

Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari Said on Monday That Some 453 More Iranians Have Died From the Coronavirus Disease Over the Past 24 Hours Bringing the Total Deaths to 45,255

IRAN NEWS

The Director of the Virology Department of Iran's Pasteur Institute Announced That Most Likely, The Iranian Vaccine Will Be Distributed In the Market by Next Summer

VOL. XXVI, No. 7099 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2020 - AZAR 4, 1399

2 DOMESTIC

Tehran Firm in Defending Syrian Security in Region



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Iran to Connect Afghanistan to Int'l Markets



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Thousands March In Belarus Opposition Rally in Minsk



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Medvedev Fights Back To Claim ATP Finals Title



> SEE PAGE 8

Int'l Justice Against U.S. Over Medical Sanctions

TEHRAN (IRNA) - A senior official at Iran's Ministry of Health and Medical Education said on Monday that Iran will lodge a complaint against US with the International Court of Justice over medical sanctions.

The medical sanctions have caused losses to people's health, Taher Mouhebaty told IRNA at a virtual press conference.

Documents have been given to vice-president for legal affairs, and the Government will lodge the complaint with international justice against the U.S. over blocking Iran from access to life support system and medical supplies amid corona pandemic, Mouhebaty said.

He said that the Vice-president for legal affairs will take legal action with the International Court of Justice against the U.S. medical sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani termed the U.S. move to block Iranian access to emergency and medical supplies as "medical terrorism".

Iranian officials say the U.S. blocked Iranian access to life support system and medical supplies whereas it claims advocacy of human rights.

Tehran Calls for Closer Transport Among ESCAP Member States

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran has called for closer transport cooperation among member states of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Speaking at the sixth session of ESCAP's Committee on Transport held in the Thai capital of Bangkok, Iran's delegate Hajjarzadeh highlighted the necessity of paying attention to the objectives of sustainable development in the transport sector.

Hajjarzadeh, who is the Iranian Ministry of Roads and Transportation's representative to ESCAP, proposed several plans, namely the "establishment of a land link between Asia and Europe" and "policies to boost the sustenance of the global supply chain."

He also introduced projects on the construction of highways and dry ports based on the country's comprehensive transport plan as well as the test document for the logistics centres across the nation. It was then decided that Iran's proposals to improve highway, rail and dry port networks be sent to the Secretariat of ESCAP to be reviewed. **See Page 7**

Human Rights a Politicized Tool Used Against Independent States



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Judiciary Chief said that Canada violates human rights and is a haven for the corrupt and criminals, adding that countries have realized that human rights have become seriously politicized and have become a tool to put pressure on independent countries.

Judiciary Chief Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ebrahim Raisi at a session of the Supreme Judicial Council said that the majority of countries did not agree with the so-called UN human rights resolution against Iran, which was founded by Canadians and, as usual, was supported by the United States, the Zionist regime and some Western countries.

"The United Nations is at odds with the Islamic Republic's fight against drugs and traffickers, and on one hand it appreciates our actions and on the other hand it issues a resolution against us," Raisi said.

"If we stop drug trafficking control and inspection, drugs will pervade all of Europe and the United States," he said. Raisi added as long as Basij is present and the spirit of Basij prevails in Iran, the enemy will not threaten this country. He noted: "The spirit of the Basij can help the judiciary in advancing its missions in crime prevention, social pathology, harm elimination, dispute resolution and correction of criminals."

Raisi stated that the mobilization of lawyers can help the judiciary in advancing its missions by educating the public and raising the legal awareness of the people.

The head of the judiciary added: "In any sector where the spirit of the Basij prevails, that sector will be efficient and successful, and we can overcome all the problems, conspiracies and seditious of the enemies."

Raisi said: "Today, our medical and nursing staff has risen to fight the coronavirus and help the people with the spirit of Basij."

He also hailed Iran's medical sector's personnel for their endeavors to help people to overcome the Coronavirus, and recommended health ministry officials to stay away from being involved in recent disputes. He also called for a collective work in the health ministry in using all research and scientific capacities for protecting the lives of the people.

Iran Uranium Enrichment Work Enters New Phase

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's permanent representative to international organizations Kazem Gharibabadi says the country has taken a new step in its uranium enrichment activities.

Iran's latest step under its commitments stipulated in the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was to inject the uranium hexafluoride (UF6) gas into IR-2M centrifuges, which was discussed at a seasonal meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Afterwards, the European Troika (France, Britain and Germany) once again issued a statement against Iran and accused Tehran of breaching the JCPOA.

Meanwhile, referring to the IAEA's recent reports, US President Donald Trump called for an attack against Iran, an irrational demand which was met with opposition.

In an interview the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Gharibabadi has weighed on these developments as well as other relevant issues.

Gharibabadi said Tehran adopts its positions on the IAEA and safeguards issues at the seasonal meetings of the IAEA's Board of Directors based on three criteria: reports by the IAEA's director general, the status of the implementation of the obligations of the other signatories to the nuclear deal, and countries' stances at the Board meeting.

"As the topic of discussions at the meeting is Iran, we generally elaborate on our stances as the last speaker, so that we would be able to show the necessary reaction to the issues brought up by countries present at the meeting," he said. At the meeting, Gharibabadi said, the three European countries expressed regret over the United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA and the reimposition of sanctions against Iran.

"They also presented a long list of criticisms and concerns about Iran's scaling down its JCPOA commitments, calling on Iran to return to the full implementation of its obligations," Gharibabadi noted. He said the serious challenges facing the JCPOA include Washington's unilateral and illegal pullout from the deal, the reimposition of sanctions and Europe's inaction to compensate for this situation.

"This comes as Iran remained fully and effectively committed to all its obligations for one year after the U.S. withdrew from the agreement," he said. Gharibabadi slammed the Europeans for simply expressing regret over Washington's pullout but taking no action. "And when it comes to Iran, their voice serious concern over Iran's reciprocal measures which are in keeping with the IAEA's provisions," he noted. **See Page 7**

Zarif to Attend 2020 Afghanistan Conference

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will take part in the virtual 2020 Afghanistan Conference in Geneva, according to Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

Khatibzadeh said on Monday the Geneva conferences for Afghanistan are held once in every four years with a focus on the commitment of world countries to establishment of peace and stability in Afghanistan and its development.

66 countries and 32 international organizations are expected to attend this year's conference, which will be held virtually because of the COVID-19 restrictions.

The quadrennial ministerial pledging conference is co-hosted by Afghanistan, Finland, and the United Nations, and will take place on November 23 and 24.

The conference is an important opportunity for Afghanistan and the international community to commit to common objectives for promoting sustainable development, prosperity and peace in the country, according to UNAMA.

Iran Has No Ethnic View of Regional Conflicts

TEHRAN (MNA) –Iranian Ambassador to Turkey said that Islamic Republic of Iran does not have an ethnic view of the regional conflict, referring to a recent conflict erupted between Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia over Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Addressing a session titled "Iran's Attitude towards Azerbaijan-Armenia Conflict and Tehran's policies in the Caucasus", which was held at the Turkish Institute of Strategic Thinking on October 14, Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Farazmand said the outbreak of recent conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has made public opinion "very sensitive" in Turkey.

He added that given the slogan "One Nation, Two Countries" and the special relationship between Ankara and Azerbaijan, some Turkish media outlets, in the early days of the outbreak of war between Azerbaijan and Armenia, created a negative atmosphere against Iran by spreading false news and increased pressure on Tehran consequently. **See Page 7**

35m Tons of Petrochemicals Produced in 7 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) – Islamic Republic of Iran produced 35 million tons of petrochemical products in the seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to Oct. 22).

Despite tough sanctions imposed by the United States against Iran and also the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, COVID-19, Iran's petrochemical output registered more than eight percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

The petrochemical industry has the highest added value among other industries affiliated with oil and gas worldwide.

Since the petrochemical industry turns crude and raw materials into high-consumption and expensive products, it has the ability to yield and inject more income into the country.

The most important point is that not only petrochemical industry did not reduce its production volume despite US sanctions imposed on the country and also spread of COVID-19, but also it could register an eight price growth in the seven months of the current year (from Mar. 21 to Oct. 22). **See Page 7**

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department
021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

FM Holds Talks with His New Syrian Counterpart

TEHRAN (IFP) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif had a telephone conversation with his Syrian counterpart Faisal Mekdad on Sunday.

During the phone call, the Iranian top diplomat congratulated Mekdad on being appointed as the Foreign Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic.

He once again offered condolences on the demise of Walid al-Muallem, the former foreign minister of Syria, and underlined the continuation of strategic cooperation between Tehran and Damascus.

Tehran Firm in Defending Syrian Security in Region

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker's Special Aide for International Affairs said that Iran continues to defend Syria and its security in the region with great power.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in his meeting with the UN Special Envoy for Syria Geir O. Pedersen on Monday.

During the meeting, Amir-Abdollahian said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the efforts of the United Nations and its measures to help preserve Syria's territorial integrity, national sovereignty and the return of lasting security to this country."

"Unfortunately, some dangerous terrorist groups are trying to get removed from the UN blacklist of terrorists by changing their names, so adopting an impartial UN approach and not witnessing double standards is of great importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

"We believe that in the work of the Constitutional Committee, all parties are responsible and should be held accountable," Amir-Abdollahian highlighted, adding, "Blaming the Syrian government is in conflict with the policy of neutrality."

He called the imposition of sanctions on Syria, especially in the areas of medicine, medical equipment and food, cruel, stressing the need to take action to lift sanctions.

He went on to say, "Iran continues to defend Syria and its security in the region with great power," adding, "Tehran supports the UN's constructive efforts to assist Syria and emphasizes impartial judgment on Syria."



Referring to the measures taken in the last 10 years to establish peace and security in Syria, Pedersen, for his part, said, "The political process is on a relatively good track, but the atmosphere of mistrust between the various groups in Syria still hinders the progress of the political process."

"We need the help of all parties, neighboring countries and international organizations to get out of this stalemate," he said referring to the sensitive situation in Syria and the existence of some differences of opinion in this country.

"Unfortunately, the economic situation of the Syrian people is getting worse every day," he noted.

Appreciating Iran's constructive actions in the fight against terrorism in Syria, as well as its humanitarian aid and support for the return of Syrian refugees and displaced persons to their homes, he said, "We must take the situation of human rights and refugees very seriously in Syria."

"We are aware of the situation in the region and will continue our relentless efforts to help Syria," he stressed.

38 Port, Maritime Construction Projects Underway in Chabahar

TEHRAN (MNA) - Technical and Engineering Deputy Head of Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Organization said that construction operation of 38 port and maritime projects is underway in Chabahar Port.

Abbas Azar-Peykan broke the news on Monday and reiterated that the construction operation of these projects is underway in Chabahar in line with the developing infrastructure of the only ocean port in the country.

He went on to say that these 38 ports and maritime projects will be constructed in strategic Chabahar Port under the auspices of sublime guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution and special attention of the government, aimed at accelerating and promoting ports-maritime operations in the port.

Of these 38 projects, five of which include maritime traffic control tower with 50% physical progress, radio coverage of Sistan and Baluchestan province's coastal areas with 59% physical progress, reconstruction of machinery and equipment of vessels with 66% physical progress, reconstruction and procurement of electronic, informatics-telecommunications equipment with 68% physical progress, he stated.

Then, he pointed to the radio coverage project in coastal areas of this province and added, "Radio coverage projects in coastal areas of this southern province will be constructed with the aim of promoting safety and security of provincial waters."

Razavi Khorasan-Afghanistan Economic Commission to Be Held

TEHRAN (MNA) - An official from Razavi Khorasan Governorate said the province's joint economic coop. commission with Afghanistan is to be held in Mashhad to facilitate mutual economic ties.

As Ali Rasoulman informed, there have been some negotiations recently between the two sides on the exports of petroleum products to Afghanistan and cross-border exchanges.

"Under the outbreak of the coronavirus and the US cruel sanctions, one of the necessities of the province is to increase the demand for domestically produced goods," he said, "To reach the goal it is vital to increase exports level to be able to supply domestic demands via exports revenues."

A few days ago, in a meeting in Mashhad, the Governor-General of Khorasan Razavi province and the Chairman of the Herat Provincial Council emphasized the need to improve ties between the two provinces.

The Governor-General of Khorasan Razavi province Mohammad Sadegh Motamedian pointed to the historical, cultural, and religious background and commonalities between Iran and Afghanistan and said Iran expects the level of cooperation between Herat and Khorasan Razavi provinces to increase.

Pointing to the role of border provinces in enhancing the interaction between Iran and Afghanistan, Motamedian hoped for a boost in bilateral trade considering the two government's policy of increasing bilateral trade and economic exchange.

"We are fully prepared for the activation of Iran-Afghanistan Dogharoon cross border gate round the clock," he added.

MP Blasts U.S. Interference In Iraq's Military Issues

TEHRAN (FNA) - A senior member of the Iraqi parliament's Security and Defense Commission rapped Washington for interference in the country's military issues and purchases, warning of impacts of foreign meddling on Iraq's defense power.

The Arabic-language al-Arabi al-Jadid quoted Ali al-Qanimi as saying that the US prevents Iraq's purchase of Russia's S-300 missile defense system.

He added that the missile shield is highly important to protect Iraq's airspace, warning that the country's Northern and Western borders are not fully safe.

"Iraq needs advanced missile systems to safeguard its borders," al-Qanimi said, warning that the country's current air defense systems are out of date.

Iraq has repeatedly asked to buy updated air defenses and weaponry from the US, but they have been turned down the requests. In relevant remarks in May, Chairman of the Iraqi parliament's Security and Defense Committee Mohammad Reza Al-e Haider warned that if Washington refrains from supplying his country with air defense systems, Baghdad will buy them from Russia.

Armenian Envoy Briefs Iranian Official on Karabakh Peace Agreement

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Armenian ambassador to Iran Artashes Toumanian on Monday briefed Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on peace agreement after weeks of deadly conflict over Karabakh with Azerbaijan, according to a statement by Armenian embassy in Tehran.



The Armenian ambassador briefed the Iranian deputy foreign minister on the situation in Armenia and Karabakh after Yerevan accepted a tripartite peace agreement by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia, the statement said.

The two sides also discussed the post-war conditions and the probable partnership of regional and extra regional players in the future of the developments.

Iranians' Vigilance Foils Enemies Plots

TEHRAN (MNA) - Deputy Commander of IRGC said that the insight of the people and the vigilance of the IRGC and the Basij foiled the enemy's plot to achieve its goal in November last year.

Referring to some mischief of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution in some cities of Tehran province in November of last year, Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said, "We also witnessed the enemy trying to achieve its goal in November of the current year."

He said that the enemies' attempt to achieve their goal to make some unrest in the country in November of this year has been failed, adding, "In November of the current year, no gathering took place in the country and a 100% defeat was achieved for the counter-revolution and the enemies of Iran."

Tehran Municipality to Repair Most Ancient Clock in City

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Repair program of the most ancient clock in Moshirul Saltaneh Mosque of Tehran city is underway, said the mayor for district 11 of Tehran.

Aqsa Mosque and School of Tehran (Moshirul Saltaneh) is one of the monuments in Tehran that is known as The Mosque of Clock in this city.

This mosque's inscription is installed on its clock tower, the founder of the mosque was "Moshirul Saltaneh" who had been the finance minister of Mozaffared'din Shah Qajar who became the prime minister of Mohammad Ali Shah Qajar in the late years of his life (Qajar Era).

The mayor for district 11 of Tehran Nasrollah Abadian said on Monday that this office carried out preservation and restoration programmes of cultural heritage of the city and we have started this program for the most ancient clock in Tehran in Moshirul Saltaneh Mosque.

The clock dates back to about 110 years ago, but it remained silent for about 70 years.

Envoy Elaborates on Iran Stance for Ending Aggression in Yemen

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Ambassador to Yemen Hassan Irlou in a meeting with Yemeni Foreign Minister Hisham Sharaf elaborated on Iran's stance with regard to support for all international efforts aiming to terminate the aggression in Yemen which is the worst humanitarian disaster.

Irlou in a Twitter message said that during his meeting with Sharaf, they discussed Tehran's willingness to grant more scholarships to Yemeni youths to study in Iranian universities.

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

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

Iran's Deterrence Power Aims to Bolster Int'l Peace

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution Saied Reza Ameli said on Monday that Iranian deterrence power aims to bolster international peace and thwart attempts by certain countries to disrupt the world peace.

Today the Islamic Republic of Iran is moving toward deterrence power aiming to establish peace in the world, Ameli said addressing an online international conference on peace and settlement of conflicts.

He regretted that the international community is suffering from bigotry, saying, "We are still observing ethnic, tribal and religious bigotry and armed conflicts in the world."

He noted that the 20th century was bloodier than 19th century meaning that bigotry and barbarism have not declined in the modern world and it may also increase.

The scholar expressed concern about stockpiling weapons of mass destruction in the world more than ever, saying that the world has now the capacity for manufacturing 12,000 nuclear bombs and can have destruction power 6,000 times more than Hiroshima.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ameli pointed to 800 million poor people and famine in the world community, saying that the global system needs to address of the cause of poverty to effectively stem the armed conflicts.

He called for the restructuring the global system, a reference to the United Nations Security Council.

The Iranian scholar called for thwarting political views leading to war and hatred, saying that the ideology of hatred creates the basis for war and bloodshed.

He made clear that the Islamic Republic of Iran advocates international peace and security.

"We do not want nations to get involved in war and other nations to oppose Muslims," he said adding that peace is a global concept so the armed conflicts should be replaced with the peace as a prevailing international concept.

IRGC Planning to Carry Out Trans-Regional Missions

TEHRAN (MNA) - IRGC Navy Commander Rear Admiral Ali Reza Tangsiri said the body plans to carry out trans-regional missions in the future.

Making the remarks in Bushehr, in south Iran, he underlined that IRGC's readiness for protecting the maritime borders of Iran is permanent.

"To defend and protect the sovereignty and interests of the Islamic Republic, IRGC plans to carry out trans-regional missions in the future," he said.

Back in June, Tangsiri had informed that IRGC was to establish a permanent base in the Indian Ocean by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2021).

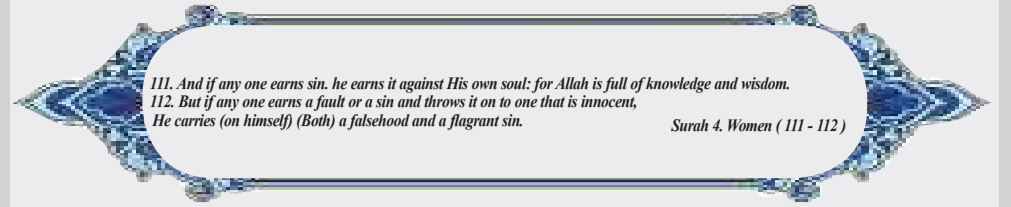
"IRGC's presence in the waters of Indian Ocean is in line with the fulfillment of strategic naval capabilities by the orders of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution," he said at the time, adding, "We will provide a better platform for the more special presence of fishermen and industrial fishing units in the oceans by providing security and establishing a permanent base in the Indian Ocean."

He, elsewhere, referred to the significant role of the IRGC in the fight against fuel smuggling as well as illegal fishing trawlers and said, "By the present time, 25 million liters of smuggled fuel and 20 illegal foreign fishing trawlers have been seized in the Persian Gulf."



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:51
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:12
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:22
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:50



Iran to Connect Afghanistan to Int'l Markets

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development for Construction and Development of Railways, Ports and Airports Mr. Abbas Khatibi says the Khaf-Herat railway is to be inaugurated by mid-December, saying that Iran will connect Afghanistan to CIS countries, northern countries in Caucasus region, Europe and some countries like Iraq and its southern ports as well as connecting to the international markets.

Speaking to ILNA, Abbas Khatibi announced that the Khaf-Herat railway will open by mid-December, adding that the railway has been constructed in three parts each with length of 140 kilometers with the investment of Iranians. He noted two parts of this railway have been constructed with the length of 78 kilometers inside Iran borders and the third part has been constructed with the length of 62 kilometers inside Afghanistan. Khatibi added that but the forth part of the railway from Rozanak Station with the length of 82 kilometers will extend towards Herat that Afghanistan is in charge of its construction. He stated that data and information shows that Afghanistan has



provided its necessary sources for constructing the railway from Italy and a Kazakh company is in charge of its construction.

On the connection of this project with Chabahar Port, Khatibi said that the super rail project of Chabahar-Zahedan railway is under the construction, adding that another project is under construction which starts from Zahedan and continues to Birjand and Gonabad and it is connected to the Bafq-Mashhad railway which will complete the eastern corridor of the country that some parts of it are currently under construction.

Khatibi added that if we the railway is connected to Bafq-Mashhad route, we actually can connect to Khaf region through Torbat Heydarieh region and from there to connect to Herat.

He emphasized that in this condition, Iran eastern rail corridor is shaped and in the future and with construction of Khaf-Herat railway, Iran can connect Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf and Sea of Oman through its railway networks and this route will be effective and determinative for Afghanistan which has no access to the free waters.

Khatibi added that since the beginning of the project some 400b tomans have been spent on the project which is now valued at 2,500b tomans based on the current prices. He reiterated that advantages of this route for Iran is that major part of transit of goods of Afghanistan will be directed towards Iran and Iran will connect Afghanistan to CIS countries, northern states of the Caucasian region, Europe and countries like Iraq, even Afghanistan's southern ports as well as to the international markets.

He reiterated the project has progressed according to the schedule and there has been no delay as Afghans preferred this project to be inaugurated by mid-December. Khaf-Herat is part of Iran-Afghanistan rail corridor. The project, started in the fiscal year of 2007-2008, connects Iran's eastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan's western city of Ghoryan.

Iran Exports to CIS Stand At \$692m in H1

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Director General for Europe-U.S. Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization says according to the statistics, Iran has exported goods worth of \$13.56b in the first half of the current year and its exports to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have been around \$692m.

Behrouz Olfat said that Iran has exported goods worth of \$692m to the CIS countries this year which shows growth in exports to Belarus, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Moldavia comparing to the same period, but its exports to Georgia, Turkmenistan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan have declined in the same period.

He further said the outbreak of coronavirus and health protocols which led to the closure of borders in some countries and border disputes of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Karabakh as well as the cruel sanctions of the West have been the main factors for the decline in Iran's exports to the CIS countries, expressing hope by resolving these problems exports to this region would boom as before.

Olfat also noted that Iran's imports from the CIS countries stood at \$811m in the first half of the year which shows 2 percent fall comparing to the same period last year and only imports from Russia and Ukraine have increased in the first half of the year.



Iran Earns \$5.7m From Car Exports



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian customs office (IRICA) says exports of Iranian cars generated a total of \$5.722 million for the country over the past calendar year ending March 19, 2020.

IRICA spokesman Rouhollah Latifi said on Sunday that Iranian car models exported over the period had reached nine countries from Hong Kong and Taiwan in Southeast Asia to Spain in Europe.

Latifi said that Saina, a subcompact sedan manufactured by second largest Iranian carmaker Saipa, had accounted for nearly 90 percent of the value of the exports.

Saina is a member of Saipa's Tiba family of cars which are ultimately based on Kia Pride. The model has become popular in Iran in recent years despite its surging prices.

Latifi said other models produced by Saipa and Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) had also made their way to markets outside the country.

The official said Iraq was the top customer of Iranian cars over the last calendar year with more than \$3.1 million worth of imports, followed by Azerbaijan on \$1.159 million and Syria on nearly \$1 million.

The home-grown car industry in Iran has managed to respond to a growing domestic demand for various models of cars despite a series of problems caused to the imports of special parts because of the American sanctions.

Car output grew in Iran by over 50 percent year on year in July, according to figures released by the government. The IKCO also announced in September that its production had reached over 220,000 cars in the six months ending late September, an increase of 45 percent compared to similar period last year.

Indonesia to Study Iran's Proposal to Build Oil Refinery

TEHRAN (MNA) – Indonesia will study a proposal from Iran to build an oil refinery, as it seeks to expand its oil refining capacity by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) in the next seven years.

Iran has proposed to build an oil refinery in Java, Indonesia with a processing capacity of more than 100,000 barrels per day, News portal Fuels and Lubes quoted IGN Wiratmaja Puja, director-general of oil and gas at Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources.

Local media citing Hassan Khosrojerdi, head of the joint Iran-Indonesia refinery's board of directors, say the project is estimated at \$8.4 billion.

Iran, which is seeking to boost crude oil exports, can supply crude oil to the proposed refinery. The country is now conducting a project feasibility study, a spokesman for Iran's oil ministry said.

Indonesia is building four refineries, ranging in capacity between 300,000 and 350,000 bpd each.

Non-Oil Trade Exceeds \$44b in 8 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - The value of Iran's non-oil trade during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20) reached \$44.6 billion, according to Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi.

In the mentioned eight months, Iran imported \$23.1 billion worth of goods, while the exports stood at \$21.5 billion, IRIB reported.

The total volume of traded goods was estimated at about 97.7 million tons, of which over 75 million tons were related to exports and about 21.8 million tons were imported goods.

According to Mirashrafi, the imports in the said period declined one percent and 18 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

The exports also experienced a fall of 14 percent and 19 percent in terms of weight and value, respectively.

Noting the downward trend of the country's foreign trade is ending and the trade is getting back to normal, the official said: "As we announced in previous months, fortunately, the downward trend of our country's

exports is approaching normal conditions month by month, and we hope to have better conditions in terms of exports by the end of the year."

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were Iraq with over \$5.3 billion worth of exports, China with the same amount, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$2.7 billion, and Turkey with \$1.6 billion as well as Afghanistan with \$1.5 billion.

According to the IRICA head, the top five sources of imports during this period were China with \$6 billion, the UAE with \$5.4 billion, Turkey with \$2.6 billion, India with \$1.4 billion, and Germany with \$1.1 billion worth of imports.

Most of the imported goods into the country in the mentioned time span were basic goods or raw materials, Mirashrafi stressed.

Also in the said period, 4,471,000 tons of goods were transited through Iran to the neighboring countries, showing a decrease of 15 percent compared to the same period last year.



U.S. Behavior Led To Iran Self-Sufficiency

TEHRAN (IP) - Vice-chairman of National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the parliament said that the U.S.' behavior in the past years made Iran totally self-sufficient.

On the sidelines of the Parliament session on Sunday, Shahriyar Heidari said that the U.S. put maximum pressure on Iran to

overthrow Iran's government, but the country became more powerful and independent.

Iran's nation knows that these pressures are not fair, he added.

The MP went on to say that the US permanent strategy has been creating "Iranophobia" to find a position in the region and sell its weapons.

Iran Exports 80,000 Tons of Agricultural Products to Iraq

ILAM (IP) - Director-general of Ilam Province's customs announced the export of 80,000 tons of Iranian agricultural products to Iraq.

The Director-General of Customs in Ilam Province Ruhollah Gholami stated that more than 80,000 tons of various agricultural products worth \$37,725,000 have been exported to Iraq from the Mehran international border in the last eight months.

Gholami noted that the export amount shows a 24 percent growth compared to the same period last Iranian year. He added that food items, plastic products, glassware, car parts and products, steel, ceramics, tiles, and construction materials are among the items exported by Iranian traders from Mehran customs to Iraq.

The border city of Mehran in the southwest of Ilam is the most important and main route for cars and trucks carrying export goods, and vehicles transferring pilgrims to the holy shrines of Shia Imams in Iraq.

Iron Ore Pellet Output Volume up 15% in 7 Months

TEHRAN (MNA) -- Production of iron ore pellet by major domestic mining and mineral companies registered a 15 percent growth in the first seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22) as compared to the last year's corresponding

Accordingly, seven major pelletizing production companies managed to produce 18,006,307 tons of this product from March 21 to Oct. 22, showing a 15 percent hike as compared to the same period of last year.

Statistics showed that these companies produced 15,689,365 tons of iron ore conglomerate from March 21 to Oct. 22, 2019.

It should be noted that seven large pelletizing production companies dispatched 9,716,650 tons of iron ore conglomerate to companies in the first seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22), showing a 2 percent hike as compared to a predetermined plan.

Burkina Faso Goes To the Polls

OUAGADOUGOU (AFP) - The people of Burkina Faso began voting in a general election Sunday in the shadow of a growing jihadist insurgency, and with opposition candidates warning of a "massive fraud" at the polls.

President Roch Marc Christian Kabore is expected to win re-election, his supporters talking up his chances of an outright victory in the first round of voting.

But no votes in the presidential and parliamentary polls will be cast in one-fifth of the country, where large swathes remain outside the state's control and jihadist attacks strike almost daily.



UK Seeks to Reduce COVID-19 Self-Isolation Time

LONDON (Reuters) - The British government is looking at reducing the time people have to self-isolate if they come into contact with someone with COVID-19 from the current 14 days through the use of a new testing regime, Health Secretary Matt Hancock said on Monday.

"We're piloting a process, using these new tests that we have, to allow people to take a test every single day instead of having to isolate for that period so that it picks-up if you're positive even before you have symptoms," he told Sky News. He said the scheme was being piloted this week and if successful, would be rolled out amongst health and social care staff and then in the new year more broadly.



Thousands March in Belarus Opposition Rally in Minsk



MINSK (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of Belarus opposition protesters took to the streets on Sunday, the latest large-scale rally against President Alexandre Lukashenko's contested re-election.

For more than three months Belarus has been gripped by historic weekly opposition rallies following Lukashenko's reelection to a sixth term in August, which Western governments have refused to recognize.

Tens of thousands of protesters marched through different neighbourhoods in the capital Minsk on Sunday, chanting "Long live Belarus" and waving red and white flags of the opposition, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

Security forces deployed heavily around the city with armored vehicles and water cannons before the rally. Around 70 demonstrators were arrested by the police, according to the Viasna centre for the defence of human rights. "I can't accept what is going on at the moment," one protester, 22-year-old computer scientist Olga Matchits told AFP.

"I feel like vomiting when I think of the people in power in the country and of the values they are defending."

"They want to drag our dignity into the mud," said another protester, 72-year-old Alexandre Ignatov. "It's for my dignity, for the future of my children that I have turned out to demonstrate," he added.

Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who has claimed victory in the election and is now in exile in Lithuania, called Sunday's protest a step towards a "free and fair Belarus" in a message of support for protesters posted on Saturday.

"We cannot turn the country into a prison if nobody is afraid of the jailers," she said.

Before the demonstration, a dozen metro stations were closed and the mobile network was experiencing cuts, according to an AFP journalist.

About 5,000 people had gathered in the Belarus capital Friday for the funeral of an opposition activist who died of brain trauma after being arrested by police.

Roman Bondarenko, a 31-year-old soldier, died in Minsk after police arrested him following a dispute in a city square that has become a regular meeting place for the opposition.

Belarus opposition are calling for the resignation of Lukashenko, who was re-elected despite accusations of massive fraud.

Since the start of the protest, thousands of people have been arrested, at least four have died and dozens of others have denounced torture and violence during their detention.

Supported by Moscow, Lukashenko, 66, has been in power since 1994 and refuses to leave his post. He has only mentioned vague constitutional reforms in an attempt to calm the protest.

Guatemalans Protest for Second Day To Demand President Resign

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - Hundreds of Guatemalans took to the streets for a second day Sunday to demand the resignation of President Alejandro Giammattei, following the passage of a budget that has sparked outrage in the impoverished Central American nation.

Masked protesters filled the central square in front of the old government palace in the historic center of the capital. They carried signs with slogans including "I would rather die as a rebel than live as a slave" and "Giammattei out."

Sunday's peaceful protests came the day after demonstrators partially burned down the Congress building.

Giammattei issued a statement Sunday afternoon reproaching Saturday's violent demonstrations, saying he considered the protesters to be "minority groups that seek to force a true coup d'etat."

He announced that his administration had invoked the Inter-American Democratic Charter, an instrument of the Organization of American States (OAS) that allows for the ability to take sanction or take steps to guarantee the respect of constitutional order in participating countries.

In his statement, Giammattei urged dialogue with different sectors to analyze the situation, since "it is only through dialogue and concentration... that our country

will be able to overcome the challenges it faces today."

The University of San Carlos, the only state-run university in the country, called for a national strike on Monday. The Committee for Peasant Development (Codeca) announced that it will block major roads throughout the country.

Vice president Guillermo Castillo, who on Friday asked Giammattei to resign with him, asked the public prosecutor's office on Sunday to investigate both the burning of Congress but also the police repression of the protests.

OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights criticized the budget and the violence against protesters, after condemning the fire at Congress.

The widespread discontent and indignation in Guatemala against Giammattei's administration and Congress have been caused by a lack of resources for battling the coronavirus pandemic, as well as the new budget.

Guatemala's Congress, dominated by conservative pro-government parties, last week approved an almost \$13 billion budget, the largest in the country's history.

Most of the funds will go to infrastructure tied to big business, sparking outrage in a country where poverty is widespread and half of children under five years old are malnourished.



Syria President Names Faisal Mekdad New FM



DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - President Bashar al-Assad on Sunday appointed Faisal Mekdad as Syria's new foreign minister, replacing Walid Muallem who died almost one week ago, the presidency announced in a statement.

Mekdad will be replaced as deputy foreign minister by Syria's ambassador to the United Nations, Bashar Jaafari, who in turn, will be replaced by ambassador to Vienna Bassam al-Sabbagh, the statement said.

Muallem, a stalwart of the Assad government who held his job through a decade of conflict and several reshuffles, died on Monday at the age of 79.

The government announcement did not specify the cause of his death, but his health was understood to have been deteriorating for some time. His 66-year-old successor, Mekdad, started a career at the Syrian foreign ministry in 1994, and has been deputy foreign minister since 2006.

He accompanied Muallem to most meetings and conferences, and stepped in to make statements when the latter's health started to deteriorate.

"Mekdad and Muallem belong to the same school" said a foreign ministry official who asked not to be identified.

"They both helped manage the Lebanon dossier when relations were most critical between the two countries," the source said, describing Mekdad as a "calm" man.

Mekdad, who holds a doctorate in English literature from Charles University in Prague, was born in 1956 in Ghasam village in the southern province of Daraa.

In 1995 he joined the Syrian delegation to the United Nations, and was his country's permanent representative to the UN from 2003 to 2006 before he became deputy foreign minister.

In May 2013, gunmen abducted his then-84-year-old father Walid Mekdad before freeing him weeks later in exchange for rebels releasing 43 prisoners.

Houthis Claim They Fired Missile at Saudi Aramco Site

SANAA (Dispatches) - Yemen's Houthi group says it has struck a distribution station operated by the Saudi Aramco oil company with a missile in Saudi Arabia's Red Sea city of Jeddah

There was no immediate Saudi confirmation of the claim made by the group's military spokesman, who on Monday warned foreign companies and residents in Saudi to exercise caution as "operations will continue"

Aramco's oil production and export facilities are mostly in Saudi's Eastern Province, more than 1,000 kilometres (621 miles) across the country from Jeddah. State oil giant Aramco did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A Houthi military spokesman, Yahya Sarea, said the attack was carried out with a Quds-2 type winged missile. He also posted a satellite image with the label: "north Jeddah bulk plant-Saudi Aramco".

Google Maps shows a facility matching that image and description on the northern outskirts of Jeddah.

"The strike was very accurate, and ambulances and fire engines rushed to the target," Sarea said. That facility is just southeast of Jeddah's King Abdulaziz International Airport, an important site that handles incoming Muslim pilgrims en route to nearby Mecca.

Yemen has been mired in conflict since a Saudi-led coalition intervened in March 2015 to restore the Yemeni government removed from power in the capital Sanaa by Houthi forces in late 2014.

Cross-border attacks by Houthi forces have escalated since late May when a truce prompted by the novel coronavirus pandemic expired. The Saudi-led coalition has responded with air strikes on the Houthi-held territory.

The Houthis control most of north Yemen and most large urban areas.

They say they are fighting a corrupt system.

Sarea said the strike was carried out in response to the Saudi-led coalition's actions in Yemen.

Erdogan Says Turkey Sees Itself a Part of Europe



ISTANBUL (Reuters) - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that his country, an official candidate for European Union membership, sees itself as an inseparable part of Europe but will not give in to attacks and double standards.

"We see ourselves as an inseparable part of Europe... However this does not mean that we will bow down to overt attacks to our country and nation, veiled injustices and double standards," Erdogan said in a speech to the members of its AK Party.

Turkey's drilling activities in a disputed part of the eastern Mediterranean have raised tensions with the EU as Turkey locked in a dispute with and Greece and Cyprus over the extent of their continental shelves and hydrocarbon resources.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said this month that Turkey's rhetoric on Cyprus was aggravating tensions with the EU and Ankara had to understand that its behaviour was "widening its separation" from the bloc.

The EU will discuss Turkey's pursuit of natural gas exploration in contested waters in the eastern Mediterranean at their next summit in December, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday.

"We do not believe that we have any problems with countries or institutions that cannot be solved through politics, dialogue and negotiations," Erdogan said.

Erdogan, connected to the event through videolink, said that the EU should keep its promises regarding the migrants issue and making Turkey a full member of the bloc. He was referring to a 2016 deal under which Ankara curbed migrant entries into Europe in exchange for financial help and visa-free travel in the Schengen region.

Turkey recently extended the seismic survey work being carried out by its Oruc Reis ship in a disputed part of the eastern Mediterranean until Nov. 29, according to a naval notice.

Shanon
(adviser)

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

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

Parsian

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

Kamranieh Apt (\$2800)
280sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

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

Shahrak-e-gharb (\$1800)
200sq.m, 3bdrs, balcony
marble floor & Fully Furn

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

Tajrish (commerical office)
50sq.m, Tel, internet, pkg
Brand new, (\$40 per sq.m)



Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

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



Saudi FDI Up in H1 as Economy Shows Resilience

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia's Minister of Investment Khalid al-Falih said on Saturday foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 12% in the first half of 2020 compared with the same period last year.

The Saudi government, which is hosting this year's G20 summit, has made attracting greater foreign investment a cornerstone of its Vision 2030 plan to diversify the economy of the world's largest oil exporter away from oil revenues.

"I'm glad to say that FDI, my area of focus, in the first half has been reported to increase by 12% compared to last year," Falih, who previously chaired state oil company Saudi Aramco, told a G20 conference.



G20 Leaders Pledge Fair Global Distribution of Coronavirus Vaccine

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies vowed on Sunday to spare no effort to supply COVID-19 drugs, tests and vaccines affordably and fairly to "all people", reflecting worries that the pandemic could deepen global divisions between rich and poor.

The pandemic and prospects of an uneven and uncertain economic recovery were at the center of a two-day summit under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia, which will hand the G20 presidency to Italy next month.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented impact in terms of lives lost, livelihoods and economies affected, is an unparalleled shock that has revealed vulnerabilities in our preparedness and response and underscored our common challenges," the final communique said.

G20 nations will work to "protect lives, provide support with a special focus on the most vulnerable, and put our economies back on a path to restoring growth, and protecting and creating jobs for all."

On vaccines, tests and treatments, the leaders said: "We will spare no effort to ensure their affordable and equitable access for all people."

The world's economy has experienced a sharp contraction this year as measures to contain the spread of the virus have curbed transport, trade, and demand across the planet.

The meeting was held by video link, like many such gatherings this year. Saudi Arabia's King Salman said in his closing remarks that the group had "adopted important policies that will achieve recovery all the way to an economy that is resilient, sustainable, inclusive, and balanced".

G20 leaders said that while global economic activity has partially picked up thanks the gradual reopening of some economies, the recovery is uneven, highly uncertain and subject to downside risks.

They reaffirmed their commitment to use "all available policy tools as long as required" to protect people's lives, jobs, and incomes.

The G20 has endorsed a plan to extend a freeze in debt service payments by the poorest countries to mid-2021 and a common approach for dealing with debt problems beyond that, according to the communique.

The Debt Service Suspension Initiative has helped 46 countries defer \$5.7 billion in 2020 debt service payments, short of the 73 countries that were eligible, and promised savings of around \$12 billion.

The head of the International Monetary Fund called on Sunday for prompt and effective implementation of the G20 framework for debt treatments beyond the initiative and said other countries needed help as well.

"Going forward, we must also help those countries not covered by the Framework to address debt vulnerabilities so that their economies can become more resilient," IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a statement after addressing the G20 leaders.

In their joint statement, the leaders also said they strongly encouraged private creditors to participate in the initiative on comparable terms when requested by eligible countries.

Debt relief for Africa will be an important theme of the Italian presidency of the G20 in 2021.

The communique also stressed the importance of multilateral institutions. It called on the IMF to continue exploring additional tools that could help its members' needs as the crisis evolves.

India Set to Double Oil Refining Capacity in Five Years

MUMBAI (Reuters) - India plans to nearly double its oil refining capacity in the next five years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, offering a much more aggressive timeline than previously despite the coronavirus pandemic blighting the economy.



The country's energy minister was quoted <http://www.ficci.in/ficci-in-news-page.asp?nid=23094> in June as saying India's oil refining capacity could jump to 450-500 million tons in 10 years from the current level of about 250 million tons.

But addressing a petroleum university's convocation, Modi said "work is being done to nearly double the country's oil refining capacity in the next five years".

The convocation was also addressed virtually by billionaire Mukesh Ambani, whose Reliance Industries Ltd operates the world's biggest oil refinery in Modi's home state of Gujarat.

Modi said India was also aiming to raise the share of natural gas in its energy-consumption mix by up to four times. The cleaner-burning fuel currently accounts for about 6% of the energy consumed in the country.

India would achieve its targets of increasing renewable energy capacity to 175 gigawatts by 2022 and 450 gigawatts by 2030 ahead of schedule, Modi added. The country had renewable energy capacity of about 75 gigawatts at the end of 2018.

Spanish Banks Merge as Economic Outlook Darkens

MADRID (Dispatches) - A wave of mergers is sweeping across the Spanish banking sector as lenders face up to a pandemic-induced recession, ultra-low interest rates and growing competition from financial technology startups.

CaixaBank, Spain's third-largest bank, and Bankia, its fourth-largest, approved a merger in September which will create the nation's biggest domestic lender with around 664 billion euros (\$788 billion) in assets in the country.

And BBVA, the country's second-largest bank, announced Monday it was in talks with Banco Sabadell, Spain's fifth-largest bank, over a possible tie-up.

If successful, it would create Spain's second-largest domestic bank, far ahead of Santander, which would still remain the country's biggest bank by total assets due to its huge international presence.

Mid-sized lenders Liberbank and Unicaja, meanwhile, confirmed renewed merger talks in October.

The trend is not new in Spain, which saw dozens of lenders disappear in a wave of tie-ups that followed the 2008 financial crisis, when Madrid received a European Union bailout of 41.3 billion euros for its ailing banking sector.

But unlike during the previous crisis, when lenders faced a solvency problem, this time around the issue is a lack of profitability, he added.

"Interest rates are low, the yield curve is very flat, and with the COVID-19 pandemic, revisions of interest rates have been postponed. Under these circumstances, the banking business is not very profitable," said Vives.

At the same time, banks are facing fierce competition from financial technology startups, or the so-called "fintech" sector, which operate online and have much lower operating costs than traditional banks.

"Certainly, with negative interest rates it is very difficult to earn money," said Ricardo Zion, a bank expert with the EAE Business School.

"But the big problem for banks is that it is impossible to be profitable with a model based on having branches, especially to compete with the 'fintech' and new operators."

"It's like the airlines. A traditional airline has its own fleet and pilots who earn 400,000 euros a year, and it must compete with a low-cost airline that uses rented planes and pilots who earn 60,000 euros."

Russia Extends Embargo on Western Food Until End of 2021



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin extended an embargo on Western food imports introduced in 2014 until the end of 2021. In a decree, the Russian head of state directed the Cabinet to ensure implementation of the measures excluding food products from the U.S., the EU, Norway, Australia, and Canada.

The food embargo was imposed in response to sanctions adopted by the European Union (EU), the United States and other countries for the role of Russia in the Ukrainian conflict. The economic measure mainly affects EU imports.

As per the presidential decree, the extension has been pushed forward until December 31 of next year in what Economic experts see as "special economic measures" which are meant to guarantee the security of the country.

Through the measure, Russia is mainly maintaining the ban on imports of food products from countries that sanctioned senior officials, banks, companies and Russian oil companies after the Russian annexation of Crimea and the outbreak of war in the Donbas, eastern Ukraine (2014).

The first time that Russia imposed this food embargo, which it extends annually, was in August 2014 against the EU, the U.S., Australia, Norway and Canada, to which it later on added Albania, Montenegro, Iceland and Liechtenstein in 2015, and in 2016 added Ukraine.

In 2017, Moscow added live pigs to meat, dairy, fish, vegetable and fruit products. In addition, Putin later ordered that all Western perishable goods illegally entering the Russian market must be destroyed.

Putin extended the embargo on the West hours before participating in the G20 summit (group of developed and emerging economies) in which he emphasized the need for common efforts to combat covid-19 and its impact on the world economy.

This week he warned that tens of millions of people could end up on the streets due to the coronavirus pandemic, which in the case of Russia, among other factors, has caused a 3.6% shrinking of the economy in the first ten months of the year.

Pakistan Secures \$800m Debt Relief From G20 Countries

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured \$800 million worth of debt freeze deals from 14 members of the G20 while it was still awaiting ratification by the remaining six countries of the grouping, including Saudi Arabia and Japan, according to a media report on Sunday.

Pakistan owes \$25.4 billion to the Group of 20 rich nations as of August this year. On April 15, the G-20 nations announced a freeze on debt repayments from 76 countries, including Pakistan, during May to December 2020 period, subject to the condition that each country would make a formal request.

Pakistan along with 76 other poor African countries had qualified for the G-20 debt relief initiative, announced in April this year for May-December 2020 period, to combat the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the past seven months 14 countries ratified their agreements with Pakistan, which has provided fiscal space of \$800 million to Islamabad for the time being. The Express Tribune reported, quoting government sources as saying.

In addition to these 14 nations, two other countries had also approached to extend debt relief to Pakistan. According to official documents, Pakistan has not yet finalised the debt rescheduling modalities with Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Although these six countries have not yet ratified the debt relief related agreements, these G-20 members are expected to conclude the deal before end of next month, said a senior official of the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

S. Korea Urged to Improve Fintech Regulations for Sustainable Growth

SEOUL (Dispatches) - In order to drive the sustainable growth of the fintech industry in the post-coronavirus era, South Korea needs to improve its regulatory frame, the British Chamber of Commerce in Korea has said.

The BCKK's fintech committee, which kicked off in December last year, has released its first white paper to highlight how the current COVID-19 pandemic is accelerating the digital transition across the world, officials said Sunday.

Outlining the best practices and policy suggestions on the latest fintech trends -- including open banking, MyData, central bank digital currency, and digital ledger technology -- the paper also looked into the existing regulatory issues here.

"There is a strong correlation between sustainable growth of the fintech industry and the Korean government's recently announced Digital New Deal," said Jung Eun-young, CEO of HSBC Korea and member of the

fintech committee.

"Korea's financial services have a high potential for innovation in the next wave of economic growth."

In order to create synergy with such uptrend, Asia's fourth-largest economy should move toward improving its current regulations related to fintech, according to the BCKK.

"Korea has paved the way for the development of MyData by amending its three major data laws this year, but the scope of application programming interface still remains limited, especially for institutions outside the scope of open banking and MyData," the report said, calling for APIs provision expansion.

Also, considering the entry of third-party providers in the fintech market, policymakers should establish cybersecurity risk management controls within the open banking and MyData ecosystem, the BCKK said, suggesting the European Union's Cybersecurity Act as a plausible benchmark model.

Recognizing that the central bank digital currency could be a radical disruptor in the payment system, the chamber advised the Bank of Korea to continue active investment in CBDC development.

"This publication is a significant step that the BCKK is taking to support the Korean fintech industry, based on the experience of the UK fintech market," said BCKK CEO Sean Blakeley.

Representing a spectrum of British, international and Korean member companies with commercial interests in Britain, the BCKK works to advance Britain's trade, commerce and investment in Korea and to encourage the bilateral business cooperation.

Defense Ministry to Unveil Dena Destroyer

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's defense minister says a state-of-the-art domestic destroyer dubbed "Dena" will join the Navy's fleet in the near future.

Brigadier General Amir Hatami broke the news on Monday, saying that the new vessel, which has been designed and manufactured by domestic military experts, enjoys new capabilities compared to other destroyers of the country.

Dena is a new Mowj-class (Wave-class) destroyer similar to the Jamaran and the Sahand destroyers, with more advanced technologies.

Last month, Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi also said Iran plans to unveil its first domestically-made carrier vessel, named the Persian Gulf, in November. The new carrier is capable of carrying helicopters, drones, missiles and other warfare.



D-8 Countries Seek Aircraft Production, Maintenance Cooperation With Turkey

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Having become an important aviation industry player, Turkey is being looked at by most members of the D-8 group of developing nations as the center and technical maintenance base of their aircraft industries.

Members, other than Egypt and Iran, have requests for both military and commercial aircraft cooperation with Turkey, said Halil Tokel, vice-chairperson of the Foreign Economic Relations Board's (DEIK) Malaysia and Indonesia business councils, on Sunday.

The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation includes Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

"Turkey was asked to establish facilities for aircraft maintenance. In Ashgabat and other centers, they say, 'come build aircraft maintenance factories,'" said Tokel, who is also an adviser to Turkish Technic, the maintenance, repair and overhaul center of national flag carrier Turkish Airlines (THY).

Turkish Technic recently completed the construction of its new hangars at Istanbul Airport. With an indoor area of 60,000 square meters (around 645,835 square feet), the new complex has the distinction of housing the largest hangars in Turkey.

Tokel's remarks came after a recent organization meeting, at which the members are said to have discussed developing cooperation in the aviation industry and plans on Turkey establishing maintenance centers in these countries.

"Around \$1 billion (TL 7.64 billion) a year could come from the maintenance activity of F-16 aircraft alone. There are hundreds of civilian and military aircraft in these countries. Also, Malaysia and Indonesia need fighter jets," Tokel noted.

He said they are particularly interested in Turkey's TF-X National Combat Aircraft (MMU), a joint project between the Turkish Aerospace Industries (TAI) and the Presidency of Defense Industries (SSB).

"When the virus distress is over, important projects will be done with these countries," Tokel said.

The MMU is a fifth-generation jet with similar features to Lockheed Martin's F-35 Lightning II. The domestically built aircraft is being developed to replace the Turkish Air Force Command's F-16 fighters, ahead of the gradual phasing out of the latter throughout the 2030s.

The homegrown fighter jet is expected to make a maiden flight using a domestic engine in 2029.

The D-8 member countries have not made a joint project to date, Tokel said.

"There are political or economic reasons. But now the idea of cooperation is getting stronger. At every stage, Pakistan says, Turkey is a fraternal country. Malaysia's



relations with us are very good; it is considering increasing investments," he noted.

He indicated that they had a meeting with D-8 civil aviation authorities in Pakistan a couple of months ago, adding that they attended in the name of Turkish Technic.

"We made a presentation there. We came up with three suggestions. We wanted eight authorities to come together and establish a single authority. Like the aviation authority in Europe. We have requested that the aerospace industries of the eight countries be coordinated," Tokel noted.

As Turkish Technic, he said they were up to the job. "We will gather the civil aviation authorities of D-8. We will introduce them to each other. We have offered to take the aircraft maintenance companies of the eight countries under a single umbrella."

On June 15, 1997, the D-8 was launched after then-Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan proposed the creation of an economic group consisting of eight emerging economies from the Muslim world.

Alongside Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria and Pakistan created an organization based in Istanbul.

Tehran Calls for...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran's representative also presented a plan for a project on electronic exchanges and processes for the coordination of customs affairs with neighboring countries. The plan is currently being implemented as a pilot scheme.

He also put forward plans to introduce an integrated framework agreed by all member states which would encompass all aspects of international trade and transport as well as other global moves. He added all international corridors should be taken into account in order to enhance the sustenance of the supply chain, especially the corridors to the south of the Caspian Sea.

Iran Has...

FROM PAGE 1

Nagorno-Karabakh is one of the most complex and complicated land disputes in the contemporary world of today that has regional, international, geopolitical and geo-economic dimensions, he said, adding, "The root of this conflict began with the unilateral decision contrary to the international criteria and Supreme Council of Karabakh on its annexation to Armenia from the last years of the Soviet Union and before the collapse of Soviet Union especially in 1988."

Emphasizing that Nagorno-Karabakh and South Caucasus are of great historical, civilizational and geopolitical importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Farzmand stated.

The South Caucasus is the border between the North Caucasus and the Islamic world and has been one of the traditional routes for Iran to reach Russia and Europe, he said, adding, "Iran has deep-rooted historical and civilizational ties with this region (Nagorno-Karabakh) and considers this region as its common civilization."

35m Tons of...

FROM PAGE 1

In general, domestic petrochemical companies managed to produce 35 million tons of products in a seven-month period in the current year, some of which were used in downstream industries as feed-stock while the rest was exported. It is worth mentioning that Iran's petrochemical industry is considered as one of the most important pillars of the country's development and also a driving force for various economic sectors.

Iran Uranium...

FROM PAGE 1

Gharibabadi said the Europeans have, over the past two and a half years, failed to take any special action to make good on their obligations with regards to the lifting of sanctions and peaceful nuclear cooperation with Iran.

He said Iran needs to see the "effects of the lifting of sanctions in practice."

"As for the Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX), the Europeans know themselves that it was not an effective tool," he noted.

"So, the Europeans as well as member states of the IAEA and its Board of Governors should be reminded of these realities, which is, of course, always being done at different levels and on different occasions," he said.

Gharibabadi said if the Europeans want Iran to reverse its reciprocal moves, they should live up to their commitments under the JCPOA and work towards lifting sanctions. He said the injection of the uranium hexafluoride (UF₆) gas is the last step to be taken before the start of the enrichment process and the separation of uranium 238 from uranium 235.

"Accordingly, in addition to first-generation centrifuges, a cascade of 174 new IR-2M centrifuges will be enriching uranium at Natanz nuclear facility," he added. "The three European countries had announced their stances on the development of new machines before," he said. "In response, we have kept telling them that Iran cannot return to the commitments that it has scaled down as long as it has not repealed the benefits of the JCPOA with the lifting of sanctions," he said.

Gharibabadi said it is neither logical, nor practical for Iran to implement the JCPOA unilaterally and at its own cost. Meanwhile, he underscored that Iran remains committed to the IAEA's safeguards agreements.

Japan's Decarbonization Fails to Improve for 25 Years



TOKYO (Dispatches) - The Japanese economy has failed to improve its reduction of carbon emissions over the last quarter-century, Nikkei has learned.

When carbon emissions per unit of gross domestic product are compared by country, the figure for Japan has remained flat since the 1990s. European countries, where use of renewable energy has grown rapidly, have slashed their carbon emissions per unit of GDP by one-half to one-third during the same period. Although the Japanese government has pledged to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions to net zero by 2050, the country now lags other advanced economies in the effort to decarbonize.

Keiko Shiga, Sony's general manager in charge of sustainability, feels the dilemma as a company with factories in Japan. "In Japan, buying renewable energy is challenging. It is difficult to attract investors if we are evaluated on the same basis as foreign companies," Shiga told Nikkei.

Among investors, there is a growing trend to select companies based on "ESG" or environmental, social and corporate governance principles. And carbon emissions, which are easy to measure and compare across companies, have a significant impact on investment decisions.

Japan has not made progress in reducing carbon emissions to create added value in its economy. If greenhouse gas emissions are divided by GDP, Japan produces around 2.5 tons of CO₂ for every \$10,000 in its GDP, largely unchanged from 1995.

After the Arab oil embargo in the 1970s, resource-scarce Japan improved its technology to enhance energy efficiency and became the world leader in terms of fewest carbon emissions per unit of economic output. Japanese companies also developed clean technologies to control pollution.

However, in the 2000s, France and the U.K. overtook Japan and the gap is widening. The main difference lies in how electricity is generated. In Europe, the cost of producing electricity using renewables has fallen below that of fossil-fuel power plants. In 2018, renewables accounted for 34% of the electricity supply. The increase in low-carbon electricity has pushed the U.K.'s carbon emissions per unit of GDP to fall to about a third of what they were in 1995.

China Set to Eclipse America as World's Biggest Oil Refiner

LONDON (OilPrice) - Earlier this month, Royal Dutch Shell Plc pulled the plug on its Convent refinery in Louisiana. Unlike many oil refineries shut in recent years, Convent was far from obsolete: it's fairly big by U.S. standards and sophisticated enough to turn a wide range of crude oils into high-value fuels. Yet Shell, the world's third-biggest oil major, wanted to radically reduce refining capacity and couldn't find a buyer.

As Convent's 700 workers found out they were out of a job, their counterparts on the other side of Pacific were firing up a new unit at Rongsheng Petrochemical's giant Zhejiang complex in northeast China. It's just one of at least four projects underway in the country, totaling 1.2 million barrels a day of crude-processing capacity, equivalent to the U.K.'s entire fleet.

The Covid crisis has hastened a seismic shift in the global refining industry as demand for plastics and fuels grows in China and the rest of Asia, where economies are quickly rebounding from the pandemic. In contrast, refineries in the U.S and Europe are grappling with a deeper economic crisis while the transition away from fossil fuels dims the long-term outlook for oil demand.

America has been top of the refining pack since the start of the oil age in the mid-nineteenth century, but China will dethrone the U.S. as early as next year, according to the International Energy Agency. In 1967, the year Convent opened, the U.S. had 35 times the refining capacity of China.

The rise of China's refining industry, combined with several large new plants in India and the Middle East, is reverberating through the global energy system. Oil exporters are selling more crude to Asia and less to long-standing customers in North America and Europe. And as they add capacity, China's refiners are becoming a growing force in international markets for gasoline, diesel and other fuels. That's even putting pressure on older plants in other parts of Asia: Shell also announced this month that they will halve capacity at their Singapore refinery.

There are parallels with China's growing dominance of the global steel industry in the early part of this century, when China built a clutch of massive, modern mills. Designed to meet burgeoning domestic demand, they also made China a force in the export market, squeezing higher-cost producers in Europe, North America and other parts of Asia and forcing the closure of older, inefficient plants.

"China is going to put another million barrels a day or more on the table in the next few years," Steve Sawyer,



director of refining at industry consultant Facts Global Energy, or FGE, said in an interview. "China will overtake the U.S. probably in the next year or two."

But while capacity will rise is China, India and the Middle East, oil demand may take years to fully recover from the damage inflicted by the coronavirus. That will push a few million barrels a

day more of refining capacity out of business, on top of a record 1.7 million barrels a day of processing capacity already mothballed this year. More than half of these closures have been in the U.S., according to the IEA.

About two thirds of European refiners aren't making enough money in fuel production to cover their costs, said Hedi Grati, head of Europe-CIS refining research at IHS Markit. Europe still needs to reduce its daily processing capacity by a further 1.7 million barrels in five years.

"There is more to come," Sawyer said, anticipating the closure of another 2 million barrels a day of refining capacity through next year.

Chinese refining capacity has nearly tripled since the turn of the millennium as it tried to keep pace with the rapid growth of diesel and gasoline consumption. The country's crude processing capacity is expected to climb to 1 billion tons a year, or 20 million barrels per day, by 2025 from 17.5 million barrels at the end of this year, according to China National Petroleum Corp.'s Economics & Technology Research Institute.

India is also boosting its processing capability by more than half to 8 million barrels a day by 2025, including a new 1.2 million barrels per day mega project. Middle Eastern producers are adding to the spree, building new units with at least two projects totaling more than a million barrels a day that are set to start operations next year.

UAE Inches Closer to Cashless Economy Target

DUBAI (Dispatches) - The Middle East region is witnessing a big leap in banking sector digitisation and sustainable finance as the UAE moves closer to becoming a cashless economy, Sunil Kaushal, CEO of Standard Chartered Africa and Middle East told Gulf News in an interview.

Consumer behaviors in the region have undergone a massive change in recent years according to Standard Chartered. A recent survey conducted by the bank found that two-thirds of consumers in the UAE expect the country to become fully cashless by 2030. The apparent shift will eventually spur a reconfiguration of physical [bank] branches, which are evolving from being transaction-oriented to focus on advisory services. "From wealth management to personal banking, we have been experiencing a shift to digital for years. I

t was a conscious choice for Standard Chartered to adopt a mobile-led digital strategy and to invest in an affordable, easy to roll out end to end digital bank offering but that choice was also driven by changing consumer behaviors and preferences," said Kaushal.

Switchboard:
(+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel:
(+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax:
(+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:
Tel/Fax:(+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website:
http://www.irannewsdaily.com

E-Mail Address:
info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053
P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,
Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdaran
Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Printed by:Honar Sarzmin Sabz
Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and
Artistic Institute
Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

Hansen Clinches First European Tour Win With Back-Nine Surge

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Dane Joachim B. Hansen recovered from trailing South African Wilco Nienaber by three strokes with nine holes remaining to win the Joburg Open Sunday and end a 10-year wait for his maiden European Tour title.

Rock-solid Hansen did not drop a shot in the final round and parred the final two holes at Randpark Golf Club in suburban Johannesburg while Nienaber bogeyed both, giving the Dane a two-shot victory.

Vlhova Completes Slalom Double in Levi

LEVI (Dispatches) - Slovakian skier Petra Vlhova made it a slalom double when she overcame the Lapland fog to win Sunday's World Cup event in Levi on Sunday.

The 25-year-old, who also won Saturday's slalom, shared top spot with Swiss skier Michelle Gisin after the first run but put in the second-fastest run on the second leg to post a combined time of 1min 49.5secs to claim her 16th World Cup victory.

Medvedev Fights Back to Claim ATP Finals Title

LONDON (Reuters) - Daniil Medvedev barged to the head of the queue of young pretenders as the Russian captured the biggest title of his career by beating Dominic Thiem 4-6 7-6(2) 6-4 in an absorbing climax to London's last ATP Finals on Sunday.

Thiem was on course to become the first Austrian to win the title, following on from his recent U.S. Open triumph, but the relentless Medvedev turned the tide to strike a blow for the new generation striving to shake up the tennis hierarchy.

There was no big celebration as he fired an unreturnable first serve on match point to end the two hours and 42 minutes scrap, bringing the curtain down on 12 memorable years at the O2 Arena before Turin takes over as host of the tournament.

Fittingly the London era ended as it began with a Russian winner after Nikolay Davydenko took the 2009 title.

Sadly for an event that attracted 2.8 million fans over the years to the Thames-side arena, the finale, a vintage edition, played out in a silent arena because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But the millions watching on TV will have appreciated the skill of Medvedev, who became only the fourth player in ATP history to beat the world's top three at the same tournament.

He joins David Nalbandian (Madrid 2007), Novak Djokovic (Montreal 2007) and Boris Becker (Stockholm 1994).

"It's amazing," Medvedev, who earned \$1.56 million as an unbeaten champion, told reporters. "I beat Novak (in the group), Rafa in the semis and Dominic, the best players in tennis right now. It shows what I'm capable of."

Medvedev's imaginative game, a blend of sledgehammer power, cunning angles and unreadable serving, proved beyond Djokovic in the group phase and then second-ranked Rafael Nadal in Saturday's semi-final.

The 27-year-old Thiem appeared to have mastered it but ultimately was overwhelmed.

"I think Dominic was a little tired in the third set and to make him tired in a three-set match is tough," Medvedev said.



His triumph came a year after a chastening three defeats on his debut. The only other player to achieve such a drastic turnaround is Djokovic in 2008.

After such a hot streak, including claiming this month's Paris Masters, the Moscowite was due a dip and it arrived in the first set as he threw away a 40-0 lead on serve at 2-2, gifting Thiem a break with a double-fault. It proved enough for Thiem to pocket the first set and he went for the quick kill in the second as Medvedev's usually rock-solid serve and forehand wavered.

The Russian hung tough though, saving break points at 2-2 and 3-3, and began to look menacing as the tiebreak arrived. Thiem led 2-0 but Medvedev reeled off seven points in a row to ensure London's farewell would go the distance.

Thiem, who had also beaten Nadal and Djokovic this week, had spent two more hours on court than Medvedev to reach the final and his silky game began to fray.

Medvedev stalked him with his power and accuracy and the Russian secured the vital break of serve at 2-2 with a stealthy approach and volleyed winner.

Thiem dug in but world number four Medvedev never looked like letting his lead slip as he became the fifth successive first-time winner of the title.

Medvedev's peers Alexander Zverev, 23, and Stefanos Tsitsipas, 22, won the last two titles here but neither have gone on to claim a Grand Slam. Medvedev will enter 2021 as the man most likely to make that breakthrough for the much-hyped next generation.

Koolhof, Mektic Claim ATP Finals Doubles Title

LONDON (Reuters) - Dutch-Croatian duo Wesley Koolhof and Nikola Mektic claimed their first title together by winning the ATP Finals on Sunday, edging Jurgen Melzer and Edouard Roger-Vasselin 6-2 3-6 10-5.

The fifth seeds, in their maiden season together, had lost in their other two finals, including at the U.S. Open, but it proved a case of third time lucky.

"It was a dream come true just to have qualified here for this event," Koolhof, the fourth Dutchman to win the doubles title at the season-end, said.

"It's our first title together. Not bad for a first one," Mektic said.

Austrian Melzer, a former top-10 singles player who is retiring, had hoped to end his career on a high.

"It was a hell of a ride," the 39-year-old said. "We have been fighting hard since Roland Garros, played almost every week to get here. It stings today, and it hurts, but in the end we're going to look back at being runners-up here."

Real Sociedad

Notch Sixth Straight Win To Stay Top of La Liga

MADRID (Reuters) - La Liga leaders Real Sociedad were rewarded for their persistence as they eventually edged out Cadiz 1-0 away on Sunday to earn a sixth consecutive league win.

Sweden forward Alexander Isak gave the dominant visitors the lead midway through the second half, rising highest at the far post to head in a cross from Adnan Januzaj.

The Basques had goals by Isak and Mikel Merino ruled out for offside either side of halftime before Isak struck, while Merino also had a shot cleared off the line by Cadiz defender Fali.

Imanol Alguacil's side also barely allowed their opponents a sight of goal, conceding only two shots in the 90 minutes, neither of which hit the target.

The victory kept Sociedad top of the standings and took them on to 23 points after 10 games, three ahead of second-placed Atletico Madrid but having played two games more.

Cadiz are sixth on 14 points and are still waiting for their first home victory since returning to the top flight.

Sassuolo Go Top

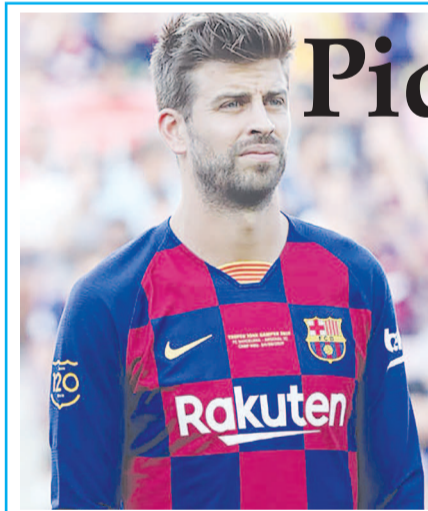
ROME (Dispatches) - Sassuolo took top spot in Serie A on Sunday with a 2-0 win over Hellas Verona, as Romelu Lukaku scored twice to help Inter Milan fight back from two goals down to beat Torino.

Sassuolo have 18 points from eight games, one point more than AC Milan, who travel to Napoli later on Sunday.

Roma move third, level on points with AC Milan, after Henrikh Mkhitaryan scored twice in a 3-0 win over Parma.

Antonio Conte's Inter had been trailing 2-0 after 62 minutes before battling back to win 4-2 at the San Siro, where they host Real Madrid in the Champions League in three days' time.

"We are not a great team yet because we're struggling like this," said Lukaku who has scored seven league goals this season.



Pique Knee Injury Confirmed

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona's Gerard Pique has sustained a serious knee injury, the club confirmed on Sunday, with the defender expected to be out for at least two months.

Pique cried as he hobbled off the pitch during Barca's 1-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid in La Liga on Saturday following a collision with Angel Correa.

"Tests have shown that he has a grade 3 sprain in the internal lateral ligament and partial injury to the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee," said Barcelona

in a statement.

The club also confirmed that Sergi Roberto, who can play right back or central midfield, will be out for two months after tearing a muscle in his thigh.

There was no official estimate for Pique's return but reports in the Spanish press have suggested he could be out for anything between two and six months.

Pique's absence leaves Barca with Clement Lenglet as their one fit central defender, given Samuel Umtiti and Ronald Araujo are also out injured.

Frenkie de Jong has occasionally dropped into defence in recent weeks but the situation is far from ideal for Ronald Koeman, whose side slipped to their third league loss of the season against Atletico.

Barca sit 10th in La Liga but have fared better in the Champions League, sitting top of Group G with nine points out of nine ahead of Tuesday's game away at Dynamo Kiev.

Everton Must Shore Up Their Defense

LONDON (Reuters) - Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti said they have to plug their leaky defence after snapping a run of three straight defeats with a narrow 3-2 win at Fulham in the Premier League on Sunday.

A double from Dominic Calvert-Lewin and Abdoulaye Doucoure's first goal for the club put them 3-1 ahead at the break but they had to endure a nervy end to the contest as Ruben Loftus-Cheek scored in the second half after Fulham missed a penalty.

Everton last kept a clean sheet in the league on the opening day when they beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 and they have conceded 16 goals in eight games since.

They have the worst defensive record alongside local rivals and defending champions Liverpool, who have a game in hand and host Leicester City later on Sunday, among the top 10 clubs in the competition this season.

"We have to improve for sure," Ancelotti told the BBC. "We were not so compact, we were not so close with the line. We have time to work this week on this."

Ancelotti, who deployed a three-man defence featuring Yerry Mina, Michael Keane and Ben Godfrey, said he was pleased that the team could hold on to their advantage towards the end.

"... We lost energy and had tired players. I changed to put more fresh legs on the pitch, but we lost a bit of quality and thought to only defend the result," the Italian said.



Oliveira Wins MotoGP Season Finale in Portugal

LISBON (Dispatches) - Miguel Oliveira made the most of home advantage to win the last MotoGP race of the season in Portugal on Sunday.

Oliveira followed up his maiden victory in Styria in August by taking the title at Portimao in what was his first race in the premier class in his home country.

The KTM Tech 3 rider's triumph means there was no record-breaking 10th race winner, with Fabio Quartararo, Brad Binder, Andrea Dovizioso, Franco Morbidelli, Maverick Vinales, Danilo Petrucci, Alex Rins and Mir making it nine victors at the end of an unpredictable World Championship.

Morbidelli came out on top of a six-way battle for the runners-up spot, despite being pipped to second place on the last lap by Australian Jack Miller.

Italian Morbidelli finishes in the overall standings just behind Mir, who had confirmed his first world title in Valencia last weekend.

Miller's strong finish meanwhile ensured Ducati claimed the constructors' title for the first time since 2007 at the expense of Suzuki, whose hopes were dashed after a disappointing weekend for Mir.

Mir started the race in 20th and had to retire due to electronic problems.

