

**Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 82,217 With 119 More Iranians Killed by the Deadly Virus Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**Defense Minister Brigadier-General Amir Hatami Says That With the Dena Destroyer Joining Iran's Navy, The Strategic Depth of Islamic Iran In Defending Its Interests in the Sea Has Been Increased**

VOL. XXVII, No. 7246 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2021 - KHORDAD 25, 1400

**2 DOMESTIC**


**Homegrown Destroyer, Minehunter Join Iran's Naval Fleet**



> SEE PAGE 2

**3 DOMESTIC**

**Gov't Paying Annually \$70b of Subsidies for Gas and Liquid Fuel**



> SEE PAGE 3

**4 INTERNATIONAL**

**G-7 Leaders Agree On Vaccines, China, Taxing Corporations**



> SEE PAGE 4

**8 SPORTS**

**Djokovic Makes History With 19th Grand Slam Title in Paris**



> SEE PAGE 8

## Permission Issued for Emergency Use of Iranian COVID-19 Vaccine

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Health Ministry has permitted the emergency use of the homegrown COVID-19 vaccine CovIran Barekat, developed by the state-owned Shefa Pharmed Industrial Group.

CovIran Barekat has successfully been tested on animals and has been approved by the Iran Food and Drug Administration for testing on humans. Phase 2/3 (II/III) clinical trial began on 13 March 2021, and the first participants were inoculated on March 29.

Shefa Pharmed Industrial Group, which has developed the vaccine, is affiliated with the Execution of Imam Khomeini's Order (EIKO) Headquarters, also known as Setad.

Dr. Minoo Mohraz has led the vaccine development project. Mohraz is a physician, scientist, and AIDS specialist, and a Full Professor (Emeritus) of Infectious Diseases at Tehran University of Medical Sciences and head of the Iranian Centre for HIV/AIDS. Dr. Mohraz has also served within the World Health Organization as an expert on HIV/AIDS in Iran and the Eastern Mediterranean.

## Iran Not After War; Not to Bow Down to Aggression



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani said that completion of construction operation of domestically-made 'Dena' Destroyer is a sign of self-sufficiency of Iran's Navy.

President Rouhani made the remarks on Monday in the unveiling ceremony and annexation of 'Dena' Destroyer and 'Shahin' Minehunter to the fleet of Iran's Army Navy and reiterated that construction operation of homegrown 'Dena' destroyer is a sign of continuity in the path of self-sufficiency of all armed forces of the country.

He seized this opportunity to express his thanks to officials and experts in defense industries of the country who managed to complete the construction operation of domestically manufactured Dena Destroyer during the eight years.

Today, this destroyer is ready to perform all kinds of missions in the best form possible, Rouhani said, adding, "We are very pleased with the ongoing efforts of the Armed Forces for self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Construction of 'Dena' Destroyer is a sign of continuity in the path of self-sufficiency of the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran and all Armed Forces of the country."

The navy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) along with the Navy of the Army protects Iran's territorial waters, he said, adding, "Today, all oceans are the venue of activity of the Navy of Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of international regulations."

Today, Iran's Army Navy Forces departs from Sea of Oman and travel thousands of kilometers away with full self-sufficiency in international waters without the need to dock at ports for the provision of water, food or fuel, Rouhani emphasized.

Today, Army Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) are self-sufficient in the field of air force, construction of Kosar fighter jet, aircraft engine, air force and armored equipment and can defend the country against external threats in the best form possible, he added.

The government of Islamic Republic of Iran and its Armed Forces have never intended to invade any country, he said, adding, "We explicitly declare to our neighboring countries that Iran's Armed Forces are ready to protect its neighbors from foreign threats wholeheartedly."

"We are not seeking war and tension but we will not surrender to aggressive forces," he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, President Rouhani pointed to Iran's nuclear program and stated, "Iran's nuclear power is not to build nuclear weapons, rather, country's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes and the United States and Europe should know this well."

Turning to uranium enrichment, Rouhani stated that the country enjoys high capability to enrich uranium at higher purity which is applicable in medical, energy, and other sectors, highlighting that nuclear activity of Iran is completely peaceful.

Regarding the ongoing JCPOA talks in the Austrian capital Vienna, Rouhani stated that if the United States and P5 + 1 countries fulfill all their obligations without exception, the Islamic Republic of Iran will fulfill all their obligations immediately after the verification activities.

"This is a clear message of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Europe and America: as you accepted many of your commitments and promised to implement them, accept the remaining cases so as the region and the world would see increased peace and constructive interaction."

## Oil Price Climb Continues as Expectations for More Iranian Crude Fade

LONDON (Bloomberg) --Oil hit a 32-month high as the rollout of coronavirus vaccines boosted demand expectations for Europe and the U.S., and confidence faded over a quick return of Iranian crude supply.

Futures rose 0.9% in New York, building on a run of three weekly gains. Iran's foreign ministry said Monday there was "very little time left" for world powers to resolve outstanding differences to revive a 2015 nuclear deal, even though an agreement was in place to remove sanctions on the country's energy sector. Iran goes to presidential elections this week.

There were expectations a deal to lift Iranian oil sanctions would be in place ahead of the vote, said Giovanni Staunovo, a commodity analyst at UBS Group AG. "That seems not to be the case anymore."

Oil has surged in recent weeks as road traffic in the U.S. and Europe increase with more people vaccinated against Covid-19. American daily air travelers topped 2 million for the first time since the pandemic began. That's boosting oil demand, which may already be high enough to absorb any additional supply into the market, Staunovo said.

Crude has digested a lot of incremental, bullish news over the past week, with the U.S. and Europe reopening, according to Vandana Hari, founder of Vanda Insights. Prices could creep higher over the coming weeks but "at a more gradual pace," with the market awaiting fresh momentum, Hari said.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi cast doubt over the weekend on the chances of reviving the nuclear deal before the elections on June 18.

## No Limitations for Iran Missile Program

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh says the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 imposes no restriction on Iran's missile program, rejecting such interpretations as "incorrect and very unlikely".

"Certain interpretations of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231, offered by those who well know what subjects the Resolution covers, are both incorrect and very unlikely," Khatibzadeh told reporters in a press conference on Monday. "In the Resolution 2231, there is no word of any restriction against Iran's missile program," he added.

"Such unlikely interpretations of the clear and explicit words stipulated in the Resolution 2231 will only undermine the credibility of those who make such claims," the spokesman noted. Khatibzadeh called on world leaders to stop focusing on such issues, and instead implement their own "long-overdue commitments".

He added that it would be better for the G7 leaders to fulfill their obligations instead, stop interfering in the affairs of regional countries, and try to make more contributions to peace and stability by building respectful relationships with regional states. **See Page 7**

## No Deal Without Allaying Iran Concerns

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top nuclear negotiator says Tehran is seeking a good deal that would address the Islamic Republic's key concerns and there will be no deal if Iran's concerns are not allayed.

"We need to have a good deal and a good deal is when our key concerns are addressed and our key objectives are met without which we don't have a deal," Abbas Araqchi told Press TV after Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 nuclear deal - Germany, Britain, France, Russia and China - countries ended the first day of the sixth round of their nuclear deal talks in Vienna on Saturday.

Araqchi, Iran's deputy foreign minister for political affairs, added, "And we continue negotiations as much as needed without wasting our time or without letting anybody else waste our time. We continue negotiations. We are not in a hurry. We don't have any deadline for ourselves."

Araqchi noted that the important point for Iran is to reach a deal, which would address Iran's "key requirements and positions" already announced by Iran's delegates. **See Page 7**

## First VP Backs Free Trade With EAEU

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN- First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri described the free trade agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as a good opportunity for the country's economy and called on the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade and other relevant organizations to set a timetable for the finalization of the agreement and follow it seriously.

In a meeting to review the latest status of Iran's relations with Eurasia, which was chaired by him, the official named free trade with neighboring countries as a way to develop Iran's economy, industry and agriculture and said that the free trade between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union not only is not a threat to domestic production, but provides a large market for the country's manufactured goods.

In the meeting, which was also attended by the ministers of energy as well as industry, mining and trade, the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Russia, and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Central Bank of Iran, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum released a report on the latest status of Iran-EAEU trade and negotiations. **See Page 7**

## Reversing Iran's Nuclear Knowledge Very Hard

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken says Iran's nuclear knowledge is hard to reverse and there is urgency in limiting the program.

Speaking to CBS on Sunday, he answered questions regarding Iran's nuclear program. "Since we pulled out of the nuclear deal and then Iran began to ignore the constraints that the deal had imposed on it, it has been galloping forward and it's enriching more material. It's enriching at higher levels- degrees than were allowed under the agreement," he said. Tehran stresses that reducing its commitments to the nuclear deal is a legitimate and recognized response to U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the deal.

"And you're right, it [Iran] is gaining knowledge. And if this goes on a lot longer, if they continue to gallop ahead, then you're right, they're going to have knowledge that's going to be very hard to reverse, which I think puts some urgency in seeing if we can put the nuclear problem back in the box that the agreement had put it in and, unfortunately, Iran is now out of as a result of us pulling out of the agreement. **See Page 7**

Sokhan Gostar Institute

# IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN



Advertisement Department  
021-44253335-39  
www.irannewsdaily.com  
info@irannewsdaily.com  
@irannewsdaily

# Leader to Address Nation on Wednesday

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei will address the Iranian nation live at 19:00 Wednesday.

Ayatollah Khamenei's address will focus on the 13th round of the Iranian Presidential Elections and the 6th round of the Cities and Villages Islamic Councils.

The speech will be broadcast live on Iran's official TV networks, his website as well as social media pages.

## Homegrown Destroyer, Minehunter Join Iran's Naval Fleet



**TEHRAN (PressTV) - Domestically-built destroyer Dena and minehunter Shahin have joined the Iranian Navy's fleet in a ceremony attended by President Hassan Rouhani via videoconference.**

Speaking at the ceremony in Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Monday morning, the head of the Defense Ministry's Marine Industries Organization said the Dena is the fifth missile-launching destroyer that has joined the Navy in recent years.

"This destroyer was fully built by the Defense Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and completed with the supervision and participation of the Navy," Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said.

According to Rastegari, the homegrown destroyer is different from its peers in terms of facilities, equipment and performance, and its final stages of production and testing were completed in the previous Iranian year, which ended on April 20.

He said the Dena's fire-control system is one of the newest systems made by the country's electronics industry and is able to track 40 targets and deal with more than 5 targets simultaneously.

"A highly advanced electronic warfare system has been installed on this destroyer and the spectrum of its radio band has been widened," he added.

Rastegari also said that the Shahin minehunter is 33 meters long and 11 meters wide, with a draft of 180 centimeters high. It has been produced by the young Iranian experts at the Marine Industries Organization.

"Since this homegrown vessel benefits from state-of-the-art technology, tracking and neutralizing various types of naval mines are among the capabilities of the Shahin minehunter," the admiral added.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami also spoke at the ceremony, saying that the sea has provided unique opportunities for the country in various fields.

"By joining the Iranian Navy, the Dena destroyer increased the strategic depth of the Islamic Iran in defending its interests in the sea," Hatami said.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran has 2,500 kilometers of maritime boundary, especially in the south, which has created many opportunities for the country.

## Iran Red Crescent Requests Money From Red Cross For Drought Victims

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Iran's Red Crescent announced Monday that it has requested financial assistance from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) societies to fight the impact of drought.

Hassan Esfandyar, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's humanitarian projects, told local media that his organization has requested one million Swiss francs from IFRC to deal with the impact of drought in four provinces.

Iran has faced a long drought for at least a decade, but the crisis has worsened this year with minimal precipitation. Iranian officials have said that thousands of villages face serious water shortages, while the government is in financial crisis mainly due to U.S. sanctions.

Esfandyar said that the request for assistance has been submitted for an emergency aid fund for the four provinces most affected by the drought. He added that if IFRC donates funds it will be spent on assistance to needy families, supply of drinking water and developments of water transfer infrastructures. He also announced that the Iranian Red Crescent is planning to ask for more international assistance.

## Justice Prevents Corruption in Country



TEHRAN (IP) - One of the 13th Presidential election candidates says that corruption will be prevented if justice is observed in all sectors.

Hojjatolislam Seyed Ebrahim Raisi stated that anything deviating justice would lead to corruption, noting that his administration would focus on "people, strong Iran" in fighting against corruption.

He pointed out that the first issue in the fight against corruption is transparency, and one of the serious problems of the country is the lack of transparency.

He underlined that by activating the relevant systems, creating transparency, and preventing conflicts of interest, it would be possible to prevent corruption in various fields.

"If the government activates its observation mechanism, it can both prevent corruption and deal with anyone who commits corruption quickly," Raisi added.

He also spoke about the importance of exports with priority given to neighboring countries, saying that Iran's share of exports to neighboring countries is 2%, while billions of dollars are imported into the country.

Raisi said Iran could increase its exports to neighboring countries by \$ 40 billion to \$ 50 billion, which would boost production and could be a source of revenue for the government and eliminate the budget deficit.

## 234 Poll Stations to Be Available for Iranians Abroad

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman announced that 234 poll stations will be available for Iranians abroad to cast votes in the 2021 presidential election which will be held on Friday.

The upcoming Iran presidential election is very important and it will determine the fate of Iran in terms of macro-management of the country, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman said while speaking in his weekly press briefing on Monday.

Saying that all Iranians must have access to ballot boxes, Saeed Khatibzadeh stressed that Iranian Foreign Ministry Affairs is responsible for holding elections abroad in accordance with the law.

In this regard, all Iranian around the world will be able to cast their vote in the Friday election.



According to Khatibzadeh, unofficial statistics show that more than 3 million Iranian people abroad are eligible to do so.

The Iranian senior official also announced that 234 poll stations will be available for Iranians abroad, adding that so far, more than 600,000 voting tariffs have been sent to the related apparatus.

Canada is among the 3 countries that refused to cooperate with Iran in this process, he said, criticizing that not only Canada does not cooperate with Iran on the issue of elections, but also it fails to meet the rights of Iranian citizens. In 24 states of the United States of America ballot boxes have been set up, Khatibzadeh also said.

160 visas for journalists and media have been issued in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for covering the election news, he said.

## Measures Taken to Hold Peaceful, Safe Election

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - Iran's election headquarters chief says no anti-security case has been yet reported to disrupt the upcoming presidential election.

In response to a question about the measures taken to hold a peaceful, safe, healthy and legal presidential election in an atmosphere filled with energy, Jamal Orf stated that various meetings chaired by the interior minister had been held, last of which was on May 24 with political parties, activists and groups for holding an unprecedented election.

He noted that the Interior Ministry also held several meetings with the Supreme National Security Council to ensure a safe and secure election.

He announced that 59,310,310 people are eligible to take part in the 13th Presidential Election in Iran.

"1,392,148 people are first-time voters," Orf pointed out.

He said all election measures had been taken in all provinces, and the election staff would be vaccinated soon.

He added that 67,000 ballot boxes had been prepared for the Presidential Election, saying: "The election process started about 6-7 months ago, hence everything is prepared for the 13th Presidential Election in Iran on June 18, 2021."

Highlighting the voting day for Iranian compatriots living abroad, Orf announced that over 450 polling stations had been prepared worldwide.

The 13th presidential election in Iran will be held on Friday, June 18, in full compliance with hygienic protocols.

## Iranian Weapons Guarantee Regional Maritime Security

BANDAR ABBAS (IP) - The Commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army says that Iranian weapons will guarantee and strengthen the security of the Iranian neighboring seas and bring regional convergence and collective maritime security to the regions of the world.

Speaking at the inauguration of national projects of the Ministry of Defense where the Dena destroyer and Shahin minesweeper joined the Navy of the Iranian Army, Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said: "The successes and honors of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the Navy in defending are the integrity of Islamic Iran and the realization of the ideals of the revolution made of independence, self-sufficiency and the production of combat power to strengthen national and all Iranian security."

The Commander of the Navy of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: "The progress of the Navy of Iran's Army has been achieved in complete self-sufficiency while being under various pressures."

## New Chapter in Iran-Vietnam Tech Interaction to Open Up

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran, and Vietnam are to hold a technology and trading meeting next month, attended by knowledge-based companies active in the fields of medical equipment, energy, IT, and artificial intelligence (AI).

The meeting would be held online from June 26 to July 21 by International Affairs and Technological Exchange Center affiliated to Iran's Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology. Those interested in participating in the meeting can register until June 21.

Vietnam exceeded China in economic growth in 2020 and can be a good destination and market for Iranian knowledge-based companies to offer their products and interact with Vietnamese companies and economic activists.

The country has set records in annual economic growth in the recent decade, so the latest statistics show it has exported 60 billion dollars of goods and services to the United States.

Vietnam is the next destination for Iranian knowledge-based companies working on medical equipment, energy, IT, and artificial intelligence (AI)

to find a way of cooperating with Vietnamese counterparts in the upcoming virtual meeting.

Vietnam's market is thirsty for new technologies and products, but they cannot afford their needs from European and American markets because of high costs.

Among energetic Asian economies, Vietnam enjoys a growing economy with high potential. Companies and investors from all over the world are increasingly seeking to enter this country.

## Tehran Criticizes Riyadh Decision on This Year's Hajj

TEHRAN (MNA) - Seyyed Abdol-Fattah Navab, the representative of the Leader in Hajj and Pilgrimage Affairs criticized Saudi Arabia's decision to cancel this year's Hajj Pilgrimage for pilgrims from other countries.

Seyyed Abdol-Fattah Navab said that Hajj in Islam is of great importance and value.

He criticized Saudi Arabia for canceling Hajj for foreign pilgrims this year, saying that the Saudi officials could have solved the problem rising from the Covid-19 pandemic through proper planning.

The Iranian Hajj official added that like last year, Saudi Arabia was very reluctant to announce the decision on Hajj this year, while it could have decided to let pilgrims in from foreign countries in limited numbers.

Navab further criticized Saudis for not consulting with officials of other countries before making their decision, noting that while this year's Hajj pilgrimage is limited to 60,000 citizens and residents of the Kingdom, no Iranian will be able to attend this pilgrimage this year as the Iranian embassy is closed in the Kingdom.

## Majlis Criticizes Canada for Hindering Iranian Nationals' Voting

TEHRAN (IP) - The spokesman for the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian Parliament said Canada did not allow the numerous Iranian nationals to set ballot boxes for participating in Iran's 13th presidential election.

Abolfazl Amouei said on Sunday that Canada's behavior contradicted its humanitarian claims, and showed that the Canadian government did not believe in allowing the Iranian nationals to participate in healthy elections.

The Canadian government has so far refused to prepare the necessary conditions for holding the 13th Iranian presidential election under false excuses.

The caretaker of Iran's Interests Section to Washington D.C. Mehdi Atefat said two constituencies were set up in Oregon and Buffalo so that Iranian compatriots living in Canada can go to the polls there.

## Iran Vigorously Advances Nuclear Program

TEHRAN (IP) - Special Assistant to the Speaker of Iran's Parliament for International Affairs stressed the vigorous advancement of its peaceful nuclear program.

In a tweet on Sunday, Hossein Amir Abdollahian said unlike Iran's compliance with its commitments to the JCPOA, the E3 countries failed to do.

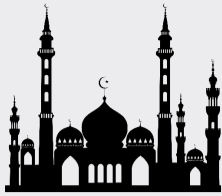
"Unlike Iran's compliance w/its commitments, E3 has failed to do so urging Iran to work w/ @iaeaorg," he wrote. Amir Abodollahian noted that his country stressed the lifting of all sanctions in an effective and verifiable way.

He warned that if the E3 and the US did not respect Iran's rights, Tehran would take decisive measures:

"Iran moves forward its peaceful nuclear program & stresses on lifting sanctions effectively, verifiably. If not honoring Iranians' rights, they must await Tehran's decisive decision".

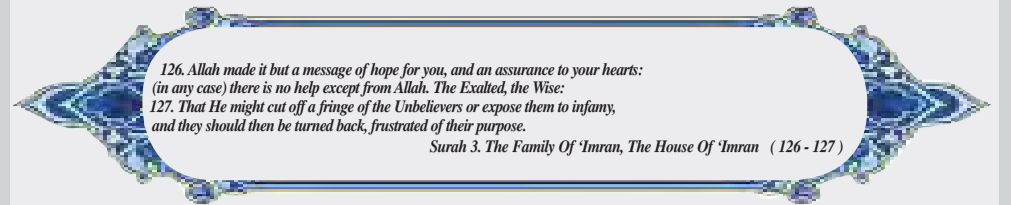
Negotiations of the JCPOA Joint Commission are still underway in Vienna.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has stated that it would return to its JCPOA commitments, provided that the U.S. would lift all anti-Iranian sanctions in practice and in a verifiable way.



## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:04
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:43
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:01
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48



## Gov't Paying Annually \$70b of Subsidies for Gas and Liquid Fuel

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

**TEHRAN – Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh says the government pays almost \$70b of subsidies annually for the gas and liquid fuel in the country.**

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Oil and Gas Industry Innovation and Technology Park, Zanganeh said almost 80 percent of remarks in the country are nonsense, reiterating that the most important factor in the industrial development is the entrepreneur and not the scientists because this is the entrepreneur and innovative person who makes an enterprise successful and this is seen among the youths.

He said in his days in the oil industry he has done a great deal for developing technology, and reiterated that the most important issue is the approach and vision.

Zanganeh went on to say that today the oil industry has no problem in the field of education and good forces are trained. He went on to say that start-ups are crucial in optimizing the oil industry in different fields of engineering and technology. He noted that the government pays annually \$70b of subsidies for the energy sector.

He noted that 1.5m barrels of liquid fuel is consumed domestically which makes 540m barrels per year and with the current price of \$65 for per barrel of oil, it will make \$35b per year.

Zanganeh also said that gas consumption in the country is around 300b cubic meters per year and with the price of 16 cents per cubic meter of gas, it will cost the country \$37b. He stated so the government just pays around \$70b of subsidies for these two energy items and if the subsidy for electricity is added, the figure will be amazing.

He added that launching such parks and paying attention to the startups can boost the oil industry in the country.

Meanwhile on the sidelines of the ceremony, he once again reiterated that hiking the price of gasoline in November 2019 was not a unilateral decision by the government but it was decided by all three branches of the establishment and which was endorsed by the Leader and the establishment.



Meanwhile five cooperation agreements were signed between the Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park with the Ministry of Science, Isfahan Scientific and Research Development, Shiraz University of Technology and Amirkabir University of Science and Technology.

The agreements were signed on Monday, on the sidelines of the opening of the Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park.

The first agreement was the Technology Grant Agreement, which was signed between the Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park and the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology.

Then, the agreement to establish a joint campus between the Park and Isfahan Scientific and Research Development and then, three agreements on the establishment of a joint innovation and growth center, were signed between the Park and Shiraz University of Science, and Amir Kabir University of Technology.

The Oil Industry Innovation and Technology Park, which was established with the support of the Ministry of Petroleum and with the aim of developing technologies and expanding constructive cooperation between ecological innovators and technologists related to this industry, was inaugurated this morning (Monday, June 14) in the presence of the Minister of Petroleum, Deputy Minister of Science and Technology and a group of senior oil industry executives and industrialists.

## Economic Structure Needs Changes

TEHRAN (IP) – One of the presidential candidates says the economic structure is inflationary and needs changes.

Abdolnaser Hemmati said the connections between fiscal and monetary policy, budget deficit, and reduction of foreign exchange earnings is inflationary.

Inflation depends on two factors, namely: 'economic structure and sanctions', Hemmati noted.

He also added: "In the last three decades, the average inflation rate has been 20%; I have a solution to reform the economic structure if I am elected."

The presidential hopeful stated: "39 countries now have single-digit inflation. We need the fiscal and monetary policy to be reformed to get there, and the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) must be completely independent."

Sanctions are another cause of inflation, Hemmati says, adding that his priority is to lift sanctions.

One of the reasons for the inflation in recent years has been the decline in the country's foreign exchange earnings, which can cause inflation.

## Azərbayjan Press Museum Launched in Tabriz

TABRIZ (IRNA) - Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Minister inaugurated Azərbaycan Press Museum in Tabriz and unveiled its commemorative stamp on Monday.

Aliasghar Mounesan and several provincial officials as well as the press and cultural figures attended the opening ceremony of the museum which is launched in the Kalkatehchi Historical ouse in Tarbiat street, a well-known historical alley in the city of Tabriz, capital of the northwestern province of East Azerbaijan.

The museum showcases historic newspapers published in East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, Ardabil and Zanjan provinces, known to constitute the historical Azerbaijan region, as well as printing machines, cameras and old journalistic photographs.

Several historic papers of Azerbaijan region which were influential in historical developments in the region and broader Iran have been included in the collections showcased in the museum, along with documents, tools of journalistic work and handwritings and books written by celebrated Azerbaijani journalists in Iran and abroad.

The museum would serve as a place to introduce Iranian and foreign tourists to the history of journalism in Azerbaijan region as the pioneer of press industry in Iran.

## Fars Province Experiencing Significant Development in Tourism

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Fars Province pilgrims coordination official said on Monday that developments and measures taken in tourism and handicrafts area in this southern country province have been significant in the last eight years.

There have been measures taken to improve Fars Province's tourism and handicrafts area in accordance with the existing capacities and possibilities, Alinaqi Tabib Loqmani said in response to a presidential candidate who questioned activities in the area of cultural heritage in the province.

Tabib Loqmani said that during the last eight years, five historical places have been globally registered in three counties of Fars Province. He also pointed to the global registration of Shiraz city as the world city for handicrafts, Abadeh city as the world city for wood carving and Firuzabad city as the world city for nomad handwoven crafts.

From among 1,200 national heritage registered in Fars Province, 500 cases have been registered during the eight-year term of the current administration, he added.

The official also referred to the 67 percent increase in beds and construction of Iran's first five-star hotel in Sadra city in Fars Province.

Holding several festivals in Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Saadi and Persepolis and the Chelcheragh Festival related to the Holy Shrine of Ahmad bin Mousa with submission of over 1,000 scientific articles were among other activities of tourism authorities in Fars Province, according to Tabib Loqmani.

He also said that ecotourism was put in the focus during the eight-year term of the current administration which has so far led to establishment of 160 ecotourism centers which would reach 400 units by now if the coronavirus pandemic and consequent restrictions didn't happen.

### SP Field Starts Injecting Gas Condensates To Soroush Field



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran started injecting gas condensates to Soroush field in its Persian Gulf waters from the South Pars joint field on Monday.

The operation was undertaken with cooperation of National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) and coordination of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) by dispatching "Forest" tanker to Soroush field to inject gas condensates to its wells.

The operation was successfully accomplished for the first time in the history of Iran oil industry.

It was aimed at paving the way for continuation of gas production in the joint field and increasing the industry's flexibility in critical conditions.

The projects kicked off on Thursday and the process of loading the condensate, shipping it and injecting the gas into the field all went smoothly and all the safety measures were taken in carrying out the operation.

Soroush oil field, in Persian Gulf, is located about 120 Kilometers (km) Southwest of Bahregan area and 80 Km from Kharg Island.

The field is positioned near Abouzar, Esfandiar, and Norouz fields. The field production was stopped during the Iran-Iraq war.

Soroush was redeveloped by Royal Dutch Shell in 2000 under a Buy-back contract.

Iran is currently producing over 550,000 barrels of gas condensate on a daily basis, part of which is directly exported to foreign destinations, and a part is used as the feedstock for domestic refineries.

## Mining, Mineral Export Hits 193% Growth

TEHRAN (MNA) – Export of mining and mineral products in the first Iranian month of Farvardin in the current year (from March 21 to April 21) registered a 193 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.

A study of official statistics indicated that more than \$667 million worth of products in the mining and mineral sector was exported from the country from March 21 to April 21, showing a 193 percent hike as compared to last year's corresponding period.

Another statistic indicated that more than 4,393,000 tons of various types of products in mining and mineral sector, valued at \$667,581,347, were exported from the country in this period.

The maximum volume of exports in this period related to the steel chain and steel products.

Accordingly, \$406,348,000 worth of steel products was exported from the country from March 21 to April 21, accounting for 60.8 percent of Iran's exports share in this sector.

It should be noted that export of steel products from March 21 to April 21 registered a 203 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.

## Iran Posts Trade Deficit of \$379m

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's customs office IRICA says the country had a trade deficit of \$379 mln for the month to late May.

Iran's customs office IRICA has updated the country's monthly trade figures while posting a trade deficit of \$379 million for the calendar month to late May.

IRICA spokesman Rouhollah Latifi said on Sunday that Iran's trade with countries around the world had surged by over 20% in value terms to a total of \$7.083 billion for the 31 days to May 21.

Latifi said exports during the same month had reached \$3.352 billion for 8.579 million metric tons of cargoes sent from Iran, an increase of 27.5% year on year.

He said imports had amounted to \$3.731 billion for 3.321 million tons of shipments that arrived in the

Iranian ports and border gates, adding that the figure was up 19% against the same month in 2020.

IRICA figures showed that Iran's exports were up 13% in value terms compared to the first calendar month to late April. Imports rose by 33.5% over the same period.

However, exports in the two months to late May increased by 48% against the similar period in 2020, a sign Iran has started to benefit from easing of coronavirus restrictions on global trade.

China remained the top destination for Iranian non-crude exports in the month to May 21 with \$1.089 billion worth of purchases, said Latifi.

Iraq came second at \$525 million followed by the United Arab Emirates at \$432 million, said the official.

## Iran After Extraterrestrial Cultivation Projects in Georgia, Azerbaijan

TABRIZ (IRNA) - The head of the East Azerbaijan province's Agriculture Jihad Organization highlighted Iran's potential in making investments in extraterrestrial cultivation and said his organization is currently awaiting final agreements with Azerbaijan and Georgia in this regard.

Akbar Fathi said on Monday that extraterrestrial cultivation is different from importing agricultural products from other countries. Some countries have the capacity to produce agricultural products, but they do not have the knowledge and tools to produce them so identifying their potential could help cultivate desired products, he added.

Fathi added that extraterrestrial cultivation plan is being carried in the context of an understanding with Georgia for corn production.

## Iran's Fixed Internet Infrastructure Back Into Gov't Ownership

TEHRAN (PressTV)- Iran's telecoms minister says fixed internet infrastructure is back into government ownership.

The Iranian government has adopted a major legislation allowing the renationalization of the infrastructure used for delivery of fixed internet services in the country.

Iran's telecoms minister Mohammad Javad Azari said on Sunday that the legislation adopted in a Cabinet meeting earlier in the day would enable the government to take back control of physical hardware and transmission equipment used for delivery of fixed data services. Iran privatized the control and use of infrastructure meant for provision of fixed fiber internet after divesting its shares in the Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI) in 2009.

However, regulators and related government agencies have repeatedly accused the TCI of hampering the spread of fixed services in Iran by creating a monopoly over the fiber and

physical infrastructure used for provision of those services. Experts believe the TCI and its subsidiary companies have failed to provide enough investment for expansion of fixed internet in Iran, a country where users mostly prefer fast data services provided by mobile operators.

Azari said that the bill adopted by the government on Sunday would take back control of major hardware including channels, ducts and distribution equipment that are currently monopolized by the TCI. The minister said it took the government some three years to prepare and adopt the bill on renationalization of fixed internet infrastructure in Iran.

He said the TCI had "occupied" the infrastructure for years and had created a "major obstacle" for increasing the access of the Iranian households to faster internet services.

Bills adopted by the Iranian Cabinet will become law once approved by the Iranian parliament and the Guardians Council, a body which vets parliamentary legislations.

## Germany's Laschet Vows to Raise Military Spending If Elected

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany must increase military spending and take on a greater share of military burdens within NATO, the conservative candidate to succeed Angela Merkel as chancellor said in a newspaper interview on Sunday.

Heads of state within the 30-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) will meet in Brussels on Monday and discuss the path to follow against challenges such as China, Russia and cyber threats.

Laschet, backed by Merkel's conservatives to run for chancellor at the Sept. 26 election, said he would ensure that Germany, Europe's largest economy, meets the alliance's spending target of 2% of gross domestic product.



## NATO Leaders Bid Symbolic Adieu to Afghanistan

BRUSSELS (AP) - U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts will bid a symbolic farewell to Afghanistan on Monday in their last summit before America winds up its longest "forever war" and the U.S. military pulls out for good.

The meeting is bound to renew questions about whether NATO's most ambitious operation ever was worth it. The 18-year effort cost the United States alone \$2.26 trillion, and the price in lives includes 2,442 American troops and 1,144 personnel among U.S. allies, according to figures from Brown University. NATO does not keep a record of those who die in its operations.



## G-7 Leaders Agree on Vaccines, China, Taxing Corporations



CARBIS BAY (AP) - Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy nations staked their claim Sunday to leading the world out of the coronavirus pandemic and crisis, pledging more than 1 billion coronavirus vaccine doses to poorer nations, vowing to help developing countries grow while fighting climate change and backing a minimum tax on multinational firms.

At the group's first face-to-face meeting in two years, the leaders dangled promises of support for global health, green energy, infrastructure and education — all to demonstrate that international cooperation is back after the upheavals caused by the pandemic and the unpredictability of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

During their three-day summit in southwest England, the G-7 leaders wanted to convey that the club of wealthy democracies — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States — is a better friend to poorer nations than authoritarian rivals such as China. "This isn't about imposing our values on the rest of the world," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told reporters at the end of the seaside summit on the rugged Cornwall coast. "What we as the G-7 need to do is demonstrate the benefits of democracy and freedom and human rights to the rest of the world."

U.S. President Joe Biden, who was making his first foreign trip as leader, said it was an "extraordinary, collaborative and productive meeting." Johnson, the summit's host, praised the "fantastic degree of harmony."

But health and environmental campaigners were distinctly unimpressed by the details in the leaders' final communique.

"This G-7 summit will live on in infamy," said Max Lawson, the head of inequality policy at the international aid group Oxfam. "Faced with the biggest health emergency in a century and a climate catastrophe that is destroying our planet, they have completely failed to meet the challenges of our times."

Despite Johnson's call to "vaccinate the world" by the end of 2022, the promise of 1 billion doses for vaccine-hungry countries — coming both directly and through donations to the international COVAX program — falls far short of the 11 billion doses the World Health Organization said is needed to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population and truly end the pandemic.

Half of the billion-dose pledge is coming from United States and 100 million from Britain. Canada said it also would give 100 million doses, and France pledged 60 million. Altogether, the leaders said they pledged 870 million doses "directly over the next year," with further contributions taking the total to the "equivalent of over 1 billion doses."

Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said the lack of a more ambitious vaccination plan was "an unforgivable moral failure." But Biden said the leaders were clear that the commitments they made to donate doses wouldn't be the end. The U.S. president said getting shots into arms around the world was a "gigantic, logistical effort" and the goal may not be achieved until 2023.

## Russia Would Accept Conditional Handover of Cyber Criminals to U.S.

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - President Vladimir Putin has said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

Putin made the comments in an interview aired in excerpts on state television on Sunday ahead of a June 16 summit with U.S. President Joe Biden in Geneva. Ties between the powers are badly strained over an array of issues.

The Russian leader said he expected the Geneva meeting to help establish bilateral dialogue and revive personal contacts, adding that important issues for the two men included strategic stability, Libya and Syria, and the environment.

Putin also praised Biden for having shown "professionalism" when the United States and Russia agreed this year to extend the New START nuclear arms control treaty. The White House has said Biden will bring up ransomware attacks emanating from Russia at the meeting. That issue is in the spotlight after a cyber attack disrupted the North American and Australian operations of meatpacker JBS USA.

A Russia-linked hacking group was behind that attack, a U.S. source familiar with the matter said last week. Asked if Russia would be prepared to find and prosecute cyber criminals, Putin said Russia's behaviour here would depend on formal agreements being reached by Moscow and Washington.

Both sides would have to commit to the same obligations, he said. "If we agree to extradite criminals, then of course Russia will do that, we will do that, but only if the other side, in this case the United States, agrees to the same and will extradite the criminals in question to the Russian Federation," he said.

"The question of cyber security is one of the most important at the moment because turning all kinds of systems off can lead to really difficult consequences," he said.

Putin also said Russia would be ready to hand over cyber criminals to the United States if Washington did the same for Moscow and the two powers reached an agreement to that effect.

## Hamas Promises to Maintain Armed Resistance

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) - Gaza's Hamas rulers say they will confront the new Israeli government that is expected to take office.

Fawzi Barhoum, spokesman for the Islamic militant group, said Sunday any Israeli government is "a settler occupier entity that must be resisted by all forms of resistance, foremost of which is the armed resistance."

Hamas and Israel fought an 11-day war last month. The bitter enemies have fought a total of four wars since Hamas, which seeks Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza in 2007 from the rival Palestinian Authority.

Despite their enmity, the sides have been conducting indirect talks aimed at shoring up a cease-fire. Barhoum said "the behavior of this government on the ground will determine the way and nature of dealing with it on the ground."

Earlier the head of an Islamist party in Israel's parliament says his faction will advance the interests of Palestinian citizens of Israel from within the new government.

Mansour Abbas said Sunday that his Raam party was making great sacrifices for the sake of his constituents, and will try "to advance a dialog that will bring about better, new, principled relations for all citizens of the state: Jews and Arabs."

Raam is the first Arab party to join an Israeli government, and Abbas said that the partnership in the new government "will also bridge the gaps on the national level and the religious level." Abbas said that combatting crime and violence that has plagued Arab communities in Israel is a "top priority" for Israel's Palestinian minority.

Abbas spoke ahead of a parliamentary vote that was expected to approve the new coalition government. Arabs make up about 20% of Israel's citizens and largely identify with Palestinians in the neighboring West Bank and Gaza Strip.



## Hamas Promises to Maintain Armed Resistance

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) - Gaza's Hamas rulers say they will confront the new Israeli government that is expected to take office.

Fawzi Barhoum, spokesman for the Islamic militant group, said Sunday any Israeli government is "a settler occupier entity that must be resisted by all forms of resistance, foremost of which is the armed resistance."

Hamas and Israel fought an 11-day war last month. The bitter enemies have fought a total of four wars since Hamas, which seeks Israel's destruction, seized control of Gaza in 2007 from the rival Palestinian Authority.

Despite their enmity, the sides have been conducting indirect talks aimed at shoring up a cease-fire. Barhoum said "the behavior of this government on the ground will determine the way and nature of dealing with it on the ground."

Earlier the head of an Islamist party in Israel's parliament

says his faction will advance the interests of Palestinian citizens of Israel from within the new government.

Mansour Abbas said Sunday that his Raam party was making great sacrifices for the sake of his constituents, and will try "to advance a dialog that will bring about better, new, principled relations for all citizens of the state: Jews and Arabs."

Raam is the first Arab party to join an Israeli government, and Abbas said that the partnership in the new government "will also bridge the gaps on the national level and the religious level."

Abbas said that combatting crime and violence that has plagued Arab communities in Israel is a "top priority" for Israel's Palestinian minority.

Abbas spoke ahead of a parliamentary vote that was expected to approve the new coalition government. Arabs make up about 20% of Israel's citizens and largely identify with Palestinians in the neighboring West Bank and Gaza Strip.



## Thousands Protest Against Spain's Possible Pardons for Jailed Catalan Leaders

MADRID (Reuters) - Tens of thousands of Spaniards protested in Madrid on Sunday against government plans to pardon 12 Catalan politicians who were convicted over the region's failed independence bid in 2017, a move the demonstrators see as a threat to national unity.

Spain's Deputy Prime Minister Carmen Calvo gave the clearest indication yet that the pardons of the Catalan separatists were "close" in an interview published on Sunday with La Vanguardia newspaper, but the issue has bitterly divided Spaniards.

Around 63% of Spaniards oppose granting the pardons while some 25% backed it and about 6% were indifferent, according to a poll published on Sunday for niusdiario.es, an online newspaper.

"We should stop this now because for a pardon you must show contrition, and the separatists will not show that," Carlos Bandecha, 47, a businessman, said at the rally, where many protesters waved red and yellow national flags.

Opposition lawmakers from the conservative People's Party (PP), the far-right Vox party and the centrist Ciudadanos joined the rally in Madrid's central Plaza Colon.

Asked when Spain's centre-left government might approve the pardons, Calvo told Vanguardia: "Soon, they are close. After the Supreme Court report arrives, we will immediately follow up on them. They should arrive soon at the cabinet."

Madrid's Municipal Police force estimated 126,000 people took part while the National Police put the figure at 25,000.

Spain's Supreme Court said in a non-binding report last month that it opposes potential government pardons for the Catalan separatist leaders.

It sentenced nine Catalan separatist leaders in October 2019 to between nine and 13 years in jail on sedition charges for organising an unauthorised referendum on independence and issuing a short-lived unilateral declaration of independence.

Three others were convicted of disobedience but not jailed.



**Shanon**  
(adviser)

**Gheitarieh Apt (\$1900)**  
180sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/pool, S, J  
L.balcony  
marble fle  
fireplace  
Fully Furn

**Pasdaran Villa (\$2500)**  
600sq.m  
5bdrs, S/p, S  
J, balcony  
green yard  
Fully Furn

**Parsian**

**Kamranieh (\$2400)**  
230sq.m, 3bdrs  
S/p, S, J, & F.F

**Darrous (\$2600)**  
3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

**Niavaran (\$2300)**  
3bdrs, S/p, S, J, & F.F

**Jordan (\$1500)**  
3bdrs, balcony, F.F

**Zaferanieh Apt (\$2000)**  
200sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, & F.F

**Cell: +989121907875**  
**Shanon\_tari@yahoo.com**  
**Tel : 88510081**  
**Fax : 88506474**

**Velenjak bldg (\$8000)**  
5storey, 20bdrs  
S/p, storages, pkgs

**Elahieh bldg (\$5000)**  
4stoery, 12bdrs, pkgs

**(Jordan Office) 1000sq.m**  
**5stoery , pkgs (\$30 persq.m)**

**ADVERTISING**

**44253401**

**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

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

**IRAN NEWS**  
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS  
**ADVERTISING**

**TEL: 44253448-50**  
**FAX: 44253234**  
**ADIRANNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

## Turkmenistan Says China Gas Pipeline Debt Paid Off

ASHGABAT (Dispatches) - Turkmenistan's autocrat leader said that his country's debts to China for a multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline and another gas project had been paid off "in full", state media reported Saturday.

China has invested billions in the development of Turkmenistan's gas industry, establishing itself as the isolated country's number one destination for exports. Beijing's most important projects in the country are the pipeline that begins in eastern Turkmenistan and reaches China via Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan and a multi-stage development project at Galkynysh, the world's second-largest gas field.



## G20 GDP Returns to Pre-Pandemic Levels in Q1 2021

PARIS (Dispatches) - According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, gross domestic product (GDP) in the Group 20 (G20) region returned to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021 (Q1), 0.8 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. Increased by%. However, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which stated this number, hides significant differences between countries.

In the G20 economy, India, Turkey and China, whose GDP was already above pre-pandemic levels in the previous quarter, continued to recover 2.1%, 1.7% and 0.6% in the first quarter of 2021, respectively (9.3%). Or later), 1.7% and 2.6% in the fourth quarter of 2020).

GDP in Australia, South Korea and Brazil also returned to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021, with GDP increasing by 1.8%, 1.7% and 1.2%, respectively, the OECD said on its website.

For the rest of the G20 economy, GDP is still lagging behind pre-pandemic levels, with countries recording different developments in the first quarter of 2021. Italy (1.8% shrink to 0.1%), growth Indonesia (2.3% to 1.6%), Canada (2.2% to 1.4%), South Africa (1.1% to 1.4%) and Mexico (0.8%, after 3.2%).

Growth also turned negative in Germany (after minus 1.8% and 0.5% growth), the United Kingdom (after minus 1.5% and 1.3% growth), Japan (after minus 1% and 2.8% growth) and Saudi Arabia. Arabia (minus 0.1% after 2.5% growth).

In France, GDP continued to shrink for the second straight quarter, but at a slower pace (minus 1.5% followed by minus 0.1%). Overall, the UK and Italy recorded the largest gaps of pre-pandemic GDP levels of minus 8.7% and minus 6.4%, respectively, while Germany, France, the Eurozone and the European Union also recorded a gap of more than 4 per capita. Recorded St.

Year-over-year GDP growth in the G20 region recovered to 3.4% in the first quarter of 2021, following a 0.7% decline in the previous quarter. Among the G20 countries, China, which was affected by COVID-19 earlier than other countries, recorded the highest annual growth rate (18.3%), and the United Kingdom had the highest annual growth rate (minus 6.1%). Was recorded.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, gross domestic product (GDP) in the Group 20 (G20) region returned to pre-pandemic levels in the first quarter of 2021 (Q1), 0.8 compared to the fourth quarter of 2020. Increased by%. However, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which stated this number, hides significant differences between countries.

## UK Consumers Expected to Spend £408b in 2021 as Economy Reopens

LONDON (Dispatches) - British consumers are poised to splash the cash and spend billions this year after months of coronavirus lockdowns.

UK shoppers are expected to spend £408.5bn (\$576bn) or £6,150 per head in 2021, according to new research from VoucherCodes.co.uk carried out by the Centre of Retail Research (CRR).

The Life after Covid: Prospects for retail, hospitality and travel report examines the effect of the crisis on retail in the UK since the first lockdown came into place in March 2020, and also looks ahead to how sales will recover during 2021 and 2022.

Retail spending is set to see a firm increase in both 2021 and 2022 across all areas in the country.

COVID-related shutdowns saw the retail industry take a large dip in 2020, with year on year (YoY) growth between 2019 and 2020 hit an all-time low of 0.3%. But, there is a light at the end of the tunnel for UK high streets. Retail sales are predicted to grow by an average of 3.5%, or £13.8bn in 2021, with shoppers expected to spend £6,150 per head this year on average.

The capital is expected to see the biggest boost in combined online and offline retail spending, with £76.2bn forecast for 2021, or £8,554 per head. Spending is also forecast to remain highest in London in 2022 at £80bn total sales and £8,982 per head on average.

Looking ahead, total UK retail sales are predicted to grow by a further 5% in 2022 — an increase of £20.4bn, giving a total expected retail spend of £429bn by that year. This equates to £6,458 being spent per head across the country in 2022.

Non-food sales are expected to contribute a large proportion of the predicted growth (£238.3bn) with an 8.8% increase on 2020's spend (£218.9bn). Consumers are set to spend £19.4bn more on non-food items when compared to 2020 with fashion, cosmetics and the home and garden sectors set to see the biggest boosts.

Similarly as in 2021, non-food spend is set for another year of growth in 2022, but at a steadier pace of 6.6% YoY, resulting in a £15.6bn sales boost.



## Lebanon Currency Drops to New Low as Financial Meltdown Deepens

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's currency crashed past a milestone on Sunday reaching a new low against the dollar, as the country's financial meltdown and political deadlock linger.

Market dealers said the Lebanese pound was trading at around 15,150 to the dollar, losing around 90% of what it was worth in late 2019, when Lebanon's economic and financial crisis erupted.

Lebanon is in the throes of a deep economic meltdown that is threatening its stability. The World Bank has called it one of the deepest depressions of modern history.

The last time the pound hit a low of 15,000 in March protesters took to the streets across Lebanon for over a week, blocking roads by burning tyres.

Foreign reserves, used to fund a subsidy program for basic goods including fuel, medicine and wheat, are running out and shortages have been worsening across the board in recent weeks.

Some hospitals are ruling out elective procedures and only performing emergency surgeries to ration what is left of medical supplies. Most pharmacies staged a two day strike this week as medications run out and hours long car queues for gasoline have frustrated motorists causing squabbles.

The financial collapse is taking place against a backdrop of fractious politicians bickering over cabinet formation.

Prime Minister-designate Saad al-Hariri has been at loggerheads with President Michel Aoun over naming ministers since his designation in October. The former government has continued in a caretaker capacity after having resigned in the aftermath of the Aug. 4 Beirut port blast.

Depositors, locked out of their dollar accounts since last year, have been promised some access starting July, with each customer getting \$400 in cash and an equivalent in Lebanese pounds at a rate close to market value.

But the International Monetary Fund on Thursday criticized Lebanon's proposal for dollar deposit withdrawals and a capital control law yet to be approved by parliament saying both measures would only be meaningful as part of broader reforms.



## Turkey Has Raised FX Swap Deal With China to \$6b

ANKARA (Dispatches) - President Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday that Turkey's central bank had agreed with China to increase an existing currency swap facility to \$6 billion

from \$2.4 billion, in a move that could boost foreign reserves.

Turkey's FX reserves plunged by 75% last year, raising concerns about a possible balance of payments crisis. The surprise announcement came as the Turkish president prepared to travel to Brussels for a NATO meeting.

"We made a very important agreement recently with China, which is very important and one of our biggest trade partners," Erdogan said.

"We previously had a \$2.4 billion swap deal. Now we have made a new deal for a further \$3.6 billion, raising the total to \$6 billion."

The central bank's FX reserves were badly depleted by a 2019-2020 policy of state bank sales of some \$128 billion to support the beleaguered Turkish lira. Excluding swaps with state banks, the central bank's FX reserves are deeply negative, official data show.

A year ago, Turkey appealed to foreign allies for new swap funding but secured little. Interest rate hikes starting in September briefly eased economic pressure, though the lira touched a new low earlier this month.

Last June the central bank said it had used its funding facility for Chinese yuan for the first time under the prior swap agreement with the People's Bank of China.

Erdogan criticized those he said insisted Turkish reserves were falling and said the new deal with China "thwarted this game of theirs".

## South Korea's Q1 Economic Growth Faster Than Expected 1.7%

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korean Economy Central bank data show that strong recovery in exports and capital spending has helped countries grow slightly faster than expected in the first quarter, driving economic growth near pre-pandemic levels.

4th largest in Asia Economy According to preliminary data from the Bank of Korea (BOK), the growth rate in the first quarter of the first quarter was 1.7% from three months ago, 0.1 points higher than previously expected.

According to Yonhap News Agency, the country's annual growth rate for the period January-March was also revised up 0.1 percentage points to 1.9 percent.

"Capital investment increased by 6.1%, driven by increased investment in machinery and transportation equipment," BOK said in a statement.

"Exports increased by 2% due to increased exports of goods such as automobiles and mobile phones," he said.

Last month, BOK soared its 2021 growth outlook from 3% to 4%, but remained at a record low of 0.5% amid a strong recovery in exports.

Governor Lee Ju-yeol said the pace of economic recovery was faster than expected, but monetary policy requires more patience.

However, when asked about the possibility of a rate hike this year, Lee said it "depends on the pace of recovery," with a hawkish tone.

Park Yang-soo, director of economic statistics at BOK, told reporters Economy With quarterly growth of 0.7% or 0.8% by the fourth quarter of this year, annual GDP will grow by 4.1% or 4.2% this year.

According to BOK, consumer spending in the first quarter increased 1.2% from the previous quarter and construction investment increased 1.3% from the previous quarter.

South Korea's economy shrank 0.9% in 2020, 0.1 points higher than previously estimated.

However, it was the first annual contraction since 1998, when the economy shrank by 5.1% due to the Asian currency crisis.

In 2019, the economy expanded 2.2%, accelerating from the previous estimate of 2%.

Meanwhile, BOK said first-quarter gross national income (GNI) increased 2.4% from three months ago.

"Real GNI increased 2.4% compared to the previous quarter, surpassing real GDP (1.7%) due to higher net elemental income from other parts of the world and improved terms of trade," BOK said.

In terms of the value of the US dollar, the country's per capita income was US \$ 31,881 in 2020, down 1% year-on-year.

## Kuwait's Economy Contracted by 9.9% in 2020



KUWAIT CITY (Dispatches) - Kuwait's gross domestic product contracted 9.9% in 2020, compared with growth of 0.4% in 2019, mainly because of last year's sharp drop in oil prices, state news agency KUNA reported on Sunday.

Kuwait, which makes half its revenues from oil, had its finances squeezed by an oil price crash and by the COVID-19 pandemic, while a draft law that would allow it to tap international debt has stalled amid disagreement between successive parliaments and cabinets.

The International Monetary Fund estimated in April that Kuwait's GDP contracted 8% in 2020.

KUNA based its report on Central Bank of Kuwait's governor, Mohammad al-Hashel, who cited preliminary estimates and statistics and said the institution used all the tools available to it to blunt the pandemic's impact.

He said preliminary estimates and statistics also showed the headline inflation rate increased to about 2.1% in 2020 from about 1.1% in 2019.

Kuwait's population, which mostly comprises expatriate workers and their families, declined by 2.2% in 2020 after growing 3.3% in 2019.

Sources told Reuters in April that Kuwait has reached an agreement with state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation under which the company will pay the government billions in accrued dividends, part of government efforts to cover the deficit.

## Zarif's Reaction After Netanyahu Ousted from Power

TEHRAN (MNA) – Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has reacted to the end of the 12-year rule of “Benjamin Netanyahu” over occupied Palestinian lands with a post on Twitter, describing it as the fall of an oppressor.

“After a long period of wars and aggression against the Palestinians and threats against the Islamic Republic, the

oppressor falls, Gaza hoists the sign of victory and Iran still follows the path of dignity. Maybe someone who comes after him will learn that a system built based on aggression and occupation will not last long,” the top Iranian diplomat tweeted in Arabic language in reaction to the end of Netanyahu rule over the Israeli regime.



## G7 COVID-19 Vaccine Pledge Is Not Enough

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Health Organization have warned the leaders of the G7 nations that their strategy to help beat the coronavirus pandemic does not go far enough.

WHO head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus warned that 11 billion doses of the coronavirus vaccine were needed to vaccinate the world against the deadly virus, far short of the 1bn that was pledged by the G7 leadership.

Then on Sunday Kristalina Georgieva, the managing director of the IMF, said that while donations of excess vaccines to the developing world was a good first step, more work would be needed to help countries actually vaccinate their populations.

“This is a moral imperative, but it is a necessity for the economic recovery to stick because we can't have the world split into two tracks without negative consequences,” Georgieva said. Tedros said that to truly end the pandemic, the goal needed to be to vaccinate 70% of the world's population by next year when the G7 - the world's richest nations - will meet in Germany.

“To do that, we need 11 billion doses,” he said.

He added that it was essential for countries to temporarily waive intellectual property protections for coronavirus vaccines, something that found support in Washington but not in Europe.

Tedros reiterated his target of vaccinating 30% of the population of every country by the end of 2021, which would require 100 million doses in June and July and 250 million more by September.

While almost half of the combined population of the G7 nations has received at least one dose of vaccine the worldwide figure is less than 13%. In Africa, it's just 2.2%.

International Monetary Fund economists recently estimated it would cost \$50 billion to vaccinate 60% of the world's population by the middle of next year and that achieving that goal would generate \$9 trillion in additional economic output by 2025.

Those appealing for wealthier nations to do more to make vaccines available worldwide argue it would be a worthwhile investment in human capital.

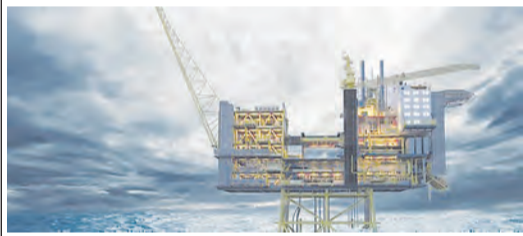


“If we do this, and everyone's saying it's the deal of the century, about 60% of those resources need to come from wealthy countries in the G-7,” said Robert Yates, director of the global health program at Chatham House, a London-based public policy think tank.

Countries like the United States and Britain secured supplies of multiple COVID-19 vaccines while they were still in development, hoping to guarantee shipments of any successful candidates. That left them with enough doses to inoculate their entire populations two or three times over after regulators approved a number of shots.

They are now under pressure to provide shots for low-income countries immediately and not wait until they have vaccinated younger age groups in their own countries. COVID-19 poses the greatest risk to older people and those with underlying health conditions, who account for the vast majority of those who have died from the disease.

## World's Top Oil Firms Boosted Q1 Combined Profits To \$46b



ANKARA (Dispatches) - The ten largest public oil firms in the world reported combined profits of \$46 billion for the first quarter of 2021, thanks to higher oil prices this year, data compiled by Anadolu Agency from financial statements showed this week.

The top ten firms that the agency analyzed—ExxonMobil, Chevron, Total, Shell, BP, Eni, Equinor, Lukoil, Rosneft, and Saudi Aramco—saw their combined profits rise by \$8.5 billion due to the more favorable commodity price environment and signs of recovering demand.

To compare, in Q1 2020, when the pandemic hit oil demand and oil prices, only U.S. firm Chevron and the Saudi giant Aramco reported profits—of a total of \$20.3 billion—while the other eight international and national oil majors lost a combined \$17.7 billion, according to the estimates compiled by Anadolu Agency.

BP saw the largest increase in profit in the first quarter of 2021 compared to the same period of 2020, the agency's calculations showed.

BP reported a profit attributable to shareholders of \$4.7 billion in Q1 2021, compared to a loss of \$4.4 billion for the first quarter of 2020. The supermajor resumed share buybacks this quarter after more than tripling its first-quarter earnings from a year ago on the back of rising oil prices and “exceptional gas marketing and trading performance.” BP reported underlying replacement cost profit—its proxy for net profit—of \$2.63 billion, up from \$791 million for the first quarter of last year and from just \$115 million for the fourth quarter of 2020.

In terms of revenues, Anadolu Agency's estimates show that combined revenues of the top ten oil firms increased by 6.6 percent annually to around \$387 billion. Saudi Aramco's revenues rose the most—by 20 percent to \$80 billion.

The Saudi giant also reported a 30-percent jump in net income for the first quarter of the year to \$21.7 billion.

## Swiss Set to Reject Synthetic Pesticide Ban

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Switzerland seemed on course Sunday to reject proposals to make it the first European country to ban synthetic pesticides following a campaign that saw the idyllic image of peaceful Swiss Alpine pastures ruptured by fiery debates.

Polling stations closed at midday (1000 GMT) and market researchers GFS Bern projected that 61 percent of voters had followed the government's advice and said no to the publically-proposed initiatives.

Meanwhile GFS Bern said 61 percent also seem set to have approved a Covid-19 law that would extend government powers to fight the pandemic and mitigate its consequences on society and the economy. The pollsters predicted that 57 percent had approved controversial sweeping new police powers to combat terrorism, despite warnings from the United Nations and Amnesty International.

The results are expected to be known by the end of day. No major country has so far banned man-made pesticides. Bhutan announced in 2012 that it wanted to become the first nation in the world to turn its home-grown food and farmers 100 percent organic.

Switzerland's national vote on two anti-pesticide proposals was the culmination of a campaign marked by heated arguments between farmers.

The campaign boiled over in the western Vaud region when arsonists torched a trailer in a field displaying banners calling for a “No” vote, triggering fury.

Meanwhile farmers in the “Yes” campaign say they have been the victims of insults, threats and intimidation.

The first popular initiative, entitled “For a Switzerland free from synthetic pesticides”, called for a domestic ban within 10 years, and the outlawing of imported foodstuffs produced using such pesticides.

Under the second initiative, “For clean drinking water and healthy food”, only farms that do not use pesticides and use antibiotics only to treat sick animals would be eligible for government subsidies.

The amount of liquid manure being used on fields, and thereby potentially entering the water system, would also be limited.

Environmentalists and the political left backed both initiatives.

The Swiss government called for a double “No” vote, arguing that the proposals would undermine national food sovereignty.



Under Switzerland's direct democracy system, referendums and popular votes occur every few months at national, regional and local levels.

Any idea from the public can be put to a national vote as long as it gathers 100,000 signatures from the 8.6 million population.

Meanwhile, 50,000 signatures are needed to trigger a referendum on new laws agreed by parliament.

The new anti-terror laws saw the UN and Amnesty warning that the extended police powers to prevent future attacks threatened Switzerland's heritage as a human rights leader.

The laws allow the police to take preventative action more easily when faced with a “potential terrorist”.

If police believe that someone over the age of 12 is contemplating violent actions, the law allows them to conduct greater surveillance, limit their movements and oblige them to face questioning.

And with a court order, they can also place anyone over the age of 15 under house arrest for up to nine months.

The country has so far been spared the large-scale attacks seen in its European neighbours, but the authorities nonetheless insist the threat level is high.

The referendum on Covid-19 laws seems set to pass comfortably.

Any emergency measures introduced by the government -- as with its moves to combat the pandemic -- are time-limited and therefore need firming up if they are to continue.

The Covid laws also regulate financial aid granted to individuals and businesses, including compensation for loss of income, and support for cultural organizations.

Environmental protection was also at stake in a referendum on new carbon dioxide laws.

GFS Bern predicted the outcome was too close to call within the margin of error.

The law would use tax policy to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent of 1990 levels by 2030 -- including financial incentives to install charging points for electric vehicles and to market vehicles that consume less fuel.

## Reversing Iran's Nuclear...

FROM PAGE 1

“Since April, representatives from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries have been holding talks in Vienna aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and bringing the US back to compliance with the accord.

On behalf of EU High Representative Josep Borrell, the meetings are chaired by Deputy Secretary General and Political Director of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora.

The U.S. has sent a delegation to Vienna but it is not attending the JCPOA Joint Commission talks directly as Washington is no longer a party to the deal. It has, however, held separate talks with the other parties except Iran.

## No Deal Without...

FROM PAGE 1

“There are many technicalities to be resolved and we decided today to continue our discussion, [and] our talks very intensively at both political and expert levels.... I think all questions are able to be resolved, if the other side can make ... their decisions, especially on difficult issues,” the top negotiator said.

“They (Americans) have to assure the Islamic Republic of Iran that what happened in the past is not going to be repeated in the future,” Araqchi insists.

The U.S. under former president Donald Trump quit the nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and returned the previous sanctions lifted under the agreement and imposed new ones in line with his “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran.

Araqchi noted that “Iran has already made its difficult decision when it decided to stay in the deal, after the U.S. illegal withdrawal from the JCPOA.”

“Now it is the time for the other sides. If they want to return to the JCPOA, [and] if they want the Islamic Republic of Iran to return to full implementation of its commitments in the JCPOA, they have to make their difficult decisions and they have to make sure, this is very important, they have to assure the Islamic Republic of Iran that what happened in the past is not going to be repeated in the future,” he added.

The top diplomat had earlier said that it is unlikely that the Vienna nuclear deal talks would be concluded this week.

## No Limitations for...

FROM PAGE 1

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatibzadeh said the United States needs to decide about what path it wants to pursue with regard to the ongoing talks in Vienna aimed at restoring the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, which was abandoned by the U.S. in 2018, by bringing the US back into compliance.

“The United States must make its decisions and know that it is not in an equal position with Iran and the P4+1 group in these talks. The United States should know that it is the violator of the JCPOA (nuclear deal) and Resolution 2231, and that it only participates in the talks in the position of a wrongdoer,” he said.

Hinting at Washington's withdrawal from the JCPOA under former U.S. president Donald Trump, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the United States must naturally give the necessary guarantees that it will not repeat what happened during the Trump era.

He also said the current round of Vienna talks – the sixth since the talks began in early April – is unlikely to be the last in the multilateral negotiations.

“It is too early to judge the outcome of the talks. This will not be the last round, and it is unlikely to be the last round, and some media speculations are not true,” Khatibzadeh stated, while at the same time, rejecting the notion that the Vienna talks have reached an impasse.

Touching on remarks by U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley about the human rights situation in Iran, Khatibzadeh said the current US administration, which Malley works for, has caused the death of many Iranian patients because of its failure to fulfill its promise to remove the Trump-era sanctions.

The Biden administration “has been an accomplice in Trump's crimes against this nation through the continuation of its economic terrorism against the Iranian nation,” he said.

The remarks came days after Malley claimed he was “saddened” by the death of prisoner Sasan Niknafs in Iran.

Instead of shedding crocodile tears, Khatibzadeh asserted, the new U.S. administration needs to pay attention to the dark record it has produced “in the history of foreign policy.”

“No country or nation in the world is likely to trust U.S. [officials'] signatures and commitments. Because they showed that they are violating all their obligations, even obligations in Congress,” he added.

## First VP Backs...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

## France to Invest 3.8b Euros in Egypt Projects

CAIRO (Dispatches) - French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire on Sunday signed agreements with Egypt to invest 3.8 billion euros in the most populous Arab country's public transport and renewable energy sectors.

France will finance Egyptian projects with French companies to the tune of 1.8 billion euros (\$2.18 billion). The first tranche will be for transport giant Alstom to supply 55 underground trains for Cairo Metro's Line 1, for a total of 800 million euros financed by a loan from the Treasury. The line used by over a million commuters daily has dilapidated carriages that are over three decades old.

Nine other projects are included in the intergovernmental agreement.

They will be financed by the French Development Agency (AFD) to the tune of one billion euros between 2021 and 2025.

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

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

## Cancelo Positive for Covid-19, Out of Euro 2020

LISBON (Dispatches) - Portugal's Joao Cancelo has tested positive for Covid-19 and is out of Euro 2020, the defending champions' federation announced on Sunday.  
Manchester United's Diogo Dalot, on loan to AC Milan, has replaced the Manchester City right-back in the Portuguese squad with the titleholders opening their Group F campaign against Hungary in Budapest on Tuesday. Cancelo's exit represents a blow to coach Fernando Santos coming just 48 hours before Cristiano Ronaldo's 2016 Euro winners take on the Hungarians.

## McKeown Smashes 100m Backstroke World Record

ADELAIDE (Dispatches) - Teenager Kaylee McKeown smashed the women's 100m backstroke world record Sunday, touching in 57.45sec at the Australian Olympic trials in Adelaide, dedicating it to her father who died last year.  
The 19-year-old, who has been in blistering form this year, swam a sensational race to sweep past American rival Regan Smith's all-time mark of 57.57, set at the 2019 world championships.  
McKeown turned in 28.10 and was never under threat as she powered to the finish.

# Djokovic Makes History With 19th Grand Slam



PARIS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic claimed a 19th Grand Slam title and became the first man in 52 years to win all four majors twice when he came from two sets down to beat Stefanos Tsitsipas in a gripping French Open final on Sunday.

The world number one triumphed 6-7 (6/8), 2-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 over the Greek 22-year-old who was playing in his first Slam final.

Djokovic is now just one major away from equalling the all-time record of 20, jointly held by Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

It was a second French Open crown for Djokovic after his 2016 victory and adds to his nine Australian Opens, five Wimbledon titles and three at the U.S. Open.

The 34-year-old is the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Slams on multiple occasions and just the third in history.

Djokovic had also spent more than four hours on court on Friday to knock out defending champion Rafael Nadal.

"It was an electric atmosphere. I want to thank everyone who has been with me on this journey," said Djokovic after the four-hour 11-minute final.

"I have played almost nine hours over the last 48 hours against two great champions, it was really tough physically over the last three days, but I trusted in my capabilities and knew I could do it."

Djokovic is the first man ever to win a Slam title by twice coming back from two sets down in same the tournament.

"I can relate to what Stefanos is going through but he will come back stronger and win many Grand Slams."

Djokovic now has 84 career titles in total while Sunday's win pushed him to the brink of \$150 million in prize money.

Tsitsipas survived a nervy opening service game, having to save two break points.

Djokovic, by contrast, didn't concede a point in his first three service games.

But suddenly he faced a set point in the 10th game courtesy of an ugly shank but saved it after a 26-shot rally.

Fired up by a time violation, Djokovic broke for the first time for a 6-5 lead but was unable to serve out the opener as a series of razor-sharp returns put Tsitsipas back on level terms.

In a dramatic tiebreaker, Tsitsipas saw a 4/0 and 5/2 lead disappear.

He had to save a set point before claiming the opener after 70 minutes when Djokovic fired a forehand wide.

Dropping the opening set at this year's Roland Garros was familiar territory for Djokovic.

He had to recover from two sets down to beat Lorenzo Musetti in the last 16 and lost the opener against Nadal on Friday.

Tsitsipas, 12 years the world number one's junior, broke again in the first game of the second set as the 2016 champion looked increasingly weary in the 30-degree afternoon heat.

The Greek edged ahead 5-2 and pocketed the second set with his eighth ace of the contest.

But the top seed wasn't finished, breaking in the fourth game of the third set to cut the deficit.

Tsitsipas then called the trainer to treat a back problem which also gave him the opportunity to change the clay-covered shirt he'd worn since a first set tumble.

Thirty minutes later, it was two sets apiece after Djokovic secured a double break.

As the shadows swept across Court Philippe Chatrier, Tsitsipas' mood also darkened as he slipped 3-1 down in the decider.

As the clock ticked past four hours, he fought off two more break points in the seventh game but Djokovic was not to be denied his latest slice of history taking the glory on his second championship point.

## Cilic Beats Felix for Stuttgart Crown



STUTTGART (Dispatches) - Marin Cilic captured his 19th ATP Tour title — and his first for three years — on Sunday after he defeated third-seeded Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 7-6(2), 6-3 in the MercedesCup final.

The Croatian star, who did not drop a set all week, struck seven aces to claim victory in the Stuttgart final that lasted one hour and 50 minutes.

"It was a very important win. I played two semi-finals and did not win a title since 2018, also on grass at Queen's. Winning here brings out joy for me, good confidence and a good feeling," Cilic said. "I felt like I was playing good tennis in these last few weeks. Winning here is a great way for me to continue my form and it gives me a good sign for Queen's and Wimbledon. It is a joy to win my first title with my family here for the first time at any tournament."

"Experience plays a big part, especially on grass. The conditions can be difficult, the court plays quite quick. I felt this was a good chance for me to give it my all, keep my intensity. Even though some games were up and others down, that was a big part of my victory today." Aged 32, Cilic is the third-oldest Stuttgart champion in Open Era (since April 1968) behind Roger Federer, 36, in 2018 and 33-year-old Barry Phillips-Moore in 1971. The World No. 47 is the lowest-ranked Stuttgart champion since No. 85 Juan Carlos Ferrero in 2011.

## New Zealand Thrash England in 2nd Test to Seal Series Win

LONDON (Dispatches) - New Zealand overpowered England by eight wickets in the second Test at Edgbaston on Sunday as they sealed a 1-0 series win with more than a day to spare.

Set a target of just 38 after England tailender Olly Stone was out to the very first ball of the fourth day, the Blackcaps finished on 41-2.

Stand-in captain Tom Latham, leading the team in place of the injured Kane Williamson, hit the winning boundary to be 23 not out after the first Test of a two-match series at Lord's ended in a draw last week.

Victory gave New Zealand just a third win in 18 Test series in England and a first this century after their 1986 and 1999 triumphs.

By contrast, this was England's first series loss at home since a 2014 defeat by Sri Lanka.

England resumed on the brink of defeat at 122-9 in their second innings, a lead of just 37 runs, after a top-order collapse that had seen them slump to 76-7.

Stone then fell for his overnight 15 when he edged left-arm quick Trent Boult and was caught behind, with James Anderson -- in his England record 162nd Test -- unbeaten on nought.

But the real damage had been done on Saturday when England's top-order failed in an innings where fast bowler Mark Wood's 29 was the top score.

Matt Henry, one of an extraordinary six changes to the New Zealand side that played at Lord's, took the first three wickets to fall in a return of 3-36, with Neil Wagner following up with 3-18.

Such is the Blackcaps' strength in depth, however, that either bowler could be replaced by the rested Tim Southee when New Zealand face India in next week's inaugural World Test Championship final at Southampton.

## Krejcikova Doubles Up at French Open



Iga Swiatek 6-4, 6-2 for their third Slam title together. "It's an extraordinary achievement to win in singles and doubles," said Swiatek who was singles champion in 2020.

PARIS (Dispatches) - Barbora Krejcikova became the first player since Mary Pierce in 2000 to win the singles and doubles titles at the French Open on Sunday.

Krejcikova teamed with fellow Czech Katerina Siniakova to defeat Bethanie Mattek-Sands and

Krejcikova on Saturday had become the first Czech woman since Hana Mandlikova in 1981 to lift the singles title with a three-set win over Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Krejcikova and Siniakova also won the 2018 doubles title in Paris and backed it up the same year at Wimbledon.

"It was really difficult. Like yesterday there were so many emotions and everything. I didn't really sleep well," said Krejcikova.

"I woke up in the morning and I felt really tired. I can actually say that out loud right now, I'm having some pains in my leg."

## "No Explanation" Yet for Eriksen's Euro 2020 Collapse



COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Denmark's team doctor said Sunday there was still "no explanation" for why midfielder Christian Eriksen collapsed during his country's opening Euro 2020 game against Finland.

"There's no explanation so far," team doctor Morten Boesen told a press conference, adding that all tests done so far on the player, who is still in hospital, have come back fine.

"That is also one of the reasons that he is still in the hospital," the physician said.

The Inter Milan star suddenly collapsed in the 43rd minute of Denmark's Group B game against Finland on Saturday, laying motionless as medical personnel administered CPR.

He laid on the field for about 15 minutes before being carried off the pitch and rushed to hospital.

The game was temporarily suspended awaiting updates on Eriksen's health, but resumed later in the evening after reports filtered through that the player was in a stable condition and awake. It ended in a 1-0 win for debutants Finland.

Players in the Danish team were given the option to continue the game or postpone it, but on Sunday head coach Kasper Hjulmand said he regretted the decision.

"I honestly don't think that we should have been on the pitch again," Hjulmand told reporters.

Hjulmand added that Eriksen had told him he wished for the team to carry on playing in the tournament.

"Christian wishes that we should continue playing, so we will do that. We want to play for Christian," Hjulmand said.

## England Make Winning Start At Euro 2020



LONDON (Dispatches) - Raheem Sterling ignited England's Euro 2020 campaign as the Manchester City forward's clinical finish sealed a 1-0 win against Croatia in their Group D opener on Sunday.

Gareth Southgate's side were struggling to break down Croatia until Sterling struck in the second half at sun-baked Wembley.

The 26-year-old's first goal at a major tournament -- in his 13th game -- was the perfect riposte to critics who questioned Southgate's decision to select him instead of Jack Grealish. Sterling has endured a chequered relationship with England fans after being hounded following his tame performances at Euro 2016.

He also struggled to hold down a place with Premier League champions City this term, culminating in his lacklustre display in their Champions League final defeat against Chelsea.

But, days after he was given an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for his anti-racism campaigning, Sterling enjoyed a perfectly-timed moment of redemption.

"I always said if I played at Wembley at a major tournament I had to score. It's great to finally do that," said Sterling, who grew up close to the national stadium.

"There's a lot of different reasons why I haven't scored for my club and it's totally irrelevant now. I'm here with England and I'm enjoying my football."

"Have I justified my selection? I'm trying. I've focused on myself and tried to come into the tournament with a clear head."

In a rematch of the 2018 World Cup semi-final won by Croatia, England were hampered by a lack of cutting edge until Sterling came to the rescue.