

Health Ministry Announced on Saturday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 82,854 With 108 More Iranians Killed by the Deadly Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif Said on Saturday That Overseas Iranian Meaningful Participation in the Presidential Election Once Again Shows the Glory of Iranians

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ICAO Told Not to Politicize Ukrainian Plane Crash

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohsen Baharvand has expounded on the country's viewpoints and activities regarding the 2020 Ukrainian plane crash at a meeting of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

He made his comments in a detailed speech at the 223rd Session of the ICAO Council.

In his speech, Baharvand once again expressed regret over the tragic event and expressed condolences to the families of victims while elaborating on the legal, judicial and technical dimensions of the accident.

He reiterated that the Iranian government will pay damages to the families of those who lost their lives in the plane crash.

The diplomat highlighted Iran's recommendations mentioned in the final report on the air accident and said he was pleased to see ICAO had paid attention to them and drawn up working plans to implement those recommendations.

He welcomed any initiative or program to boost the safety of international aviation.

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Araqchi, Grossi Discuss JCPOA Developments

LONDON (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi reviewed the JCPOA latest developments, Iranian envoy said.

"Deputy minister Araqchi and @rafaelmgrossi discussed today the latest developments around the JCPOA negotiations and possible assistance of the @iaeaorg in this process," Iran's permanent representative to the Vienna-based international organizations Kazem Gharibabadi wrote in his Twitter account.

"They also reviewed mutual interactions and cooperation between Iran and the IAEA," he added.

Earlier, in a letter to IAEA, Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said that Iran has so far done its best with regard to its cooperation with the IAEA in content-based method by presenting elaborations and necessary responses.

Tehran welcomes the IAEA readiness for maintaining active interaction with Iran aiming to solve some safeguard issues with no delay, the letter reads.

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Hojjatolislam Raisi Wins Presidential Race by Landslide



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Hojjatolislam Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi has won Iran's 2021 presidential election by a landslide, according to preliminary results by the Interior Ministry.

Iranian Deputy Interior Minister Jamal Orf said 28.9 million Iranians participated in the election, and with all votes counted, Raisi garnered over 17.926 million votes, followed by Mohsen Rezaei who secured 3.412 million. Nasser Hemmati garnered 2.427 million votes, and Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh-Hashemi won almost one million votes.

Orf also said that 28,933,004 cast vote in this year's presidential election which is 48.8 percent of eligible voters. Later in the day, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf turned up at the campaign HQ of Raisi to congratulate him in person.

Following the meetings, the three briefed reporters on the content of their talks.

Rouhani thanked all those in charge of holding, overseeing and providing security to the election process.

The outgoing president said his team was fully ready to offer any cooperation or assistance to their successors. Similarly, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said the legislative branch stood fully ready to cooperate with the president-elect's administration.

In turn, Raisi pledged all-out efforts to resolve the country's problems, especially those affecting the people's livelihoods.

To achieve that goal, he said, he would consult with the outgoing administration, the parliament, and the elites. Raisi has been the chief of Iran's Judiciary since 2019. The Muslim cleric has formerly held several other posts in Iran's judicial branch since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Raeisi is associated with the Principlist camp, but he said he ran in the election this year as an independent when he announced his presidential bid last month.

He was campaigning with the slogan "Popular Administration, Strong Iran" on a platform of uprooting corruption in the executive branch, fighting poverty, creating jobs, containing inflation, and corruption.

Meanwhile senior foreign officials, prominent figures, and regional resistance leaders offer congratulations to Raisi, after early election results declared him as winner of Iran's 2021 presidential election.

The ministry's election headquarters was expected to announce the final results later in the day.

Meanwhile, Iraqi President Barham Salih felicitated Raisi on securing an overwhelming majority of the votes cast in the Friday election to become Iran's new president.

The secretary-general of Iraq's al-Nujaba resistance movement, Sheikh Akram al-Ka'abi, send a similar note to the president-elect, expressing hope for closer ties between the two neighboring nations during Raeisi's term.

In a message, Yousef al-Hasseini, a senior member of the Gaza-based Islamic Jihad resistance movement's Islamic Jihad, offered congratulations to the Iranian nation for marking a big win in the election and hailed its support for the

Commonwealth States Blasted for Failing to Provide Security for Voters

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Judiciary's High Council for Human Rights has censured the Commonwealth member states such as the UK, Australia and New Zealand for failing to provide security for the Iranians voting in the 13th presidential election at the embassies of their host countries.

In post on its Twitter account late on Friday, the rights council also hit out at Canada, another Commonwealth member, for depriving some 500,000 Iranian voters from casting ballots.

"Today, the Iranians residents of Britain, Australia and New Zealand, who went to the polls to determine their own fate, were harassed and attacked despite police presence. These countries, along with Canada which deprived half a million Iranians from the elections, are all taking cue from the royal office," the tweet read, referring to the Buckingham Palace, where Queen Elizabeth II lives.

On Friday, millions of Iranians went to the polls inside the country and abroad to elect a successor to President Hassan Rouhani, who has served two four-year terms.

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Tehran, La Paz Mulling Over Resumption of Energy Cooperation

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Ambassador to La Paz Morteza Tafreshi has met with Bolivian Minister of Hydrocarbons and Energy Franklin Molina Ortiz, to discuss the resumption of energy cooperation between the two countries, IRNA reported citing Bolivia's El Deber Newspaper.

As reported, the two sides have agreed in the meeting to strongly pursue the issue and take necessary measures for the resumption of oil and gas cooperation between the two countries.

According to Ortiz, the negotiations will be a follow-up on the agreement reached between Bolivian oilfields company [Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales Bolivianos or YPFB] and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) back in 2007.

NIOC and YPFB are also considering the signing of major cooperation agreements in the fields of research and technology in the future, the Bolivian newspaper reported.

Iran and Bolivia have resumed diplomatic relations in late 2020 after more than a year.

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U.S. Wants Nuclear Deal Done Before Iran New President Takes Power

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The Biden administration wants to finalize a deal with Iran to return to the 2015 nuclear deal in the six weeks remaining before a new Iranian president is inaugurated, a U.S. official tells Axios.

The official said it would be "concerning" if talks dragged on into early August, when Iran's transition is due to take place. "If we don't have a deal before a new government is formed, I think that would raise serious questions about how achievable it's going to be," the official said.

Principlist Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi won the clear favorite to win Friday's presidential election in Iran.

Analysts and some diplomats involved in the negotiations have long said it would be easier to reach a deal with the outgoing administration than with a newly inaugurated government, particularly one led by Raisi.

Six rounds of talks have been held so far in Vienna, with the U.S. not in the room but negotiating indirectly through EU intermediaries.

But Rafael Grossi, director of the UN's nuclear watchdog, told La Repubblica newspaper this week: "Everyone knows that, at this point, it will be necessary to wait for the new Iranian government."

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JCPOA Agreement to Likely Be Reached Before End of Gov't

TEHRAN (MNA) - Referring to the current process of Vienna negotiations to revive the JCPOA, Foreign Minister Zarif said that there is a possibility of reaching an agreement before the end of Hassan Rouhani's administration.

In an interview on the sidelines of the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, Mohammad Javad Zarif in response to a question about the prospects of the formation of a new administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran on "Vienna" talks on reviving the JCPOA said that an agreement will probably be reached before the end of Hassan Rouhani's administration.

"Negotiations are underway on the JCPOA. There is a good chance that an agreement will be reached before the end of our tenure. We will hand over the power to the new administration in mid-August and I think we will probably be able to reach an agreement long before that date," Zarif said.

"I have seen the latest edited draft of the agreement," he added regarding the current Vienna negotiation process. "The draft has become purer. The parentheses [the issues of the dispute] are being removed."

In response to a question about the current obstacles to the final agreement on the JCPOA, Zarif said, "The main remaining obstacle is understanding these issues. The United States must understand that it was a party that left the agreement with intention, and their goal was not achieved, and now that they want to return to the agreement, they cannot achieve the goal that was not achieved through economic war, through the negotiation table."

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Putin Congratulates President-Elect Raisi

TEHRAN (MNA) - Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a message on Saturday congratulating the election of Ebrahim Raisi as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. “Dear Mr. Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, the president-elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, accept my sincere congratulations on the election of Your Excellency as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Putin said in his message.

In part of his message, Putin also said the relationship between “our countries are traditionally gifted with friendship and good neighborliness.”

Leader Hails Iranian Nation as “Great Winner” Of 2021 Election

TEHRAN (PressTV) – Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei has praised the “epic” turnout in Iran’s 2021 presidential election, saying the “great” winners of the key vote are the people themselves, whose iron will was broken by neither the pandemic nor attempts at frustrating them.

In a message addressed to the Iranian nation on Saturday, the Leader thanked the people for turning out en masse in the June 18 elections to choose a new president and representatives to the City and Village Councils and said their “epic, passionate participation” added “a new shining page to the [record] of their honors.”

“Among the factors that could have each diminished participation in the elections, pleasant scenes of your gatherings at polling stations countrywide were a clear sign of your iron will, hopeful heart, and vigilant eyes,” the Leader said.

“The great winner of the elections yesterday was the Iranian nation, which stood up once again in the face of the propaganda campaign waged by the enemy’s mercenary media and temptations of the ill-wishers and showed off its presence in the heart of the political field,” he added.

Ayatollah Khamenei said nothing could break the Iranian nation’s will and hamper the election; neither complaints about livelihood issues, nor threats of the outbreak, nor the propagating opposition which had started from months before



to frustrate the people, nor the irregularities that briefly disrupted voting in the early hours of Election Day.

The Leader thanked the nation and the institutions in charge of holding, overseeing, and providing security to the elections.

Ayatollah Khamenei offered congratulations to the nation for its victory in the elections besides those elected by the people. He also advised the president-elect and those elected to represent people at the City and Village Council to fully shoulder the responsibilities assigned to them by the country’s law.

Iran held its 13th presidential election on Friday. In parallel, the participants also voted in City and Village Councils mid-term Assembly of Experts and parliamentary elections.

Elections, Symbol of Religious Democracy

TEHRAN (IP) – Majlis Speaker called elections a symbol of religious democracy and a window of change for the country’s management.

Regarding the national and international dimensions of the people’s participation in the elections, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said: “Undoubtedly, the elections are a manifestation of religious democracy.”

Speaking on the sidelines of a visit to the country’s election headquarters on Friday night, Qalibaf told Iran Press that undoubtedly, the elections are Iran’s great political and social capital.

“Elections are a great opportunity for the people to criticize certain aspects of religious democracy and are a window of change for the country’s management,” he added.

Stating the fact that naturally, the election has national and international implications, Qalibaf expressed hope that the new administration would live up to its commitments and expectations.

People become proud of Iran by participating in elections. The Speaker of the Iranian Parliament on Saturday in a tweet said: “The Iranian people became proud of Iran by their maximum participation in the elections.”

Referring to the epic of people’s participation in the elections, Qalibaf said: “Despite the annoyances and complaints about inefficiencies, the people became proud of Iran by their maximum participation in the elections.”

Qalibaf also congratulated the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyedd Ali Khamenei and the people of Iran on the occasion of the national election celebration calling it a national epic.

Tehran, Damascus Reinforcing Economic Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Roads and Urban Development Mohammad Eslami in a meeting with senior Syrian officials reviewed ways to strengthen trade, economic, and investment cooperation.

In his meeting with Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil, Eslami discussed implementing an agreement signed between two countries.

Both sides also discussed lifting obstacles in this regard. Increasing the level of trade exchanges and mechanisms for facilitating financial interactions between Tehran and Damascus can help lift roadblocks for Iranian and Syrian companies.

Referring to political and military victories achieved by Syria and support of the Resistance Axis, Eslami said Syria is in an important strategic situation. Meanwhile, Samer al-Khalil hailed the implementation of agreements between two countries. An Iranian delegation headed by Eslami arrived in Damascus on Tuesday night.

In a separate meeting with the Syrian Minister of Local Trade and Consumer Protection Talal Barazi, the Iranian minister discussed ways to reinforce trade ties between Iran and Syria aiming to stand against imposed economic measures against the two countries.

Biden Follows Trump’s Wrong Path

TEHRAN (IP) – President Hassan Rouhani said that the Trump administration was a terrorist regime and the new president Biden is following his wrong path.

Rouhani said the U.S. uncovered its crimes by announcing that it would lift sanctions on masks and the COVID-19 vaccine to enter Iran.

Rouhani noted: “Whenever we said we were under a boycott and the terrorist people in the White House would not allow us to buy the vaccine, some said the boycott had nothing to do with the vaccine.”

“We suffered two years of economic war and we did not have a lot of financial resources to stay home and not go to work, and this was different from countries that had good financial conditions and did not have either sanctions or problems,” he pointed out.

Rouhani further said that Iran’s financial resources had for years been locked in countries that claimed to have nothing to do with terrorism adding that both neighboring and overseas countries refuse to pay back Iran’s money due to the imposition of oppressive U.S. sanctions.

Yet the president appreciated the Iranian nation due to their patience and collaboration in preferring the national interests to their own.

UK Envoy Summoned Over Harassment of Iranian Voters

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Foreign Ministry summoned the British ambassador to Tehran to voice protest at the problems that Iranian expatriates in the UK encountered as they wanted to attend the presidential election at the Islamic Republic’s diplomatic missions.

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Saturday that UK Ambassador Rob Macaire has been summoned by the ministry in protest at the problems faced by the Iranian voters residing in England.

He said the British envoy has been notified of Iran’s strong protest at the “riotous and terrorist” conduct of a number of “anti-Revolution terrorist elements and those opposing democracy” who have disrupted the process of the 13th Iranian presidential election in a number of cities such as London and Birmingham by insulting the voters and the executive personnel and the assault and battery against one of the voters.

“The British ambassador has been told that the

government and police of that country (UK) have failed to fulfil their duties to ensure the security of the polling stations and the voters,” Khatibzadeh said.

The spokesman also noted that the Foreign Ministry officials have reminded the UK envoy that democracy materializes at the ballot boxes not in the moves of a few number of rioters on the streets.

“In the meeting, strong criticism has been leveled at the naughty and divisive performance of the UK-based Persian media, including BBC Persian and Iran International, which tried to promote a boycott of election, encourage people to attend street protests, and disrupt the process of election with their programs and types of news making. It was emphasized that such measures that run counter to democracy and encourage riotous moves will remain in the memory of Iranian people,” he added.

The British ambassador has pledged to convey the protest to London.

Tehran Optimistic About Future of Relations With Baku

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran is optimistic about the future of relations with Azerbaijan, the Chief of Staff of the President of Iran Mahmoud Vaezi said.

He made the remark in a meeting with Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Bunyad Huseynov.

According to him, at present, there are no problems in relations with the positive will of the presidents of the two countries. The relations between the people and the state of the two countries are interconnected in various fields.

Vaezi added that both countries are following the process of strengthening cooperation with a positive outlook. Currently, companies and the private sectors of the two countries are implementing joint projects in various fields due to the positive will of the two countries.

The chief noted that Iran and Azerbaijan have opportunities for cooperation in various fields. The two neighboring countries have comprehensive and rapid development of relations and can meet each other’s needs in all areas.

Vaezi stressed the importance of liberating the territories of Azerbaijan from occupation.

“Iran is ready to participate in the restoration of these territories so that these territories are quickly handed over to the people, and peace and stability are established in the region,” he said.

During the meeting, Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Bunyad Huseynov also said that relations between the two countries are developing.

The ambassador added that the value of trade turnover between Azerbaijan and Iran has increased from \$135 million to about \$900 million over the past eight years. In addition, the transit between the two countries did not stop for a day in the last year and more than tripled.

Huseynov emphasized that during 8 years, 103 documents were signed between the two countries in various fields. Cooperation between the two countries will continue.

Reportedly, the five-year diplomatic mission of Azerbaijani Ambassador to Iran Bunyad Huseynov has ended.

Armenia, Iran Mull Launching Electronic Data Exchange System

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The delegation headed by the Deputy Chairman of the Armenian State Revenue Committee Ashot Muradyan met with the delegation led by the Deputy Head of the Customs Service of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ibrahim Naghdi at the Norduz border checkpoint.

The parties discussed a number of issues related to the smooth implementation of processes at the Meghri and Norduz checkpoints in order to promote the development of trade between the two countries. The issue of creating mechanisms, platforms for quick, effective solution of the problems arising between the two countries was also considered.

Issues related to the operation of the electronic data exchange system related to the international transportation of goods between Armenia and Iran were discussed during the meeting. The Armenian and Iranian partners agreed to intensify the cooperation of the relevant subdivisions of the two countries, which will have a positive impact on the process of detecting cases of violation of customs rules and faster resolution of problems. It is planned to discuss in more detail the technical issues of joint work through video conferences of the specialists of the two partner organizations.

The parties also expressed readiness to hold regular high-level meetings in order to provide operative solutions to current issues related to the customs service of the two friendly countries.

Iran’s Dispatch of Oil Tanker To Venezuela “Unforgettable”

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Venezuelan counterpart Jorge Arreaza have discussed the latest status of bilateral ties as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest.

In the meeting held in the Turkish city of Antalya, Zarif touched upon the United States’ illegal moves to obstruct the implementation of the JCPOA, and elaborated on the latest status of talks in Vienna on the nuclear deal.

The top Venezuelan diplomat, in turn, referred to Washington’s illegal sanctions against that country and the U.S. preventing the purchase of coronavirus vaccines.

Arreaza thanked Iran’s support for the Venezuelan government and nation, and hailed as unforgettable Iran’s assistance during tough days and the dispatch of an Iranian oil tanker to Venezuela.

The two sides also exchanged views on the latest situation of Iraq, Afghanistan and Latin American countries.

Pakistan PM Congratulates Raisi on Election Win

TEHRAN (Press Release) - Prime Minister of Pakistan congratulates Ebrahim Raisi on his landmark victory in the Islamic Republic of Iran’s 13th Presidential elections.

Imran Khan in a tweet on Saturday said congratulations to brother Raisi.

“We look forward to working with him for further strengthening our fraternal ties and for regional peace, progress and prosperity,” he said.

Meanwhile Chairman of Pakistan’s Senate on Saturday congratulated Raisi for his victory in the 13th presidential election.

While extending heartfelt greetings, Mohammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a statement prayed for the success of Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi.

He said the newly-elected Iranian President is a friend of Pakistan and under his leadership Pakistan-Iran friendship will be further strengthened.

“I congratulate him on behalf of Parliament, Government and people of Pakistan,” Sanjrani said.

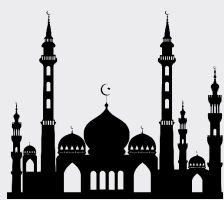
He added Pakistan attaches great importance to bilateral relations with Iran.

Sanjrani went on to say the region’s leadership must work together for regional security and peace.

He said that the newly-elected President Ebrahim Raisi has vast experience.

“It is hoped that new avenues for regional cooperation and coordination will be paved during his tenure as President of Iran,” said Chairman Senate.

He was of the view that religious, social and cultural similarities can play an important role in bringing Iran and Pakistan further close to each other.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:06
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:44
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:02
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:48

134. Those who spend (freely), whether in prosperity, or in adversity; who restrain anger, and pardon (all) men;- for Allah loves those who do good:-
135. And those who, having done something to be ashamed of, or wronged their own souls, earnestly bring Allah to mind, and ask for forgiveness for their sins, and who can forgive sins except Allah- and are never obstinate in persisting knowingly in (the wrong) they have done.
Surah 3. The Family Of 'Imran, The House Of 'Imran (134-135)

Sanctions Made Spanish Private Banks Cautious In Dealing With Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – During the Iran-Spain Trade Day meeting, participants referred to the Spanish private banks' caution regarding deal with Iran due to the sanctions and called for resolving it to materialize the 5-billion-trade target between the two countries.

The meeting was held on the eve of Spain's national day at the IT Commission of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (TCCIMA).

Addressing the meeting, President of Iran-Spain Joint Chamber of Commerce Mohammad Taheri referred to holding the virtual Iran-Spain Exhibition and also to the old relations between the countries, adding that the background for cooperation between Iran and Spain dates back to 400 years ago and since then, political and economic cooperation between the two states has continued.

He noted that in recent years and after the removal of sanctions, Spanish trade delegations, accompanied by three ministers, visited Tehran which shows the significance of trade relations with Iran for Spain.

Taheri added that with reimposing the U.S. sanctions against Iran, banking transactions became harder, adding that financial and monetary bodies in Spain are private and due to the sanctions, they are cautious in dealing with Iran because of the U.S. punishment. He said the approach of the banks is wrong and the chamber tries to solve this self-imposed sanction, noting that the condition that the U.S. has implemented



in the financial market is in a way, depriving Iran of doing business activities.

He pointed to the trade capacity between the two states which is not in good condition currently but it can be improved by removal of sanctions and back to the normal condition, and the bilateral trade relation will improve. Taheri went on to say that in some issues the two countries can cooperate on the barter basis. He reiterated once the Spanish Association of Manufacturers of Capital Goods (SAMCG) which has office in Tehran was to define a process for financial cooperation but it was not operationalized.

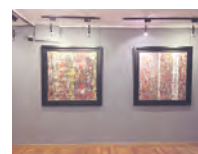
He added that the second solution is the cooperation with the local banks which can expand the ground for cooperation, noting that the chamber attaches value to ties with Spain. He said Spain seeks deepening trade ties with Iran, adding that in Madrid, SAMCG is considered a pro-Iran entity and traders can take advantage of it but the coronavirus pandemic has worsened the condition.

Taheri went on to say that the trade exchange between Iran and Spain in the past years has hit around \$3b but due to the restrictions because of the COVID-19, the figure has slumped to \$3.15b and it is estimated the potential for bilateral trade between Iran and Spain is \$5b.

"Color and Life" Exhibition At Gol-e Narges Gallery

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – The visual arts exhibition "Color and Life" which has started online at the Gol-e Narges Gallery since May 12 will be officially open in-person on June 29.



According to reports, the exhibition alphabetically covers painting works from artists like Saeedeh Arian, Banafsheh Ahmadzadeh, Parvin Hosseinzadeh Tabrizi, Hamid Jafari Shakib, Negar Jahangiri, Farhang Atefi, Behdad Najafi and Hassa Norouznia.

The curator of the exhibition Mr. Behdad Najafi Asadollahi is himself one of the participating artists in the exhibition. The goal behind holding the exhibition is to move on course to connect the art with the society and to mix artistic content, form and color with the texture and layers of industrial and machinery layers of the modern human.

Meanwhile head of press office of the exhibition Ms. Maryam Vahidnia called on the enthusiast public and art-lovers to visit the exhibition and expressed her satisfaction about the growing trend in holding the art events in the community.

The exhibition will be open to the public at the Gol-e Narges Gallery from June 29 from 12 to 20:00 hrs.

The gallery is located on exhibition is located on the Culture and Islamic Guidance Office of Tehran, Motahhari Avenue.

IME Enjoys 18% Rise in Weekly Trade Value

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 824,288 tons of commodities with a total trading value of almost \$384m, showing 31% and 18% of growth in volume and value of trades respectively.

According to a report by the IME's inter atonal affairs and PR, the exchange sold on its metal and mineral trading floor 438,651 tons of commodities worth more than \$216m.

Commodities traded on this floor included 185,564 tons of steel, 4,720 tons of copper, 8,850 tons of aluminum, 250 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 400 tons of metallurgical coke, 12 tons of precious metal concentrate, 585 tons of zinc ingots,

194,270 tons of cement, 11 kg of gold bars, 9,000 tons of sponge iron and 35,000 tons of iron ore pellets.

Moreover, the IME saw trade of 383,664 tons of commodities on its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at nearly \$167m.

Based on this report, the IME's customers purchased on this floor, 85,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 154,368 tons of bitumen, 66,580 tons of polymeric products, 31,155 tons of chemicals, 38,000 tons of lube cut, 110 tons of argon, 1,270 tons of sulfur, 455 tons of insulation, 1,976 tons of PDA TAR and 4,750 tons of base oil & slack wax,

Also, the exchange played host to trading of 1,973 tons of commodities on its side market.



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The soul that plays
And the love that beats
In the labyrinth of love and empathy
And flows from the heart
A waterfall of affection and kindness
Deprivation camp
International Charity Foundation of the Waterfall of Emotions
Every breath is right and every word is consent
Accelerates with every power
With all love
With any motivation
To the heart that is missed
And an eye that worries
Now that the first step of the empathy exercise is over,
This company has climbed to another level.
This is a step towards kindness and hope.



Fatemeh Choupani, director of the deprivation camp, said in an interview: In the second step of the empathy exercise on July 1, 2021, coinciding with the birth of Imam Reza, we have prepared 300 series of dowries. We want to make hearts happy again and send lovers from Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province home. This dowry includes gas, carpet, blanket, air conditioner, heater, Teflon and porcelain service. In addition to providing dowry, 3,000 livelihood packages including rice, oil, paste, macaroni and beans are also distributed. We have also prepared sanitary packs including masks, hand and surface disinfectants, detergents, and washing powder. The love that is in the name of God is infinite. The foundation's deprivation center donates a free bakery and bread to the needy. The center has also built 14 toilets and fountains in the area. This stage also comes to an end with authority and effort. If you do not want your heart to be in pain, release the heart of those in pain.

International Charity Foundation of the Waterfall of Emotions Deprivation camp

site : www.absharatfeha.org

Instagram: [abshaar_atefeh](https://www.instagram.com/abshaar_atefeh)

Telegram: t.me/bitolreza

Charity code: * 741 * 3 * 800 #

Card number: 1250-4319-8110-6273

Account number: Sepah Bank (former Ansar) 1-7720500-759-1878

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در بنیاد بین المللی خیریه آبشار عاطفه ها

تیر ماه سال ۱۴۰۰

قرارگاه محرومیت زدایی بنیاد بین المللی خیریه آبشار عاطفه ها در یکم تیر ماه ۱۴۰۰ مصادف با میلاد با سعادت هشتمین نور ولایت علی ابن موسی الرضا (ع)، با انگیزه ای والا و تلاشی روزافزون دومین قدم از رزمایش "مواسات و همدلی" را با اهدای ۳۰۰ سری کمک جهیزیه و اعطای ۳۰۰۰ هزار بسته معیشتی به خانواده های کم برخوردار استان چهارمحال بختیاری برگزار می کند.

۳۰۰ سری جهیزیه

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Moscow Covid Cases Soar to Record High

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - New coronavirus infections hit a pandemic high in Moscow on Monday, tripling in just weeks and forcing Russia's capital to close its Euro fan zone and extend other curbs.

Some 9,056 new cases were recorded in the megapolis of 12 million in the past 24 hours, up from 3,000 two weeks ago and a new daily record since the Covid-19 pandemic began in early 2020, according to official statistics.

Faced with the spike, Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin, who has been rolling out restrictions for nearly a week, said that the city would limit gatherings and close the Euro 2020 fan zone outside of the Luzhniki stadium.



Spain to Scrap Mandatory Outdoor Masks

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Spain will lift a blanket obligation to wear masks outdoors from June 26, Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Friday.

Spain's announcement follows a decision in neighboring France to end the mandatory wearing of masks outdoors as infection rates fall, although concerns remain over the spread of the Delta variant.

"This weekend will be the last one with masks in outdoor spaces because the next weekend we will no longer wear them," Sanchez told an event in Barcelona.

He said the cabinet will meet on June 24 to approve the lifting of the mask-wearing rule from June 26.



Johnson's Party Loses Out at Election



LONDON (Dispatches) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson suffered an embarrassing defeat in an election on the outskirts of London on Friday, when his governing Conservative Party lost a previously safe parliamentary seat to the Liberal Democrats.

The Conservatives had comfortably held the leafy, affluent Chesham and Amersham constituency in southern England since its creation in 1974, capturing more than 50% of the vote on every occasion. At the last poll in 2019, Conservative Cheryl Gillan, who died this year, won by a majority of 16,223 votes.

Since a divisive referendum in 2016, Brexit has helped reshape Britain's political landscape, with people switching party loyalties in a way not seen for generations. Support for the Conservatives has surged in northern England.

On Wednesday, Sarah Green, the candidate for the Liberal Democrats - a centrist, pro-European Union party - won a majority of 8,028 votes over the Conservative candidate. The main opposition Labour Party came fourth, with 1.6% of the vote, its worst showing in decades. Johnson said it was a "disappointing result", suggesting there were "particular circumstances" in the area and "it was a bit bizarre" to suggest his party were on the back foot.

"We are a great one-nation party and we will continue with our mission to unite and level up because that is the best way to deliver jobs, prosperity across the whole country," he told reporters.

But Lib Dem leader Ed Davey said it was a sign of things to come, with his party ousting the Conservatives from traditional strongholds in England's affluent south.

"Across the south, the Tory Blue Wall is beginning to crumble," he said in a statement. "Here and in great swathes of the country, only the Liberal Democrats can beat the Conservatives and breach their Blue Wall." The result may cause some nervousness in the Conservative Party, which has targeted traditional Labour-supporting voters in northern England but, according to some of its lawmakers, has increasingly ignored its strongholds in the south.

Johnson's parliamentary seat is just 10 miles away, in West London.

While governing parties often lose out at so-called by-elections, the Lib Dems focused their campaign on local issues, such as the new High Speed 2 rail link between London and northern England which cuts through the area.

The Conservatives have also been criticized about changes to planning laws, which some fear could mean more building of homes over green fields, something Johnson said was a misunderstanding as the government wanted construction on brownfield sites.

"I think there's some misunderstanding about the planning reforms, perhaps even some wilful misunderstanding," he said.

"What we want is sensible plans to allow development on brownfield sites ... but I do think young people growing up in this country should have the chance of home ownership."

North Korea Ready for Dialogue And Confrontation With U.S.

PYONGYANG (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has said his country needs to prepare for "both dialogue and confrontation" with the United States under President Joe Biden, state media reported on Friday.

At a plenary meeting of the central committee of the governing Workers' Party of Korea on Thursday, Kim outlined his strategy for relations with Washington, and the "policy tendency of the newly emerged U.S. administration", the Korean Central News Agency said. The comments mark the first time Kim has made a reference to the country's policy towards the US since the inauguration of US President Joe Biden.

Kim "stressed the need to get prepared for both dialogue and confrontation, especially to get fully prepared for confrontation in order to protect the dignity of our state" and reliably guarantee a "peaceful environment", KCNA reported.

The North Korean leader "called for sharply and promptly reacting to and coping with the fast-changing situation and concentrating efforts on taking stable control of the situation on the Korean peninsula", the agency said.



Guterres Sworn In for Second Term

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was sworn in Friday for a second term as head of the world body, promising to draw on the lessons of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic.

"Our greatest challenge -- and which is at the same time our greatest opportunity -- is to use this crisis to turn the tide, pivot towards a world that learns lessons," the former Portuguese prime minister said as the General Assembly re-appointed him for the 2022-2016 term.

This, Guterres added, would include promoting a "just, green and sustainable recovery" which shows the way forward "through increased and effective international cooperation to address global issues."

In office since 2017, Guterres promised to act independently of member states and organizations during the swearing-in ceremony attended by Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, the first head of state to set foot in the United Nations building for more than a year because of the pandemic.

Guterres added that it would be essential to "make prevention and preparedness -- in the broad sense of the words -- a top priority in the international system."

Speaking at a press conference after the ceremony, Guterres reiterated that "from the many lessons that we learned, the most important lesson is that alone we can do nothing. The most important lesson is that we need to rebuild solidarity and trust."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken congratulated Guterres saying his country looked forward to "continuing our strong and constructive relationship" with the secretary-general. Global issues "require a collaborative, effective, and results-oriented leader in the United Nations secretariat, and we have that in Antonio Guterres," Blinken added.

The 193-member General Assembly had approved a resolution extending Guterres' five-year term, rather than taking a vote.

Myanmar Coup Displaces Thousands As Global Refugee Numbers Rise

YANGON (Dispatches) - Number of refugees worldwide increases for a ninth year in a row as people continue to be displaced amid the COVID crisis.

A record 82.4 million people have been displaced around the world in 2020 due to violence and persecution, including an estimated 680,000 in Myanmar following ethnic conflict and the recent military coup, according to the United Nations refugee agency.

Indrika Ratwatte, director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, said in Bangkok on Friday that an estimated 200,000 people were added to the number of Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Myanmar in the last four months, since the removal of Aung San Suu Kyi's civilian government in February.

Most of the recent IDPs are from the states of Kayah and Kayin, where ethnic groups are engaged in armed fighting with the military. Tens of thousands are also displaced in Shan and Kachin states.

"It is a rather complex map of internal displacement and the situation is of extreme concern to us," Ratwatte said, adding that it is crucial for the international community to deliver life-saving assistance to the Myanmar refugees.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims were forced to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh in 2017

following a military crackdown, while more than 100,000 of the persecuted minority remain in camps in Myanmar's Rakhine state.

Ratwatte was speaking at the presentation of the annual UNHCR Global Trends Report on refugees, during which he also said that in the last 10 years, the number of refugees worldwide had doubled. "Sadly, forced displacement continues to be a global phenomenon, and sadly yet again, the number of individuals forcibly displaced today are ever-increasing," he said.

Children account for 42 per cent of all forcibly displaced people worldwide, with estimates showing that almost one million of them were born as refugees between 2018 and 2020, the report said. More than two-thirds of all people worldwide who fled abroad came from just five countries, including 6.7 million from Syria, 4 million from Venezuela, 2.6 million from Afghanistan, 2.2 million from South Sudan and another 1.1 million from Myanmar.

But Ratwatte pointed out that in 2020, a record low of only 37,000 refugees managed to be resettled in a third country as a result of the restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic. "Many countries closed their borders because they were fearing the vectors of infection, which also meant that those seeking protection have limited access because of the closure of borders," he said.



Russia Monitoring Talk of Turkish Military Base in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Moscow is closely monitoring developments around a potential Turkish military base in Azerbaijan, a move that could require Russia to take steps to ensure its own security and interests, the Kremlin said on Friday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was in close contact with Turkey, a NATO member, on stabilizing the situation in the South Caucasus, where fighting last year saw the Azeri army, backed by Turkey, drive ethnic Armenian forces out of swathes of territory they had controlled since the 1990s in and around the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Turkey and Azerbaijan on Tuesday agreed to increase cooperation in the military sphere, signing a declaration in the city of Shusha, which ethnic Armenians call Shushi, territory gained by Azerbaijan during last year's fighting.

Azeri President Ilham Aliyev said the declaration concerned cooperation on political, economic, trade and energy issues.

"But most important is the agreement on cooperation between Azerbaijan and Turkey in the defense industry sphere and mutual military assistance," Aliyev said on Tuesday at a news conference alongside Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan.

Erdogan was cited as saying by broadcaster NTV on Thursday that he did not exclude a Turkish military base in Azerbaijan.

"There may be development, expansion here later," he said.

When asked about the possibility of a Turkish base springing up in Azerbaijan, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said:

"The deployment of military infrastructure by the (NATO) alliance countries near our borders is cause for our special attention, as well as a reason for us to take steps to ensure our security and interests."

The South Caucasus, part of the former Soviet Union, is of special interest to Russia which has traditionally regarded it as its own sphere of influence.

Russian peacekeeping troops are garrisoned in Nagorno-Karabakh after last year's conflict, and Moscow has a military base in neighboring Armenia.





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Fully Furn

Parsian

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Germany Wants to Exit Lufthansa Stake

BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany wants to exit its stake in flagship carrier Lufthansa as soon as possible, Transport Minister Andreas Scheuer said on Friday.

“Lufthansa must not be under state influence forever ... And we also want to minimize the influence of the state and we want the success path to mean that the state goes out again as soon as possible,” he told an aviation conference.

Lufthansa was pushed to the brink by the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, when travel restrictions led to a collapse in air travel, forcing it to take 9 billion euros (\$11 billion) in aid from Germany and its other home countries.



OPEC Told to Expect Limited U.S. Oil Output Growth, for Now

LONDON (Reuters) - OPEC officials heard from industry experts that U.S. oil output growth will likely remain limited in 2021 despite rising prices, OPEC sources said, giving it more power to manage the market in the short term before a potentially strong rise in shale output in 2022.

Officials from OPEC's Economic Commission Board (ECB) and external presenters attended a meeting on Tuesday focused on U.S. output, the sources said. OPEC heard from more forecasters on the outlook for 2021 and 2022 at a separate meeting on Thursday.

While there was general agreement on limited U.S. supply growth this year, an industry source said for 2022 forecasts ranged from growth of 500,000 bpd to 1.3 million bpd.

“The general sentiment regarding shale was it will come back as prices go up but not super fast,” said a source at one of the companies that provided forecasts to OPEC.

U.S. shale oil output usually responds rapidly to price signals and U.S. crude has this week hit its highest since October 2018 at nearly \$73 a barrel. But U.S. producers are still focusing on capital discipline and investor returns, rather than expanding supply, the ECB heard.

“Investment discipline and free cash flow for the investor,” said one OPEC+ source on condition of anonymity, summarizing one of the ECB meeting's talking points. The ECB advises OPEC ministers and does not set policy.

Two sources said a presentation made to the meeting forecast U.S. output would rise by a low rate of 200,000 barrels per day this year. A third source said this level of growth was the consensus for this year among most presentations.

The lack of a large shale rebound could make it easier for OPEC and its allies, known as OPEC+, to manage the market. OPEC+ is gradually unwinding record output curbs made last year as demand recovers, and meets to decide policy on July 1.

“It looks like the shale oil genie is going to stay in the bottle for now,” said the source at one of the companies that provided forecasts. “OPEC and Saudi Arabia have a lot of power at this time.”

At Thursday's technical meeting, OPEC+ considered forecasts from a range of organizations, including the International Energy Agency, Argus Media, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Wood MacKenzie, IHS, Energy Intelligence and Energy Aspects, sources said.

One of the OPEC sources said the forecasts were not projections OPEC was adopting and a fourth OPEC source said, while it was clear that capital discipline remained a priority for U.S. producers, the production outlook was not clear. OPEC itself has been forecasting a limited shale rebound this year, as have U.S. producers themselves.

The latest OPEC forecast is for U.S. crude production in 2021 to decline by 120,000 bpd to 11.2 million bpd, and for output of tight crude - another term for shale - to drop by 140,000 bpd to 7.15 million bpd. The group keeps a close watch on the outlook for U.S. supply. OPEC producers were sent reeling by a 2014-2016 price slide and global glut caused partly by rising U.S. output. In 2014, U.S. production rose by 1.5 million bpd.

South Korean Kogas' May LNG Sales Post Biggest Annual Increase at 42%

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korean state-owned Korea Gas Corp.'s LNG sales jumped 41.9% year on year in May, driven by post-pandemic economic recovery and the shutdown of some nuclear reactors, a company official said June 18.

Kogas, which has a monopoly in domestic natural gas sales, sold 2.315 million mt of LNG in May, surging from 1.632 million mt a year earlier.

It marks the biggest increase in 11 years since LNG sales jumped 49.8% year on year April 2010, according to data compiled by S&P Global Platts. It also marks the sixth consecutive year-on-year monthly increase since last December.

But the May sales were down 16.4% from April due to the off-peak season. Kogas's LNG sales in January were the highest on record at 4.947 million mt.

Kogas did not disclose how much LNG it sold over January-May, but Platts calculations based on Kogas' previous reports showed it sold 17.205 million mt over the five-month period, up 16.2% year on year.

Of the utility's total LNG sales in May, purchases by power generators surged 79.1% year on year to 1.168 million mt and to retail gas companies for households and businesses rose 17% to 1.147 million mt. Kogas attributed the year-on-year rises in LNG sales in both April and May to the low sales a year earlier due to the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic.

In May 2020, Kogas' LNG sales were down 24.1% on year at 1.632 million mt, the biggest decline in more than 10 years. “The rises in May and April this year were also driven by post-pandemic economic recovery,” the company official said.

The country's central Bank of Korea on May 27 sharply raised its 2021 growth outlook to 4%, from a 3% growth projection made in February, on the back of robust exports and strong facilities investment.

The rise in LNG demand for power production was also boosted by the shutdown of more nuclear reactors in May for maintenance.

Seven nuclear reactors with a combined capacity of 7.4 GW were offline for maintenance or malfunction in the month, comprising 31.8% of the country's overall capacity of 23.25 GW across 24 nuclear reactors. This was up from the shutdown of five reactors with a capacity of 4.95 GW over January-March.

South Korea's LNG demand for power production is expected to remain strong in coming months after a fire shut of the country's newest and biggest nuclear reactor, the 1.4 GW Shin Kori-4, on May 29. The outage is expected to last for around a month, according to state-owned nuclear operator Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power.



BOJ Tankan to Show Manufacturers' Q2 Mood Improved

TOKYO, June 18 (Reuters) - Business confidence among Japan's large manufacturers likely improved in the second quarter thanks to a boost to exports and corporate profits from a global demand recovery, a Reuters poll showed on Friday.

Other data next week is expected to show the Tokyo-area consumer price index (CPI) fell again in June as slow consumer demand amid the coronavirus pandemic caused a further easing of prices.

The Bank of Japan's quarterly tankan business sentiment survey was expected to show the headline index for big manufacturers' sentiment rose to plus 15 from plus 5 in March, the poll of 16 economists showed. An increase would mark the fourth consecutive quarter of improvement.

“Large manufacturers are expected to see corporate profits improve as the yen remains on a depreciating trend, and are supported by steadily increasing conditions in exports due to a recovery in overseas economies,” analysts at the Japan Research Institute wrote.

The mood among big non-manufacturers was also likely to improve, turning positive for the first time since the first quarter of last year, the poll showed.

But big non-manufacturers' sentiment was still expected to remain more subdued than that of manufacturers, likely coming in at plus 3 from minus 1 in March.

The forecasts suggested firms are shaking off more of the drag from the coronavirus pandemic, but it continues to weigh heavily on non-manufacturers.

Turkey Leaves Interest Rates Unchanged, Nods to Lira Weakness

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's central bank has held its key interest rate at 19 percent as expected and has suggested it is inching closer to a cut expected later this year, even while it nodded to renewed pressure on the Turkish lira.

The bank said the recent import-price pressure plays a role in posing risks to inflation expectations, and it repeated a pledge to keep rates above inflation, which is expected to remain about 17 percent for much of the year.

The central bank last changed its one-week policy rate in March when former Governor Naci Agbal raised it to head off rising prices. A poll by Reuters news agency shows analysts expect easing to begin in the fourth quarter when inflation is predicted to decline.

The lira has shed 2.5 percent this week after the United States Federal Reserve adopted a more hawkish tone, and after the first meeting between President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his US counterpart Joe Biden yielded no breakthroughs on key disputes.

The weakness in the lira, which touched an all-time low earlier this month, raises inflation via Turkey's heavy imports.

“In addition to the recent import-price-based cost factors, demand conditions, supply constraints in some sectors, and high levels of inflation expectations continue to pose risks to the pricing behaviour and inflation outlook,” the bank's policy committee said in a statement after its monthly meeting.

But earlier rate increases “continue to restrain credit and demand”, it said. “The policy rate will continue to be determined at a level above inflation”, in line with the bank's forecast for prices to continue easing in the months ahead.

Central Bank Governor Sahap Kavcioglu, whom Erdogan named to replace Agbal in a shock to markets in March, has said inflation should fall decisively around September. The central bank year-end inflation forecast stands at 12.2 percent.

Erdogan has repeatedly called for monetary stimulus and this month pointed to July or August for possible rate cuts, prompting analysts to warn that premature easing could hurt the lira and the economy, which has heavy foreign debt.

“Policymakers are for now standing up to political pressure to lower interest rates,” said William Jackson, chief emerging markets economist at Capital Economics.

The lira, among the worst performers in emerging markets this year, weakened slightly to 8.644 to the dollar. It had briefly slipped to a record 8.88 earlier this month.

UK Economy to Grow 8.2% This Year in Return To Pre-Covid Level

LONDON (Dispatches) - Business activity in the UK expanded at its fastest rate since 1998 in May as the economy raced out of lockdown, new data on Friday showed.

Britain's economy will bounce back to its pre-Covid level by the end of the year, despite a delay to the end of lockdown restrictions, economists said today.

The CBI has upgraded its latest forecast for the UK economy, predicting GDP growth of 8.2 per cent this year, up from a previous forecast of 6 per cent.

CBI economists' new prediction of a “breakthrough year” means the UK economy will return to pre-Covid levels a year earlier than expected.

Economic growth this summer will be driven by pent-up consumer demand and a surge in spending after savings were amassed during lockdowns, as well as improving household incomes, the CBI said.

The latest report said household spending will fuel just over a quarter of GDP growth in 2021, and 70 per cent of growth in 2022.

In 2022, GDP will grow by 6.1 per cent, up from a previous forecast of 5.2 per cent, the CBI predicted.

UK business investment is set to “claw back some of its losses” as confidence improves, but will remain 5 per cent below its pre-Covid level at the end of 2022, the CBI said.

Britain suffered its biggest fall in output in 300 years in 2020, as the economy shrank by almost 10 per cent thanks to Covid lockdowns.

The CBI warned that sectors that have not yet been able to reopen due to continued lockdown restrictions will not make a recovery, unless they are given more government support.

“The data clearly indicates that there is pent up demand and ambition across many sectors,” said CBI Director-General, Tony Danker.

“Clearly this does not apply to the hardest hit sectors from the pandemic who even now face continued delays and genuine challenges to stay viable. Extending the commercial rent moratorium will help keep some firms' heads above water, but the Government must also do the same on business rates relief,” Danker said.

Economy May Have Shrunk 12% in June Quarter



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The Indian economy may have contracted 12 per cent in the June quarter due to lockdowns imposed by the states in April and May to contain the second wave of the deadly Covid-19 pandemic, according to a report by UBS Securities India. The economy had contracted by 23.9 per cent in the same quarter last fiscal.

The economy had contracted by 7.3 per cent in financial year 2021, marking its worst contraction on record, as the lockdown announced by the center last year to check the first wave of the virus brought the economy to a grinding halt. In fact, the economy contracted by a massive 23.9 per cent in the June quarter and 17.5 per cent in the second quarter in the FY2021, before staging a V-shaped recovery in the two subsequent quarters on the back of a gradual easing in the lockdown norms.

However, the 12 percentage point contraction in the June quarter may not be followed by a sharp V-shaped recovery this time around due to weakened consumer sentiment as people are more worried about the pandemic than last year, according to the Swiss brokerage UBS Securities India.

The brokerage house expects a sequential pick-up in economic activity from June, but is of the opinion that the economy may gain traction only from the second half.

“Unlike the V-shaped recovery in 2020, we expect the economy to have only a gradual recovery this time, as consumer sentiment remains weak on pandemic-related uncertainties,” Tanvee Gupta Jain, the economist at the Swiss brokerage, said in the report.

The second Covid wave inflicted massive damage on economic activities and rendered more than 2 crore people jobless across the country in the months of April and May, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy.

However, on the positive side, the lockdown in the second wave lasted for slightly more than a month as against 2.5 months in the first wave and was more localized as industrial and construction activities being allowed at a limited scale.

Meanwhile, in its monthly bulletin for June 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the second Covid wave may result in a loss of Rs 2 lakh crore in output during the current financial year as containment measures and the virus' spread into smaller cities and villages hit rural demand.

Iranian Expatriates Firmly Responded to Opponents

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Guardian Council’s Spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodaei has said that votes by thousands of Iranian expatriates are a firm response to the opponents of the Iranian nation.

Kadkhodaei wrote on his Twitter account on Saturday that on the occasion of the nation day, a few opponents of republic values and democracy harassed freedom-loving and noble

Iranians who are living abroad and just like dictators attempted to prevent them from participating in the 13th presidential election by the use of insulting and offensive behaviors.

The spokesman went on to write that yesterday’s votes by thousands of Iranian expatriates was a strong response to the opponents of the Iranian people.



AstraZeneca Says EU Loses Legal Bid For More Vaccine Supplies by End-June

LONDON (Reuters) - AstraZeneca (AZN.L) said on Friday the European Union had lost a legal case against the pharmaceutical firm over the supply of COVID-19 vaccines, with a court in Brussels rejecting an EU request for more deliveries by the end of June.

But European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Friday’s ruling supported the EU’s view that AstraZeneca -- against which the bloc has recently launched a second lawsuit -- had failed to meet its commitments.

The Anglo-Swedish pharmaceutical giant committed in a contract to do its best to deliver 300 million doses to the 27-nation bloc by the end of June, but production problems led the company to revise down its target to 100 million vaccines.

The supply cuts delayed the EU’s vaccination drive in the first quarter of the year, when the bloc had initially bet on AstraZeneca to deliver the largest volume of its shots. That led to a bitter dispute and to the EU’s legal action to get at least 120 million doses by the end of June.

But the judge ruled that it should deliver only 80.2 million doses by a deadline of Sept. 27. The company said it would “substantially exceed” that amount by the end of June.

The court said in a statement that AstraZeneca must deliver 15 million doses by July 26, another 20 million by Aug. 23 and another 15 million by Sept. 27, for a total of 50 million doses. The EU had asked for 90 million doses in the second quarter.

Should the company miss these deadlines it would face a penalty of “10 euros (\$11.8) per dose not delivered”, the EU Commission said. The EU had asked for a fine of 10 euros per dose per day.

AstraZeneca said other measures sought by the Commission had been dismissed, and the court had found that the EU had no exclusivity or right of priority over other parties the drugmaker had contracts with.

“The judgment also acknowledged that the difficulties experienced by AstraZeneca in this unprecedented situation had a substantial impact on the delay,” AstraZeneca said in a statement.



“AstraZeneca now looks forward to renewed collaboration with the European Commission to help combat the pandemic in Europe.”

The European Union last month launched a second lawsuit against the drugmaker seeking financial penalties for the delays to vaccine supply.

“This decision confirms the position of the Commission: AstraZeneca did not live up to the commitments it made in the contract,” Commission President von der Leyen said on Friday. The EU lawyer said the EU will analyse the situation before deciding whether to go ahead with second legal case.

EU Likely To Make Green Bond Standard Voluntary



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union considers making the upcoming EU Green Bond Standard not compulsory, but only voluntary for issuers of such bonds, Bloomberg reported, quoting a draft EU document it had seen.

As part of the complementary packages in the European Green Deal, the EU wants to direct financial and capital flows to green investments. Under the Green Deal, the EU established an EU Green Bond Standard, among the key new initiatives for 2021.

“Green bonds play an increasingly important role in financing assets needed for the low-carbon transition. However, there is no uniform green bond standard within the EU,” the bloc says.

According to the draft document Bloomberg has seen, the EU Green Bond Standard will be ready to be used next year and would “set the global standard.”

“The proposed voluntary standard in conjunction with a light supervisory approach would ensure that the Union’s objectives are achieved in the most cost-efficient and effective way,” the document said.

Green bond issuance last year hit a record as the pandemic couldn’t stop the surge in investor appetite for anything related to renewable energy and environmental responsibility.

This year, this new market is set for even stronger growth as energy sustainability becomes the theme of the decade. Last year, total sustainable debt hit a record high of \$732.1 billion, BloombergNEF reported earlier this month. This was up by 29 percent on the year despite the pandemic or maybe because of it: the pandemic proved an opportunity for some governments to reinforce and strengthen their commitments to their green agenda.

Apart from the EU Green Bond Standard, the EU is currently working on detailed proposals on how the bloc could achieve climate neutrality by 2050, including potential carbon pricing and emissions trading schemes for road transportation and aviation fuels.

Earlier this month, the 27 members of the European Union approved the regulation establishing the so-called Just Transition Fund to help fossil fuel-reliant economies in the bloc move to greener energy, clearing the final hurdle for the fund to launch.

Massive China Hydropower Plant Begins Full Operation

BEIJING (Dispatches) - The Wudongde hydropower plant on the Yangtze River has begun full operation, Reuters has reported, citing state-owned Chinese media.

The 12-generator plant cost close to \$19 billion to build and has an installed capacity of 10.2 GW. It first started generating electricity last year, but now all its generators have been put online so it is fully operational.

The plant is the seventh-largest hydropower facility in the world.

According to a China Central Television report cited by Global Times, the Wudongde hydropower plant would have the capacity to produce 38.91 billion kWh annually at full capacity. This will be the equivalent of saving some 12.2 million tons of standard coal and eliminating 30.5 million tons of carbon dioxide annually.

The project has not been spared environmentalist opposition. According to the opponents, the massive structure has caused irreparable damage to the fragile



ecosystems of the area, the Reuters report notes. According to the Chinese authorities, however, the benefits of the clean power project outweigh the drawbacks. In addition to generating electricity from a renewable source, the

authorities say the dam provides easier navigation of the river and better flood control.

China is the world’s leader in hydropower capacity, with a total of 1.302 terawatt-hours as of 2019. Canada is a distant second with 398 TWh. As befits the global leader, China is home to four of the world’s largest hydropower plants, including the massive Three Gorges dam with a capacity of 22.5 GW and Xiluodu with a capacity of 13.86 GW.

Thanks to its abundant hydropower resources, China is actively building its generation capacity as part of its efforts to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and pollution. The Wudongde plant is part of this buildup that should help China come closer to its goal of becoming a carbon-neutral economy by 2060.

Why Oil Prices May Shoot at Least 15% Higher

LONDON (Dispatches) - Supply constraints and a global economy rapidly rebounding from the debilitating COVID-19 pandemic lays the foundation for much higher oil prices, Goldman Sachs global head of commodities research Jeffrey Currie argues.

“Near term our highest conviction long is oil where we still see Brent [crude oil] averaging \$80/bbl this third quarter with potential spikes well above \$80/bbl. Global demand likely rose to 97.0 million barrels a day in recent days from 95.0 million barrels a day just a few weeks ago as the U.S. passes the baton to Europe and emerging markets, where even India is beginning to show improvements,” Currie said in a new research note to clients on Friday.

To be sure, oil prices have had a bullish bias of late. At more than \$73 a barrel currently, Brent crude oil prices are trading at levels not seen since the fall of 2018. The price of Brent crude is up about 55% year-to-date.

Recent gains in the oil patch have been fueled by indications of strong demand meeting low levels of supply.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported this week that U.S. crude oil inventories fell by 7.4 million barrels for the week ended June 11. Meanwhile, the National Bureau of Statistics reported that crude oil throughput in China for May rose 4.4% versus last year to hit a record high.

Warns Goldman’s Currie, “With such robust demand growth against an almost inelastic supply curve outside of core OPEC+ (GCC + Russia), the global oil market is facing its deepest deficits since last summer at nearly 3.0 million barrels a day. With refiners quickly responding to small improvements in margins, petroleum product supplies have broadly matched this jump in end-use demand, leaving this deficit almost entirely in crude. We expect further demand increases towards 99.0 million barrels a day by August of which half can be accounted for purely from DM seasonality alone. By then the entire global post-COVID surplus will likely have vanished, by which point we believe elevated crude oil prices could be the catalyst to refocus the market on the deflation trade.”

JCPOA...

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“The U.S. needs to come to that understanding, and I can say that we came a little bit closer to that, but we didn’t get there,” the Iranian FM noted. “The issue that remains is how to verify the fulfilment of U.S. commitments because the fulfilment of our commitments is being verified by International Atomic Energy Agency, but how to verify the fulfilment of U.S. commitments remains unclear.”

“We kept our commitments even after the United States left and a year later. The United States has not lived up to its commitments, so the party that needs to reassure us is the United States, and that is an obstacle to negotiations,” Zarif highlighted.

He went on to say, “I think the Biden administration now understands that the policies of the Donald Trump administration have failed, but it is still trying to use those policies as leverage, and that is why the perceptual problem persists. I think they should put aside the fact that sanctions are their property. Sanctions are illegal. Unfortunately, European countries have been forced to surrender to U.S. sanctions policies, but that does not mean that they accept this policy.”

ICAO Told...

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In response to politically-tainted and unprofessional comments by the Canadian transport minister in the session, Baharvand warned against any moves to politicize the issue.

The Iranian diplomat said such moves or any other pretext or justification will not only not help enhance the safety of aviation, but will result in deviation from the technical objectives of ICAO and safe air transport.

The chairman of the ICAO Council and delegations present at the session, for their part, expressed their gratitude to the Iranian team and underlined that the air crash issue was a technical and non-political one.

Araqchi...

FROM PAGE 1

An agreement between Iran and the IAEA provided the international body with the chance to keep cameras installed in Iran’s nuclear facilities recording for another three months, but the recordings wouldn’t be available to the IAEA until US sanctions against Iran were removed.

Iran’s Supreme National Security Council issued a statement on May 24 announcing the extension of the three-month agreement with the IAEA.

Commonwealth...

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Some reports said counter-revolutionary elements, who had gathered outside Iranian diplomatic missions in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, attacked the people who had turned out for the vote.

Iran’s election authority says the Ottawa government has not allowed the setting up of polling stations in Canada in order for Iranian expats to participate in the upcoming presidential election, in breach of international norms.

The Ottawa government also did not allow the setting up of polling stations in Canada in order for Iranian expats to participate in the election, in breach of international norms.

Tehran, La Paz Mulling...

FROM PAGE 1

Bolivia’s new president, Luis Arce, has made good on his pledge to restore relations with Iran and Venezuela a few days after he assumed office. During a formal ceremony in La Paz in November 2020, President Arce received the credentials of the new ambassadors of Iran and Venezuela, reestablishing diplomatic relations damaged by the previous de-facto government led by interim president Jeanine Anez, according to a statement issued by Bolivia’s government.

The restoration of diplomatic ties between Tehran and La Paz came two days after Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attended Arce’s swearing-in ceremony as part of a tour of several Latin American nations that included Venezuela and Cuba.

The chief Iranian diplomat visited Bolivia in early November 2020 and was received by the speaker of the Bolivian parliament. He met with Luis Arce and later participated in his swearing-in ceremony.

Following his victory in Bolivia’s presidential election, Arce vowed to re-establish all relations.

“We are going to re-establish all relations. This government has acted very ideologically, depriving the Bolivian people of access to Cuban medicine, Russian medicine, and advances in China. For a purely ideological issue, it has exposed the population in a way unnecessary and harmful,” Arce said.

U.S. Wants...

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What they’re saying: The U.S. official said such a timeline would be “concerning” not so much because a conservative government would be taking power, but because the longer the negotiations continue without a breakthrough, the lower the chances of success will be.

“We don’t have infinite time to get this done. So I think we’ll know — I don’t want to give a timeline — but we’ll know it when time has run up and we’ve concluded that it can’t be reached within a reasonable time,” the official said.

“I’m not predicting that,” the official added, noting that Iran was “engaged seriously” and a deal could be reached within a few weeks. But the U.S. does not intend to continue negotiations for months and months, “and I think the Iranians would say the same.”

“Our whole view of this, informed by what we’re being told by the Iranians, is that the elections are not a factor, that the decision-making will continue before and after the elections and so things will not be interrupted as a result of the election,” the official said.

Manyonga Gets Four-Year Ban For Anti-Doping Violation

LONDON (Dispatches) - Olympic long jump silver medalist Luvo Manyonga is set to miss the Tokyo Games after being banned for four years for a second anti-doping rule violation, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) said on Friday.

The 30-year-old South African's ban has been backdated to Dec. 23, when he was provisionally suspended, and he will be eligible to compete again from Dec. 23, 2024 - meaning he will also not be eligible for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

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Ireland Cricket Great O'Brien Retires From ODIs

DUBLIN (AFP) - Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien has announced his retirement from one-day internationals, admitting that he no longer has the "hunger and love" for the format needed to compete.

The 37-year-old Dubliner, who remains available for Test and T20 cricket, won 153 caps in the 50-over format, scoring over 3,000 runs and taking a national record 114 wickets in the format with his lively medium pace. But he is best known for a blistering World Cup hundred that saw Ireland beat England by three wickets in Bangalore during the 2011 edition.

Bucks force Game 7 With 104-89 Win Over Nets

MILWAUKEE (Dispatches) - Khris Middleton scored 38 points, Giannis Antetokounmpo added 30 and the Milwaukee Bucks never trailed in a 104-89 victory over the Brooklyn Nets to force a decisive seventh game in their second-round playoff series.

Game 7 will be tonight in Brooklyn. The home team has won each of the first six games. Milwaukee never trailed and broke the game open by going on a 14-0 run that started with less than 8½ minutes left.

Middleton answered every Brooklyn comeback attempt and had 10 rebounds, five assists and five steals to go along with the highest scoring total of his playoff career. Antetokounmpo had 17 rebounds.

The Bucks shot just 7 of 33 from 3-point range but made up for it by outscoring the Nets 26-4 in fast-break points.

Milwaukee bounced back two nights after blowing a 17-point lead in a 114-108 Game 5 loss at Brooklyn that featured an epic 49-point, 17-rebound, 10-assist performance from Kevin Durant.

Durant had 32 points and 11 rebounds Thursday. James Harden added 16 points but still looked as though he was at far less than full strength in his second game since returning from a hamstring injury.

Rick Carlisle stepped down as Dallas coach, the second major departure for that franchise in as many days.

Carlisle spent 13 seasons in Dallas, leading the Mavericks to the 2011 NBA title. His decision was announced one day after General Manager Donnie Nelson and the team agreed to part ways, ending a 24-year run for Nelson as part of the organization.

"This was solely my decision," Carlisle said in a statement released to ESPN shortly before the team announced that he was leaving.

McLaren Wants More Transparency on Cause of Baku Tyre Failures

LONDON (Dispatches) - McLaren said Formula One tyre supplier Pirelli's products were safe on Friday and called for more transparency from the governing FIA on the exact cause of high-speed failures at this month's Azerbaijan Grand Prix.

Red Bull's world championship leader Max Verstappen and Aston Martin's Lance Stroll both suffered blowouts during the June 6 race in Baku, fortunately without injury. Verstappen's cost the Dutchman a race win.

Pirelli has indicated both teams were running the tyres on lower pressures than expected, while respecting the manufacturer's starting parameters and not doing anything illegal.

Lower tyre pressures bring more grip and increased performance.

A technical directive (TD) has been issued ahead of this weekend's French Grand Prix with the minimum tyre pressures boosted.

"It was a very interesting sequence of events this week with the TD coming out and seeing the carefully chosen words in the press releases and in the statements from all parties involved," said McLaren team boss Andreas Seidl.

"What is a bit disappointing for us is that there is not more transparency in what actually happened because it was a safety-critical topic, what happened there in Baku, and normally in cases like that there is transparency."

Seidl said the regulations had been clear before Baku and there was a reason why Pirelli issued teams with minimum tyre pressures.

Asked what specifically he needed to know, Seidl said a lot of assumptions had been made about what actually happened.

"There's a lot of criticism up in the air also towards Pirelli but in the end that's not something we would support from our side because I think Pirelli has produced a safe product for this year," he added.



Dallas becomes the seventh team with an coaching vacancy, joining New Orleans, Washington, Orlando, Indiana, Portland – and Boston, where Carlisle played for the team that won the 1986 NBA title.

And now the Mavericks need a coach and a GM, in an offseason where they're also expected to offer 22-year-old Luka Doncic, the team's best player and now a two-time All-NBA performer, a \$201 million extension.

Meanwhile Carlisle went 555-478 in Dallas, taking a team built around Dirk Nowitzki to the title in 2011 – the first, and still only, in Mavs' history. Dallas made six playoff appearances in the 10 seasons that followed, never getting out of the first round in any of them.

But Dallas owner Mark Cuban insisted after this year's playoff run ended – the Mavs went 0-3 at home in what became a seven-game first-round loss to the Los Angeles Clippers – that Carlisle was safe and would be back.

Carlisle, apparently, had other ideas. Carlisle told ESPN that he had "a number of in-person conversations" with Cuban in recent days, then came to the decision that it was time to go.

The NBA's top playoff seeds, Philadelphia and Utah, are on the brink of being eliminated.

The 76ers have blown leads of 18 and 26 points in back-to-back losses to the Atlanta Hawks, who now lead the Eastern Conference semifinal series 3-2. Atlanta, the No. 5 seed, can clinch the series at home on Friday night after storming back for an improbable 109-106 win on Wednesday night in Philadelphia.

Rublev Digs Deep to Reach Halle Semis

HALLE (Dispatches) - Russia's Andrey Rublev admitted he had to raise his game to reach the semi-finals of the ATP grass court tournament in Halle by beating 2011 champions Philipp Kohlschreiber.

Rublev is the last remaining seed in the Halle draw after Roger Federer and world number two Daniil Medvedev were among the big-name casualties in the early rounds.

The 23-year-old Russian held his nerve in the first set tie-breaker to earn a 7-6(4), 6-2 quarter-final win over Kohlschreiber to reach his sixth semi-final of 2021 on ATP tour.

"I am happy with my performance to reach the semi-finals for the first time (in Halle)," said Rublev.

"The first set was really tough. He was 3-0 up in the tie-break and I came back, which was the key.

"After the first set, I think he mentally went down and I was pumped up."

In the semi-final, Rublev, currently ranked seventh in the world, will face either Lloyd Harris of South Africa or Georgian qualifier Nikoloz Basilashvili.



Thiem to Snub Olympic Games

LONDON (Dispatches) – U.S. Open champion Dominic Thiem joined Spanish superstar Rafael Nadal in withdrawing from the Tokyo Olympics.

World number five Thiem said he wanted to concentrate on Wimbledon and then defending his only Grand Slam title in New York.

"Hi everybody, I have some sad news to share with you all. After talking with my team and analysing the situation I have taken the very difficult decision to withdraw from

competing in the Tokyo Olympics," the 27-year-old Austrian wrote on Twitter.

"For me, like all athletes, taking part in the Olympics and representing my country is a huge honour and that makes this decision even tougher.

"However, 2021 did not start as expected and I don't feel ready to play my best in Tokyo.

"My goal is to work hard the coming weeks, give my best at Wimbledon and keep training and hopefully defend my US Open title."

Thiem was knocked out of the French Open in the first round despite being a two-time runner-up in Paris.

Earlier Thursday, Nadal said he was pulling out of the Olympics and Wimbledon in an effort "to prolong my career".

Osaka Pulls out of Wimbledon But Aims for Olympics

LONDON (Reuters) - Naomi Osaka has withdrawn from this month's Wimbledon championships for personal reasons but her agent said on Thursday that the world number two will be ready for the Tokyo Olympics.

Japan's Osaka quit the French Open last month following her first-round victory after organisers fined her \$15,000 and threatened her with expulsion from the tournament when she refused to attend mandatory post-match press conferences.

The 23-year-old, who said she has "social anxiety", explained that the media's line of questioning after matches impacted her mental well-being.

"Naomi won't be playing Wimbledon this year. She is taking some personal time with friends and family. She will be ready for the Olympics and is excited to play in front of her home fans," Osaka's agent told Reuters via email.

Wimbledon organisers, the All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC), said Osaka would be "greatly missed" at the Grand Slam this year.

"We completely understand her decision," the AELTC said. "We wish her a happy time with her friends and family and look forward to welcoming her back to Wimbledon next year."

Osaka's participation at Wimbledon was in doubt this month when she pulled out of a WTA 500 grasscourt tournament in Berlin which was meant to serve as a tune-up for the Grand Slam.

Osaka, a four-times Grand Slam winner, had announced in the build-up to the French Open that she would not face the media and stuck to her stance.

A strongly-worded letter from the board of the four Grand Slam tournaments followed, warning her of possible expulsion from Roland Garros and future majors - after which she announced her withdrawal on social media.



UEFA Asks Euro 2020 Players to Stop Removing Sponsor Bottles

NYON (Dispatches) - Reacting to a bottle-snatching trend at the European Championship started by Cristiano Ronaldo, UEFA has asked players on the 24 teams to stop removing strategically placed sponsor drinks from the news conference platforms.

Ronaldo, Paul Pogba and Manuel Locatelli removed sponsor bottles away from the view of cameras when taking their seats at media briefings this week. Euro 2020 tournament director Martin Kallen said on Thursday UEFA has "communicated with the teams regarding this matter".

"It is important because the revenues of the sponsors are important for the tournament and for European football," Kallen said in a briefing.

Pogba, who is Muslim and does not drink alcohol, objected to the distinctive green bottle of official Euro 2020 beer sponsor Heineken. The beer is marketed as non-alcoholic, with 0 percent alcohol.

Kallen said tournament rules require compliance with UEFA's promises to sponsors, though players with religious objections "don't need to have a bottle there".

Pogba had to take questions in the interview room after being named the best player in France's 1-0 win over Germany on Tuesday. The player awards are sponsored by the brewer.

Ronaldo started the trend on Monday at a mandatory pre-game news conference by hiding two Coca-Cola bottles and replacing them with a water bottle, which was also one of the drink maker's brands. A drop in Coca-Cola's share price this week was attributed by some to Ronaldo's snub, but without any evidence that the two things were connected.

Locatelli copied the Portugal great on Wednesday after helping Italy beat Switzerland.

It prompted UEFA to remind officials with the teams that players should respect the sponsors and the contributions they make to European football. Media managers at each of the 11 stadiums across Europe should also help with removing beer bottles before the arrival of a Muslim player.

