

Health Ministry Announced on Saturday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 126,126 With 128 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic Of Iran to the UN Underlined the Fact That the Ugly Face of Zionism, Racism and Apartheid Cannot Be Whitewashed by Cheap Rhetoric

VOL. XXVII, No. 7348 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SUNDAY OCTOBER 31, 2021 - ABAN 9, 1400

2

DOMESTIC

President Calls for Reopening of Educational Centers in Iran



> SEE PAGE 2

3

DOMESTIC

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq Top Destinations for Iran Handicrafts Exports



> SEE PAGE 3

6

INTERNATIONAL

Uzbekistan the Real Winner of ransparent Presidential Election



> SEE PAGE 6

8

SPORTS

Thunder Shock Lakers With 26-Point Comeback



> SEE PAGE 8

Threats Meant to Divert Attention From EU Inaction on JCPOA

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top negotiator has denounced the new threats leveled by the Western countries against Tehran as "a blame game," saying such rhetoric is aimed at distracting the public opinion from the failure of the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal to honor their commitments.

Ali Baqeri-Kani, Iranian deputy foreign minister for political affairs, made the remarks in an interview with Russia's Sputnik news agency on Friday, days after British Foreign Secretary Liz Truss warned that "all options are on the table" if Iran fails to "meaningfully" engage in talks over its nuclear program.

"In my opinion, such positions are a blame game in order to divert the public opinion from the responsibilities of the European side in the framework of the agreement between Iran and the P5+1, and to show them a false signal," he said.

"Now, the main issue is that the European side has demonstrated its non-compliance with the agreement in recent years, and especially after the withdrawal of the United States from the JCPOA," he added, using the acronym for the official title of the nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. **See Page 7**

Maximum Pressure Policy Blamed for JCPOA-Related Problems

TEHRAN (MNA) - Russia's Permanent Representative for Vienna-based International Organizations said in a tweet that the maximum pressure policy of the former US administration has caused the current JCPOA-related problems.

"There is one obvious aspect which definitely doesn't fall within the category of propaganda- the fact that all the problems were caused by maximum pressure policy of the previous US administration", Mikhail Ulyanov said.

"Just read one by one #IAEA quarterly reports issued in 2016-2021", he added.

He made the remarks in reaction to nonsense claims leveled by an American advisor at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

Hard to view the last 9 months as anything other than a country exploiting Biden admin and Europe's naiveté and irrational obsession with JCPOA to avoid sanctions enforcement, stabilize its economy, avoid IAEA censure and vastly expand nuclear work. Everything else is propaganda, Richard Goldberg, claimed in a tweet. **See Page 7**

Currency Revenue Improving; Inflation Rate Falling



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran says foreign currency revenue of the bank has increased in recent months and improved its leverage to curb volatility in the forex market.

"The government's currency income increased threefold in the first five months [March 21-Oct 22] of the current fiscal year compared to the same period last year," Ali Salehabadi told state TV.

Pointing to pattern of forex repatriated by exporters in the period, he said currency deals between exporters and importers through the Nima platform reached \$16.5 billion in seven months. This was almost double the amount on last year.

"This is while forex trade in the whole of last fiscal year [ended in March] was \$16.7 billion. This shows that we have made progress in augmenting currency income."

He reiterated that the CBI is managing the forex market but it does not sell forex and this is the exporters themselves who offers repatriated fore from exports in the market.

He noted that in case of emergency, the CBI may step into market but it does not intend to use its forex sources in the market.

Salehabadi went on to say that the price of the forex depends on several economic factors and the CBI as a balancer can enter the forex market but the forex resulted from exports and its return to the market will boost economy.

He reiterated that protection of national currency value depends on inflation rate and other economic factors. He also blamed the lack of balance in banking resources as the other factors behind inflation.

He claimed the inflation rate dropped to 6.7 percent last month and the point-to-point inflation is decreasing. Meanwhile data released by the Central Bank of Iran show the reserve requirement of banks increased more than twofold in three years.

The legal reserves rose from 154 trillion rials (\$570 million) in fiscal 2017-18 to 354 trillion rials (\$1.3 billion) by the end of the last fiscal year (March 21) up 129%.

Funds held by banks as reserve with the CBI stood at 194 trillion rials (\$718m) in 2018-19 and 260 trillion rials (\$962m) in 2019-20, respectively, showing annual growth of 26% and 33.7%.

Hackers Take Down Servers of Israeli Company

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) - Hackers have broken into the servers of Israeli internet hosting company Cyberserve, bringing down a number of widely-used websites and warning the firm that it was in possession of data that could be leaked.

"Hello Again! We have news for you," the Black Shadow group wrote in a message circulated on social media on Friday evening.

"You probably could not connect to many websites today. 'Cyberserve' company and their customers hit by us. You may ask what about Data? As always, we have lots of it. If you don't want your Data leaked by us, contact us soon," the hackers added.

The websites of a number of Cyberserve's customers were unavailable on Saturday morning.

According to a report published by the Israeli English-language daily newspaper Jerusalem Post, the data seized by the hackers covers a wide variety of businesses, including Dan and Kavim public transportation companies, the Pegasus travel company and the blogsite of the Kan public broadcaster.

The hacker group released what they say is data from Israeli bus line Kavim on Telegram on Saturday.

"They did not contact us ...So first data is here ! 'Kavim Bus' 'https://www.kavim-t.co.il/'", the Black Shadow said on Telegram, sending with it a picture of what appears to be a database containing Israelis' personal information.

"If you do not contact us , it will be more," the group added.

Last year, the Black Shadow attacked Israeli vehicle insurance company Shirbit, and reportedly demanded bitcoins as ransom.

The company, however, said it wouldn't pay, leading to the dark web sale of information stolen from the firm. The highly sophisticated ransomware designed to extract high quantities of information from its target, as well as demanding 100,000 pounds in bitcoins to stop leaks going public.

The Black Shadow's December 2020 attack on Shirbit was the largest cyberattack against an Israeli company at the time.

Hebrew-language media reports allege the Black Shadow is an Iran-backed group.

A 2020 survey showed that Israeli companies paid out over \$1 billion to hackers as ransom in 2020, with the 2021 figure expected to increase.

Tehran Slams Dual Approach to Human Rights

TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian envoy to the United Nations has called on the world countries to abandon a hypocritical approach to the issue of human rights, and instead pay attention to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a state-driven process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council (HRC).

Zahra Ershadi, deputy permanent representative of Iran to the UN, made the remarks on Friday, during a special hearing at the General Assembly, where the annual report of the HRC was presented.

She said that the protection and promotion of rights should be a common cause, adding the Islamic Republic welcomes genuine and non-political concerns about human rights, as well as dialog and cooperation based on mutual respect.

She also underlined the need for UN member states to respect the diversity of civilizations and development paths independently chosen by countries, and not impose their own social system on others.

Ershadi further expressed concerns about the greed of certain countries to target independent nations with resolutions, warning that such documents are harmful and pose a serious threat to human rights goals. **See Page 7**

BRI Could Help In Improving Afghanistan's Economy

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Both Iran and China have the same view about rooting out terrorism in Afghanistan and its spillover to neighboring countries as well as honoring a non-interference policy and territorial integrity in the country, Iranian Ambassador to China Mohammad Keshavarzadeh told the Global Times in an exclusive interview.

The ambassador noted that Iran supported the use of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative to improve the economy and people's livelihoods in Afghanistan. He praised China's pledge to host the third round of the meeting of foreign ministers of neighboring countries of Afghanistan and noted that Iran will lend its support to China.

"Iran, for its part will lend its support to China and believes that this mechanism will further increase cooperation and understanding among neighboring countries of Afghanistan and contribute effectively to their joint efforts toward helping Afghan people better safeguard their interests and step into the path of peace, inclusiveness, friendship and well-being," he said. **See Page 7**

Iran-EU Meeting "Useful"

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - A European Union (EU) spokesman says a recent meeting between Iran's top negotiator and the EU deputy foreign policy chief in Brussels was "useful" as Tehran and world powers seek to set a date for the resumption of sanctions-removal talks in Vienna.

Peter Stano said on Friday that the Wednesday meeting between Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri-Kani and Enrique Mora in Brussels "helped to define a way forward to resume negotiations in Vienna."

Speaking at a regular briefing, Stano added, "We are working together with other partners, including Iran and other signatories (to the 2015 nuclear deal) to fix a concrete date as early as possible to reconvene in Vienna."

In a tweet following the talks with Mora, Baqeri-Kani said Iran will rejoin the negotiations aimed at the removal of the United States' sanctions against Tehran before the end of November.

"We agree to start negotiations before the end of November. Exact date would be announced in the course of the next week," he tweeted. **See Page 7**

Sokhan Gostar Institute

IRAN NEWS

PRIVATE ENGLISH NEWSPAPER IN IRAN

Advertisement Department

021-44253335-39

www.irannewsdaily.com
info@irannewsdaily.com

@irannewsdaily @irannewsdaily

Housing Prices Fall 0.2% in Tehran

TEHRAN (MNA) - Average housing price fell 0.2 percent in the capital Tehran during the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (ended on October 22), compared to its previous month, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Based on the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in Tehran stood at 316.3 million rials (about \$7,530) during the mentioned month, IRIB reported.

The average housing price in the said month, however, increased by 18.4 percent in comparison to the same month in the previous fiscal year.

President Calls for Reopening of Educational Centers in Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

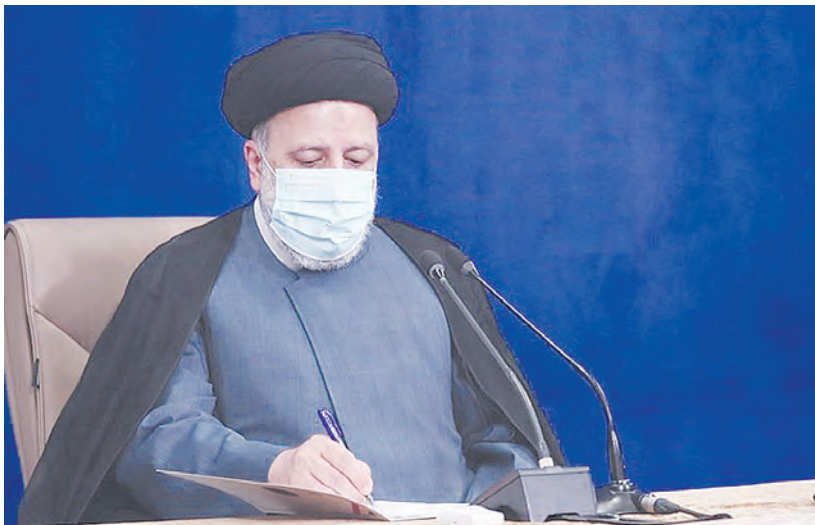
TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi called for arrangements to reopen schools and universities across the country in late November.

In comments at a meeting of the Coronavirus Fight National Headquarters on Saturday, Raisi urged the ministries of Health, Education, and Science to coordinate plans for the reopening of schools and universities as of late November in accordance with the health protocols.

Stressing the need for strict compliance with the health regulations to avert a new wave of the coronavirus pandemic, the president said the scientific and educational centers play a significant role in the dynamism of the society.

Considering that the schoolchildren above the age of 12 and the university students have been receiving the coronavirus vaccine, the educational centers could reopen as of late November, he noted.

The public vaccination program against the coronavirus has gained momentum in Iran



in recent weeks with a hike in the imports of vaccine, opening of new round-the-clock vaccination centers, and inoculation of people above the age of 12.

The President said, "With the set of preventive and appropriate measures that have been taken through the relevant agencies, especially health and treatment, we hope to prevent the next wave and to protect the health of the people effectively".

Referring to the proposal of the Ministry of Interior to develop a one-year roadmap to deal with corona, Dr Raisi stated, "In compiling this roadmap, the opinions of different agencies and all provinces should be used".

Roads Minister Meets Diplomats for Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (MNA) – Minister of Roads and Urban Development met and held talks with the ambassadors of four countries to Iran including Romania, Syria and Armenia on Saturday to discuss bilateral ties and issues of mutual interests.

Rostam Ghasemi discussed mutual ties on relevant issues with envoys to the Islamic Republic of Iran including Romania, Syria and Armenia.

In his meeting with Shafiq Dayoub Syrian Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran on Saturday, Ghasemi said that the new government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in strengthening economic, political and cultural cooperation with the Syrian Arab Republic.

As head of the Iran-Syria Joint Economic Commission, he said that drastic measures will be taken in this regard in line with enhancing bilateral ties in all areas.

The two countries of Iran and Syria is now facing problems in the field of baking transactions, the issue of which would be resolved in the very near future, Ghasemi emphasized.

In his meeting with the Romanian envoy to Iran Mirela-Carmen Grecu, he pointed to the long history of cooperation between Iran and Romania which dates back to 120 years ago and stated that the principle of the foreign policy of the Iranian government is based on mutual respect, peace and friendship between nations and also forging constructive interactions with world countries especially Romania in important Balkan and Black Sea area.

In the meeting of the Iranian minister and Armenian envoy to Iran Artashesh Toumanian, the two sides exchanged their views on the relevant issues related to international transit and transportation between the two countries.

The two sides also discussed road transit, ensuring security and facilitation of transit between Iran and Armenia and connecting railways between the two countries, the pursuit of an agreement to set up Persian Gulf - Black Sea International Transport Corridor and emphasized the need for acceleration of this contract.

Iran Not to Accept New Condition in JCPOA

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Stating that Iran will not accept a new condition in the JCPOA, a member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said that Iran wants serious and new guarantees regarding the deal.

There is no reason for Iran to accept a new condition in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), said Mojtaba Zonnour said.

Referring to Iran's commitment to the JCPOA despite U.S. withdrawal from the deal and imposing sanctions on Iran, he added that now, the United

States and European signatories to the JCPOA should fulfil their commitments.

Western countries should accept Iran's conditions, remove the sanctions against Iran and open new doors in Vienna agreements, he said.

Stating that Iran wants serious and new guarantees regarding the deal so that western countries do not violate the JCPOA provisions again, Zonnour said that western countries have come to the conclusion that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept new conditions in the JCPOA.

Self-Reliance in Manufacturing Agro Machinery

TEHRAN (MNA) - Head of Iran's Agricultural Mechanization Development Center Kambiz Abbasi announced that up to 95 percent of agricultural machinery in Iran is manufactured domestically, IRNA reported on Saturday.

According to Abbasi, the country's agricultural production has increased by 350 percent due to the implementation of the Agriculture Ministry's mechanization programs. Abbasi noted that Iran's domestic industry of agricultural machinery has experienced a boom during the past 10 years thanks to the Comprehensive Agricultural Mechanization Plan ratified by the government for which so far over 200 trillion rials (about \$4.76 billion) has been invested.

One of the basic approaches followed by the ministry for promoting agricultural mechanization in the country over the past few years has been holding international and domestic exhibitions, such as the IFarm Agricultural Exhibition, he said.

"By holding such exhibitions, we have been able to introduce new technologies in the field of agricultural production," he noted.

The official had previously said that the Agricultural Mechanization Development Center plans to increase the country's agricultural mechanization coefficient to 2.3 horsepower per hectare in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Iran's agricultural mechanization coefficient has currently reached 1.65 horsepower per hectare. "Our ultimate goal is to inject enough machines into the sector to improve the status and degree of mechanization in the process of agricultural production," Abbasi said back in April.

According to the official, the Agriculture Ministry has been allocating a separate credit line for the mechanization of the agriculture sector every year, so that since the Iranian calendar year of 1392 so far, nine credit lines have been opened for this sector.

In the past forty years, since the Islamic Revolution, Iran has witnessed a remarkable improvement in various sectors and the agriculture industry has been one of the areas in which the country has undergone huge development.

Biden Pursuing Trump's Sanctions Proves U.S. Unreliable



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says the U.S. Treasury Department's latest move to impose a fresh round of sanctions on Iranian natural and legal persons contradicts Washington's claim of seeking to return to the nuclear deal of 2015 and proves the White House is by no means reliable.

"The imposition of new sanctions exposes the quite contradictory behavior of the White House," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said. He added that an administration that speaks about its intention to return to the JCPOA – the nuclear deal officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – and continues the same policy of former President Donald Trump "is sending the message that is not trustworthy at all."

The Iranian official noted that different U.S. administrations have proved they have no discerning eye for realities in Iran. "Such U.S. measures are in continuation of the Trump administration's failed 'maximum pressure' policy and the country's unlawful and cruel sanctions," which would bring Washington "nothing but new failures" as in the past.

"These pressures and sanctions will fail to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination to defend security and peace of the noble Iranian people. Tehran will continue the path of sustainable economic development with strength."

On Friday, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed a fresh round of sanctions on four individuals and two entities allegedly involved in promoting the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) programs of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and its Quds Force, despite Washington's claims to be serious in rejoining the nuclear deal and removing sanctions against the country.

The Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced it had designated members of a network of companies and individuals that have provided "critical support" to the drone programs. The Treasury claimed the IRGC had supplied lethal UAVs to resistance movements in Lebanon, Palestine, Iraq and Yemen, which have been allegedly used in "attacks on international shipping and on US forces." It claimed that the listed sanctions are part of Washington's ongoing counterterrorism policy, which targets "weapons of mass destruction proliferators and their supporters."

OFAC also imposed sanctions on Saeed Aqajani, the commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Force (IRGC ASF) UAV Command, over an alleged role in an attack on the commercial shipping vessel Mercer Street off the coast of Oman on July 29, which resulted in the death of two crewmen. It claimed Aqajani was also behind a drone attack against a Saudi oil refinery in 2019. Iran has denied the accusations as baseless.

EU Lifts Risk Warning On Iranian Airspace

TEHRAN (MNA) - The European Union's aviation safety agency did not extend its previous risk warning to European airlines over the safety concern of flying in Iranian airspace.

Iranian civil aviation agency had been holding negotiations with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EUSA) and several European countries to dispel their concerns about the safety of Iran's airspace, the acting chairman of Iranian civil aviation agency Siavash Amirmokri said on Saturday.

"In January 2020, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EUSA) issued a statement which banned the European airlines to fly under the altitude of 25,000 feet in Iran's airspace, which was valid until October 30, 2021," Amirmokri added.

The statement added that the risk warning ended on October 30 and was not extended anymore.

Raisi Felicitates Turkey On National Day

TEHRAN (MNA) – In a message to his counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated the Republic Day of Turkey, expressing hope to expand friendly relations with the neighboring country.

Addressing his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in a message on the Iranian President Raisi felicitated him on Republic Day of Turkey, and he expressed hope that the long-standing and friendly relations between the two countries would further expand.

"Mr. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, I cordially congratulate your Excellency and the honorable people of your country on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Turkey", Raisi said in the message.

Raisi further said, "The long-standing and friendly relations between the two countries, which are based on mutual respect, should further expand through joint constant consultations and the officials of the two countries in line with the interests of the two nations and consolidating peace, stability, and tranquility in the region."

"I wish Your Excellency health and success, and the neighboring and friendly people of the Federal Republic of Turkey prosperity and wealth", he added.

Deputy FM Meets With Iranians living in Belarus

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A meeting was held between the Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Expatriates' Affairs of Iran and some Iranians living in Belarus on Friday.

Kazem Sajjadi, Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Expatriates' Affairs, said in the meeting: "Despite the pressures and oppressive sanctions, the Islamic Republic of Iran has overcome the problems."

The Iranians present at the meeting, including students, business people, engineers, and doctors, also expressed their views.

The need to evaluate some courses in Belarus for students and some legal problems for businessmen was discussed.

The meeting was also attended by three Iranians trapped on the border between Belarus and Poland, who managed to return to Minsk after a difficult week and to wander in the forest.

Tehran Urges Sudanese Sides to Engage in All-Inclusive Dialogue

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Foreign Ministry says Iran is "closely monitoring" Sudan's recent developments in the wake of a military coup, calling on all Sudanese sides to engage in dialogue to ensure the promised democratic transition of power is carried out in the North African country.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeid Khatibzadeh said that the "suspicious events that occurred in recent days in Sudan clearly do not contribute to the process of democratic transition" in the African country.

"The undemocratic removal of part of the governing body ignores the will of the Sudanese people and will not achieve the goals that the people of the country are pursuing," he added.

"There are signs of effective interference of foreign agents in these developments to such an extent that Zionists do not conceal the fact that they are pleased with these actions," the Iranian official added.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman also said that Iran emphasizes the need for "vigilance" by the Sudanese Governing Council, and invites all internal parties in the country to take part in "all-inclusive Sudanese-Sudanese dialogue."

Huge anti-government rallies, mostly over deteriorating economic problems, engulfed Sudan more than two years ago, with protesters, mostly young Sudanese, demanding former president Omar al-Bashir to step down.

Bashir was ultimately deposed through a military coup following months of protests in April 2019, after ruling over the African country for three decades.

In August that year, a governing council, comprised of civilian and military leaders, was founded to run the country.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:28
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:01
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:26

60. "Now if ye bring him not to me, ye shall have no measure (of corn) from me, nor shall ye (even) come near me."
61. They said: "We shall certainly seek to get our wish about him from his father: Indeed we shall do it."
Surah 12. Joseph (60 - 61)

Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq Top Destinations for Iran Handicrafts Exports

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Deputy Head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Ministry for export affairs says Iran has exported handicrafts worth of \$47m in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year and Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq have been the major destinations for the handicrafts exports.

Farzad Ojani said that according to the statistics releade by the Iran Customs Administration, some \$47m worth of handicrafts with approximate weight of 20,163 tons have been exported in the first quarter of the year.

He said Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Singapore have been the top destinations for Iran's handicrafts exports as the country has exported mostly precious and semi-precious stones to Singapore.

He added that precious metals and stones, rug, matting, earthenware and ceramic have been of the major exports of Iran in this period.

Ojani reiterated that last year and according to the official statistics, Iran exported \$322m worth of handicrafts with the approximate weight of 112,554 tons. He added that the value of the baggage exports was valued at some \$207m and on the whole



one can say Iran's handicrafts exports last year were \$530m.

He added that wood furniture, rug, mating, copper and traditional glasses were of the major exports items last year and Iraq, Oman, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Azerbaijan were the major target destinations for handicrafts exports last year.

He reiterated that since some of handicrafts are exported or transferred to other countries through baggage and unofficially, it is difficult to have a precise figure on the amount of the handicrafts exports.

Ojani added that the pandemic has affected the national tourism and sales of handicrafts or its exports but the amount of the exports last year was much better than its preceding year.

He noted that Isfahan ranks first in production and export of handicrafts in the country and Tehran ranks in terms of producing jewelry.

He reiterated packing is an important issue in the exports and in case Iran improves its packing, it can export more handicrafts and packing is considered as a serious issue in the handicrafts exports. He admitted that since Afghanistan and Iraq are the major destinations for exports, exporters are unwilling to improve the quality of their packing or spending more on packing of their products.

According to official reports, tourism and handicraft industries have been the major victims of the pandemic and these two industries have suffered badly and many people in these businesses have lost their jobs.

SCO an Opportunity For Iran to Expand Non-Oil Export



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Development of interactions with member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) will provide the Islamic Republic of Iran with a unique opportunity to multiply non-oil exports and improve its economic situation, an Iranian official believes.

All member states of the SCO supported Iran's full membership in the organization on the last day of the 21st SCO summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The membership will bring about political, security, and economic opportunities for Tehran and paves the way for expansion of trade exchanges between Iran and other member states.

Head of the Non-Oil Export Promotion Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Jamshid Nafar said that the official membership is merely the beginning of a path, which needs creation of new infrastructure to help burgeon trade and economic development.

Nafar pointed out that Iran enjoys a unique geographical situation, which can be enhanced through membership in international and regional organizations like the SCO.

According to the official, the membership in the SCO is in line with Iran's strategy of developing relationships with the world, but this aim needs some efforts such as lifting anti-Iran economic and banking sanctions.

The SCO is an effective regional and intra-state organization, which was established by leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan in 2001.

Prior to the 21st summit, the SCO consisted of eight permanent member-states, including India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, and Uzbekistan; as well as four observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus and Mongolia, and Iran; and six dialogue partners of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey, and Sri Lanka.

The organization is of great importance because it has been established to strengthen regional security and stand against Western, NATO, and U.S. unilateralism.

The SCO consists of 40 percent of land and one-fourth of the gross domestic product of the world, so it can provide Iran with a great opportunity to expand trade ties in the regional arena.

Iran's trade ties with the SCO member states stood at 55 million tons worth 15.154 billion dollars in the last Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2020 to March 20, 2021).

China is Iran's main trade partner among the SCO member states. The trade volumes with China, India, Afghanistan, Russia, and Pakistan stand at 3.4, 2.3, 1.6, and 1.2 billion dollars respectively.

Trade Opportunities in Croatia Explored

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) held an online meeting on Saturday to explore investment and trade opportunities in Croatia, the ICCIMA portal reported.

The meeting was attended by the Iranian Ambassador to Zagreb Parviz Esmaili, the ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Mohammad-Reza Karbasi, and representatives of provincial chambers of commerce as well as a number of businessmen interested in doing business in Croatia.

During the meeting, the capabilities and needs of each province were discussed, and accordingly, the existing capacities in Croatia, about which there is a possibility of joint investment and economic cooperation, were also explored.

In this regard, Karbasi underlined establishing direct flights between the two countries, expansion of joint cooperation in the field of health tourism, and signing of sisterhood agreements between different provinces of the two countries as measures that could be taken for boosting mutual trade relations.

He also expressed ICCIMA's readiness and willingness to implement a barter trade management

in collaboration with Iranian specialized parent companies and called on the Iranian Embassy in Zagreb to list Croatian companies wishing to barter goods and services with Iran.

Referring to the high capacities in Iran and the Balkan region, as well as the importance of increasing Iran-Croatia trade interactions, the official underlined the need for using the potentials of the provincial chambers and the Iranian embassy in Croatia to strengthen cooperation in various fields.

He further suggested specialized meetings be held in various fields in cooperation with the Iranian Embassy in Croatia.

Karbasi stressed the need for establishing a joint Iran-Croatia Trade Committee under the supervision of the two countries' chambers of commerce based on a memorandum of understanding signed between the two sides.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Esmaili described the capacities and potential areas in which the two countries can work together.

According to him, Croatia has the most advanced economy in the Balkans after Slovenia and is scheduled to join the Eurozone in 2023.

Chadormalu Co., Yazd Governor General Discuss Removing Hurdles

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – In a joint meeting between the CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company and the governor general of Yazd Province, both sides explored ways for removing hurdles in way of developmental projects of the company.

In this 2-hour meeting, the CEO of Chadormalu Company Eng. Taghizadeh briefed the participants in



the meeting of the projects of the company which are underway for developing activities of the company. He then said that Chadormalu intends to implement tens of projects for its development and completing the steel chain and the related industries with and early assessed budget of 4.5b euros in Yazd Province.

He noted that but several months after presentation of the projects and getting the necessary licenses for construction, its implementation has been postponed due to some reasons.

Taghizadeh said that the company believes in the effective role of mines and industries of the country in the growth and sustainable development, adding that they believe with investment of mega mineral and industrial companies they can spread the inclusive development in the country and it will remove some part of burden on the shoulders of the government. He then announced readiness of the company for implementing the goals of developing the province.

Then new Governor General of Yazd Dr. Fatemi, for his part, hailed the broad measures and developmental

approach of Eng. Taghizadeh and his valuable services in line with the social responsibilities.

He also announced readiness for accelerating the implementation of Chadormalu projects and resolving the existing problems and urged Chadormalu Company to have active participation like in the past for

improving the development of infrastructures like providing drinking water.

Over \$440m of Commodities Traded on IME Last Week

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week enjoyed trade of 1,711,000 tons of commodities valued at \$440m on its physical market.



According to a report by the IME's international affair and PR, within the week, the exchange traded 1,369,000 tons of commodities worth almost \$216m.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,000,050 tons of cement, 302,097 tons of steel, 2,380 tons of copper, 4,475 tons of aluminum, 18 tons of precious metals concentrate, 265 tons of zinc, 16 kg of gold bars and 20,000 tons of sponge iron.

Furthermore, the IME saw trade 331,457 tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued more than \$217m.

Commodities sold on this floor included 98,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 74,906 tons of bitumen, 81,996 tons of polymeric products, 34,967 tons of chemicals, 34,000 tons of lube cut, 4,009 tons of base oil and 3,800 tons of sulfur.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 11,291 tons of commodities traded on it.

Construction of 2.5m-Ton Concentrate Production Unit Being Accelerated



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – During a ceremony and in presence of the CEO of Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC), a MoU was signed for accelerating the construction of the 2.5m-ton iron ore concentrate between KSX and three other countries.

During the ceremony, the CEO of Khorasan Steel Complex Company Mr. Kasra Ghafoori said provision of the raw material is one of the serious concerns of steelmakers in the country. He said provision of iron ore concentrate is one of the concerns of the company and steel industry in eastern country, adding that since taking office in the company he has pursued the necessity of activating the Sangan concentrate project but unfortunately it had been halted for years.

He said with implementation of this project, major part of concern for concentrate shortage will be resolved and expressed hope the company by having access to the raw material would enjoy more power for producing steel and creating job in the region.

He reiterated that Khorasan has been rightly named the third pole of national steel and expressed hope by the support of the provincial officials and government, people of Khorasan can enjoy from this God-given wealth and it can happen through construction of concentrate plant of Khorasan Steel Company.

Iran International Engineering Company (IRITEC), IMPASCO and IMPADCO signed the MoU with Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC).

In the ceremony, the CEO of IRITEC Mr. Babak Ashjaa said that as soon the company gets the pre-payment, it will sign with South African Company NCP to buy the necessary equipment for the project. He add that the whole executive operation, transportation and installation of equipment of the project will ve done in less than 24 months. He said talks with the South African company are underway.

Overhaul Operation at Isfahan Refinery Kicks off

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Director of Maintenance and Repair of Esfahan Oil Refining Company says the company has started the overhaul operation in the catalytic conversion unit No.2 of Isfahan refinery.

Alireza Ghazvinizadeh announcing the news said that according to the studies, the operation will be carried out in 25 days. He added that the company is striving to minimize the period of overhauling by mobilizing its human resources and experts in order to increase the productivity of the refinery.

He said that the overhaul operation will be carried out by 700 official personnel as well as 750 skillful contractor forces. He added that the "Catalytic Conversion" unit or "Catalytic Reformer" is a unit where liquefied and hydrogen gas is produced and also good quality gasoline with high octane for gasoline-functioning machines. Ghaznavizadeh added that during the overhaul operation, some projects for repair and insulation of the flues of the furnaces will be carried out. He noted that so far 15 items for engineering operations have been predicted and it is expected the number to increase during the overhaul.

Esfahan Oil Refining Company almost produces 22 percent of the national fuel through receiving on average 375,000 barrels of oil feed.



Tedros Set to Stay On as WHO Chief

GENEVA (AFP) - Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, one of the most prominent figures during the Covid-19 pandemic, is the sole candidate to lead the World Health Organization once his current term expires, the WHO announced Friday.

In his application letter, the Ethiopian former health and foreign minister said Covid-19 had “ravaged the world” and in a second term, he wanted to make sure the planet was “truly ready” to deal with another such crisis.

Elected to the WHO leadership in 2017, his five-year mandate runs out in August.

“A single candidate was proposed by member states by the September 23, 2021 deadline: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,” the WHO said in a statement.



Myanmar Junta Sentences Suu Kyi Aide to 20 Years

YANGON (Dispatches) - Myanmar’s military junta sentenced a close aide of ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi to 20 years in prison for treason on Friday, his lawyer said.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the February 1 coup, with nationwide protests and more than 1,100 people killed by security forces, according to a local monitoring group.

“U Win Htein was sentenced to 20 years’ imprisonment under section 124a by a special court,” lawyer Myint Thwin told AFP, adding that they would appeal. The former member of parliament is the first high-ranking member of Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy to be sentenced by the junta after a trial.



Taliban Push to Unlock Afghan Billions Abroad



FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - Afghanistan’s Taliban government is pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves as the drought-stricken nation faces a cash crunch, mass starvation and a new migration crisis.

Afghanistan parked billions of dollars in assets overseas with the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe, but that money has been frozen since the Islamist Taliban ousted the Western-backed government in August.

A spokesman for the finance ministry said the government would respect human rights, including the education of women, as he sought fresh funds on top of humanitarian aid that he said offered only “small relief”.

Under Taliban rule from 1996-2001, women were largely shut out of paid employment and education and normally had to cover their faces and be accompanied by a male relative when they left home.

“The money belongs to the Afghan nation. Just give us our own money,” ministry spokesman Ahmad Wali Haqmal told Reuters. “Freezing this money is unethical and is against all international laws and values.” One top central bank official called on European countries including Germany to release their share of the reserves to avoid an economic collapse that could trigger mass migration towards Europe.

“The situation is desperate and the amount of cash is dwindling,” Shah Mehrabi, a board member of the Afghan Central Bank, told Reuters. “There is enough right now ... to keep Afghanistan going until the end of the year.

“Europe is going to be affected most severely, if Afghanistan does not get access to this money,” said Mehrabi.

“You will have a double whammy of not being able to find bread and not being able to afford it. People will be desperate. They are going to go to Europe,” he said.

The call for assistance comes as Afghanistan faces a collapse of its fragile economy. The departure of U.S.-led forces and many international donors left the country without grants that financed three quarters of public spending.

The finance ministry said it had a daily tax take of roughly 400 million Afghanis (\$4.4 million).

Although Western powers want to avert a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan, they have refused to officially recognise the Taliban government.

Haqmal said Afghanistan would allow women an education, although not in the same classrooms as men.

Human rights, he said, would be respected but within the framework of Islamic law, which would not include gay rights.

“LGBT... That’s against our Sharia law,” he said.

Mehrabi hopes that while the United States has recently said it will not release its lion’s share of roughly \$9 billion of funds, European countries might.

He said Germany held half a billion dollars of Afghan money and that it and other European countries should release those funds.

Biden Calls U.S. “Clumsy” In Submarine Deal

ROME (Dispatches) - President Joe Biden on Friday called U.S. government actions “clumsy” during his first meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron since a diplomatic crisis erupted last month over a U.S. security pact with Britain and Australia.

Biden used the meeting at the G20 summit in Rome, Italy, to try to turn the page on a relationship that came under strain over the U.S.-Australia security alliance, known as AUKUS, which also includes the United Kingdom. The pact effectively canceled a 2016 Australian-French submarine deal.

The U.S. decision to secretly negotiate a new agreement drew outrage from Paris. France temporarily recalled its ambassador from Washington, canceled a gala in the U.S. capital and officials accused Biden of acting like former President Donald Trump.

“I think what happened was, to use an English phrase, what we did was clumsy. It was not done with a lot of grace,” Biden said. “I was under the impression certain things had happened that hadn’t happened. And - but I want to make it clear: France is an extremely, extremely valued partner - extremely - and a power in and of itself.”



Poland MPs Approve Belarus Border Wall

WARSAW (Dispatches) - Polish lawmakers on Friday gave the go-ahead to build a controversial wall on the EU member’s eastern border with Belarus, in response to an unprecedented wave of migrants, mostly from the Middle East.

The wall will cost an estimated 353 million euros (\$407 million) and is planned to stretch over more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) on the European Union’s eastern border.

Polish President Andrzej Duda vowed to sign the emergency legislation within the coming days. Thousands of migrants and refugees -- mostly from the Middle East and Africa -- have tried to cross the Polish border from Belarus since August.

The EU accuses Minsk of orchestrating the migrant wave in retaliation for sanctions on the regime of President Alexander Lukashenko over his crackdown on opponents.

Poland has responded to the unprecedented influx by sending thousands of soldiers to the border and implementing a state of emergency there, as well as hastily building a razor-wire fence.

Warsaw has drawn sharp criticism for its hardline approach to the crisis that has seen guards routinely push back migrants and refugees on the border. Non-governmental organisations have warned of increasingly dangerous conditions.

Poland was one of 12 member states that asked the EU to pay for border “barriers” to stop migrants from entering, but last week EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said no.

Von der Leyen, head of the EU’s executive, said she told leaders at a summit in Brussels there was a long-standing position “that there will be no funding of barbed wire and walls”.

Insisting that Poland is “under attack” from Belarus, nationalist Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Thursday the wall was essential to “protect” Poland and that Warsaw had “not asked anyone for help”.

A Polish state of emergency, which prevents journalists and charity workers from going near the frontier, has proved particularly controversial and the EU has called for “transparency”.

Sudanese Vow to Keep Up Protests After Deadly Clashes

KKARTOUM (AFP) - Furious anti-coup Sudanese protesters vowed to press ahead Friday with a campaign of civil disobedience, following deadly clashes with security forces during demonstrations against a widely condemned military takeover.

At least eight people have been killed and 170 wounded in protests since the army’s power grab on Monday, including one protester who died in violence overnight Thursday, when security forces fired tear gas and rubber-tipped bullets, according to medics.

“Confronting peaceful protesters with gunfire is something that should not be tolerated,” said protester Haitham Mohamed in Khartoum. “It will not make us back down; it only strengthens our resolve.”

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan -- Sudan’s de facto leader since the 2019 ouster of veteran autocrat Omar al-Bashir after huge youth-led protests -- on Monday dissolved the country’s civilian-led fragile government and ordered the arrest of several top officials.

Sudan had been ruled since August 2019 by a joint civilian-military council, alongside Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok’s administration, as part of the now stalled transition to full civilian rule.

Hamdok has been placed under effective house arrest, while other civilian leaders are in military detention. The capital has been rocked by days of unrest and is bracing for major demonstrations on Saturday.

Burhan has insisted the military’s takeover “was not a coup” but only meant to “rectify the course of the Sudanese transition”.

On Friday, soldiers from the regular army as well as troops from the much-feared paramilitary Rapid Support Forces patrolled the streets of Khartoum, as well as the twin cities of Khartoum-North and Omdurman, across the Nile river from the capital.

“The military is no different than the previous regime,” protester Mohamed added.

On Friday, security forces tore down protest barricades of tyres and rocks blocking roads, and carried out random searches of people and cars.

Internet has been largely blocked, phone calls intermittently disrupted, and shops largely closed in Khartoum. Many civil servants are refusing to work until the transitional government is restored.

The coup was the latest to have hit the impoverished country, which has experienced only rare democratic interludes since independence in 1956 and spent decades riven by civil war.

It prompted international condemnation and several punitive measures, which will hit a country already mired in a dire economic crisis hard.

The coup was a “grave setback”, U.S. President Joe Biden said Thursday.



Merkel Says Greeks Paid Heavy Price During Debt Crisis

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Outgoing German Chancellor Angela



Merkel on Friday ended her final official visit to Athens by acknowledging that Greeks had paid a heavy price with austerity policies imposed to resolve its debt crisis.

Greece faced a rolling financial implosion from 2009, and Merkel and her ministers demanded huge budget cuts, civil sector layoffs and drastic tax hikes in exchange for their support for bailouts of more than 300 billion euros.

At the height of the crisis in 2012, she was greeted by protesters brandishing images showing her with a Hitler moustache, with German tabloid Bild describing her as “one of the most hated women in Greece”.

“I’ve always stressed my awareness of the impositions and challenges that the Greek were faced with related to the euro question,” Merkel said after meeting Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.

But the chancellor insisted that the adjustment would have been less brutal had Greece and several other EU states undertaken key reforms during times of prosperity. Der Spiegel magazine wrote on Friday that the Greek crisis was “a period of hysteria” where EU solidarity began to fray.

Greece admitted in 2009 that it had massively underreported its public deficit, leading to a panicked sell-off of government bonds and rising costs of borrowing that spread to several other eurozone countries.

“I think we were all very shocked about the susceptibility of the euro for external speculation,” the chancellor admitted Friday.

She said the Greek-German relationship had always had a “good basis” but that it had gone “through difficult times during my tenure”, vowing to visit Greece again as a private citizen. Mitsotakis said on Friday that the Greece of today was “no longer a source of crises and deficits”.

He called Merkel “the voice of reason and stability” and pointed out that she had gone against the advice of her ministers during a turbulent 2015 and “refused to ostracize Greece from the eurozone”.

Starting in 2010, Merkel began to urge Greece’s then Socialist Prime Minister George Papandreou to implement austerity to cut burgeoning public deficits.



Zaferanieh Apt (\$2500)
250sq.m, 4bdrs
S/p, Sauna
J, balcony
marble floor
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Elahieh Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
L.balcony
Fully Furn

Parsian

Farmanieh Apts
(\$1800) 2bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F
(\$2200) 3bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F
(\$3000) 4bdrs, S/p, S, J, F.F

Darrous bldg
2storey, 4unites, 12bdrs
S/pol, S, J, enough pkg lots
green yard, & Fully Furn

Fereshteh Apt (\$2300)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, Sauna
Jacuzzi, balcony, pkg, F.F

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

Jordan office (\$10000)
4storey, 20bdrs, S/pool, S, J
roof garden, enough pkg lots



IRAN NEWS ADVERTISING
44253401

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

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



IRAN NEWS
PUBLISHER OF NEWSPAPERS
ADVERTISING

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

Exxon Posts Strongest Results Since 2017

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Exxon Mobil on Friday pledged to revive a share repurchase program next year as its earnings outlook improved on quarterly results that topped analysts' estimates.

The largest U.S. oil producer posted an adjusted profit of \$1.58 a share, beating the Refinitiv estimate by two cents, with results lifted by oil and gas prices that have more than doubled in the past year.

Third-quarter results reflected the highest refining profit in at least two years, soaring natural gas prices and energy shortages that pushed oil to a three-year high. Crude prices have continued to climb to a near seven-year high.

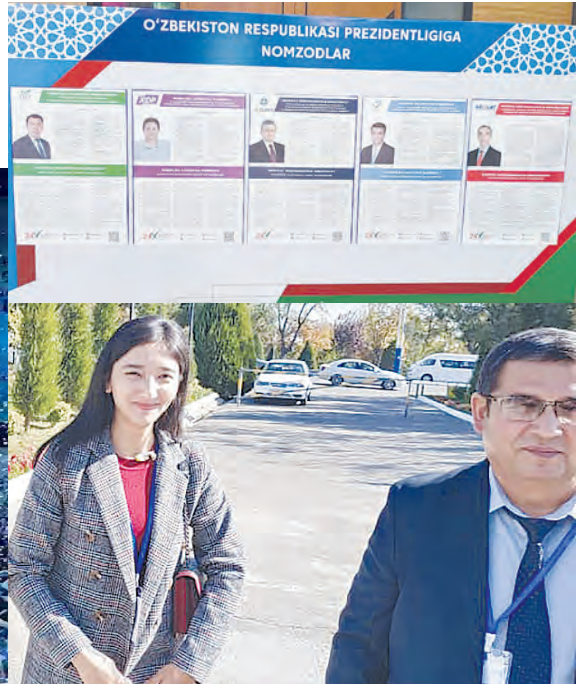
Shares were up 1% at \$64.94 in mid-morning trade.



Uzbekistan the Real Winner of Transparent Presidential Election



BY: F. TAHERPOOR ASL



October 24, 2020 can be a day to be remembered for the people of the Republic of Uzbekistan as the nation by a massive turnout in the second presidential election since the demise of its first leader Islam Karimov and by its overwhelming attendance in the election registered a golden leaf in the history of its young country.

While Uzbeks had recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of independence of their country on September 1, the presidential election for them was more important because international communities were focused on this big political event in the Central Asia to test the democracy in this former Soviet-Union state.

Over some 400 international observers and journalists had been invited to this biggest political event in Uzbekistan which opened a new era in this lovely and hospitable country.

Days before the election, people were preparing themselves for casting their votes for their favorite candidates and from the first moment one could guess who would win the election because the incumbent President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, from the Liberal Democratic Party, was favorite to be re-elected because of his outstanding popularity among the Uzbek people.

Avazbek Vakhidov, Vice Rector for Academic Affairs of Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies, said since Mirziyoyev took the helm of the country as replacement for former President Karimov in 2016, the country has moved towards a new era and changes by opening economy and pursuing some major reforms. He said in the past two years, Uzbekistan has been open to foreign investment and the country has been focused on boosting interaction with the world. He added that Mr. Mirziyoyev was the favorite to win the election because of his good performance in his first term as the president.

This feeling was seen clearly among other Uzbeks and especially among the young generations. They mostly believed Mirziyoyev was the right man for the country to administer it for a better future. Many university students were volunteers to help the observers and journalists during the October 24 election and they explained why the election was important for the country and future of the country.

Currently, there is a new Uzbekistan, a Uzbekistan that has acquired a new image in the international arena. On Sept. 1, the country celebrated the independence of its republic, a celebration backed by what can be called a serious breakthrough when it comes to transparency and openness over the past five years.

The electoral processes were conducted openly, transparently and based on the national electoral legislation and the time frames specified therein. Some important changes and additions had been made to the electoral code this year. For the first time, an estimate of expenses for preparing and conducting the presidential elections was openly presented.

In sum, the organization of the presidential elections in new Uzbekistan is a logical continuation of the ongoing large-scale democratic reforms in the country. According to statistics, the number of media representatives accredited to cover the Uzbekistan presidential elections was over 1,600, the number of international observers reached some 400. This is almost 1.6 times more than in the 2019 parliamentary elections. It is a vivid confirmation of the openness and transparency of our society.

Students of foreign languages this time were available to cooperate with observers and international media reporters and it shows that the country attaches importance on promoting other international languages for better interaction with the world unlike the past that Russian language was dominant.

Zahro was one of the students and was my guide during visit to Samarqand and visiting poll stations. She also hailed the new condition in her country and backed the current president.

According to the Central Election Commission Chairman Zainuddin Nizomojaev, 80.1 percent of those casting ballots supported Mr. Mirziyoyev. He added that 80.4 percent of the some 20m eligible voters took part in the election.

The joint observation mission from the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) and the European Parliament (EP) acknowledged that legal framework has been through extensive reforms in recent years.

Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Yerik Ashimov said the elections were held in accordance with the national legislation and the country's international obligations. He reiterated that the observers did not reveal any violations that cast doubt on the results of the voting.

Mirziyoyev in 2016 and in the first presidential election collected some 90 percent of votes and this year his votes slumped by 9 percent although the number of the eligible voters had risen. The other candidates shared a few percentage points: Maksuda Vorisova of the Popular Democratic Party collected 6.6% of the votes, Aliser Kodirov of the Democratic Part 5.5%, Narzullah Oblomuradov of the Ecological Part 4.1% and Bakrom Abdukhalimov of the Social Democratic Party "Adolat" 3.4%.

Now the Republic of Uzbekistan is expecting more prosperity and more interactions with the world after this transparent and fair election

Russia Needs Higher Interest Rates to Rein in Inflation

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russia will need to raise interest rates further this year to their highest since 2017 and keep them at that level for several months as inflation shows little signs of slowing amid strong

economic recovery, a Reuters poll showed.

Russia's burgeoning inflation is driven by higher prices globally and a weak rouble at home, which dents living standards and prompts the central bank

to raise the cost of lending.

The average of 19 analysts polled in late October suggested the central bank will raise its key rate for the seventh time this year at the Dec. 17 board meeting to 8%.

The year-end forecasts ranged between 7.5% and 8.5% and were above 6.5% that the same poll predicted in late September before the central bank raised the key rate to 7.5% last week and did not rule out further hikes.

Sovcombank analysts said Russia will raise the rate to 8.5% in December as inflation will stay near 8% next month, which "will require a decisive action."

Annual inflation, which the central bank targets at 4%, is expected to finish this year at 7.8%, according to an average of the forecasts, up from 6.5% in the previous poll.

Higher rates are designed to tame inflation, a sensitive issue in Russia, but

could slow economic recovery.

This year, Russia's economy is expected to grow by 4.4%, after suffering its sharpest contraction in 11 years of 3% in 2020.

Higher rates can also support the rouble by making investments into high-yielding rouble assets more attractive.

"The central banks' efforts and the rouble strengthening thanks to prices for non-oil exports could lead to a sharp slowdown in inflation the first half of 2022 when high rates can start suppressing economic growth," said Anton Tabakh, chief economist at Expert RA rating agency.

In the longer run, the average of forecasts in the poll suggested the rouble will trade at 72.75 to the dollar and 83.50 to the euro 12 months from now, compared with forecasts of 72.70 and 86.00 respectively in the previous poll.

Russia's official exchange rates on Friday stood at 70.52 per dollar and 81.84 per euro.

Delta Wave Slowed U.S. Economic Growth in Q3

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. economic expansion slowed dramatically in the third quarter to an annual rate of just two percent as consumer spending was choked by resurgent Covid-19 infections, the government said.

The spread of the Delta variant of the virus over the summer combined with renewed restrictions and global supply snags including shortages of workers and computer chips took a toll on the economy, cutting growth from the 6.7 percent pace in the prior quarter.

The data was a setback for President Joe Biden and came shortly before he unveiled a \$1.75 trillion social spending package that will anchor his "Build Back Better" agenda and serve as the signal achievement of his presidency -- if it wins congressional approval.

Biden called the framework "historic," saying it would help create jobs and "put us on a path not only to compete but to win the economic competition for the 21st century against China and every other major country in the world."

The latest impact of the pandemic on the world's largest economy was most notable in the more than 26 percent collapse in purchases of big-ticket manufactured goods in the latest three months, the Commerce Department reported.

That drop was partly offset by the 7.9 percent increase in spending on services like travel and hotels, though that was slower than the gain in the prior quarter, according to the data.

Despite the worse-than-expected result in the latest quarter, economists are confident growth will accelerate at the end of 2021. "Growth was crushed by consumption slowing" as government-funded pandemic stimulus payments ended, said Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics.

But he predicted the fourth quarter "will be very different; spending on services is already rebounding as Delta subsides."

Kevin Brady, the top Republican lawmaker on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, said the data shows "economic growth has already peaked for President Biden's presidency."

He warned that the new spending plan "will drive prices up higher and longer."

Rising prices -- including oil pushing above \$80 a barrel for the first time in years -- have become a growing source of concern, raising fears inflation could spiral out of control and force the Federal Reserve and other central banks to hike interest rates and slow growth.



There was some good news as inflation measured by the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index retreated in the July-September period, but remained at a still-high 5.3 percent compared to 6.5 percent in the second quarter.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, the closely-watched inflation gauge increased only 4.5 percent.

Inflation is expected to continue to rise until the pandemic-inflicted bottlenecks are resolved worldwide, likely sometime in 2022.

The hot real estate market, which has seen home sales and prices surging during the pandemic, showed signs of cooling as residential investment dropped nearly eight percent, according to the data.

OPEC+ Expected to Stay the Course on Oil Output Plans

LONDON (Dispatches) - An OPEC+ committee largely stuck to forecasts of a strong demand rebound this year and next ahead of a meeting next week, at which the group is expected to rubber stamp a planned output increase of 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) in December.

The Joint Technical Committee (JTC), which met on Thursday, now expects oil demand to grow by 5.7 million bpd in 2021, 120,000 bpd below OPEC's forecast in its latest monthly report, two OPEC+ sources said.

The JTC left its demand forecast for next year steady at 4.2 million bpd, one of the sources said.

That source said the revision for 2021 was "nothing to worry about" because it was an update of actual data and rounding.

OPEC+ forecasts are still higher than those of the International Energy Agency (IEA), which expects oil demand to grow by 5.5 million bpd in 2021 and 3.3 million bpd in 2022.

Ministers from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Russia and their allies - collectively known as OPEC+ - meet on Nov. 4 to decide output policy.

This week Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak told Reuters he expected OPEC+ to go ahead with its planned increase for December, as previously agreed.

"Demand (for oil) can decline as there is still uncertainty. We also see there is yet another pandemic wave spreading across the world," Novak said.

That view was echoed by other ministers in the group.

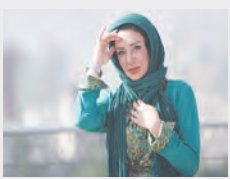
"The situation of the oil market indicates that the increase in December ... should not exceed 400,000 bpd," state news agency APS quoted Algerian Energy Minister Mohamed Arkab as saying on Thursday.

Saudi energy minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman twice dismissed calls this week by major consumer nations to speed the rate of OPEC+ production increases, saying the group does not expect crude oil shortages in the market.



Iranian Actress Wins South American Film Award

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian actress Zhaleh Dorostkar won the Best Actress of Narrative Short Film Award in the South America Awards film festival for the short film “Motherhood”. “Motherhood” directed by Alireza Pirband experienced its 15th international presence in October 2021 competition of the South America Awards. The short film has been so far nominated for various awards, winning 4 international prizes. It depicts hours-long excerpt of a young mother who struggles for the future of her baby girl in the streets of Tehran, capital of Iran.



World Urged to Shut Nearly 3,000 Coal Plants to Keep on Climate Track

LONDON (Dispatches) - The world will need to shut down nearly 3,000 coal-fired power plants before 2030 if it is to have a chance of keeping temperature rises within 1.5 degree Celsius, according to research by climate think tank TransitionZero. In a report published days before the UN COP26 climate change summit in Glasgow, TransitionZero said there are currently more than 2,000 gigawatts (GW) of coal-fired power in operation across the world, and that needs to be slashed by nearly half, requiring the closure of nearly one unit per day from now until the end of the decade. The need to close nearly 1,000 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity would put the onus on China – the world’s biggest source of climate-warming greenhouse gas and owner of around half of the world’s coal-fuelled plants – to accelerate its shift towards cleaner electricity. “The logical conclusion is that half of the effort will need to come from China,” said Matt Gray, TransitionZero analyst and author of the report. China has reduced the share of coal in its total energy mix from 72.4 percent in 2005 to 56.8 percent last year, but absolute consumption volume has continued to rise. President Xi Jinping vowed earlier this year that China would start to cut coal use, but only after 2025. Its coal strategy has also come under added scrutiny in recent weeks as regulators try to find the extra volume required to resolve an energy crunch that has forced factories to shut and put winter heating and electricity supply at risk. Gray said while coal consumption will rise in the short term, the crisis is forcing China to accelerate reform that will eventually help the country reduce its fossil fuel reliance. A recent policy aimed at forcing operators of coal-fired power generators to sell



electricity via the wholesale market will expose them to competition from renewable sources and further underscore their lack of competitiveness, he added. “I think it is fair to say that keeping the lights on and keeping buildings warm will be the exclusive priority of the Chinese government coming into winter,” he said. “But our hope is for this crisis to be seen as a wake-up call for being reliant on coal-fired power.”

Bulgaria Now Europe’s 6th Poorest Country With GDP Per Capita at 12.77 euro



SOFIA (Dispatches) - Whether it is Luxembourg, Switzerland or Norway, the focus is often on the wealth of European countries. But there are always two sides to the coin. Because people in Europe are also struggling to survive. A brief overview of the poorest countries in Europe, measured as gross domestic product per capita converted into euros. The first is Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is the poorest country in Europe. The unemployment rate alone is 40 per cent. It is the third-highest level in the world after Djibouti and Congo. This puts Bosnia and Herzegovina far below the level of its poor neighbors. GDP per capita is 7.46 euros. Albania follows. Over the last two decades, poverty in Albania has decreased significantly. However, about one-seventh of Albanians are still considered poor. More than five per cent of the population is malnourished, and about eleven per cent of children under the age of five suffer from growth retardation. Infrastructure is the biggest problem in the country. Therefore, Albania is very unattractive to foreign investors. GDP per capita is 8.50 euros. The “bronze” medal is for RN Macedonia. It is the third poorest country in Europe. The Balkans continue to be considered the most volatile region in Europe. More than two-thirds of the population of the former Yugoslav republic live in rural areas. GDP per capita is 9.20 euros. Serbia is fourth. In the last 30 years, the people of Serbia have experienced a huge political conflict: the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the wars that accompanied it, and the international isolation from the community of states. Poverty continues to be a pressing social problem in Serbia. According to the World Bank, about 25 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line. High levels of corruption and poor infrastructure are a serious burden on the country. More than 1.3 million people are struggling to survive. GDP per capita is 9.92 euros. Montenegro is in fifth place. Compared to other European countries, Montenegro is extremely small and can easily be ignored, but poverty is staggering. Unemployment is twice the EU average. Most of the income comes from the services sector. GDP per capita is 10.13 euros. The sixth place is for Bulgaria. It is one of the poorest countries in Europe. 65 per cent of the population is currently unable or barely able to cover their living expenses. This is due to the high level of indebtedness of state-owned companies in the energy sector and hospitals, poor infrastructure and the threat of population decline. GDP per capita is 12.77 euros. Seventh is Belarus, which is also still hit hard by the economic crisis. In recent years, the situation has improved very little. More than a quarter of Belarus’ population still lives below the poverty line. This mainly affects children - they are the biggest victims of this problem. Roma children and those living in remote rural areas are most affected by poverty. GDP per capita is 13.42 euros.

BRI... FROM PAGE 1

During the Second Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan hosted in Tehran on Wednesday, it was announced that the third round of the meeting will be held in 2022 in China. The diplomat told the Global Times that “Iran is also supporting giving full play to the role that regional economic initiatives and organizations like the Belt and Road Initiative, SCO and ECO can have in improving the economy and the livelihood of the people of Afghanistan.” According to the diplomat, the meeting mechanism of Afghanistan’s neighboring countries serves as a “very important regional arrangement to support peace, reconciliation and national unity in Afghanistan.” China’s State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi participated in Wednesday’s meeting via video link. Wang stressed the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation at the meeting. “Not only do we need to encourage the new Afghan authority to make a clean break with terrorist forces, but we also need to support it in independently, resolutely and effectively combating all extremist and terrorist organizations, including ISIL and the ETIM,” he said. Keshavarzadeh told the Global Times that all of the neighboring countries are very much concerned about terrorism in Afghanistan. He called on the Taliban to strive to fulfil its commitment to counter-terrorism. Iran and China share common views on different regional and international issues, said the diplomat who stressed that an inclusive and broad-based political structure with the participation of all ethno-political groups is the only solution to the Afghan issue. “Tehran’s meeting was mainly concentrated on promoting the political solution to the Afghanistan crisis. Iran’s position on this has been consistent and principled. We believe that forming an inclusive political structure that represents all ethnic and religious groups of this country is an imperative and during this conference Iran has reaffirmed that international recognition would not fly without internal reconciliation and a full-fledged representative government at home. Regional countries and members of the international community at large should help bring about a consensus in Afghanistan to secure lasting peace and prosperity,” he said. Another point of significance, the ambassador

Iran-EU... FROM PAGE 1

Washington re-introduced the sanctions against Iran in 2018, after leaving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a historic nuclear agreement that had lifted the inhumane economic bans in return for some voluntary restrictions on Iran’s nuclear energy program. Following a year of strategic patience, Iran resorted to its legal rights stipulated in Article 26 of the JCPOA, which grants a party the right to suspend its contractual commitments in case of non-compliance by other signatories, and let go of some of the restrictions imposed on its peaceful nuclear program. Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA have held six rounds of talks in Austria’s capital, Vienna, since April, which began after the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden voiced willingness to rejoin the agreement. The talks were, however, put on hold in the run-up to Iran’s presidential election in June so that the Islamic Republic could go through a period of government transition.

noted, is how to face the legacy of foreign interference in the region. “In this regard, any kind of action that could lead to renewal of irresponsible and bullying actions in Afghanistan should be avoided and the US and its NATO allies who created this chaotic situation should not shrink from their responsibilities,” said the ambassador. He mentioned that it’s important for Afghanistan to have access to its financial resources in order to avoid further suffering, especially as winter approaches. “Last but not the least is the fundamental importance of observing human rights in Afghanistan, in particular the rights of women and girls and all ethnic and religious groups,” he said. The ambassador did not respond directly to the question about what conditions are required for Iran to recognize a Taliban-led government as Afghanistan’s legitimate government. Instead, he said that Iran, as a neighbor which has historical links and a long border with Afghanistan, never looks at Afghan issues from such a position. “Afghanistan’s political structure and development path are up to the Afghan people to decide. All the ethno-political groups and parties should participate in an inclusive government that will lead to national reconciliation, peace and integrity,” he said. According to the ambassador, Iran now hopes to help with the urgent needs of Afghan people. Sending humanitarian assistance, opening borders at the earliest possible time to facilitate and normalize trade activities, providing fuel for the coming cold season, paying due attention to refugees and displaced people and keeping the diplomatic missions functioning are all important actions taken by Iran in accordance with brotherly relations, he said. He called on the international and regional organizations, in particular the UN and its agencies, to shoulder responsibilities and provide Afghanistan and its neighboring countries with necessary assistance. He said that Iran has declared its readiness to act as the hub for delivering goods and equipment into Afghanistan. “Since Iran has been hosting more than 3 million Afghan nationals for more than three decades and its economy is strained by illegal and oppressive sanctions by the US, Iran should be provided with support from members of the international community in facing the issue of refugees coming from Afghanistan.”

Threats Meant to... FROM PAGE 1

Baqeri-Kani also complained that the European parties had gone as far as sanctioning humanitarian items such as food, medicine and medical equipment. “Therefore, in my view, such positions show that they (the Western states) have a political will to divert the public attention from their responsibilities and to give wrong addresses to public opinion,” he concluded. The remarks came amid a pause in Vienna sanctions removal talks between envoys from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries — Britain, France, Russia, and China plus Germany. The negotiations stalled in June, when Iran held a presidential election. Since then, Tehran has been reviewing the details of the six rounds of the discussions held under the previous administration. Iran and Russia stress that the new talks with remaining parties to the nuclear agreement would succeed only if they lead to the removal of anti-Iran sanctions. Elsewhere in his interview, the Iranian deputy foreign minister stressed that the Islamic Republic is the only country that is fully honoring its obligations under the JCPOA. The nuclear deal, he noted, has been the product of continuous and lengthy negotiations and fully implemented by Iran, even now that the country is not fulfilling some of its obligations under the JCPOA’s Articles 26 and 36. “The American side violated both the agreement and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 by its pullout from the JCPOA. Although the European side did not withdraw from the JCPOA, it practically showed its non-compliance with the deal’s provisions and implementation. Accordingly, the Islamic Republic is currently the only stable party to the agreement between Iran and the P5+1, and thus the latter must be held accountable for their actions in violation of UNSC Resolution 2231,” he said.

Maximum Pressure Policy... FROM PAGE 1

The 2015 deal, more formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was signed by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council — the US, the UK, China, Russia, and France — plus Germany and the EU. Despite the International Atomic Energy Agency’s acknowledgement of Iran’s adherence to all of its obligations, the US government unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in May 2018. The U.S. government has imposed sanctions under various pretexts in line with its hostile goals against the Islamic Republic of Iran and the advancement of its economic war against Iran.

Tehran Slams Dual... FROM PAGE 1

“The government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates that the instrumental and selective use of human rights and the adoption of a dual approach should be abandoned once and for all, and instead, attention should be paid to human rights mechanisms such as the UPR,” she said. Moreover, the Iranian envoy reaffirmed her opposition in principle to the non-recognition of country mandates established under the Human Rights Council’s special procedures. “Iran ... will continue its real interaction with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other competent human rights mechanisms of the United Nations with the aim of cooperation to protect and promote human rights,” she pointed out. “In addition to fulfilling its international obligations to help promote and protect human rights on a global scale, the Islamic Republic focuses on serving the Iranian people, deepening the democratic system of the government and institutionalizing the country’s rights achievements.” Also in her comments, Ershadi condemned unilateral acts of coercion that violate the principles of the UN Charter, international law, multilateralism and the fundamental norms of international relations. Such coercive measures, she noted, were designed to prevent people’s access to medicines and deplete Iran’s resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. She further stressed the important role of the Human Rights Council “in confronting and dealing with the evil waves of racism, violent extremism and terrorism. The HRC has a key role in raising global awareness about the vicious movements of extremism and terrorism.”

Tierney Closing in On Arsenal Return

LONDON (Dispatches) - Arsenal will take a late call on including left back Kieran Tierney in their squad for tomorrow's Premier League clash against Leicester City, manager Mikel Arteta said.

The 24-year-old Scot was ever present in Arsenal's defence this season but suffered a bruised ankle in their 2-2 home draw against Crystal Palace and missed the league victory over Aston Villa and the League Cup win over Leeds United.

"He's progressing, training. Let's see how he is today. He felt a bit better in the last few days but wasn't 100 per cent to start the other day," Arteta told reporters.

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

ISSN 1024-6053

P.O. Box: 15875-8551

Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St.,

Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzdar

Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Printed by: Honar Sarzmin Sabz

Distributed by:

Cities of Iran Cultural and

Artistic Institute

Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asl

UEFA Orders Union Berlin Partial Stadium Closure

BERLIN (Dispatches) - UEFA ordered Union Berlin on Friday to close part of their stadium for their next European fixture due to "racist behavior" of their fans during a Europa Conference League match last month.

European soccer's governing body said the incident took place during Union Berlin's 3-0 group stage win over Israeli club Maccabi Haifa at Olympiastadion, Berlin on Sept. 30. In addition to the closure of two sectors where home fans sit the governing body also ordered Union Berlin to display a banner with the wording "#NoToRacism" in their next home UEFA competition game.

Thunder Shock Lakers With 26-Point Comeback

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The comeback matched the largest in Thunder history and helped the team claim its first win of the season despite several late miscues.

Up three in the final minute, Oklahoma City had a timeout remaining but didn't use it, and Gilgeous-Alexander couldn't get the ball across halfcourt in time, giving the ball back to Los Angeles with 16.8 seconds remaining. Malik Monk then missed a 3-pointer, the Thunder gave up the ball again, and Carmelo Anthony missed another.

Russell Westbrook, making his first appearance for the Lakers in the city where he spent his first 11 NBA seasons, was ejected in the closing seconds after being called for his second technical foul of the game. Westbrook was upset after Darius Bazley's steal and dunk in the last five seconds.

Kings 110, Suns 107

Harrison Barnes buried a tiebreaking 3-pointer at the final horn, allowing Sacramento, after blowing a late 13-point lead, to escape with a dramatic victory at Phoenix.

Buddy Hield came off the bench to score a team-high 26 points, Barnes finished with 22 and De'Aaron Fox chipped in with 18 for the Kings, who opened a four-game trip by snapping a two-game losing streak.

Hawks 102, Pelicans 99

Trae Young scored 31 points and John Collins added a double-double as visiting Atlanta held off New Orleans.

Collins finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds, including a tiebreaking putback in the final minute. Atlanta's De'Andre Hunter scored 13, and Bogdan Bogdanovic added 12.

Devonte' Graham scored 21 points, Brandon Ingram had 20 points and eight assists and Jonas Valanciunas had 16 points and 15 rebounds for the Pelicans.

Martinez Extends Inter Contract Until 2026

MILAN (Dispatches) - Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez has signed a new contract at the Italian giants until 2026, the Serie A club said in a statement.

Martinez, 24, was approaching the final 18 months of his contract but talks for a new deal had reportedly been ongoing for the past several months.

The Argentina international had earlier this year admitted that he was close to joining Barcelona in 2020 but the transfer broke down due to financial reasons.

"I am very happy to be here and to stay there for so long. I send a big hug to all the Nerazzurri fans. Come on Inter!," Martinez told the club website.

Martinez, who moved to Italy from Argentine side Racing Club for a reported fee of €25 million (RM121.2 million) in 2018, has scored 54 times in 144 games for Inter in all competitions, winning the Scudetto last season.

Coutinho Rejoins Brazil For World Cup Qualifiers

RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - Barcelona midfielder Philippe Coutinho got the call-up from Brazil coach Tite on Friday after a year-long absence for upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Colombia and Argentina.

Coutinho, 29, was sidelined by a knee injury, but has recently resumed playing regularly with Barca.

"He's a midfielder who creates plays, a great player regaining his form," Tite told a press conference, announcing his squad.

Tite did not however recall 21-year-old Vinicius Junior, despite a sizzling start to the season at Real Madrid.

The coach also left out Richarlison, whose season is off to an injury-troubled start at Everton.

Neymar will lead Brazil's attack.

The 29-year-old superstar will be looking to turn around a disappointing start to the season, including a lackluster performance in Brazil's 0-0 draw against Colombia on October 10.

Trail Blazers 116, Grizzlies 96

CJ McCollum recorded 25 points and six rebounds and Damian Lillard added 20 points and 10 assists to help Portland post a victory over visiting Memphis.

Jusuf Nurkic added 17 points, eight rebounds and three steals and Anfernee Simons scored 17 points off the bench for the Trail Blazers. Portland committed 14 turnovers after giving the ball up 30 times in Monday's 116-86 road loss to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Raptors 118, Pacers 100

Fred VanVleet scored 26 points and grabbed a career-best 10 rebounds and Toronto defeated visiting Indiana.

OG Anunoby added 25 points with five steals and Scottie Barnes had 18 points, seven assists and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who won for the second time in five games this season and for the first time in four home games. Pacers guard Malcolm Brogdon, who had 18 points, left the game early in the third quarter with a sore left hamstring and did not return. Chris Duarte scored 14 points for the Pacers, who have lost four of five games.

Cavaliers 92, Clippers 79

Collin Sexton scored 26 points, Evan Mobley recorded 12 points and 10 rebounds in his return to Los Angeles and Cleveland led the Clippers nearly wire-to-wire.

Cleveland never trailed en route to its third consecutive win and second on a five-game road swing, and the score was tied only once. A Sexton free throw inside the first three minutes gave the Cavaliers a 3-2 lead, and they were on top the rest of the way.

Timberwolves 113, Bucks 108

D'Angelo Russell scored a team-high 29 points and had six assists as Minnesota held on for a win at Milwaukee.

Karl-Anthony Towns and Anthony Edwards finished with 25 points apiece for the Timberwolves, who won their first road game of the season. Jarred Vanderbilt posted a double-double with 10 points and 13 rebounds in his first start of the season.

Heat 106, Nets 93

Bam Adebayo totaled 24 points and nine rebounds as visiting Miami dominated inside against Brooklyn.

Jimmy Butler added 17 points, 14 rebounds, seven assists and four steals. P.J. Tucker added 15 points and seven boards as the Heat survived shooting 39.6 percent.

Alcaraz Reaches Vienna Semifinal

VIENNA (Dispatches) - Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz held his nerve in the final-set tie-break to beat Matteo Berrettini 6-1 6-7 (2/7), 7-6 (7/5) in the quarter-finals of the ATP event in Vienna.

The 18-year-old easily took the first set, lost the second on a tie-break before sealing victory over the Wimbledon finalist on his third match point in the third-set tie-break.

Alcaraz broke the Italian's first two service games of the match and cruised to the first set in 29 minutes.

The second set went with serve, although Berrettini saved two break points in the fifth game before taking the tie-break comfortably.

Alcaraz broke the Italian in the fourth game of the final set and led 4-1 but Berrettini broke back to love in the seventh game.

After Alcaraz raced to a 6-3 lead in the tie break, Berrettini held his serve on the first two before the Spaniard sealed victory on his own serve to reach his first ATP 500 semi-final.

Alcaraz is the fifth-youngest semi-finalist in an ATP 500 event. The record is held by Zverev, who aged 17 reached the last four in Hamburg in 2014.

The Spaniard reached 38 in the world in September after progressing to the last eight at the US Open -- the youngest men's quarter-finalist in that Grand Slam tournament in 58 years.



Laporta Wants Xavi as Barca Coach

MADRID (Dispatches) - Barcelona president Joan Laporta said today he has received glowing reports about Xavi Hernandez's credentials as coach and admitted he would like to have him as Barca coach during his presidency.

But Laporta refused to confirm Xavi will succeed Ronald Koeman, who was sacked on Wednesday night, and maintained Barca have "other options".

Manchester City coach Pep Guardiola said he has "no doubt" that Xavi is ready to coach the club.

Laporta's enthusiastic assessment of Barca's legendary former midfielder will be taken as a strong indication that he is the preferred replacement for Koeman.

After a glittering career at Camp Nou, Xavi left in 2015 to play for Al Sadd in Qatar before becoming coach of the team two years ago.

"I said it when he went to Qatar, that Xavi would end up being the coach of Barca, in fact I would like him to be coach of Barca during my presidency — what I don't know is when," said Laporta in a press conference today.

"It is true the reports we have about him are very good. I have not followed Al Sadd, but we have talked about Barca games on the phone. We have watched games together almost. Let me say no more. For all the talk of Xavi there are also other options. Barca have other options."

Barcelona's B team coach Sergi Barjuan has been put in temporary charge and Laporta said the expectation is he will be in the dugout for the games against Alaves in La Liga tomorrow and Dynamo Kiev in the Champions League on Tuesday.

TV Series on Maradona Promises New Details, And Controversy

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - A new drama series based on the life of late Argentine footballer Diego Maradona promises to reveal little-known details about the turbulent life and times of the legendary player and has already caused controversy in his homeland.

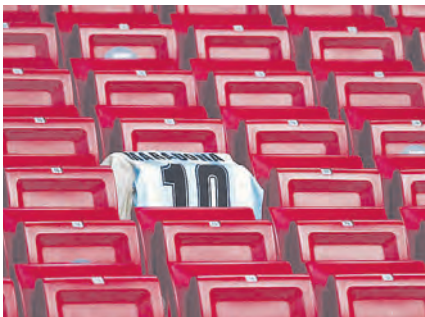
The series, which was being filmed for Amazon Prime Video when Maradona died of a heart attack in November 2020, tells the story of his rise from humble origins on the outskirts of Buenos Aires to global superstar who battled alcohol and drug addiction.

Maradona: Blessed Dream mixes archive footage with dramatized scenes from his life over 10 one-hour episodes. It will premiere in Argentina and around the world on Friday.

Four different actors play Maradona at various stages of his life, and others appear as former players, coaches, agents and family. "Would he have liked it?" Nicolas Goldschmidt, one of the actors who plays Maradona, said in an interview with Reuters. "I hope with all my heart the answer is yes."

The famously unpredictable Maradona approved the script before his death, prompting speculation that some of the details will surprise. It certainly kicks off in dramatic fashion, with a 40-year-old Maradona on a beach, overweight and out of breath. About to be hospitalized after overdosing on cocaine, his business manager Guillermo Coppola tries to hide the event from the world's media.

Maradona's highs are well known: the successful years with Italian club Napoli, his spells with Boca Juniors, and of course the historic performances that helped Argentina win the 1986 World Cup.



Solskjaer Hits Out at "Lies"

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer has backed midfielder Paul Pogba's decision to publicly denounce a media report as "fake news" and vowed to fight back from the difficult position he has found himself in.

Solskjaer came under intense criticism after United's shocking 5-0 home defeat by Liverpool on Sunday but ahead of Saturday's trip to Tottenham Hotspur the Norwegian was in bullish mood.

Pogba had posted a response to a tabloid media report that said he had "snubbed" Solskjaer and stopped talks over a possible new contract with the club, labelling it "fake news" and commenting: "Big lies to make headlines".

"We expect to be criticized because, hands up, the performance wasn't good enough, you expect to hear it from right, left and center, but we don't expect or can't accept when lies are being made up," said Solskjaer.

"Paul came to me and told me what he has put out on his social media account and ... when it is blatant lies we have got to stand up and say so," added the Norwegian.

"All the opinions and reports, fine but don't make up lies about players or me," he said. The United boss has received a timely boost on the injury front with French defender Raphael Varane fit

