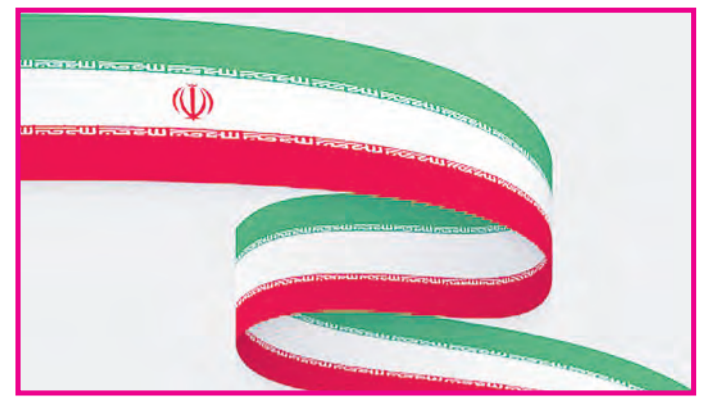


Spokeswoman for Iran Health Ministry Sima Sadat Lari Said On Monday That 79 More Iranians Died of COVID-19 During the Past 24 Hours as the Death Toll Mounted to 58,038

IRAN NEWS



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Islamic Republic of Iran the Most Independent Establishment of the World



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Judiciary Chief Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most independent establishment of the world and enemies have never achieved their goals in imposing their will on Iranian nation.

Speaking in the weekly gathering of the Judiciary official and on the occasion of the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Raisi said that the biggest achievement and blessing of the Islamic Republic establishment is its independence, adding that today the Islamic Republic of Iran is the most independent establishment in the world and today's independence is the outcome of freedom of the nation and it will protect this freedom for the nation.

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Lakers End Losing Streak With Win Over Celtics
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Tehran Rules Out Bilateral Talks With Washington

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Iran has ruled out the possibility of bilateral negotiations with the United States, saying Washington needs to change course and begin to honor its commitments under the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“No bilateral negotiation with the U.S. is necessary,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a press conference on Monday. “The U.S. needs to return to its commitments, and if that happens, it will be possible to negotiate within the framework of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA.”

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Iran Writes a Letter to IAEA On Sanctions Waiver Law

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna announced grounds and reasons for the adoption of the “Law on Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions and Protect the Interests of the Iranian Nation” in a briefing report to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the organization's member states.

Speaking among reporters on Sunday, Kazem Gharibabadi stated that the unilateral and illegal withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on May 8, 2018, and the re-imposition of sanctions lifted...

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Due to the country's need to produce crude steel, the plan to increase the nominal crude steel production capacity to 17.1 million tons per year, during Resolution 43 and after the approval of the Economic Council, the Mining Development and Renovation Organization of Iran was authorized to invest in provincial plans to produce 6.4 million tons of crude steel and transfer at least 50 percent of their shares to the non-governmental sector one year after operation. Shadegan Steel Industry Company is one of the eight steel projects in the country, which was approved during the comprehensive studies of the country's steel in 2003 as one of the prerequisites for the third, fourth and fifth economic development plans of the country, and in 2006 it was overhauled.

Tehran Office: Valiasr Square, in front of Esteghlal Cinema, No. 1713, National Iranian Steel Company. North Tower, 5th floor
Shadegan Steel Industry Company
Phone: 021-88904340
Factory: Shadegan, 10 km of Sarbandar road - Abadan PO Box 184-64317
Postal Code: 69135 -64331
Phone: 06152234603
Fax: 06152338674

Engineer Saeed Ghasemzadeh, in an interview with the specialized monthly magazine Pardazesh, while requesting a review of how to allocate the required pellet quota, stated:

Shadegan Steel Accelerates the Construction of an Ingot Production Plant With a Capacity of one Million Tons

Following the cooperation of Imidro, the Central Bank and the extension of the LC for the second time

Shadegan Steel in the spring of 2022 will see the launch of a steel plant and ingot production with a capacity of 800,000 to one million tons. Engineer Saeed Ghasemzadeh, CEO of Fooladshadegan Company, in an interview with Pardazesh specialized monthly, announced the news and explained the status of this project and other issues related to Fooladshadegan, noting that we have been pursuing the construction of a steelmaking unit since 2018. «We have extended its LC,» he said. «The construction of this factory requires 130 million euros in foreign exchange, and we will have the opportunity to attract its credit by the end of September 2021 at the latest.» He expressed hope that with more coordination of relevant officials, banks and as well as more efforts of the contractor (Gostareh Foolad), while the Shadegan region flourishes and employment is created, the steel production in this factory will have a high speed. Qasemzadeh also reminded the amount of production of the factory and added: «Last year, Foolad Shadegan produced 660,000 tons of sponge iron by the method of casting, which we hope will increase to a nominal capacity of 800,000 tons this year.» Qasemzadeh emphasized the supply of pellets as a raw material and the problems of its development and said: «According to Imidro plan, the pellets required by this company should be supplied by Khuzestan Steel, but the important thing is that Khuzestan Steel Company does not have a pellet surplus, so this year pelletizing Simidco has decided that the needs of this complex will be met through that company, despite the great distance and high shipping costs. The CEO of Fooladshadegan stated that the pellets required in all sponge iron factories are usually procured from several sources in order to increase the quality, adding: «Currently, a single-purpose pellet is used to produce sponge iron in this factory, but this method must be changed.» Qasemzadeh asked Imidro to reconsider the supply of pellets to take a more appropriate solution than in the past, for example, instead of obliging Fooladshadegan to supply pellets from Simidco, Khorasan Steel is required to supply from that area and oblige us to buy pellets from Golgozar. It is natural that doing so will create huge savings in transportation costs, which will ultimately benefit all the country's steelmakers. He expressed hope that this company can have a suitable combination in furnace charging by supplying pellets and increasing quality this year. Qasemzadeh mentioned the reliance on knowledge, experience and technology in Khuzestan Steel and the resulting encouragement as one of the company's strengths and specified that by using the power and expertise of Khuzestan Steel experts, we can increase the capacity and see the production of the best quality steel. The CEO of



Fooladshadegan Company, emphasizing that the main purpose of building the factory in that area was to eliminate deprivation, reminded some of the measures taken in this direction and said: The company is trying to encourage and build parts manufacturers in the region by launching Shadegan Industrial Town. In addition, a memorandum of understanding has been signed with the Technical and Vocational Education Organization to provide indigenous people with technical training to young people and people in the manufacture of parts and equipment. According to him, Shadegan and the surrounding areas currently have about 30,000 unemployed young people, and with the construction of these industries, a large part of this problem will be solved. Qasemzadeh also, in further explaining the existing problems, pointed to the need for wider customs cooperation in the clearance of machinery and stressed the need for customs cooperation in the clearance of parts and equipment of factories. The CEO of Fooladshadegan Company, who has several years of experience in Khuzestan Steel Factory (Rehabilitation Unit), raw materials supply, lime and pelletizing, accumulation, harvesting and even sales in his record, believes that in this sensitive situation of the country and considering LC extension and time limit in project implementation, all effective elements in production should be empathetic while helping the dynamism of the country's economy in removing obstacles to steel units. In another part of this conversation, he examined the features of the curtain system and compared it with Midrex units and said: «Considering the 8-year experience in Midrex unit (Khuzestan Steel), I declare with certainty that the curtain system compared to Midrex due to some important improvements.» Not only does it have no drawbacks, but it is much more durable and more efficient. Qasemzadeh added: «However, when a new technology is invented, it may initially face some shortcomings that can be solved with a little effort and optimization of parts and equipment, but the important point is that today the curtain system is institutionalized in the country and fortunately everyone Steel projects that produce steel in the above way are very successful. The CEO of Fooladshadegan Company further stressed the need to improve the quality of suppliers of goods and equipment needed by the steel industry, such as refractory brick factories, and asked them to improve their quality and skills while reducing downtime to help increase the country's steel production capacity. It is worth mentioning that Foolad Shadegan Company has currently created employment for 1400 people, 75% of whom are from Shadegan city and the rest are specialists from other parts of the country.

Sailors Released From India Arrived Iran

CHABAHAH (IP) - The head of the Foreign Ministry's representative office in the Chabahar Free Zone, said 15 Iranian sailors arrived home after being detained in New Delhi for 1.5 years.

Hamid-Reza Tusi stated: "These Iranian sailors were arrested and imprisoned by the Indian Coast Guard about a year and a half ago due to entering Indian territorial waters."

The head of the Foreign Ministry's Mission in the Chabahar Free Zone noted: "With the release of these sailors, we have eight more prisoners in India who we hope will be released with the ongoing consultations."

Gov't Renews Allegiance To Imam Khomeini's Ideals

TEHRAN (PressTV) – The government has renewed allegiance to the ideals of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, Imam Khomeini, in the run-up to the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

President Hassan Rouhani and other members of his cabinet visited Imam Khomeini's mausoleum in southern Tehran on Monday, paying tribute to the late leader and his legacy.

The president delivered an address during the visit, recalling how the late Imam led the Islamic Revolution to victory.

Rouhani said Imam Khomeini depended solely on the power of the people, knowing that "soft power" would eventually triumph over "hard power."

This, he added, made the Islamic Revolution distinct from those that depended on military or paramilitary strength.

The president recalled how Imam Khomeini's return to the country to a massive welcome marked the most momentous development that preceded the victory of the Islamic Revolution, calling the occasion the day when Imam Khomeini projected the revolution's social assets to the world.



Imam Khomeini flew back to Iran after spending almost 15 years in an exile that had been imposed on him by the former Western-backed Pahlavi regime.

But the exile in Turkey, Iraq and France did not dampen the revolutionary zeal that he had kindled in the hearts of Iranians. That zeal generated a swell of public agitation which became too strong to be put down, forcing former Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi to flee and draw the curtain on 2,500-year-old monarchy in Iran.

Iran Is Really Needless of JCPOA



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The commander-in-chief of the IRGC said: "Today we have reached a point where we are really needless of the JCPOA, we have realized that not needing to lift sanctions takes precedence over lifting sanctions."

Major General Hussein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), said this afternoon (Sunday) at the ceremony announcing the beginning of Beit-ol-Moqaddas (Jerusalem) exercise of the Basij battalions: "The Imam (Khomeini) alone had and still has military power as much as all the powers on earth."

Salami added: "At that time, the United States controlled more than 25% of the world economy. When Imam (Khomeini) made the revolution and defeated, the United States, American political domination over the world was widespread."

The commander-in-chief of the IRGC said that the hardest reaction to this great revolution was war. As an Islamic country, we could not present a backward and weak model of a system derived from Islam. We should have progressed, built Iran, and became stronger; he said that we had no choice but to become strong to survive.

General Salami, stating that today our revolution needs the presence of the Basij more than ever, addressed the Basijis and emphasized: Do not hesitate to serve people; each of you, whatever you do to serve the people, is a great battle. Our jihad today is serving the people.

He further said: "Today we have reached a point where we are really needless of JCPOA, we have realized that not needing to lift sanctions takes precedence over lifting sanctions, and you do this."

Tehran Voices Strong Support for Iraq Security, Stability



TEHRAN (MNA) – A senior Iranian Parliamentary advisor said, "Iran strongly supports the security and stability of Iraq and warns those who seek the re-emergence of terrorism in Iraq, Syria, and the region."

Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Special Assistant to the Iranian Parliament's Speaker and Director General of International Affairs of the Parliament met and held talks with Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq.

While emphasizing the deep and strategic relations between the two countries, Amir Abdollahian said in the meeting, "Tehran-Baghdad relations always have a friendly and growing trend."

The efforts of some countries, including the United States and Saudi Arabia, in the managed use of terrorism and inciting insecurity, are among the causes of insecurity in Iraq and the region, he said.

Referring to the American assassination of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, he said, "To ensure the security of the region, the United Nations must fulfill its international responsibility regarding the case of the assassination of General Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the great national and international heroes in the fight against terrorism."

He went on to say that the enemies have once again targeted the security of Iraq, "We must fight the roots and causes of extremism and terrorism."

Saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly supports the security and stability of Iraq, he said, "We consider the security of Iraq as the security of Iran and warn those who seek the re-emergence of terrorism in Iraq, Syria, and the region."

Referring to the upcoming parliamentary elections in Iraq, he said, "We respect the vote and decision of the Iraqi people; Today, Iraq is an example of democracy in the region."

The roots of terrorism must be eradicated, and with the military defeat of ISIL, one cannot hope for the elimination of their core, said Hennis-Plasschaert.

"The United Nations seeks peace and security and it will do its utmost to hold a peaceful election in Iraq. This does not mean interfering in the affairs of Iraq, but we will only monitor until a healthy election based on the people's vote is held", she added.

Iran-Pakistan Trade Gate Opens in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - The mutual trade gate between Iran and Pakistan has been reopened for local traders in Balochistan, local media reported on Sunday.

The trade gate, which is commonly known as Zero Point Gate at Taftan border crossing had been closed in September last year due to which the activities of local traders on both sides of the border were affected.

Tax-free trade in the area is based on an old trade agreement between Iran and Pakistan signed in 1951. The reopening of the trade gate has been welcomed by local traders, especially border residents.

The reopening of this trade crossing has always been on the agenda of the Iranian-Pakistani border authorities, and finally today this crossing was reopened for commercial activities, especially the import of basic goods needed by the people of Balochistan from Iran.

Director-General of the Asia-Pacific Office at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) had earlier said that official crossings between Iran and Pakistan will be increased from one to three until February 2021.

"According to the directives of Prime Minister of Pakistan, with the formal opening of Mand border in February, the number of official crossings between the two countries will reach three, which will have a significant impact on increasing trade relations between the two countries," said Reza Seyed-Aqazadeh.

The second official crossing between Iran and Pakistan was opened in December last year at Rimdan-Gabd with the presence of Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami, and Pakistan's Minister of Defense production Zobaida Jalal and other officials.

In addition, the Pakistani government has put the development of border infrastructure on the agenda, and in the latest move, the Prime Minister of Pakistan has called for speeding up the construction of border markets with Iran and developing a comprehensive solution in this regard.

Capabilities of Axis of Resistance, Armed Forces Increased

TEHRAN (MNA) – The Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces said that the blessing of the blood of General Soleimani resulted in significant growth in the capability of the Iranian armed forces and the Resistance Axis.

Paying tribute to martyrs of Kerman province on Monday, Major General Mohammad Bagheri said, "Today, next to the tomb of Martyr General Soleimani, we had the opportunity to renew the pact to continue his path and avenge his blood."

He went on to say, "The school of Martyr Soleimani is in fact the school of Islam, the school of the Islamic Revolution, the school of Holy Defense, the school of

Resistance and the school of war with the United States and Zionist Regime, and this school continues and is pursued more strongly than before."

"During a year that General Soleimani is not among us, the blessing of his blood has caused a significant growth in the capability of the Resistance Axis and the armed forces", Bagheri said, adding that today, the killers of Martyr Soleimani have gone to the dustbin of history.

The criminals will pay the price for their crime, and the Zionist regime is in a state of confusion and destruction, he added.

Iran Offering Discounts to Encourage Flights Through Its Airspace

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has been offering discounts to major international airlines amid efforts by the government to boost transit income by increasing the number of flights through the country's airspace.

Transportation minister Mohammad Eslami said on Sunday that the government had already approved a plan by Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company (IAC) to cut its overflight fees.

Eslami said the discounts are also meant to neutralize "enemy plots" to discourage international airlines from flying through Iran.

"The enemy is fighting to eliminate our airspace's share from transit flights. We should fight back hard to protect our share," he said.

The minister also added that the government has been working with the Iranian armed forces to set up direct flight corridors to further assure foreign airlines about the safety of flying through the Iranian airspace.

The comments came hours after IAC chief Siavosh Amirmokri said that the number of transit flights through Iran had declined by nearly a half compared to 2019 to 400-450 flights per day this year.

Amirmokri added, however, that flying through the Iranian airspace had improved from lows seen early last year when the spread of the coronavirus caused a major recession in the global aviation industry. He said that transit flights through Iran would restore to levels seen before the mistaken downing of a Ukrainian airliner in the country in January last year which led to 176 deaths.

The incident, which came amid high military tensions between Iran and the United States, caused major airlines to avoid using the Iranian airspace for a short period.

"We will see an increase in the number of transit flights this year," said Amirmokri citing forecasts by major international aviation organizations like the IATA and the ICAO.

Imam Khomeini Revived Honor of World Muslims

TEHRAN (MNA) – Majlis Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said Imam Khomeini revived the honor of Muslims around the world through the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which led to the toppling of the U.S.-backed Pahlavi regime.

The representatives of the Iranian Parliament visited Imam Khomeini's Mausoleum on Monday to renew allegiance with the ideals of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution.

During the visit, Qalibaf congratulated the "Iranian nation, as well as all freedom-seekers, justice-seekers and right-seekers of the world and the great families of the Revolution's martyrs" on the 42nd anniversary of Imam Khomeini's return from exile which was a run-up to the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

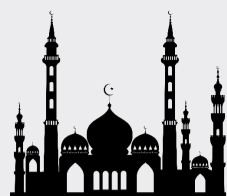
The speaker said Imam Khomeini was able to revive Islam and the dignity of the Muslims of the world through the revolution, adding, "Imam stood against the evil Pahlavi regime, and the oppressive global arrogance and fought against them and achieved a great victory."

Stressing that the key to development and achieving victory against the enemies is to sticking to Imam Khomeini's path, Qalibaf said, "Today, wherever we have a problem, it is rooted in distancing ourselves from the thoughts and school of the Imam, and returning to the path and school of the Imam is the path to success for each of us."

"A revolutionary figure is the one who takes steps to solve people's problems."

In this regard, he urged the lawmakers to do their best to "serve the people and implement the instructions of the Leader, which are the way forward for the country."

"This should be our goal, and we should move in the path of progress and justice," Qalibaf concluded.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	12:18
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:51
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:36
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	07:02

34. Or He can cause them to perish because of the (evil) which (the men) have earned; but much doth He forgive.
35. But let those know, who dispute about Our Signs, that there is for them no way of escape.
Surah 42. Council, Consultation (34 - 35)

Iranian Power Stations In Int'l Standard Level

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The CEO of MAPNA Group says the shortage of forex resources due to the international sanctions have shifted all looks towards the indigenization ,and with restrictions in transactions between the banks, activities of companies are followed by using national currency rial resources and using native potentials.

In an interview with Mizan, Mr. Abbas Aliabadi pointed to the trend of gas consumption in the country, saying that in the winter, the important issue is the excessive consumption of energy in the households and the reason is its cheap price, therefore the low price of energy in the country has led to overconsumption of energy.

He added that rise in gas consumption has led to decrease in the gas quota of thermal power stations, reiterated the average electricity consumption in Iran is two times more than the world standard and currently the number of electrical heating appliances has increased in the winter which has affected the general trend of energy consumption.



Aliabadi said that the law has set appropriate support for boosting the output of the power stations but the trend for earmarking the resources for fulfilling the undertakings have not been satisfactory.

He went on to say that international sanctions have not affected the performance of MAPNA Group, adding that shortage of forex resources due to sanctions have shifted the looks towards indigenization and now companies continue their activities by using rial resources and native potentials.

Aliabadi reiterated that those power stations which are made in the country are in the highest international level and in accordance with the world output standards.

He noted that high capacity of Iran in manufacturing electricity power station has paved the ground for presence of this country in Syrian and Iraqi markets.

Implementation of Mega Projects in Free Zones

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Technical and Infrastructure Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones says several mega projects have been carried out in the free zones of the country, adding that the government can copy the success of these projects as models for other areas in the country.

Mostafa Khanzadi in an interview talked about the infrastructural projects and planning in the free zones and said developmental projects in the system of budgeting means those projects whose credits are earmarked by the government while it is not so in the free zones. He said in the free zones, developmental credit in the budget means those projects which are underway, and technically, the budget of projects in the zones are provided by the free zones and they are run on income-expenditure basis and it means the zones earn required revenues based on the approved laws and then they spend according to the revenues.

He added for this reason free zones in planning and implementing the developmental projects are more successful comparing to the mainland because their developmental budgets are not tied to the national budget.

Khanzadi also said there are a large number of infrastructural projects in the free zones but they differ based on any zone because some projects have been approved earlier and shaped and they have capabilities based on the geographical position and they should earn revenues.

He went on to say that this year the zones have witnessed two inauguration ceremonies for developmental projects that one was inaugurated by the President and the second one was inaugurated two weeks ago with the value of 3,000b tomans.

"Steel" Man of Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – THE CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company Eng. Naser Taghizadeh was awarded with the Steel Man of the Year Award during the 7th International Steel Price Conference.

In the conference, the organizers honored Eng. Taghizadeh as the developer in the fields of mining and steel industries and feted him with "Steel Man of the Year Award".

Born in 1958, Taghizadeh is a graduate from Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman at Mechanical Engineering. He has served for the country for almost 42 years and he has been in several administrative jobs. He is currently the CEO of Chadormalu Company as the company is one the leaders in the national project of transferring water from the Persian Gulf to the central areas in the country.



A new heart is formed to produce the cathode

Efforts to Produce 20% of the Country's Copper

present, the capacity of the complex is one thousand tons, which we intend to increase to 2,500 tons next year and 5,000 tons in the coming years. Referring to the development planning of Ghadir Investment Company, the director of Zagros Mesasazan Company said: Ghadir Investment Company enters the copper market with Zagros Mesasazan Group and we have a five-year long-term plan for Ghadir Investment Company to have 20% of the country's copper production. Since Ghadir has invested heavily in steel, it intends to enter the copper industry in the same way, and this is the vision that Ghadir is pursuing in the copper industry as well. Zagros Mesasazan complex is currently considered as a kind of regional hub and the largest cathode producer in Markazi province, and with the development plans in this complex, this region will face a very good leap. Asked if the mines had just been discovered, Borna said: «These mines already existed, but they had little reserves, and even some mines were abandoned on the assumption that they had no reserves, but now these mines are being rehabilitated.» have become. The eastern mine is being rehabilitated and the central mine is being rehabilitated and the northern mine is being explored for rehabilitation. In fact, it can be said that the factory was declining and produced about 15 to 20 tons of cathodes per month, but now we have reached 80 tons of cathode production per month. Asked what caused the mines to be abandoned, he said: «In the past, proper exploration was not done and the construction of the factory was based on a grade of one percent, while the grade of these mines is about half a percent.» Referring to the situation of copper reserves in the country, the director of Zagros Mesasazan Company said: There are two important and main copper belts in the country, one is Urmia - Dokhtar, where large copper mines such as Sungun and Sarcheshmeh and Shahrabak mines are located on this belt. There is also a belt in the east of the country that starts from Khosf in southern Khorasan and continues to Sistan and Baluchestan, which is a continuation of the Qala-e-Zari process and includes the mines of Janja, Shadan, etc., which are among the copper and gold mines. Borna added: «We hope that good copper reserves will be identified in the country and more work will be done on these belts.» Recently,

in a less-worked area in Ardestan, significant results have been obtained in terms of porphyry, and this could mark a promising future for the country in the copper industry. Our country is one of the few countries in the world that has significant copper reserves in the world.

Copper Industry Outlook

Asked how he sees the future of the copper industry, he said: «Investment in the steel industry started about 10 to 15 years ago and over the years we have seen significant growth in the industry.» The copper industry is now in the position of the steel industry 15 years ago, and the growth and development of the copper industry has begun. Another issue is that there is no substitute for copper, and it is replaced by more expensive metals such as gold and silver, which are strong conductors; Due to this, its demand is high in the world, and as production increases, we need to work harder on our export issues. The manager of Zagros Mesasazan Company further emphasized: a good outlook for the copper industry can be imagined. The world price of this red metal has risen from \$ 4,000 to about \$ 8,000 in a short period of two years, and its world price has doubled. In the world, special attention is paid to the metal copper, and we should not lag behind the world; In Iran, the value of this metal should be appreciated more than before and we should take full advantage of this God-given blessing.

Mining problems



Referring to the problems in the field of mining in the country, Borna said: «One of the biggest problems in the field of mining is that we have



not moved towards modern mining, both in terms of exploration and exploitation, more Traditional methods are used. In the field of copper deposits, it is important to note that porphyry copper deposits are formed in the depths of the earth and there are no drilling rigs at the desired speed that can make these discoveries quickly in Iran. In the field of mining, mining machinery plays a leading role, while in the country we still work in the mines with trucks 30 years ago or our excavators are still old. He also pointed to the problem of the opposition and said: «Many mines in the country have local conflicts and need government support, which should be solved and the governorate and districts should properly address the issue of mining in villages and cities.» While the common misconception is that mining is about destroying the environment and damaging wildlife, in a country like Brazil, which is known as the sixth of the world, mining is done well, or mining in Europe. We must establish mining in the country so that the mines are handed over to capable people. The director of the Zagros Copper Company said: «If the price of copper is currently \$ 8,000, it is because of the amount of known reserves in the world.» If a country discovers a new mine and has significant reserves, it will affect the price of copper; So no matter how much our exploration and exploitation methods lag behind the world, we will lag behind the global market. Currently, due to the embargo on Iranian oil, the mine has the ability to provide a significant exchange rate for the country and even replace oil and petrochemicals. Regarding the replacement of fossil fuels, Borna said: «In the world, instead of fossil fuels, clean energy is being replaced and these fuels are made with minerals, and this will help the growth of the mining industry and will help the country's economy.»



Iran has the seventh largest copper reserves in the world; there are large and small mines in the country, which in turn are a step towards the growth and development of this industry. Some small copper mines have been abandoned in recent years and, after rehabilitation, have re-entered the field of operation and production. Zagros Copper Company is one of the companies that has taken steps to produce significant copper cathodes in the country by reviving copper mines in the country. Farzin Borna, the director of Zagros Mesasazan Company, introduced the company in an interview with «Dunya Eqtesad» and said: «Zagros Mesasazan Company has been bought by Ghadir Investment Company for more than a year and has started its work and is launching development projects.» At present, about one thousand tons of copper cathodes are produced annually in Zagros Copper Company. The factory is located in Markazi province, 15 km from Saveh city, and a total of three mines are located around the factory, whose products are converted into copper cathodes in the factory after extraction. Explaining more about the mines of the Zagros Mesasazan complex, he said: «Currently, the three mines of the east, north and center are operating with a total type of veins, and the average grade of these mines is estimated at about half a percent.»

«We are currently conducting development explorations and eight drilling rigs are operating in different areas of the mines so that we can increase our reserves,» Borna said. With these discoveries, we estimate an increase in reserves of about two to three million tons. At present, Zagros Mesasazan Company is ready to buy oxide copper mines in the region, because in 1400, it is planned to increase the production capacity by 2500 tons of cathodes. At

Car Bomb Kills Four in North Syria

AZAZ (Dispatches) - A car bomb killed four people, including three civilians, in the Turkish-held northern town of Azaz in war-torn Syria on Sunday, a monitoring group said.

The attack, which occurred near a cultural center, also wounded 22 others, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

An AFP reporter at the scene saw a mangled car ablaze, black smoke billowing into the sky.



Thousands Protest In Vienna

VIENNA (Reuters) - Thousands of protesters faced off with police in riot gear in Vienna on Sunday at the site of a banned far-right demonstration against coronavirus restrictions.

Vienna police banned numerous protests planned for this weekend, including one by the far-right Freedom Party on Sunday, on the grounds that protesters have generally failed to observe rules on social distancing and often not worn face masks.



Russia Detains Over 2,700 at Protests Against Jailing of Navalny



MOSCOW (Reuters) - Police detained more than 2,700 people and broke up rallies in Moscow and across Russia on Sunday as supporters of Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny braved the bitter cold and a massive show of police force to demand he be set free.

The nationwide rallies are the second straight weekend of protests that are part of a high-risk opposition campaign to try to pressure the Kremlin into freeing President Vladimir Putin's most prominent opponent.

The opposition politician was arrested on Jan. 17 after returning to Moscow from Germany where he had been recovering from a nerve agent poisoning in Russia last summer. He accuses Putin of ordering his murder, which the Kremlin denies.

Navalny's dramatic return to Moscow despite the obvious threat of arrest and the protests that his jailing has sparked pose a major challenge for Putin who has dominated the Russian political landscape for over two decades.

In a highly unusual move, police imposed a security lockdown in the heart of the capital on Sunday, sealing off streets to pedestrians near the Kremlin, closing metro stations and deploying hundreds of riot police as snow fell.

Yulia, a 40-year-old protester in Moscow, said she had joined the rallies despite having a panic attack the night before because of worrying about repercussions for taking part. "I understand that I live in a totally lawless state. In a police state, with no independent courts. In a country ruled by corruption. I would like to live differently," she said.

Police have said the protests were illegal as they had not been authorized and would be broken up. Authorities have said demonstrators could spread COVID-19.

At one point a column of protesters marched towards the prison in northern Moscow where Navalny is being held, chanting "Let him go!"

Police put turnout at the Moscow protest at around 2,000 people. Reuters reporters estimated crowds of several thousand that were smaller than last weekend when police estimated 4,000 people and the opposition put the figure at 50,000, an assertion the authorities dismissed as nowhere near the truth.

Police detained at least 2,737 people nationwide, including 681 in Moscow, according to OVD-Info, a protest monitoring group. The figures were expected to rise.

Yulia Navalnaya, the Kremlin critic's wife, was among those detained. "If we stay quiet, then they could come for any of us tomorrow," she wrote on Instagram before joining the protests.

The protest is a test of Navalny's support after many of his prominent allies were targeted in a crackdown this week. Several, including his brother Oleg, are under house arrest.

In the far eastern city of Vladivostok, video footage showed protesters chanting "Putin is a thief" as they linked hands and marched in temperatures of around -13 Celsius (8.6 Fahrenheit). Police detained more than 100 people in the city, OVD-Info said.

Foreign Troops to Stay in Afghanistan Beyond May Deadline

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - International troops plan to stay in Afghanistan beyond the May deadline envisaged by the insurgent Taliban's deal with the United States, four senior NATO officials said, a move that could escalate tensions with the Taliban demanding full withdrawal.

"There will be no full withdrawal by allies by April-end," one of the officials told Reuters.

"Conditions have not been met," he said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. "And with the new U.S. administration, there will be tweaks in the policy, the sense of hasty withdrawal which was prevalent will be addressed and we could see a much more calculated exit strategy."

The administration of then-President Donald Trump signed an agreement with the Taliban early last year calling for the withdrawal of all foreign troops by May in return for the insurgents fulfilling certain security guarantees.

Trump hailed the accord - which did not include the Afghan government - as the end of two decades of war. He reduced U.S. troops to 2,500 by this month, the fewest since 2001.



Modi Vows to Pursue Reforms After Deadly Farmer Riot

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India will push on with sweeping agriculture reforms, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Sunday, as he criticized last week's deadly riot in the capital following a long-running protest campaign by farmers.

Thousands flooded New Delhi, driving tractors from border camps where they have been holding sit-ins since November 26; but the rally turned into a rampage which left one person dead and hundreds of police injured.

Modi called the farmers' assault on a historic fort an "insult" to the national flag. His government have insisted that the agriculture sector needs to be modernised, but farmers fear the deregulation laws will place them at the mercy of big corporations that already dominate other industries.

In his first public comments on Tuesday's events, Modi stressed that the government remained "committed to modernising agriculture".

"The efforts of the government shall also continue in the future," the Indian leader said in his regular monthly radio address on Sunday.

"On January 26, seeing the insult of our tricolour, the country was very sad," he added.

The demonstrators swarmed the 400-year-old World Heritage-listed Red Fort on Tuesday, raising religious and farm union flags, though they did not remove the national flag from the top of the monument. Modi's comments came as police arrested at least one journalist and filed complaints against others, stoking fears of a media crackdown over the reporting of the protests.

Mandeep Punia, who writes for the English-language Caravan magazine, was detained on Saturday at Singhu, one of the main protest sites.

He was photographed being taken to court on Sunday, where he is expected to be charged on unknown offences, local media reported. Since Tuesday, at least five complaints have been registered against Indian journalists and an opposition Congress member of parliament on several allegations, including sedition and criminal conspiracy.

Protesters Disrupt COVID Vaccination Site in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Demonstrators have briefly disrupted a coronavirus vaccination distribution center at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, calling the jabs part of a conspiracy by elites to control the population.

Several dozen people carrying signs demanding the end of lockdowns and promoting anti-vaccination conspiracy theories gathered on Saturday at the entrance to the vaccination site, one of the largest in the United States, social media posts showed.

Officials shut the site down for nearly an hour, U.S. media reported, citing fire department officials - though the Los Angeles police department later insisted it was not closed and all the vaccines would be distributed.

The incident represents the latest challenge to the vaccine roll-out in the US, which has the highest number of cases and deaths in the world from COVID-19.

The Los Angeles Daily News spoke to protester Jairo Rodriguez, 26, who said most of the protesters were supporters of former president Donald Trump who deliberately chose not to wear pro-Trump attire or carry US flags in order to "better communicate their anti-vaxxing message". He also said they did not wear masks.

On social media, protesters were shown holding signs reading "Covid = scam," "99.96 survival rate," and "Tell Bill Gates to Vaccinate Himself." The latter

in reference to a conspiracy theory that vaccines were being used to implant microchips in the population in order to control them by a New World Order.

Others chanted "This is not a vaccine," "Sheep led to their slaughter" and "This is a treatment. You are submitting to be a lab rat in real-time".

A post on social media described the demonstration as the "SCAMDEMIC PROTEST/MARCH." It advised participants to "please refrain from wearing Trump/MAGA attire as we want our statement to resonate with the sheeple. No flags but informational signs only".

Health officials expect to vaccinate 12,000 people a day at the stadium, thought to be the largest vaccination site in the nation. Videos and photos of the protests were widely shared on social media, drawing ire and outrage from some who highlighted the burgeoning death toll from coronavirus in the country. More than 26 million people have been infected and 439,000 have died in the country since the start of the pandemic, a tally kept by Johns Hopkins University showed on Saturday.

President Joe Biden has pledged to have 100 million people vaccinated within his first 100 days - but the rollout began slowly under Trump.

Los Angeles County, where COVID-19 cases have surged this winter, is currently only vaccinating front-line medical workers and people aged 65 and over.



Vietnam's Ruling Communist Party Re-Elects Chief Trong

HANOI (Dispatches) - Vietnam's ruling Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong was re-elected Sunday -- a victory that makes him the most powerful leader in decades -- but his win was overshadowed by a serious coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Trong, a 76-year-old pro-China conservative who is rumored to be in poor health, was given the nod after a week of closed-door talks at the twice-a-decade Communist Party congress. It will be his third term in office -- a feat unprecedented in Vietnam's modern era.

"On Sunday morning, comrade Nguyen Phu Trong was elected the General Secretary of the 13th Communist Party Central Committee," the Vietnam News Agency reported.

Another stint in the top job for Trong is seen as a boost for his high-profile anti-corruption campaign, officially dubbed a "blazing furnace," that has swept through the party, police and armed forces. "We can expect Trong to continue to push" his campaign, which has claimed high-level party officials, including three Politburo members, said Carl Thayer, an emeritus professor at the University of New South Wales and an expert on Vietnam.

With graft widespread across all state sectors, Trong's anti-corruption drive has largely proved popular with the Vietnamese public and many party members. "We admired him for his determination and efforts to cleanse and purify the party," said Nguyen Tran Trung, a long-time Communist Party member.

"Though not in good health, his presence in the leading position still scares bad cadres in the apparatus. He plays a major role in preserving the Communist Party," the 78-year-old state official told AFP.

But for opponents of the regime, the last five years have been marked by escalating repression, according to rights groups and analysts, who warned Trong is likely to push forward with the crackdown during his third stint in power.

"We can expect a continuing crackdown on dissenting voices in the online social media," Thayer told AFP.

Prisoners of conscience have doubled from 84 to 170 since the previous congress in 2016, according to Amnesty International, which says a large and growing proportion are jailed based on their expression online.



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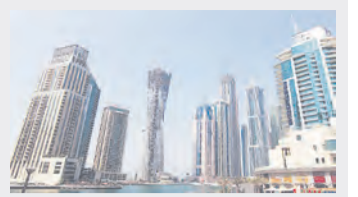
Dubai House Prices to Drop at Slower Pace

DUBAI (Reuters) - Dubai's house prices are expected to fall at a slower pace this year and next than previously thought as hopes for a successful vaccine rollout and an economic recovery boost confidence in the sector, a Reuters poll showed.

After declining 3.5% in the first quarter of 2020, Dubai property prices have shown signs of stabilising. They fell

by a much slower 0.9% year-on-year in the third quarter after barely changing in Q2, United Arab Emirates central bank data found.

The Jan. 13-28 poll of 11 property market analysts predicted Dubai house prices would decline 2.0% this year, a significant improvement from a September survey that forecast a decline of 5.1%. It was expected to fall the same next year.



China's Factory Recovery Slows In Jan as COVID-19 Returns

BEIJING (Reuters) - China's factory activity grew at the slowest pace in five months in January, hit by a wave of domestic coronavirus infections, but still in line with the ongoing recovery in the world's second-largest economy.

The official manufacturing Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) fell to 51.3 in January from 51.9 in December, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement on Sunday.

It remained above the 50-point mark that separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis, but was below the 51.6 expected in a Reuters poll of analyst forecasts. In January, mainland China reported more than 2,000 local cases of the coronavirus. While the number was small compared with other countries, authorities were concerned about transmission risks during the Lunar New Year travel rush - the world's biggest annual human migration spanning 40 days from January to February.

During the month several large cities were locked down with tens of millions tested for COVID-19, interrupting factory activity and weighing on the services sector, including logistics and transportation.

"The recent localised epidemic has had a certain impact on the production and operation of some enterprises, and the overall expansion of the manufacturing industry has slowed," said Zhao Qinghe, an official at the statistics bureau.

"The period before and after the Lunar New Year is also traditionally an off-season for the country's manufacturing industry," Zhao said in an accompanying statement.

The new coronavirus outbreak, mostly in the north, is expected to be a temporary restraining factor while China's vast industrial sector continues to find strength in resilient export demand.

The official PMI, which largely focuses on big and state-owned firms, showed the sub-index for new export orders stood at 50.2, expanding for the fifth straight month, though down from 51.3 in December.

Economic indicators ranging from trade to producer prices all suggest a further pickup in the industrial sector. A sub-index for small firm activity stood at 49.4 in January, up from December's 48.8.

China's gross domestic product grew 2.3% on year in 2020, making it the only major economy in the world to dodge a contraction last year as many nations struggled to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

The central bank will extend the country's monetary policy support for economic growth with a focus on maximising employment to help boost consumption, Governor Yi Gang said last week. In the services sector, activity expanded for the 11th straight month, the statistics bureau said, albeit at a slower clip, weighed by the latest COVID-19 outbreaks.



Qatar-Spain Bilateral Trade Reaches \$750mn in January-November 2020

DOHA (Dispatches) - Bilateral trade between Qatar and Spain stood at \$750mn from January to November 2020, according to Saleh bin Majid al-Khulaifi, assistant undersecretary for Trade Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Speaking to officials of the Qatari Businessmen Association (QBA), the Embassy of Spain in Qatar, and other officials during a webinar Saturday, al-Khulaifi said bilateral relations between the two countries had "developed remarkably in recent years, especially at the economic level."

In his speech, al-Khulaifi, also stated that the establishment of the Qatari-Spanish Joint Business Council and the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the QBA and the Confederation of Employers and Industries of Spain (CEOE) is the "culmination of the historical partnership relations" between Qatar and Spain, which "had been ongoing firmly since the 1970s."

Al-Khulaifi noted that the MoU would contribute to further strengthening the bonds of Manuel Muniz, Secretary of State for Global Spain bilateral cooperation between the two countries, especially at the commercial and investment levels.

The webinar was held in the presence of QBA chairman HE Sheikh Faisal bin Qassim al-Thani and CEOE president Antonio Garamendi. The meeting also witnessed the participation of Qatari and Spanish government officials represented by ambassador Salem al-Jaber, director of European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Manuel Muniz, Secretary of State for Global Spain; and Xiana Mendes, Secretary of State for Trade in Spain. The meeting was also attended by Marta Blanco, president of the Federation for International Affairs; and Jose Bonnet, president of the Spanish Chamber of Commerce; Abdullah bin Ibrahim al-Hamar, ambassador of the State of Qatar to Spain; and Spanish ambassador Belen Alfaro Hernandez.

From the Qatari Side, QBA second deputy to the chairman Sheikh Dr Khalid bin Thani al-Thani and board member Saud al-Mana participated in the meeting, as well as QBA members Khaled al-Mannai, Nabil Abu Issa, Ihssan al-Khaimi, Mohamed Althaf, Dallah Holding Media CEO Wassim al-Dayaa, and QBA deputy general manager Sarah Abdullah.

The meeting was part of the QBA's efforts to communicate with similar economic institutions around the world in order to discuss opportunities for economic cooperation and to consolidate ties to identify and benefit from global experiences and discuss proposed solutions to support private sector companies and institutions.

During the webinar, al-Jaber, delivered a welcoming note, congratulating all participants on the signing of the MoU. He also wished for more prosperity for Qatar-Spain relations.

For his part, Muniz said, "Qatari-Spanish relations are originally strong, but the announcement of this council will help in strengthening them further in order to reach the ambitious level."

Mendes said Spanish companies are competitive in various sectors, such as digitisation, green economy, infrastructure, and sports. She stressed that their experiences can contribute to achieving the economic diversification that Qatar aspires to achieve, especially in the fields of agriculture, livestock, and electronic transformation.



Japan Mulls Four-Day Working Week Amid COVID Pandemic

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese employees are famous for putting in agonizingly long hours at their desks and declining to take all their annual holidays for fear of inconveniencing office colleagues. But changes that were becoming evident in society have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Members of the Japanese parliament on Wednesday opened discussions on a proposal put forward by Kuniko Inoguchi, a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to permit workers to opt for a four-day working week instead of the traditional five-day, Monday-to-Friday pattern.

A handful of Japanese companies have already instituted flexible working systems, but the changes wrought on the corporate landscape by COVID-19 have hastened the debate on the issue.

And the early signs are that it would have the support of workers and companies.

"I would say that rather than being a possibility at companies, it should be a necessity," Teruo Sakurada, a professor of business at Osaka's Hannan University, told DW. "Japan's economic system is under a great deal of pressure - made more acute by the pandemic. We need to make changes to ensure that it is sufficiently resilient and able to meet the needs of companies in the future," he said.

In recent decades, Japan has shifted from an economy that is based on manufacturing to one that is more reliant on the service sector and financial services. That trend will continue as the nation's population continues to contract from 126.5 million at present to possibly as few as 83 million by the end of the century.

"These changes mean that Japan has to be far more efficient in the future, and we need to find ways to improve both working conditions for people and the amount of leisure time that they can enjoy," Sakurada added.

Biden, Democrats Push for \$15 Minimum Wage

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Democratic push to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour has emerged as an early flashpoint in the fight for a \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package, testing President Joe Biden's ability to bridge Washington's partisan divides as he pursues

his first major legislative victory.

Biden called for a \$15 hourly minimum wage during his campaign and has followed through by hitching it to a measure that, among other things, calls for \$1,400 stimulus checks and \$130 billion to help schools reopen. Biden argues that anyone who holds a full-time job shouldn't live in poverty, echoing progressives in the Democratic Party who are fully on board with the effort.

"With the economic divide, I mean, I want to see a \$15 minimum wage. It should actually be \$20," said Rep. Rashida Tlaib, D-Mich.

Some Republicans support exploring an increase but are uneasy with \$15 an hour. They warn that such an increase could lead to job losses in an economy that has nearly 10 million fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic began. Moderates such as Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Rep. Tom Reed of New York are urging Biden to split off the minimum wage hike from COVID-19 talks and deal with it separately.

"The more you throw into this bucket of COVID relief that's not really related to the crisis, the more you risk the credibility with the American people that you're really sincere about the crisis," Reed said. Including the wage increase, Murkowski said, "complicates politically an initiative that we should all be working together to address."

The resistance from moderates has left Democrats with a stark choice: Wait and build bipartisan support for an increase or move ahead with little to no GOP backing, potentially as part of a package that can pass the Senate with Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote. Democratic leaders appear to be moving toward the latter option, with no guarantee of success. Even if raising the wage can get past procedural challenges, passage will require the support from every Democrat in the 50-50 Senate, which could be a tall order.

Uzbekistan Joins Global Carbon Neutrality Race to 2050

HONG KONG (Dispatches) - Uzbekistan will become the latest nation to join the global race to carbon neutrality by 2050. In collaboration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, or EBRD, the central Asian republic is set to declare its intention to significantly cut its reliance on thermal energy sources.

Uzbekistan will be one of the few developing Asian countries to openly pledge a fossil fuel emissions reduction target. Among the region's more developed economies, Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong have said they will meet the same goal by 2050. China's target year is 2060, and Singapore's commitment is for the same year, but it is shooting at halving emissions from what they will be in 2030.

Uzbekistan will lead its neighbor Kazakhstan, one of its former Soviet Central Asian peers, by 10 years. Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev declared his country's goal in December.

The EBRD and Uzbek government on Monday are to sign a memorandum of understanding on long-term collaboration toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

The MOU is to act as an open promise by both parties to push forward with the Central Asian country's strategy to convert its energy sector to gradually decarbonize its sources, Nikkei has learned. Even though no specific financial target will be spelled out, the EBRD is to help finance and provide technical support, such as by developing large-scale renewable power plants, introducing a modern electricity grid, rejuvenating gas generation capabilities and retiring old thermal electric facilities.

The Uzbek government has switched to a more open-door, market-oriented economy from a closed, centrally planned economy since the death of former President Islam Karimov, the strongman who led the country from its 1991 independence to his passing in 2016.



Even though Uzbekistan has been an EBRD member since 1992, the bank, whose main mandate is to assist former eastern-bloc countries transition to market-oriented economies, by 2010 had virtually severed relations with the previous Uzbek leadership.

With the new administration of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in power, the EBRD returned in 2017 to sign a new loan and reopen representative office in Tashkent, the country's capital.

Uzbekistan is Asia's only double landlocked country, meaning inhabitants have to cross at least two other nations to reach any sea or ocean. The nation has a population of about 33 million, the largest among the five former Soviet Central Asian republics, but under Karimov, it lagged regional rival Kazakhstan in terms of development and upgrading its basic infrastructure.

Since reengaging in the region, the EBRD has been focusing its efforts on Uzbekistan and has invested over 2 billion euros (\$2.42 billion) in 92 projects. One of its emphases is energy, a sector in which it has 11 projects with total value of around \$1 billion, all at different stages of development, according to the bank's official website.

Taiwan Says Economy May Grow 4% This Year



TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan's trade-dependent economy could grow more than 4% this year on the back of booming demand for its tech products as long as the COVID-19 pandemic remains under control, Economy Minister Wang Mei-hua said.

Taiwan's economy grew at its fastest pace in almost a decade in the fourth quarter after contracting earlier last year. For 2020, initial GDP growth was put at 2.98%, higher than China's 2.3% rise last year.

Taiwan, home to major Apple Inc suppliers like Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co Ltd (TSMC) the world's largest contract chip maker, has benefited for demand for computers and tablets as the pandemic has forced people to work and study from home around the world.

Wang, in an interview with Formosa Television, said her conversations with Taiwanese companies led her to believe a GDP growth of more than 4% this year was possible.

"I see how busy they are. I think there's an opportunity for it to exceed 4%," she said.

But Wang added that was predicated on the pandemic remaining under control.

While Taiwan is currently dealing with a small and rare outbreak of local transmissions connected to a single hospital, the large majority of its 909 confirmed cases have been imported from abroad, and the island has never gone into lockdown.

In November, the government's statistics department foresaw full-year 2021 growth of 3.83%, its fastest pace since 2014. It is due to give an updated forecast next month.

Iran Oil Exports Rising Despite Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP) - The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) says the country is much better off when it comes to the export of oil and oil products compared to the past. Abdolnasser Hemmati said Iran's measures to neutralize sanctions imposed on the country are working well.

"We will also try to make other countries prepare the ground for us to have access to our [financial] resources as soon as possible," he said.



FAO Involved in Projects to Strengthen Food Safety

ROME (Dispatches) - A project has started to strengthen official food safety control and risk communication systems in five countries of Europe and Central Asia.

The effort, funded by Turkey, includes Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkey. It will include regional capacity development events and country-level activities.

In recent years, these nations have taken steps to improve their food control structures to cover all stages of food production and processing from farm-to-table.

However, systems of the countries are at different stages of development, so the project will focus on specific country needs and several common challenges from a regional perspective, according to officials.

Effective food safety and quality control systems are key to safeguard the health and well-being of people and to improve livelihoods by promoting access to wider markets.

The project will help the sharing of knowledge and experiences among the countries, that can also benefit from Turkish expertise.

Work falls under the jurisdiction of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) partnership program with Turkey on food and agriculture.

Meanwhile, another FAO project involves Kyrgyzstan and improving food safety management in the country's fruit and vegetable sector.

The work is funded by a \$570,000 contribution from the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) and will support implementation of modern risk-based food safety management systems in fruit and vegetable production and processing.

This will help local producers ensure safety of their products, and increase access to domestic and international markets, mainly members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which the Kyrgyz Republic joined in August 2015.

Adnan Qureshi, FAO representative in Kyrgyzstan, said: "The project will have a positive impact on development of the fruit and vegetable sector and will provide an impetus to increase sales of Kyrgyz fruit and vegetables, which will ultimately lead to an increase in the profitability of small farms and processors in connection with the improvement of the fruit and vegetable industry."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Industry and Melioration and Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises (AFVE) are also involved in the project, which runs until the end of 2022.

In a December 2020 virtual inception workshop organized by FAO, Dilbara Alimzhanova, AFVE director, said that producers are facing difficulties in accessing



domestic and export markets because of non-compliance with food safety requirements. Reasons for this include limited financial and technical capacities, lack of technical expertise and guidance, and outdated inspection systems.

Mary Kenny, FAO food safety and consumer protection officer, said technical knowledge of authority staff on doing risk-based inspection and analysis and revising audit procedures will be improved.

"Within the framework of this project, a standardized training system will be created to build capacities on internationally accepted risk-based food safety management systems including Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Good Hygiene Practices (GHP) and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)."

Finally, late this past year, a final meeting was held as part of the FAO project on technical support to the Azerbaijan Food Safety Agency (AFSA) with institutional reform and management.

The online seminar discussed the project, which ran in 2019 and 2020. Elkhan Mikayilov, chairman of the AFSA, said the agency is benefiting from the FAO's experience and is looking at the principle of a risk-based approach.

Islamic Republic of Iran...

FROM PAGE 1

He went on to say that the era, when superpowers used to make decision for Iranian nation and a pro-U.S. force could rule in any part of Iran and have presence in its military and economic sectors, has come to its end.

Hojjatolislam Raisi further said that in the past 42 years after the establishment of the Islamic Revolution, enemies have always tried to deprive Iranian nation of their culture, thought and freedom but Iranian nation with its strong determination and relying on the Almighty has defeated them, expressing hope that the brilliance of the Islamic Republic would be seen in the world more than ever.

He once again reiterated that the Islamic Republic does not accept corruption and discrimination and it is against tyranny and arrogance and the Judiciary as the custodian of implementing the justice in the country is determined to combat corruption non-stop and without any discrimination.

He also felicitated the birthday anniversary of Hazrat Fatemeh (A) and the mother's day and termed Hazrat Fatemeh (A) as the symbol of sincerity and piety.

Tehran Rules...

FROM PAGE 1

Khatibzadeh said the first step is for the U.S. to lift the sanctions on Iran and fully implement the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, rather than just re-entering the JCPOA.

He argued that the U.S. cannot simply rejoin the nuclear deal by signing a piece of paper. "A signature on a piece of paper will not suffice."

"If the Biden administration intends to correct the U.S.' wrong path, it should take practical measures," he added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that Iran's position has always been "cooperation and dialogue" in the region without any foreign interference.

Khatibzadeh criticized some of Iran's neighboring countries for their "inappropriate measures" during Trump's tenure. He said they saw Trump as a "window of opportunity" to use whatever they wanted.

"Some of our good neighbors in the region have taken some inappropriate measures under the illusion that Trump's presence is a window of opportunity," he said.

He called on Saudi Arabia to reverse course, end its war on Yemen and accept that intra-regional talks can lead to a mutual understanding between the countries of the region. "Iran's arms are wide open and we will welcome them," Khatibzadeh added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatibzadeh said talks with the Taliban in Tehran last week were held at the request and knowledge of the Afghan government.

On Sunday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with the Taliban's top political leader Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar and his entourage in Tehran.

"All of the talks have been held either at their request or with their knowledge," Khatibzadeh said.

"We have always stated that we support the inter-Afghan dialogue," he said, noting that the Taliban are part of the reality in Afghanistan and need to be recognized as such.

According to Khatibzadeh, no government can be formed in Afghanistan unless it is based on the achievements of the Afghani people.

"We regard as valid any agreement reached by the current government of Afghanistan, the groups and the people of Afghanistan including the Taliban," the spokesman said. "But [such an agreement] would come out of the inter-Afghan dialogue and not out of the elimination of others, including the government."

Exports Empty Canada's Canola Bins, Driving Prices to Near Records



WINNIPEG (Reuters) - Canada, the world's biggest canola grower, is running short of the oilseed six months before the next harvest, with strong export demand driving prices to nearly 13-year highs last week.

Supplies of major commodity crops are dwindling worldwide as buyers hoard food supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic. China is loading up on grains and oilseeds that it can feed to animals, raising food inflation and causing some nations to restrict exports of their crops.

Canola, known for its bright yellow flowers, is crushed mainly for oil to make French fries, mayonnaise and salad dressings. Its meal is also fed to livestock like pigs.

To Manitoba farmer Bill Craddock, it seemed like a good decision in autumn to sell all of his canola at high prices, only to see them spike even more this month. Still, Craddock profited off last week's rally by trading small numbers of futures contracts.

"I'm entering my 51st year of trading and the market is as volatile as I ever remember," Craddock said. "To try and make money from it, you have to stand your ground, and be right, or get killed."

The roots of Canada's canola shortage trace back to the autumn, when farmers reaped their smallest harvest in five years. Strong export demand for canola seed and oil then drove a late-summer rally that prompted farmers to sell more crop earlier than usual.

Those early deliveries to commercial handlers have helped Canada export nearly 33% more canola year-to-date over last year, according to government data. Top buyer China more than doubled purchases to 1.2 million tons as of December, despite continuing restrictions against Canadian exporters Richardson International and Viterra.

Other exporters can still ship Canadian canola, helping meet China's voracious demand for animal feed as its hog herd recovers from a deadly disease.

With the market soaring, canola importers locked in their purchase prices under terms of their sales agreements last week, fearing even higher prices, said Tony Tryhuk, manager of commodity trading at RBC. That forced Canadian exporters on the other ends of those sales to buy canola futures at high prices to fill them, likely registering big losses in the process, he said.

ICE canola futures retreated late in the week to less than C\$700 per ton, remaining close to levels unseen since the record 2008 commodity boom.

Philippine Economy Poised to Grow 7.6% in 2021

MANILA (Dispatches) - Fitch Solutions, a unit of the Fitch Group, said over the weekend it expects the Philippine economy to rebound this year with a growth of 7.6 percent from a record-low 9.5-percent slump last year amid the prolonged impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fitch Solutions said in a report that household consumption would remain key to the economic rebound, with a recovery in gross capital formation dependent on stronger domestic demand.

"Risks were tilted heavily to the downside, with the Philippines highly vulnerable to another tightening of domestic restrictions to curb domestic COVID-19 outbreaks," it said.

"The Philippines is set for only a partial economic recovery in 2021, as activity remains capped by continued headwinds from the COVID-19 pandemic," it said.

It said that with COVID-19 cases averaging over 1,700 a day as of Jan. 26 and the threat of more contagious strains, authorities would likely have to maintain some elements of mobility restrictions throughout the year.

"As such, we at Fitch Solutions forecast the economy to only partially recover its losses in 2020, with our forecast for growth at just 7.6 percent in 2021," Fitch Solutions said.

It said expectations for recovery to pre-pandemic levels by the first half was predicated on the ability of Philippine authorities to ease domestic lockdown restrictions through 2021 and a gradual normalization of activity.

Private consumption and gross capital formation are expected to grow 5.5 percent and 25.1 percent in 2021, from average contractions of 7.9 percent and 35.4 percent in 2020.

"The government will continue its accommodative fiscal stance to aid the recovery in domestic activity while an upturn in global trade will offer some boost to the economy, albeit with neither enough to offset disruptions to private domestic demand. The ability of the government to provide stimulus also somewhat rests on its containment of the pandemic," Fitch Solutions said. Fitch Solutions also said there remained risks of the funds for development projects being reallocated towards fighting another surge in COVID-19 cases. "For now, we forecast government consumption to rise 6.0 percent in 2021, slowing from a 9.8-percent increase in 2020," it said.

The Philippine Statistics Authority reported last week that the economy contracted by 9.5 percent in 2020, the worst on record since the government started collecting GDP data in 1946, a year after the Second World War ended.

The decline surpassed the 7-percent decline posted in the latter part of the Marcos administration in 1984. Factors that contributed to the decline were the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and a string of natural disasters such as the Taal Volcano eruption in January and strong typhoons in the fourth quarter.

Tunisia to Issue Up to \$3b Debt, Push Reforms

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Tunisia will issue debt worth up to \$3 billion this year and aims to roll over some existing credit arrangements while setting in train wider economic reforms, Finance Minister Ali Kooli told Reuters in an interview.

With a deficit estimated at 11.5% of gross domestic product last year and public debt at 90% of GDP, Tunisia plans reforms to cut its high public wage bill and subsidies and restructure poorly performing state-owned companies, Kooli said. The COVID-19 pandemic, political infighting and ongoing protests over inequality have added to the pressure on the government, while foreign lenders and the powerful labor union have often made competing demands on reform.

"Our situation is tough, but it doesn't mean that we aren't in a position to pay salaries or reimburse our debt," said Kooli, adding that Tunisia could comfortably meet repayments due in the first half of 2021.

Tunisia's 2021 budget forecasts borrowing needs at 19.5 billion Tunisian dinars (\$7.2 billion), including about \$5 billion in foreign loans. It puts debt repayments due this year at 16 billion dinars, up from 11 billion dinars in 2020.

Kooli said Tunisia wants a new \$1 billion loan guarantee arrangement from the United States, which he said could help it secure the \$3 billion in bond issuance, the first time he has given that figure. The government also hopes to reach agreement with the International Monetary Fund on a new financing program, and he said recent Article IV consultations were a step towards that.

Iran Wrote...

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...under the JCPOA, the imposition of new sanctions under various pretexts and changing their titles, putting pressure on other countries and private companies to follow the so-called failed policy of maximum pressure are considered as the main focal points in this report.

Gharibabadi added: "Failure to take appropriate measures by the European Union and the three European countries to ensure the practical interests of Iran under the JCPOA and effectively counter US sanctions and compensate them for the effects of lifting sanctions, despite more than a year of strategic Iranian patience in fulfilling its obligations and the confirmation of Iran's adherence in 15 consecutive reports of the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are other points mentioned in Iran's letter to the international body as well. Worsening of the situation of the JCPOA due to non-fulfillment of European parties' obligations, including finance, banking, insurance, trade, energy, investment, etc., Iran's lack of practical benefit from the nuclear agreement, upsetting the balance between the obligations in the JCPOA and the balance between data and outputs, and the provision of the legal basis for the partial or total cessation of Iran's obligations under articles 26 and 36 of the nuclear agreement, are other focal points of Iran's letter to the agency."

The letter also includes the adoption of a policy of extravagance, inaction, sabotage (nuclear), and assassination (Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, a prominent Iranian defense, and nuclear scientist) or supporting such a policy by remaining silent in the face of destructive actions, despite Iran's action within the framework of the JCPOA and the continuation of full and transparent cooperation with the IAEA. Gharibabadi went on to say: "The report also states that the passage of the Strategic Action Law is in fact a strategic and calibrated reaction adopted towards the actions of the Trump administration (former US President) over the past few years and in the shadow of the inaction of some parties of the 2015 Iran Nuclear Deal against the Iranian nation, aiming to provide another opportunity to save the JCPOA through the lifting of sanctions to restore the lost balance in the nuclear deal."

He also underscored that all Iran's compensatory measures are carried out under the IAEA's supervision and verification and can be returned if other parties' obligations are fulfilled and the anti-Iranian sanctions are fully lifted.

Asher-Smith Claims

Second 60m Indoors Win

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Britain's 200m world champion Dina Asher-Smith picked up her second indoor victory over 60m in Germany this weekend by winning the women's final in Duesseldorf on Sunday.

Having equalled her personal best by running 7.08 seconds to claim victory in Karlsruhe on Friday, the 25-year-old clocked 7.12 to win the women's 60m final on Sunday.

This weekend is the first time the British sprint queen has raced indoors for three years and her first race for well over a year.

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Hertha Berlin Confirm Talks With Khedira

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bundesliga strugglers Hertha Berlin have confirmed they are in talks with Sami Khedira and could sign the former Germany midfielder before the transfer window closes.

"We are talking to him, there are a few things to clear up and a few questions to answer before Monday at 1800," when the transfer window closes, Hertha CEO Carsten Schmidt told Sky.

According to magazine Kicker, Khedira arrived in Berlin on Saturday and was due to undergo a medical check on Sunday.

Lakers End Losing Streak With Win Over Celtics

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Anthony Davis scored 27 points to fuel the Los Angeles Lakers, who ended their two-game NBA losing streak in dramatic style with a 96-95 victory over the Celtics in Boston.

A well-rested Davis, who sat out the Lakers' loss to the Pistons in Detroit on Thursday with a bruised thigh, added 14 rebounds for the reigning NBA champions.

LeBron James finished with 21 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the reigning NBA champions, who bounced back after defeats in Philadelphia and Detroit.

It was a close-run game, however.

Jayson Tatum scored 30 points and pulled down nine rebounds for the Celtics and Jaylen Brown added 28 points. It was a one-point game when Boston's Marcus Smart departed with 10:28 remaining after a fall that left him with what the Celtics said was a calf strain.

James drained a three-pointer to put the Lakers up 88-85 with 5:25 remaining and the Lakers pushed the lead to as many as seven points before the Celtics again narrowed the gap.

Tatum cut the deficit to 96-95 with 32.8 seconds remaining.

Boston's Kemba Walker blocked a Davis shot but missed at the other end. Teammate Daniel Theis grabbed the rebound but couldn't get his follow-up effort to fall.

The victory was especially satisfying, Davis said, not necessarily for the long history between two clubs that own 17 NBA titles apiece but because of what happened the last time the Lakers played in Boston in March.

It came down to the buzzer in Chicago, where Portland's Damian Lillard drained a three-pointer as time expired to give the Trail Blazers a 123-122 victory over the Bulls.

Lillard finished with 44 points on eight 3-pointers.

Chicago appeared headed for victory when Coby White made a pair of free throws to put the Bulls up 122-117 with 11.5 seconds remaining.

But Lillard, whose 44 points included eight three-pointers, closed the deficit to 122-120 with a strike from beyond the arc with 8.2 seconds left. The Blazers then forced a jump ball with 6.2 seconds left and Lillard was able to snag a loose ball and make the winner.

It was a narrow escape for a Blazers team that led by 19 in the third quarter.



Forward Lauri Markkanen scored 31 points and guard Zach LaVine added 26 for the Bulls.

And it was close in Miami, where Jimmy Butler returned from a 10-game absence due to the league's coronavirus protocols to score 30 points in the Heat's 105-104 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

Butler scored 20 points in the first half, but Miami couldn't get ahead by more than one and trailed by two at the break.

The Heat led by 11 early in the fourth, before the Kings mounted a rally that would fall just short.

The Charlotte Hornets, with a career-high 27 points from rookie point guard LaMelo Ball, out-lasted two-time NBA Most Valuable Player Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks 126-114.

Antetokounmpo scored 34 points with 18 rebounds and nine assists.

But with Ball's effort off the bench, and 27 points from Gordon Hayward, the Hornets followed up their victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday with another win over a top-five Eastern Conference team.

And the Memphis Grizzlies, back after having five games postponed because of coronavirus issues, picked up right where they left off with a 129-112 victory over the Spurs in San Antonio.

De'Anthony Melton led the Grizzlies with 20 points off the bench and point guard Ja Morant added 19 points and 11 assists as Memphis posted a sixth straight win.

Barcelona to Sue Over Claims Messi Contract

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona will take legal action against the Spanish newspaper El Mundo after it published details on Sunday of Lionel Messi's current contract, which it says is worth up to 555 million euros (\$674 million) over four years.

Barca responded by also insisting they were not responsible for the leak, although the club did not deny the details of the report.

El Mundo says the deal signed by Messi in 2017 is the "largest in the history of sport" and called it the "colossal contract that ruins Barcelona".

The 33-year-old could end up collecting a maximum of 555,237,619 euros before it expires on June 30 this year, if all conditions were met.

With six months left of the deal to run, "the player has already earned 511,290,052 euros, almost 92 per cent of the possible total", the report claims.

The leak comes as Barcelona are wrestling with a dire financial situation, worsened by the pandemic, and with Messi's future still up in the air, given the striker can leave the club for free this summer.

Ganguly Discharged From Hospital

KOLKATA (AFP) - Indian cricket great Sourav Ganguly was discharged from hospital Sunday after undergoing a second heart operation in a month, with doctors optimistic that he will make a full recovery.

The 48-year-old, who now heads the country's powerful cricket board, was admitted to hospital in Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state, on Wednesday after complaining of chest pains.

It was the second time this year that the former batsman had to be hospitalised, after being admitted in early January when he suffered a heart attack while exercising. He underwent an angioplasty and had a stent inserted to open up his clogged arteries.

During his second stint in hospital, two more stents were inserted, doctors said.

"Ganguly is absolutely OK," one of the doctors treating Ganguly, Saptarshi Basu, told AFP as the former left-handed opener left hospital. "His heart is very strong. We hope that he can resume his normal activities in a few weeks." Ganguly was feted by hundreds of youths outside the hospital and at his Kolkata home when he was discharged.

They threw rose petals at his car and shouted: "Welcome Dada (elder brother). We are with you." Ganguly was unanimously elected president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, the sport's most powerful body in the country, in 2019.

He had retired from Test cricket in 2008 having accumulated 7,212 runs including 16 centuries -- his first made at Lord's on debut.

Rashford Becomes Latest Player To Face Online Racist Abuse

LONDON (Dispatches) - Marcus Rashford says online racist abuse shows "humanity at its worst" after he became the latest Premier League star to be targeted.

The Manchester United forward was attacked after his side's goalless draw against Arsenal at the Emirates on Saturday, which left them three points behind leaders Manchester City.

"Humanity and social media at its worst," Rashford tweeted. "Yes I'm a black man and I live every day proud that I am."

Kristoffersen Storms Chamonix Ski Slalom



PARIS (Dispatches) - After his crash Saturday Norway's Henrik Kristoffersen produced two top-class descents Sunday to win the Chamonix World Cup slalom with a stylish return to form.

After timing fastest on the first run, Kristoffersen conquered a cut-up piste on melting snow as last man down the start ramp with a rampaging second run in bright sunshine.

He did enough as the degraded slope became ever more sluggish to edge Swiss skier

Ramon Zenhausern by 0.28sec. Another Swiss, Simon Simonet, who went at the start after finishing 30th in the first descent and barely qualified for the second run, recorded the fastest second-run time to jump to third for his first career podium finish.

Kristoffersen won with a combined time of 1min 37.81sec.

Austrian slalom standings leader Marco Schwarz came sixth and overall French standings leader Alexis Pinturault was second in the first run but finished tied for eighth.

French tyro Clement Noel was another victim of the bad weather as he followed with his tail between his legs in 44th position.

Venus, Ostapenko Make Winning Starts in Australia

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Ageless Venus Williams opened her 2021 season with a 6-1, 6-3 thrashing of Arantxa Rus Sunday, while former top 10 players Jelena Ostapenko and Caroline Garcia also scored wins.

Williams, 40, showed few signs of having spent 14 days in quarantine in her first-round romp at the Yarra Valley Classic, grinding down her Dutch opponent in 65 minutes -- an amazing 27 years after making her professional debut.

The tournament is one of two WTA events being played concurrently at Melbourne Park as players prepare for the Australian Open Grand Slam starting on February 8.

Former Australian Open semi-finalist Danielle Collins needed 75 minutes to secure her first victory of the year, a 6-3, 6-3 triumph over Belgian Ysaline Bonaventure in the same event.

Collins is back at the site of her best career major run, which saw her upset former champion Angelique Kerber en route to reaching the final four in 2019.

American Shelby Rogers also progressed, thanks to a 6-2, 7-5 win over No.12 seed Fiona Ferro, the first ranked player to fall, while Anastasija Sevastova proved too strong for Madison Brengle.

In a battle between former top five players, 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko triumphed over Sara Errani 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the first round of the Gippsland Trophy, charging back after losing the first set.

Former world No.4 Caroline Garcia of France also got her season on a positive note, ousting Australian wildcard Arina Rodionova, 6-3, 6-4.

"It was a lot of emotions to get back on court, finally," said Garcia.

"I tried to stay very calm and play one point at a time, and I think I improved during the match, so that's the most positive thing about today."

Other first-round Gippsland Trophy winners included former top 10 player Daria Kasatina of Russia and Kaia Kanepi of Estonia.



Chelsea Register First Win of Tuchel Era

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cesar Azpilicueta scored the first goal of the Thomas Tuchel era and forgotten man Marcos Alonso produced a stunning finish as dominant Chelsea earned a 2-0 win against toothless Burnley on Sunday.

The former Paris Saint-Germain boss was brought in to replace Frank Lampard last week with a brief to haul stuttering Chelsea back into the race for Champions League spots.

He endured a frustrating goalless stalemate against Wolves at Stamford Bridge in midweek and Burnley also promised to be awkward opponents before fading as the match wore on.

Tuchel's team dominated the encounter, limiting Burnley to a single attempt on goal but struggled to break them down.

But two moments of magic from Azpilicueta and Alonso mean the German now has four points from six after two matches at the helm. The result lifts Chelsea to seventh in the Premier League, just four points behind fourth-placed Liverpool.

Sean Dyche's Burnley started brightly, enjoying plenty of possession and finding space but failed to test Edouard Mendy in the Chelsea goal.

The home side took time to settle into a rhythm but as the first-half wore on they started to dominate and created a number of chances.

The recalled Alonso misdirected a header while Mason Mount and the out-of-form Timo Werner missed presentable chances.

England midfielder Mount, who has been in outstanding form this season, was surprisingly left out against Wolves but was back in the starting line-up on Sunday.

Chelsea finally got the breakthrough their football deserved five minutes before the break after breaking at pace.

The ball was worked to Callum Hudson-Odoi on the right side of the Chelsea attack.

He cut inside and played a neat reverse ball into the path of Azpilicueta, who produced a thumping side-foot finish past Nick Pope after racing from deep in his own half.

Christian Pulisic, who came on at half-time to replace Tammy Abraham, mishit his shot after more good work from Hudson-Odoi before Pope saved with his legs from substitute Reece James.

