

A Russian Cargo Train Has Reportedly Arrived in the Port City of Bandar Abbas in Southern Iran Where the Cargo Is to Be Transshipped Aboard Ships to Continue Its Journey to Saudi Arabia

IRAN NEWS

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Iran as Well as New Ambassadors of Tunisia, Brazil, Slovenia, and Argentina Presented Copies of Their Credentials to Iranian Foreign Minister

VOL. XXIX, No. 7828 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4, 2023 - MEHR 12, 1402

Leader Pardons, Commutes Sentences of Over 2,000 Inmates



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei pardoned or commuted the sentences of over 2,000 Iranian prisoners on the eve of the birthday anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Ayatollah Khamenei on Monday agreed to a request by Iran's Judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei to pardon or reduce the sentences of 2,284 inmates eligible for parole or reduction of sentence. The inmates had been convicted in the country's public and Islamic Revolution courts, the Judicial Organization of the Armed Forces, and the State Discretionary Punishment Organization. The clemency was granted on the eve of the birthday anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Ja'far Sadiq (AS), the sixth Shia Imam, which fall on Tuesday. The Leader regularly issues such decrees on the occasion of religious festivities. Article 110 of Iran's Constitution grants the Leader the right to pardon or reduce the sentences of inmates upon a recommendation from the head of the Judiciary. The clemency, however, does not apply to all types of prisoners, including those who have been sentenced for their role in armed struggle against the country, armed or organized drug trafficking, rape, armed robbery, arms smuggling, abduction, bribery, and embezzlement. Official says some 90,000 have been pardoned following a mass amnesty in February on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. In April, on the occasion of the Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, the Leader pardoned and commuted sentences for over 1,700 prisoners.

Normalization With Israel "Betting on a Losing Horse"

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DAY



TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has rebuked countries seeking to normalize relations with Israel, stating that "the Zionist regime is perishable." "The Islamic Republic's definite position is that the governments that use the normalization gamble with the Zionist regime as a model for themselves will lose and the loss awaits them," Ayatollah Khamenei said on Tuesday. "They are making a mistake and, as the Europeans say, they are betting on a losing horse," he told a group of people, government officials, ambassadors of Islamic countries and guests of an international unity conference in Tehran. Ayatollah Khamenei said Israel holds a spite toward Muslim countries. "The Zionist regime is full of hatred and anger, not only towards us, but also other countries. It is not like the Zionist regime is happy with the countries far and around it. They also hate Egypt, Iraq and Syria. 'Why? Because their goal was from the Nile to the Euphrates and this did not happen. These countries did not allow it for different reasons,' the Leader said. 'Well, of course, the Qur'an says, 'Be angry and die of anger.' That will be the case. They are dying now and by the grace of God 'Be angry and die of anger' is being realized in the case of the Zionist regime," he added. "Today, the Palestinian movement is livelier than ever in these seventy, eighty years. Today, the Palestinian youth and the Palestinian movement, the anti-occupation, anti-oppression, anti-Zionism movement is more energetic, and more prepared than ever," Ayatollah Khamenei noted. Ayatollah Khamenei also says Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has offered the panacea for all major sufferings of mankind. "All the members of mankind, whether they believe in this religion or not, are indebted to the Great Prophet," Ayatollah Khamenei said. He said that today, the enmities toward Islam is more obvious than ever, describing the desecration of the Holy Quran in European countries as a blatant example of such enmities. "The masterminds behind this crime and this hateful act think they can undermine the Quran, but they are wrong. They destroy themselves," the Supreme Leader asserted. The Supreme Leader also said the Islamic Republic strongly believes that the governments that pursue the "normalization wager" with the Zionist regime will suffer greatly. And God willing, he continued, this movement will bear fruit, and this cancer, as Imam Khomeini rightly called it, will be eradicated by the hands of the Palestinian people and the resistance forces in the entire region.

Iran Among Five Countries Producing Genetic Kits in World

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - Iran is among the five countries producing genetic kits across the world despite US-led sanctions hampering the Islamic Republic's efforts to acquire the state-of-the-art medical technology, a senior Iranian health official says. Masoud Qadi-Pasha, the vice president of the Iranian Forensic Medicine Organization's laboratory department, made the statement on Sunday as he pointed to cruel sanctions by the West that prevented Iran from importing genetic kits and the Islamic Republic's long-time efforts to become self-sufficient in the high-tech field. "We used to be an importer of genetic kits that would not enter the country due to the West's brutal sanctions," Qadi-Pasha said. "With the policy of the [Iranian] Judiciary and Forensic Medicine... all genetic kits are produced in the organization, which has made Iran recognized as one of the five countries producing genetic kits in the world." Stressing that the quality of Iranian kits outmatches that of foreign genetic kits in some items, the officials said, "Today, we have been exempted from exporting 70% of consumables in the genetics sector, and we are trying to produce 30% of the imported items by the end of the year, and to have exports soon after self-sufficiency." Qadi-Pasha also pointed to Forensic Medicine Organization's policy of being up-to-date in scientific fields, saying toxicology laboratories are active in 31 Iranian provinces and two other provinces will soon complete their toxicology labs. Heidar Mohammadi, the head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration, hailed on Friday the country's progress in the fields of medical science and pharmaceutical industry despite the sanctions, announcing the export of Iranian-developed medicines to 40 countries across the world. Mohammadi, who is also the deputy minister of health, said a threefold increase in the export of Iranian pharmaceuticals bespeaks the country's good interaction with the neighboring countries. Iranian authorities have repeatedly blamed the sanctions for a shortage of medicines that treat special diseases such as cancer. Health experts have warned that the harm caused by the sanctions on Iran's access to medicine supplies may get worse.

West Violates Rights of Women, Uses Them as Tool

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says unlike Iran, the Western countries have been violating human rights by using women as a tool and leverage against independent nations. "The Islamic Republic believes that the West uses women as a tool," he told participants at the First International Khorshed Media Festival in Tehran. "The Islamic Republic views women neither an instrument, nor a homemaker. In a sense, there is a third view which observes that women can be society builders alongside men and play an essential role in the family and society," he added. President Raisi touched on the West's use of women rights as a tool to put pressure on independent countries, saying Western countries "are not really in favor of women's rights or human rights". "Our stand today is that of a claimant and the West of a suspect. The Westerners must answer why they violate the rights of human beings and women," he said. Iran's second-largest city of Mashhad is set to host a key gathering of notable women journalists working for alternative media platforms from across the globe in late September. The president also censured the West for ignoring the rights of the Palestinian nation for 70 years and occupying Afghanistan for 20 years with bloodshed, destruction, and over 35,000 maimed children as its only outcome. He further said that Western countries, especially the United States, are promoting modern ignorance among nations by using their media empire to distort facts, falsify the truth, and suppress real news. Convergence and effective contacts among independent and free media is the key to success against the West's media empire, he noted.

Navy to Take Delivery of New Homegrown Destroyer Soon



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani says the force will take delivery of a new domestically-designed and manufactured destroyer in the near future, which is furnished with much more advanced and elaborate systems compared to the military vessels already unveiled. Addressing students at Sharif University of Technology in the capital Tehran during a Saturday ceremony in commemoration of the anniversary of the 1980-88 Iraq-imposed war, Irani highlighted that the homegrown military vessel, dubbed Deylaman, will soon join Iran's naval fleet. He described Deylaman as much more sophisticated than Dena destroyer. Dena is reportedly the fourth Jamaran-class destroyer manufactured by the Defense Ministry's naval industries. The Iranian destroyer is equipped with various defense and offense systems, designed to make long journeys in the oceans, and capable of detecting, tracking, and hitting various aerial, surface, and submarine targets. Dena is also capable of carrying helicopters on its deck. Elsewhere in his remarks on Saturday, Irani stated that the Iranian Navy plans to set up a base in the Antarctica. Iran's southeastern Makran coast is directly connected to the South Pole and the deployment of Iranian servicemen in that region would be of a practical nature, he said. Antarctica is important from several different aspects as it is the best place to control the cruise of ballistic missiles, the high-ranking Iranian commander said. Iran's Navy has in recent years achieved self-sufficiency in manufacturing surface and sub-surface vessels. It has also increased its presence in international waters to protect naval routes and provide security for merchant vessels and tankers.

Iran Nuclear Achievements Serve Peace, Humanity



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the country's nuclear technology achievements are in line with peace and service to humanity. Addressing a group of attendees of the 37th International Islamic Unity Conference during a visit to the Shahid Fakhri-zadeh research reactor in Tehran on Monday, Mohammad Eslami said Iran does not seek nuclear weapons and has always pursued peaceful nuclear energy. He said Iran is ready to share its nuclear achievements with non-hostile countries around the world. "Iran's nuclear technology achievements are in line with peace and service to humanity, and all of these activities are carried out based on the standards and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and within the framework of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and NPT and are pursued with the Agency's continuous inspections," he explained. According to Eslami, the Islamic Republic determines its national interests based on its national capacities, and is opposed to any monopoly over science and technology. "Iran and its scientists have been sanctioned for years, and every day they put more pressure on [the country's] nuclear program," he said, dismissing lies against Iran's civilian nuclear activities.

Iran Importing 7.5 mcm of Gas From Turkmenistan

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Saeed Agzli, a senior official with the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) says Iran is currently importing as much as 7.5 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas from neighboring Turkmenistan. He told reporters that the NIGC is pumping some 93 percent of the fuel used in the power plants in the country. Presently, repair and maintenance services of refineries are either underway or completed in order to forward the gas to the farthestmost regions of the country in the cold season of the year, he further said. The country is home to more than 39,000 km of gas transmission network and also 400,000 km of electricity distribution grid, he added. In response to a question on importing gas from Turkmenistan, the manager stated that Iran is importing gas from Turkmenistan and has so far imported 10 million cubic meters of gas from this country. He put the volume of gas imported from Turkmenistan to Iran at 7.5 million cubic meters. Regarding the latest situation of gas swap deal with Turkmenistan, the official noted that gas swap will be made according to the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Tehran Supports Expansion of Regional Transportation Routes

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has expressed its support for the expansion of transportation routes in the region, but reiterated the Islamic Republic's opposition to any geopolitical changes. "We support the expansion of transit routes and transportation networks in a way that serves the interests of all regional countries, but at the same time we emphasize that we oppose any change to international borders," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani said Monday. His remarks came after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan claimed that Iran was warming up to a joint Turkish-Azerbaijani plans to set up a transport corridor connecting Turkey to Azerbaijan via Armenia. The so-called Zangezur corridor aims to connect the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhchivan, bordering Turkey, to mainland Azerbaijan through the southern Armenian province of Syunik. Armenia opposes the plans on the grounds that it would violate its sovereignty. "If Armenia does not pave the way for the corridor, where will it pass through? It will pass through Iran," Erdogan said. "Iran currently considers this positively. So, it would be possible to pass from Iran to Azerbaijan," the Turkish leader claimed. Iran has in the past opposed the plan on the grounds that it would cut off the transport routes connecting its territories

to Armenia. Without elaborating on the nature of the positive signals allegedly coming out of the country, Erdogan said, "It is pleasing to see positive signals from Iran on this issue." On Monday, Kan'ani expressed Tehran's support for resolving the disputes in the Caucasus region through political means. "We believe differences in the Caucasus can be resolved via political dialogue and regional capacities," he said. The spokesman stressed that Tehran is against any extra-regional intervention and foreign presence in the Caucasus. He noted that Iran supports regional dialogue within the framework of the 3+3 format cooperation mechanism, expressing Tehran's readiness to help find a solution to the conflict.



LICENCE HOLDER: SOKHAN GOSTAR INSTITUTE

Switchboard: (+98) (21) 44253448
 Public Relations Tel: (+98)(21) 44253450
 Editorial Board: 44253449
 Public Relations Fax: (+98)(21) 44253395
 Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
 Website: http://www.irannewsdaily.com
 E-Mail Address: info@irannewsdaily.com
 ISSN 1024-6053 P.O. Box: 15875-8551
 Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St,

Golestan St. Marzdaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
 Distributed by: Cities of Iran Cultural and Artistic Institute
 Managing Director: Fereydoon Taherpour Asi



Nobel Prize for Medicine Goes to Kariko and Weissman

STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Hungarian scientist Katalin Kariko and U.S. colleague Drew Weissman, who met in line for a photocopier before making mRNA molecule discoveries that paved the way for COVID-19 vaccines, won the 2023 Nobel Prize for Medicine. "The laureates contributed to the unprecedented rate of vaccine development during one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times," the Swedish award-giving body said in the latest accolade for the pair. The prize, among the most prestigious in the scientific world, was selected by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute medical university and comes with 11 million Swedish crowns (about \$1 million) to share between them. Kariko, a former senior vice president and head of RNA protein replacement at German biotech firm BioNTech, is a professor at the University of Szeged in Hungary and adjunct professor at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn). "We are not working for any kind of reward," Kariko, who struggled for years to find grants for her research, said in remarks alongside Weissman at UPenn's Philadelphia campus, a few hours after she was awoken by the call from Stockholm. "The importance was to have a product which is helpful." Co-winner Weissman, a professor in vaccine research also at UPenn, said it was a "lifetime dream" to win and recalled working intensely with Kariko for more than 20 years, including middle-of-the-night emails as they both suffered disturbed sleep. In 2005, Kariko and Weissman developed so-called nucleoside base modifications, which stop the immune system from launching an inflammatory attack against lab-made mRNA, previously seen as a



major hurdle against any therapeutic use of the technology. "We couldn't get people to notice RNA as something interesting," Weissman said on Monday. "Pretty much everybody gave up on it." BioNTech said in June that about 1.5 billion people across the world had received its mRNA shot, co-developed with Pfizer (PFE.N). It was the most widely used shot in the West. Having grown up in a village in a house without running water or a refrigerator, Kariko got a biochemistry doctorate in Szeged before

she and her husband sold their Soviet-made Lada car, sewed some cash into their daughter's teddy bear and went to the U.S. on a one-way ticket. The daughter, Susan Francia, became a U.S. national rower and Olympic gold winner. At UPenn, Kariko tried to turn mRNA into a treatment tool throughout the 1990s but struggled to win grants because work on DNA and gene therapy captured most of the scientific community's attention at the time. Kariko has said she endured ridicule from university colleagues for her dogged pursuit, and her failure to secure research grants led to UPenn demoting her from a full-time professor track in 1995. Weissman received his doctorate from Boston University in 1987 and joined UPenn in 1997. The two have said they met and began chatting in 1998 while waiting for rationed photocopying machine time. "Maybe you have some more copy machines now," Kariko said at UPenn on Monday. "I bragged about how I can do RNA, and Drew was interested in vaccines, and that is how our collaboration started." Sir Andrew Pollard, an immunology professor at Oxford University who pursued a different technology when co-developing the lesser-used COVID vaccine by AstraZeneca, said it was "absolutely right that the ground-breaking work" done by Kariko and Weissman should be recognized by the Nobel committee. The award comes even as Germany's CureVac, which failed to bring a COVID shot to market, as well as rival Moderna, are separately suing BioNTech and Pfizer for alleged mRNA patent infringements. BioNTech and Pfizer in turn have launched legal challenges against the validity of the intellectual property rights in question.

EU Seeks to Protect Sensitive Tech From Chinese Buyers



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The EU will signal how Brussels will muscle up to counter China's aggressive trade policies, including by unveiling a list of sensitive technologies that must be kept out of Beijing's hands. Brussels is building a trade armoury to protect the bloc from actions by rival countries, including a tool aimed at punishing nations that seek to put pressure on one of its member states. The European Commission will publish a list of critical technologies it believes Europe must not make easily available to countries where Brussels fears they could harm the bloc's security, EU interests or human rights. The European Parliament is also set to give its final green light to a mechanism that would allow the bloc to impose tariffs, restrict investment, and limit access to public contracts for nations seen as engaging in economic blackmail. It is a response to a dispute with China over trade restrictions imposed on EU member Lithuania after it strengthened ties with Taiwan. MEPs will also quiz the commission about the EU's relations with China following a visit by trade commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis to China last month. Although the European Union says it seeks to maintain dialogue with Beijing, Brussels has stepped up its efforts to curtail critical trade with China. It is part of a strategy of "de-risking" but not "decoupling" from China, pioneered by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. She has repeatedly emphasised the need for Europe to produce more on the continent and work with friendlier nations to ensure "economic security", a phrase often used since Russia invaded Ukraine last year. Following Moscow's invasion, the EU had to quickly find new energy sources after an over-reliance on Russian oil and gas. The key technologies could include quantum computing, advanced semiconductors and artificial intelligence. In June, von der Leyen said that the EU was looking at a "limited, small set of cutting-edge technologies", adding: "Here we want to make sure they do not enhance the military capabilities of some countries of concern." EU officials have previously raised concerns that Europe does not have its own way of assessing which technology exports could be damaging for the bloc. There was no direct mention of China but the target of the tougher measures is clear. The commission is working on a proposal on outbound investment that could restrict overseas funding by European companies. It is already preparing a law to cut its dependence on China for critical raw materials, used to make products like electric cars. China already moved in July to curb access to two rare metals -- gallium and germanium -- vital for making semiconductors. In the latest salvo against China, Brussels opened a probe last month into Chinese electric car subsidies after claims they lead to unfair competition in the EU market. The investigation triggered fears of a trade war with Beijing, since the EU could decide to impose tariffs on Chinese electric cars above the standard 10 percent EU rate if it concludes there are unfair practices.

OPEC Oil Output Rises for Second Month on Nigeria, Iran



LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC oil output rose for a second straight month in September, a Reuters survey found on Monday, led by increases in Nigeria and Iran despite ongoing cuts by Saudi Arabia and other members of the wider OPEC+ alliance to support the market. Last month, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries pumped 27.73 million barrels per day (bpd), the survey found, up 120,000 bpd from August. Production in August had risen for the first time since February. The rise in September was led by Nigeria, which has been battling with crude theft and insecurity in its oil-producing region. Iran, which has been boosting supply despite U.S. sanctions, also pumped more, with output hitting the highest level since 2018. Nigeria managed a sizeable boost in exports in September without any major disruption to shipments, according to shipping data and sources in the survey, increasing output by 110,000 bpd. The country is targeting a further recovery by next year. The second-largest increase came from Iran, the survey found, which pushed output to 3.15 million bpd. This is the highest since 2018, the year Washington re-imposed sanctions on Iran, according to Reuters surveys and separate figures from OPEC. Analysts have said the higher Iranian exports appear to be the result of Iran's

success in evading U.S. sanctions and Washington's discretion in enforcing them as the two countries seek better relations. Output from the 10 OPEC members that are subject to OPEC+ supply cut agreements rose by 80,000 bpd, the survey found. Saudi Arabia and other Gulf members maintained strong compliance with agreed cutbacks and extra voluntary reductions. Top exporter Saudi Arabia kept August and September output close to 9 million bpd, the survey found, as the country extended a voluntary 1 million bpd output cut to provide extra support for the market. Iraq and the United Arab Emirates increased output slightly, while Angolan supply showed the largest decline in the group of 50,000 bpd due to a drop in exports. OPEC's output is still undershooting the targeted amount by about 700,000 bpd, mainly because Nigeria and Angola lack the capacity to pump as much as their agreed level. The Reuters survey aims to track supply to the market. It is based on shipping data provided by external sources, Refinitiv Eikon flows data, information from companies that track flows such as Petro-Logistics and Kpler, and information provided by sources at oil companies, OPEC and consultants.

Russia Accuses Ukraine of Using Cluster Munitions

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Ukraine fired cluster munitions at a Russian village near the Ukrainian border on Tuesday, damaging several houses, the governor of Russia's Bryansk region said. According to preliminary information, there were no casualties in the shelling of the village of Klimovo, Governor Alexander Bogomaz said on the Telegram messaging app. Reuters was not able to independently verify the governor's statement, which he made without providing visual evidence. There was no immediate comment from Ukraine. Ukraine has received cluster munitions from the United States, but it has pledged to use them only to dislodge concentrations of enemy soldiers. Russian officials in Bryansk and other regions bordering Ukraine have repeatedly accused Kyiv of an indiscriminate shelling by Ukraine's armed forces. Cluster munitions are prohibited by more than 100 countries. They typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately over a wide area. Those that fail to explode can pose a danger for decades. Meanwhile Ukraine's eastern metropolis of Kharkiv will build the country's first fully underground school to shield pupils from Russia's frequent bomb and missile attacks, the city's mayor said. "Such a shelter will enable thousands of Kharkiv children to continue their safe face-to-face education even during missile threats," Mayor Ihor Terekhov wrote on the Telegram messaging app. While many schools in the frontline regions have been forced to teach online throughout the war, Kharkiv has organised some 60 separate classrooms throughout its metro stations before the school year that started Sept. 1, creating space for more than 1,000 children to study there. Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, had a population of more than 1.4 million before Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Parts of the city lie less than 35km (20 miles) from the Russian border and it has been subject to nearly daily Russian rocket and missile attacks that can hit before residents can reach shelters. In the 24 hours to Monday, a civilian man died and several houses were damaged as a result of Russia's shelling and rocket attacks, Oleh Sinehubov, the governor of the Kharkiv region of which the city of Kharkiv is its administrative centre, said. The war, which has no end in sight, has killed thousands and displaced millions of civilians. Ukraine's ministry of education says that 363 educational institutions have been destroyed and nearly 3,800 damaged throughout the country. The new school will "meet the most modern regulatory requirements for protective structures," Terekhov said. It was not immediately clear how big the school will be or when it will open.

Niger Begins Three-Day National Mourning for Killed Soldiers

NIAMEY (Dispatches) - Niger began three days of national mourning after 29 soldiers were killed in a suspected jihadist attack, the deadliest since the military took power in July. The latest violence comes as the country's coup leaders indicated they were considering neighbouring Algeria's offer to mediate talks for a transition back to civilian rule. Niger is battling two jihadist insurgencies -- a spillover in its southeast from a long-running conflict in neighboring Nigeria, and an offensive in the west by militants crossing from Mali and Burkina Faso. When military leaders overthrew democratically elected president Mohamed Bazoum on July 26, they cited the deterioration of the security situation in the country as justification. Monday's attack in western Niger involved "improvised explosive devices and kamikaze vehicles by more than a hundred terrorists", the Ministry of Defence said in a televised statement. It added that two soldiers were seriously wounded and "several dozen terrorists" were also killed. The attack took place northwest of Tabatol near the border with

Mali, which is plagued by fighting with militants affiliated with the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda. Violence in the "three borders" area between Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso has fuelled military takeovers in all three countries since 2021. Algeria, Niger's influential neighbor, said on Monday that Niamey has accepted its offer to mediate talks on a transition to civilian rule. Hours later, Niger's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it had "indicated the availability of the Nigerien authorities to examine Algeria's offer of mediation". Niger's military leader, General Abdourahmane Tiani, has previously said he wants a transition of no more than three years. In August, Algeria proposed a six-month transition plan under the supervision of a "civilian authority led by a consensual figure accepted by all sides of the political class". Algeria made no mention of an exact timeframe in its statement on Monday but said Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf would visit Niamey "as soon as possible with the aim of launching discussions... with all stakeholders". In response, Niger's military leaders said

the duration of any transitional period was to be decided by an "inclusive national forum". Since Niger's coup, the deposed Bazoum has been held in his presidential residence with his wife and son. On Monday, his lawyers said they filed a lawsuit against the coup leaders. The complaint, seen by AFP, targets General Tiani and "all others", and alleges "attack and conspiracy against state authority, crimes and offences committed by civil servants and arbitrary arrests and confinements". His lawyers also said they were appealing to two bodies of the UN Human Rights Council, including its working group on arbitrary detention. The West African bloc ECOWAS -- in calls backed by Western allies -- has threatened to use force as a last resort to reinstate Bazoum, and has been holding separate mediation talks with Niger's leaders. France keeps about 1,500 soldiers in its former West African colony as part of an anti-jihadist deployment in the Sahel, and coup leaders have demanded a "negotiated framework" for their withdrawal.

