according to an inspection carried out on Barcelona which lasted until 2015". The tax office in Spain calculates Neymar benefitted from "unfair enrichment", the report added. A Barcelona source confirmed to AFP the club will now seek to reclaim the amount they are owed. Neymar has more unpaid tax with the Spanish authorities than any other person, with debts of 34.6 million euros, according to an official document released in September. Spain's fiscal authorities are also reportedly investigating two of Neymar's transfers, including his arrival at Camp Nou from Brazilian team Santos in 2013 and his historic switch to PSG four years later. In between, Neymar also signed a new contract with the Catalans in 2016, featuring a 26-million-euro loyalty bonus that Barca refused to pay after he left for the Parc des Princes. A Spanish court ruled in favour of the club in June and told Neymar to pay 6.79 million euros to Barcelona.

