

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani Criticized the Inaction of Islamic Countries in Defending Palestine, Reiterating that If Palestine Is Supported, Then Zionists Would Be Unable to Continue Their Crimes

IRAN NEWS

Senior Iranian Military Commanders Have Extended Their Congratulations to Yahya Sinwar on His Appointment as the New political Leader of Hamas, Pledging Assistance to the Gaza-Based Palestinian Resistance Movement

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DOMESTIC



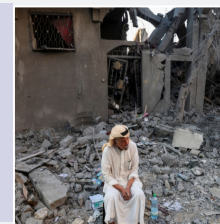
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Iran Raps West for Double Standards on Israeli Crimes



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - President Masoud Pezeshkian blasted the U.S. and other Western governments for sponsoring the Zionist regime instead of condemning its genocidal crimes.

President of France Emmanuel Macron called his Iranian counterpart on Wednesday to ask Tehran to show self-restraint in the wake of the Israeli assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh.

In response, Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran considers efforts to establish global peace and security and the avoidance of war as its basic principles, but will not remain silent on the violation of its national security and interests (and will act) within the framework of international law.

The Iranian president noted that the Zionist regime seeks to ignite war in the region by committing crimes against Gaza and assassinating the head of the political bureau of Hamas, who was in Tehran as a guest.

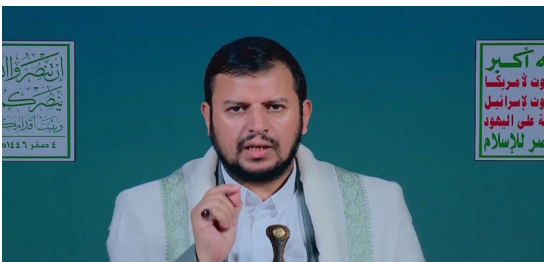
Pezeshkian further lashed out at the US and other Western governments for sponsoring the Zionist regime's genocidal crimes and acts of terror instead of condemning them.

He reiterated that Iran reserves the right to an appropriate response to the Israeli regime.

"With a contradictory and dual approach, the U.S. and Western countries support a regime that does not honor any international law and regulation and has not refrained from taking any criminal act in the region," the Iranian president noted, saying the unfortunate paradox is that the Westerners call on the countries that have been victims of Israeli crimes to exercise self-restraint and avoid retaliatory response.

If the U.S. and other Western governments are truly trying to prevent regional war and insecurity, they will have to prove their intention by halting support and arms sales to the Zionist regime and forcing Israel to stop genocidal attacks on Gaza and agree on a ceasefire, Pezeshkian told Macron.

Houthis Say Battle Against Zionist Regime at Its Height After Assassinations



SANAA (Dispatches) - The leader of Yemen's Ansarullah says the battle against Israel is now at its height after the regime's assassinations of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur.

"The Zionist regime's crime of assassinating Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur has greatly impacted the region's state of affairs," Abdul-Malik al-Houthi said on Thursday afternoon.

"The enemy's latest acts of aggression have targeted the Muslim Ummah's leaders and dignitaries, who played starring roles in running up the flag of struggle against Islam's and Muslims' foes," he added.

The Ansarullah chief said the recent assassinations have had a significant impact on the entire West Asia.

"The horrendous assassination of Haniyeh was met with the absolute cohesion of the Hamas resistance movement. While the enemy had wished to undermine the group's resilience and steadfastness and wreck its decision-making power, Hamas continues its activities coherently. Despite the big loss of Haniyeh, there is no discord, weakness, or retreat from fundamental positions within Hamas.

"Al-Qassam Brigades fighters are carrying out their operations effectively, consistently, and capably," Houthi noted. He also hailed the appointment of Yahya Sinwar as the Hamas political chief to succeed Haniyeh, stating that his unanimous selection merely confirms that the Gaza resistance front is still steadfast in fighting off the occupying Israeli regime. Houthi said Hezbollah's retaliation after the Israeli assassination of its senior commander Fuad Shukur in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital Beirut is "inevitable." "The Israeli enemy is in a state of fear following recent assassinations of regional resistance leaders," he said. The Ansarullah leader also said senior Iranian officials have warned the Israeli regime of a "harsh and definite response" to Haniyeh's assassination, adding contacts are being made and messages relayed by Israel's allies to convince the Islamic Republic to limit its response in scope.

Iran Must Retaliate Against Haniyeh Assassination Amid UNSC Inaction



TEHRAN - Iran's acting foreign minister says the country has no option but to retaliate against the Israeli assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, saying this is necessary to deter further aggression against the Islamic Republic amid inaction of the UN Security Council.

Addressing an emergency ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ali Baqeri Kani said Iran has always made maximum efforts to prevent further escalation of tension and conflict in the region, and that now it has no option but to respond to the aggression to deter future attacks. "Currently, in the absence of any appropriate action by the Security Council against the aggressions and violations of the Israeli regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran has no option but to use its inherent right to legitimate defense against the aggressions of this regime."

"Such action is necessary to prevent further aggression by this regime against the sovereignty, citizens, and territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and it will be carried out at the appropriate time and in a proportionate manner."

The Iranian minister said the months-long genocide in Gaza and the assassination of Haniyeh are examples of the terrorist crimes of the Zionist regime in the region and beyond.

"These crimes once again proved that the foundation and life of the occupying regime of al-Quds are based on terror, crime, aggression, violation of peace, creating insecurity and instability in the region, warmongering, and genocide," he said.

The minister described the Haniyeh assassination as "a blatant violation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a serious threat to regional and international peace and security, and a severe violation of the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter."

The Iranian minister called on the United Nations Security Council to fulfill its responsibility regarding such a horrific crime and provide the grounds for the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators and instigators of these crimes. Baqeri Kani said the responsibility of the US as the main supporter of the Israeli regime in committing this horrific crime should not be overlooked, as the regime could not have carried out it without the consent and intelligence support of the US.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Baqeri Kani said the Organization of Islamic Cooperation faces a serious test in the face of the widespread and horrific crimes of the Israeli regime against the Palestinian nation and its aggressive attacks on other countries in the region, including Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria.

The minister said the organization's actions in response to this situation must be comprehensive and decisive to protect the Palestinian nation and land and the collective interests of the Islamic Ummah. "The organization must once again declare its firm support for the Palestinian cause and firmly emphasize that the only solution to the current crisis in the region is to address its root

causes, namely the illegal occupation of Palestine and decades of oppression and crimes against the people of this land," he said.

"Without ending the occupation and realizing all their rights, especially in determining their destiny and establishing an independent Palestinian state in all of this land with Al-Quds as its capital, it will not be possible."

The minister said the OIC must also reiterate that resistance against occupation using all means, including armed struggle - which has been affirmed and emphasized in dozens of United Nations General Assembly resolutions - is the inherent right of every nation under foreign occupation, and therefore the Palestinian nation, including Palestinian resistance groups, fully enjoys such a right.

The minister concluded his remarks by emphasizing that at a time when Zionist leaders openly try to justify the deliberate killing of millions of Palestinians in Gaza by starving them, the serious solidarity and practical support for the Palestinian nation is of utmost importance and urgency.

"Undoubtedly, this is a human, Islamic, and moral duty. Today, the Islamic Ummah, especially the women and children of Palestine under occupation and bombardment in Gaza, and the pure souls of about 40,000 Palestinian martyrs in Gaza are watching us. We must act responsibly and decisively in fulfilling this crucial duty."

Meanwhile the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned the Israeli regime's recent assassination of senior Hamas' leader, Haniyeh, in the Iranian capital Tehran, underlining the criminal aspects of the atrocity.

The 57-member body issued the remarks in a statement on Wednesday at the end of an extraordinary meeting that was held in the Saudi port city of Jeddah at the Islamic Republic and Palestine's request.

It said "the illegal occupying power" was "fully responsible for this heinous attack" that claimed the lives of the Palestinian resistance movement's Political Bureau chief and one of his bodyguards late last month.

The atrocity, the body added, "constitutes a crime of aggression, a flagrant violation of the international law and the United Nations Charter, and a serious infringement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security of the Islamic Republic."

It, meanwhile, warned that the regime's ongoing crimes undermined security and stability in the region, urging immediate and effective intervention on the part of the UN Security Council.

The comments were echoed by Saudi Arabia, whose Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed al-Khrejji said Haniyeh's assassination amounted to a "blatant violation" of Iran's sovereignty.

Riyadh, he added, rejected "any violation of the sovereignty of states or interference in the internal affairs of any country."

IRGC Denies It Is Entering Iran's Automotive Sector



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has denied reports it is entering into the car manufacturing business in Iran.

Major General Hossein Salami said that the IRGC has developed technologies that could assist the Iranian industries, including the country's automotive sector, but it is fundamentally opposed to having a direct role in those businesses.

"The car sector in the country has its custodian and we will never try to replace other institutions," said Salami in an interview with the state TV's news agency.

Responding to a question about reports that an IRGC subsidiary is manufacturing automatic transmissions, he said that IRGC's policy is to transfer technologies that could play an effective role in manufacturing parts and components needed in various industries in Iran.

The commander said, however, that technology advancements accomplished in the IRGC are mainly intended to boost the military and defensive capabilities of the force.

"We have to create our military and defense power so that the (Iranian) car manufacturer can produce modern and advanced cars for the people that could replace the foreign-made cars," he said.

Since the end of the Iraqi-imposed war on Iran in the late 1980s, the IRGC has set up companies to help with reconstruction efforts in the country and to provide resources for its economic development.

The force now controls powerful technology companies that have played a key role in Iran's efforts to reduce or end reliance on foreign suppliers, especially in the past years as the country has been grappling with a raft of unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States.

The elite military force has denied reports published in the foreign media in recent years which have accused it of having a direct involvement in major economic projects in Iran.

Iran Among Top 3 Countries in Producing Radiopharmaceuticals



TEHRAN - The Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said Iran is among the top three countries in the world in the field of radiopharmaceutical production.

Mohammad Eslami told Iran Press that today, Iran's heavy water production also ranks first in the world in terms of quality.

On the sidelines of a national conference "The Role and Application of Nuclear Technology in Health System", Eslami told Iran Press correspondent: "Today, about 60 radiopharmaceuticals are produced in the country and we have about 20 radiopharmaceuticals under investigation."

He also pointed to radiation technology in use and said that it has grown 2.5 times in the past two years and new centers are being established to help the health sector.

Iranian-made radiopharmaceuticals are currently exported to five continents through airlines, he added.

Eslami also criticized the global arrogance for their opposition to the development of Iran's nuclear industry, highlighting the false accusations and fabricated news surrounding Iran's nuclear program.

Speaking at the National Conference on the Role and Application of Nuclear Technology in Healthcare, Eslami said, "Despite media suppression, the extent of Zionist crimes has reached the ears of the world."

Eslami emphasized the importance of supporting the oppressed, stating, "Today, supporting the oppressed has gained significance, and Palestine remains the world's foremost issue."

Addressing allegations that Iran is concealing aspects of its nuclear industry, Eslami reiterated that Iran has adopted a "policy of open doors" and has submitted its Comprehensive Plan for the Future (CPF) to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Eslami also mentioned Iran's twenty-year nuclear program plan, underscoring the collaboration with universities to ensure the tangible benefits of nuclear knowledge in the lives of Iranian citizens.

Concluding his remarks, Eslami pointed to the construction and development of nuclear power plants by Iranian specialists and scientists, noting that this progress has angered Iran's adversaries, as it signifies the strengthening of the nation's power.

Eslami said that Iran has made significant progress in its peaceful nuclear energy program as the country is now ranked among the world's three top producers of radiopharmaceuticals.

Heavy water produced by Iran enjoys the best quality in the world, the official said, adding that the country has already created what he called a revolution in health and medicine sectors using heavy water.

Tehran to Make Tel Aviv Regret Its Terrorist Agression



TEHRAN - Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations says the country seeks to make the Israeli regime regret committing its recent act of terrorist aggression against the Islamic Republic that led to the martyrdom of senior Hamas' leader, Ismail Haniyeh.

The mission made the remarks on Wednesday in response to questions about allegations that the country could cancel its retaliation if Tel Aviv came to an agreement with Hamas that would bring about a truce in the regime's ongoing war of genocide against the Gaza Strip.

"We have been pursuing two priorities simultaneously," the mission said.

"Firstly, realization of a stable ceasefire in Gaza and withdrawal of the occupiers from this territory," it noted.

"And secondly, punishment of the aggressor over the assassination of

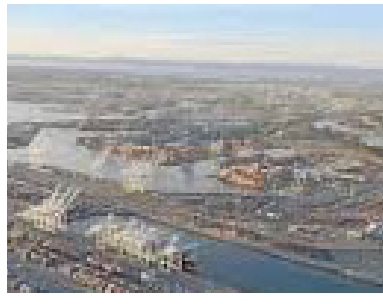
Martyr Haniyeh, prevention of repetition of the Zionist regime's acts of aggression, and making the Zionists regret entering this course [in the first place]," the mission concluded.

Haniyeh, who was the Palestinian resistance movement's Political Bureau chief, was assassinated alongside one of his bodyguards in the Iranian capital Tehran late last month.

The Israeli regime has denied responsibility, but Iran has held it squarely responsible for the atrocity and vowed to serve it with a harsh response.

Haniyeh's assassination came amid the regime's October-present war on Gaza, which has so far claimed the lives of at least 39,677 Palestinians, mostly women, children, and adolescents.

IRAN NEWS



Iran, Armenia, India to Hold Meeting on New Trade Route

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Armenia, Iran and India will soon hold a meeting on launching a trade route, according to Sputnik Armenia news agency.

The meeting will reportedly be held in Iran, Sputnik Armenia reported citing sources in logistical companies. According to the report, the representatives of transportation companies of the three countries will become acquainted with the infrastructures of Chabahar Port, discuss Armenia's operator activities in the port, and issues related to the swift launch of the route. The project intends to serve as a goods shipment route from Persian Gulf countries and India to the EU and EEU countries.

40% Increase in Gasoline Consumption Over 4 Years



TEHRAN - IRNA - The secretary of the Association of Employers in the Oil Refining Industry stated that the average daily gasoline consumption is 112 million liters, while the average production is between 98 to 105 million liters per day. He noted that from 2020 to 2023, consumption has grown by 38 to 40 percent.

According to IRNA, Nasser Ashouri said at a press conference: "The refining association, with the establishment of the new government and in hopes of reducing imbalances, is making every effort to accelerate projects to resolve these discrepancies."

He added: "Decoking at Bandar Abbas refinery, upgrading Shiraz and Tabriz refineries, gasoline production at Tehran refinery, and cokemaking at Shazand refinery are priority projects, with progress between 50 to 90 percent."

The secretary of the Association of Employers in the Oil Refining Industry said: "Our mistakes have led to energy imbalances where consumption growth has outpaced production growth; it should be noted that increasing production and building refineries alone will not resolve the imbalances, and consumption patterns must change."

Ashouri stated: "The average gasoline consumption is 112 million liters per day, and the average production is between 98 to 105 million liters per day, indicating that gasoline consumption has increased by 38 to 40 percent from 2020 to 2023."

He said: "We have not had satisfactory activities in developing public transportation and continue to produce vehicles with a daily consumption of 17 million liters. To reduce consumption, we need to move towards reforming the automotive industry."



Iran's Export Potential in Malaysian Markets

TEHRAN - The head of the Iranian Chamber of Guilds, emphasizing the capabilities of Tehran and Kuala Lumpur in expanding trade relations, has called for increased interaction between the two countries to explore Iran's export opportunities and facilitate the presence of Iranian merchants in Malaysian markets.

A joint meeting between the head and members of the board of the Iranian Chamber of Guilds and the Malaysian Ambassador was held at the Chamber of Guilds of Iran to discuss the export capacities of the two countries.

Mojtaba Safaei, the head of the Iranian Chamber of Guilds, expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of trade relations with Malaysia and described this meeting as a starting point for creating constructive relations between the two countries. He noted that Iranian guilds possess extensive capabilities in production and export in areas such as furniture, gold and jewelry, carpets, dried fruits, clothing, leather, bags, and shoes. He emphasized the need to strengthen their export potential so that these products can be exported directly to various countries.

He added that Malaysia's strategic location in Southeast Asia, along with the religious and cultural similarities, especially in the field of halal products, offers a significant opportunity for Iranian guilds to maximize the export and distribution of their products in Malaysian markets, contributing to foreign exchange earnings for Iran.

According to Safaei, Malaysia has one of the fastest-growing populations in the world, making it a promising market. Establishing a bilateral trade relationship can help meet the needs of both countries through exports and imports.

Safaei announced the Iranian Chamber of Guilds' readiness to invite Malaysian traders and merchants to visit and explore export and import opportunities in Iran and called for the creation of a platform that allows Iranian traders and merchants to enter Malaysian markets.

He emphasized the importance of direct trade between Iran and Malaysia, expressing hope that this meeting would pave the way for the development of economic activities between the two countries.

The Malaysian Ambassador to Tehran, Khairi bin Omar, expressed his pleasure at meeting with Iranian guilds and noted that this meeting has laid the foundation for a bright future for economic cooperation between the two countries. He emphasized the need for an appropriate platform to expand trade and economic relations while ensuring mutual benefits.

According to Khairi bin Omar, Malaysia is both an exporter and an importer, and in certain areas, it requires imports from Iran. He mentioned that some Iranian products are already available in Malaysian markets and believes that importing Iranian goods is cost-effective for Malaysian traders while also being attractive to Malaysian consumers due to their high quality.

He continued by highlighting the demand for products such as steel, iron, saffron, and dates in Malaysia, and expressed the interest of Malaysian unions and guilds in establishing commercial relations with Iran.

The Malaysian Ambassador expressed optimism about the positive outcomes of this meeting and hoped that future tours to explore the economic capacities of both countries would allow Iranian and Malaysian traders to begin and expand their trade relations under the best conditions and platforms.

5 to 6m Liters of Iranian Oil Is Daily Smuggled Into Pakistan



TEHRAN - Pakistan's military revealed that millions of liters of Iranian oil are being smuggled into the country each day, but rejected long-standing allegations that it is also playing a role in the illegal trade.

Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, the army spokesperson, told a televised news conference that "consistent efforts" are being made to enhance security along the country's more than 900-kilometer border with Iran in order to restrict oil smuggling.

"If you look at the numbers, [the fuel smuggling] has come down from 15-16 million liters per day to 5-6 million liters per day, thanks to the combined efforts of the army, Frontier Corps [paramilitary force], law enforcement, and intelligence agencies," Chaudhry stated.

He did not provide further details, but Chaudhry is the first Pakistani official to publicly share estimates regarding the ongoing large-scale illegal oil trade between the two countries.

A rare comprehensive investigative report on the long-running illicit trade, conducted by two Pakistani official spy agencies and leaked to local media last May, revealed that Iranian traders smuggle more than \$1 billion worth of petrol and diesel into Pakistan annually.

The probe found that the illegal fuel supply accounted for about 14% of Pakistan's yearly consumption, resulting in hundreds of millions of dollars in losses "to the exchequer."

The report identified more than 200 oil smugglers as well as government and security officials benefiting from the lucrative illegal oil trade.

It said that up to 2,000 vehicles, each with a capacity of 3,200-3,400 liters, are used daily to transport diesel across the border. Additionally, some 1,300 boats, each with a capacity of "1,600 to 2,000" liters, are also used to smuggle Iranian fuel.

Petroleum dealers attributed the surge in cross-border smuggling to years of U.S.-led Western sanctions on the Iranian oil sector, which compelled Tehran to seek alternative markets for its exports.

Iranian traders reportedly sell fuel in their local currency to buyers in Pakistan's southwestern border province of Baluchistan and collect dollars from the Pakistani market. The illegal fuel is then transported elsewhere in the South Asian nation.

Islamabad mainly sources its fuel from the Middle East. The government has dramatically raised fuel prices in recent months as part of efforts to secure a new International Monetary Fund loan of about \$7 billion.

Due to depleting foreign exchange reserves, analysts believe cash-strapped Pakistan could be allowing Iranian oil to be smuggled into the country to fulfill domestic needs.

Purchase of Residential Units in Shiraz by Omanis



TEHRAN - Jamali Razaghi Jahromi, head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with ILNA, reported a significant increase in trade between Iran and Oman in recent years. He stated that the value of trade between the two countries in 2023 saw a 60% growth compared to 2022, reaching approximately 2 billion dollars. In 2022, the trade value increased by 42% compared to 2021, amounting to 1.4 billion dollars.

He added that in the first four months of 2024, the trade value between the two countries increased by about 63% compared to the same period last year. For this year, we have envisioned a trade volume of 5 billion dollars.

Razaghi Jahromi continued, mentioning that there have been meetings between the two governments aimed at establishing preferential trade. If these meetings are successful, the trade volume between the two countries will increase even more.

The head of the Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce explained the quality of trade relations between Iran and Oman compared to other southern neighbors, stating that Iranian trade with Oman has not been able to progress as strongly as with other countries on the southern edge of the Persian Gulf, particularly the UAE. This is due to the friction from Oman. However, the important point in Iran's trade with Oman is that among the countries on the Persian Gulf's edge, Oman is the only country with zero trade tariffs with 61 countries worldwide, including the USA.

He added that Oman, enjoying this advantage, is neighboring Iran. Iran and Oman have agreed that Iranian producers, if they complete at least 30% of their production chain in Oman, will benefit from exporting goods from Oman with zero tariffs, allowing them to export their goods as Omani products. Oman has also provided the necessary infrastructure for advancing production and developing foreign investment, and offers airport visas to Iranian travelers.

In response to whether Oman can also be a consumer market for final Iranian goods, he said: Oman's population is less than five million people, and thus it is not a large or attractive market for Iranian goods. The possibility of offering goods in large volumes does not exist. Therefore, the advantage of trading with this country is access to the market of 61 countries with zero tariffs, and any Iranian industry that can compete in global markets can use Oman as a re-export hub.

He further mentioned the high interest of Omanis in receiving medical services from Iranians and explained: Omanis fly to Shiraz more than any other point in Iran and travel to this city for various medical services, even for treating simple ailments. They consider Shiraz their second home to the extent that a significant number of Omanis own residential buildings in Shiraz.

Iran-Afghanistan Trade Should Move Towards Newer Models of

TEHRAN - The Iranian commercial attaché in Afghanistan stated that Afghanistan meets more than 80 percent of its market needs through imports, with 25 percent of these imports coming from Iran.

Hossein Roustaei, in a meeting on the opportunities and challenges of the Afghan market, pointed out Afghanistan's import priorities, including foodstuffs, agriculture, fuel, essential goods like flour, oil, eggs, day-old chicks, medicine, medical equipment, and construction materials. He continued: In the first four months of this year, Iran exported over \$724 million to Afghanistan, which is a 28 percent increase compared to the same period last year.

Roustaei mentioned sourcing some inputs from Afghanistan, such as barley and cotton, and added that the overall security and establishment of a central government in Afghanistan over the past two years have improved trade conditions with the country.

Referring to the stabilization of customs tariffs and anti-corruption efforts by the Taliban, he said: Afghanistan has prioritized mining exploitation. Therefore, the traditional trading model between Iran and Afghanistan must evolve into newer cooperation models.

He continued: Investment and exploitation of mines, technical and engineering services, agricultural mechanization and smart agriculture, construction of transport infrastructure, and new and renewable energies are among the new areas of cooperation between the two countries.

Roustaei emphasized the need to operationalize a joint economic zone between the two countries sooner, stating: Considering the recent disputes between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghanistan aims to utilize the port of Chabahar in the best possible way. Iran can increase its transit role in Afghanistan's imports and exports from the current 50 percent.

He stressed that the private sector should lead economic activities in Afghanistan and continued: Afghanistan's agreements with some countries, including a preferential trade agreement with India and a South Trade Agreement with eight countries including Bangladesh, India, Bengal, Myanmar, etc., present an opportunity for re-exporting some Iranian goods, including fruits like kiwi.

Roustaei noted that if Iran does not plan for its presence in the Afghan market, competitors like Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, Pakistan,



and China will soon replace it. Investing in product groups including detergents, foodstuffs, building materials such as cement, tiles, and faucets, medicine and medical equipment, plastic goods like various plastic containers, various fuels, carpets, and rugs can be advantageous for Iran.

Moein Khafi, Afghanistan's commercial attaché in Iran, also emphasized that Iranian goods are a purchasing priority for the Afghan people and do not require advertising. He said: Today's Afghanistan is like Uzbekistan 20 years ago, and 20 years later, investing and trading with Afghanistan will not be as easy as today.

He added: We want to become self-sufficient in producing food and agricultural products, building water supply networks, producing petroleum products, establishing refineries, and more. In this path, Afghanistan prefers working with Iran over India and China.

Khafi emphasized that Afghanistan has significant capacities in oil exploration and extraction, continuing: The Chinese are currently extracting one thousand tons of crude oil daily in Afghanistan. Until two years ago, Iran was the primary supplier of fuel and petroleum products to Afghanistan, but unfortunately, Turkmenistan and Russia have taken its place.

He mentioned that Iran and Afghanistan could have good cooperation in overseas farming, stating: Afghanistan has good water resources and fertile soil. Moreover, one of the significant goals of the Islamic government of Afghanistan is the development of agriculture.

Khafi continued: Currently, the Afghan government has provided good incentives for attracting foreign investment, which Iranian economic activists can utilize.

Referring to the existing financial transfer issues, he added: Despite this, good alternative routes have been established between the two countries. The goal of the Afghan government is to achieve \$10 billion in trade between the two countries.

Khafi emphasized: Activating the Chabahar corridor with the aim of providing Afghanistan access to open waters can significantly increase the trade level between the two countries. Exploration, extraction, and processing of mines and minerals, establishing refineries, and producing petroleum products in Afghanistan are other excellent areas for cooperation between the two parties.

Value Chain the Secret of Petrochemical Sector's Success



TEHRAN (Shana) - The petrochemical industry is a fertile ground for realizing the Seventh National Development Plan targets even though success in the sector requires investment in completing the value chain.

Deputy for planning at the Oil Ministry, Houshang Felahatian made the remarks during the closing day of the 15th Iran Petrochemical Forum here on August 5, expressing hope that dialogues and exchanging views offered in the forum sessions would result in finding ways to promote the place of petrochemical industry.

Referring to the importance of the petrochemical sector in the country, he said that part of non-oil exports is derived from the petrochemical sector whose capacity and worth are on the rise by launching new projects.

By launching new projects, the petrochemical sector's annual production capacity will reach 103 million tons before the end of current Iranian calendar year of 1403, which ends on March 19, 2025, the official said.

Felahatian told the audiences that implementation of about 70 petrochemical projects is underway with the majority of them over 50 percent progress adding the country's petrochemical production capacity will hit 130 million tons annually at the end of the Seventh National Development Plan in the next five years.

Thailand's Disbanded Opposition Regroups Under New Anti-Establishment Party

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Thailand's disbanded opposition Move Forward unveiled a new leadership and political vehicle on Friday that will become the biggest party in parliament, naming it People's Party, and promising to advance its predecessor's progressive platform.

The anti-establishment Move Forward, which won most seats in the last election but was blocked from forming a government, was dissolved by the Constitutional Court on Wednesday, which ruled its plan to amend a law that shields the royal family from criticism risked undermining democracy and the constitutional monarchy.

All 143 surviving Move Forward lawmakers have joined the new party to be led by 37-year-old Natthaphong Ruengpanyawut, a former executive of a cloud software company who joined Move Forward in 2019. "We will carry on Move Forward's ideology. The mission for me and the party is to create a government for change in 2027," Natthaphong told a press conference.

The dissolution, which was criticised by the United States, Britain and European Union, was the latest salvo in a two-decade battle for power in Thailand that broadly pits its conservative establishment and royalist military against popularly elected parties.



IRAN NEWS

Trump and Harris to Debate on ABC



DETROIT (Dispatches) - U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Democratic opponent Kamala Harris will debate on Sept. 10 on ABC, setting up the first face-to-face match-up between the rivals in what polls show is a close race.

In a news conference at his Palm Beach, Florida, residence, Trump said he wanted additional debates on Sept. 4 and Sept. 25 that would air on Fox and NBC.

Harris said in a post on X that she was looking forward to the Sept. 10 debate after Trump "finally committed."

She told reporters after a Detroit-area campaign stop that she was open to discussing more debates, but a campaign official reiterated their position that a Sept. 4 Fox debate is off the table.

Discussions on future debates depend on Trump's participating in the Sept. 10 debate on ABC, the official said. The Harris campaign had already opposed a Fox debate, saying the host network should be one that sponsored recent primary debates by both parties.

Trump previously suggested he might back out of the ABC debate, scheduled before Harris, the U.S. vice president, replaced President Joe Biden as the Democratic presidential candidate less than three weeks ago, upending the contest. The Sept. 10 debate on ABC was to be the second of two agreed upon between Biden and Trump, following their June 27 debate on CNN.

An Ipsos poll published on Thursday found Harris has widened her lead over Trump since late July. She leads Trump 42% to 37%, compared with a July 22-23 Reuters/Ipsos survey that showed her up 37% to 34% over Trump.

Thursday's Palm Beach news conference was Trump's first public appearance since Harris selected Minnesota Governor Tim Walz as her running mate on Tuesday.

EU, France, UK Slam Israeli Minister's Justified Starvation Comment on Gaza Crisis



LONDON (Dispatches) - The European Union, France and the UK y condemned a far-right Israeli minister for suggesting it would be "justified and moral" to starve two million Gazans to free scores of captives held in the Palestinian territory.

"No one in the world will allow us to starve two million people, even though it might be justified and moral in order to free the hostages," Israel's Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich said at a conference earlier this week.

"We are bringing in humanitarian aid because we have no choice. We are in a situation that requires international legitimacy to conduct this war."

Smotrich's remarks sparked outrage in the international community, with the European Union saying the deliberate starvation of civilians was a "war crime".

"It demonstrates, once again, his contempt for international law and for basic principles of humanity," the EU said in a statement.

"We expect the Israeli government to unequivocally distance itself from the words of Minister Smotrich," the EU said, as it called for access to cover the humanitarian needs of Gazans, including hundreds of thousands of children.

The EU reiterated its call for an "immediate ceasefire" to secure the release of all hostages and also to increase the

distribution of aid across the Gaza Strip.

France also criticized Smotrich, expressing its "deep dismay at the scandalous remarks".

Providing humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza is an "obligation under international humanitarian law" for Israel as it controls all access to the territory, it added.

UK Foreign Minister David Lammy said on X that there "can be no justification for Minister Smotrich's remarks", and called on "the wider Israeli government to retract and condemn them".

Since the war in Gaza broke out on October 7, the humanitarian situation in the besieged Palestinian territory remains dire, with almost all of its 2.4 million population displaced and suffering from food shortages.

The war in Gaza began after Hamas militants attacked Israel on October 7, which resulted in the deaths of 1,198 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Militants also seized 251 people, 111 of whom are still held captive in Gaza, including 39 the Israeli military says are dead.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign in Gaza has killed at least 39,677 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, which does not provide details on civilian and militant deaths.

Nobel Laureate Yunus Arrives Home to Lead Bangladesh

DHAKA (Dispatches) - Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus returned home to Bangladesh to lead a new interim government after weeks of tumultuous student protests forced Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to resign and flee to neighbouring India.

A harsh critic of Hasina, Yunus, 84, arrived in Dhaka following medical treatment in Paris after protesters backed him for the role in a government tasked with holding elections for a new leader.

"The country has the possibility of becoming a very beautiful nation," the economist told reporters at the airport, where he was greeted by senior military officers and student leaders.

The student protesters had saved the country and that freedom had to be protected, he said, adding: "Whatever path our students show us, we will move ahead with that."

"We had ended those possibilities, now again we have to rise up. To the government officials here and defence chiefs — we are a family, we should move ahead together."

Yunus is set to be sworn in as chief of a team of advisers at 1430 GMT (10.30pm Malaysian time) at the official residence of President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Hasina's Awami League party does not figure in the interim government after she resigned on Monday following weeks of violence that killed about 300 people and injured thousands.

In a Facebook post, her son Sajeeb Wazed Joy said the party had not given up, however, and was ready to hold talks with opponents and the interim government.

"I had said my family will no longer be involved in politics but the way our party leaders and workers are being attacked, we cannot give up," he said on Wednesday.

Yunus, known as the "banker to the poor", received the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize for founding a



bank that pioneered the fight against poverty through small loans to needy borrowers.

Hasina's flight from the country she ruled for 20 of the last 30 years after winning a fourth straight term in January, triggered jubilation and violence as crowds stormed and ransacked her official residence.

She is sheltering at an air base near the Indian capital New Delhi, a development that Yunus said caused anger at India among some Bangladeshis.

The student-led movement that ousted Hasina grew out of protests against quotas in government jobs that spiralled in July, provoking a violent crackdown that drew global criticism, though the government denied using excessive force.

The protests were fuelled also by harsh economic conditions and political repression in the country, born after a war of liberation from Pakistan in 1971.

The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) boycotted two national elections after the arrest of its leaders, while the Covid-19 pandemic damaged the US\$450 billion economy after years of

strong growth, leading to high inflation, unemployment and shrinking reserves.

It pushed the Hasina government to seek a US\$4.7 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Hasina's arch rival and BNP leader Khaleda Zia, 78, called for calm and an end to violence in a video address from her hospital bed to hundreds of supporters at a rally on Wednesday after her release from house arrest.

"No destruction, revenge or vengeance," she said as the BNP demanded elections in three months.

UK Riots Halted by Police, Communities But Country Still on Alert

LONDON (Dispatches) - British police remained on alert on Thursday after a heavy security presence, rapid arrests and displays of unity by people across Britain on Wednesday prevented a repeat of widespread rioting involving racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants.

After police deployed in force and thousands of anti-racism protesters took to the streets on Wednesday evening, threats of widespread gatherings by far-right anti-immigration groups did not materialise.

But the government said it was still cautious after days of riots triggered by false online posts wrongly identifying the suspected killer of three young girls in a July 29 knife attack in Southport, northwest England, as an Islamist migrant.

Police said a further potential 20 gatherings and three counter-gatherings were planned for Thursday.

"We're going to continue the strong policing response, making sure that there are additional police officers ready to respond," interior minister Yvette Cooper told reporters.

More than 480 people have been arrested across the country so far, with nearly 150 charged. Dozens have already been sentenced with cases fast-tracked through the justice system.

Britain's most senior police officer, London Commissioner Mark Rowley, said many of those arrested had criminal backgrounds.

For Prime Minister Keir Starmer, a former chief prosecutor, it is the first major test of his premiership since winning a July 4 election in which the previous Conservative government highlighted immigration as a major issue.

Russia Battles Ukrainian Troops for Third Day After Shock Incursion

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian forces were battling Ukrainian troops for a third day on Thursday after they smashed through the Russian border in the Kursk region, an audacious attack on the world's biggest nuclear power that has forced Moscow to call in reserves.

In one of the biggest Ukrainian attacks on Russia since the war began in February 2022, around 1,000 Ukrainian troops rammed through the Russian border in the early hours of Aug. 6 with tanks and armored vehicles, covered in the air by swarms of drones and pounding artillery, according to Russian officials.

Heavy fighting was reported near the town of Sudzha, where Russian natural gas flows into Ukraine, raising concerns about a possible sudden stop to transit flows to Europe.

The incursion has come as a shock to Russia, nearly 2-1/2 years after President Vladimir Putin sent his army into Ukraine.

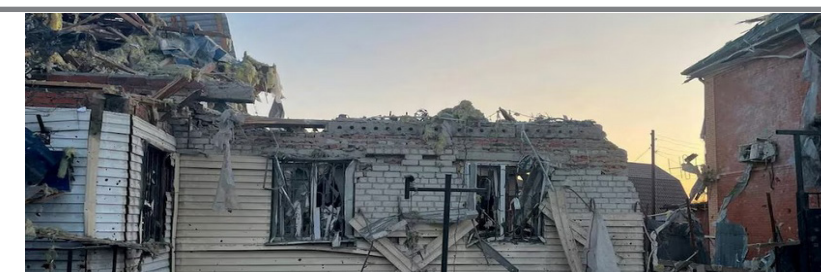
Putin has cast the Ukrainian offensive as a "major provocation". Sergei Mironov, the leader of a Kremlin-loyal political party, called it a "terrorist attack" and "the invasion of an internationally recognised foreign territory".

Kursk's regional acting governor, Alexei Smirnov, said thousands of residents had been evacuated.

The White House said the United States - Ukraine's biggest backer - had no prior knowledge of the attack.

Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh said Ukraine's move on the Kursk region was consistent with U.S. policy.

"They are taking actions to protect themselves from attacks that are coming from a region that are within the U.S. policy of where they can operate, our weapons, our systems, our capabilities,"



Singh told reporters.

She said Ukraine's move was not escalatory because "Ukraine is doing what it needs to do to be successful on the battlefield."

Russia's defense ministry said on Thursday that the army and the Federal Security Service (FSB) had halted Ukraine's advance and were battling Kyiv's units in the Kursk region.

"Units of the Northern group of forces, together with the FSB of Russia, continue to destroy armed formations of the Armed Forces of Ukraine in the Sudzhensky and Korenevsky districts of the Kursk region, directly adjacent to the Russian-Ukrainian border," the ministry said.

The Ukrainian military has remained silent on the Kursk offensive, though President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised the Ukrainian army on Thursday for its ability "to surprise" and achieve results. He did not explicitly reference Kursk.

Some Russian bloggers said Ukraine's forces were pushing towards the Kursk nuclear power station, which lies about 60 km (37 miles) northeast of Sudzha.

Yuri Podolyaka, a popular Ukrainian-born, pro-Russian military blogger, said that there were intense battles about 30 km from the Soviet-era nuclear plant, which supplies a large swathe of southern Russia with power.

Ukraine's energy minister said gas transit via Sudzha was functioning, despite reports of hostilities there. Most EU nations have reduced dependence on Russian gas, but Austria still receives most of its gas via Ukraine.

The Center for Information Resilience (CIR), a non-profit open-source analysis organisation, said it was unable to visually confirm any damage to the gas metering station as a result of the incursion, but had verified significant damage to the border checkpoint about 500 metres (550 yards) to the south.

"This, combined with footage verified by CIR of several Russian soldiers surrendering to Ukrainian soldiers near the entrance of the gas metering plant, makes it likely that the plant has been affected by the Ukrainian incursion, however, the level of damage cannot be verified at this time," it said.

The battles come at a crucial juncture in the conflict, the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two. Kyiv is concerned that U.S. support could weaken if Republican Donald Trump wins the November presidential election.

Trump has said he would end the war, and both Russia and Ukraine are keen to gain the strongest possible bargaining position on the battlefield.

Ukraine wants to pin down Russian forces, which control 18% of its territory, though the strategic significance of the border offensive was not immediately clear.

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USA Escape Serbia, to Face France for Olympic Men's Basketball Gold



PARIS (Dispatches) - The United States had to dig deep to erase a 17-point deficit to beat Nikola Jokic's Serbia 95-91 on Thursday to keep their bid for a fifth straight Olympic men's basketball gold medal alive.

Golden State Warriors star Stephen Curry dazzled with 36 points and all-time NBA scoring leader LeBron James had a triple-double of 16 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the Americans, who will meet hosts France in a repeat of the Tokyo Olympics final Saturday.

France booked a return trip to the title game with a 73-69 victory over reigning World Cup champions Germany.

The US team led by James is reckoned to be the most talent laden since the 1992 Dream Team led by Michael Jordan.

But it took a massive fourth-quarter effort to finally subdue the Serbians, who led most of the night and took a 76-63 advantage into the final period.

"Big-time win for us," James said. "We knew we were going to be challenged, we knew it was going to be the toughest game up to date, but it was a true total effort."

Curry rattled in a three-pointer with 2:24 remaining to give the United States their first lead since the first quarter at 87-86.

"Knocking down a big shot like that, you live for those moments," said Curry, who had struggled to find his shooting touch in his first Olympics.

"(I) haven't shot the ball well the whole tournament," he said. "But it doesn't waver your confidence to meet the moment."

James followed with a driving layup, Curry grabbed a steal and drove for a basket that pushed the US lead to five and the Americans held on.

Three-time NBA Most Valuable Player Jokic finished with 17 points and 11 assists for Serbia, who had 20 points from a brilliant Bogdan Bogdanovic.

Curry drilled five three-pointers on the way to 17 first-quarter points. But Serbia combined for five three-pointers themselves and led 31-23 after the first and continued to pour it on.

They pushed their lead to 42-25 in the second period and suddenly the United States, whose romp through the group stage included a 110-84 victory over Serbia, looked in serious trouble for the first time at these Games.

Back-to-back three-pointers from Curry and Jrue Holiday cut the deficit to 59-65 late in the third, but the US couldn't reel Serbia in until the bitter end.

France shook off a slow start then held on late to edge Germany in front of an ecstatic home crowd, avenging their loss in the group stage to give themselves a chance at Olympic glory on home soil.

Guerschon Yabusele led France's scoring with 17 points and Isaia Cordinier added 16.

NBA rookie of the year Victor Wembanyama scored a modest 11 points with seven rebounds but delivered three crucial blocked shots for France, whose 10-point fourth-quarter lead dwindled to two when Germany's Franz Wagner drilled a three-pointer with 37 seconds to play.

Cordinier finally allowed French fans to celebrate with a pair of free throws to cap the scoring. "Incredible, incredible moment," Wembanyama said. "The fans made it hard for me not to cry."

Wembanyama said the French players were driven by their group stage loss to Germany. "We were just remembering how they were laughing last game, how easy it looked for them,"

Wembanyama said. "I'm sure losing that game in the group phase helped us win today, definitely."

Dennis Schroder scored 18 points for Germany, but Wagner was the only other player in double figures.

Curry said France would be a tough proposition in their home Olympics.

Hocker Upsets Favorites to Win Olympic 1500m



TEHRAN - Iranian player Nahid Kiani went down fighting against her South Korean opponent Kim Yujin in taekwondo women's 57kg final at the Paris Olympics to settle for silver, the first-ever Olympic silver medal for Iranian female athletes.

On Thursday, Kiani faced Kim from South Korea and won the silver medal after Kim defeated her in two rounds, scoring 5-1 9-0.

It's the sixth medal for Iran at the Paris Olympics, the second in taekwondo. The Islamic Republic bagged four other medals in Greco-Roman wrestling -- 2 golds, 1 silver, 1 bronze.

The first round was accompanied by a 5-1 opponent advantage to make Nahid's work difficult. The second round ended with a 9-0 victory for the Korean player.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian congratulated Kiani's victory in the Paris Olympics.

"My dear daughter, Nahid Kiani, your efforts in the Olympics are commendable. You wrote a new history for Iranian women's sports," he tweeted.

"I congratulate you and all the people of Iran on winning the valuable Olympic silver," Pezeshkian added.

This is the best medal in the history of Iranian sportswomen in the Olympics.

Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf also congratulated Kiani and her coach.

He said that Kiani "made history in Iranian sports."

"I congratulate her and her respected coach Mrs. Mino Madah and the officials of the federation," he tweeted.

Nadeem Wins Olympic Javelin Gold in Historic First for Pakistan

PARIS (Dispatches) - Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the Olympic men's javelin title in Paris on Thursday, his country's first individual gold at a Summer Games.

Nadeem threw an Olympic record of 92.97 metres for victory, India's defending champion Neeraj Chopra taking silver with 89.45. Grenada's Anderson Peters claimed bronze with 88.54m.

"When I threw the javelin, I got the feel of it leaving my hand and sensed it could be an Olympic record," said the 27-year-old Nadeem.

Nadeem, the 2022 Commonwealth champion who was fifth at the Tokyo Olympics and a silver medalist at last year's Budapest world championships, said the result was "very important for Pakistan because I have worked very hard over the years for this".

"My training and hard work have paid off."

The rivalry with Chopra "is there, no doubt", he added.

"Like cricket, the javelin rivalry was present! People back home in Pakistan and India were eager to see us compete together."

"Rivalry is there when it comes to cricket matches, other sports, the two countries have a rivalry, but it's a good thing for the young people in both countries to watch our sport and follow us."

"It's a positive thing for both countries."

Chopra agreed, saying it was good for both countries, and could act as a spur to attract more people to athletics, and javelin in particular.

Nadeem said he had big ambitions for throwing even further.

"I was expecting to go even further and I am hoping to go even further," he said after his new Olympic record beat his previous best by more than two metres.

"I will try harder to even extend my personal best to over 95 metres."

Before Arshad's remarkable victory, Pakistan had never won an individual gold medal at the Olympics.

All of Pakistan's previous three gold medals came in field hockey, with their team winning gold in 1960, 1968 and 1984.

Prior to Thursday, only two Pakistan athletes had won individual medals of any colour - with a wrestling bronze in 1960 and a boxing bronze in 1988.

Since the 1992 Barcelona Games, Pakistan has not won a medal of any kind.

Chopra was satisfied with his best throw, but not much else.

"I'm not that happy with my performance today and also my technique and runway was not that good," he said.

"Only one throw, the rest I fouled. That second throw I believed in myself to think I can also throw that far. But in javelin, if your run-up is not so good, you can't go very far."



Chopra admitted to not doing much throwing in training because of a groin injury.

"The last two, three years were not so good. I'm always injured. I really tried hard, but I have to do some more work on my injury and technique."

"But I will work hard in the future. Today's competition was really great. Arshad threw really well. Congratulations to him and his country."

Tebogo Wins Africa Its First Olympic 200m Win

PARIS (Dispatches) - Letsile Tebogo claimed a historic Olympic 200m title for Botswana on Thursday as Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone produced a stunning performance to smash the world record in the women's 400m hurdles.

Tebogo's superb run left Noah Lyles' hopes for three gold medals in tatters as he was forced to settle for bronze and then revealed he has Covid.

Lyles later posted on Instagram: "I believe this will be the end of my 2024 Olympics."

McLaughlin-Levrone left Dutch rival Femke Bol in her wake and in bronze medal position as the American improved her own world record to 50.37sec and retained her title from Tokyo.

Three of the five finals on a mesmerising night at the Stade de France were claimed by Americans, but the fancied Lyles was not among them.

Grant Holloway won the 110m hurdles gold that had eluded him at the Tokyo Games three years ago, while Tara Davis-Woodhall won the women's long jump.

There was another exceptional performance in the men's javelin as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem threw an Olympic record of 92.97m for his country's first individual gold at a Summer Games.

All the pre-race talk about the men's 200m was about 100m champion Lyles emulating Usain Bolt's sprint

doubles.

But there was to be an upset as the 21-year-old Tebogo raced to victory in an African record of 19.47sec, taking him to fifth on the all-time list.

He also became the first African to win the Olympic 200m metres.

American Kenny Bednarek collected silver in 19.62sec and Lyles faded but took bronze in 19.70sec.

"It means a lot to the African continent because now they see Africa as a sprinting home, so we just had to make sure



that the message is loud and clear," said Tebogo.

"It was really a beautiful race for me," he added.

He had stopped training for a month after the death of his mother Seratiwa in May and the spikes he wore to win gold bear his late mother's date of birth.

"It's basically me carrying her through every stride that I take inside the field."

Lyles, who was pictured in the warm-up area wearing a mask, admitted after the race he had tested positive for Covid, which he said had "definitely affected my performance".

"But to be honest, I'm more proud of myself than anything," he added. "Coming out and getting the bronze medal with Covid."

There was much pre-Games hype over the head-to-head between McLaughlin-Levrone and Bol, but there was only one winner on the night.

The American tracked Bol and hit the home straight well ahead before streaking home for an outstanding victory that left the Dutchwoman in tears.

McLaughlin-Levrone said Bol and silver medalist Anna Cockrell had "so much depth and so you get nervous".

"But you channel those nerves into excitement and this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to run in an Olympics."

Man United Have Defensive Concerns for City Game



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United could be missing several key defenders for the traditional season-opening Community Shield match against Manchester City at Wembley on Saturday, manager Erik ten Hag said.

New signing Leny Yoro will be sidelined for three months due to a foot injury and fellow centre back Will Fish sustained ligament damage in a friendly against Liverpool.

The Dutch manager also expressed uncertainty about the availability of Harry Maguire, Victor Lindelof, and full backs Aaron Wan-Bissaka and Luke Shaw.

"Harry Maguire missed the game (against Liverpool), was a precaution but is still a question mark for Saturday," Ten Hag told reporters.

"So we have training, we have to see whether he is fit enough or not to be available."

"Victor (Lindelof) played but also he's a question mark and also Azza (Wan-Bissaka) and Luke Shaw are both question marks, we have to assess them tomorrow (Friday)."

Ten Hag noted that Argentine international Lisandro Martinez could be a defensive option but did not specify return dates for players who joined the squad late due to international duty.

"That is (on an) individual basis and every [player] has a different background," he added.

"So from individual to individual we will assess them and make a decision whether they start, come from the bench or they don't play."

Striker Rasmus Hojlund will miss the match due to injury, which opens the door for Joshua Zirkzee to make his United debut less than a month after joining from Italian club Bologna.

United beat champions City 2-1 in the FA Cup final in May with an impressive performance.

"So, we always want to win," Ten Hag said. "It's about a trophy, we will put out a team that is very competitive to win this trophy."