

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 85,095 with 146 More Iranians Killed by the Deadly Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

President Hassan Rouhani Yesterday Apologized Iranian People for the Recent Blackouts In Iran and called on Ministry of Energy to Elaborate on the Issue And Inform the People

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Sabotage at Iran Nuclear Power Plant Not Caused Equipment Damage

TEHRAN (IP)- Government Spokesman said that the sabotage in one of the centers of the Atomic Energy Organization had not led to any casualties or equipment damage.

Regarding the sabotage in one of the nuclear power plants, Ali Rabiei, Iranian government spokesman, said in a press conference on Tuesday: "I confirm that there was sabotage, but this incident did not result in significant human or equipment losses. There was slight damage to the roof of one of the sheds, which is being replaced."

Rabiei added during his press conference, "The aerial photo that was published in some media outlets was taken after removing the roof for repair, and the interpretations made in the media are not accurate." He also noted that Iran had made good progress in Vienna talks.

Regarding the Vienna talks, he said: "We have made good progress in the Vienna talks and we have agreed on all the sanctions as well as some of the Trump sanctions. Our country does not accept an agreement that does not serve the interests of the Iranian people. To verify, we need to make sure it takes time, so we need more negotiation. Our general framework is for the United States to lift all its sanctions; after which we will resume our nuclear commitments."

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Establishment of Iran-China Trade Office In Last Stage

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce says the establishment of Iran-China Trade Office in China is underway and it is approaching its end.

Majid-Reza Hariri said that the chamber is finalizing legal procedure for the registration of the Iran-China Trade Office and if the restrictions for visiting China are removed in the upcoming months, the office will be launched because its infrastructures have been done and only the bureaucratic process of inaugurating the office have remained.

On the necessity of establishing trade office and centers, he said trade center is one of the tools for developing exports and it depends on our plans for entering the markets and taking proper tools for it. He added that one of the tools can be the launch of trade centers and offices and even exhibitions, and these tools can push ahead the policy-makings.

Hariri went on to say that trade office and center is one of the tools of the economic diplomacy.

JCPOA Policies Not to Change Under New Gov't



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Foreign Ministry Spokesman says the policies it has been pursuing on the 2015 nuclear agreement with major world powers are among the "fundamental positions" of the Islamic establishment and thus will not undergo any change when the new administration takes over.

Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said the new administration to be formed by President-elect Seyed Ebrahim Raisi will abide by an agreement that may be reached in Vienna, Austria, on a potential revival of the Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The remarks came after some Western officials have spoken of what they see as a need to wait for the formation of a new administration in Tehran before finalizing an agreement in Vienna.

Last week, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, whose country is a signatory to the Iran deal, said the talks in Vienna "are arduous but nevertheless, they are making step-by-step progress."

"Surely there will be now a decisive phase in which one has to await whether the newly elected Iranian president will continue to support what we have negotiated as there are things about which we have already agreed on. That is our expectation," Mass added.

Khatibzadeh, however, clarified that Iran's stance on the JCPOA and the necessity for the US to remove its sanctions "is among the positions of the establishment and will not alter with a change of administration."

"Therefore, if an agreement is reached, the administration of Mr. Raisi will remain loyal to it, because adherence to commitments and promises has always been a principle for the Islamic Republic of Iran, contrary to the approach of some other parties," said Khatibzadeh, referring to the US, which signed the deal under ex-president Barack Obama and stopped compliance under Obama's successor, Donald Trump.

Since April, envoys from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries — Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany — have been attending the talks in Vienna. A US delegation is also in the Austrian capital, but it is not attending the discussions because the United States is not a party to the nuclear accord.

"The progress made in the Vienna talks is a reality acknowledged by all parties to the talks. However, there are still important issues that need to be decided mainly by the other sides, especially the United States. In fact, the finalization of an agreement to revive the JCPOA hinges on the other parties' political will to take tough decisions," Khatibzadeh said.

He said the Iranian delegation to the Vienna talks "seeks to conclude the negotiations as soon as possible and [secure] a removal of the oppressive sanctions against the Iranian nation. Nevertheless, we do not set any deadline for reaching an agreement that serves the Iranian nation's interests and continue the talks until a favorable agreement is reached."

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Pakistan May Emulate Iran Over Refugee Influx

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches)- As the withdrawal of American and NATO troops from Afghanistan enters its final phase and the Taliban make more territorial gains, an influx of refugees into Pakistan seems inevitable. But this time around, Islamabad appears not in favor of opening its border, and instead is ready to look into the 'Iranian model' if the situation demands.

"We have decided not to open our border for refugees; the aid agencies can help the needy on the other side too," Pakistan Interior Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told Dawn.

"But, if the situation deteriorates, we will establish settlements along the border with strict control and monitoring, prohibiting the entry of refugees into the mainland," he went on to say.

"The government would even follow the Iranian model to contain refugees in these camps and manage them effectively," he added.

According to a report of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), there were around 800,000 Afghan refugees in Iran, but they were all living in refugee villages set up by Tehran along the border areas with Afghanistan in the 1980s and prevented from settling in cities and towns.

A senior government official, on the other hand, confirmed that Prime Minister Imran Khan had raised the issue during his telephonic conversation with the Iranian president-elect Ebrahim Raisi on Sunday evening.

PM Khan, while congratulating Mr Raisi on his victory in the recently-held elections, expressed concern over the worsening security situation in Afghanistan, saying its repercussion could be felt both in Pakistan and Iran.

"During their discussion on Afghanistan, both sides agreed to work on the Iranian model," the official said, adding that, "it has been decided that a high-level team comprising officials from the interior ministry, security establishment and other relevant departments would visit Iran soon to understand the successful implementation of the model."

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ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Zionists Accountable for Abducting Iranian Diplomats

The Zionist regime rudely commits any crime with broad smile as the world community and especially international bodies like the United Nations are just lookers-on and they let the regime continue atrocities comfortably.

On July 4, Iran marked anniversary of abduction of its four diplomats in Lebanon whose fates are still unknown since July 4, 1982 but all are aware that the Zionists and their supporters are behind this abduction.

On Sunday and on the occasion of 39th anniversary of abduction of the kidnapped Iranian diplomats, Iran's foreign ministry in a statement said Israel and its supporters are politically and legally responsible for the fate of four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Lebanon in 1982.

The statement said, "Since the Zionist regime occupied Lebanon in 1982, it bears political and legal responsibility for the abduction of [Iranian] diplomats and the Zionist regime and its terrorism-sponsoring supporters are liable for this measure. Unfortunately, the Zionist regime has not been accountable in this case, and this is why the process of revealing facts and various aspects of this incident has been so slow."

On July 4, 1982, the year Israel invaded Lebanon, Ahmad Motevasselian, Seyyed Mohsen Mousavi, Taqi Rastegar Moqaddam and Kazem Akhavan were kidnapped by a group of gunmen backed by Israel at an inspection post in northern Lebanon.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced that there is evidence to prove that the [kidnapped] diplomats were handed over to Israeli forces after the abduction and were subsequently transferred to the Zionist regime's prisons," the statement read.

Iran, it added, has gone to great lengths since the abduction, given the humanitarian, legal and political dimensions of the criminal incident, and has put on its agenda the pursuit of the issue through regional and international avenues.

The ministry once again called on the United Nations secretary general as well as international and human rights organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to pay more serious attention to the abduction of its diplomats by Israel.

In a letter to Secretary General Antonio Guterres in July 2020, Iran's Ambassador to the UN Majid Takht-Ravanchi said Tehran believes the diplomats were handed over to Israeli forces immediately after the abduction in a region controlled by Israel at the time.

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Development Projects Worth Nearly \$740m Inaugurated in FTZs

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – Some 62 development projects worth 31.05 trillion rials (over \$739.2 million) were put into operation in Iran's free trade and special economic zones on Tuesday, in the 78th series of inauguration ceremonies since the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

As reported by the government portal, President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the mentioned projects through video conferencing in various provinces including West Azarbaijan, East Azarbaijan, Hormozgan, Gilan, and Sistan-Baluchestan, IRNA reported.

Put into operation in Kish, Maku, Chabahar, Aras, and Anzali free trade, and special economic zones, the said projects are going to provide direct employment for about 2,388 people.

Speaking in the inauguration ceremony, Rouhani underlined the significant role of the country's free trade and economic zones in the country's economy.

"Free trade and special economic zones play an important role in the economy and employment, and in this government, great work has been done in these areas," the president said.

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Iran to Suspend Electricity Export to Herat

TEHRAN (IP) - According to managers of Afghan Electricity Company or Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS), Iran is set to cut off electricity exports to Herat for at least two days.

The managers in Herat say that due to energy shortages in Iran, the country will completely cut off electricity exports to Herat for at least two days.

"Iran has informed Breshna officials that the country's energy shortage problems are serious and that power would be cut off in Herat if the shortage continues," Zeinab Mohseni, a spokeswoman for Breshna, said.

Iran supplies about 70 percent of Herat's electricity.

Raisi, Assad Underline Enhancement of Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's President-elect Ebrahim Raisi and Syria's President Bashar al-Assad lay strong emphasis on further enhancement of the brotherly countries' bilateral relations, during a phone call made by the Syrian head of state.

Assad made the call on Monday, congratulating Raisi's on the occasion of his victory in the Islamic Republic's presidential elections of June 18, the Arab country's official Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

Assad wished Raisi success in his efforts to steer Iran during his tenure as the chief executive "towards further progress," and triumph in his efforts to help the country "continue the march of achievements in all domains," the agency said.

The two affirmed strong interest and determination to continue boosting the bilateral ties in all fields and keep up the two sides' "coordination and consultation regarding issues of mutual concern."

Iran and Syria enjoy age-old fraternal relations and countless instances of commonality.



The Islamic Republic has displayed an unwavering commitment to helping Syria preserve its independence and territorial integrity. The commitment saw Tehran rushing to Damascus' help in 2011, when the Arab country began being overwhelmed by foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

That year, Iran began lending military advisory assistance to the Syrian army and its allies in the face of the plight.

The support sustained throughout Syria's struggle against the Takfiri terrorist group of Daesh that launched a campaign of bloodshed and destruction against the Arab nation in 2014.

The assistance, together with Russia's aerial support for the Syrian military's advancements on the ground, defeated Daesh in late 2017.

Region Plunged Into War, Darkness Only After Israel Invention

TEHRAN (MNA) - In response to the rudeness of the ambassador of the Zionist regime to the Azerbaijan Republic, the Iranian Ambassador to Baku said that the region plunged into war and darkness only after the invention of the Zionist regime.

In a Tuesday tweet, Seyed Abbas Mousavi reacted to the remarks of the Zionist regime's ambassador to Baku, saying, "Our region plunged into war & #darkness only after the #invention of the #Zionist_regime." "It won't take too long until the region, once again, witnesses peace, light, prosperity & peaceful coexistence of all nations," he added.

Region plunged into war, darkness only after Israel invention
The Zionist regime's Ambassador to Baku George Deek in response to the electricity shortage in Iraq claimed, "Wherever the Iran regime goes, darkness follows."

Iran to Finish 11 Major Petchem Projects by March

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior official from Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) says the company will bring on line 11 more petchem plants by the end of the current calendar year in late March.

Amir Vakilzadeh said on Monday that the 11 project will increase Iran's petrochemical output to 100 million tons per annum (Mtpa), up from the current 90 Mtpa.

Vakilzadeh, who serves as NPC's head of projects and planning, said the completion of the projects would add some \$4 billion to Iran's annual revenues from the petrochemical sector.

Petrochemicals have accounted for a bulk of Iran's hard currency revenues since 2018 when the United States imposed a raft of sanctions targeting the country's crude export. Current figures show that Iran earns around \$17 billion a year from sales of petchem products to domestic and foreign customers.

The Iranian government has invested heavily in the petrochemical sector in recent years. The NPC rolled out 17 major projects in the year to March 2021 as part of its program to create a Second Leap in the Petrochemical Industry by constructing 43 new petchem plants in Iran.

Speaking to the IRIB News, Vakilzadeh said Iran will focus on finishing the 11 remaining projects from the second leap program this calendar year, adding that the government and private owners had spent \$6.3 billion on the 11 projects which he said would need another 2.2 billion to finish.

The official said efforts are underway to progress with the third leap program under which 39 more petchem plants will be launched across Iran by the March 2026 to increase petchem output to 133 Mtpa worth \$30 billion.

President Meets New Judiciary Chief



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani met with Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i in the office of the Head of the Judiciary.

Rouhani met with Mohseni-Eje'i on Monday and re-congratulated him on his appointment by the Supreme Leader as the new head of the Judiciary and wished him success in this important responsibility.

In this meeting, Rouhani referred to the managerial experiences of Mohseni-Eje'i in the field of judicial activities, and wished him succeed in carrying out his serious mission in the judiciary.

The head of the judiciary also appreciated the presence and congratulatory message of President Rouhani and expressed hope that the cooperation of the three branches would reduce people's problems in the current situation in the country.

Iran Policy Towards Axis of Resistance Is Stable

TEHRAN (IP) - The Iranian ambassador to Syria said that Vienna talks between Iran and Western countries would never affect Tehran's firm policy towards the region and the whole axis of resistance.

Iran's ambassador to Syria, Mehdi Sobhani, said that the Vienna talks were long and complicated but took place within the framework of the nuclear deal.

He added that whatever the outcome of these negotiations would never affect the Islamic Republic of Iran's consistent policies towards the region and the axis of resistance.

Sobhani said: "The other side withdrew from the agreement and today seeks to return to it. Negotiations are underway to determine the framework under which the other side will return to this agreement."

"Apart from the fact that the party that withdrew from the nuclear deal (United States) also created problems and obstacles for itself to return to the agreement, these negotiations are focused on finding a mechanism to remove these obstacles," he said.

The Iranian ambassador to Syria also stressed Iran's continued support for Palestine, saying that the Israeli regime had called for a ceasefire from the beginning of the new aggression against the Palestinian people.

Lake Urmia Has Many Opportunities, Resources

TABRIZ (IP)- Japan's ambassador to Iran said that Lake Urmia had created many opportunities and resources for people living in that area.

Kazutoshi Aikawa on Tuesday in a meeting with Javad Rahmati, Deputy Governor of East Azarbaijan for Civil Affairs, noting that this is his second visit to Tabriz, said: "Good efforts have been made to revitalize Lake Urmia and I am very happy to see that Lake Urmia is being revived. We hope to take



more steps in this direction with the sympathy and cooperation of our executive partners."

The Japanese ambassador to Iran also noted that East Azerbaijan has excellent tourism potential, saying: "We are very interested in expanding tourism relations with this province."

Javad Rahmati said that the province has close economic ties with Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, and East Azerbaijan goods export to many countries worldwide.

S. Africa Ready to Broaden Cooperation With ICC

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Charge d' Affaires of Embassy of South Africa in Tehran South African says the embassy seeks boosting its cooperation with Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC) especially in the field of women.

In an exclusive interview with the news website of ICC on the occasion of the International Cooperative Day, Mr. Hugo Basson said the economic issues between Iran and South Africa mainly are followed by their joint economic commission but what the embassy considers in the field of small businesses is to strengthen its cooperation with the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives especially in the field of women.

In the meeting, Basson reviewed the stand of cooperatives in the structure of the South African government as well as finding ways for broadening bilateral trade between the two states, effective measures for the growth, and sharing the successful experiences of Iran and South Africa in the field of cooperative.

He then pointed to the stand of cooperative in the structure of South African government and said cooperative movement in South Africa is a historic movement which has been known as the tool for reinforcing the economic growth and boom especially in the agro sector.

Basson went on to say that South Africa prepared its first law aimed at organizing and helping cooperatives in early 1908 but unfortunately due to the background of the country, those cooperatives were not mostly in favor of the public, however, today some of big commercial companies of South Africa see their roots and history as small cooperatives in the past century.



Tehran to Host 1st Int'l Eurasia Expo 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) - The first exclusive exhibition Eurasia Expo will be held in Tehran on July 9-13 with presence of businessmen, entrepreneurs and senior managers of EAEU member states (Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan) and Iran.

The Head of American and European Office of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Mohammadreza Karimzadeh broke the news on Monday and reiterated that this prestigious exhibition entitled "Eurasia Expo 2021" will be held in Tehran on July 9-13 in presence of senior officials of five Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)'s member countries including Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan along with Iranian trade delegations.

He pointed to the importance of various aspects of this event for the Islamic Republic of Iran and said that an agreement was inked between Iran and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) given the government's view on the need for diversification of country's export market, efforts of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) to use the capacity of Eurasian Economic Union.

He went on to say that the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) is in direct talk with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) in line with promoting level of agreement to the level of free trade.

On the other hand, active presence for the development

of interaction with EAEU member states is on the agenda, Karimzadeh emphasized.

Given the sensitivity of this issue, it is expected that economic activists of the country will take maximum advantages and opportunities of this exhibition event in line with enhancing their trade volume exchanges with EAEU member states, he added.

Talks Underway for Getting Iraqi Visa for Iranian Traders

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Vice Chairman of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce said that talks are underway for the facilitation of issuance of Iraqi visa for Iranian traders and businesspersons.

Shahla Omori pointed to the problems facing trade and business activity of the country for obtaining visa in order to do trade and business activities with Iraq and stated, "With the incessant follow-ups made, the commercial attaché of Iranian Embassy to Baghdad put the facilitation of issuance of visa special of Iranian businesspersons a top agenda."

Turning to her recent visit with Iranian commercial attaché in Baghdad, she reiterated that issuance of visa for Iranian traders for doing business and trade activity in Iraq was taken into serious consideration in this visit."

A major portion of activity of Iranian traders and businesspersons has been concentrated at Iraqi market, she said, adding that Iranian merchants and traders are facing serious problems in continuation of their trade due to the spread of coronavirus, COVID-19, conditions.

Elsewhere in her remarks, she pointed to the agreement made between Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraqi government for the facilitation of issuance of visa as of the beginning of 2019 and added, "Giant steps had been taken in 2019 for the facilitation of issuance of visa for Iranian traders and merchants."

\$4m Earmarked in Extra Funding for Setting Up Field Hospitals in COVID-Hit City

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The government has allocated nearly \$4 million in emergency funding to setting up two field hospitals in the city of Zahedan near the border with Pakistan where coronavirus cases have surged in recent days.

In a decree issued on Monday, head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization (PBO) Mohammad Bagher Nobakht ordered the allocation of the 1 trillion rials to Zahedan's medical university for launching the two hospitals. The hospitals will be dedicated to patients suffering from respiratory problems, according to Nobakht, a deputy Iranian president.

It comes amid reports from Zahedan showing there has been a surge in the number of infections with the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus.

The variant, first detected in India, has been circulating in many countries around the world. It has caused a surge in infections in southeastern Iran, especially in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan which has a long border with Pakistan. Local authorities said on Monday that the daily death toll from the virus in the province had reached 18 while total confirmed cases had surge to over 1,600 over the past 24 hours.

A video released by the IRIB News showed people waiting in Zahedan's mortuary to have their diseased buried.

Report on the distribution of 2130 Rials of profit per share in the General Assembly of Kachad



272% Increase in Net Profit Compared To 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the shareholders of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company was held in the presence of more than 85% of the shareholders on Saturday, July 3, 2021 in Talash Hall. Due to the special circumstances of the corona virus outbreak and the impossibility of the presence of some of the real shareholders, the details of the meeting were broadcast live on the sites of Aparat and Chadormalu virtual TV channel. In this meeting, Dr. Modarres Khiabani, a representative of Omid Investment Company, was elected as the chairman of the assembly. Observers also included Dr. Naderi, a representative of the Mines and Metals Development Company, Sabouri Deilami, a representative of the Sepah Investment Company, and Khalilzadeh, a representative of the Stock Exchange and Securities Organization. Also, the legal inspector of the company was Engineer Nasser Taghizadeh, as the secretary of the assembly and the managing director of the company. They informed the audience about the performance and executive plans, including extraction, production, sales of the company's products and plans for the current year. The following decisions were made and approved.



- 1- Regarding the performance of the Board of Directors, the consolidated financial statements of the group and the main company including profit and loss, financial statements, changes in owners' rights, cash flow statements for the fiscal year ending March 20, 2020 were read. After hearing the explanations of the board of directors and the legal inspector and the exchange of views of the shareholders on the issues raised, the assembly unanimously approved the performance of the board of directors. The financial statements and the accompanying notes for the fiscal year ending March 21, 2021 were approved.
2. Transactions covered by Article 129 of the Amendment to the Commercial Code were approved and enforced
- 3- In connection with the distribution of profits for the fiscal year ending March 20, 2020, it was decided that out of the amount of 101 thousand 454 billion Rials of the total profit of the company in 2020, 2130 Rials of profit per share will be distributed among the shareholders.
- 4- Vania Nik Tadbir Auditing Institute as the main auditor and auditor and Dash Auditing Institute and Associates as the substitute auditor for the fiscal year ending March 21, 2021, selected and accepted his position. The determination of the inspectors' remuneration was delegated to the Board of Directors.
- 5 - Dunya Eqtasad and Jahan Sanat newspapers were selected to insert the company's advertisements
- 6- The right to attend and be rewarded by the board of directors was determined.
- 7- The members of the board of directors were elected in accordance with the provisions of the bill amending the commercial law and based on the voting done for 2 years as follows. Omid Investment Management Group Company - Sepah Investment Company - Guilan Province Investment Company (Adalat) - Mines and Metals Development Investment Company and Mobarakeh Steel Company.
- 8- The assembly thanked the efforts of the board of directors and all the employees of the company and appreciated the efforts of the relevant employees.
- According to the same report, Engineer Nasser Taghizadeh, CEO of Chadormalu, in the opening speech of the meeting, described the performance of the board of directors in 2020 as successful. He said: "The effects of success beyond the program are explained in detail in the performance report of the board of directors to the esteemed shareholders. The guidelines and the support of the shareholders and the policies of the board of directors have caused the company to play its role in supplying the raw materials of the steel industry in 2020. The company is taking effective steps to advance the country's economic and industrial goals.
- He said: "The main actions of the company last year include the implementation of extraction and production programs beyond the plan, the official opening of a solar power plant with a capacity of 10 MW, the opening of the third line of Persian Gulf water transfer to Ardakan Industrial Complex, launch of phase 1 hot charge project Steelmaking, the optimal use of energy consumption (electricity, water and gas) in the company's mining-industrial complexes, is the maximum use of the manufacturing capacity inside the consumable spare parts in the production complexes. In 2020, about 1446 new parts and consumables were built in the sectors of extraction, processing plant, pelletizing, direct reduction and steelmaking. By the end of 2020, more than 28,000 items of parts and spare parts have been sourced from domestic sources and replaced with similarly made exterior parts. In 2020, € 19 million in foreign exchange savings have been achieved. This amount has increased by 7,392 thousand euros compared to 2019 (amounting to 11,608 thousand euros).
- He added: "Last year, 77 research projects were carried out in the field of reducing energy consumption, increasing the production of iron ore and pellet concentrate, helping to control and reduce environmental pollutants, reducing downtime and repair costs, localization and domestic production. These projects have had positive effects.
- Chadormalu CEO added: During this period, memorandums of understanding have been signed with scientific and laboratory centers including Yazd, Ardakan, Meybod and Payam-e-Noor universities in Yazd. The purpose of these memorandums is to directly connect the industry elite with the academic elite. In addition to these memorandums, in 2020, a tripartite memorandum of cooperation was signed between Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Companies, Amirkabir University, Ardakan University. Chadormalu Innovation, Research and Development Center was also established in the Technology and Innovation Tower of Amirkabir University of Technology.
- Training courses were held for 2710 people at the rate of 28,615 people per hour in full compliance with health protocols. Internship courses for students of the country's universities in the fields of mining, extraction, processing, industrial and chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, materials engineering and metallurgy have also been held in mining and industrial complexes.
- In 2020, the company's capital has increased from 44,000 billion rials to 55,500 billion rials. It is planned to increase the company's capital up to 150,000 billion rials. An explanatory report has been prepared and sent to the legal inspector of the company for review, comment and approval.
- Chadormalu CEO said: the total production of the company in 2020, including 11 million and 468

thousand tons of iron ore concentrate, 339 thousand tons of granulated iron ore, 3 million and 731 thousand tons of pellets, 1 million and 603 thousand tons of sponge iron and 1 million and 26 thousand tons It is a steel ingot. This amount of production has led to revenue generation of 281 thousand 514 billion rials. This rate has increased by 168% compared to 2019.

The financial performance of 1399, in comparison with 1398, is summarized as follows:

Percentage increase (decrease) in 2020 compared to 2019	2019		2020		Title
168	Billion rials	105,097	Billion rials	281,514	Revenues
87	Billion rials	59,186	Billion rials	110,581	Costs
272	Billion rials	45,911	Billion rials	170,933	Net profit
26	Billion rials	44,000	Billion rials	55,500	Company capital
195	Rial	1,043	Rial	3,080	Earnings per share

Engineer Taghizadeh pointed to the increase in the company's capital from 44,000 billion rials to 55,500 billion rials in 2020. He said: planning to increase the company's capital up to 150 thousand billion rials is the most important plan of the company. Other important measures include a general and detailed exploration plan, as well as equipping and exploiting the anomalous D19 mineral zone, which has been excavated by the end of 2020 at a rate of 10,843 meters. Other projects include: construction of pelletizing plant No. 2 with a capacity of 5 million tons per year, construction of direct regeneration megadol plant No. 2 with an annual production capacity of 2.2 million tons of sponge iron, cooperation with Ashab Novin Bahabad Mining Industries for construction Iron ore concentrate processing and production plant with an annual production capacity of 4 million tons, in cooperation with Ghadir Iranian Iron and Steel Company, construction of rail transportation infrastructure in cooperation with Omid Investment Management Group, construction plan of mining and industrial equipment factory in the form of a memorandum With Arak Machinery Company - Partnership in East Pars East Steel Company in Chabahar Free Zone to produce 10 million tons of steel with 31% share - Partnership in creating a new exploration company called Kavir Metal Mines and Exploration with Omid Investment Management Group - Partnership Establishment of 15% stake in Industries and Mines Water Supply Company with the aim of starting the implementation of the second project of Persian Gulf water transmission line to Kerman - South Khorasan and Razavi - Construction of a combined cycle power plant with a capacity of 500 MW with the participation of Omid Investment Management Group - Execution of action plans Effervescence and extraction in new mines, in order to participate in exploration and extraction projects of new mines in the region and outside the region with the aim of access to sustainable mineral resources - 30% participation in the implementation of Megamdol plant project of direct reduction (production of sponge iron) to capacity 1.2 million tons - Establishment of a new company in Ardakan region of Yazd in order to implement the plan to build a rolling mill with a capacity of 1 million tons of hot rolled sheet - Establishment of a new company in Khorasan Razavi province to implement the plan to build a rolling mill with a capacity of 1 million tons of hot rolled sheet Construction of 2 10 MW solar power plants in Bahabad and Ardakan cities with a total capacity of 20 MW - The plan to build a ferroalloy plant with a capacity of 50,000 tons per year, including: Ferrosilicon Manganese plant with a production capacity of 20,000 tons, high carbon ferromanganese plant with a production capacity of 15,000 tons and Ferrosilicon plant with a production capacity of 15,000 tons - Construction plan of refractory brick factory with an annual production capacity of 50,000 tons of bricks and refractory objects - Construction plan of slag plant in an industrial complex with a capacity of 100,000 tons per year - Construction of tailings plant in a mining complex with a capacity of 100 Thousands per year - established Chadormalu Value Creators Company with the participation of all active personnel in Chadormalu Complex - Establishment of a new company in order to produce 200,000 desalination water filters (membranes) per year and implement and complete the remaining operations of the construction plant of Sarmad Abarkooh Iron and Steel Industries Company With an annual production capacity of 600,000 tons of steel ingots - Participation in the implementation of the graphite electrode production project with a capacity of 30,000 tons per year - Participation in the exploitation of Australian iron ore mines and construction of concentrate production plants amounting to 12.5 million tons - Participation in the company Emerging mining industries of Shahroud to implement the plan of Stone paper factory with an annual production capacity of 10 thousand tons.

Pope in Good Condition After Surgery

ROME (Dispatches) - Pope Francis was doing well on Monday after surgery for an inflamed large colon, but the 84-year-old was expected to spend around seven days recovering in hospital, the Vatican said.

The pontiff was admitted to Rome's Gemelli hospital Sunday for a scheduled operation under general anaesthetic for symptomatic diverticular stenosis of the colon.

Francis "is in good general condition, alert and breathing spontaneously", spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a statement, adding that the surgery "lasted about three hours".



One Dead, 33 Injured From Bangkok Factory Explosion

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - An explosion near Bangkok's international airport Monday left a plastics factory in flames, killing at least one firefighter and wounding 33 people as rescue workers struggled to extinguish the blaze hours later.

Heavy plumes of black smoke could be seen rising to the sky from the city's downtown 35 kilometres (21 miles) away, and by early evening the dark clouds had shrouded the Thai capital.

The blast occurred around 3 am at Taiwan-owned Ming Dih Chemical Co., located on the outskirts of Bangkok near Suvarnabhumi Airport in Samut Prakan province.



Taliban Aim to Present Written Peace Plan at Talks Next Month



KABU (Reuters) - The Taliban plan to present a written peace proposal to the Afghan government side as soon as next month, a spokesman for the Islamist insurgents said even as they make major territorial gains in the breach left by departing foreign forces.

Hundreds of Afghan security force members have fled into neighbouring Tajikistan in the face of Taliban advances since the United States vacated its main Afghan base, centrepiece of U.S. and NATO might for almost two decades in the country, as part of a plan to withdraw all foreign troops by Sept. 11.

While the transfer of Bagram Air Base to the Afghan army added momentum to a Taliban drive to seize control over new districts, Taliban leaders renewed the long stalled talks with Afghan government envoys in Qatar's capital Doha last week. "The peace talks and process will be accelerated in the coming days...and they are expected to enter an important stage, naturally it will be about peace plans," Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters on Monday.

"Possibly it will take a month to reach that stage when both sides will share their written peace plan," he said, adding that the latest round of talks were at a critical juncture. "Although we (Taliban) have the upper hand on the battlefield, we are very serious about talks and dialogue."

The upsurge in fighting and the flight of thousands of members of the tattered Afghan security forces have raised grave doubt about the U.S.-backed peace negotiations, which began last year under the then-President Donald Trump's administration.

Western security officials said insurgent forces have captured more than 100 districts but the Taliban say they have control of more than 200 districts in 34 provinces comprising over half the Central Asian country.

On Sunday, more than 1,000 Afghan security personnel retreated across the northern border into Tajikistan after Taliban advances, the Tajik border guard service said, while dozens of others were captured by the insurgents.

Diplomats overseeing the intra-Afghan talks have repeatedly sought neighboring Pakistan's help to convince Taliban leaders to offer a written peace plan even if it took a maximalist line, such as the restoration of hardline Islamist rule reminiscent of the group's 1996-2001 period in power.

Last month the European Union's special envoy for Afghanistan, Tomas Niklasson, said time was running out and that a written proposal would be a sign of successful Pakistani leverage over the Taliban.

Najia Anwari, spokeswoman for Afghanistan's Ministry for Peace Affairs, confirmed that intra-Afghan talks had resumed and said its representatives were "very happy" that Taliban envoys were rejecting the process outright.

"It is difficult to anticipate that the Taliban will provide us with their written document of a peace plan in a month but let's be positive. We hope they present (it) so as to understand what they want," said Anwari.

Johnson Outlines End to England's Virus Restrictions

LONDON (Reuters) - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Monday set out his plans to end social and economic COVID-19 restrictions in England in two weeks, in a test of whether a rapid vaccine rollout offers enough protection from the highly contagious Delta variant.

Johnson confirmed the government aimed to end restrictive measures on July 19, with a final decision to be taken next week. He said the step would eliminate formal limits on social contact, the instruction to work from home, and mandates to wear face masks. After imposing the most onerous constraints on behavior in Britain's peacetime history to battle the novel coronavirus, Johnson is betting the vaccination program, which has weakened the link between infections and hospital admissions, can prevent the health service being overwhelmed by a new coronavirus wave.

Under plans, nightclubs will be allowed to reopen and there will be no limits on capacity of hospitality venues. Social distancing guidelines will be scrapped. "We must be honest with ourselves that if we can't reopen our society in the next few weeks when we will be helped by the arrival of summer and by the school holidays, then we must ask ourselves when will we be able to return to normal?" Johnson said at a news conference.



Myanmar Rights Violations Under Scrutiny

YANGON (Reuters) - A new task force was launched on Monday to investigate evidence of human rights violations in Myanmar more than five months after the military army ousted elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and plunged the Southeast Asian country into turmoil.

The British-government funded project, Myanmar Witness, said it would be sharing information with the United Nations' Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar, which is probing suspected international crimes in Myanmar.

Reuters was unable to reach a spokesman for Myanmar's authorities for comment.

The new initiative comes as Western countries seek to increase pressure on Myanmar's military rulers over accusations of human rights abuses, with the United Nations saying more than 880 people have been killed by security forces since the coup - a figure the junta says is exaggerated.

"Myanmar Witness will independently collect, preserve, process, investigate, verify and review incidents of possible interferences with human rights," the group said.

It said it would encourage submissions from civilians and also independently verify incidents on social media - where Myanmar citizens have posted pictures and videos that appear to show killings, assaults and other abuses.

Myanmar Witness said it had already uncovered and verified evidence of Myanmar army reprisals, shelling of civilian areas and religious buildings and indications of intention to harm, if not kill, demonstrators.

Western countries and rights groups have condemned what they brand atrocities by security forces in Myanmar. The military authorities have said that they have only use force when necessary to counter threats to national security.

Gunmen Kidnap 140 School Students in Northwest Nigeria

KADUNA (AFP) - Gunmen have kidnapped 140 students from a boarding school in northwestern Nigeria, a school official said on Monday, the latest in a wave of mass abductions targeting schoolchildren and students.

Heavily-armed criminal gangs often attack villages to loot, steal cattle and abduct for ransom in northwest and central Nigeria, but since the start of the year they have increasingly targeted schools and colleges.

The attackers scaled a fence to break into the Bethel Baptist High School in Kaduna state in the early hours of Monday, taking away most of the 165 pupils boarding there overnight. "The kidnappers took away 140 students, only 25 students escaped. We still have no idea where the students were taken," Emmanuel Paul, a teacher at the school told AFP.

Kaduna state police spokesman Mohammed Jalige confirmed the early Monday morning attack, but he could not give details on the number of pupils taken. "Tactical police teams went after the kidnappers," he said. "We are still on the rescue mission."

Around 1,000 students and pupils have been abducted in different Nigerian states since December last year. Most have been released after negotiations with local officials, although some are still being held.

Bethel Baptist High School is a co-education college

established by Baptist church in 1991 at Maramara village in Chikun district outside the state capital Kaduna.

Monday's attack was the fourth mass school kidnap in Kaduna state since December.

Kaduna state governor Nasir Ahmad El-Rufai has been one of the most vocal local leaders insisting he will refuse to pay ransom money.

Monday's school abduction came just hours after gunmen also snatched eight medical employees from a Kaduna health centre, according to police.

President Muhammadu Buhari, a former general first elected in 2015, has promised to end the scourge of kidnapping and criminal gangs, but the mass abductions are only one challenge facing his government.

Nigeria's security forces have been battling a jihadist insurgency the northeast since 2009, a conflict that has killed around 40,000 people and displaced more than 2 million more.

The criminal gangs, known locally as bandits, operate from camps in the Rugu forest, which cuts across Zamfara, Katsina, and Kaduna state in Nigeria, as well as Niger. Most of the gangs are motivated by material gain, although some have sworn allegiance to the jihadist organisations in northeast Nigeria, hundreds of kilometres away.



Bolsonaro Implicated in Alleged Graft Scheme as Lawmaker

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was involved in a scheme to skim salaries of his aides while a federal deputy, website UOL reported on Monday, citing what it said were audios of his former sister-in-law explaining his role in the alleged corruption racket.

The scheme, known locally as rachadinha, involves hiring close associates as employees and then receiving a cut of their public salaries back from them.

Rio de Janeiro state prosecutors have formally pressed charges against federal Senator Flavio Bolsonaro, the president's eldest son, over his alleged participation in a similar racket when he was a state lawmaker.

The UOL story, based on audio recordings of Bolsonaro's former sister-in-law, Andrea Siqueira Valle, provided by a source, is the first time the president has been directly implicated in a rachadinha scheme, despite numerous awkward questions about his role in Flavio's alleged racket in Rio. It comes as Bolsonaro is seeing his anti-graft credentials, which helped get him elected in 2018, questioned by a simmering scandal over alleged corruption in the government's vaccine procurement efforts.

The president's office did not immediately respond to a Reuters' request for comment about the UOL story. A lawyer representing Bolsonaro contacted by UOL denied illegalities. In one audio recording, Andrea Siqueira Valle explains that her brother, André Siqueira, who was also on Bolsonaro's payroll, was fired for refusing to hand back the agreed amount to the now-president.

"André had a lot of trouble because he never returned the right money that had to be returned," she says on the recording.

"Eventually, Jair said ... 'Enough. You can get rid of him because he never gives me the right amount of money.'" Reuters was unable to confirm the legitimacy of the recordings or the information in the story. Andrea Siqueira Valle declined to comment to UOL, as did a lawyer.

UOL also reported that on two separate occasions, Siqueira Valle told people close to her about the racket allegedly being run from Bolsonaro's office.

The accusations against Bolsonaro for allegedly misusing public funds as a federal lawmaker could open him up to a federal probe. However, Brazilian law does not allow a sitting president to be charged for any crime committed before taking power. Instead, prosecutors would need to wait until the president has left office to bring charges.



Elahieh Apt (\$2000)
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L.balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Niavaran Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, yard
marble floor
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh (\$2700)
220sq.m, 4bdrs, S/p
S, J, balcony, F.F

Gheitarieh (\$1600)
140sq.m, 2bdrs
S/p, S, J, F.F

(\$4000)
Elahieh bldg
4storey, 12bdrs, & pkgs

Zaferanieh (\$3000)
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Bitcoin Struggles for Momentum

LONDON (Dispatches) - Major cryptocurrencies started the week in the red on Monday, as a lull that has hit the market in recent weeks continued.

Bitcoin (BTC-USD), the largest cryptocurrency, was trading around 3.6% lower at \$34,231 (£24,716) by 9am in London. The cryptocurrency retreated after a small rally over the weekend, having sunk to a low of around \$33,000 on Friday.

After reaching an all-time high above \$64,000 in April, bitcoin has been largely range bound in the last few weeks. The world's biggest cryptocurrency has mostly traded above \$30,000 while struggling to break above \$40,000.



OPEC+ Abandons Oil Policy Meeting After Saudi-UAE Clash

DUBAI (Reuters) - OPEC+ ministers called off oil output talks on Monday after clashing last week when the United Arab Emirates balked at a proposed eight-month extension to output curbs.

Saudi energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman on Sunday called for "compromise and rationality" to secure a deal after two days of failed discussions last week.

But on Monday, OPEC+ sources said there had been no progress in resolving the matter and Monday's meeting was called off. No new date was agreed. The failure of the talks means an expected increase in output from August will not take place, the sources said, helping to drive up international benchmark Brent oil, which was trading 1% higher at \$76.95 a barrel.

Oil prices have already prompted concerns about inflation derailing a global recovery from the pandemic.

OPEC+ agreed record output cuts of almost 10 million barrels per day (bpd) last year as the pandemic hit. They have been gradually relaxed and stand at about 5.8 million bpd.

The UAE, according to sources, on Friday went along with Saudi Arabia and other OPEC+ members on a proposal to raise output in stages by about 2 million bpd from August to December but rejected extending remaining cuts to the end of 2022 from a current end date of April.

The UAE is upset about the baseline from which its production cuts are being calculated and wants it raised. Abu Dhabi has invested billions of dollars to increase its production capacity and says its baseline was set too low when OPEC+ originally forged their pact.

It has also said it was not alone in requesting a higher baseline as others, including Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait and Nigeria, had requested and received new ones since the deal was first agreed last year.

Decisions in OPEC+, which groups the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries with Russia and other big producers, must be unanimous.

Potential outcomes, OPEC+ sources said, include raising output from August, or raising output from August and extending the remaining cuts with a new higher baseline figure for the UAE.

OPEC+ could also go ahead with the deal as is until April 2022 and discuss a new UAE baseline as part of a new deal, the sources said.

The dispute reflects a growing divergence between Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

The two nations had built a regional alliance, combining financial and military muscle to fight a conflict in Yemen and project power elsewhere. But the UAE has withdrawn from action in Yemen, while Saudi Arabia has sought to challenge the UAE's dominance as the region's business and tourism hub.

The UAE in August 2020 also agreed to normalize relations with Israel, while Saudi Arabia has no official diplomatic relations with Israel.

Growth in China's June Services Activity Falls to 14-Month Low

BEIJING (Reuters) - Growth in China's services sector slowed sharply in June to a 14-month low, weighed down by a resurgence of COVID-19 cases in southern China, a private survey showed on Monday, adding to concerns the world's second-largest economy may be starting to lose some momentum.

The Caixin/Markit services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to 50.3 in June, the lowest since April 2020 and down significantly from 55.1 in May. It held just above the 50-mark, which separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis.

China's official services gauge had also shown a marked slowdown in June, though it remained well in expansion territory. The private survey is believed to focus more on smaller companies.

Coupled with a slowdown in the manufacturing sector, analysts say the PMI survey findings suggest that pent-up COVID demand may have peaked and China's robust economic rebound from the crisis is starting to moderate.

Though slower to recover from the pandemic than manufacturing, a gradual improvement in consumption in recent months had boosted China's services sector.

However, a COVID-19 outbreak of the more infectious Delta strain in the export and manufacturing hub of Guangdong since late May and the subsequent imposition of anti-virus measures have weighed on consumer and business activity.



While the government reacted quickly to contain the new wave of cases, and economic disruptions are easing, the private survey showed services providers' business outlook for the year ahead slipped to the lowest in nine months.

A sub-index of new business stood at 50.5, also the lowest since April 2020 when the services sector was still mired in COVID paralysis. Firms also cut staff in June for the first time in four months, as a result of slowing demand.

One bright spot in the survey was a marked easing in inflationary pressures, which have squeezed profit margins. Input costs rose at the slowest pace since September 2020, and services firms cut their prices charged for the first time in 11 months to win new business.

Indonesia's Newest Economic Zone Seeks \$17b Investments

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia's newest special economic zone expects to attract about \$17 billion in investments after getting that status last week.

Java Integrated Industrial and Port Estate, known as JIPE, in East Java has already brought in \$3.5 billion from 16 tenants, said Haryanto Adikoemo, president director at PT AKR Corporindo, a key backer for the project. The area can now offer better ease of doing business after being named a special economic zone, which are open to foreign investors and come with a series of tax breaks.

The special economic zone incentives are part of President Joko Widodo's investment law overhaul last year, which sought to bring in funds and create jobs by simplifying rules and processes for businesses seeking to set up in the country.

"Indonesia is the largest archipelagic country in the world, unfortunately our infrastructure hasn't been developing as fast as our economic growth, resulting in higher logistics cost," Adikoemo said in a Bloomberg Television interview on Monday. "This is our mission at JIPE, first we would like to reduce the logistic cost."

The 3,000-hectare JIPE is set to host East Java's only deep sea port, that is connected to an international airport and toll roads as well as a railway network. It's set to be home to PT Freeport Indonesia's smelter, which has already begun construction. So far, the 16 tenants are set to occupy 250 hectares out of the 1,800 hectares up for development, Adikoemo said.

AKR Corporindo holds a 60% stake in the project, with the rest held by state-owned port operator PT Pelabuhan Indonesia III.

"We believe we will be able to achieve the \$17 billion" goal, he said, considering the additional 400 hectares of port area and 800 hectares of residential and commercial area still to be developed.

Staff Shortages Put Handbrake on UK Reopening Boom

LONDON (Dispatches) - Staff shortages are putting the handbrake on the UK's dominant services sector, according to a closely-watch private sector survey, with the steepest rise in work backlogs since records began in 1996.

IHS Markit and CIPS PMI survey of service sector business activity in June found capacity constraints and staff shortages meant unfinished business was piling up across the economy, stalling the UK's nascent reopening boom.

In spite of this, UK service providers reported another steep increase in business activity in June. The speed of recovery was only marginally slower than the peak seen in May. The service sector covers everything from coffee shops to banks and makes up roughly 80% of the UK economy.

A rapid turnaround in business and consumer spending since the roll-back of pandemic restrictions led to the fastest rate of job creation for seven years, Markit said. But the surge in demand also prompted record increases in costs and prices last month.

The findings will fuel concerns about rising inflation in the UK. Outgoing Bank of England chief economist Andy Haldane last week warned price rises could hit 4% this year and said "everyone would lose".

"The latest survey data highlighted survey-record rates of input cost and prices charged inflation across the service sector, reflecting higher commodity prices, transport shortages and staff wages," said Tim Moore, economics director at IHS Markit.

"Imbalanced supply and demand was the main driver, while the roll-back of pandemic discounting by some service providers amplified the latest round of price hikes."

IHS Markit/CIPS's UK Services PMI Business Activity Index was 62.4 in June, down slightly from 62.9 in May. It was the second-highest reading since October 2013 and above the earlier 'flash' figure of 61.7 in June.

PMIs are given on a scale of 0 to 100, with anything above 50 signalling growth. The index has posted above the 50.0 no-change value for four months in a row.

The average reading for the second quarter of 2021 (62.1) was the highest for any quarter in the past 24 years.

Euro Zone Business Activity Soared in June

LONDON (Reuters) - Euro zone businesses expanded activity at the fastest rate in 15 years in June as the easing of more coronavirus restrictions brought life back to the bloc's dominant service industry, a survey showed on Monday.

But that surge in growth has come at a cost as inflationary pressures mounted due to labor shortages and disruptions to supply chains caused by the pandemic.

IHS Markit's final composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), seen as a good gauge of economic health, jumped to 59.5 last month from May's 57.1, its highest level since June 2006.

That was ahead of the 59.2 "flash" estimate and well above the 50 mark separating growth from contraction. "The index was at its 15-year high, confirming that the recovery in bloc's economy is well underway. At the same time, backlogs and producer price pressures show no signs of abating," said Mateusz Urban at Oxford Economics.

"The services PMI sub-index posted an increase. This indicated that the sector has benefited from easing of restrictions and increased consumer optimism on the back of advancing vaccination campaign. An acceleration in vaccination programs on the continent has meant governments have allowed more of the services industry to re-open and the sector's PMI soared to its highest reading since July 2007.

Activity in Germany's service industry grew in June at its fastest pace since March 2011 while in France the sector boomed following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions.

Meanwhile, in Britain - outside the euro zone and the European Union - the post-lockdown bounce-back for services firms eased only slightly in June but price pressures jumped by the most on record. World stocks clung close to record highs on Monday as worries about the

Delta variant of COVID-19 offset the positive sentiment from surging euro zone business activity.

A PMI covering euro zone manufacturers, released last week, showed factory activity expanded at its fastest pace on record in June but that they faced the steepest rise in raw materials costs in well over two decades.

Those inflationary pressures were also felt by the services industry and the composite input prices index bounced to the highest in nearly 21 years.

Although inflation risks are skewed to the upside the European Central Bank was expected to maintain its loose monetary policy and look through higher inflation expectations for a while before it acts, a Reuters poll found last month.

EMEA Currencies Dip, Turkey's Lira Slips



ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's lira, and most currencies in Europe, the Middle East and Africa fell on disappointing economic readings, while broader emerging market currencies gained on Monday as mixed U.S. labor data weighed on the dollar.

MSCI's index of emerging market (EM) currencies rose about 0.3% and was set to snap a five-day losing streak, with the dollar stalling on signs of weakness in the labor market, which is a key factor for the Federal Reserve to consider tightening policy.

Data showing rising U.S. unemployment cut short a dollar rally last week and helped emerging market assets, which had been under pressure from some hawkish signals from the Fed.

But currencies in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) traded lower on Monday, with Russia's rouble falling 0.4% to 73.3575 to the dollar, as weakness in oil prices weighed.

Russia's service sector expanded in June for a sixth straight month, but the pace of growth appeared to be slowing.

Turkey's lira gave up early gains and fell as much as 0.4% versus the dollar to 8.7105, after inflation rose much more than expected to 17.53% in June, its highest in two years.

That puts pressure on the Central bank of Turkey (CBT) to hike interest rates and support the lira, but also sets up an inevitable clash with President Tayyip Erdogan's unconventional view that high interest rates cause inflation.

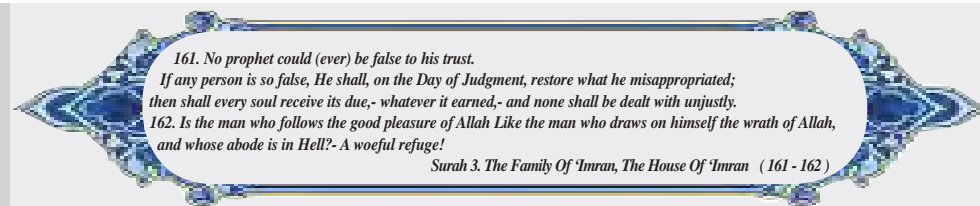
"The likelihood of CBT cutting rates voluntarily will disappear, but that will bring the central bank closer to a showdown with the President... CBT has, so far, stuck to a rather hawkish rhetoric in defiance of pressure from the president, which has supported the lira," said Tatha Ghose FX and EM analyst at Commerzbank.

Lira depreciation had accelerated after Erdogan sacked a hawkish central bank governor in March, the most recent firing in a string of governors over the past two years.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	13:09
■ Evening (Maghreb)	20:44
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:11
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:55



Tourism Malaysia's "Amazing" Video Wins Global Award for Best Camerawork

PUTRAJAYA (Dispatches) - A collaborated production between Tourism Malaysia, SHARP, and Chilli Pepper Films have won The Special Award for Best Camerawork at the 21st WorldMediaFestivals, under the Tourism & Travel Media Awards category.

Based in Hamburg, Germany, the WorldMediaFestivals have been honoring creativity in media worldwide for the past 21 years, including audiovisual, print, and online production. The 2021 Hall of Fame is divided into two main categories: the Television & Corporate Media Awards and the Tourism & Travel Media Awards. Due to restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, winners were announced online on the WorldMediaFestivals' official website.

The two-and-a-half-minute video titled 'AMAZING' has won the Special Award "MAGIC EYE" for Best Camerawork, made possible under the direction of globally-acclaimed commercial and film director Mark Toia, and production of Chilli Peppers Films. The initial production was a creative collaboration between Tourism Malaysia and SHARP called 'Truly Aquos 8K, Truly Asia Malaysia', where the production team was the first to shoot an 8K video in Malaysia.

In addition, the creative production has also secured a place among four other winners under the Advertising category for the 2021 Tourism & Travel Media intermedia-globe Gold Award. 'AMAZING' shares the recognition with four other themed videos from Thailand, Japan, and Austria. For the full list of winners, visit WorldMediaFestivals' 2021 Hall of Fame.

'AMAZING' captures the true essence of the multi-colour, multi-cultural, and multi-racial Malaysia, alongside the wondrous attractions across the country. Mr Zulkifly Md Said, Director General of Tourism Malaysia, expressed his heartfelt congratulations upon receiving the good news.



"This recognition would not be possible without the effort and assistance of everyone involved. To the production team, congratulations on this well-deserved achievement."

"We look forward to having further collaborations with SHARP, hopefully in the nearest future. There are still so many attractions in Malaysia to be highlighted through the lens of SHARP, especially our off-the-beaten-track destinations, our rich flora and fauna, and our blessed natural resources," Mr Zulkifly added.

Mr. Robert Wu, SHARP Deputy CEO of ASEAN and Chairman of Sharp Electronics Malaysia, noted that the production of this award-winning video is significant because it is the first ever Visit Malaysia campaign video shot in 8K resolution.

First Astronauts at China's New Space Station Conduct Spacewalk

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Astronauts at China's new space station conducted their first spacewalk Sunday, state media reported, as Beijing presses on with its extraterrestrial ambitions.

It was only the second time the country's astronauts have stepped out of their craft while in space.

Three Chinese spacemen blasted off in June, docking at the Tiangong station where they are to remain for three months in China's longest crewed mission to date.

On Sunday morning, two of them exited the core cabin, said state broadcaster CCTV.

The first, Liu Boming, was transported via mechanical arm to a work site and the other, Tang Hongbo, moved by climbing on the outside of the cabin. Their mission involves elevating the panoramic camera outside the Tianhe core module, as well as verifying the robotic arm's transfer capability, state media said. Television footage showed the astronauts preparing for the spacewalk by donning gear and conducting health checks while exercising in the cabin.

COVID-19, Inflation Headwinds Threaten Russia's Economic Recovery



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's economy has been recovering robustly in the past few months, a boon for authorities ahead of elections, but an abrupt surge in COVID-19 cases and the need to raise interest rates to combat inflation are challenging further growth.

After shrinking 3% in 2020, its sharpest contraction in 11 years, the Russian economy was on the mend thanks to a rebound in consumer demand and high prices for oil, its key export, prompting a series of upgrades to its economic outlook.

The central bank expects the economy to grow 3-4% this year, despite its three rate increases aimed at reining in stubbornly high inflation. But an expected fourth rate hike, to at least 6% in July, and prospects of even more expensive lending could take its toll on business activity.

The economy reached its pre-pandemic level by the middle of this year when Russia took a hit from a new surge in COVID-19 cases blamed on the new highly infectious delta variant.

"The foundations are in place for the recovery to continue in Q3, but the latest virus wave and the possibility of a further tightening of containment measures pose a key threat," Capital Economics research firm said in a note. Having offered free vaccination in late 2020 and nearly returned to normal life in 2021, with cafes and gyms open as usual and many people working from offices, Moscow reported a record 9,120 daily increase in COVID-19 cases June 19.

Sabotage at Iran Nuclear...

FROM PAGE 1

"There must be stability in the agreement; our goal in this negotiation is for the United States to return to the agreement and for other countries to fulfill their commitments. A committee has been set up to discuss the negotiation process and the law passed by parliament," according to Rabiei.

The government spokesman said: "We continue to believe that dialogue, especially between communities within the Muslim ummah, is the only appropriate way to resolve differences between them."

He added: "In the talks that have taken place so far between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the issues between the two countries have been discussed from a friendly position, and some progress has been made. We understand that in some cases, disputes take time to be resolved."

"We are always ready to continue this dialogue seriously, relying on mutual goodwill and securing the interests and concerns of both sides," noted Rabiei. Regarding the unveiling of homemade vaccines and not injecting them into people, Rabiei said: "So far, only the Pasteur and Barakat vaccines have been unveiled. Barakat has produced 2 million doses of vaccine so far, and this number of vaccines are in the stage of stability and technical testing."

He added: "Vaccines need to be labeled and have now entered the injection phase; 350,000 doses have been distributed, and other vaccines must go through the same steps to enter the general injection phase. We hope that the Pasteur vaccine will go through these steps as soon as possible."

"We did our best to import the corona vaccine. If it were not for global sanctions and obstacles, we would have imported more," according to the government spokesman.

Pakistan...

FROM PAGE 1

At present there are two key border crossings between Pakistan and Afghanistan — Chaman in Balochistan and Torkham in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa — besides several small trading points. Most of the border with Afghanistan has been fenced, making illegal movement difficult.

On the other hand, Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugees Saleem Khan said currently the situation on the border was not alarming, but if it deteriorated, international organisations and donor agencies would inform Islamabad.

Saleem Khan was of the opinion that a comprehensive policy needed to be devised after taking all stakeholders, including provinces, into confidence. Talking to Dawn, officials from various provinces and even Gilgit-Baltistan showed their concern over the arrival of Afghans in their areas, but declined to be named.

"Our most serious fear is that the Afghans might add to the strength of sectarian terrorists, who had been subdued by the army," an elected representative in the Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly said.

Similar views were expressed by a cabinet member

in the Sindh government, who said most refugees would arrive in Karachi, but the city's civic amenities were already overstretched, with many areas facing law and order problems. On the other hand, a senior government official said though Pakistan was worried about the humanitarian issues confronting the region, including Afghanistan, there were several other factors that need to be considered.

Zionists Accountable for...

FROM PAGE 1

Iran has called on the United Nations to help set up a fact-finding committee to shed light on the fate of four Iranian diplomats kidnapped in Lebanon about 40 years ago.

"Evidence shows they have been held in Israeli prisons, and are still alive," the Iranian envoy said.

Despite Iran's efforts and call for the fate of the diplomats, international bodies have decided to remain silent or not to involve in this issue in order to please the Zionists and their supporters.

As long as the UN remains passive and silent against such crimes, it will embolden both the Zionists and the world powers to dictate the rule of jungle and the idea of "might is right", and regimes like the Zionist can misuse this attitude to continue their crimes.

The United Nations and international bodies should take firmer stands against such crimes otherwise they will turn into just showcases for some diplomats for only chatting and spending their times in New York or other cities that the UN offices are located there with no output for the nations.

The Islamic Republic still points its figure to the Zionists as the main culprits of this abduction and it believes the diplomats are hostages of the Zionists. So Iran expects the UN to launch at least some fact-finding committee to start probe but this decision and action first needs courage that it seems the UN lacks it because of the world arrogance and Zionists' pressures and influence.

The Islamic Republic will never forget the fate of its abducted diplomats and will strive to learn their fates sooner or later, and God willing, one day it will show the world the true nature of the Zionists by revealing the fact behind this abduction, no matter whether the international bodies involve in finding it or not.

Of course the true nature of the Zionists has been exposed to the world people through its atrocities against the Palestinians but this is the governments which should take action against the crimes of Zionists because one day, they themselves may become the victims of the Zionists.

JCOA...

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"As it has been said many times, we are not in a hurry to reach an agreement, but we will not allow the negotiations to become erosive and drag on," the spokesman added.

Khatibzadeh was further asked about claims in some Western media that the US had relayed a message to Iran through diplomatic channels about the "consequences" of attacks on American troops and facilities in the region.

"The Islamic Republic has always emphasized that the language of force and threat will have no benefit for the establishment of security in the region. The US must realize that through bullying, it will not achieve its regional goals and instead aggravates its situation in West Asia," he told reporters.

Iran has never intended to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs, he said. "The repeated attacks announced by the United States against the positions of the Iraqi and Syrian forces on the border between the two countries are only meant to deal a blow to the main [forces] deterring Daesh's sleeping cell and strengthen the remnants of the terrorist organization."

At the order of Biden, US warplanes targeted three locations belonging to Iraq's anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units (PMU) or Hashd al-Sha'abi in the border town of al-Qa'im in the western Anbar Province late last month.

Asked about Israel's intention to gain observer status at the African Union (AU), Khatibzadeh expressed Iran's deep concern over and firm opposition to such a move.

He also called on AU member states to demonstrate their political determination to adhere to the Palestinian cause against Israeli occupation, saying they should honor the decisions made by important international bodies such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to oppose any membership of the occupying entity in international and regional organizations.

"The Zionist regime's gaining of observer status at the African Union would embolden the regime to continue its colonial and racist policies, and carry out military strikes and commit more crimes against the Palestinian people," the Iranian official said.

Development...

FROM PAGE 1

He also mentioned the importance of Chabahar Port's free trade zone, saying: "Chabahar Free Zone is of special importance to us because Chabahar Port itself has a strategic and important position and in the future will be one of the first and most important ports in the country." As reported, over the past year, six series of inauguration series have been done in the country's free trade and special economic zones, two of which have been in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21). According to the Secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council Hamidreza Mo'meni, currently, 621 development projects are being implemented in free trade and special economic zones, which have average physical progress of 50 percent.

Sri Lanka's Rajapaksa Fined For Slamming Cricket Board

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka T20 player Bhanuka Rajapaksa was fined \$5,000 and handed a suspended one year ban Monday for giving interviews critical of the national board management.

Sri Lanka Cricket said the 29-year-old was in breach of his contract with the interviews to local media and on social media platforms.

His ban was suspended for two years, however, and the board said Rajapaksa has been included in a training squad for a series against India starting July 13.

LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

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

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Kruse Named in Germany's Olympic Football Squad

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Veteran striker Max Kruse was a surprise inclusion Monday in Germany's men's squad for the Tokyo Olympic Games, five years after he was booted out of the national side.

The 33-year-old joins Nadiem Amiri, 24, and Maximilian Arnold, 27, all full Germany internationals, as the three players in the squad born before 1997.

Amiri of Bayer Leverkusen and Wolfsburg's Arnold won the 2017 European Under-21 title under Stefan Kuntz, who will coach the team at the Olympics.

Djokovic, Federer Reach Wimbledon Quarters

LONDON (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic reached his 50th Grand Slam quarter-final on Monday with a straight-sets victory over Chile's Cristian Garin at Wimbledon.

World number one Djokovic eased into the last-eight at the All England Club with a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win and will face either Hungary's Marton Fucsovics or Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev for a place in the semi-finals.

"Confidence levels are very high after winning the French Open," said Djokovic.

"It was one of my biggest wins in the circumstances -- two five-setters, two four-setters in the second week.

"They took a lot out of me but they also gave me wings.

"The further I go in the tournament, the more comfortable I feel and I look forward to the next challenge."

Djokovic, the six-time Wimbledon champion and chasing a record-equalling 20th major title, is halfway to a calendar Grand Slam.

Only two men have swept all four majors in the same year with Rod Laver the most recent back in 1969.

Djokovic broke serve five times on Monday and hit 28 winners, twice as many as his 17th-seeded Chilean opponent.

Roger Federer became the oldest man in the Open era to reach the Wimbledon quarterfinals by beating Lorenzo Sonego in straight sets.



seed Roberto Bautista Agut 6-1, 6-3, 7-5 on Monday.

The 22-year-old Canadian 10th seed -- who beat Britain's two-time champion Andy Murray in the previous round -- will next face 25th seeded Karen Khachanov of Russia for a place in the last four.

A U.S. Open quarter-finalist in 2020, Israel-born Shapovalov's best showing at Wimbledon in three previous visits was reaching the second round in 2018.

Khachanov had a far tougher battle prevailing in five sets over American Sebastian Korda.

Meanwhile world number one Ashleigh Barty reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the first time on Monday beating French Open champion Barbora Krejckova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-3.

The 25-year-old Australian will play the winner of the match between unseeded compatriot Ajla Tomljanovic and British teenager Emma Raducanu on Tuesday for a place in the semi-finals.

Defeat brought an end to Krejckova's 15-match winning streak and she will have to wait another year to see if she can emulate her late coach and mentor Jana Novotna in winning the title.

Barty may have won in straight sets but that did not really tell the full tale of a hard fought 95-minute encounter against an opponent who had yet to win a main draw singles grass match prior to Wimbledon.

Barty's serve was once again her Achilles heel being broken early in the first set and then again in the second when she served for the match.

Fortunately for the Aussie supporters on Court Number One -- one of whom was holding a hand written card 'It's Barty's Party' -- she broke Krejckova's serve to take the match.

Tottenham Chief Wants to Keep Kane at Club



LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham's new managing director of football Fabio Paratici said on Monday keeping Harry Kane is "our goal as a club" even though the England captain has stated his desire to leave.

Kane, 27, has told Spurs he wants a move after growing frustrated at the their 13-year trophy drought and a clutch of top sides have been linked with the forward, including Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea.

Reports last month said Premier League champions City had made a bid of £100 million (\$138 million) for the player, who won the Golden Boot as the top-scorer in the English top-flight last season.

Kane, whose three goals at Euro 2020 have helped England reach the semi-finals, is not expected to make a decision on his future until after the tournament, which ends on Sunday.

"Keeping him is not just my goal, it's our goal as a club," Paratici told Sky Sport Italia.

"Right now, he's one of the best strikers in the world," he added. "He's a complete player, really special. His physique is that of a real number nine, a true poacher, but he also has an incredibly refined technique."

Paratici, who recently left Juventus, said: "He's a team player, but he's a finisher at the same time, so really I believe he is among the top three in the world."

"I haven't heard from him yet because I don't want to bother the players who are busy at the Euros, it doesn't seem fair to me. They're focused on their own goals with their national teams."

Bayern Munich Expect Loses 150m Euros Due to Covid

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich said Monday they expect the Covid-19 pandemic to cost them 150 million euros (\$178 million) in lost match-day revenue.

Just a few hundred fans were allowed in for their final game last season, the only Bayern match at the Allianz Arena where spectators have been admitted since the Covid-19 pandemic first hit Germany in March 2020.

Bayern president Herbert Hainer confirmed the forecasted loss after so many games behind closed doors, but insisted "our ambitions have not diminished".

The new Bundesliga season starts August 13 and Bayern hope health regulations in Bavaria will allow a limited number of fans to watch their first home game against Cologne on August 21 at the 75,000-capacity stadium.

The club's new chairman and CEO Oliver Kahn said they want fans back in the stadium as soon as possible "but safety remains the priority".

Kahn also stated next season's target is to win a tenth straight Bundesliga title, "that's our big goal. It's never been done before in the top European leagues".

In-coming new coach Julian Nagelsmann is tasked with keeping Bayern top of the German league.

Kahn also revealed the club is in contract-extension talks with midfielders Leon Goretzka and Kingsley Coman.

Goretzka has a year left on his contract, Coman has two, but both are "very, very important players", Kahn said, who have been offered "generous" packages.

Kahn admitted Bayern are eager to avoid a repeat of last season when David Alaba refused to sign an extension and left to join Real Madrid after his contract expired.

Dortmund Reportedly Chasing Malen



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund are reportedly planning to spend some of the 85 million euros (\$100 million) they are set to receive for Jadon Sancho on Netherlands forward Donyell Malen from PSV Eindhoven.

Sancho, 21, is set to leave Dortmund, who have agreed a transfer with Premier League giants Manchester United.

According to magazine Kicker and Dortmund-based newspaper Ruhr Nachrichten, Dortmund are chasing Malen, 22, who played in all four of his country's Euro 2020 games, creating two assists.

The center forward scored 27 goals last season with ten assists in 45 games for PSV. Eindhoven right-back Denzel Dumfries is also reportedly being courted by Inter Milan. "It was already clear before the summer that they could go abroad, and I still expect that now," PSV's German coach Roger Schmidt told Dutch paper De Telegraaf.

Anelka Tells Mbappe to Leave PSG

LONDON (Dispatches) - Former France striker Nicolas Anelka believes Kylian Mbappe will need to follow his example in leaving Paris Saint-Germain to play abroad if he is to be regarded as the best player in the world.

Mbappe, who joined PSG in 2017, is about to enter the final season of his contract in the French capital with speculation linking him with a move to Real Madrid.

Despite spending four seasons alongside Neymar at the Parc des Princes, the superstar duo have failed to deliver PSG's first ever Champions League title and even lost Ligue 1 last season to Lille.

Anelka had a brief stint in Madrid himself after joining Arsenal from PSG as a teenager in 1997. "If you want the biggest accolades, you will have to move from PSG at some point," Anelka wrote in an open letter published in The Athletic.

"Whatever you do in Paris will be good, but somebody will always say, 'Well, you did great for PSG but it was only in France. The best leagues are in England and Spain, so you didn't compete with the best players in the best league.'"

Mbappe proved himself as a global star at the 2018 World Cup where his four goals helped France become champions for the second time.

However, he was far from his best as Didier Deschamps' men crashed out of Euro 2020 at the last 16 to Switzerland on penalties last week.

Mbappe was the only player to miss in the shootout, rounding off a miserable tournament in which he failed to score.



Osaka Preparing For Olympics,

OSAKA (Dispatches) - Tennis star Naomi Osaka said Monday she wants to be on top form at the Olympics and will take part in press conferences, after pulling out of several tournaments citing her struggles with depression and anxiety.

The world number two told Japan's national broadcaster NHK she was getting ready to play on home turf at the pandemic-postponed Tokyo Games, after having withdrawn from Wimbledon and the French Open. "I am preparing myself little by little so I can be at the top of my game for the Olympics," the 23-year-old wrote in a message published by the broadcaster.

"Since getting the attention of the world, I've always had bouts of anxiety. This is especially the case in the lead up to big competitions."

Osaka set off a debate about mental health in June after abandoning her French Open campaign just one match in over a dispute on media duties.

The Japanese player had said post-match news conferences were detrimental to her mental health and likened them to "kicking people when they're down".

She later revealed her battle with depression and anxiety in a post on social media, saying she wanted to take time away from the game to get better.

In the message published by NHK, Osaka said she was "proud" to play for her country at the Games, adding that she would take part in news conferences while giving consideration to her mental health. She was fined \$15,000 and threatened with disqualification from Roland Garros after refusing to honour mandatory media commitments.

