

Iran's Permanent Representative In the United Nations Termed U.S.' Act to Impose Sanctions on Iran As Impractical, Saying the U.S. Will Never See the Return of Terminated Resolutions

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Health Ministry Spokeswoman Sima Sadat Lari Said on Tuesday That Some 178 More Iranians Have Died From Coronavirus Disease Over the Past 24 Hours as the Death Toll Mounted to 24,656

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2 DOMESTIC

Enemy Not Dares to Attack Iran Due to IRGC



> SEE PAGE 2

3 DOMESTIC

Investment the Missing Link in Tehran-Dhaka Trade



> SEE PAGE 3

4 INTERNATIONAL

Colombians Protest Against Police Brutality



> SEE PAGE 4

8 SPORTS

Djokovic, Halep Win Rome Titles



> SEE PAGE 8

Case of Assassination of Martyr Soleimani Not Closed

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said that the case of General Soleimani's martyrdom has not been closed yet.

During an interview and responding to a question over whether Iran is done retaliating for the martyrdom of Gen Qasem Soleimani, Zarif said: "I'm not in the business of making threats. But the book is not closed."

Asked about Navid Afkari's execution Zarif said: "He was charged with murder. Iran's judiciary is independent. The government didn't know and could not intervene."

Zarif had an interview with Fareed Zakaria on Monday via video conferencing at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Navid Afkari was executed "after legal procedures were carried out at the insistence of the parents and the family of the victim," the head of the Justice Department in Fars was quoted as saying by state media.

The 27-year-old fatally had stabbed Hassan Turkman, a water supply company employee, in the southern city of Shiraz during riots over fuel prices in 2018. **See Page 7**

U.S. Sanctions Targeted Daily Lives of Iranian People



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's representative in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) said that unjust U.S. sanctions imposed against Iran have targeted daily lives of people of the country.

Hamidreza Oloumi Yazdi, who is Iran's representative in the case of violation of 1955 Amity Treaty between Iran and U.S., emphasized that U.S. sanctions have specifically targeted the daily lives of Iranian people.

He called on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to exercise its jurisdiction in this case and follow up the substantive proceedings of the case.

The second and final round of Iran's defense in case of violation of the 1955 treaty between Iran and the United States was held yesterday in The Hague due to the U.S. reimposition of sanctions on Iran before the International Court of Justice.

At this stage, Iran's representatives and lawyers, while rejecting the baseless and unfounded claims of the United States that the Court did not have jurisdiction to hear the case in its full relationship with JCPOA, stated that U.S. hostile actions in re-imposing sanctions after May 8, 2018 violates various articles of the 1955 Amity Treaty.

The U.S. policy of "maximum pressure" on the Iranian people has created many problems (including trade with other countries, imports of vital food and medicine, access to the international banking system and money transfers, rising inflation and the devaluation of the national currency) and in general, these sanctions have left a negative impact on all aspects of people's lives, he underlined.

Not only the United States offers a one-sided, unilateral and biased interpretation of the Amity Treaty as well as the rules of the Court, but also has no respect for international principles and rules and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and has threatened other countries if they comply with this resolution, they will be punished, Oloumi criticized.

After hearing Iran's final defense, the International Court of Justice announced end of the hearing. The court is expected to rule on the US objection in the next few months.

IAEA Is Fair and Firm With Iran

VIENNA (Dispatches) - The IAEA continues to verify the non-diversion of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement, and evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities continue, IAEA Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi said today in his opening address to the 64th regular session of IAEA General Conference.

Grossi held talks in Tehran last month with Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, as well as with President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, on access for IAEA inspectors to the country's nuclear sites. In June, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution calling on Iran to fully cooperate with the IAEA in implementing its NPT Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, and satisfy the IAEA's requests without further delay. The resolution, submitted by France, Germany and the UK, was adopted by a vote of 25 to 2 with 7 abstentions. The two objections were made by China and Russia. **See Page 7**

Russia Not Afraid of U.S. Sanctions Over Arms Trade With Iran

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia has played down the U.S. threat of sanctions over any arms trade with Iran following the expiry of a UN arms embargo that Washington failed to keep in place, saying such bans cannot stop the growth of Moscow-Tehran defense cooperation.

"We are not afraid of U.S. sanctions, we are used to them," Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told TASS news agency on Monday. He also predicted that Moscow-Tehran defense ties will develop regardless of any U.S. restrictive measures. The U.S. arms embargo on Iran "will not affect our policy in any way. Our cooperation with Iran is multifaceted, defense cooperation will progress depending on the two countries' needs and mutual willingness," he said. "Another executive order will not change our approach." Separately on Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov stressed that the U.S. endeavor to prevent the lifting of the Iranian arms embargo did not make sense. "There is no such thing as an arms embargo against Iran," he clarified in an exclusive interview with the Al Arabiya news channel.

The UN Security Council reiterated the ban will end on October 18, and "there would be no limitations whatsoever after the expiration of this timeframe," he added. The top Russian diplomat also noted that Washington's reasoning behind bringing back the UN sanctions against Iran looks "funny" as the absolute majority of UNSC members — 13 out of 15 — do not support activating the "snapback" mechanism.

The Security Council "clearly stated that there is no legal position or moral reasons for anything close to the snapback and all the statements to the contrary are null and void," he emphasized. "The Americans lost any talent in diplomacy, unfortunately; they used to have excellent experts, [but] now what they're doing in foreign policy is to put a demand on the table, whether they're discussing Iran or anything else," Lavrov said.

Lavrov went on to explain how the U.S. diplomacy usually works when a party goes against its will in dealing with Iran.

If their counterpart disagrees, "they (the Americans) put an ultimatum, they give a deadline and then they impose sanctions, then they make the sanctions extra-territorial," he pointed out, expressing regret that the European Union is also "engaging in the same tricks more and more." Meanwhile Russian senator Vladimir Dzhubarov stressed that Iran and Russia will continue military-technical cooperation despite Washington's counteraction. Russia will continue military-technical cooperation with Iran despite United States President Donald Trump's executive order to allow punishing foreign states for supplying arms to Tehran, first deputy head of the Russian Federation Council Foreign Affairs Committee Vladimir Dzhubarov said.

"So, let them impose sanctions, one less, one more of it. I believe that our military-technical cooperation with Iran will be continued, and I hope that these sanctions will not affect it," Dzhubarov told Interfax.

Multiple U.S. sanctions have already been imposed on Russia, the Russian senator added.

"There are UN Security Council sanctions, and they are compulsory for fulfillment. There are sanctions of one state, namely, the US, which thinks for an unclear reason that they are even higher than the UN Security Council," he noted.

ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Media Is Just the Only Reserve Left for the U.S.

We are starting this year the 40th anniversary of the Sacred Defense in a condition that the collective process of hegemony in enemies of the Islamic Republic of Iran is by far much weaker and unsupported than the past years. The spirit of maturation in administering the resistance with guidance of the Islamic Revolution not only has had valuable fruits for our esteemed country but it has had for its friends in the resistance front.

Despite all hostilities, Lebanon powerfully made the 33-day war as a base for gathering resistance experience and since then, it has stood strongly against all Western, Arab and Hebrew streaming and has not stepped back an inch.

Iraq in a deterrent process has lowered expansion of the U.S. influence and is preparing to expel them. Syria despite all woes and hardships, from Daesh sedition to the presence of its lord, the U.S., has survived with Iran's advice, and Yemen is on verge of overtaking in the 2000-day war. Today the U.S., more incapable than ever, is grappling with domestic problems.

I listened wholeheartedly to remarks of rocky IRGC Commander Major General Hossein Salami, broadcasting on Saturday evening on IRIB TV channel, and several times hailed him. The commander in his remarks numbered the past hegemonic factors of the U.S. He said, "In the past, the U.S. used to introduce itself to the world with four concepts of freedom, democracy, security and welfare. But today all these factors have lost their meanings. Today we see the condition of freedom and behavior of the police with the black in the streets. Today the U.S. is rotten from inside and polarity is being formed in the country."

In fact, freedom has been trampled to death under the foot of the Liberty Statue. Welfare has been summarized in unemployment and hunger, and security in the throats of the black has been kneeled own by the police and the western democracy intimidated by the media streaming has been tied with distance of one to 99 percent.

The IRGC commander pointed to the current condition of the U.S. society in tackling a crisis like the Coronavirus pandemic whose health system is collapsing, adding, "Bloomberg Institute has announced that there are 30 million hungry and 40 unemployed people in the U.S. and the U.S. political system is unable to resist against this phenomenon. Compare it with the society of Iran how with the concept of pious help it created social vitality and people shared their jubilation and happiness together, and today this society has been able to be successful and proud." **See Page 7**

U.S. Sanctions AEIOI And AIO Officials

WASHINGTON (IP) -U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned three Deputy Directors of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEIOI) and a number of its subsidiaries on Monday.

Companies supplying equipment for Iran's ballistic missile production overseen by Iran's Aerospace Industries Organization (AIO) and senior officials working on Iran's missile programs have also been designated.

Today's actions by the U.S. Treasury, the Department of State, and the Department of Commerce target entities and personnel directly involved in Iran's nuclear, ballistic missile, and conventional arms programs.

"The Trump Administration remains fully committed to its maximum pressure campaign against the Iranian regime to prevent the production of a nuclear weapon and other malign activities," said Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin. "The Treasury Department will not hesitate to target anyone who trades conventional arms with Iran, provides support to its nuclear program, or facilitates its development of ballistic missiles." **See Page 7**

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Zarif's Visit to Istanbul Canceled

TEHRAN (IP) - An official visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif to Turkey that was scheduled for Tuesday has been canceled.

"The visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif to Istanbul [on Tuesday], during which he was scheduled to meet with his Turkish and Qatari counterparts, has been canceled, and no other date has been set yet," the service said.

On Monday, media reported that Zarif would pay an official visit to Turkey to hold a meeting with Qatari and Turkish high-level diplomats, Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani and Mevlut Cavusoglu.

Enemy Not Dares to Attack Iran Due to IRGC

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Hailing the unity of the Army and IRGC in monitoring Iran's ground, maritime, and aerial spaces, Deputy Coordinator of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army noted that the enemy does not dare to attack Iran due to such union.

Hailing that the equipment used by Armed Forces is all made in Iranian knowledge-based companies and defense industries, Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari added, "During the Imposed War, we had only one missile for air defense, however, today, the country's air defense systems are countless and the country's whole skies are under control."

Referring to Zolfaghar-99 wargame, he said, "In this exercise, a submarine-launched cruise missile was fired in Oman Sea which can be launched from any type of our stealth submarines."

He also added that this type of hi-tech missile, which shows Iran Army's knowledge and skills in the defense field, threatens the enemy to a great extent.

Pointing out that since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the enemy has not only reduced its anti-Iran threats but also increased it, he asserted, "As we have an accurate assessment of the enemy's ability as well as the possible threats, therefore we have



identified some short-term and long-term solutions to deal with any threat of the enemy."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he condemned some rumors on disputes between IRGC and the Army, stressing, "These psychological operations have been only raised by the enemy through anti-Iran social media."

Referring the fact that the Army and the IRGC do a lot of joint work in terms of military exercises, the Deputy Coordinator of Iran's Army noted that the enemy does not dare to attack Iran due to the united stance of the Army and the IRGC in countering with any threats to the country.

U.S. Sanctions Have No Effect On AEOL's Peaceful Activities

TEHRAN (MNA) - The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOL) Behrouz Kamalvandi said that U.S. new sanctions cannot stop Iran's nuclear activities.

Following the new sanctions imposed by the Trump administration on Iran, Kamalvandi noted that such desperate moves have no effect on the activities of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

He went on to say that Washington seeks to divert the public opinion due to its recent failures in the international arena.

Kamalvandi stressed that the Atomic Energy Organization will continue its activities to ensure the peaceful nuclear rights of the Iranian people.

The U.S. imposed new sanctions on 27 individuals and entities, including officials at the Iranian ministry of defense, nuclear scientists, and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran over the country's nuclear program, claiming it is enforcing a UN arms embargo and demanded that the European Union follows suit.

Americans Do Not Trust Trump

TEHRAN (IP) - Deputy Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps for Coordination Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi stated that inside the United States, no one, including Republicans, Democrats, the media, take U.S. President Donald Trump seriously.

Trump has stated that the U.S. will respond thousand times more strongly to any Iranian attack on U.S. interests.

Reacting to Trump's remarks, Fadavi said: "It is natural that when a person like Trump speaks like this, he does not understand what he is saying. He does not know the meaning of what he is saying."

The military official noted: "Thanks to the Islamic Revolution, the United States has faced many failures over 41 years. With these defeats, how does that country want to hit Iran thousand times harder?"

He stated that the United States was never able to harm Iran.

War-Hit Countries Better Appreciate Peace



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Tehran Mayor Pirouz Hanachi said on Tuesday that those who have tasted the bitterness of wars appreciate peace more.

Referring to the coincidence of the anniversary of Iraqi invasion of Iran (22 September 1980) and International Day of Peace (September 21), Pirouz Hanachi stressed that the imposed war made considerable damage to Iran.

He made the remarks after taking part in a ceremony to mark World Car Free Day on September 22 when he appeared riding a bike alongside foreign ambassadors residing in Iran.

The Mayor accompanied the French, Danish, Dutch, and German ambassadors on Tehran streets during the biking. Hanachi and his companions also visited Tehran Peace Museum to honor the International Day of Peace on September 21.

According to the Mayor, the Municipality of Tehran is trying to increase the share of bicycle use in Tehran to 1% of all the transportation by the end of the current Iranian year (20 March 2021).

Saying that one of the problems of the dwellers of big cities is lack of physical activity and the diseases it brings, he added that 170 km of bicycle path exists in Tehran, 40 km of which has been made recently.

He also said that Tehran has 240 km of railway in seven lines and it is planned to add about the same length to the existing Metro system.

Hanachi went on to say that Iran is now fighting to viruses: coronavirus and sanctions. He added that countries help each other out in hard times and Iran expects more from other countries in the current condition.

He also appreciated the Europeans for supporting the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Iran Can Combat Threats Outside Border

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran has gained such great military capabilities that it can detect and counter the threats at any location, even outside the border, Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami said.

In comments in an online meeting with Defense Ministry officials on Tuesday, Brigadier General Hatami said Iran has made such great progress in the scientific, political, and defense spheres that it can "detect and foil any threat at the starting point, even outside the borders" in spite of all cruel threats from the hegemony.

The minister also emphasized that resistance will continue until the enemy is evicted from the West Asia and the region is cleansed of the "Great Satan", referring to the U.S. Iran has turned into an influential power in the global arena, Hatami noted, pointing to the country's success in designing and manufacturing various products under the pressure of sanctions.

He finally emphasized that the prosecution of those who assassinated top Iranian commander Lt. General Qassem Soleimani will go on vigorously, saying the criminals will be constantly in fear of revenge.

Lebanon Eying on Boosting Cultural Cooperation With Iran

EHRAN (IP) - Deputy Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance for artistic affairs, Mohammad Mojtaba Hosseini held a meeting with Lebanese outstanding cultural figures.

Hosseini held a meeting with the Primary Conductor of the Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra at The Lebanese National Conservatory, Andre Hajji on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the Primary Conductor of the Lebanese National Oriental Orchestra at The Lebanese National Conservatory, Andre Hajji, called for more artistic cooperation between Iran and Lebanon.

In the event which was also attended by Advisor and representative of the Lebanese Minister of Culture Hussein Ajami, the two sides exchanged ideas to boost ties in the mutual areas of interest.



Referring to the memorandum of understanding on cultural cooperation between the two countries, Hussein Ajami said: "Lebanon is ready to have joint artistic activities and cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in various fields of music and visual arts."

Hosseini also said: "Art is a language that does not need to be translated

and serves as the best line of communication among the nations."

He called cultural and artistic ties art as the strongest ones, saying that artistic ties have been established between Iran and Lebanon from the past and will be strengthened by further interaction of joint artistic activities and programs in the field of music.

Rabiei Likens Trump to Saddam for Anti-Iran Moves

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Comparing the Saddam and Trump's anti-Iran moves, the Iranian Government spokesman noted Saddam tore up the 1975 Algiers Agreement in front of the cameras, and today Trump is doing the same thing with the JCPOA.

Speaking in a press conference, Ali Rabiei referred the Holy Defense years (1980-1988) during which the Iranian nation, under the wise leadership of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Revolution didn't let the Regime of Saddam Hussein conquer even a single part Iran.

Rabiei also maintained that today, the Iranian people's complying with the guidelines of the Leader is a key element in the fight against the American regime's economic war.

The history of Iran shows that resisting against coercion and aggression is part of the Iranian culture and today, the Iranian nation is resisting against U.S. bullying, he added.

According to the spokesman, Iran achieved the result of the resistance in the UN Security Council meeting in which the United States became isolated at the international level.

Stressing that hostility of the Saddam Regime and the U.S. Regime to the Islamic Republic of Iran are no different, the Spokesman highlighted that Saddam tore up the 1975 Algiers Agreement in front of the cameras, and today Trump is doing the same thing with the JCPOA agreement.

On those days Saddam assassinated Ali Sayyad Shirazi, the Iranian commander in revenge for his failure in the Imposed War, he said and added that today, Lieutenant General Ghasem Soleimani was assassinated in revenge for defeating ISIS terrorist groups.

He said that Iran has no plans to hold Arbaeen processions this year due to restrictions imposed on public gatherings after spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Millions of Shia Muslims take foot journeys to the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) in Karbala in a great rally on Arbaeen day which marks the anniversary of the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the second grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH).

Rabiei said that some people are fabricating false news to provoke Iranian people to rush to Iraqi border for Arbaeen rituals.

Noting the Iranian and Iraqi governments have already announced that there will be no rally on Arbaeen Day this year, the spokesman regretted that some Iranian citizens are still going to the Iraqi border.



Strategic Patience, Iran' Macro-Policy Over U.S. 2020 Election

TEHRAN (MNA) -The Deputy Interior Minister for Political Affairs said, "Regarding the fact that hostility is the main common denominator of American officials, so Iran's macro-policy towards US election result is strategic patience."

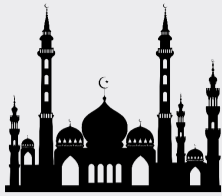
While speaking in a meeting, Jamal Araf reacted to Trump's bullying and unilateral moves in the international arena, stressing, "Under the international law, all U.S. moves, actions, and positions against anti-Iran sanctions, efforts to trigger a snapback mechanism and its pressures on all countries to comply with its illegal unilateral moves are clear examples of the Jungle Law."

He went on to say, although countries of the world are well aware of US bullying, however, they face pressures and problems for establishing and developing relations with Iran.

A clear example of this issue can be witnessed in the restoration of the country's property and resources, which are in the possession of some countries, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he referred to the upcoming US presidential election, adding that, "Regarding the fact that hostility to the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran is the main common denominator of all American officials, therefore, there is no significant difference between Democrats or Republicans to become the U.S. president."

Therefore, the macro policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the outcome of the US elections is strategic patience.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:56
■ Evening (Maghreb)	18:17
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:30
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	05:54

25. If any of you have not the means wherewith to wed free believing women, they may wed believing girls from among those whom your right hands possess: And Allah hath full knowledge about your faith. Ye are one from another: Wed them with the leave of their owners, and give them their dowers, according to what is reasonable: They should be chaste, not lustful, nor taking paramours: when they are taken in wedlock, if they fall into shame, their punishment is half that for free women. This (permission) is for those among you who fear sin; but it is better for you that ye practise self-restraint. And Allah is Off-forgiving, Most Merciful.
Surah 4, Women (25)

Investment the Missing Link in Tehran-Dhaka Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Bangladesh Ambassador to Tehran Mr. Gousal Azam Sarker says despite huge capacities of Iran and Bangladesh, lack of investment by both parties is considered as the missing link of trade between both states and this neglected issue should be noticed more.

Speaking during a meeting for reviewing cooperation between Bangladesh and Kerman Province held in Kerman, Mr. Sarker said despite having huge capacity for trade, the volume of trade between both countries is unsatisfactory and it has been around \$100m and Iran's share of export has been four times of Bangladesh's.

He added that major goods exported from Bangladesh to Iran were goods like jute, gelatin and oil seeds while Iran's major exports to Bangladesh has been goods like pistachio, bitumen and clinker, adding that if the relation between economic activists of both states is developed, the bilateral trade will definitely see more growth.

Sarker noted that despite problems in financial exchanges in the trade relation, the trade continues and both countries can use methods like barter of goods for easing trade.

He noted that Bangladesh is the world's second biggest producer of apparel, adding that the country beside in apparel and textile fields has grown fast in other fields like sea and frozen food, IT, pharmaceutical and building small and medium-sized ship and it has set very good outlook for development and export in those fields.

Sarker reiterated that agriculture is the base of Bangladesh economy and the country has had good and vast plans to boost this sector through investment.

He further said that there are good opportunities for investment for Iranians and investors from Kerman, adding that investors can pull out their whole money from



Bangladesh and they enjoy tax and customs exemptions.

Sarker noted that the country needs more investment in the fields of construction, start-ups and IT and they are welcomed and Iranians can invest either privately or through joint ventures.

The Bangladeshi diplomat added that every winter a big expo is held in Bangladesh and it is a good opportunity for Iranians and Kermanis to present and sell their goods and products, adding that next year, Dhaka will host the D-8 meeting as Iran is one of D-8 member states and some exhibitions and meetings are to be held on its sidelines by Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Iranians can take advantage of it.

Meanwhile head of Kerman Chamber of Commerce Seyed Mehdi Tabibzadeh, for his part, said that despite existence of several grounds and capacities for cooperation between Kerman Province and Bangladesh, Kerman's exports to Bangladesh have never exceeded \$100m.

He further said that developing bilateral trade is highly emphasized but this trade relation should be a win-win one and imports from Bangladesh should be based on the demands and needs.

He pointed to capacities of Bangladesh in technical and engineering services and producing technology for serious cooperation with Iran and expressed hope the meeting would lay the ground for serious bilateral cooperation more than before. He added that Kerman can cooperate with Bangladesh in goods and products like pistachio, date, cement, tile and ceramic, foodstuff, technical and engineering services, steel and copper and hailed Bangladesh's upward trend growth that this experience can be used in Kerman and Iran.

Iran Exports Apparel Worth \$35m

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran has exported different types of apparel worth over \$35m to 29 countries in the first five months of the current year.



Spokesperson for Iran's Customs Office Ruhollah Latifi said that over 4527 tons of different types of apparel worth over \$35m exported to 29 countries in the first five months. He added that the number of countries for export of Iran's apparel has increased this year. Latifi said that last year Afghanistan, Russia, Iraq and Yemen were the only destinations for Iran's apparel exports.

He noted that currently the number of destinations has increased and Iran's apparel is exported to Iraq, Kuwait, Australia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Russia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Germany, South Korea, Japan, the UAE, UK, Venezuela, Ivory Coast, Italy, Turkey, Canada, Qatar, Oman, Nigeria, Switzerland, Pakistan, Georgia, Spain and Denmark. On the amount of imported apparel, he said that although commercial import of apparel is banned but the amount of imported apparel by passengers or parcels has been around \$515,000.

Iran Exports 5.85Mt of Cement

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Data from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) shows that cement producers exported 5.85Mt of cement in the first five months of the local 2021 financial year, which began on 20 March 2020.

The value of cement exports fell by 52% year-on-year to US\$128m from US\$266m, according to the Tehran Times newspaper. Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan were the top destination for the exports. Cement was also sent to India, Russia, Qatar, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, China, and Oman.

In its 2020 financial year Iran exported a total of US\$7.0bn-worth of building materials and produced 85Mt of cement against a domestic consumption of 65Mt.

Kabul to Host Largest Iran Energy Exhibition



TEHRAN (MNA) –The first exhibition of Iran's technical and engineering services in the field of water, electricity and energy will be inaugurated in Afghanistan's capital today, said an official in Ministry of Industry, mine and trade.

Head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) and Deputy of Industry Minister Hamid Zadboum made the announcement on Tuesday.

Referring to the importance of developing Iran's trade relations in the region as well as expanding non-oil exports, he said that based on this important issue, the first exhibition of Iran's technical and engineering services in the field of water, electricity and energy will be inaugurated in Kabul on Tuesday, September 22.

The opening ceremony of this specialized exhibition is set to be held today in Kabul in the presence of officials and businessmen from both countries, he added.

According to the coordination, 100 Iranian companies are scheduled to introduce their capabilities in related fields in order to develop the export of technical and engineering services and related industries to Afghanistan, Zadboum said.

He went on to say that a 120-member delegation of Iranian businessmen in the field of energy and municipal services will have fruitful talks with the Afghan side during their four-day stay in Afghanistan.

Head of TPOI said that one of the goals of the exhibition is to develop urban diplomacy with Afghan cities.

Metals Exports Topped \$8.4b in Year to March

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran shipped a total of \$8.4 billion worth of metals in calendar year ending March 2020.

Iran saw its exports of metals grow in the year ending late March 2020, shows a report, as the country keeps earning more from the sector despite US trade bans.

A Monday report by the IMIDRO, Iran's largest holding company in the metals and mining sector, showed annual exports of metals had reached \$8.4 billion in value terms at the end of the last calendar year.

The report said exports of steel products had grown by seven percent year on year to top \$4.507 billion while copper products shipments had amounted to a total of \$1.241 billion, a surge of 35 percent compared to the year ending late March 2019.

Zinc shipments also increased 18 percent year on year to reach \$301 million while alumina powder, used as a raw material in aluminum production, surged by a 144 percent compared to the previous year to stand at \$387,000.

Iran's main shipping line group IRISL says annual revenues topped \$778 million despite U.S. sanctions.

Total metals exports exceeded 58 million metric tons in volume terms, said the report that was covered by the semi-official Fars news agency.

It said imports into the Iranian metals sector was largely down in the year to March with steel products at \$986 million, a decrease of 23 percent year on year, adding that copper imports also declined by 3 percent to stand at \$16.857 million.

The figures prove earlier reports suggesting there has been a stable trend of growth in the Iranian mining and metals sector despite a series of US sanctions that were enacted in May 2019 seeking to choke Iran's lucrative trade of metals.

The boom is partly due to Iran's increased efforts to develop the sector as the government sees revenues derived from it as an alternative to oil incomes that have been targeted by an even harsher regime of American sanctions since 2018.

Iran, Qatar Urge Enhancing Bilateral Ties

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's outgoing Ambassador to Qatar Mohammad Ali Sobhani and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani called for bolstering bilateral relations in various areas, Trend reports citing IRNA.

Sobhani made the remarks at the end of his mission in Qatar, terming the relations as historic and brotherly.

He considered the development of relations as a breakthrough, thanking the Qatari officials for constructive cooperation.



Iranian Experts Overhaul Boeing 747 Plane

TEHRAN (FNA) - Iranian experts succeeded in overhauling a 50-year-old Boeing 747 cargo plane amid harsh U.S. sanctions against the country.

"The Boeing 747 is 50 years old but it joined Homa (the national flag-carrier branded as Iran Air) in 2008 and Iranian specialists have overhauled it under the conditions of sanctions," Homa's senior repair technician Rahim Baqban told reporters. He added that the CEO of Boeing company has appreciated Iran for flying the company's planes for 50 years with high safety.

Baqban said that the overhauled Boeing 747 is a wide-body

plane used for humanitarian measures and assisting people damaged by natural disasters. Head of Iran Civil Aviation Organization Touraj Dehqani Zanganeh announced last month that the country's specialists had gained the know-how and capability to repair and overhaul heavy airplanes.

"Today, repair and maintenance of different aircraft from light to heavy airplanes is carried out by the specialists and experts of the aviation industry," Dehqani Zanganeh said. He added that several domestic knowledge-based companies in the country produce the most complicated parts needed by the aviation industry.

More Interaction Between Region and Industry for Sustainable Development

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

ISFAHAN – The public

and revolution courts prosecutor of town of Mobarakeh Hojjatoleslam Mehrabi commemorated the anniversary of the Sacred Defense and memory of its martyrs, and praised Mobarakeh Steel Company's support from the families of prisoners and its aids regarding construction of industrial shed for training and jobs of prisoners.

He said State Prisons Organization usually earned some part of its budget for its expenses through the donations and aids of bodies and NOGs.

Hojjatoleslam Mehrabi added that in recent years and due to the positive approach of the management of Mobarakeh Steel Company, one has witnessed considerable aids from this company that he can point to financing the cost for construction of a 3,000-square meter industrial shed for Asadabad Prison as a provincial camp. He hailed the company's participation in completing Asadabad Prison project as a very valuable social act with high priority.

Then the governor of town of Mobarakeh Mr. Asghar Hedayat in the meeting hailed the management of the company for its actions regarding its social responsibilities and called for continuing such supports.

He also said that they have always witnessed contribution of Mobarakeh Steel Company regarding support of prisoners and weak layers of the society.

Meanwhile in the meeting, the CEO of Mobarakeh Steel Company Mr. Hamid Reza Azimian underscored his company's obligations to observe its social responsibilities, adding that the company has tried to boost its efforts and supports in the framework of internal regulations and its afford to solve some small part of regional woes.

He reiterated that the approach of management in the company in recent years has been based on increasing cooperations and interactions.

Czech Republic Reports 1,476 New Coronavirus Cases

PRAGUE (Reuters) - The Czech Republic recorded 1,476 new coronavirus cases on Monday, up from 985 on Sunday, data from the Health Ministry showed on Tuesday.



Weekend numbers are typically lower due to fewer tests done than on weekdays.

The overall number of confirmed cases rose to 50,764 in the country of 10.7 million.

Pakistan Opposition Urges End To Military Interference in Politics

ISLAMABAD (Reuters) - Half a dozen major Pakistani opposition parties have joined forces to denounce the military which they accuse of meddling in politics and rigging the 2018 elections to bring Prime Minister Imran Khan to power.



The six parties and some smaller groups signed a statement late on Sunday announcing the creation of the Pakistan Democratic Movement to begin nationwide agitation, possibly culminating in a January march on the capital, Islamabad.

Colombians Protest Against Police Brutality



BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Thousands of Colombians protested Monday against police brutality and government policies, 11 days after the death of a man at the hands of police sparked demonstrations.

Trade unionists and students led the rallies and marches, chanting slogans against police brutality, that culminated in clashes with police in the center of Bogota, the main protest hub.

Demonstrators threw stones at police officers, who responded with tear gas and stun grenades, according to an AFP reporter.

Police riot units intervened to contain "violent" actions in Bogota, as well as the northwestern city of Medellin and Pasto in the southwest, according to police chief Oscar Atehortua.

At least nine people were arrested for ransacking banks and public facilities, Atehortua said.

Police said that 5,600 people participated in 142 protests, but by the end of the day, attendance seemed slightly higher.

Bogota experienced several days of unrest after a 43-year-old engineer named Javier Ordonez died on September 9 after being assaulted by two police officers.

A viral video showed Ordonez lying on the ground, while police shocked him with a stun gun and beat him, which were the cause of his death, according to the prosecutor's office.

After an 11-day break, students wearing masks took to the streets once more.

On Monday, a court ordered that the two officers, who have been charged with torture and aggravated homicide, be preventively detained.

During the protests that followed Ordonez's death, security forces opened fire, killing 12 people. Investigations against several members of the force are ongoing.

Thousands were also injured, including many officers, and dozens of police stations were destroyed.

Monday's protests took place against the backdrop of a recent wave of massacres related to the conflict between drug traffickers and authorities, as well as the economic crisis created by the coronavirus pandemic.

Lebanese President Proposes Ending Sectarian Quotas to Break Gov't Deadlock



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Monday that the country was going "to hell" if a government was not formed, as French efforts to encourage the formation of a new cabinet falter.

In a televised address, excerpts of which were published on the presidency's Twitter feed, Aoun proposed annulling sectarian quotas in the main cabinet ministries to end the impasse.

"As the positions have grown harder, there appears no solution on the horizon soon," Aoun said.

Asked where Lebanon was headed if there was no agreement among its fractious leaders, he responded: "Of course — to hell." Lebanon is in the throes of an economic crisis marking the worst threat to its stability since the 1975-90 civil war. But French efforts to get its fractious leaders to agree on a new government to start fixing the problems have yet to bear fruit.

Earlier on Monday, the country's prime-minister-designate called for cooperation from all sides in the formation of a new government and for efforts to secure the immediate success of a French initiative to lift the country from crisis.

All sides should cooperate to form a government of specialists "capable of halting the collapse and starting work to get the country out of the crises", Prime Minister-designate Mustapha Adib said in a statement.

Adib said he would spare no effort "to achieve this goal in cooperation with the president".

Last week, reports suggested Adib may resign as his efforts floundered. He had proposed switching control of ministries, some of which have been held by the same factions for years.

The cabinet formation process has hit a logjam over the demand of Lebanon's two dominant Shiite parties, the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its ally the Amal Movement, to name Shiite ministers to the cabinet including the finance minister.

Canadian Rights Groups Urge Trudeau to End Saudi Arms Sales

TORONTO (Dispatches) - Dozens of civil society organisations have sent an open letter urging Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to end to arms shipments to Saudi Arabia.

The Canadian Labour Congress, the largest labour organisation in Canada and some of Canada's largest unions have added their signatures to an open letter (PDF) addressed to the prime minister to raise concern about the "serious ethical, legal, human rights and humanitarian implications of Canada's ongoing exports to Saudi Arabia".

Open letters by the coalition of civil society organisations were previously sent to Trudeau in March and August 2019 and in April 2020, but no response has been received to date, the letter noted.

Academics and activists have long pressured Ottawa to cancel the exports of Canadian-made LAVs (light armoured vehicles) to Saudi Arabia, citing Saudi Arabia's involvement in the Yemen war and the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Campaigners have cited mounting credible evidence that Canadian arms are being used by the Saudi-UAE led coalition in the long-running conflict in Yemen.

The 14 billion Canadian dollar (\$10bn) deal to export LAVs made by the Ontario-based General Dynamics Land Systems to Saudi Arabia was brokered in 2014 by the previous Conservative government and then given final approval by Trudeau's Liberal Party government following the 2015 election.

In November 2018 the Liberal government suspended approvals of new arms export permits for Saudi Arabia pending an indefinite review.

Italy's Left Defeats Far-Right Bid to Take Stronghold Tuscany

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's far-right conceded defeat after a fierce battle in the country's regional elections for the left-wing bastion of Tuscany, providing a significant boost for the fragile national government.

The two-day vote went ahead despite a threatened resurgence of the coronavirus in Italy, which is now registering more than 1,500 new cases daily.

Ballots were cast nationwide for a referendum on cutting Parliament numbers, which passed easily.

But all eyes were on elections held at the same time in Campania, Liguria, Marche, Puglia, Tuscany, Valle d'Aosta and Veneto.

"It's an extraordinary victory," the region's centre-left candidate Eugenio Giani said on Monday as far-right chief Matteo Salvini admitted "we knew it would be an extremely difficult fight".

Experts had warned a flurry of far-right victories in the elections in seven regions could further fracture the brittle national governing coalition of

the centre-left Democratic Party (PD) and its governing partner, the anti-establishment Five Star Movement (M5S).

The highest-profile battle was for Tuscany, governed by the left for 50 years.

The left also quashed a bid by the coalition of Salvini's League, Giorgia Meloni's anti-immigration, anti-LGBT Brothers of Italy and Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right Forza Italia to snatch Puglia.

The PD only narrowly frustrated a League bid in January to take Emilia Romagna, one of its biggest strongholds.

A win in Tuscany would have bolstered the right's claim that the uneasy coalition - not elected, but installed after the previous government collapsed - was politically weak, and Italy's president should bring forward the 2023 national election.

The left also easily held Campania in the south. The right triumphed instead in its strongholds of Veneto and Liguria, as well as taking Marche.



Belarus Opposition Appeal to EU Fails to Unblock Sanctions



BRUSSELS (Reuters) - European Union foreign ministers failed to agree sanctions against Belarusian officials on Monday, despite an appeal by the country's main opposition leader.

After a sixth straight weekend of huge protests against President Alexander Lukashenko, opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya travelled to Brussels to try to convince the EU to follow through on a sanctions threat it announced last month.

So far the bloc has yet to approve a list of some 40 Belarusian officials to be hit with travel bans and asset freezes. Cyprus has been seen as blocking approval by tying the Belarus measures to unrelated sanctions it wants on Turkey in a gas exploration dispute.

"Although there is a clear will to adopt the sanctions, the required unanimity was not reached," the EU's top diplomat Josep Borrell, who chaired the meeting of foreign ministers, told reporters, referring to EU rules that all 27 states must agree. Approval is still possible by EU leaders at a summit on Thursday and Borrell said that by the next time foreign ministers meet on Oct. 12, the sanctions would be agreed. But he also acknowledged the paralysis was damaging for the EU's image.

"If we are not able to (approve Belarus sanctions), then our credibility is at stake," Borrell told a news conference.

Back in Minsk, a city court rejected a legal appeal from the defence team of Tsikhanouskaya's political ally, Maria Kolesnikova, against her detention.

Kolesnikova was jailed after ripping up her passport to prevent the Belarusian authorities from forcibly expelling her to Ukraine. She was charged last week with calling for "actions aimed at undermining Belarusian national security". About a hundred supporters gathered in and around the courthouse. Kolesnikova was not in court in person but when she appeared on a video screen people inside began to applaud.

Though the EU announce plans for the sanctions last month, enacting them requires support from all 27 member states. Cyprus wants a deal first on measures in its dispute against Turkey.

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Germany's Economic Rebound Set to Slow Further

FRANKFURT (Reuters) - Germany's economic rebound may lose some more steam heading into the end of the year as new orders slow and the services sector remains constrained by pandemic-containment measures, the Bundesbank said on Monday.

"In the remainder of the year the recovery may continue but lose momentum," the German central bank said in its monthly report after noting the slowdown had started in the summer.

"Industrial companies look at the future with optimism ... but expectations about exports remain cautious and the order flow noticeably lost momentum recently," it added.



India's August Crude Imports Continue Slide as Economy Stalls

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - India's crude oil imports declined in August, albeit at a slower pace, as soaring coronavirus cases continued to hit mobility and slowed economic recovery, government data showed on Monday.

Crude oil imports last month fell about 23.4% from a year earlier to 15.15 million tons, or 3.58 million barrels per day (bpd), data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas showed.

On a monthly basis, imports rose 9.9% from 13.79 million tons, or 3.26 bpd in July.

Fuel demand in the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer also slipped in August, posting its biggest monthly decline since April and a sixth consecutive year-on-year drop.

India's coronavirus tally hit 5.49 million, with infections second only to U.S. with 6.79 million, a figure the country could overtake in the next few weeks at its current rate of increase.

Refined product imports edged up 1.5% to 3.25 million tons year-on-year, but slipped 18.77% from 4.01 million tons in July.

Exports of refined products were down 13.5% in August from a year ago to 4.59 million tons. However, it rose 17.1% from 3.92 million tons in July.

Diesel exports continued to hold a major share of the total exports at 2.79 million tons, up 18.3% year on year, rising for the first time in three months, the data showed. It rose 35.6% from the prior month.

"In India, refiners are likely to raise runs now that demand has probably bottomed out—at least once bloated domestic stocks have been absorbed—risking further exports out of the country," consultancy Energy Aspects said in a note on Friday.

Significantly reduced domestic demand as a result of rising COVID-19 cases in India has resulted in steady exports from the country.

Global GDP to Hit Pre-COVID-19 Levels in Mid-2021

LONDON (Reuters) - World economic output will return to its pre-pandemic level by mid-2021 after a stronger-than-expected economic bounce in recent months, Deutsche Bank said on Monday, but bloated debt levels and a shift in policy could heighten the risk of a financial crisis.

"Global economic recovery from the depths of the COVID-19 plunge this past winter and spring has proceeded significantly faster than we envisioned," Peter Hooper, Deutsche global head of economic research wrote in a note to clients.

"As Q3 draws toward a close, we estimate that the level of global GDP is about half way back to its pre-virus level, and we now see that journey being completed by the middle of next year, a couple quarters sooner than in our previous forecast."

Deutsche raised its forecast for global GDP, expecting it to shrink 3.9% this year after predicting in May a contraction of 5.9% for 2020. For 2021, Deutsche raised its growth forecast to 5.6% from 5.3%.

Yet there was also a lot of uncertainty and potential trouble ahead, Hooper added.

Fears over second infection waves gathering momentum in the United States and Europe had increased uncertainty over the economic outlook, with the U.S. election that was "too close to call" adding to the mix. Meanwhile, in Europe a hard Brexit shock was a risk, Deutsche said.

And a shift in monetary policy - though some years away - could spell further trouble.

"The expansion of debt and potential overvaluation of assets that has been fed by necessarily super easy monetary policy poses the serious risk of a looming global financial crisis as central banks begin to shift away from easy policy," Hooper wrote. "Any upward surprises to inflation would heighten this risk."

Global Banks Seek to Contain Damage Over \$2 Trillion of Suspicious Transfers

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Global banks faced a fresh scandal about dirty money on Monday as they sought to limit the fallout from a cache of leaked documents showing they transferred more than \$2 trillion in suspect funds over nearly two decades.

Britain-based HSBC HSBA.L, Standard Chartered and Barclays, Germany's Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank, and JPMorgan Chase & Co JPM.N and Bank of New York Mellon Corp were among the lenders named in the report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and based on leaked documents obtained by BuzzFeed News. While some banks said many of the transactions happened a long time ago, and they had since put robust anti-money laundering checks in place, investors were clearly worried.

HSBC and StanChart shares touched their lowest level in as much as 25 years, although they fared little worse than their peers amid a wider selloff in global stocks.

The reports were based on 2,100 leaked suspicious activity reports (SARs), covering transactions between 1999 and 2017, filed by banks and other financial firms with the U.S. Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCen). Banks have spent billions bolstering their anti-money laundering procedures in recent years after many faced huge fines for rule breaches. They are required to file an SAR whenever handling funds that cause grounds for suspicion of criminal activity.

But an analysis of 2,100 SARs obtained by BuzzFeed News, which worked with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and other media organisations, found some reports were filed months after the suspect transactions took place and that often little other follow-up action was taken.

Lufthansa Flags Further Cuts to Planes, Staff

BERLIN (Reuters) - A worsening outlook for air travel prompted Lufthansa LHAG.DE to further cut its fleet and workforce on Monday as the coronavirus crisis forced it to take a 1.1 billion euro (£1.01 billion) impairment on the value of its aircraft.

The German airline, which secured a 9 billion euro state bailout in June, said the outlook for international air traffic had deteriorated in recent weeks and booking figures were declining as the summer travel period ended.

Lufthansa said it now expects capacity to be in the range of 20% to 30% in the fourth quarter, down from a previous forecast for 50%, as signs of a European recovery at the start of the summer evaporated due to travel restrictions and quarantines.

As a result, Lufthansa plans to reduce its fleet by 150, 50 more than previously planned, to around 610 aircraft, adding that this meant it would need to cut more

jobs than the 22,000 full-time positions it had previously announced.

Lufthansa, which had hoped to limit compulsory redundancies by cutting working hours and salaries, said it would talk with unions. The Verdi union criticised plans to cut staff, but said it remained open for further talks with Lufthansa.

"Job cuts alone will not save the company," Verdi spokeswoman Mira Neumaier said.

Lufthansa still aims to reduce its monthly cash burn by around 100 million euros per month to around 400 million in the winter period 2020/2021.

It plans to cut 20% of management positions in the first quarter of next year and will reduce its administrative office space by 30% in Germany.

Lufthansa said expanding coronavirus tests for passengers before departure is essential to reviving global air travel.

New Zealand Slump a Red Alert for World Economy

AUCKLAND (Dispatches) - New Zealand's great sensitivity to zigs and zags in the global economy makes it the canary in the coal mine of Asian trade.

And at the moment, globalization's early warning system is on life support as COVID-19 kills demand everywhere. The 12.2% annualized growth plunge in the April-June quarter confirmed New Zealand is on its

worst trajectory since the Great Depression.

The good news is that officials in Wellington think the worst is over. Thanks to early and firm coronavirus lockdowns, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's nation may come out the other side faster than developed-economy peers.

The bad news is: they are wrong, at least in terms of prospects for better economic times ahead.

The problem is the poor quality of the economic air wafting New Zealand's way. With the U.S. slumping amid nearly 7 million COVID-19 infections, Japan and Europe stumbling, and China recovering only modestly, New Zealand export prospects are darkening by the day.

Consider last week's trade data that has China bulls in a whirl. The 9.5% jump in exports in August, the biggest since March 2019, is great news for President Xi Jinping. Yet the 2.1% drop in imports does Ardern's economy no good. That shortfall extended a 1.4% decline in July.

For China's growth to matter, the number of tankers filled with New Zealand dairy products, wood, meat and other goods zooming toward the mainland needs to increase. The same goes for arrivals by Chinese tourists, businesspeople and students.

The 16% drop in New Zealand exports in August has Ardern's team scrambling to fire up the growth engines. With manufacturing output falling at a 13% rate, household consumption down 12% and construction down 26%, that is easier said than done.

It is natural to think New Zealand is due for a snapback. But given the dearth of global demand, it is likely to be more of a dead-cat bounce than a credible stabilization. Either way, recent figures could complicate Ardern's chances of winning a second term in the October 17 election.



Shell Launches Major Cost-Cutting Drive To Prepare for Energy Transition



LONDON (Reuters) - Royal Dutch Shell is looking to slash up to 40% off the cost of producing oil and gas in a major drive to save cash so it can overhaul its business and focus more on renewable energy and power markets, sources told Reuters.

Shell's new cost-cutting review, known internally as Project Reshape and expected to be completed this year, will affect its three main divisions and any savings will come on top of a \$4 billion target set in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. Reducing costs is vital for Shell's plans to move into the power sector and renewables where margins are relatively low. Competition is also likely to intensify with utilities and rival oil firms including BP and Total all battling for market share as economies around the world go green.

"We had a great model but is it right for the future? There will be differences, this is not just about structure but culture and about the type of company we want to be," said a senior Shell source, who declined to be named.

Last year, Shell's overall operating costs came to \$38 billion and capital spending totalled \$24 billion.

Shell is exploring ways to reduce spending on oil and gas production, its largest division known as upstream, by 30% to 40% through cuts in operating costs and capital spending on new projects, two sources involved with the review told Reuters.

Shell now wants to focus its oil and gas production on a few key hubs, including the Gulf of Mexico, Nigeria and the North Sea, the sources said.

The company's integrated gas division, which runs Shell's liquefied natural gas (LNG) operations as well as some gas production, is also looking at deep cuts, the sources said. For downstream, the review is focusing on cutting costs from Shell's network of 45,000 service stations - the world's biggest - which is seen as one its "most high-value activities" and is expected to play a pivotal role in the transition, two more sources involved with the review told Reuters.

"We are undergoing a strategic review of the organisation, which intends to ensure we are set up to thrive throughout the energy transition and be a simpler organisation, which is also cost competitive. We are looking at a range of options and scenarios at this time, which are being carefully evaluated," a spokeswoman for Shell said in a statement.

Iran Combats COVID-19, Despite U.S. Sanctions

TEHRAN (IP) - Deputy Minister of Health Iraj Harirchi expressed that despite U.S. cruel and unilateral sanctions, Iran has not faced any problem to treat coronavirus patients.

To clarified Iran's medical and pharmaceutical capacities to fight coronavirus, Iraj Harirchi in an exclusive interview with Iran Press stressed that with health staff's nonstop efforts and

sacrifices, not a single corona patient has been deprived of treatment despite major problems in transferring medicine, medical equipment, and financial resources to Iran.

The deputy minister noted that while facing a paucity of medical resources, more than 15,000 beds have been added to hospitals in one year, and 1,000 more ICU beds will be added soon.



UN75: The Future We Want, The UN We Need

TEHRAN (UNIC) -- In January 2020, the United Nations launched the global consultation to mark its 75th anniversary. Through surveys and dialogues, it asked people about their hopes and fears for the future – representing the UN's most ambitious effort to date to understand expectations of international cooperation and of the UN in particular. It is also the largest survey to date on priorities for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of 21 September 2020, over a million people from all countries and all walks of life had taken part. Their answers provide unique insights into what the public wants at this challenging time for the world. They are released today to coincide with the UN General Assembly's official commemoration of the 75th anniversary, held under the banner: the future we want, the UN we need. Key findings include:

- Priorities for action
- Across regions, ages and social groups, respondents were broadly united in their priorities for the future.
 - Amid the current COVID-19 crisis, the immediate priority for most respondents is improved access to basic services – healthcare, safe water, sanitation and education, followed by greater international solidarity and increased support to those hardest hit. This includes tackling inequalities and rebuilding a more inclusive economy.
 - Looking to the future, the overwhelming concerns are the climate crisis and the destruction of our natural environment. Other priorities include: ensuring greater respect for human rights, settling conflicts, tackling poverty and reducing corruption.
- Perceptions of the UN
- Over 87% of respondents believe global cooperation is vital to deal with today's challenges, and that the pandemic has made international cooperation more urgent.
 - Seventy-five years after its founding, six in 10 respondents believe the UN has made the world a better place. Looking to the future, 74% see the UN as "essential" in tackling the challenges.
 - However, respondents want the UN to change and innovate: to be more inclusive of the diversity of actors in the 21st century, and to become more transparent, accountable and effective.
- "Across this anniversary year, we have engaged in a global conversation. And the results are striking. People are thinking big – they are also expressing an intense yearning for international cooperation and global solidarity. Now is the time to respond to these aspirations and realize these aims. In this 75th anniversary year, we face our own 1945 moment. We must meet that moment. We must show unity like never before to overcome today's emergency, get the world moving and working and prospering again, and uphold the vision of the Charter." - United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.
- In January 2020, the UN Secretary-General launched the UN75 initiative, not as a celebration, but as the world's largest conversation about current global challenges, and the gap between the future we want and where we are headed if current trends continue.



- The Secretary-General saw UN75 as an opportunity for the UN to listen to the people it serves and identify their priorities and suggestions for enhanced global cooperation. UN75 was initiated to better understand people's hopes and fears for the future, inviting people everywhere to imagine the future they want and contribute ideas on how to make it a reality, building a better and more sustainable world, for all.
- Through formal and informal surveys, and dialogues held across the world, the exercise was intended to take stock of global concerns and gain views from across the world on what sort of global cooperation is required. It was also intended to re-imagine what role the United Nations might play in helping to address our global challenges.
- After the pandemic made in-person gatherings challenging in many parts of the world, the initiative increased its efforts to reach people online, expanding the one-minute survey and social media outreach to shift the dialogues to online settings, where possible. At the same time, it put more emphasis - and resources - on reaching those without internet access: working with UN offices and other partners on the ground, and through telephone and SMS communications.
- By adding questions on building back better from the pandemic, it was able to conduct the largest and most diverse global survey to date on post-COVID priorities.
- To date, over 1 million people have taken the one-minute survey in all UN Member and Observer States and more than 1,000 dialogues have been held in 82 countries across the world. In addition, 50,000 in 50 countries took part in independent polling by Edelman and the Pew Research Center, and artificial intelligence analysis of social and traditional media was conducted in 70 countries, along with academic and policy research mappings in all regions.
- Together, they represent the UN's most ambitious attempt to undertake a global reality check and hear from "we the peoples" on their priorities and suggested solutions to global challenges, providing unique insights into the future we want and the UN we need.

Media Is Just...

FROM PAGE 1

The process of infrastructural support in the U.S., in other words, liberalism, is grappling with death. Over one thousand sociologists, politicians and economists have confirmed this idea. Pay attention to these important points of the theorist of the century in the U.S. David Ranney is an



Illinois University teacher who has written over 100 articles and books. In one of his books, *New World Disorder: The Decline of U.S. Power*, he has talked about some concept, named "crisis of value" and has written that this crisis has gripped the American society after the 2008 economic crisis. He believes that crises of value have emerged throughout the history of capitalism and are inherent in the capitalist system itself.

He has published his views on this book in his personal website and has explained, "Among my conclusions, was that in the 1970s and 1980s we experienced what I call a "crisis of value. In response, the entire capitalist system underwent a radical restructuring which brutally displaced workers from their jobs and homes. Yet the restructured system, named a "New World Order" by President George H. W. Bush, was not sustainable. It was built on a house of cards—actually a house of credit cards. The New World Order was running on the illusion of fictitious capital in the form of bad credit. Today that house of cards is falling. We are once again in a crisis of value. I argue in this book that the present crisis of value will result either in the replacement of the global capitalist system or a radical restructuring of the system in the U.S."

If it is supposed that the whole values and capabilities of the current U.S. are put in a sieve and to add and subtract its remaining, one can say that only media hegemony which is in the hands and control of the Zionist investors has been left, something that the U.S is riding on its power horse and due to the collapse and overturn of moral values, this is the only thing left for it and it won't be long that this grandeur of survival will collapse, too.

Case of Assassination...

FROM PAGE 1

Zarif also said in a virtual address to the council that Tehran is ready for a full prisoner exchange with Washington.

He further said that the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers is still alive and instead the bullying tactics are dead.

Zarif said, "The deal is very much alive. The [UN] Security Council showed the deal was alive. The Security Council showed the United States was isolated in the world."

He was referring to a recent showdown between Iran and the U.S. in the Security Council, where the US sought to create a consensus against Iran to reimpose all UN sanctions on it.

"The Trump administration used power politics, used bullying in order to destroy the deal. Now the next administration wants to use bullying to come back to the deal? So bullying is dead," Zarif said. He added, "I want to see first the United States going back to its commitments, compensating Iran for its losses, and giving us guarantees that it won't do it again."

The chief diplomat noted, "The United States needs to find a seat at the table before it starts raising questions. It does not have a seat because it left the room. And while it left the room, it didn't matter which president did it. While it was out of the room it tried to torpedo that room. It tried everything to destroy that room. Now if it wants to come back to that room, it has to rebuild the room, then enter the room, sit at the table, and then, as I said, prove your brotherhood before you ask for inherits."

The foreign minister said if other members of the JCPOA go back to their commitments, Iran is prepared to go back to its commitments, underling that Iran exhausted procedures – the DRM procedure-environment in the nuclear deal.

"The United States decided to violate the JCPOA. It decided to break the JCPOA. It decided to leave the JCPOA. It decided to prevent others from implementing the JCPOA. And it's reaping the rewards now. As simple as that," he pointed out.

Zarif said, "We don't succumb to pressure. Today, we are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war. You now that war. You now that everybody supported Saddam Hussein. You now everybody gave him all the weapons, even the Western countries gave him chemical weapons. Where is Saddam Hussein now and where Iran is now. So if we wanted to accept bullying, Saddam Hussein was still around and Saddam Hussein would be creating a lot of terror."

Airbus Aims for Hydrogen-Powered Plane by 2035

PARIS (Dispatches) - Airbus is aiming to put the world's first hydrogen-powered commercial plane into service by 2035, the European aircraft maker's boss said in remarks published Monday.



Hydrogen is a clean fuel, emitting only steam, but whether it is green depends on the carbon footprint of the fuels used to produce it.

France and other European countries are investing billions of euros in the development of green hydrogen, with the highly polluting transport industry a prime area for its intended use.

"It is our ambition to become the first aircraft maker to enter such a plane into service in 2035," Airbus CEO Guillaume Faury told *Le Parisien* newspaper.

The development of decarbonised hydrogen fuel is a "priority axis of development" for Airbus, he said.

The manufacturer has already been using hydrogen technology to power its satellites and the Ariane rocket.

Developing an aircraft that uses carbon-free fuel would not require "any major technological breakthrough", Faury said.

The production technology would, however, still need around five years to reach maturity, and suppliers and industrial sites would need another two to be ready, he said.

"We could therefore implement the programme around 2028," he said.

Aviation generates up to three percent of the world's emissions of carbon dioxide, the main driver of climate change.

Hydrogen use would require some major design changes for aircraft, as the fuel requires about four times the storage space of kerosene for the same energy content.

The French government has earmarked 1.5 billion euros (\$1.75 billion) for the development of carbon-free aircraft as part of a support plan for the aviation sector, which has been brought to its knees by the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

Overall, France is planning to invest seven billion euros in the development of hydrogen solutions, with neighboring Germany setting aside nine billion.

IAEA...

FROM PAGE 1

"We were able to solve some important difficulties we had there," Grossi said today. "We restored cooperation and we continue the indispensable inspection activity in that country as in the rest of the world. We weather every crisis through diplomacy and we will continue doing so. Fair and firm."

Grossi reports regularly to the IAEA Board of Governors on Iran's implementation of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The Agency continues to verify the non-division of nuclear material declared by Iran under its Safeguards Agreement. Evaluations regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities for Iran continue.

"Last month, I went to Tehran for discussions with President Rouhani and other senior officials. We reached agreement on the resolution of some safeguards implementation issues raised by the Agency," Grossi said.

"The Agency subsequently conducted a complementary access, under the Additional Protocol, at one of two locations specified by us. Our inspectors took environmental samples which will be analysed. A complementary access at the second specified location will take place later this month. I welcome the agreement between the Agency and Iran, which I hope will reinforce cooperation and enhance mutual trust."

U.S. Sanctions...

FROM PAGE 1

Treasury designated Mohammad Ghannadi Maragheh, AEOI's Deputy Head of Nuclear Planning and Strategic Supervision, and Javad Karimi Sabet, AEOI's Deputy Head and the head of AEOI's Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute (NSTRI) pursuant to E.O. 13382 for their relationship to the AEOI, a central part of Iran's nuclear program. UN sanctions on Ghannadi Maragheh and Karimi Sabet were lifted in January 2016 under UN Security Council Resolution 2231, but have now been reimposed under "snapback"; therefore, these individuals have been added to OFAC's list of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN List).

The Advanced Technologies Company of Iran (IATC), Mesbah Energy Company, and NSTRI are entities subordinate to the AEOI and active components of Iran's nuclear program. Treasury previously identified IATC, Mesbah Energy Company, and NSTRI as part of the Government of Iran on November 5, 2018. Their listings have been updated to reflect their designation pursuant to E.O. 13382 and their role as key components of Iran's nuclear program. AEOI spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi and Deputy Director Pezhman Rahimian, who heads the sanctioned AEOI-affiliated Nuclear Fuel and Raw Materials Production Company, were also designated pursuant to E.O. 13382.

Treasury designated Iran-based Mammut Industrial Group (Mammut Industries) and its subsidiary Mammut Diesel pursuant to E.O. 13382 for providing support to an entity in Iran's ballistic missile program. Mammut Industries and Mammut Diesel are key producers and suppliers of military-grade, dual-use goods for Iran's missile programs. Since early 2000, Mammut Industries has supported the production of ballistic missile equipment for Iran's AIO and specifically, Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group (SHIG), Iran's primary developer of liquid propelled missiles. As of late-2019, Mammut Industries continued to support SHIG's production of ballistic missile equipment. Behzad Ferdows and Mehrzad Ferdows are two of the shareholders of Mammut Industries, and Mehrzad Ferdows is also the company's CEO. Mohammad Reza Dezfulian is the Managing Director of Mammut Diesel. Behzad Ferdows, Mehrzad Ferdows, and Mohammad Reza Dezfulian were designated pursuant to E.O. 13382.

Also designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 are AIO official Asghar Esmailpur and long-time SHIG official Mohammad Gholami. Esmailpur has served as the Director of SHIG's Shahid Haj Ali Movahed Research Center, which has played a key role in Iranian-North Korean missile cooperation. Treasury designated Shahid Haj Ali Movahed Research Center pursuant to E.O. 13382 on March 24, 2016 under the name Shahid Movahed Industries and has now updated its SDN listing to reflect this new alias.

Treasury also updated the SDN listing for Seyyed Mir Ahmad Nooshin. Nooshin previously served as the Director of SHIG and, in that role, was key to negotiations with the North Koreans on long-range missile development projects. Nooshin's entry on the SDN List was updated to reflect his current position as the Director of AIO.

Gundogan Tests Positive For COVID-19

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester City midfielder Ilkay Gundogan has tested positive for COVID-19, the Premier League club said on Monday, making him the third player in the squad to return a positive test in recent weeks. City winger Riyad Mahrez and defender Aymeric Laporte previously tested positive for the novel coronavirus earlier this month. "Ilkay is now observing a 10-day period of self-isolation in accordance with Premier League and UK Government protocol on quarantine," the club said in a statement.

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Wawrinka Splits With Long-Time Coach Norman

LONDON (Reuters) - Stan Wawrinka has split with his long-time coach Magnus Norman, the man who helped him win three Grand Slam titles, the Swiss player announced on Monday. Wawrinka posted a message on Instagram saying his eight-year alliance with the Swede was over. "After eight great years together (Magnus Norman) and I have decided to part ways by mutual consent," Wawrinka, 35, said.

Djokovic, Halep Win Rome Titles

ROME (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic picked up where he left off before his US Open default two weeks ago, winning a fifth Italian Open title on Monday, days before the start of Roland Garros.

The world number one lifted a record 36th Masters crown, one more than great rival Rafael Nadal, after beating Diego Schwartzman 7-5, 6-3 in the final at the Foro Italico in Rome.

"Turning to Paris, I couldn't ask for a better tournament here in Rome. Another big title and I'm super pleased," said Djokovic.

"I don't think I played my best tennis throughout the entire week, but I think I found my best tennis when I needed it in the decisive moments."

Djokovic extended his record to 31 wins from 32 matches this year, with his only loss the US Open disqualification for accidentally hitting a line judge with a ball.

Schwartzman had shocked nine-time tournament winner Rafael Nadal in the quarter-finals.

But he ran out of steam in a final played under light drizzle, having also spent more than three hours on the court in Sunday's semi-finals.

Despite a great start, with two breaks to lead 3-0, Schwartzman could not keep the momentum going against the 17-time Grand Slam winner, who notched up his fifth win over the Argentinian.

For Djokovic it was a fifth victory in 10 finals in Rome, but the first since 2015, having finished runner-up three times since including last year to Nadal.

"It's been a good week, even if I haven't played my best tennis. I'm satisfied," said Djokovic.

Top women's seed Simona Halep lifted her first trophy in Rome, a confidence booster ahead of the French Open, after defending champion Karolina Pliskova retired injured while trailing 6-0, 2-1 in the final.

World number two Halep was competing in her third Rome WTA final, having finished runner-up in 2017 and 2018.

Halep said she was approaching Roland Garros "without pressure, smiling," despite the 2018 winner now being among the favourites.



"It's just another tournament. I'm not going to put pressure on myself," the Wimbledon champion insisted.

"I played really well this year. I have three titles already. I played so much on clay. I feel confident."

"I just try to be happy, to take the positives from this tournament, and to go there smiling."

Pliskova's title defence was hampered due to pain in her left thigh.

"It was growing worse and worse with every day," she said.

"This morning I even wondered if I was going to play, but you still want to try," said the Czech, who "hopes" to recover in time for Roland Garros.

Swept aside 6-0 in the first set, she seemed to recover in the second and had just won her first game when she headed for Halep to call time on her match.

For Halep it was a third tournament win this year after Dubai in February and Prague last month, to extend her winning streak to 14 consecutive matches.

The 28-year-old Romanian did not compete in the US Open because of coronavirus fears, but said she had felt safe in the Italian capital.

"I want to thank everyone because the tournament went well, and in these conditions it's not easy," she said.

"We felt really safe and really good on and off the courts, even though we stayed often in our hotel rooms. We accepted it, because we like to play tournaments."

Rakitic Bids Farewell to Croatia Squad

ZAGREB (Dispatches) - Croatia international Ivan Rakitic on Monday bid farewell to the national team with whom he reached the final at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the country's football federation said.

"Saying goodbye to Croatia squad is the most difficult decision in my carrier."

"But I felt that is the moment when I have ... to make this decision," the 32-year-old Sevilla midfielder said in a Croatian Football Federation (HNS) statement.

"I enjoyed every match I have played for my homeland and unforgettable moments from the World Cup will remain among favourite memories of my life."

Rakitic, who did not elaborate on the reasons for the decision, made his debut for Croatia in 2007. He won 106 caps and scored 15 goals. His last appearance came against Wales in a Euro qualifying game last October.

HNS recalled that Rakitic converted the final penalties in the shootouts against Denmark in the round of 16 and Russia in the quarterfinal in 2018 as Croatia advanced to their first ever World Cup final.

Croatia lost 4-2 to France.

Coach Zlatko Dalic said he talked with Rakitic about his decision and added that, despite regrets, respected it.

"Ivan had a great career in the national team and no one will forget his cold-bloodedness during decisive penalties at the World Cup," Dalic said in a statement.



Sporting Name Academy After Greatest Ever Product Ronaldo

LISBON (Dispatches) - Sporting announced on Monday they will re-name their academy after former attacker and five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo.

Ronaldo, who scored in Juventus' first Serie A game of the season on Sunday, joined the capital city side aged 12.

"The Academy will thus immortalise the name of the greatest symbol it ever produced and that will be an inspiration to follow for all the younger talents," the 18-time Portuguese champions said in a statement.

"The Academia Cristiano Ronaldo will represent Sporting's DNA in its excellence and will follow the destinies of the one that now gives it its name: to be the best in the world," they added.

Ronaldo, 35, made his Sporting debut in 2002 before playing for Manchester United, Real Madrid and Juve.

The Portugal captain has won the Champions League five times as well as the Premier League, La Liga and Serie A.

German F1 Grand Prix to Allow Up to 20,000 Fans

BERLIN (Reuters) - Next month's Eifel Grand Prix at Germany's Nuerburgring track can have as many as 20,000 fans in attendance, local authorities said on Monday, with the region's coronavirus infections under control.

"The permission for 20,000 fans is within the decision of the state that allows up to 20 percent of stadium capacity for major sports events if infection figures are inconspicuous and the public infrastructure allows for social distancing rules to be met," Ahrweiler district council said.

Tickets for the Oct. 11 race went on sale shortly after the decision. The Nuerburgring can normally accommodate more than 100,000 spectators.

Germany reported 922 more positive coronavirus cases on Monday with the overall death toll at 9,386.

Suarez Cuts Barca Contract, Agrees Atletico Terms



BARCELONA (Reuters) - Barcelona striker Luis Suarez has agreed a deal with the club to end his contract and settled on personal terms with Atletico Madrid, according to reports in Spain on Monday.

The Catalans' third top scorer of all time was told he was not wanted by new Barcelona coach Ronald Koeman and has been looking for a new club.

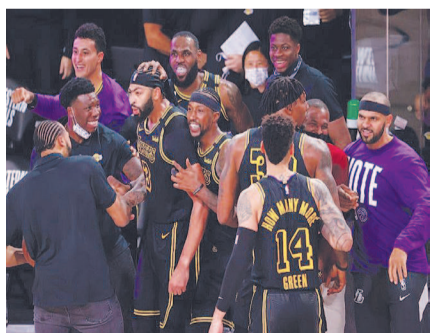
Suarez, 33, who has one year to run on his Barcelona contract, agreed a deal with the club to cut it short, reports said.

Mundo Deportivo said Suarez has fixed a contract with Atletico Madrid for two seasons, although the club will need to lighten their wage bill to accommodate the Uruguayan.

Reports in Italy say Juventus are in talks with Atletico to re-sign Spain striker Alvaro Morata. Suarez had been heavily linked with Juventus but coach Andrea Pirlo said it was unlikely he would come to Italy because of the difficulty in obtaining an EU passport.

The striker finished as Barca's second-highest scorer last season behind captain Lionel Messi and scored 198 goals in 283 games for Barca, after joining in 2014 from Liverpool.

Davis's Buzzer Beater Lifts Lakers Over Nuggets



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Anthony Davis drained a three-pointer as time expired to seal the Los Angeles Lakers' 105-103 victory over the Denver Nuggets Sunday for a 2-0 lead in the NBA Western Conference finals.

"People talk about (I've) never been in this moment before, pressure, am I ready for it," Davis said. "I want to take those shots."

Davis scored 31 points and pulled down nine rebounds, and LeBron James added 11 rebounds as the Lakers turned back the determined Nuggets -- who had taken a 103-102 lead on Nikola Jokic's driving basket with 20.8 seconds remaining.

Jokic scored 11 straight points for the Nuggets down the stretch, finishing with 30 points, six rebounds and nine assists to lead Denver. Jamal Murray added 25 points, and the Nuggets battled in a furious fourth quarter but finally came up short.

Davis and Jokic traded baskets down the stretch, Jokic tipping in a miss from teammate Murray to put the Nuggets up 101-100 with 31.8 seconds left, only for Davis to answer at the other end.

After Jokic scored to put the Nuggets ahead by one again, the Lakers' Alex Caruso missed a three-pointer, and Murray blocked a shot by Danny Green, giving the Lakers a chance to inbound the ball.

Rajon Rondo found Davis, and the All-Star forward drained the game-winner over Jokic. The Lakers will try to take a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven series on Tuesday in the NBA's quarantine bubble in Orlando, Florida.

James powered the Lakers early, scoring Los Angeles' first 12 points.

Guardiola Has To Earn New Man City Contract



LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola said Sunday that he needs to show he is worthy of a new contract as Manchester City manager this season despite a trophy-laden first four years in England.

Guardiola is entering the final year of his current deal and a fifth season at the same club for the first time in his managerial career.

But on the back of finishing 18 points behind Liverpool in the Premier League last season and another disappointing quarter-final exit in the Champions League to Lyon, Guardiola said he knows he must return to the standards he set in the previous two years.

"I would love to stay longer here. It is a place I love to be but I have to deserve it," said the former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss ahead of Monday's season opener for City away to Wolves.

"This club achieved (high) standards in the last decade but we have to maintain that. I am going to see if I deserve it this season in terms of how the club goes forward and improves."

City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak said over the summer he is confident "everything will work out naturally and in the right way" with regard to Guardiola's future.

But Guardiola said he has had no ultimatum from the club over what they expect this season. "We didn't speak with the club in these terms. They didn't push me from day one to today in September," he added.

"They allow me to do my job the best I can and with all my staff and the players, and this is going to continue. "They didn't tell me 'you have to do this or you have to that', or 'you have to win this or you have to win that'. They told me to play."