

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 127,439 With 140 More Iranians Killed by the Deadly Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

The Infrastructures Are Ready for Implementing the New Agreement Between Iran and Turkmenistan On Railroad Project Via Sarakhs Border in Northeastern Iranian Province of Razavi Khorasan

VOL. XXVII, No. 7356 TEHRAN Price 40,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 2021 - ABAN 18, 1400

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Tehran Denies Vietnam Summoned Its Envoy

TEHRAN (IP) - A government source in Tehran denies reports that Vietnam summoned Iranian envoy over tanker seizure. An Iranian government source has denied a report claiming that Iran's ambassador in Vietnam has been summoned in the country over a military incident in the Sea of Oman last month that involved a Vietnamese-flagged oil tanker. The source told the semi-official Fars news agency on Sunday that there had been "no summoning at all" and that the Iranian envoy in Hanoi had been invited to the Vietnamese foreign ministry for discussions on the confiscation of the tanker by Iranian officials. Earlier this week, Iran's elite military force the IRGC released videos of an operation that had taken place on October 25 in which Iranian marine forces came close to a confrontation with US forces in the Sea of Oman over the Vietnamese tanker MV Sothys. Iranian officials said IRGC forces had boarded the ship which contained a large cargo of Iranian crude because U.S. forces were planning a pirate attack on the tanker. Fars described the report by the AFP news agency on summoning of the Iranian envoy in Hanoi as a fabrication. It reiterated previous reports showing that that Vietnamese officials had been seeking information about the MV Sothys, which has anchored off the southern Iranian coast, adding that Hanoi has been ensured of the safety of the ship's crew members.

U.S. Should Accept Liability for Status Quo, Remove Sanctions



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Foreign Ministry Spokesman says the United States must remove all sanctions against the Islamic Republic and provide firm assurances that it sincerely intends to return to the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement. Saeed Khatibzadeh said at a weekly press conference on Monday that Washington needs to guarantee that no future U.S. president would be able to "make a mockery of the world and international law" again by repeating the U.S. withdrawal from the deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "The path for a U.S. return to the JCPOA is quite clear," he said. Washington, as "the culprit responsible for the status quo, needs to accept to come back from the path it has taken." The diplomat explained that the U.S. then needs to remove all the cruel and illegal sanctions it has slapped against Tehran following its unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear deal in May 2018 "in one go and in an effective way." Khatibzadeh underscored that Washington is no longer a party to the JCPOA, and therefore cannot urge the remaining parties to do things in that regard. The U.S., first and foremost, would better "prove its brotherhood," he said, dismissing Washington's cynical stance on Iran's willingness to fully honor the deal. According to Khatibzadeh, President Joe Biden's administration has done in practice the opposite of what it has promised to do in words. The spokesman also referred to IAEA Director General's latest remarks and advised him not to be entrapped by the non-technical behavior of some countries. Khatibzadeh, reacting to the recent remarks of Rafael Grossi, Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency said: "I call on them to the clear skies of the Agency's statutes and safeguards laws and advise them not to be entrapped by the non-technical behavior of some countries. It is also easier for them to fly in the clear sky with the applicable rules." Referring to Iran-Turkey relations Khatibzadeh said: "Relations between the two countries are expanding in terms of economy, politics, security, and in recent years we have had close relations in economic dimensions." Regarding the relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Khatibzadeh highlighted: "Over the past three decades, we have always opposed the occupation of Azerbaijan and supported its territorial integrity and sovereignty. Last year, after the part of the occupied territories was liberated, we congratulated the Azerbaijani people and government, and we welcome this anniversary. The will of the leaders of the two countries is to expand relations, and there are regular talks between the foreign ministers and other officials, and we hope to see the development of relations as much as possible and not to repeat misunderstandings in the field of media."

U.S. Shocked by IRGC Heliborne Operation In Abortive Act of Piracy

TEHRAN (pressTV) - A senior commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has slammed a recent "desperate" attempt by the United States to seize an Iranian oil shipment in the strategic Sea of Oman, saying in their act of piracy, the Americans were "shocked" by the elite military force's heliborne operation. "The Americans, together with their agents, sought to steal [Iran's] oil, prevent the oil's sale, implement the sanctions project, and humiliate the Iranian people, but they were taken aback," IRGC Deputy Commander for Political Affairs Brigadier General Yadollah Javani told Tasnim news agency. He added that the IRGC Navy managed to "cleverly capture the oil tanker by carrying out a heliborne operation and steered the ship towards the Islamic Republic's waters." The Americans then "threatened Iran and activated their military units and took an offensive position to prevent the ship from reaching the Iranian waters but their plan failed," the IRGC commander said.

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Iran Had Exports To 142 Countries

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration said that Iran has exported goods to 142 countries in the last seven months and had imports from 110 countries. Rouhollah Latifi said on Monday that Iran has exchanged 99 million tons of goods worth of 55 billion dollars from the beginning of the Iranian Year (21 March 2021). Iran's exports in this period amounted to 57.2 million tons in weight and 27.74 billion dollars in value, according to the official. China with 7,689, Iraq with 5,483, Turkey with 3,397, the UAE with 2,590, and Afghanistan with 1,126 million dollars top the list of Iranian exports destinations. Meanwhile, Iran has imported 23.5 million tons of goods worth of 27.739 billion dollars in the same period, as said by Latifi. The UAE with 8,596, China with 6,107, Turkey with 2,861, Germany with 1,039, and Switzerland with 1,035 million dollars were the top sources of Iran's imports.

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Iran Has Upper Hand On Battlefield to Confront Enemy

TEHRAN (MNA) – Referring to the aims of holding the 'Zolfaghar 1400' drill in the southeast of the country, Iran's Army Navy commander said that today, Iran has the upper hand on the battlefield in case of confrontation with an enemy. Speaking on the sidelines of holding Iran's Army Military Exercise dubbed "Zolfaghar 1400", Rear Admiral Shahram Irani stated that coordinating among armed forces of the country and transferring technical know-how and knowledge to young individuals is the main aim of the military exercise. Showing capabilities of the Armed Forces and in particular, the army's strategic forces in ensuring the security of the country's interests as well as familiarizing young personnel with the real scenes of battle are among the other objectives of holding this large-scale military exercise, he added.

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China to Play Prominent Role in Upcoming Vienna Talks

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Ambassador to China said that role of China in upcoming Vienna talks on reviving JCPOA will be 'prominent'. In a tweet on Sun., Mohammad Keshavarzadeh Iranian Ambassador to China said that China opposes US unilateralism and its bullying policies on the international stage. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held phone conversations with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi twice over the past month, he said, adding, "In their first telephone conversation, the two foreign ministers discussed Afghanistan and Iran's nuclear deal, JCPOA, and the JCPOA was the main topic of their latest phone conversation." He stressed that China's role in upcoming Vienna talks will be prominent as China opposes US unilateralism and its bullying policy on the international stage. Iran and the remaining signatories to the JCPOA have held six rounds of talks so far with no results. The Western powers made excessive demands during the talks and the talks were postponed at the end of the previous Iranian administration under Rouhani until the formation of the new government in Iran under President Ebrahim Raisi. The talks on the removal of the US sanctions on Iran will start on November 29, the Iranian deputy foreign minister and the new top negotiator said last Wednesday.

Iran, Pakistan Look to New Era in Trade With Barter Deal

TEHRAN (pressTV) - Iran and Pakistan have signed their first barter trade agreement to exchange Pakistani rice with Iranian LPG, marking a watershed in a quest to overcome the biggest hurdle to business between the two big neighbors. For trade and investment, Iran's wings have been clipped by the most draconian U.S. sanctions, forcing the Islamic Republic and its trade partners to work out alternative conduits in the absence of the banking channel. But such channels are not as simple and straightforward as the banking system and require a lot of balancing act for compatibility and compliance with the needs of the countries. Countries which test them usually do it with much discretion on an exploratory basis, but the dividends could be huge in the long run based on how they work. That is the prospect which Iran and Pakistan are looking for after they firmed up their first barter trade in Tehran where their Joint Trade Committee met with the visit of Adviser to Prime Minister of Pakistan for Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood. "What I said to the Iranian side was, let's start on a very small level. We export rice and import LPG; keep it simple let's see how it works. When we become more experienced, we can increase more products," he told us in an exclusive interview. Other than the barter trade in rice, the two sides agreed on construction of border markets, and movement of trucks under the Convention on International Transport of Goods (TIR) cooperation for Pakistan to reach European and Caucasian markets and for Iran to access the Chinese market. They also worked out their "grievances" with regard to exports of agricultural products and decided to add new items to their exchange list. "Iran had grievances against Pakistan on the export of apples. We had grievances with Iran on the export of rice and mangoes," Dawood said, adding they also discussed barter of potatoes, onions and tomatoes.

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Iran, Iraq Sign Tax Protocol

BAGHDAD (IP) - The Chairman of Iran's Tax Affairs Organization and Iraq's Minister of Finance signed a memorandum of understanding for avoiding double taxation between the two countries.

Iran's Davood Manzour and Iraq's Ali Allawi signed the documents of the amendment protocol to the agreement between the two countries to avoid double taxation in bilateral trade.

The agreement also deals with exchanging information on income and capital taxes, which facilitates and shores up trade and economic relations between the two countries and expands cooperation between stakeholders in the very MoU.

With the documents signed and their ratification steps completed, the law on avoiding double taxation between Iran and Iraq will be enforced. 219

President Calls for Justice-Oriented Budget

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi thanked the government's economic team for its efforts in drafting the 1401 budget bill and said, "According to the Supreme Leader of the Revolution's emphasis on reforming the country's budget, the 1401 budget bill should be drafted on this basis, which is reforming the budget structure."

Speaking on Sunday evening in a meeting of the Cabinet's Economic Coordination Board, Raisi emphasized that the 1401 budget is in line with the needs of the country and the goals of the 13th government, stating, "The most important goal of the government is justice, so drafting the budget should be justice-oriented".

Referring to the historical backwardness in the administration of justice, the President added, "One of the important documents to compensate for the backwardness is the country's annual budget. Therefore, this document should compensate part of the country's backwardness in social and economic justice".

Raisi continued, "The budgeting system should not be based on bargaining, friendship and pressures of others, but budgeting should be based on real needs, and bargaining and partisanship should be prevented".

Referring to the high volume of tax evasion in the country, the President Raisi stated, "The issue of tax evasion or incorrect calculation of taxes should be eliminated in the



1401 budget and government revenues should be increased in this way".

The President also referred to the rial cost of some companies and their benefit from all kinds of hidden subsidies in exchange for dollar income, saying, "These companies must pay the real tax and the share of the government and the people transparently".

Explaining the government's approach to the provincial budget, Raisi said, "We do not intend to interfere in the smallest issues of the provinces, but the monitoring of the performance of government agencies in the provinces by the Plan and Budget Organization should continue on an ongoing basis".

Referring to the financial burden created by the previous government for the 13th government and the sale of securities, the President said, "Ministers and managers should stand up against spending and not allow the current expenses of the apparatuses to overshadow the developmental activities".

UN, Swedish Envoys Visit Women Employment Plans in Borujerd



BOROUJERD (IRNA) - A representative of the United Nations and Sweden's ambassador to Tehran have visited employment projects in Borujerd, Lorestan province, in western Iran.

Claudio Providas, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Iran, and Mattias Lentz, Swedish Ambassador to Tehran, traveled to Borujerd on Monday to inspect employment projects for women in rural areas.

The two foreign officials visited various villages of Chaharbarez, Nezamabad and Fyal near Borujerd city.

They inspected sewing workshops as well as pickle, dried fruits and jam production lines, and bakeries run by rural women. The United Nations supported establishment of these workshops and business units.

The United Nations Development Programme has helped rural women to set up businesses, providing them with some equipment.

On Sunday, Lentz and Providas held talks with governors of cities such as Borujerd, Azna and Aligudarz as well as other provincial officials in Lorestan to discuss ways to implement development projects in the province.

Afghanistan to Resume Import of Oil, Gas From Iran

KABUL (IRNA) - Afghan chairman of Kabul-Tehran joint chamber of commerce has said that his country will resume imports of oil, gas, and fuel from Iran as of next week.

This will reduce oil products price which had gone up during the past two months due to halt to imports of fuel from Iran, Mira Jan Suleiman Kheil said on Monday.

According to reports, Iran exported 400,000 tons of fuel to Afghanistan from May 2020 to May 2021.

Iran and Afghanistan have witnessed growing trade exchange during the past two decades.

Efforts of the two countries' officials can increase the current level of exchange.

Iran has 945 kilometers of joint border with Afghanistan.

Last month, the spokesman for Taliban in Afghanistan Zabihullah Mujahid said delegations from Taliban and Tehran have reached important agreements on economic issues and expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Taliban took power over Afghanistan in August 2021.

UK Must Pay Back Debts to Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held a phone call with UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss on Monday to stress the need for the UK to pay back the debts to Iran as soon as possible.

Iran Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian held a phone conversation with Liz Truss, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the United Kingdom on Monday.

In this phone call, Amir-Abdollahian and Liz Truss discussed bilateral issues, Vienna talks as well as some other regional issues. The Iranian diplomat told the British counterpart that most of the trade agreements reached between the two countries after JCPOA have not been implemented and promotion of trade volume and facilitating financial relations requires more action on the part of London.

Amir-Abdollahian reminded Truss of the UK's debts to Iran and stressed the need for London to pay back the debts to Iran as soon as possible.

Regarding the JCPOA, the top Iranian diplomat also stressed the U.S. must be held to account for the current situation and stated that some JCPOA parties have also contributed to the current situation by being irresponsible and remaining silent in the face of the US actions.

He added that the success of the talks in Vienna depends on the lifting of all sanctions against Tehran, the return of all parties to their commitments, providing the necessary guarantees for the implementation of the results of the talks and the verification of the other sides' actions.

Iranian minister recalled that the normalization of trade relations with Iran is one of the commitments accepted by the other parties to the JCPOA and this issue should be fully fulfilled in the Vienna talks.

The UK foreign secretary first wished a speedy recovery from the Covid-19 for Amir-Abdollahian and then welcomed the date set by Iran to resume the Vienna talks.

Truss said that the three European countries are eager and serious to advance the negotiations.

Some consular issues were also discussed during the conversation.

Iran, KRG Officials Discuss Economic Potential in Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari in his meeting with the officials of Sulaymaniyah and Halabja - in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq - called for facilitating trade ties.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy held a joint meeting with the Governors and the heads of Sulaymaniyah and Halabja Chamber of Commerce, and prominent businessmen of Sulaymaniyah and Halabja Provinces on Sunday evening.

Safari at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sulaymaniyah held in a meeting with the governors of Sulaymaniyah and Halabja, the chairman of the governorate council and governor of Sulaymaniyah, the heads of chambers of commerce of the Sulaymaniyah and Halabja cities, the head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Exporters and Importers Union and other economic and collective organizations.

In the meeting, which was also attended by the Consul



General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Mehdi Shoushtari, the economic officials and officials, highlighting problems and obstacles in the current relations between the two sides, called for solving the problems with the aim of further developing trade and economic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, referring to the potentials and fields of cooperation and the historical, religious, and cultural commonalities between Iran and the Kurdistan region, called for the increasing trade relations between the two sides.

Safari also pointed to the high potential of Iranian companies and the superior quality of their products and announced Iranian companies' readiness to jointly invest in the Kurdistan region.

The Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy has visited Sulaymaniyah to discuss ways to develop trade ties with the Iraqi Kurdish region.

Iranian Submarines Blow Up Targets in Drill

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian Navy's submarines detonated various naval targets with homegrown torpedoes during a war game underway in the country's southeastern waters.

On the second day of the military drill on Monday, the Iranian Navy's submarines fired various torpedoes to practice hitting hostile watercraft.

During the joint war game, codenamed Zolfaqar-1400, the Iranian 'Tareq' and 'Qadir' submarines launched a domestically-manufactured torpedo called 'Valfajr' to hit the naval targets.

The spokesman for the drill said the Tareq submarine has also laid DM-1 mines during the exercise.

In another operation, the offshore naval units could jam the radars of the hypothetical enemy stationed on the coast by flying 'Omid', an anti-radiation homegrown drone used for electronic warfare.

The ongoing war game covers an area of over one million square kilometers southeast of Iran, stretching from the eastern parts of the Strait of Hormuz to the northern parts of the Indian Ocean, down to the 10-degrees latitude, and parts of the Red Sea.

Troops serving in the Army's infantry, armored units, mechanized regiments, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense have taken part in the main stage of the exercise.

Economy of Resistance as Good Solution Against Sanctions

BOROUJERD (IRNA) - Resident Representative of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Iran Claudio Providas described the economy of resistance as a good solution for lifting sanctions against Iran and preventing COVID-19 from damaging rural jobs.

Speaking in a meeting on women empowerment in the city of Boroujerd, Lorestan Province, western Iran, Providas said that the effects of coronavirus epidemic on Iran's economy have been reviewed and the European Union has been keen on providing assistance in this regard.

He hailed bilateral cooperation for supporting jobs negatively affected by the pandemic.

He noted that the United Nations has spent \$10 million to support 10,000 occupations affected by COVID-19.

He referred to reinforcing home-based businesses for female breadwinners as a basic aim which has so far been pursued in Lorestan, Tehran, and Hormuzgan provinces.

Iran, Oman Confer on Boosting Ties in Health Sector



TEHRAN (IP) - The President of the Oman Chamber of Commerce met with the President of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, and officials of health tourism in Iran and Islamic countries to develop cooperation in the field of health and health tourism.

Redha bin Juma Al Saleh, President of the Oman Chamber of Commerce, also attended the Fifth International Health Congress of Islamic Countries at the invitation of the Health Tourism Development Center of Islamic Countries and the Tehran Health Tourism Association.

Al-Saleh met with Gholam-Hossein Shafei, President of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the expansion of trade, economic and tourism interactions between the two countries.

The 5th Health Congress of Islamic Countries was held on Monday, with the presence of officials in the field of health and tourism and activists and managers of the private sector, managers of medical tourism services companies, hospitals and medical centers from Iran and Turkey, Iraq, Oman, Tunisia, India, Germany and The European Union and some international organizations active in the field of health and treatment and health tourism.

Coronavirus Could Not Halt Medical Tourism in Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has said the deadly coronavirus which has expanded across the world since December 2019 could not make a halt to the arrival of medical tourists in the country.

The pandemic reduced the number of them but did not stop their arrival, Ali-Asghar Shalibafian said while addressing the 5th International Health Congress of Islamic Countries in Tehran on Monday.

Islamic Republic of Iran has not look at the issue of medical tourism economically, but the country sees it as an opportunity for introducing its medical achievements and capacities, Shalibafian underlined.

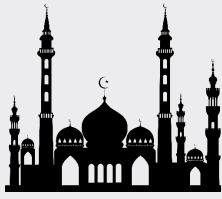
Medical tourism has world mechanism in many cases, he added.

Further, he referred to the today event as an opportunity for attract tourists through considerable capacities.

During his speech, Shalibafian called for development of health tourism in Islamic countries.

And this will happen through exchange of cultural commonalities, the official noted.

The 5th International Health Congress of Islamic Countries is underway in Tehran as of November 7 for three days.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:21
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:09
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:35

68. And when they entered in the manner their father had enjoined, it did not profit them in the least against (the plan of) Allah. It was but a necessity of Jacob's soul, which he discharged. For he was, by our instruction, full of knowledge (and experience): but most men know not.

Surah 12. Joseph (68)

Pakistan Vows to Resolve Trucks' Problems At Border Crossings

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Syed Muhammad Tariq Huda, Head of the Customs Administration of Pakistan, in meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei vowed to probe the reasons behind stopping Iranian and Pakistani trucks at Pakistan border crossings.

In the meeting, Shafei criticized the current condition regarding the passage of trucks from the Iran-Pakistan borders and called for resolving this problem which affects the trade between the two states. He said that Pakistan has a different position for Iranian people among Iran's 15 neighboring states and said there are commonalities and special closeness between the nations of Iran and Pakistan, adding that the two countries enjoy having broad political relations but their economic relation has not been ever in the level of their political relation.

He expressed hope for finding a proper answer for the low trade and investment between the two countries, and emphasized that undoubtedly there is a problem between the two countries whose unofficial trade is more than their official trade.

Shafei went on to say that undoubtedly there are unique capacities for developing and strengthening the joint cooperation between the two states but so far both countries have failed to materialize the free trade agreement.

He then pointed to the serious defects in the infrastructures of the border customs and called for resolving them for improving the bilateral trade. He referred to transportation as the main problem both rail and road transportation. He added that for some time the traffic of trucks from both sides have seen confusion and it should be removed.

Shafei also called reconsideration about the custom tariffs at the border crossings and said the tariffs should be based on the economic realities of the two states.



He noted some Iranian goods can be barter traded with Pakistani products although tariffs is very effective on this issue. He went on to say that Iran can give LPG to Pakistan and in return it imports rice or it gives apple and imports tangerine in return.

He also announced readiness of the ICCIMA for hosting its Pakistani counterpart and the chamber is planning to dispatch a trade delegation to Pakistan because such meeting can resolve major parts of the problems.

Then Tariq Huda, for his part, said despite good political relations and close cultural relation between the nations of Iran and Pakistan, the new generation of Pakistan does not know Persian and this tradition of educating Persian language has been stopped and it should be revived.

He expressed hope soon the free trade agreement between the two states would come into effect, adding that the trend of talks should become short due to the current condition in the world. He said that according to agreements, talks are underway for launching direct flights between some cities of the two countries and a special committee is to be formed to pursue the rail issue.

He termed uncomfortable the delay and stoppage of the trucks behind the borders of the two countries and vowed that after his return to Islamabad this issue would be resolved by Friday.

He said that despite the sisterhood of Chabahar and Gwadar Ports nothing serious has happened and the passages should be opened and let the trend of the agreements progress.

Necessity for Economic Defense To Counter Sanctions

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – The CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company (MSC) says big complexes like Mobarakeh Steel Company should be pioneer in passive defense because the organizational goals are tied with the goals of passive defense goals.



After successful conduction of the passive defense maneuver and addressing the senior officials of the company and teams of managing crisis and passive defense, Tayyebnia said all personnel of MSC are involved in the passive defense and they should all participate in it.

He then pointed to the emphasis of the Supreme Leader in the field of passive defense and said the country needs organized measures in this regard and big complexes like MSC should be pioneer in it because the organizational goals are tied to the passive defense goals.

He added that a dynamic organization attaches great importance to the lives of humans in the critical condition and said that the goal of passive defense is to create coordination among all bodies during the incidents.

Tayyebnia noted that the activities of the company in the field of passive defense should not be limited to a certain occasion or to a week and the company should plan in a way that it is seen in all strategies and actions of the company.

He noted that economic defense for countering the sanctions of the enemy is very important as the company has acted well in this field and it has prevented any slump in production. He called for vigilance of all personnel of the company and playing their parts in the field of the passive defend and said smartization of the passive defense is very important and it should not be only limited to holding maneuver.

Tayyebnia added that passive defense is very valuable in protecting the national resources and capitals of a country.

Iran-Poland Joint Chamber of Commerce to Open Soon

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Iran-Poland Joint Trade Committee Rahim Banamolaei says the two countries' joint chamber of commerce is to be officially launched soon as the talks are underway.



Banamolaei said that the current trade level between Iran and Pakistan is like the past years and it is not satisfactory and it is around \$50m per year.

Speaking to ILNA and touching upon the latest development in Iran-Poland trade, he said an Iranian delegation is currently in Warsaw and it is negotiating on tourism and they will return to Tehran in upcoming days. He added that the delegation pursues developing tourism ties between Iran and Poland as well as airline services. He noted in return, a Polish delegation is to come to Iran and to visit two provinces of the country.

He went on to say that the banking problem for trade of Iran and Poland has not been solved yet and traders are still trading through the third party country, adding that one of the Iranian traders has faced problem in Poland and Poland's commercial attache in Tehran has been invited to the chamber to resolve it.

On the importance of forming the joint commission, he said the joint economic commission of the two countries should be formed but it is still unknown which minister is to head this commission. Banamolaei said naturally the economic minister should head the commission but it has not been decided yet.

He said the establishing the Joint Iran-Poland Chamber of Commerce is in the pipeline and all formalities have been done and Iran Chamber of Commerce is to help it financially in order to find a suitable place for the chamber. He noted that the website of the chamber is almost ready and it will be inaugurated when the Polish delegation visits Tehran.

On the trade volume of Iran and Poland, he said it is like the past years and it is around \$50m per year which is not a considerable figure and it depends on the government policies to ease imports and exports.

Banamolaei announced readiness of Iranian traders for increasing the exports and for example they are ready to export machine-made carpets to Poland, adding that the country is exporting hand-woven carpets to Poland.

He criticized current national economy and said almost 85 percent of the economy is in control of the state and semi-state sectors and the private sector is in control of 18 percent. He added that the share of private sector from the exports is around \$15b and in case the private sector gets powerful this amount can reach \$50b in five years.

Uzbeks, Kyrgyzes to Join Chabahar Agreement

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Behrouz Aghaei, the director-general of Sistan-Baluchestan Province's Ports and Maritime Department, says Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan are in talks to join the Chabahar Agreement.

Aghaei said that last week a couple of Kyrgyz traders came to Chabahar as they wanted to transit their consignments through Chabahar Port and there were serious discussions on transit of goods via Chabahar to India.

On the recent developments on Iran-Afghanistan trade relation, he said in recent days some Afghan traders came to Iran to resume transporting goods via Chabahar Port, adding that last week he had some meetings with Iran's Consul General Kandahar and with some Afghan traders, and fortunately Afghan traders were keen to resume ties and sending their consignments via Chabahar Port.

He went on to say that that Afghan trade was almost stagnate but recently some activities in the trade in Afghanistan have been seen, adding that Afghans have some problems in transit of goods from Pakistan but this hurdle does not exist in Iran and there is no restriction in Iran for transporting to Indian ports.

Aghaei noted that last year 2,800 containers of Afghan products were transited via Chabahar Port to different destinations which were mainly dried fruits but after recent developments in Afghanistan, major part of trade in Afghanistan is stagnant and exports from this country via Chabahar has slumped but recently Afghan traders have decided to resume their trade.

He said due to some changes in the management of IPGL (India Ports Global Ltd, the operator of Chabahar Port), the programs for reconstruction of Chabahar is pursued seriously.

He also said Uzbeks are keen to join the Iran-India-Afghanistan agreement, adding that there have been some talks with Uzbeks in the past two months and they have asked to join this agreement.

Aghaei went on to say that last week they had meetings with some Kyrgyz traders as they are willing to transit their goods via Chabahar Port. He reiterated that most of traders of countries have been encouraged to enter the Iran transit corridor and it means materializing some goals for developing market for Chabahar Port.

Iran Exported \$110m Machine-Made Carpet in H1

TEHRAN (MNA) – Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade for Industries Affairs said that \$110 million worth of machine-made carpets were exported from country in first six months of current Iranian calendar year (Mar. 21- Sep. 22).

Speaking during his visit to the 13th International Exhibition of Floor Covering, Moquette, Machine-Made Carpet & Related Industries on Sun., Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki Deputy Minister of Industry said that Iran exported \$110 million worth of machine-made carpet overseas in the first half of the current year of 1400 in the Iranian calendar (Mar. 21- Sep. 22).

About 100 domestic and foreign companies have participated in the exhibition, Niaraki said, adding that more than 1,000 industrial units in the country are operating in the field of producing machine-made

carpets, floor covering, moquette (wall-to-wall carpet) and also artificial lawn.

Elaborating on the high capabilities and potentials of domestic companies in the field of producing machine-made carpets, the official said that domestic companies managed to produce 41 million square meters of machine-made carpets, 66 million cubic meters of moquette (wall-to-wall) carpets and 3,800 tons of artificial lawn.

He pointed to the planning made to increase exports of machine-made carpets and stated, "In line with the order of the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, it was decided that necessary measures will be adopted to promote exports and increase production of machine-made carpets in cooperation with the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran and other relevant organizations."

Flights With Full Capacity From November 22

TEHRAN (MNA) – The deputy roads minister has said that the Iranian air travel companies will start full capacity operations from the start of the Iranian month of Azar (Nov.22-Dec. 21).

Speaking to Iranian media, deputy roads and urban development minister Adam Nejad said that air travel companies will start full capacity operations from the start of the Iranian month of Azar (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Adam Nejad added that the Ministry of Health has eased travel restrictions as the vaccination rate in the country increases. He said that in line with the Health Ministry's instructions, the airliners could fill 60% of the plane's seats so far, while the ministry has now lifted that ban from the start of Azar.

Meanwhile, the deputy roads minister said that the passengers will be required to prove they are fully vaccinated or have negative PCR test results with them.

Dr. Farzin Emphasizes Meritocracy at BMI

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – The new CEO of Bank Melli Iran (BMI) emphasized the stance of human resources as the most important pillar in any organization and emphasized attention to the merits of the personnel and meritocracy in MBI.



In the first meeting of the supreme committee of human resources of BMI, Dr Mohammad Reza Farzin pointed to the meritocracy and appointing the merited people for the jobs which will help the growth and organizational culture based on the merit, regulations and innovation, and called it necessary and said that wiping the discriminations and injustices either in improvement or appointment and payments should be taken into consideration more than ever.

He urged senior officials of the bank to avoid appointing people without observing the meritocracy and the organizational criteria and the merited people should be appointed in the jobs.

He urged the committee to study the pathology of the appointment process by the committee is a must. Farzin during his introduction ceremony said BMI enjoys having good human forces and emphasized implementation of the meritocracy system.

PR of ESCO Wins Top Award

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

ISFAHAN – During the ceremony marking the 50th establishment anniversary of Public Relations Society of Iran, the Public Relations of Esfahan Steel Company (ESCO) won the Excellent PR Award.



The Excellent Public Relations Award is given based on the top excellent management style which is the blend of modern management styles and it has been presented for the first time by the Public Relations Society of Iran, and after assessing all related standards, it was given to the public relations of ESCO and Mobarakeh Steel Company.

In the ceremony some veterans of the public relations and mass communications like Dr. Hosseinali Afkhami, Dr. Khosro Rafeei and Gholamreza Kazemi were present.

In this ceremony Dr. Hamid Shokri delivered a speech on the international standards and necessity for adopting Iranian model for public relations.

Meanwhile the video of Dr. Sarokhani's speech was played and a book on the public relations written by Dr. Mehdi Farghani and Dr. Mahdokht Alawi was unveiled.

ECOWAS Imposes Sanctions on Mali Leaders

PARIS (Dispatches) - West Africa's main political and economic bloc has imposed sanctions against Mali's transitional leaders after they informed the organization they would not be able to hold presidential and legislative elections in February.

Mali's interim government, which took power following the military's overthrow of President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita in August 2020, had promised the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to oversee an 18-month transition back to democracy culminating in elections on February 27, 2022. But it has made only fitful progress towards organizing the vote and repeatedly suggested it might be delayed, in part because of a continuing uprising by armed groups.



Relief as More Than 800 Migrants Disembark in Italy

ROME (Dispatches) - More than 800 migrants who were plucked to safety in the Mediterranean disembarked from a charity rescue vessel in Sicily on Sunday, with most set to be transferred to two waiting quarantine ships.

Red Cross workers helped the migrants -- some wrapped in blankets, many barefoot -- off the Sea Eye 4, which had begged Italy to allow it to dock after carrying out multiple rescue operations.

Save the Children staff said they had been told there were around 170 minors aboard, but it was not yet clear how many were travelling with families and how many were unaccompanied.



Ethiopians Denounce U.S. at Rally To Back Military Campaign



ADDIS ABABA (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of Ethiopians rallied in Addis Ababa on Sunday to support Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's government as federal troops fight rebellious forces threatening to march on the capital.

Some demonstrators denounced the United States, one of the foreign powers that has called for a ceasefire to a year-long war, which has intensified amid advances by rebellious forces in the past week.

The U.N. Security Council, the African Union, and Kenya and Uganda have also called for a ceasefire in the conflict that has killed thousands of people.

Abiy's government, which has pledged to keep fighting, said on Friday it had a responsibility to secure the country and urged foreign powers to stand with Ethiopia's democracy.

The state-appointed Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said on Sunday the authorities appeared to be using a state of emergency declared on Tuesday to arrest people based on ethnic identity.

"In some police stations, the families are denied access to the detainees, and they can't deliver food and clothing.

On top of that, elders and mothers with children are among the detainees," the commission said in a statement.

The government spokesperson Legesse Tulu and federal police spokesperson Jeylan Abdi did not immediately respond to Reuters requests for comment.

Police spokesperson Fasika Fante denied on Thursday that arrests were ethnically motivated, saying those detained "directly or indirectly" backed the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), an outlawed party that was once part of Ethiopia's government and is now battling federal forces.

Some of those gathered for the rally in Meskel Square in Addis Ababa draped themselves in the national flag. "Shame on you USA," read one placard, while another said the United States should stop "sucking Ethiopia's blood".

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration on Tuesday accused Ethiopia of "gross violations" of human rights and said it planned to remove the country from a U.S. trade pact.

The conflict in the north of the country started a year ago when forces loyal to the TPLF seized military bases in the Tigray region. In response, Abiy sent troops, who initially drove the TPLF out of the regional capital, Mekelle, but have faced a sharp reversal since June this year.

Some demonstrators voiced anger over a U.S. call for the government and TPLF to negotiate.

"They want to destroy our country like they did to Afghanistan. They will never succeed, we are Ethiopians," said 37-year-old Tigist Lemma.

Addis Ababa Mayor Adanech Abiebe addressed protesters and cited Ethiopia's history of resisting colonial power to justify the war.

Iraqi PM Decries Cowardly Attack on His Home

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi escaped unharmed from an armed drone assassination attempt in Baghdad, officials said on Sunday, in an incident that raised tension in Iraq weeks after a general election disputed by Iran-backed militia groups.

Kadhimi appeared in a video footage published by his office on Sunday chairing a meeting with top security commanders to discuss the drone attack.

"The cowardly terrorist attack that targeted the home of the prime minister last night with the aim of assassinating him, is a serious targeting of the Iraqi state by criminal armed groups," his office said in a statement after the meeting.

Six of Kadhimi's guards outside his residence in the fortified Green Zone were wounded, security sources told Reuters.

Three drones were used in the attack, including two that were downed by security forces while a third drone hit the residence, state news agency INA quoted an interior ministry spokesperson as saying.

A spokesperson for the armed forces commander in chief said that after the attack the security situation was stable in the



Libyan PM to run for President

TRIPOLI (Dispatches) - The head of Libya's national unity government plans to run for president next month, according to a senior official, an apparent breach of a pledge to remain neutral when he took office in March under a U.N.-backed peace process.

Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah has become popular with big public spending programs after years of civil war, and could be a frontrunner to win office as Libya's first directly elected head of state since Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown a decade ago.

But his decision could also add to political disputes over the election, which have overshadowed the peace process. Dbeibah and other cabinet members had pledged not to run for president when they were appointed to the Government of National Unity, which replaced two rival administrations after years of war between factions based in the east and west. Dbeibah "announced his intention to run for the upcoming presidential election," the senior official told Reuters, a day before registration for candidates officially opens.

Libya's rival political institutions remain divided over the election's legal basis, the rules governing candidacy and even the date.

Other potential candidates include Khalifa Haftar, the main civil war commander from the east, and Saif al-Islam Gaddafi, the former dictator's son. Parliament head Aguila Saleh could stand, as could powerful former Interior Minister Fathi Bashagha. A prominent comedian is among others who have already declared they will run. As premier, Dbeibah has won popularity through populist programmes including financial support for young people seeking marriage and investment across Libya's regions.

Those moves have also drawn him into competition with other major players in Libyan politics, including some of his potential rivals in the election. Parliament speaker Saleh orchestrated a vote of no confidence in Dbeibah's government in September, citing its spending plans.

Green Zone, which houses the residence, government buildings and foreign embassies.

No group immediately claimed responsibility.

The attack came two days after clashes in Baghdad between government forces and supporters of political parties that lost dozens of parliamentary seats after an Oct. 10 general election. Most of the parties have armed wings.

Kadhimi ordered a probe into the deaths and injuries of demonstrators and security forces in those clashes.

President Barham Salih condemned the attack as a heinous crime against Iraq. "We cannot accept that Iraq will be dragged into chaos and a coup against its constitutional system," he said in a tweet.

Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr, whose party was the biggest winner in last month's election, called the attack a terrorist act against Iraq's stability that aimed to "return Iraq to a state of chaos to be controlled by non-state forces".

The United States, United Nations, Saudi Arabia and Iran condemned the attack.

Sudan Anti-Coup Protesters Block Streets

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudanese anti-coup demonstrators built street barricades in and around the capital overnight Saturday following calls for civil disobedience to protest last month's military coup.

Activists were seen working in darkness to pile up bricks and large slabs to block streets in Khartoum and neighboring cities, according to witnesses and AFP correspondents.

Their preparation followed calls for civil disobedience made by the Sudanese Professionals Association (SPA), an umbrella of unions which were instrumental in the 2018-2019 protests which ousted the longtime autocratic president Omar al-Bashir.

The SPA circulated its appeals via text messages to bypass internet outages since October 25, the day of the putsch.

"The Sudanese people have rejected the military coup," the SPA said on Twitter, vowing "no negotiation, no partnership, no legitimacy".

"We will start by barricading the main streets to prepare for the mass civil disobedience on Sunday and Monday," it said, urging protesters to avoid confrontation with the security forces.

Nationwide protests -- including by tens of thousands on October 30 -- have been met by a deadly crackdown. At least 14 demonstrators have been

killed and about 300 wounded, according to the independent Central Committee of Sudan's Doctors.

By Sunday morning, some shops were still open but others were shuttered in Khartoum and its twin cities of Omdurman and Khartoum-North, according to witnesses.

"Movement on the streets is less than usual but there is not full blockage of streets or closure of shops" after the civil disobedience call, said a witness from Omdurman who declined to give his name fearing reprisals.

Almost two weeks ago Sudan's top general Abdel Fattah al-Burhan dissolved the government as well as the ruling joint military-civilian Sovereign Council that was supposed to lead the country toward full civilian rule.

He also declared a state of emergency and detained Sudan's civilian leadership, including Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok and members of his government.

Hamdok was later placed under effective house arrest and the military has since Thursday released four civilian members of his government.

The military takeover sparked international condemnation, including punitive aid cuts and demands for a swift return to civilian rule.

Burhan insists it "was not a coup" but a move to "rectify the course of the transition."



U.S. Finally Reopening Borders After 20 Months

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States reopened its land and air borders Monday to foreign visitors fully vaccinated against Covid-19, ending 20 months of restrictions on travel from around the globe that separated families, hobbled tourism and strained diplomatic ties.

The ban, imposed by former president Donald Trump in early 2020 and upheld by his successor Joe Biden, has been widely criticized and become emblematic of the upheavals caused by the pandemic. The restrictions were particularly unpopular in Europe and US neighbors Canada and Mexico.

In an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, US borders were closed after March 2020 to travelers from large parts of the world, including the European Union, Britain and China, India and Brazil. Overland visitors from Mexico and Canada were also banned.

The months of restrictions affecting hundreds of millions of people helped fuel both personal and economic suffering brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"It's been so hard," Alison Henry, 63, told AFP. "I just want to see my son." The British woman plans to fly to see her son in New York, after 20 months of separation.

Families on both sides of the Atlantic are eager to finally reunite with their loved ones. Although travel from the United States to Europe has been possible since the summer, foreign U.S. residents holding certain visas have had no guarantee of being able to reenter the country.

To cope with surging demand, airlines have increased the number of transatlantic flights. They also plan to use larger planes, as the easing of restrictions represents a major boost for a sector plunged into crisis by the pandemic.

Along the border with Mexico, many cities in the big U.S. states of Texas and California have seen significant economic struggles due to anti-Covid trade restrictions. Local economies are also impatiently waiting for a return to normalcy.

Meanwhile, Canadian seniors will be able to resume their annual car trips to Florida in order to escape the bitter northern winters.

Lifting the travel ban will affect more than 30 countries. But entry to the United States will not be totally unregulated: U.S. authorities plan to closely monitor travelers' vaccination status and will still require them to present negative Covid-19 tests.

The United States, from Monday, requires air passengers to be fully vaccinated and be tested within three days before travel. Airlines will be required to put in place a contact tracing system.

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J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Shanon (adviser)

Tajrish Villa (\$5000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
marble floor
Fully Furn

Niavaran (\$1800)
3bdrs, 200sq.m, F.F

Zaferanieh (\$2400)
220sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, S, J, pkg
F.F

Jordan bldg (\$8000)
4storey, 20bdrs, pkgs

Kamranieh (\$2700)
220sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p, F.F

Elahieh Villa (\$5000)
1400s.m, 5bdrs, yard

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Global Economic Losses From Pandemic Top Up to \$10 Trillion

MOSCOW (TASS) - The losses of the world economy from the coronavirus pandemic total from \$4 trillion to \$10 trillion, Head of the Russian Accounts Chamber Alexei Kudrin said in a video address to participants of the third International municipal forum of BRICS states. "According to various estimates, the losses of the world economy from the pandemic total from \$4 trillion to \$10 trillion, with the bulk of those losses accounting particularly for budgets

of regions and municipalities," he said, adding that the health systems of the countries around the globe have demonstrated unreadiness for the pandemic.

"Health, social support systems have demonstrated unreadiness for global shocks. Today's task of state bodies and supervisory agencies at all levels is to draft mechanisms that will enable those systems to become more stable and efficient," Kudrin noted.



China October Exports Beat Forecasts

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's export growth slowed in October but beat forecasts, helped by booming global demand ahead of winter holiday seasons, an easing power crunch and an improvement in supply chains that had been badly disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. However, imports missed analysts' expectations, likely pointing to the overall weakness in domestic demand.

Outbound shipments jumped 27.1% in October from a year earlier, slower than September's 28.1% gain. Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast growth would ease to 24.5%.

Zhiwei Zhang, chief economist at Pinpoint Asset Management, said the strong exports would help to mitigate the weakening domestic economy, and give the government greater room for maneuver on economic policy.

"The government can afford to wait until the year-end to loosen monetary and fiscal policies, now that exports provide a buffer to smooth the economic slowdown," he said.

Recent data has pointed to a slowdown in manufacturing. Factory activity shrank for a second month in October, an official survey showed, while growth in industrial output eased to the lowest since March 2020 - the first wave of the pandemic.

However, under heavy government intervention, some supply constraints have started to ease in recent weeks, including a power crunch that had been triggered by a shortage of coal, tougher emission standards and strong industrial demand.

Premier Li Keqiang said on Tuesday the government would take measures to support the industrial sector as the economy faces renewed downward pressures.

Imports jumped 20.6% in October from a year earlier, accelerating from a 17.6% gain in September but well below expectations for a rise of 25%.

Goldman Sachs data showed the value of crude oil imports grew 56.3% year-on-year, up from 34.9% in September, and the value of coal imports rose 292% on-year, accelerating further from a 234% gain in September, as the global energy crunch and post-COVID economic recovery drove up commodity prices.

China posted a trade surplus of \$84.54 billion last month, the highest on record. It was also above the poll's forecast of \$65.55 billion and September's \$66.76 billion surplus.

The world's second largest economy grew 4.9% in the July-September quarter from a year earlier, the weakest reading since the third quarter of last year.

China's trade surplus with the United States was \$40.75 billion in October, Reuters calculations based on customs data showed, down from \$42 billion in September.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai pledged last month to exclude some Chinese imports from tariffs while pressing Beijing over its failure to keep some promises made in a "Phase 1" trade deal made under the Trump administration.

Japan Household Spending Falls

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's household spending fell in September as consumers remained cautious about the COVID-19 pandemic, backing broad consensus that the world's third-largest economy shrank in the third quarter but pointing to an improvement towards year-end.

The data underscored the need for policymakers to shore up domestic consumption as the global supply crunch hits the export-reliant economy.

Spending fell 1.9% year-on-year in September, with the downturn easing slightly after a 3.0% decrease in August, government data showed on Friday. It was also less severe than a median market forecast for a 3.9% slide in a Reuters poll.

In seasonally adjusted month-on-month terms, spending jumped 5.0% in September, marking the first increase in five months, beating expectations for 2.8% growth.

"As the virus situation and foot traffic improved toward end of September, service spending such as entertainment and education recovered, catching up the earlier trend in goods spending," said Masato Koike, senior economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute.

Nationwide coronavirus cases decreased in September after hitting record levels in late August. The government lifted some COVID-19 curbs by end-September, but restrictions such as shorter restaurant hours and caps on large-scale events remained in place in Tokyo and other densely-populated cities until late October.

Many analysts expect the economy to have shrunk in the third quarter. The median forecast for July-September gross domestic product (GDP) growth stood at an annualized contraction of 0.8%, Reuters poll of 18 economists showed on Friday.

Beyond carmakers, supply shortages in semiconductors and other components produced in coronavirus-hit Southeast Asia have caused a ripple effect in other parts of the Japanese economy. Growth in exports has slowed while private consumption stagnated because of slumps in car sales.

The anticipated economic contraction in the third quarter "will highlight Japan's growth lag" compared with other major economies such as the United States and Europe, said Takeshi Minami, chief economist at Norinchukin Research Institute.

The government is due to release a preliminary estimate for July-September GDP on Nov. 15.



Turkey Sees Double-Digit Growth

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey's economy is expected to record double-digit growth in 2021, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said, higher than a previous government forecast.

"Although international institutions estimate a 9% growth, we think that we will reach double-digit growth figures at the end of the year," Erdoğan said in a video message at the Turkey 2023 Summit, organized by Turkuvaz Media Group's Sabah daily and broadcaster A Para.

Turkey's economy grew 21.7% year-on-year in the second quarter, rebounding after a sharp slowdown a year earlier driven by COVID-19 restrictions.

The government expected the economy to grow by 9% this year before settling at about 5% growth next year, according to medium-term forecasts released in early September.

Recalling that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) grew 7.2% and 21.7% in the first two quarters, Erdoğan said the country will continue to prosper.

He went on to say that there is hope for winning the fight against the coronavirus, and steps to normalize the health, transportation, education, and trade sectors were bearing fruit.

The global economy, which narrowed last year, is regaining a foothold, production and export activities are increasing, and there is a strong recovery in tourism, he noted.

"However, as humanity solves the issues regarding the health dimension of the pandemic, it faces different problems; global inflation, like the economic recession last year, is the most serious problem facing humanity today," Erdoğan added.

He noted that shelves inside supermarkets were left empty due to problems in supply chains leading to an increase in prices of consumer goods and further burdening the public.

"This situation led to an increase in racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia, especially in Western countries," he said.



India's Economic Recovery Gains Momentum

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's economic recovery gained momentum in recent months on the back of rapid progress in vaccinations, festive season and consequent improvement in consumer and industry sentiments, industry chamber PHDCCI said on Sunday.

The PHDCCI Economy GPS Index for October 2021 increased to 131 as compared with 113.1 in the previous month. During the April-October 2021 period, it stood at 114.8 as compared with 78.7 in the previous financial year, the chamber stated.

However, its President Pradeep Multani said that at this juncture, there is a need to address the high commodity prices and shortages of raw materials to support the consumption and private investments in the country.

The drivers of household consumption need to be further strengthened to enhance the aggregate demand as it will have an accelerated effect on the expansion of capital investments, said Multani. The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Economy GPS Index is a composite index of three lead economic and business indicators with a base year at 2018-19=100, which measures the broad economic and business activity.

The PHDCCI Economy GPS Index, based on the monthly values of three high-frequency indicators viz., GST collection (Rs crore), passenger vehicle sales (units) and Sensex (daily average), helps to find the direction of the economy. GST collections indicate the momentum of business activity, passenger vehicle sales is a broad indicator of demand activity in the economy and the movement of the Sensex indicates the mood of both domestic and foreign investors, the chamber said.

UAE to Invest \$32.7b in Indonesia

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesia's government has secured \$32.7bil (RM136b) worth of investment commitments from United Arab Emirates businesses in various sectors, such as vaccine manufacturing and distribution.

The investments, announced last Thursday, came as President Joko Widodo visited the UAE to deepen a personal relationship he has forged with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said the 19 investment commitment deals involved cooperation between the Indonesian Investment Authority and Dubai-based multinational logistics company DP World.

State-owned oil giant Pertamina is expected to ink a deal on floating solar panels with Abu Dhabi-based renewable energy company Masdar. Abu Dhabi artificial intelligence company G42 is also expected to invest in smart city initiatives, telecommunications and genomics laboratories. G42 visited Indonesia in September to meet its partners.

Indonesia and the UAE also agreed to speed up talks on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement (Cepa). After several rounds of negotiations that started in September, Joko expects the deal to be finalized as early as March next year.

The Cepa negotiations are part of the UAE's aggressive attempt to open markets in fast-growing economies such as South Korea, Kenya, Ethiopia and Turkey.

With international travel set to rebound, both countries agreed to mutually recognize their Covid-19 vaccine certificates and to strengthen the travel corridor arrangement that has been in place since July last year.

"For the government-to-government (deals), there will be 10 agreements," Retno said in an online press briefing last Thursday. She said these included agreements on investment promotion, taxation, central bank cooperation, tourism as well as mangrove forest management.

Indonesia's goods exports to the UAE accounted for less than one per cent of total exports in September, Statistics Indonesia data shows. Of the total foreign direct investment in the third quarter of 2021, the UAE also accounted for a very small fraction, with just US\$5.8mil (RM24mil) realised, Investment Ministry data shows.

Fithra Faisal, an economist at the University of Indonesia, said the UAE's small share in Indonesia's exports and direct investment made the country a potential non-traditional market to tap, especially as both countries were predominantly Muslim.

Asian Economies Bounce Back Amid Renewed COVID-19 Fears



RIYADH (Dispatches) - China posted an all-time high trade surplus of \$84.5 billion in October, compared to a surplus of \$57.3 billion a year earlier, official data revealed.

This was fueled by a surge in China's exports in October, growing by 27.1 percent from a year ago to stand at \$300.2 billion. Most noticeably, exports of rare earths experienced considerable expansion, increasing by 89 percent.

Imports jumped by a slower yearly rate of 20.6 percent in October to reach \$215.7 billion. Imports of coal soared by 96.2 percent while purchases of natural gas went up by 24.6 percent.

Meanwhile, the country's foreign exchange reserves increased slightly in October, reaching \$3.22 trillion up from \$3.20 trillion in the previous month.

Indonesia's economy in the third quarter of 2021 recorded a quarterly expansion of 1.6 percent, falling from last quarter's growth of 3.3 percent, Statistics Indonesia said.

Government spending growth shrank considerably from last quarter's 28.7 percent to 9 percent. Similarly, household consumption went down by 0.2 percent compared to a growth of 1.3 percent in the previous quarter.

Meanwhile, exports jumped by 9.3 percent while imports declined by 1.2 percent.

On an annual basis, Indonesia's economic growth eased from 7.1 percent in the second quarter to 3.5 percent in this year's third quarter. This was mainly caused by restrictions implemented to limit the delta variant's spread.

The Canadian unemployment rate decreased for the fifth consecutive month in October to reach 6.7 percent, down from 6.9 percent in September, Statistics Canada revealed.

This is the lowest level of unemployment since the start of the pandemic and was driven by a reopening of non-essential venues following implementation of vaccination requirements.

The euro zone's construction Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose moderately to 51.2 in October compared to the 50 recorded in the previous month, IHS Markit revealed.

Ghaani Reportedly Meets Iraqi Officials in Baghdad

TEHRAN (MNA) - A Lebanese source announced the Commander of Iran's IRGC Quds Force General Esmail Ghaani met with the Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in an unannounced visit to Iraq.

The Lebanese Al-Mayadeen reported that General Ghaani arrived in Iraq on Sunday and met with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi as well as other Iraqi political officials in Baghdad. Al-Alam also reported that Ghaani met with Iraqi President Barham Salih.



UK's Brexit Losses More Than 178 Times Bigger Than Trade Deal Gains

LONDON (Dispatches) - All of Boris Johnson's new post-Brexit trade deals put together will have an economic benefit of just £3 to £7 per person over the next 15 years, according to the government's own figures.

The tiny economic boost – amounting to just 0.01 to 0.02 per cent of GDP, and less than 50p per person a year – is dwarfed by the economic hit from leaving the EU, which the government estimates at 4 per cent of GDP over the same period.

According to analysis commissioned by The Independent from top academics at the University of Sussex UK Trade Policy Observatory, the much-trumpeted free trade agreements (FTAs) “barely scratch the surface of the UK's challenge to make up the GDP lost by leaving the EU”.

Mr Johnson has boasted of the deals creating a “new dawn” and representing “global Britain at its best” – but just two of the dozens announced since the UK left the EU are expected to have any measurable economic impact at all.

Official estimates from the Office for Budget Responsibility point to a Brexit loss of more than £1,250 per person over the coming years – more than 178 times the most optimistic prediction for the benefits from the trade deals.

The analysis notes that the vast majority of FTAs announced by the government – such as those with South Korea, Singapore, or Vietnam – are simply attempts to replace treaties that those countries have with the EU, which Britain previously enjoyed as a member.

“They add nothing to UK trade, and, because they are not perfect replicas, actually harm it very slightly,” wrote top trade economist Professor L Alan Winters, who conducted the analysis with Guillermo Larbalestier, the centre's research officer.

Labour seized on the findings and said the government had “gambled” on Britain's prosperity and lost. The opposition called for Mr Johnson's barebones Brexit trade deal with the EU to be improved so that the UK would “stop the haemorrhaging of our trade with Europe”.

A source at the Department for International Trade claimed the analysis was based on “old, static” figures – though most of the data was released just last summer as part of the government's strategic case for the agreements.

“Our Global Trade Outlook – published in September – shows the centre of gravity on global trade is moving away from Europe and towards fast-growing markets in Asia-Pacific,” a spokesperson for the Department for International Trade said of the findings.

“Our strategy is latching the UK economy to these markets of tomorrow, and seizing the huge economic opportunities as an agile, independent trading nation.”

But according to the analysis prepared for The Independent, even a new agreement with Japan, which the UK government has presented as a significant win that goes



beyond what was agreed with the EU, is “modelled extremely closely on the EU-Japan agreement, with a few small differences”.

In that case, the benefits of a minor extension on digital trade are expected to be overshadowed by a technical change to customs rules, which will put some UK exporters at a disadvantage compared to their EU counterparts.

Taking the EU's own deal with Japan into account, the academics wrote: “Relative to having no agreement, the government estimated that [the Japan agreement] would raise UK GDP by £1.5bn (0.07 per cent, or £22 per head), but relative to what the UK would have had without Brexit the gains will be negligible or negative.”

Only in the case of the deals in principle with Australia and New Zealand is there expected to be any new economic benefit – but these countries represent such a small part of UK trade that they have little effect. The analysis also notes that the agreements have not yet been signed or ratified and are so far just “agreements in principle”.

The DIT source added that the government wanted another “wave of ambitious trade deals with major economies like India, Canada, Mexico and the Gulf” – though these are yet to materialize. The government has in recent months stopped claiming it is close to a trade deal with the US – previously the biggest prize – after Donald Trump's election defeat dashed any hope of it happening soon.

But the UK Trade Policy Observatory academics dismissed the idea that trade agreements could ever conceivably counteract the economic damage of Brexit.

“Non-EU partners account for about half of UK total trade and so, to counteract the OBR's 4 per cent loss from Brexit, would require agreements with each and every one of them to induce trade changes that create a 4 per cent increment to UK GDP. That is nowhere in sight in the numbers in the table,” they wrote.

Indian PM Modi Tops Global Leader Approval Ratings



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - The approval ratings are monitored for governmental leaders across the following countries- Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States

For the second time, Prime Minister Narendra Modi topped the ‘Global Leader Approval’ ratings released by American research firm - Morning Consult, with the highest 70 per cent approval ratings.

According to the data published by the American firm, PM Modi was ranked as the most approved world leader, followed by Mexico President López Obrador at 66% and Italy Prime Minister Mario Draghi at 58%.

Modi is also ahead of U.S. President Joe Biden who ranks at sixth spot with 44 per cent approvals and UK PM Boris Johnson, who got only 40 per cent approval ratings and ranks 10th in the list.

Among other world leaders, outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel has secured (54%) and Australian PM Scott Morrison got (47%) approvals, while Canada's Justin Trudeau is at seventh rank with 43 per cent approval ratings.

Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro, who has been facing protests over ‘mishandling’ the COVID-19 pandemic and worsening economic situation, has a disapproval rating of 59 per cent—the highest since October last year.

The Morning Consult conducts this survey every week and offers a real-time insight into the shifting political dynamics.

The approval ratings are monitored for governmental leaders across the following countries- Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Earlier this year, the Morning Consult dubbed Prime Minister Modi as the “Most Popular Head of Government” in a survey. He had secured the top spot as the most approved world leader once before, when this survey was conducted back in September 2021.

Afghans Hide Their Dollars in Homes

KABUL (Dispatches) - Afghans are facing enormous economic challenges, due to the Taliban movement's recent decisions to withdraw money from banks and set the withdrawal value at a specific amount, which prompted them to keep those funds, in possession of them, especially when they began to lose confidence in those banking institutions, which experts warn of their collapse at any moment.

Nour Allah, a resident of the capital Kabul, confirmed that people have lost faith in banks and no longer want to save in them, as they did before, due to the determination of the value of the withdrawals, which made them wait long queues in front of the banks.

On the other hand, some economists have revealed that if the banking system continues at this rate, the banks will not be able to provide services and this will have a significant negative impact on the country's economy.

“The bank is an economic structure, when we deposit our money in banks, it is used for investments,” economic analyst Wahab Qati told the local Tolo News network.

In addition, officials from the Central Bank of Afghanistan recently clarified in a statement that the banks private and public authorities are expected to raise the limit for withdrawing client funds to \$ 400 per week, but some residents have said that tale amount is still not enough.

“The more people's money is held in banks, the less trust people have about banks and businessmen will take their money out of the country,” said Rahnavard, a resident of Kabul.

The Taliban government has banned the use of foreign currencies in Afghanistan, with a sudden move that could have repercussions on the economy, which is suffering from a liquidity crisis and could further isolate the country.

The move comes as the Taliban push for the release of billions of dollars in overseas reserves, which the U.S. and its Western allies have frozen since the movement took power in August.

Since prime weeks after U.S. forces left the country, the liquidity crisis hit its already weak economy, following the freezing of central bank reserves in the United States, forcing some local companies to close and banks to limit withdrawals.

Interestingly, many observers are unlikely that Washington will release the Afghan Central Bank's reserves anytime soon.

While the United Nations puts in guard against the deterioration of living conditions in the country and the dramatic worsening of the refugee crisis.

Iran, Pakistan...

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“It is interesting that if the two sides sit down and work together, they will complement each other because the Pakistan season for harvesting these products is earlier than the Iranian season. So Pakistan will send its goods first and when Pakistan's good come to an end, Iran's goods will come to Pakistan.

“So the question of improvement in planning and both sides having the same policies regarding trade” is what they should do, he added.

In April, Iran and Pakistan opened their third official border crossing with the aim of facilitating business and trade exchanges and creating new job opportunities for their border residents.

The Pishin-Mand crossing is only 70 km from the Pakistani port of Gwadar which is being developed through the \$60 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor to link with Xinjiang province.

There is also a railway plan in the works, where Iran, Pakistan and Turkey seek to revive a line connecting Istanbul to Tehran and Islamabad and ultimately extend it to China.

The railroad service, stretching for 6,540 km, will cut the 21-day journey between Pakistan and Turkey by sea to 10 days. And by extension, it will connect to China's Xinjiang autonomous region which is populated by ethnically Turkic Uighur Muslims.

Iran and Pakistan hope to sign their long-awaited free trade agreement in the

next three months but in Dawood's words, there are many issues that need to be sorted out.

“The biggest hurdle in the bilateral trade is the absence of banking channel between the two countries due to American sanctions on Iran. Both the countries need to have an effective barter trade mechanism to counter the negative impact of banking sanction on trade. Besides, some non-tariff barriers are also there which can easily be removed through regular interactions and mutual understanding,” he said.

Their next joint ministerial committee meeting will be held around the middle of December in Islamabad to discuss “certain issues” after “frank” talks which he held in “a spirit of brotherhood” and “very friendly atmosphere” in Tehran.

“If we keep at it like this in the coming month, we will resolve things and our trade will increase,” he said.

“Again there are issues on both sides; there are some things that are close to Iran's heart and there are certain things that are close to our heart.

“So, let's put those aside and get the other things done and settle the issues. I don't see any serious problem if we have the spirit to do it. We have done it with Turkey, we have done it with Malaysia, with Indonesia with China. Why can't we do it with this great country?” Dawood added.

“I feel that over the last two years, there has been a change from both sides and now we have to have very good relations with Iran and that we have to do more trade and investment,” Dawood said.

U.S. Shocked by...

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He emphasized that the failed act of piracy was “another defeat” for the US and “another honor” for the Iranian nation.

“The Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic are powerful and mighty in defending the rights of the Iranian people and are fiercely determined to protect national interests,” Javani pointed out.

He further said the Iranian nation is resolute on fighting the arrogant powers and would not tolerate any act of aggression, adding, “We have the ability to respond to any threat.”

The Iranian nation has proved that it is not fearful of the enemy at all, the top IRGC commander emphasized.

The IRGC's Navy released a video last week showing Iranian forces landing on the deck of a tanker that had seized an Iranian oil shipment in an “act of piracy”. They then navigated the vessel toward Iranian waters. The incident took place on October 25.

Earlier, American forces had confiscated a tanker carrying the cargo of Iranian oil in the strategic Sea of Oman and transferred its consignment of crude to the IRGC-captured MV Sothys, a Vietnamese-flagged ship.

In a statement, the IRGC said that after the American forces had transferred the crude to the second vessel, “timely and powerful” action by the Guards' servicemen “frustrated the operation by the terrorist U.S. Army's naval forces to steal the Islamic Republic of Iran's oil in the Sea of Oman.”

Iran Had Exports...

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Meanwhile according to reports, over 330,000 tons of basic goods (wheat and edible oils) have been imported to Iran via the northern ports of the country since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21), according to a provincial official.

Abbas-Ali Vafaei-Nejad, the director-general of Cereals and Commercial Services Department of the northern Mazandaran province, announced that over 242,000 tons of wheat and 90,000 tons of edible oils have been imported via Amir-Abad and Noshahr ports during the mentioned period.

He said that more than 217,000 tons of wheat and 75,000 tons of edible oils have been imported through Amir-Abad port, while 25,000 tons of wheat and 15,000 tons of edible oils have been imported via Noshahr port since the year start. The consignments are loaded as soon as they are unloaded and sent to the storage centers of the province, the official noted.

Back in September, Mehrdad Jamal Orounaqi, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) for technical affairs, had said that the clearance of basic commodities from the customs has been expedited.

Iran Has Upper...

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Referring to the mission of various naval fleets of Iran's Army Navy in the fight against terrorism, piracy and escorting merchant ships and oil tankers, Irani said, “Iran's Army Navy forces have secured the country's economic lifeline by escorting vessels and tankers as well as merchant ships.”

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran has the upper hand to face an enemy on the battlefield, he reiterated.

The joint military exercise of Iran's Army entitled “Zolfaghar 1400” kicked off on Sunday under the command of the Army's Zolfaghar base. Monitoring of the country's airspace and general training area in the southern part of the country by the Air Defense Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as combating hostile targets are among the targets of the ‘Zolfaghar 1400’ joint exercise

Aston Villa Sack Manager Dean Smith

LONDON (Dispatches) - Dean Smith has been sacked as manager of Aston Villa after five straight Premier League defeats, the club announced on Sunday. Smith guided Villa back to the top flight in 2019 but has paid the price for their disappointing form this season. The club were 15th in the Premier League table ahead of Sunday's matches, following their 1-0 defeat at Southampton on Friday.

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ISSN 1024-6053
P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan St.Marzadaran 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

New Zealand Into T20 World Cup Semifinals

ABU DHABI (Dispatches) - New Zealand reached the Twenty20 World Cup semi-finals with a comfortable eight-wicket win over Afghanistan on Sunday, a result that eliminated star-studded India from the tournament. Chasing a modest 125, skipper Kane Williamson (40) and Devon Conway (36) put on an unbeaten stand of 68 to drive the team home in 18.1 overs in Abu Dhabi. The Kiwis join Pakistan as the two teams in the semi-finals from Group 2, leaving India's final match against Namibia on Monday a dead rubber.

Djokovic Beats Medvedev for 37th Masters Title in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) - World number one Novak Djokovic won a sixth Paris title and record 37th Masters crown on Sunday, beating 2020 champion Daniil Medvedev 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 in the final. The 34-year-old Serbian gained a measure of revenge over his Russian opponent who dashed his dreams of a Grand Slam sweep in the US Open final in September. The Masters title secured Djokovic's second record in as many days after he was confirmed as season-ending world number one for a seventh time. The 20-time Grand Slam winner said he approached the final in a relaxed frame of mind after wrapping up the world number one landmark. Djokovic had not been too concerned when he went a set down against a man he considers "the complete player" and who he expects to be world number one in the future. "It was a very close match decided by small margins based on a few points here and there," he said. "I was very pleased how I held my nerves at the end and took the match point. "I wanted to finish the end of season with a trophy and did not want to lock myself mentally and physically in stressful mode. "I knew things would come together and I would work my way into the match." Djokovic said he had felt no hangover from the US Open defeat. "I mean, I already closed that chapter," he said. "I am not regretting it or spending days suffering because I did not take the calendar slam this year. "I have moved on from that and focussed on Masters event and came here and achieved what I wanted to do." Medvedev said Djokovic -- who he calls his "friend" -- was stronger on the crucial points. "I don't like losing, so I cannot say I am happy, I don't even like losing at Play Station!" said Medvedev at his press conference. "But I gave everything and maybe I could have done a winner here or there or served one or two more aces.



"However, I take consolation in having given everything against the best player in the world of all time. It was a good battle." In an entertaining contest, befitting a duel between the top two in the world, Djokovic again had to come back from a set down after needing three sets to beat Hubert Hurkacz in the semi-finals. It was only the second time the top two in the ATP rankings had clashed in the Paris final. Sunday's crowd got better value than French fans on the previous occasion in 1990 when Boris Becker retired injured at 3-3 in the first set against then number one Stefan Edberg. The pivotal game on Sunday came as Djokovic served to level the match, saving two break points before securing the second set on his third set point after 11 minutes. Djokovic pressed home the advantage, breaking Medvedev twice in the deciding set to move to 5-2 with the Russian showing his frustration by firing a ball into the crowd and having words with the umpire as he sat down. "Just before I hit the serve, so you cannot really stop the motion, somebody scream something," Medvedev said. "So, yeah, I got mad because crucial, crucial moment, 5-2 for him, double break, even if I manage to get the break back, we all know that against Novak it's tough to actually come back from this score," said Medvedev. "I got mad because it was not nice, and it was done on purpose. "It was done by Serbian spectator," Medvedev said. "I hope he doesn't watch tennis anymore." That appeared to briefly fire Medvedev up as he got a break back in the next game but his serve once again let him down and it was Djokovic who raised his arms in celebration.



Russia Wins Billie Jean King Cup

LONDON (Dispatches) - Six years after Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova suffered heartbreak versus the Czech Republic in the Billie Jean King Cup final in Prague, the Russian redeemed herself at the same venue with a winner's medal against Switzerland. World number 12 Pavlyuchenkova had to withdraw at the last minute from her singles rubber on Saturday but that did not stop her team, competing in Prague as the Russian Tennis Federation, beating the Swiss for their fifth title. It was the team's first final appearance since 2015, when the Russians lost 3-2 after the deciding doubles against the Czechs at the O2 Arena with Pavlyuchenkova losing both singles rubbers. "I guess it's better late than never," a smiling Pavlyuchenkova told reporters. "Six years ago I was playing here in the final where Maria Sharapova won all her singles and we just needed one point that I couldn't give them, so that was probably the worst day of my life. "But I overcame it and that also made me stronger I guess.

Bagnaia Wins Algarve MotoGP

LISBON (Dispatches) - Ducati rider Francesco Bagnaia won a red-flagged Algarve MotoGP on Sunday as newly-crowned world champion Fabio Quartararo failed to finish after falling off his Yamaha. Italy's Bagnaia, who had started on pole position for a fifth consecutive race, finished ahead of 2020 world champion Joan Mir of Suzuki and Australia's Jack Miller, also on a Ducati. Starting from a lowly seventh on the grid, Quartararo fell five laps from the end of the race on the same circuit where he had won the Portuguese MotoGP in April. In a dramatic race, Bagnaia claimed his third win of the season, handing Ducati the constructors title.

Roma Slump Continues

MILAN (AFP) - Roma's worrying crash in form continued on Sunday with a shock 3-2 loss at Venezia, a fifth defeat for Jose Mourinho's team just 12 games into the Serie A season. Deservedly a goal ahead at half-time after Eldor Shomurodov and Tammy Abraham had scored following Mattia Caldara's opener for promoted Venezia, Roma collapsed after a harsh penalty decision allowed Mattia Aramu to level with a 65th-minute spot-kick. David Okereke's neat finish with 16 minutes remaining on the banks of the Venetian Lagoon sank the club from the capital, who are now fifth and three points outside the Champions League places. It was Roma's fourth defeat in seven games in all competitions -- a run which includes a 6-1 thumping at the hands of Norwegian outfit Bodo/Glimt -- and came after waning chances to extend their half-time lead. "Unfortunately the rules are made by people who have never played or coached," said Mourinho to DAZN. "Usually in my experience at the end of the season you look at the decisions... things usually balance out, but after an accumulation of decisions you begin to think that it's better just to keep quiet."

Kenyan Korir, Jepchirchir Win New York Marathon Titles



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Kenya's Albert Korir won the men's title and compatriot Peres Jepchirchir captured the women's crown at the 50th New York Marathon on Sunday with surges over the final miles. About 30,000 runners competed in the 26.2-mile run through the "Big Apple" after last year's race was wiped out by the Covid-19 pandemic. Korir was the 2019 runner-up, finishing 23 seconds behind Kenyan Geoffrey Kamworor, but crossed the line first on Sunday in 2hrs 8mins 22secs to beat Morocco's Mohamed El Aaraby by 44 seconds with Eritrean-born Italian Eyob Faniel third in 2:09:52. "It was not an easy race but I enjoyed it," Korir said. "When I tried to push it tactically, it was there." Jepchirchir became first reigning Olympic champion to win the women's race, claiming the victory in 2:22:39 just 13 weeks after her triumph in Japan. "It was not expected. Unbelievable," Jepchirchir said. "I thank God I finished the season well after winning the Olympic marathon."

"Time was short but I tried my best to make sure I finished my work, completed my preparations." Kenya's Viola Cheptoo, the sister of Kenyan-born US star Bernard Lagat, was second in 2:22:44 with Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh, the 2019 Chicago Marathon runner-up, third in 2:22:52. Jepchirchir, 28, could not dispatch her fellow podium finishers until a late charge over the last turns in Central Park. "The course is not bad but it's not easy," she said. "I feel something I never felt before finishing a marathon. I don't know where the energy was coming from. Thank God it came to me in the last few minutes." Somalian-born Dutch runner Abdi Nageeye, the Tokyo Olympic marathon runner-up, was fifth in 2:11:39 in his New York debut. Nageeye, 32, was 24 seconds behind fourth-place American Elkanah Kibet. Ethiopian legend Kenenisa Bekele, the 2016 and 2019 Berlin Marathon winner and a three-time Olympic champion shorter distances, was sixth in 2:12:52. He finished three weeks earlier at Berlin.

Babar, Malik Lead Pakistan Into T20 World Cup Semis

SHARJAH (Dispatches) - Pakistan defeated Scotland by 72 runs on the back of magnificent half centuries from Babar Azam and Shoaib Malik on Sunday to set-up a Twenty20 World Cup semi-final clash against Australia. Skipper Babar scored a polished 47-ball-66 for his 24th fifty in Twenty20 internationals, and his fourth in five matches, while Malik smashed an 18-ball 54 not out as Pakistan posted 189-4 in their 20 overs. Scotland were never in hunt as they managed 117-6 with Richie Berrington fighting a lone hand during his 37-ball 54 not out with four boundaries and a six. The victory gave Pakistan five wins in as many games, topping the Group 2 with ten points. They now face Australia in the second semi-final in Dubai on Thursday. England will face New Zealand in the first semi-final in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday. "Shoaib, the way he finished, the way he showed his experience, that's what he's known for," said Babar of his 39-year-old teammate. "We'll carry good confidence into the semi-finals and try to play in the same way. Definitely Dubai is one of the best stadiums. As a player if you play in front of a whole crowd that cheers for you, your confidence increases." Scotland lost skipper Kyle Coetzer (nine), Matthew Cross (five) and George Munsey (17) before they crossed fifty and it was left to Berrington and Micheal Leask (14) to add 46 for the fifth wicket. But the asking rate continued to mount as spinner Shadab Khan (2-14) kept up the pressure. Shaheen Shah Afridi, Haris Rauf and Hasan Ali claimed a wicket each.



Man Utd Players Should Look In the Mirror

LONDON (AFP) - Bruno Fernandes says Manchester United's players should look in the "mirror" after their chastening 2-0 defeat to Manchester City cranked up the pressure on manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. United beat Tottenham convincingly last week to restore some pride following an embarrassing 5-0 home defeat to Liverpool but were palpably second best against City on Saturday, struggling with and without the ball. Poor defending led to Eric Bailly's own goal and then Bernardo Silva scored on the stroke of half-time, with Luke Shaw at fault. "Obviously everyone is frustrated about the result, about the performance too," the Portuguese midfielder told MUTV. "We know we can do much better and we know this is not enough for a player who is representing this big club. We have to look at the mirror." Fernandes apologized to fans, who were expecting a title push after United, who finished second in the Premier League last season, spent heavily in the transfer window. "We have to look at ourselves, everyone at his home, understand what they can do better to help the team," he said. "We just have to apologize to the fans and that's it because it was not good enough from us. He said the crowd created a "great atmosphere." "They pushed us until the end, they tried to give that energy to us but from us it was not enough." There were countless defensive lapses by United in Saturday's match and the scoreline could have been far more lopsided had David de Gea not produced a string of superb saves.

