

The United States Imposed New Sanctions on People and Entities It Claims Have Been Involved in Procurement of Components to Iran for Use in Its Missile and Drone Program

# IRAN NEWS

Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Condemned the Israeli Regime's "Aggressive and Cowardly Terrorist Attack" Against Civilians and Civilian Infrastructure in the Southern Suburbs of Beirut

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2

DOMESTIC

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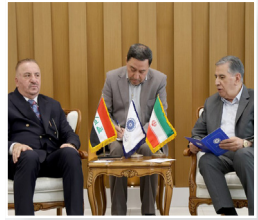
> SEE PAGE 2

3

INTERNATIONAL

## Lula, Biden Call on Venezuela to Release Full Presidential Election Results

> SEE PAGE 3



## Cooperation Between Iran, Egypt Necessary to Address Regional Challenges, Threats



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Interim Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani has stressed the need to expand Iran-Egypt ties, saying cooperation between Tehran and Cairo is necessary to deal with regional challenges and threats.

Bagheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Ahmed Mohamed Abdel Ati on Tuesday, who is in Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. The senior Iranian official emphasized the importance of consultation and collaboration among major Islamic countries, particularly Iran and Egypt, to address the challenges and threats amid the current sensitive regional situation, as the Israeli regime continues its crimes against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip. Bagheri Kani went on to say that Iran is aware of "Egypt's serious will and valuable efforts to follow the process of developing relations between the two countries." He also noted that the promotion of friendly relations with Egypt is in line with Iran's neighborhood policy and its consolidation, emphasizing that this policy will not change with the change of governments. Bagheri Kani also expressed gratitude for the presence of two Egyptian foreign ministers in Tehran over the past two months to participate in two different events, namely the funeral ceremony of late Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian as well as inauguration of President Pezeshkian. He also welcomed and appreciated Abdel Ati's visit to Tehran and wished him success in his new position as Egypt's Minister of Foreign Affairs. Abdel Ati, for his part, described his current trip to Tehran as a sign of Egypt's special efforts and determination to pursue the promotion and deepening of relations between Cairo and Tehran in line with the interests of the two countries and nations. He also noted that cooperation between Iran and Egypt can play an effective role in consolidating stability and security and preventing the escalation of tension in the region, especially in the current sensitive situation, amid the atrocities of the Israeli regime against the oppressed Palestinian people in Gaza and threats of the spread of war in the region.

## Barter of Urea and Grains Between Iran and Brazil



TEHRAN - Seyed Fakhruddin Amiriyian, President of the Iran-Brazil Chamber of Commerce, stated at the Iran-Brazil business seminar this morning: "The ambassadors of Iran and Brazil have worked hard so far, leading to significant growth in trade between the two countries." He added, "Iran and Brazil can collaborate in tourism, but both countries are unaware of each other's capacities in this field, and many Brazilians have not visited Iran." Amiriyian further referred to the impact of film and television productions on the trade between the two countries, saying: "One of the requests of the Iran-Brazil Joint Chamber is to produce such programs to enhance mutual understanding between the two countries."

He also discussed the trade value between the two countries, explaining: "Our country imports between 6 to 8 billion dollars worth of essential goods from Brazil, but our exports to Brazil are low because the import duties on Iranian goods in Brazil are high."

Regarding the export of Iranian handmade carpets to Brazil, Amiriyian said: "80% of traders active in the carpet trade in Brazil are Iranians, but the import duties on Indian carpets to Brazil are lower than those on Iranian carpets, and Brazilians categorize Iranian carpets as luxury and antique goods."

He emphasized: "Iran is a leading producer of raisins, pistachios, and dates in the world, and if the import duties on these items are reduced, their export to Brazil could be expanded. Additionally, Iran is a major producer of urea, and Brazil is a major importer of urea, allowing Iran and Brazil to engage in the barter of grains and urea."

He noted: "Iranian apples, pomegranates, and kiwis can be exported to Brazil. Currently, Brazil imports pomegranates from Chile, but Iranian pomegranates have better prices and quality."

The President of the Iran-Brazil Chamber of Commerce stated: "Unfortunately, it takes more than 20 days for Iranian traders to receive a visa to enter Brazil, whereas this used to take one week. Additionally, Iranian traders are issued three-month visas. Our request is that Iranian businessmen introduced by the Chamber be granted three-month visas."



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

## Leader Vows to Avenge Blood of Dear Guest' Haniyeh

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has warned the Israeli regime of a "harsh response" for the assassination of Hamas's Political Bureau Chief Ismail Haniyeh, saying it is the Islamic Republic's duty to avenge the blood of the Palestinian resistance leader. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks on Wednesday, hours after Haniyeh, who had traveled to Tehran to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's new president, was killed in a dawn attack in the capital. "The criminal and terrorist Zionist regime martyred our dear guest in our homeland and left us bereaved, but it also set the ground for a harsh punishment for itself," the Leader said. Ayatollah Khamenei commended Haniyeh's years-long sacrifices in his fight against the Israeli occupation and said he was ready for martyrdom and sacrificed his children and households on this path. "He was not afraid of embracing martyrdom in the way of God and saving God's servants, but we consider it our duty to avenge his blood in this bitter and horrific incident that came to pass in the Islamic Republic's territory," the Leader asserted. The Leader also extended his condolences to the Islamic Ummah, the resistance front, the proud nation of Palestine as well as Haniyeh's family and one of his companions, who was martyred with him. Haniyeh was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Tuesday. Iranian authorities announced that rigorous investigations have been launched into the targeted killing of Haniyeh in the capital and the results will subsequently be released. The Islamic Republic has declared three days of national mourning for the loss of the Palestinian resistance leader. Palestinian groups have already condemned his assassination in the strongest terms, vowing to make those behind the assassination pay the price of the heinous act. Haniyeh, 62, was born in a refugee camp near Gaza City and joined Hamas in the late 1980s during the First Intifada or uprising. As Hamas grew in power, Haniyeh rose through the ranks and was appointed part of a "collective leadership" in 2004 and reached the Hamas top job in 2017. Meanwhile the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned Israel of a harsh and stinging response from the forces of the Axis of Resistance, particularly Iran, in retaliation for the assassination of Hamas leader Haniyeh in Tehran. "Undoubtedly, the heinous crime committed by the Zionist regime

concerning the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, will be met with a harsh and painful response from the powerful Resistance Front, especially the Islamic [Republic of] Iran," the elite force said in a statement released on Wednesday. It added that the horrendous crime showed that the criminal, murderous and terrorist Zionists will spare no criminal acts, in defiance of the international law and principles, to cover up their humiliating failure following nine months of war on Gaza, which has resulted in the massacre of tens of thousands of innocent Palestinian women and children. The statement further noted that Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were assassinated in the early hours on Wednesday July 31, 2024 at their residence in Tehran as a result of a terrorist act perpetrated by the cowardly and criminal Zionist regime. The IRGC stated that the late Hamas chief was among the distinguished personalities of about 110 foreign delegations, who had been invited by the Iranian Parliament to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. The statement emphasized that Haniyeh had made several visits to Iran in recent years, especially after the large-scale and historic Operation Al-Aqsa Storm launched by Hamas and other Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups on October 7 last year against the usurping Israeli regime. Iran also announced three days of national mourning following assassination of Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh in the country's capital Tehran. The Iranian administration made the announcement in a statement on Wednesday, hours after the assassination that claimed the life of the head of the Palestinian resistance movement's political bureau and one of his bodyguards. Haniyeh came under the fatal attack while he was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's ninth President Masoud Pezeshkian. The statement strongly condemned the atrocity, reminding that it had been committed in violation of all humanitarian principles and international laws against the senior resistance figure, who had traveled to the Islamic Republic as an official guest. It considered the assassination to have been perpetrated with "specific goals" at a time when the country was preparing to usher in its next government.

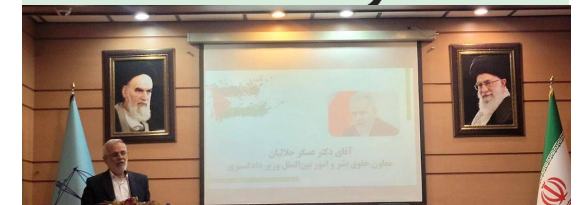
## Iran Reiterates Impartially in Ukraine War



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's UN envoy has rejected allegations leveled by several Western countries that accuse Tehran of military involvement in the Ukraine war. Amir Saeed Iravani, in a letter to the UN Security Council on Tuesday, said Iran has maintained its policy of impartiality since the outbreak of the war between Russia and Ukraine in 2022. "I wish to categorically reject the baseless allegations made against my country in statements delivered by the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom, and France in the UN Security Council open briefing held on 25 July 2024 under the agenda item 'Threats to international peace and security' focusing on the supply of Western weapons to Ukraine," he wrote. "The desperate attempt by the representative of France in this meeting to falsely associate their claims with UN Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015) is both misleading and completely unfounded," he stated. "As we have reiterated numerous times, Resolution 2231 has nothing to do with the Ukrainian conflict," he stated. The ambassador also denounced "an unwarranted reference made to the Islamic Republic of Iran by the representative of Switzerland in this meeting was provoking and irresponsible." "I also reject unequivocally the identical allegations by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, in the UN Security Council open briefings held on 14 and 18 June 2024 under agenda items 'Threats to international peace and security' and 'Maintenance of peace and security of Ukraine,'" he said. "We regard these allegations as nothing but attempts to advance the narrow and shortsighted political agendas of these three permanent members of the Council, as their records in the Council testify this," he said. Iravani also blasted the US, UK and France for sending billions of dollars in military aid to Ukraine which has helped to prolong the war and inflict more harm on the civilian population. "The US and its allies must look in the mirror to understand how Western arms and advanced weaponry, especially from the United States, have prolonged the war in Ukraine and inflicted harm on civilians," he said.

The analyst rejected the anti-Iran allegations by these countries as part of their narrow and shortsighted political agenda.

## Gaza: An Exhibition of Various Crimes Against Humanity



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights and International Affairs stated that Gaza is an exhibition of various environmental violations, international conventions, children's rights, and crimes against humanity. Many of these crimes cannot even be displayed by the media, and journalists do not show them due to ethical considerations. Askar Jalalian, Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights and International Affairs, on Wednesday, during the specialized meeting on "Examining Developments in Gaza with a Focus on the Third Generation of Human Rights," condemned the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the political office of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), by agents of the criminal Zionist regime. He extended condolences to the Palestinian people and all freedom fighters around the world, expressing hope that the international observer community will address these crimes and the legal community will explore legal avenues to bring the perpetrators to justice. He noted that 300 days have passed since the war in Gaza began, adding, "Every day, we witness new pages of crimes against humanity, legal violations, and international conventions being breached in Gaza. It is astonishing why the international community, which claims to be a champion of human rights and international law, remains indifferent to these crimes." Jalalian stated that since the beginning of the war in Gaza, 40,000 people have been martyred, over 90,000 injured, and more than 10,000 are missing. The Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights and International Affairs highlighted fundamental concepts in the third generation of human rights, stating that the right to a healthy environment, the right to development, and the right to security and peace are recognized as third-generation human rights. This meeting intends to discuss the violations of these rights in Gaza and how they occur.

## Resistance Groups Slam Cowardly Islamic Resistance Movements in Beirut

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Islamic resistance movements have condemned Israel's bombing of a southern suburb in Lebanon's capital, Beirut, targeting a senior Hezbollah commander. On Tuesday, the Israeli military carried out a targeted strike against the Hezbollah commander, who survived the attack, but several innocent people reportedly died and were injured during the aggression. Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) reported the attack was conducted by a drone that fired three missiles. It said the strike had targeted the area around Hezbollah's Shoura Council in the Haret Hreik neighborhood of Beirut. In a statement, the Israeli military said it had targeted a Hezbollah commander the regime claimed was responsible for last week's rocket attack on the occupied Golan Heights. Media reports said that the assassination attempt against Fuad Shukur was a failure. He is the highest military figure in Hezbollah and a longtime advisor to the group's leader Hassan Nasrallah. Lebanon's Health Ministry said three people, including two children, have been killed and 74 wounded in the Israeli strike on Beirut's southern suburbs. The "non-final toll of the Israeli aggression on the southern suburbs of Beirut... is three martyrs, including a woman, a girl and a boy". The ministry added that "the search for missing persons under the rubble continues". The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas strongly condemned "the brutal Zionist aggression on Lebanon and the brotherly Lebanese people, which targeted a building for the Hezbollah in Beirut's southern suburb and resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a number of



innocent citizens." Hamas called it "a dangerous escalation for which the Nazi-Zionist occupation bears full responsibility." "We declare our full solidarity with brotherly Lebanon and our brothers in Hezbollah, and we affirm that the arrogance of the occupation and its attempt to restore its lost prestige and deterrence by committing more crimes in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, and the Middle East will be nothing but an uncalculated adventure, for which the occupation will pay a heavy price," said the Hamas statement. Hamas said it holds "the US administration responsible for the occupation's crimes and ongoing violations through its continued open political and military support, which has tempted the occupation and the Neo-Nazis to commit more foolishness and crimes that threaten peace and security throughout the Middle East." "We call on all the forces, components, and parties of the Ummah [Muslim world] to unite and show solidarity with Lebanon," the statement added. "We also call on the international community and the United Nations to assume their legal and political responsibilities in stopping the genocide and ethnic cleansing against our people and stopping the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Lebanese people on the path to ending the occupation of Palestine and our occupied Arab lands," it added. Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine also condemned "the treacherous Zionist aggression against Lebanon, its land and its people, and we see in it the persistence of the Nazi government in the entity to ignite the entire region and prepare to commit new massacres against the peoples of our nation."

# IRAN NEWS



## Harsh Response Awaits Zionist, Martyring Ismail Haniyeh

TEHRAN (IP) - The Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Aerospace Force (IRGC-AF) has warned that Israel will face severe consequences for the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of Hamas.

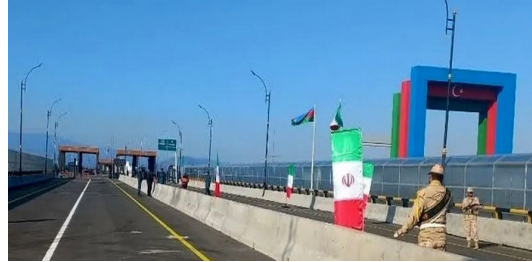
Haniyeh attended Iran's new president's swearing-in ceremony on Tuesday. Early on Wednesday, his residence in Tehran was struck, resulting in his and one of his bodyguards' martyrdom.

Gen. Hajizadeh said: Be ready to make the Zionists understand what the punishment awaits for spilling the blood of a guest in our home.

Hajizadeh emphasized that we are still mourning the martyrdom of Major General Qasem Soleimani in exile.

"The terrorist act is under investigation, and the results will be announced soon," stated the Revolutionary Guards.

## Azerbaijani Banks Do Not Provide Guarantees to Iranian Companies



TEHRAN - Mehran Fekri, Vice President of the Iran-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce, explained the latest status of trade between the two countries to an ILNA reporter, stating: Political relations between Azerbaijan and Iran have stabilized, but this stability has not led to an enhancement in trade relations. Azerbaijan primarily serves as a transit route for Iranian goods to Russia and Georgia, with 90% of Iranian shipments entering Azerbaijan for this purpose. Consequently, despite being a neighboring country, Azerbaijan is not considered a good consumer market for Iranian products. The main reason for this is Turkey's strong and established presence in the Azerbaijani market. He added: Turkey has captured the Azerbaijani market without sharing a common border and trades through Georgia. However, through preferential trade agreements, Turkey has managed to dominate this market. This close relationship means Azerbaijan is more cooperative with Turkish trucks entering the country compared to Iranian trucks, which has even affected small-scale trade by Iranians. Fekri, responding to whether the improvement of diplomatic relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, such as the reopening of the Azerbaijani embassy in Iran, has boosted economic relations, explained: The foundation of trade and economic relations is based on the concessions that the two countries grant each other. Therefore, it is expected that the economic division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will take significant steps to secure concessions from Azerbaijan. He noted: As long as Iran's trade tariffs with Azerbaijan are not reduced, Iran cannot compete with Turkey in the Azerbaijani market. Note that our shared border reduces the transit time from Tehran to Baku to a few hours, whereas it takes several days for Turkey. This geographical proximity also significantly reduces transportation costs, but the preferential trade agreements between Azerbaijan and Turkey offset all the advantages of trading with Iran. The Vice President of the Iran-Azerbaijan Chamber of Commerce emphasized: It's not just Turkey; Israel also has a strong presence in the Azerbaijani market, and even members of the Jewish community are seen among the Azerbaijani statesmen. All these factors have diminished the Iran-Azerbaijan relationship despite the shared border. However, since Iran serves as a transit route for Azerbaijani goods, Azerbaijan still seeks to maintain relations with Iran. Regarding the possibility of exporting technical and engineering services to Azerbaijan, he stated: Iranian companies must provide bank guarantees for the proper execution of their work in Azerbaijan, but due to Iran's banking relations being blocked globally, Azerbaijani banks are unwilling to provide these guarantees to Iranian companies. They prefer to cooperate with Turkish companies, which possess up-to-date knowledge in this field.



## Iran's Private Sector Interested in Investment in Iraq's Electricity, Industries

TEHRAN - The President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture stated that the issues between Iran and Iraq regarding monetary and banking transactions must be resolved as soon as possible. He expressed hope that with the new Iranian government, this matter would be promptly addressed.

In a meeting with Mohammad Ali Al-Mashhadani, President of the Nineveh-Mosul Chamber of Industries, Samad Hassanzadeh highlighted the mutual interest in developing trade relations. He noted that Iran ranks as Iraq's third-largest trading partner, but the economic potential of both countries suggests that the current trade volume of \$12 billion should be increased to \$20 billion annually.

Emphasizing the Iranian Chamber's interest in expanding relations with the Nineveh Chamber of Industries, he added that Iran's private sector is ready for joint investments and the establishment of production units in Iraq in areas such as power plants, roads, dams, residential buildings, petrochemicals, food industries, engineering services, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals, and medical tourism.

Payam Bagheri, Vice President of the Iranian Chamber, stated that despite the significant cultural and religious affinities, economic interactions between the two countries have not progressed to their full potential. He stressed that both chambers have a crucial and impactful role in fostering these collaborations and connecting traders from both nations to develop Nineveh's infrastructure, expressing hope that this meeting would mark the beginning of these interactions. Bagheri pointed out that Iran's private sector has significant capabilities in electricity, road construction, and other infrastructure areas. He mentioned that they are prepared to

implement the revitalization of Nineveh's power network and infrastructure development. More than 90% of electrical equipment and goods are produced by the Iranian private sector and have been or will be used in Iraqi projects. Al-Mashhadani, President of the Nineveh-Mosul Chamber of Industries, described Nineveh as an industrial province with abundant natural resources and a population of about 4 million. He emphasized that the province offers many investment opportunities for the Iranian private sector and expressed full support for such collaborations, hoping that bilateral meetings would lead to significant advancements. He stated that the Nineveh Chamber of Industries aims to introduce Iranian industrial capabilities to Nineveh's manufacturing plants. He noted that an annual industrial exhibition is held in Nineveh, and they are keen for active participation from the Iranian chamber and private sector, particularly in construction, electricity, and food industries, where there are good cooperation opportunities. He highlighted the ongoing development projects in Nineveh, expressing hope that the Iranian private sector could engage in establishing factories for automobiles, cement, electricity, solar panels, food industries, and constructing schools and residential complexes in the province. Al-Mashhadani suggested that establishing an Iranian consulate in Nineveh would significantly deepen bilateral relations. He concluded by inviting the President of the Iranian Chamber to visit Nineveh and Mosul with a trade delegation. Hassanzadeh welcomed the invitation and stated that the Iranian Chamber and private sector are ready to take operational steps to invest in Iraq's industries, especially in the electricity sector.

## Decline in Trade Balance During 13th Gov't Unprecedented Since 2011



TEHRAN - Hossein Salahvarzi, a member of the Board of Representatives of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with ILNA, evaluated Iran's foreign trade under the previous government. He explained: "What is clear and evident about Iran's foreign trade in 2023 is that, according to official statistics published by the Customs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the country's trade balance has decreased by more than \$16 billion this year, with imports surpassing exports. This figure is reported considering that non-oil exports are always calculated for evaluating the country's trade balance." He added: "In early 2023, the ongoing Ukraine-Russia war and rising inflation in the United States created a situation where the U.S. reduced its pressure on Iran's oil sales. At the same time, the increase in oil prices led to a rise in Iran's oil revenue, regardless of whether the revenue from oil sales was transferred to the country or not. However, the statistics indicate that last year the country's oil exports increased." Salahvarzi stated: "Nevertheless, the negative trade balance in 2023 was unprecedented since 2011. However, in 2023, the government manipulated statistics by including oil exports in the assessment of the country's trade balance." The former president of the Iran Chamber of Commerce continued: "What most significantly contributed to this level of negative trade balance in 2023 were the government's currency and trade policies, particularly the currency repatriation requirements and the obligation for exporters to meet currency commitments in the NIMA system. These requirements made exporting economically unjustifiable for a wide range of traders, leading them to reduce their exports. Additionally, instability in trade laws and sudden, overnight decisions under the

pretext of regulating the domestic market further exacerbated the situation, sometimes resulting in the loss of export markets." He noted: "In addition to 2023, the first quarter of 2024 was not favorable for traders, and the widespread power outages in the summer could lead to a decrease in the supply of various goods and subsequently a decline in exports. Therefore, Iran's non-oil trade has not experienced good days since last year." This member of the Board of Representatives of the Iran Chamber of Commerce further addressed the external challenges facing Iran's trade, explaining: "These issues have plagued exporters at a time when sanctions, FATF-related problems, and challenges related to banking transactions continue to confront Iranian traders."

He added: "In 2023, there were opportunities to strengthen Iran's non-oil exports. Among these opportunities were the increase in currency value in the country, which could have made exports more justifiable for Iranian traders, and the Russia-Ukraine war, which could have strengthened the presence of some Iranian goods in the Russian market. However, the country's trade and currency policies deprived private sector traders of the maximum exploitation of these opportunities." Salahvarzi also said: "Another issue that caused problems for Iran's foreign trade last year was the events in Iraq. While Iraqis sought to enhance the credibility of their national currency, the U.S. tightened sanctions, and the dollar became dual-priced in Iraq, with the exchange rate in Iraqi exchanges and the free market being 15 to 20 percent higher than the official exchange rate in the country. This led to Iraqi buyers incurring 20 percent higher costs when trading with Iranian traders, reducing the competitiveness of Iranian goods in the Iraqi market."

## Iran-Afghanistan Trade Volume to Reach 200m Tons



TEHRAN - In an interview regarding the latest situation of the 400 Iranian truck drivers carrying Iraqi fuel stranded in Afghanistan and customs follow-ups if the trucks return, head of Iran's customs Mohammad Reza Razvani-Far stated: The issue is that in this incident, the Iranian driver is transporting cargo from one country (Iraq) to another country (Afghanistan), and the goods belong to Iraq, transited through Iran by an Iranian driver to Afghanistan. Iranian customs have coordinated transit both at the entry and exit borders. Now, in the destination country, the buyer and seller have encountered a disagreement. In this situation, what role does customs play? He continued: Either they must decide to return the cargo or resolve its quality issues. Since the drivers are Iranian and the fuel cargo fleet belongs to Iran, both the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Roads are following up on this issue. However, if this cargo was transported by foreign drivers, some would criticize why this opportunity was missed and why the capacity of Iranian drivers was not utilized. Now, two countries in which Iran has no role are having a dispute. As I mentioned, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Roads are pursuing the resolution for the Iranian drivers. The head of Iran's customs also recommended to the fourteenth government: I believe the issue of unified border management must be clarified. For the simultaneous activities of several agencies, including terminals, customs, the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, the Anti-Smuggling Headquarters, border guards, and other agencies at entry points and borders, a mechanism should be defined for coherence and speeding up decision-making. This is the most significant decision that must be made. Razvani-Far also highlighted the increase in transit volume through the country and measures taken to maintain this growth trend: I believe that the smartization of customs procedures, both hardware and software, should continue with the same momentum, and the production of detectors using the capabilities of knowledge-based companies should be increased. He added: This year, we have experienced a significant leap in transit volume. In just the first four months of this year, transit growth reached 59% compared to the same period last year. Continuing this growth requires the development of infrastructure at terminals, entry points, and roads, and special measures must be taken in this regard. The head of Iran's customs stated: In these four months alone, we have handled 60 million tons of non-oil imports and exports, promising that the country's commercial transaction volume will exceed 200 million tons by the end of this year.

## 22% Growth in Agro Exports This Year



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The customs authority announced: In the first four months of this year, 22 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.2 billion were exported from the country. Compared to the same period last year, which had 18 million tons and \$895 million, this represents a 22% increase in weight and a 32% increase in dollar value.

Based on data from the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the export statistics of agricultural products under tariff codes from chapters 6 to 14 of the Export and Import Regulations book, a total of 22 million tons of agricultural products worth \$1.2 billion were exported in the first four months of 1403 (Persian calendar year). This shows a 22% increase in weight and a 32% increase in dollar value compared to the same period last year, which had figures of 18 million tons and \$895 million.

During this period, the main exported items in this category by value were: various types of pistachios and pistachio kernels worth \$273 million, greenhouse and field tomatoes worth \$147 million, apples worth \$108 million, watermelons worth \$97 million, and various types of potatoes worth \$39 million.

In the first four months of the current year, agricultural products accounted for approximately 5% of the weight and 7% of the total non-oil exports of the country.

According to this report, the table below shows the top 20 agricultural products exported by value in the first four months of 1403 compared to the same period in 1402.

## 215% Growth in Road Transit Under the 13th Gov't



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Deputy for Planning and Resource Management of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development announced a 215% growth in road transit under the Thirteenth Government.

According to the IRNA report from the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the ministry's performance in the road sector over the 34 months of the Thirteenth Government's tenure indicates a 215% increase in road transit compared to the beginning of this government. Based on this report, the volume of road transit has increased from 4.7 million tons at the start of the Thirteenth Government to 14.8 million tons.

Another significant achievement of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development during the 34 months of the Thirteenth Government's service in the road sector is a 12% increase (327 kilometers) in the length of highways, growing from 2,726 kilometers at the start of the government to 3,053 kilometers.

Additional actions by the Thirteenth Government in the road sector include an 8% increase in the length of main highways and roads compared to the start of the government. The length of main highways and roads has grown from 44,475 kilometers at the beginning of the Thirteenth Government to 48,061 kilometers.

Furthermore, during the 34 months of the Thirteenth Government's service, 7,300 kilometers of rural roads have been constructed, reflecting a 34% increase.

## U.S. Carries Out Defensive Strike in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – U.S. forces carried out an air strike on “combatants” inside a base south of Baghdad used by Iraq’s Popular Mobilisation Forces. Four members of the group were killed. They were attempting to launch drones that threatened US and allied troops, a defense official said.

The United States on Tuesday carried out a strike in self defence, US officials told Reuters, as regional tensions rose after an Israeli airstrike in Beirut that Israel said killed Hezbollah’s most senior commander. Iraqi police and medical sources said the strike inside a base south of Baghdad used by Iraq’s Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF) killed four members of the group that contains several Iran-aligned armed militias and wounded four others. In a statement after the blasts, the Popular Mobilisation Forces made no accusation about who was responsible.

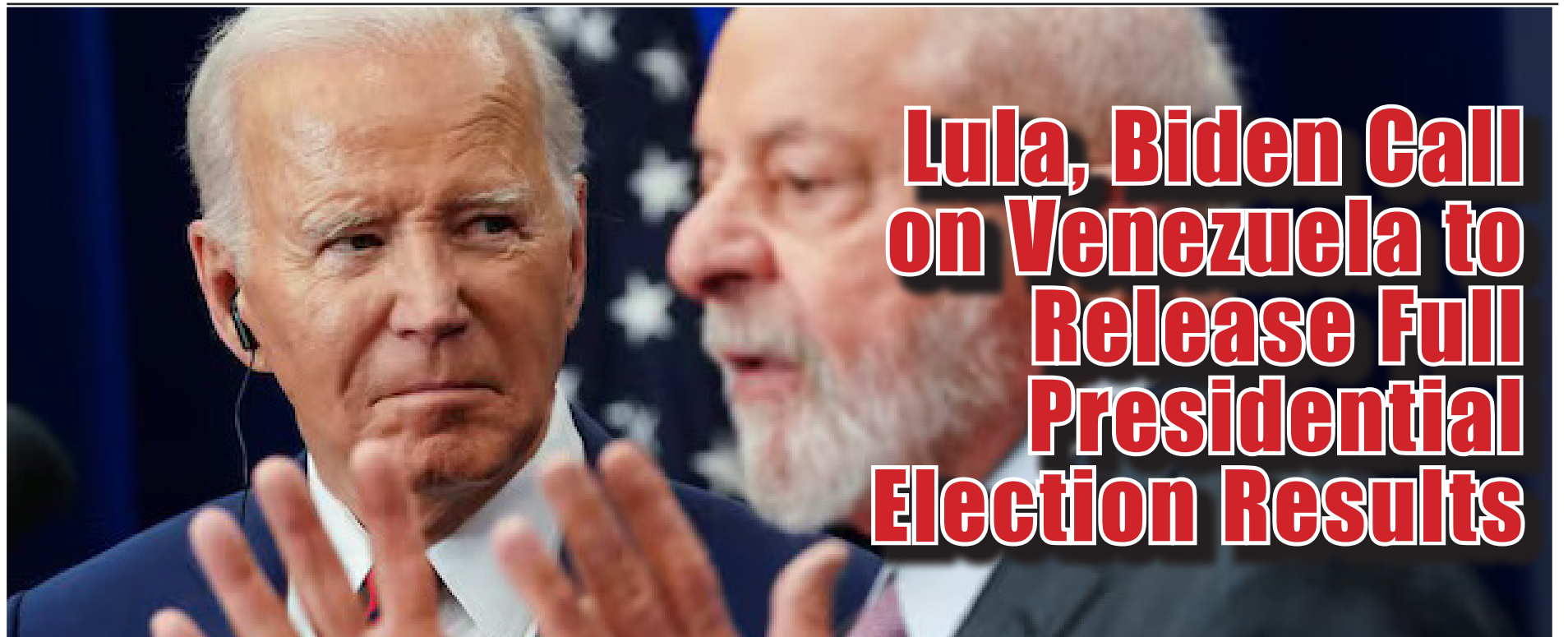
US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the United States carried out an airstrike in Musayib, located in Babil province, but did not provide more details on the location. The officials added that the strike targeted militants that the US deemed were looking to launch drones and posed a threat to US and coalition forces.



## Sudan Says It Conditionally Accepts Invitation to U.S.-Sponsored Peace Talks



DUBAI (Dispatches) – Sudan’s government conditionally accepted on Tuesday an invitation to attend U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Geneva, raising hopes that the talks could advance efforts to end a 15-month-old war. The government is aligned with the army in its war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The army has shunned recent bids to restart ceasefire or peace negotiations, with Islamists who hold sway in its ranks calling for a military victory. The Geneva talks would be the first major effort in months to get the army and the RSF to sit together. The RSF accepted the U.S. invitation soon after they were proposed last week. “The government said (in its reply to the invitation) that it was the party most concerned with saving the lives and dignity of the Sudanese people, and so it will cooperate with any entity that aims to do so,” the Sudanese foreign ministry said in a statement. The war has caused the world’s largest humanitarian crisis with a fifth of the population displaced and famine likely across the country. Previous talks convened by the United States and Saudi Arabia in Jeddah broke up without agreement. The RSF, which clashed with the army over plans to integrate their forces last year, has taken control of eight of Sudan’s 18 state capitals, including the capital Khartoum, and is expanding further into the southeast of the country. “The government made clear that any negotiations before ... full withdrawal and an end to expansion (by the RSF) will not be acceptable to the Sudanese people,” the statement said. However, it also requested meetings with U.S. officials to discuss the agenda for the talks.



## Lula, Biden Call on Venezuela to Release Full Presidential Election Results

BRASILIA (Dispatches) – Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and his American counterpart Joe Biden have jointly called for the complete publication of the Venezuelan presidential election results, which are being disputed by the opposition and parts of the international community.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and US counterpart Joe Biden called on Tuesday for full results of the Venezuelan election to be published, with the Brazilian leader terming a dispute over results “normal.”

“Lula reiterated that the publication of the electoral records of last Sunday’s elections is fundamental. Biden agreed with the importance of disclosing the records,” the Brazilian presidency said in a statement after the two leaders spoke in a call.

In a statement, the White House confirmed the conversation and “the need for immediate release of full, transparent, and detailed voting data at the polling station level by the Venezuelan electoral authorities.”

Speaking to a TV Globo affiliate in an interview released Tuesday, Lula appeared to downplay the dispute over the election result, which has seen thousands take to the streets and at least 11 people killed. “It is normal that there is a dispute,” Lula said in the interview, adding it could be “resolved” by releasing polling-station-level voting data, known in Spanish as “actas.”

“If the acts raise doubts... the opposition enters an appeal,” he said, adding that the courts’ decision would ultimately be something “we have to abide by.”

“I am convinced that it is a normal, calm process,” he said. “There is nothing serious, there is nothing to be afraid of.”

Venezuela’s pro-government National Electoral Council (CNE) awarded victory in Sunday’s elections to Nicolas Maduro, giving him a third six-year term, in a result that the opposition has denounced as “fraud.”

On Tuesday, thousands of Venezuelans took to the streets for a peaceful show of support for the opposition, a day after 11 people died and dozens were wounded in protests against Maduro.

Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, the opposition’s candidate in the poll, urged the government not to repress the protests.

Lula said that people had “the right to express themselves” and that the government had “the right to prove that it is right.”

“President Maduro knows perfectly well that the more transparency there is, the more chances he has to have peace of mind to govern,” Lula said.

## Protesters Clash With UK Police After Knife Attack That Killed Three Girls

LONDON (Dispatches) – Riots erupted on Tuesday outside a mosque in the UK near the site where three young girls were brutally stabbed to death during a Taylor Swift-themed dance class. Angry crowds clashed with police, hurling bottles and stones at officers in a display of outrage over the high levels of knife-related violence in England. Protesters were “believed to be supporters” of the right-wing English Defense League.

Violent clashes broke out on Tuesday in the northern England town where a mass stabbing at a Taylor Swift-themed dance event claimed the lives of three children.

Around 100 protesters battled police and lit fires, with thick plumes of smoke rising above the front line, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

Videos circulating on social media appeared to show a police van on fire and protesters pelting police with missiles, with a local mosque the apparent target.

Police have said they are not treating Monday’s attack as terror-related, but have not released any details of the suspected attacker other than that he is 17 years old and originally from Wales.

Merseyside Police said an officer suffered a suspected broken nose in the clashes, and that the protesters were “believed to be supporters” of the right-wing English Defense League.

“Officers who are deployed are currently dealing with criminal behavior and violence with bottles and wheelie bins being thrown at them,” added the force.

The violence broke out shortly after a vigil was held in the town center, where hundreds fell silent in tribute to the victims and in a show of support for those affected.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer earlier visited the town, saying the tragedy “touches a nerve” with the whole country.

He was among a stream of people to pay tribute at the site of the attack that left five children and



two adults with critical wounds. Three other children were hurt.

Laying flowers with hundreds of other wreaths, Starmer thanked emergency workers who responded to the stabbing spree and said: “I came here to pay my respects to the victims and families who are going through raw pain and grief that most of us can’t imagine – I can’t imagine, as a dad myself.”

However, he was heckled by a handful of by-standers as he laid flowers, with one man shouting: “How many more people will die on our streets, prime minister?”

Nine-year-old Alice Dasilva Aguiar died in hospital early Tuesday, police said. Bebe King aged six and Elsie Dot Stancombe aged seven were the two who died Monday.

Police said the two wounded adults had been trying to protect the children. Tributes have already been paid to the bravery of dance and yoga teacher Leanne Lucas, who was among the victims.

US pop star Swift said she was “completely in shock” over “the loss of life and innocence, and the horrendous trauma inflicted on everyone.”

“These were just little kids at a dance class. I am at a complete loss for how to ever convey my sympathies to these families,” she added on Instagram.

Aguiar was the daughter of Portuguese parents from Madeira. “Her parents are in a state of shock,” Portugal’s communities minister Jose Cesario told AFP.

Her family said in a tribute, “keep smiling and dancing like you love to do our princess, like we said before to you, you’re always our princess and no one would change that.”

Bebe King’s family said, “no words can describe the devastation that has hit our family as try to deal with the loss of our little girl Bebe.”

Residents of the seaside town said they were struggling to come to terms with the deaths.

## Bank of Japan Lifts Rates as Fed Inches Towards Cut

TOKYO (Dispatches) – The Bank of Japan raised interest rates in a mostly unexpected move on Wednesday and unveiled a detailed plan to slow its massive bond buying, taking another step towards phasing out a decade of huge stimulus. The decision, which defied dominant market expectations for the BOJ to stand pat on rates, takes its short-term policy rate to levels unseen since 2008. At the two-day meeting ending on Wednesday, the BOJ’s board decided to raise the overnight call rate target to 0.25% from 0-0.1% in a 7-2 vote. It also decided on a quantitative tightening (QT) plan that would roughly halve monthly bond buying to 3 trillion yen (\$19.6 billion), from the current 6 trillion yen, as of January-March 2026. Japan’s shift to tighter monetary policy contrasts sharply with the broad swing to lower interest rates by other major economies, with the Federal Reserve increasingly likely to cut rates in September as U.S. price pressures moderate. “Despite sluggish consumer spending, monetary officials sent a decisive signal by raising interest rates and allowing for a more gradual balance sheet reduction,” said Fred Neumann, chief Asia economist at HSBC. “Rising inflation expectations also open the path for ongoing monetary policy normalisation by the BOJ. Barring major disruptions, the BOJ is on course to tighten further, with another interest hike by the start of next year,” he said. The yen rallied as much as 0.8% to an over three-month high of 151.58 per dollar immediately after the outcome, though reversed those gains.

## Venezuelans Protest as Observers Say Presidential Vote Undemocratic

CARACAS (Dispatches) – Protesters took to the streets across Venezuela on Tuesday, demanding that President Nicolas Maduro acknowledge he lost Sunday’s election to the opposition, as a major international observer concluded the vote was undemocratic.

The protests, which the government denounced as an attempted “coup,” began on Monday after the South American country’s electoral authority declared that Maduro had won a third term with 51% of votes to extend a quarter-century of socialist rule.

The opposition, which considers the election body to be in the pocket of a dictatorial government, says its candidate Edmundo Gonzalez had more than twice as many votes as Maduro based on the 90% of vote tallies it has been able to access. At least 11 people have been killed in different parts of the country since the election in incidents related to the count or associated protests, according to rights group Foro Penal. The U.S.-based Carter Center, which observed the vote, said in a statement late on Tuesday the election “did not meet international standards of electoral integrity and cannot be considered democratic.” The electoral authority’s failure to publish disaggregated results amounts to a “serious breach,” it added, outlining what it determined to be a deeply flawed process from start to finish. Many countries have called on Venezuela to make the vote tally public and U.S. sources

said Washington was considering fresh sanctions on individuals linked to the election unless there was greater transparency. On Tuesday, both Maduro and his top legislative ally accused Gonzalez and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado of fomenting violence in the aftermath of the vote. In a winding speech broadcast on state television, Maduro declared that opposition protesters had battered civilians and started fires, demanding that Gonzalez answer for them. “Respond to that you coward!” Maduro shouted, after saying both Gonzalez and Machado should be held accountable. Jorge Rodriguez, the head of the Congress for Maduro’s ruling socialists, was more direct in a speech earlier in the day, insisting that both opposition figures must be arrested for the crimes of the protesters. “Their bosses should go to prison,” he told lawmakers, accusing Gonzalez of leading a “fascist conspiracy.” Costa Rica said it was prepared to give political asylum to Machado and Gonzalez. On X, Machado thanked the government but said her priority was to “continue this struggle” from Venezuela. The embattled Maduro, who also called for more marches, said in his speech that his government was reaching out to both China and Russia for help with alleged attacks on the electoral authority’s systems, blaming billionaire Elon Musk for them without presenting evidence.



## Nadal, Alcaraz Turn Up the Heat, Gauff Knocked Out



PARIS (Dispatches) - Spain's raging bulls Rafa Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz blazed into the quarter-finals of the Olympics men's doubles but a host of women's singles medal contenders were knocked out as the heat was turned up at Roland Garros. Once again the dynamic duo received top billing on the schedule and they did not disappoint a fevered crowd as they fought off Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof to claim a 6-4 6-7(2) 10-2 victory. Earlier, as the mercury soared into the mid-30s Celsius (90s Fahrenheit) leaving spectators and players wilting, the women's singles was blown apart as second seed Coco Gauff, fourth seed Jasmine Paolini and seventh seed Maria Sakkari all perished. Women's top seed Iga Swiatek of Poland stayed on course for gold though with a 6-3 6-4 win against injury-hampered Chinese player Wang Xiyu to reach the quarter-finals. Defending men's singles champion Alexander Zverev of Germany stayed cool in the oven-like heat as the third seed kept on track for a repeat of his Tokyo title with a 6-3 7-5 defeat of Czech player Tomas Machac to reach the third round. There was only one place to be on a tropical evening alongside the Bois de Boulogne though - the claustrophobic Court Suzanne Lenglen for the latest 'Nadalcaraz' show. Up against a former doubles world number one in Koolhof, the Spaniards found themselves involved in a red-dirt dogfight as the Dutch showed scant regard for reputations and threatened to spoil the party by deservedly levelling the match. But the 38-year-old Nadal and Alcaraz, 21, have 26 Grand Slam singles titles between them for a reason, and they caught fire again in the deciding tiebreak, with some electrifying tennis moving them within three wins of a dream gold medal. "Our goal to try to get a medal is closer. So I'm really, really happy about it and let's see tomorrow," said Alcaraz. The Spaniard plays a third-round singles against Roman Safiullin on Wednesday before joining Nadal to take on Americans Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram in the

doubles. "I'm trying to enjoy every single second out there." Gauff, like Alcaraz an Olympic debutant, still has medal hopes but not in the singles after her shock exit to Croatia's 13th seed Donna Vekic. The American was in tears in the second set when an over-ruled line call saw her slip 4-2 behind and became embroiled in an argument with umpire Jaime Campistol and the tournament supervisor in which she was heard to say "I'm being cheated". Gauff had grounds for complaint as a call of "OUT" on a Vekic shot was quickly overruled but the American insisted it put her off. Vekic remained focussed to seal a superb victory and become the first Croatian woman to reach the Olympic singles quarter-finals since 1996. "Afterwards they apologise, but 'Sorry' doesn't help you once the match is over," Gauff said. Italian Paolini, runner-up at the French Open and Wimbledon in the build-up to the Olympics, lost 7-5 3-6 7-5 to Slovakian Anna Karolina Schmiedlova while Sakkari lost a lengthy battle against Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk. Zverev reached the French Open final this year and looked perfectly at home on the Parisian clay as he maintained a strong start to his bid to repeat his Tokyo gold. He was pushed hard by Machac but turned on the afterburners at 5-5 in the second set with two searing forehands earning a break of serve before he ended the contest a game later. Germany's Angelique Kerber, a singles silver-medallist in Rio, will retire after the Olympics but stayed on course for a golden farewell by beating Canada's Leylah Fernandez 6-4 6-3 to reach the last eight where China's Zheng Qinwen awaits. The lineup for the women's quarter-finals is complete with Kostyuk to face Vekic, Schmiedlova up against Czech Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejickova and Swiatek playing American Danielle Collins. In the men's singles, two Americans reached the third round with Taylor Fritz beating Britain's Jack Draper 6-7(3) 6-3 6-2 and Tommy Paul overcoming Czech Jakub Mensik 6-3 6-1.

## Marchand Targets More Olympic Gold as Triathlons Get Go-Ahead



PARIS (Dispatches) - French swimming sensation Leon Marchand bids for two more Olympic golds in the pool as organizers declared the River Seine was clean enough to stage both triathlons. The men's and women's triathlons were given the green light a day after the men's event had been postponed because of pollution levels in the Paris waterway. "The results of the latest water analyses have been deemed to be in order," said a statement from World Triathlon and the Paris Games' organising committee early Wednesday, ending an anxious wait for athletes. Home favorite Marchand had sent the crowd at La Defense Arena pool into a frenzy by winning the men's 400m individual medley on Sunday and can expect another red-hot atmosphere when he races in the 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke finals. The 22-year-old swam four times across the heats and semi-finals on Tuesday and hopes to have plenty left in the tank. "It's a lot for my system, so I'm going to have to sleep well, eat a lot, and I'll be ready," vowed Marchand, the poster boy for the Games in the French capital. US great Katie Ledecky, a seven-time gold medallist, is out to defend her 1500m freestyle title after being relegated to bronze in the 400m behind Ariarne Titmus and Summer McIntosh. Chinese world record-holder Pan Zhanle is favorite in the men's 100m freestyle final, while 200m freestyle champion Mollie O'Callaghan will be expected to triumph in the women's 100m free. Japanese gymnast Daiki Hashimoto goes for repeat gold in the men's all-around final, where he is expected to face a ferocious fight from China's Zhang Boheng. If Hashimoto delivers he will emulate countryman Kohei Uchimura by retaining all-around gold, and keep it in Japanese hands for an unprecedented fourth consecutive Games.

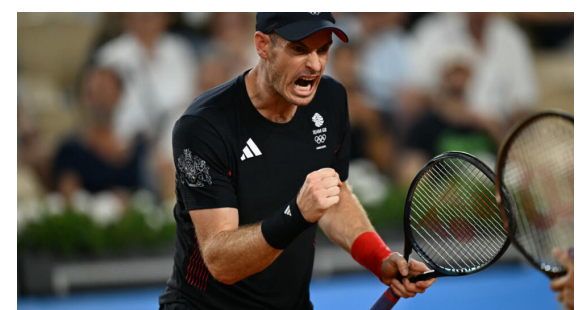
## France Set for Showdown With Argentina in Men's Olympic Football

PARIS (Dispatches) - France set up a potentially explosive quarter-final showdown with Argentina in the men's Olympic football tournament after beating New Zealand 3-0 in their final group game on Tuesday. Argentina had sealed their last-eight spot earlier in the day and France joined them in the knockout phase with Jean-Philippe Mateta, Desire Doue and Arnaud Kalimuendo scoring for the hosts against New Zealand in Marseille. France finish on top of Group A with three wins out of three and no goals conceded, with the United States going through as runners-up after seeing off Guinea 3-0, Kevin Paredes scoring twice. That means Thierry Henry's French side will take on Argentina in Bordeaux on Friday after the South Americans, two-time gold medallists, went through in second place in Group B thanks to a 2-0 win over Ukraine in Lyon. Thiago Almada's superb strike gave Argentina the lead just after half-time and substitute Claudio Echeverri sealed their victory late on. It will be the first meeting of the nations since Argentina players were recorded singing racist chants about French players as they celebrated winning the Copa America earlier this month. FIFA has

announced an investigation into the chants, which targeted France's star striker Kylian Mbappe among others and included racist and homophobic insults. Argentina players have already been booed by rival fans at the Olympic tournament. The nations last met in the 2022 World Cup final in Qatar which Argentina won on penalties after a 3-3 draw. However, the men's Olympic football tournament is an under-23 competition, with the exception of up to three over-age players per squad. Only two members of Argentina's Olympic squad, Nicolas Otamendi and Julian Alvarez, played in the 2022 game, and none of France's. Argentina will only face France after missing out on first place in Group B to Morocco on head to head.



## Murray Cries Happy Tears as Career Stays Alive at Olympics



PARIS (Dispatches) - Andy Murray cried "happy tears" after he delayed his retirement from tennis on Tuesday with another thrilling Olympic doubles win with Dan Evans where they saved match points for the second successive round. Murray and Evans defeated Belgium's Sander Gille and Joran Vliegen 6-3, 6-7 (8/10), 11-9 to qualify for the quarter-finals at Roland Garros. They saved two match points in the final-set tie-break, two days after they had saved five match points in their opening-round victory. In a rollercoaster clash on Court Suzanne Lenglen, the British pair wasted two match points of their own in a gripping second-set tie-break. "It's obviously unbelievably emotional and it was. You are unbelievably happy," said Murray, 37, who sank in his chair courtside and buried his head in hands. "And then for whatever reason, I don't know what happened. It was like happy tears, I don't know why." He added: "Excited that we managed to get through another amazing finish. It takes a lot out of you, that sort of stuff. So I'm glad we get a day off tomorrow." Murray, who has claimed three Grand Slam titles, reached the world number one spot and pocketed two Olympic singles gold medals, will retire once his Paris campaign is over. This year he has suffered a serious ankle injury and underwent surgery to remove a cyst on his spine which ruled him out of playing singles for the final time at Wimbledon. Despite saving seven match points over two rounds Murray insisted that it does not mean he is destined to finish his career with a third gold medal. "The margins are so fine," said Murray. "We really need to perform at a really high level in a couple of days. You build confidence by winning just like that today and your opponents see that. You are coming back when you're behind and that builds belief. "But you can't have that mentality of like, oh, this is just going to happen. You know, we need to be switched on for the next one."

Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul, the US third seeds, or Robin Haase and Jean-Julien Rojer of the Netherlands are the British pair's next opponents.

## Flick Opens His Barcelona Tenure With Win Over Man City



MIAMI (Dispatches) - New Barcelona manager Hansi Flick made a triumphant start to his tenure on Tuesday as the Spanish giants beat Manchester City on penalties after their pre-season friendly at Orlando finished 2-2 at full-time. Toni Fernandez, who signed with Barca earlier this month after turning 16, flicked in a left-footed shot past reserve City goalkeeper Stefan Ortega to give the German manager's side a 4-1 win on penalties. Barcelona kicked off their US tour in the pre-season contest against the four-time reigning Premier League champions, guided by former Barcelona player and coach Pep Guardiola. A sellout crowd of 63,237 spectators were unhappy early as a storm delayed the start by 80 minutes, but were delighted with a strong early pace, before both teams gave reserve players abundant time on the pitch. Barcelona jumped

ahead 3-0 on penalty kicks thanks to a left-footed shot by Alejandro Balde before Amar Ahmed kept City in it by beating reserve Barca goalkeeper Ander Astralaga, setting the stage for the teen newcomer's heroics. Pau Victor had opened the scoring in open play for Barcelona in the 24th minute, taking a quick through ball pass from Marc Casado and firing a right-footed blast from the right side into the goal. Nico O'Riley answered for Manchester City in the 39th minute, firing in a left-footed shot from the left side off a pass from Josko Gvardiol, the Croatian international making his first US tour start. Pablo Torre's goal in the second minute of first-half stoppage time gave Barcelona a 2-1 half-time lead. The 21-year-old Spanish midfielder took a centering pass from Gerard Martin at the left wing, nudged the ball to his right, then blasted a right-footed shot past Brazilian goalkeeper Ederson and inside the left post. Jack Grealish equalized for City in the 60th minute off an impressive fast break. Croatian international Mateo Kovacic, making his first start on City's US tour, gathered a loose ball just beyond the City box, split two defenders and raced upfield with the ball before passing to English left winger Grealish, who outraced a defender and finished with an outstanding left-footed shot from a steep angle high into the goal. Barcelona will continue their US tour with pre-season matches against Real Madrid and AC Milan. City, who lost earlier US matches to Celtic and AC Milan, will close the US tour by facing Chelsea on Saturday at Columbus, Ohio.