

Tehran Will 'Take A Strong Step' Away from Nuclear Deal If Europe Doesn't Offer New Terms, Iran Says

TEHRAN, Iran -- Iran will "take a strong step" away from its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers if Europe cannot offer the country new terms by a deadline at the end of this week, a government spokesman said Monday as top Iranian diplomats traveled to France and Russia for last-minute talks.

The comments from Ali Rabiei reinforced the deadline Iran had set for Friday for Europe to offer it a way to sell its crude oil on the global market. Crushing U.S. sanctions imposed after President Donald Trump withdrew America from the deal over a year ago have halted those sales.

Iranian Foreign Minister



Mohammad Javad Zarif was in Moscow, while his deputy was to travel to Paris with a team of economists Monday in a renewed diplomatic push.

The developments come after French President

Emmanuel Macron surprised the Group of Seven summit in France by inviting Zarif last week. Rabiei described Iran's strategy to journalists at Monday's press conference in Tehran as "commitment for commitment."

"Iran's oil should be bought and its money should be accessible to return to Iran," Rabiei said. "This is the agenda of our talks."

It's unclear what the terms of negotiation are. In theory, anyone caught buying Iranian crude oil would be subject to U.S. sanctions and potentially locked out of the American financial market. Already, Iran has gone over limits set by the deal. The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed last week that Iran's stockpile of low-enriched uranium still exceeds the amount allowed by the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA as the deal is known.

The ... (More on P4)...(10)

Neighbor News

Iran's Canola Production Increased by Over 10 Times

TEHRAN - Iran's minister of agriculture says the country has significantly boosted its output of rapeseed, also known as canola, to respond to a growing domestic demand and to reduce imports that have been affected by American sanctions.

"The cultivation area for rapeseed was 40,000 hectares in recent years but we managed to bring the output of this product to over 42,000 tons this year," said Hojjati in remarks covered by ILNA news agency on Saturday.

The minister further elaborated on Iran's growing demand for oil-rich seeds, adding that the government policy was to boost domestic output and to slash imports.

"Our country is highly dependent on some

farming products like oil-rich seeds," said Hojjati, adding, "Our focus is to increase production of items like rapeseed."

He said Iran expected to see a new jump in rapeseed production in the next Persian calendar year, which starts in late March, adding that his department had planned for the cultivation of some legume crops to be moved to autumn 2019 so that more lands could be earmarked for rapeseed farming across the country.

Iran has expedited efforts to reduce dependency on food imports over the past years amid rounds of American sanctions that could have had an impact on food security in the country. (Press TV)

Monsoon Season Expected to Continue till Sept 30: Met Dept

KARACHI - The Pakistan Meteorological Department (Met) on Monday said that the monsoon season in the country is expected to continue till September 30.

A Met department official told reporters that the rainfall system in the Arabian Sea and in Indian Gujarat had caused the sea breeze to stop in Karachi, and that still and hot weather is likely to persist in the metropolis for two more days.

He said that rain with thunderstorms was expected in Karachi till Tuesday. In three to four days another potentially strong downpour system would reach the city, the official added.

On Sunday, three people were killed in rain-

related incidents as another spell of monsoon hit the city.

According to a notification issued by the Met department, rain/wind-thunderstorms with moderate to isolated heavy falls are expected to take place over the next 24 hours in scattered places in Mirpurkhas, Thatta, Hyderabad, Shaheed Benazirabad and Karachi divisions, and at isolated places in Sukkur and Larkana divisions.

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Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan Open New Checkpoints

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan opened four new checkpoints across the state border on August 30, Trend reports citing IA Kun.uz, via the message from the Border troops of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan.

On the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border, the Rishtan (Uzbekistan) - Kaitpas (Kyrgyzstan), Tul - Otukchu, Lenburg - Apkan, Deviram - Boz-Adyr checkpoints began to operate.

Furthermore, the time restrictions at the checkpoints "Uzbekistan" - "Kyzyl-Kya", which previously worked from 07:00 to 18:00 (GMT+5), were reviewed. Now they work from 06:00 to 20:00 (GMT + 5).

It should be noted that the agreement to open new checkpoints was reached on August 23 of this year as a result of a meeting of the heads of the border agencies of both countries. (Trend)

Kazakhstan, Tajikistan Progressively Develop Mutual Trade

DUSHANBE - Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Tajikistan Askar Tazhibayev and First Vice-Prime Minister of Tajikistan Davlati Said noted the progressive development of mutual trade between countries, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan.

The remarks were made at their meeting on September 2, 2019. Parties also discussed relevant issues of bilateral trade and economic and investments cooperation within the framework of implementation of agreements signed during the official visit of President of Tajikistan

Emomali Rahmon to Nur-Sultan in March 2018, visit of President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev to Dushanbe in June 2019 and the official visit of Prime minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin in July 2019.

Furthermore, the parties were pleased to note the progressive development of mutual trade and stated that there is a great potential for further expansion of trade and economic cooperation between the countries.

In conclusion, Kazakh diplomat has expressed readiness for fruitful cooperation in area of developing strategic bilateral cooperation. (Trend)

Macron's Reform Drive Faces High-Risk Pension Overhaul

PARIS - President Emmanuel Macron embarks this week on the next - and likely most perilous - leg of his reform drive by launching talks with unions on an overhaul of France's convoluted pension system to plug a chronic deficit.

The potentially explosive reform is looming large over the annual "rentree", or return to business after the summer break, when the political agenda and tone is set for the coming months.

Macron returns to his

domestic agenda a week after hosting a summit of G7 leaders where bonhomie papered over trans-Atlantic divisions, the French leader casting himself as a central figure in world diplomacy and a unifying champion of multilateralism. Domestically, Macron withstood weekly "yellow vest" anti-government protests that petered out four months ago, but he is mindful of simmering public anger over his reform agenda and eager to avoid further ... (More on P4)...(13)

US, Poland Sign Joint Document on 5G Technology Cooperation

WARSAW, Poland - The U.S. and Poland signed an agreement on Monday to cooperate on new 5G technology amid growing concerns about Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

Vice President Mike Pence and Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki signed the deal in Warsaw, where Pence is filling in for President Donald Trump, who scrapped his trip at the last minute because of Hurricane Dorian.

The signing comes amid a global battle between the U.S. and Huawei, the world's biggest maker of network infrastructure equipment, over network security.

The agreement endorses the principles developed by cybersecurity officials from dozens of countries at a summit in Prague earlier this year to counter threats and ensure the safety of next generation mobile networks. "Protecting these next generation communications networks from disruption or manipu-



lation and ensuring the privacy and individual liberties of the citizens of the United States, Poland, and other countries is of vital impor-

... (More on P4)...(11)

British PM Preparing to Call Election on Eve of Brexit Showdown with Parliament?



LONDON - Prime Minister Boris Johnson is preparing to call an election, British media

reported on Monday, on the eve of an historic showdown with parliament over Brexit.

Johnson's promise to take the country out of the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without a deal to smooth the divorce between the world's fifth-largest economy and its biggest trading partner has propelled the United Kingdom towards a constitutional crisis and a battle with the 27 other members of the bloc.

An alliance of opposition lawmakers are

plotting with rebels in Johnson's Conservative Party to take control of parliament and tie the government's hands with legislation that would block a no-deal exit, fearing leaving without a deal will be ruinous.

Just 24 hours until parliament returns on Tuesday from its summer break, Johnson's enforcers warned rebels that if they voted against the government they would be kicked out of his Conservative Party. (Reuters)

Irish PM Awaits Outcome of 'Volatile' Week in British Parliament

DUBLIN - There is time for Britain to put forward concrete Brexit proposals for the Irish border but Dublin will first wait and see how a "volatile" week in the British parliament pans out, Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said on Monday.

Varadkar said alternatives to the Irish backstop insurance policy suggested so far would unobtrusively facilitate controls at the currently seamless border, and while that is better than nothing, it not the out-

come Ireland wants. "But I am patient and there is time yet between now and October 31 and like I say, we will look at any proposals that the British government puts forward," Varadkar said, adding that his office was working on two possible dates to meet Prime Minister Boris Johnson next week. "This is a very volatile and dynamic situation. Events are happening in the House of Commons ... (More on P4)... (14)

Dorian Slams Bahamas with Record-Setting Force, Eyes Florida

McLEAN'S TOWN CAY, Bahamas - In a slow, relentless advance, a catastrophic Hurricane Dorian kept pounding at the northern Bahamas early Monday, as one of the strongest Atlantic storms ever recorded left wrecked homes, shredded roofs, tumbled cars and toppled power poles in its wake.

The storm's top sustained winds decreased slightly to 165 mph (270 kph) as its westward movement slowed, crawling along Grand Bahama island Monday morning at 1 mph (2 kph) in what forecasters said would be a daylong assault. Earlier, Dorian churned over Abaco island with battering winds and surf during Sunday.

Information began emerging from the affected islands, with Bahamas Power and Light saying there is a total blackout in New Providence, the archipelago's most populous island.

"The reports out of Abaco (island) as everyone knows," company spokesman Quincy Parker told ZNS Bahamas radio station, "were not good."

Most people went to shelters as the Category 5 storm approached, with tourist hotels shutting down and residents boarded up their homes. But many people were expected to be left homeless.

"It's devastating," Joy Jibrilu, director general of the Bahamas' Ministry of Tourism and Aviation, said Sunday afternoon. "There has been huge damage to property and infrastructure. Luckily, no loss of life reported."

On Sunday, Dorian's maximum sustained winds reached 185 mph (297 kph), with gusts up to 220 mph (354 kph), tying ... (More on P4)...(15)

German SPD Shouldn't Flee Responsibility after Losses in State Votes

BERLIN - Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) should not flee responsibility, a senior party official said on Monday, after the party suffered losses in two state elections held on Sunday.

Both the SPD and Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives - which rule in a national coalition - bled support to the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) in the state votes in eastern Germany.

Asked what the results meant for the national



coalition and whether that alliance was jeopardized by the AfD's strong gains, SPD Secretary General Lars Klingbeil said the way to limit the AfD's success was to "pursue good

policies, ensure the government's ability to act, take care of social cohesion and fulfill what people expect from political leadership, not by fleeing responsibility." (Reuters)

Get Rid of PM's 'Populist Cabal', Labour's Corbyn Backs New UK Election

SALFORD, England - Britain's Jeremy Corbyn said on Monday his opposition Labour Party wants a new election above all else to oust Prime Minister Boris Johnson's "phony, populist cabal", renewing his support for moves to stop a no-deal Brexit.

In a wide-ranging speech which did little to dampen expectations that an election could be called soon, Corbyn said his party would do everything it could to stop Johnson from leading Britain out of the European Union without an agreement.

That meant his party would support "legislative moves" to prevent a no-deal Brexit in parliament on Tuesday, in what he described as possibly the

last chance for lawmakers to stop a "disastrous" exit from the EU for Britain.

In a critical week for the future of Brexit, Britain's biggest shift in trade and foreign policy for more than 40 years, Corbyn denied that there was an "either/or" decision on backing parliamentary moves or pressing for an election.

"We will do everything we can in the coming weeks to prevent a no deal. We want a general election so that the people of this country can decide their future," Corbyn told an audience of Labour's top policy chiefs and local politicians in Salford, northern England. ... (More on P4)...(12)

UK Government to Raise Teacher Starting Salaries to Boost Recruitment

LONDON - The starting salaries for teachers in Britain's primary and secondary schools are to rise by more than 6,000 pounds (about 7,248 U.S. dollars) a year under government plans revealed Monday.

According to the plans announced by the Department for Education (DfE), salaries for new teachers are set to rise to 30,000 pounds a year (36,240 U.S. dollars) by 2022-23.

The current minimum pay for teachers in England and Wales, excluding London, is 23,720 pounds (28,653 U.S. dollars), according to the government's Get Into Teaching website. From September, the UK government will also be fully funding increased contributions into the teacher's pension scheme, which means teachers will get an employer contribution of 23.6 percent on top their salary towards their pension every year.

DfE said the move would make starting salaries for teachers among the most competitive in the graduate labour market, building on the above-inflation average pay increases for teachers in the last two years.

Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said: "Teachers truly are the lifeblood of a school and I have been instantly impressed by the dedication, commitment and hard work that I have seen from those at the front of our classrooms. I want the best talent to be drawn to the teaching profession and for schools to compete with biggest employers in the labour market and ... (More on P4)...(16)