

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Diplomatic Mission at the UN While Recalling Nearly 41,000 Martyrs in Gaza Since October 2023 Announced That the Crimes of the Genocidal Israeli Regime Are Unprecedented

Rear Admiral Mahdi Khajeh-Amiri Said the Islamic Republic Is Set to Unveil New Defense Achievements, Noting That the Defense Industry of Iran Is at the Forefront of Technology in the Country and Even in the Region

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Iran Likely to Respond to Israel Through Ground, Air Attacks

TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has elaborated on the time and the manner of the Islamic Republic's response to the Israeli regime's assassination of former Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran.

Iran's response should have two clear results. First, it must punish the aggressor for terror and violation of Iran's national sovereignty. Second, it should strengthen Iran's deterrence power and bring the (Israel) regime's deep remorse to prevent any future aggression.

"Also, Iran's response should avoid a possible negative impact on a possible (Gaza) ceasefire."

Iran's mission to the UN added that the Islamic Republic would respond to the Israeli regime at a time and in a manner that the Zionists don't expect. "Maybe when their eyes are on the sky and the radar screen, they are surprised from the ground, and maybe a combination of the two."

Ismail Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were martyred after their residence was targeted in Tehran on July 31, according to a statement released by the IRGC.

Issuing a statement, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said that the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh was "designed and implemented by the Zionist regime and supported by the criminal government of America."

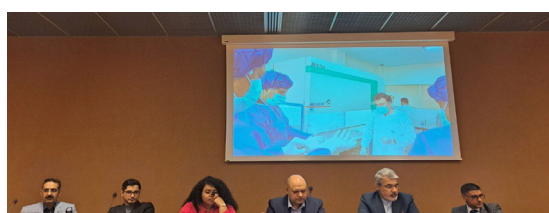
Reacting to the Israeli act of terror, high-ranking Iranian officials vowed to give a proper response to the Zionist regime, with the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei saying, that by assassinating Ismail Haniyeh, the Israeli regime has prepared the ground for harsh punishment for itself.

Earlier in August, the political adviser to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani took to X social media platform, formerly Twitter, to write that preparations have been made to severely punish a regime that only understands the language of force.

The sole goal of the Israeli regime in killing the worshippers of the Al-Tabin school in Gaza and assassinating the martyr Ismail Haniyeh in Iran is to seek war and make the ceasefire negotiations fail, Shamkhani wrote.

Preparations for severe punishment of the Israeli regime have been made following the legal, diplomatic, and media processes, he added.

Iran, Cuba Discuss Effects of Illegal U.S. Sanctions



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Representatives of Iran's Pasteur Institute and the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute have met with their Cuban counterparts to discuss the effects and obstacles caused by the illegal and unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States on the two countries' access to biosciences and technologies.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on the Strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention (BTWC) that is taking place August 19-23, 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Representatives of the Razi Institute and the Pasteur Institute referred to the achievements of Iran in the field of biological sciences and their cooperation with countries such as Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Uzbekistan, and Cuba in the field of vaccine and serum production as well as holding various training courses in this regard.

They also pointed to the challenges that Iran faces in the path of benefiting from its international rights due to the sanctions imposed by the US on the Islamic Republic.

Kayhan Azadmanesh, head of Virology Research at the Pasteur Institute, presented the 104-year history of the Pasteur Institute and the role of this center in controlling and eradicating diseases such as smallpox, plague, tuberculosis, and COVID-19, and the importance of cooperation in the production of science and vaccines, especially collaboration with Cuba in the producing two recombinant vaccines for hepatitis B and COVID-19.

Azadmanesh also pointed to the destructive role of sanctions in global health security and called for the creation of mechanisms to ensure scientific and health cooperation within the framework of the BTWC.

Raynak Qaderi, representative of the Razi Institute, pointed to the production of more than 80 diverse biological products from livestock, poultry, aquatic, and laboratory animal vaccines as well as diagnostic kits, and called the Islamic Republic one of the successful countries in eradicating and controlling many diseases in Iran and the region, such as bovine plague, polio, measles, and rubella.

The BTWC, which is an international treaty prohibiting weapons of mass destruction, came into force in March 1975, and to date, 187 states have joined it.



All Proposed Minister Win Votes of Confidence of Majlis

TEHRAN - The process of reviewing the qualifications of the proposed ministers for the 14th government concluded on Wednesday afternoon and the new members of the "National Unity" government cabinet received votes of confidence of Majlis.

The 14th government of the Islamic Republic of Iran began its work after Massoud Pezeshkian won the early presidential election of 2024, which was held a year ahead of schedule due to the martyrdom of Ayatollah Raisi.

Pezeshkian was elected as the 9th President of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the second round of elections in mid-July this year, securing 16,384,403 votes.

The ceremony for the endorsement of the presidential decree by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution took place on Sunday, July 28. With this endorsement, Pezeshkian officially became the head of the executive branch of the country. Additionally, the inauguration and oath-taking ceremony was held in the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Tuesday, July 30, with the presence of officials from around 100 countries.

On Sunday, August 11, the list of proposed ministers was submitted to the parliament by

Pezeshkian in a letter, and candidates were introduced for the 19 ministries of the 14th government.

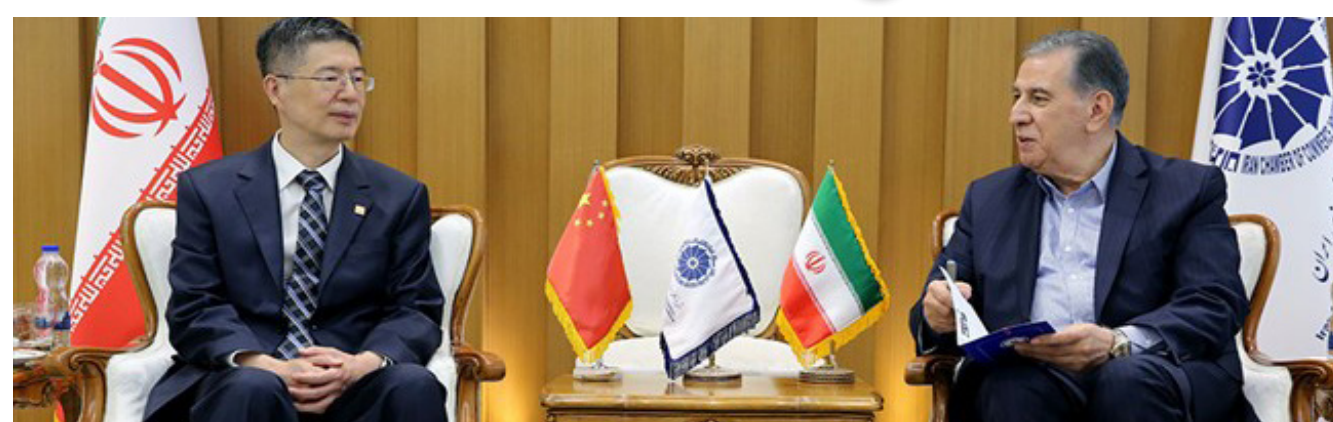
After a week of discussions, meetings with the ministers in specialized committees, and reviewing the programs, the open sessions of the parliament began on Saturday, August 17, in two shifts. Initially, the president presented his views regarding the proposed cabinet. This evening, the tenth session of reviewing the qualifications and programs of the proposed ministers concluded, and the voting took place.

All 19 candidates for the ministries were approved by the people's representatives and assumed their positions to serve.

Defense Minister Aziz Nasirzadeh saw the overwhelming approval of lawmakers with winning 281 votes and Health Minister Mohammad Reza Zafarghandi had the lowest votes of 163.

Road and Urban Development Minister Farzaneh Sadeq Malvajerd as the only female minister of the cabinet received 231 votes.

Call for Implementing the Provisions of the 25-Year Iran-China Agreement



NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has roundly rejected allegations about Tehran's interference in the 2024 US presidential election, calling the claim "unsubstantiated".

According to IRNA, the Iranian mission issued a statement on Monday night local time, in response to questions regarding the claim of American intelligence and cyber agencies. "Such allegations are unsubstantiated and devoid of any standing. As we have previously announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran harbors neither the intention nor the motive to interfere with the US presidential election," the statement said.

"Should the US government genuinely believe in the validity of its claims, it should furnish us with the pertinent evidence—if any—to which we will respond accordingly," it added.

In a joint statement, the FBI and several other US intelligence agencies claimed that Iran was involved in hacking of the campaign of Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for the 2024 US presidential election, as well as trying to hack the campaign of Kamala

Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate.

Last week, the Iranian mission at New York, rejected a report published by an American digital newspaper claiming that it has access to documents about Iran's role in hacking the Trump campaign.

"Iran itself is a victim of various cyber-attacks targeting the country's infrastructure, public service centers and industries. Iran's cyber power is defensive and in proportion to the threats it faces", Iran's mission clarified last Friday.

Iran does not have a goal or a plan for a cyberattack. The American election is an internal issue of this country, and Iran has no involvement in it, the statement from the Iranian mission then elaborated further.

Iran's Permanent Mission to the UN had issued several such statement recently over claims implicating the Islamic Republic in the US election campaign hacking or a shooting incident during Trump's rally, calling those allegations "absurd, baseless and biased".

Iran Will Choose Timing of Its Response, Keeping Israel in Limbo



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Iran will decide the timing of its response to the assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, keeping the Israelis in limbo.

Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeni, the IRGC's spokesman and deputy head of the Public Relations Department, made the remarks during a press conference on Tuesday.

He said Iran's response might not necessarily be a repetition of the previous operations against the Israeli regime.

"The Zionist regime had set certain goals in the assassination of Haniyeh, but it achieved none. The enemy thought it could compensate for its failure on the battlefield through assassinating Haniyeh, but, on the contrary, the Resistance front has become even stronger."

Haniyeh and one of his bodyguards were assassinated in Tehran on July 31, a day after he attended the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Following the assassination, the IRGC stated that Haniyeh was martyred by a "short-range projectile" launched from outside his residence in Tehran.

"There is a strong determination to respond to various forms of aggression committed by the Zionist regime, and, currently, the people living in the occupied territories are paying the price for [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu's assassination of Haniyeh," Naeni stated.

He said the Zionist regime and US politicians have now accepted defeat on the battlefield.

"The Iranian people are intelligent and know that the commanders of the Armed Forces and the IRGC carefully assess all aspects at the highest levels of decision-making before taking action. They make precise and calculated decisions, effectively influencing the enemy's calculations," the IRGC spokesman said.

Naeni also said time is on Iran's side and that the "wait for this response may be prolonged."

"For now, the Zionists must remain in a state of imbalance," he added.

Iran's Response to Israel Assassination of Hamas Leader to Be Calculated



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A former chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) warns of an extremely tough response to Israel, asserting that the Islamic Republic will "definitely" serve a "calculated" response to the Israeli regime's assassination last month of Hamas's political leader in the Iranian capital Tehran.

"We have investigated the possible repercussions. And we will not let [Israeli prime minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, who is sinking in a swamp, save him himself," Mohsen Rezaei said in an interview with CNN on Tuesday.

"Iran will take action at the right time and in the right place. Based on Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, we have the right to defend ourselves," he added.

"If there is no response, the Zionist regime's acts of mischief will continue. Therefore, this (the retaliation) will take place," added Rezaei, who currently serves as secretary of the Supreme Council for Economic Coordination of the Heads of Government Branches.

Asked about the quality of the reprisal, he said, "The answer to your question will become clear [only] after Iran's action."

Rezaei, meanwhile, commented on the ongoing all-out support that was being provided to the Israeli regime by the United States, Tel Aviv's biggest benefactor.

"The great problem facing our region today is that the US has blocked all political and legal pathways that could lead to controlling the regime," he said.

The official was referring to the US's almost invariable use of its veto power at the UN Security Council to protect the regime against condemnatory resolutions as well as Washington's recurrent threats against the international tribunals seeking to hold Tel Aviv accountable for its atrocities.

Rezaei noted that the US was sustaining the support, while the regime was committing the greatest of crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip, where more than 40,100 Palestinians have been killed as a result of an October-present Israeli war.

IRAN NEWS



Iran's Judiciary Closes Two German-Linked Centers in Tehran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian Judiciary has announced the closure of two branches of an institution linked to the German government in Tehran.

The centers were found to be in violation of Iranian laws, engaging in illegal activities and widespread financial misconduct. The Judiciary has also received reports of violations by other German-affiliated centers in Iran, prompting investigations by the authorities. A spokesperson for the German foreign ministry said Iran's ambassador to Berlin would be summoned over the incident. The closure comes almost a month after the German government shut down a prominent Islamic center in Hamburg, accusing it of being an outpost of the Islamic Republic. In a phone call with German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock on July 27, Iran's acting foreign minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, criticized the closure of the Islamic Center Hamburg as a political move aimed at spreading Islamophobia.

Iranian, Russian Economic Activists Hold Talks to Strengthen Automotive Industry Trade



MOSCOW (IRNA) - A group of economic activists from the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation convened on the sidelines of the 2024 Moscow International Automobile Exhibition to explore ways to strengthen bilateral trade in the automotive and parts manufacturing sectors.

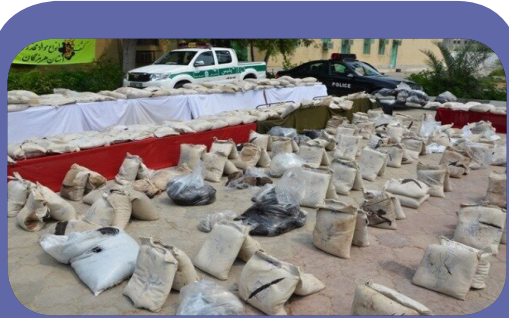
The Iranian delegation was led by Farshad Moqimi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade and CEO of the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization, while the Russian side was represented by officials from the AvtoVAZ automotive company.

During the meeting, held on Tuesday with the participation of Iranian automotive industry representatives present at the Moscow exhibition, both sides discussed strategies for expanding trade, including the involvement of Iranian parts manufacturers in meeting the needs of the Russian market. The parties also expressed interest in leveraging each other's capabilities to export Iranian and Russian vehicles to the respective markets.

The 2024 Moscow International Automobile Exhibition opened on Monday, August 19, with representatives from Iran's automotive industry showcasing their latest products for the third consecutive year in a dedicated pavilion. The event, inaugurated with speeches from officials from Russia and other participating countries, including the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, took place in the 60,000-square-meter Expocentre International Exhibition Center in Moscow.

More than 20 Iranian companies occupied the 500-square-meter Iranian pavilion. Additionally, over 50 Iranian industrialists and traders were dispatched to the four-day exhibition as part of a commercial and exhibition delegation.

According to official statistics from the Trade Promotion Organization, the export of auto parts produced domestically to Russia increased from \$13 million in 2022 (the first year of collective participation by Iranian parts manufacturers at the Automobile Exhibition) to over \$66 million in 2023, reflecting significant growth. This upward trend has continued in the first quarter of 2024 as well. Ebrahim Doustzadeh, a board member of the Iranian Auto Parts Manufacturers Association, stated that in correspondence with the Russian side, a list of 220 essential items needed by Russia's automotive and parts manufacturing industry was identified. The Iranian delegation plans to hold face-to-face meetings with Russian companies during the Automobile Exhibition and for two days afterward.



Tehran, Kabul Agree to Exchange Information to Intensify Drug Trafficking Combat

TEHRAN - The Deputy for Supply Control and International Affairs at Iran's Drug Control Headquarters announced an agreement with Afghanistan to exchange information aimed at intensifying the fight against drug trafficking.

Mohammad Zarei, speaking to reporters, highlighted the outcomes of the meetings between the Iranian delegation and the interim Afghan government officials in Kabul. He stated that the discussions focused on combating drug trafficking, prevention, demand reduction, and the treatment of drug addicts.

The Deputy for Supply Control and International Affairs at the Drug Control Headquarters and the head of the delegation to Afghanistan emphasized that the latest agreements with the interim Afghan government included the exchange of information on drug trafficking, sharing experiences in this field, providing educational services for combating drugs, and forming joint committees for information exchange. Afghan officials also requested these measures.

Zarei noted that drug consumption and transit are not concentrated in one location, adding that due to this, regional and multilateral information exchange must be prioritized in the fight against drugs. It was decided that necessary coordination should be strengthened so that both sides can use intelligence capabilities to target major drug trafficking networks.

Zarei also mentioned that reactivating the trilateral initiative between Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan to combat drug trafficking, with its office located in Tehran and currently inactive, was another serious demand from both parties during the Kabul visit.



TEHRAN - The President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture said that by increasing tourism ambassadors and developing this industry, we can overcome the limitations caused by sanctions.

Samad Hasanzadeh, in a meeting of the Iran Chamber's Tourism Commission, added: If we create favorable conditions for tourists from around the world to visit Iran, we will not only overcome the limitations caused by sanctions but also boost the economy and introduce our rich culture to the world.

He referred to the success of Iranian athletes at the 2024 Paris Olympics and added: We have many advantages in various areas of tourism, including sports tourism. With proper planning, we must be able to operationally exploit these advantages.

The President of the Iran Chamber emphasized that the recent statements of the President in the Parliament demonstrate his determination to achieve economic progress with a focus on the private sector. He stated: We expect the Parliament to vote for ministers based solely on rationality and their capabilities, without considering regional and political interests.

Ahad Azimzadeh, the head of the Iran Chamber's Tourism Commission, also referred to the sessions for the vote of confidence for the ministers of the fourteenth government. He said: This is the season for tourism to thrive, and we hope that the new government's performance will attract tourists to the country. Why should a country like Turkey earn as much as or even more than Iran's oil revenue from tourism, while we do not?

He called on the Iran Chamber's board of directors to support economic activists in participating in international tourism exhibitions, adding: These exchanges will lead to the growth of tourism.

Mohammad Masoudi, Vice President of the Iran Chamber's Tourism Commission, also stated that the Ministries of Sports and Youth and Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts have become something of a backwater for the government and Parliament. He added: We want the message from the Chamber to be conveyed to the government that these two ministries are very important, and therefore, capable and skilled managers should be appointed to them.

In this meeting, Hamed Asgari, the International Deputy of the Iran Chamber, also discussed health tourism. He continued: Unfortunately, health tourism still lacks a specific authority in the country. Part of it is handled by the Ministry of Health, part by the Ministry of Tourism, and another part by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This situation has prevented us from taking full advantage of our benefits in this field. For example, we see that Tajik tourists travel to countries like Russia, India, Kazakhstan,

and Germany for treatment, while we have many advantages with them due to cultural and linguistic affinities.

He emphasized: The lack of tourism infrastructure, the weakness of medical centers, the presence of unofficial brokers and intermediaries, and certain political issues with other countries have overshadowed the growth of health tourism in Iran.

Asgari noted that Turkey has set a goal to become a global center for health tourism, continuing: Turkey's healthcare services revenue in 2022 amounted to \$1.9 billion, which increased to \$2.3 billion in 2023 with the arrival of 1.4 million health tourists in the country. The Turkish Ministry of Commerce's financial support for the country's healthcare services companies increased by 281% in 2023, reaching 733 million liras.

He pointed out Iran's weakness in marketing and advertising, stating: Most Iranian medical centers are still not ready to accept foreign patients, and, for example, an appropriate financial interaction system for health tourists has not yet been established in our centers.

Asgari said: The health tourism sector has issues with planning and identifying its potential; the information in this area is not up to date, and companies that should provide these specialized health services have not yet been fully established.

Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, Deputy Minister of Tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, highlighted the opportunities in the Seventh Development Plan for the tourism industry. He said: The main focus in drafting the tourism section of the plan has been on supporting private sector investment and removing obstacles.

Referring to the target of 15 million incoming tourists in the Seventh Plan, he continued: This goal will not be achievable without expanding air transport. At least 550 aircraft are needed to meet the country's current needs.

Shalbafian mentioned the continuation of tax exemptions for tourism and handicrafts activities in the Seventh Plan and said: The plan emphasizes that tourism should be governed by its specific laws and regulations, rather than the general laws of the industry. Unified command in tourism has been approved, and the strengthening of tourism associations has been emphasized.

He stressed: The tourism sector will not see exponential growth without the inflow of capital. Capital is smart, and incentives must be created to attract it.

He said: One of the main missions of the government in the field of tourism is to combat Iranophobia. We have made many arrangements for military confrontation, but we are not as well-equipped for the media war in the international arena.

Economic Potentials of Hamedan Province and Belarus Discussed

TEHRAN - The President of the Hamedan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture highlighted the expansion of the chamber's international activities. He mentioned that the presence of foreign ambassadors in the province aims to

develop trade relations and exchanges with target countries. This week, Hamedan hosted the Ambassador and Senior Economic Counselor of Belarus.

In a meeting with Hamedan's economic activists, the Ambassador of Belarus in Tehran, and the Senior Economic Counselor of the Belarusian Embassy, Rahim Mortazavi stated that Hamedan exports 205 types of goods. These include 137 industrial products, 35 agricultural items, 19 handicrafts, and 15 mineral products.

He introduced some of Hamedan's exportable products, such as walnuts (in-shell and shelled), various soaps, beet and potato harvesters, carbon, food products, dried fruits, various canned goods, pickles, and jams. These products are currently exported to CIS countries, the Persian Gulf states, Europe, and Canada, and are even sold in Moscow's stores.

The President of Hamedan Chamber emphasized their pursuit of bilateral relations, inviting Belarus to import goods that are expensive to produce in their country from Hamedan.

Mortazavi also discussed investment opportunities in Hamedan, particularly in the processing industries for garlic and medicinal plants, which are well-known globally.

A member of the Hamedan Chamber's Board of Directors also highlighted the province's capabilities, especially in health tourism, noting that Hamedan is a significant medical hub in western Iran, which should not be overlooked.

Ramin Rahimian added that many university faculty members, specialists, and renowned doctors are present in the province's hospitals and medical centers, capable of providing



substantial medical services to Belarusian tourists. He expressed hope that Belarus would include this in its plans to expand trade relations.

The head of the Hamedan Chamber's Education Commission also introduced investment opportunities in Hamedan, particularly in the processing industries for

garlic and medicinal plants.

Hossein Mirabian added that there are opportunities in tourism, including the world's largest water cave, which could be a tourist attraction for Belarus.

He stated that Hamedan has the capacity to host health tourists and that the province's numerous historical sites could keep tourists engaged for a week.

The head of the Education Commission expressed hope that health tourism could develop bilaterally and that future relations between Hamedan and Belarus would grow.

In the same session, the Vice President of the Hamedan Chamber stressed the province's capability to supply Belarus with agricultural machinery, combines, and trucks.

Kheiroollah Asadi added that livestock and greenhouse products are among other potentials that Belarus could purchase and import.

The Belarusian Ambassador to Tehran expressed the readiness of the country's traders and economic activists to cooperate and interact with their counterparts in Hamedan.

Dmitry Koltsov, appreciating the positive outlook of the province's officials toward economic activities, stated that he is ready to encourage Belarusian economic, trade, and tourism actors to connect with Hamedan's Chamber of Commerce.

He confirmed Belarus's intention to continue importing raisins and grapes and engaging in trade related to wood with Malayer.

Tripartite Meeting for Control of Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Oman in Future



TEHRAN - Isa Zarepour, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, stated that the fiber optic project for homes and businesses is the most important initiative of the Ministry of Communications in the 13th government. So far, more than 8 million households in various cities have been covered by this project, and they can request this high-speed service, which can reach up to 1000 Mbps, to be activated within the next month.

He further added that citizens can enter their postal code on the website to check if they are covered. The major event of today's meeting was the commitment made by service providers to increase the current 600,000-700,000 fiber optic subscribers to 2 million by the end of the year. This means that the number of fiber optic subscribers will be nearly 4 to 5 times higher than the current level, potentially improving our fixed communications ranking by at least 20 to 30 places.

The Minister also mentioned that, according to the Seventh Development Plan, the Ministry of Communications is obliged to have 20 million fiber optic subscribers within the next five years, with the support of these service providers. The law requires nearly 4 million new subscribers each year, which has now become a legal mandate and a promising development for the public.

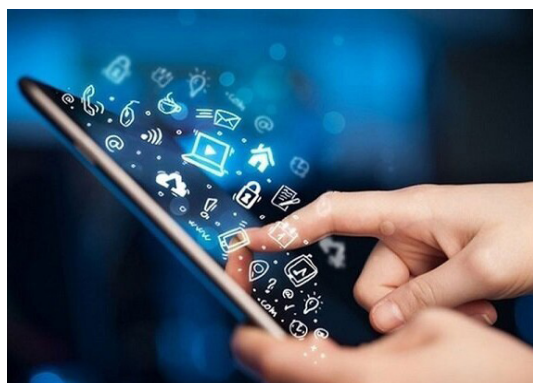
In February, Zarepour said that some six million households are currently using internet services provided by the country's high-speed optic fiber network.

He added that some 20 million people in Iran will have access to optic fiber services until August 2025.

According to government statistics, more than 91% of Iranian villages with a population of over 20 households have been connected to the existing high-speed network in the country.

In May, the late President Raisi called fiber optic network an important infrastructure for smart technology.

Foreign Platforms Should Accept Iran's Laws for Operation



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of FATA Police (Cyber Police of Iran) discussed the potential lifting of restrictions on foreign platforms, stating that this decision is made at the national and governmental levels. However, he emphasized that accountability and compliance by foreign platforms are essential prerequisites for their operation in any country around the world.

Brigadier General Vahid Majid responded to a question about the prerequisites for lifting restrictions and preventing insecurity. He stated that the operation of foreign platforms in all countries, especially in developed nations, is based on their acceptance of the internal laws and regulations of the host country.

He clarified that the issue of lifting restrictions is outside the police's duties, and the police's only stance on the matter is to uphold the law. He added that the filtering of certain platforms is naturally due to their lack of responsibility and failure to comply with the legal and governmental regulations of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and lifting these restrictions would require adherence to internal laws.

Majid emphasized that management and sovereignty are two fundamental principles in cyber governance, and in this regard, acceptance of cyber regulations is mandatory for the operation of platforms in the host country.

According to this senior cyber police official, having a local representative for foreign platforms in the country is one of the main prerequisites for their legal operation.

He further noted that since platforms and virtual spaces are interconnected with the personal and public lives of people, in case of any disruptions caused by crimes, citizens should be able to address their issues through the platform's local representatives. Therefore, compliance with the law is the first and most critical action for the operation of foreign platforms in Iran or any other country.

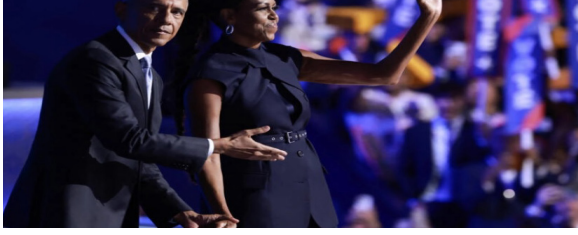
Israeli Strikes on Yemen Port Possible War Crime

DUBAI (Dispatches) - An Israeli air raid last month on a key Yemen rebel-held port was a "possible war crime" that has threatened food and aid supply for millions, Human Rights Watch said on Monday. The July 20 attack on the western port city of Hodeida, controlled by Yemen's Iran-backed Huthis, came a day after the rebels claimed responsibility for a drone attack on Israel's commercial hub of Tel Aviv. New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Tel Aviv strike that killed one person could also constitute a war crime by the Huthis. The Israeli response decimated the Hodeida port's fuel storage capacity and killed at least nine people, according to the Huthis who hold much of Yemen including the capital Sanaa. HRW said "at least six civilians" were killed in the strikes which "reportedly injured at least 80 others". The rights group noted that the Hodeida port "is critical for delivering food and other necessities to the Yemeni population". The damage "could have a long-term impact on millions of Yemenis who rely on the port for food and humanitarian aid", it said. The Israeli military has said the Huthis used the Hodeida port to receive Iranian weapons.



IRAN NEWS

Obamas Laud Kamala Harris, Say Country Is Ready for Her Presidency



CHICAGO (Dispatches) - The former president and first lady were welcomed to the stage with rapturous applause, telling the crowd that Kamala Harris is "someone who sees you and hears you and will get up every single day and fight for you."

Barack Obama told fellow Democrats in Chicago Tuesday that "the torch has been passed" to Kamala Harris and that the United States was ready for her to become president.

Former president Obama, who was greeted with rapturous applause and cheers at the packed arena hosting the party's nominating convention, said Vice President Harris would fight for Americans, and called her November poll rival Donald Trump "dangerous."

"Kamala Harris is ready for the job. This is a person who has spent her life fighting for people who need a voice," he said.

Obama called Harris "someone who sees you and hears you and will get up every single day and fight for you."

"Yes she can," Obama said of Harris, prompting the boisterous crowd to repeatedly chant the phrase, recalling Obama's own "Yes we can" campaign slogan.

Before his star dust performance, his wife and former US first lady Michelle Obama told convention goers "something magically wonderful is in the air."

"It's the contagious power of hope," she said, calling Harris "my girl" and saying that hope - another rallying cry of her husband's successful 2008 campaign - "is making a comeback."

His tum amped up the already buoyant mood in Chicago where President Joe Biden delivered his own emotional speech late Monday less than a month after ending his reelection bid.



Death "the Only Certainty" for Gazans

GAZA (Dispatches) - In war-ravaged Gaza, death appears to be the "only certainty" for 2.4 million Palestinians with no way to escape Israel's relentless bombardment, a UN official said Tuesday, recounting the growing desperation across the territory.

"It does feel like people are waiting for death. Death seems to be the only certainty in this situation," Louise Wateridge, a spokeswoman for the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, also known as UNRWA, told AFP from Gaza. For the past two weeks, Wateridge has been in the Gaza Strip, witnessing the humanitarian crisis, fear of death and spread of disease as the war rages on.

"Nowhere in the Gaza Strip is safe, absolutely nowhere is safe. It's absolutely devastating," Wateridge said from the Nuseirat area of central Gaza -- a regular target of Israel's aerial assaults.

Since fighting broke out in October, Israeli forces have pounded the besieged territory from the air, land and sea, reducing much of it to rubble.

Now in its eleventh month, the war has created an acute humanitarian crisis, with hundreds of thousands of people, most of whom have been displaced several times, running out of basic food and clean drinking water.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges when it comes to the spread of disease, when it comes to hygiene. Part of this is because of the Israeli imposed siege on the Gaza Strip," Wateridge said.

The war began with Palestinian militant group Hamas's unprecedented attack on southern Israel on October 7, which resulted in the deaths of 1,199 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official Israeli figures.

Since then, Israel's retaliatory military campaign has killed at least 40,173 people, according to the health ministry in the Hamas-run territory, which does not provide details of civilian and militant deaths.

Most of the dead in Gaza are women and children, according to the UN human rights office.

Tens of thousands of people have taken refuge in schools across the Gaza Strip, an increasingly regular target of Israeli missiles.

Israel's military says these schools have been used as command and control centres by Hamas, a charge the Islamist

group denies.

"Even a school is not anymore a safe place," said Wateridge.

"It feels like you're never more than a few blocks away from the front line now."

Tired of reacting to the Israeli military's "continuous" evacuation orders, more and more Gazans are reluctant to keep moving from place to place, Wateridge said.

"They feel like they're being chased around in circles... It's quite a lot to move in terms of the heat, young children, elderly, disabled," she said.

Many Gazans AFP has interviewed say they no longer want to move their families, their tents and the few belongings they are still left with.

They have criticised what they describe as a lack of clarity in Israeli evacuation orders -- including maps dropped from planes -- and communications challenges given Gaza's lack of regular internet access, electricity and telecommunications coverage.

Those who are still moving say that wherever they go "there are rats, there are mice, there are scorpions, there are cockroaches," Wateridge said, adding that insects "spread disease from shelter to shelter."

Last week the Gaza health ministry said the territory had recorded its first polio case in 25 years.

Wateridge said that the UN was waiting for Israel's green light to go from tent to tent and vaccinate children to prevent polio from spreading.

Though talks have been deadlocked for months, Wateridge said Gazans "always hope for a ceasefire" and "keep a close eye on the negotiations".

In the coming days, international mediators the United States, Qatar and Egypt will hold a new round of talks in Cairo to again try to secure a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas.

Ukraine Has Destroyed or Damaged All 3 Bridges Over Russia's Seym River

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian forces have either destroyed or damaged all three of the bridges over the Seym River in western Russia, according to Russian sources, as Kyiv's incursion into western Russia entered its third week Tuesday.

Kyiv's incursion into Russia's Kursk region is changing the trajectory of the war and boosting morale among Ukraine's war-weary population, though the ultimate outcome of the incursion -- the first attack on Russia since World War II -- remains impossible to predict.

Even as Ukraine hails its success on Russian territory, the Russian push in eastern Ukraine is poised to claim another key center, the city of Pokrovsk.

Ukraine's attacks on the three bridges over the Seym River in Kursk could potentially trap Russian forces between the river, the Ukrainian advance and the Ukrainian border. Already they appear to be slowing down Russia's response to the Kursk incursion, which Ukraine launched on Aug. 6.

Over the weekend, Ukraine's Air Force commander posted two videos of bridges over the Seym being hit, and satellite photos by Planet Labs PBC analyzed Tuesday by The Associated Press confirmed that a bridge in the town of Glushkovo had been destroyed.

A Russian military investigator confirmed Monday that Ukraine had "totally destroyed" one bridge and damaged two others in the area. The full extent of the damage remained unclear.

"As a result of targeted shelling with the use of rocket and artillery weapons against residential buildings and civilian infrastructure in the Karyzh village ... a third bridge over the Seym River was damaged," the unnamed representative for Russia's Investigative Committee said in a video published on the Telegram channel of Russian state TV anchor Vladimir Solovoyv.

Russian military bloggers Vladimir Romanov and Yuri Podolyaka and several high-profile pro-war Telegram channels in Russia also claimed that the third bridge had been targeted and damaged. Podolyaka's post was shared by Roman Alekhin, an advisor to Kursk's acting regional governor.

Since the incursion into the Kursk region began, the Ukrainian army has captured 1,263 square kilometers (488 square miles) and 93 settlements, Ukraine's top military commander said Tuesday -- up from 1,000 square kilometers (386



square miles) a week ago. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy made the remarks while meeting with local officials.

Following a meeting with Syrskiy later Tuesday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video address that the Ukrainian army was achieving "set goals" in Kursk.

Zelenskyy said in recent days that the operation is aimed at creating a buffer zone that can prevent future attacks on his nation from across the border, and that Ukraine is capturing a large number of Russian prisoners of war that it hopes to exchange for captured Ukrainians.

TASS, a Russian state news agency, reported that 17 people have died and 140 have been injured in Ukraine's incursion, citing an unnamed source in the Russian medical service. Of 75 people hospitalized, four are children.

Russia's Ministry of Emergency Situations said Tuesday that more than 122,000 people have been resettled since the Ukrainian attack began, it said.

In another example of Ukraine taking the war to Russian soil, a massive fire burned for the third consecutive day after an oil depot was hit by Ukrainian drones.

The fire at the depot in the town of Proletarsk burned across an area of a hectare (2 1/2 acres), according to Russian state news agencies. There were 500 firefighters involved in the operation, and 41 of them already have been hospitalized with injuries, according to TASS, citing local officials.

Ukraine's Army General Staff claimed responsibility Sunday for attacking the oil depot, which was used to supply the needs of Russia's army, calling it a measure "to undermine the military and economic potential of the Russian Federation."

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the Ukrainians of "trying to destabilize our country" and compared them to terrorists.

"We will punish the criminals. There can be no doubt about that," Putin said Tuesday. He was meeting with mothers of children killed in the 2004 Beslan school attack by Islamic militants that left more than 330 people dead.

Ukraine's incursion has exposed Russian vulnerabilities according to analysts and Ukrainian officials.

Lithuania Begins Construction of Base for German Troops Near Russian Border

RUDNINKAI (Dispatches) - Lithuania began construction of a military base, which will accommodate up to 4,000 combat-ready German troops once completed by the end of 2027, in the first permanent foreign deployment for the German military since World War Two.

Germany committed to deploy troops in the NATO and European Union member, which borders Russia, last year. German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius compared the decision to the posting of allied forces in West Germany during the Cold War to defend Western Europe in case of a Soviet attack.

Lithuanian chief of defence Raimundas Vaikusnas estimated the country would spend more than 1 billion euros (\$1.10 billion) over the next three years to develop the base, in one of the largest construction projects in its history.

It's "a huge investment" for a nation of 2.9 million with an economy a tenth the size of Germany's, Vaikusnas said on the sidelines of a launch ceremony.

"The brigade will work as reassurance to our population and as deterrence, to push the Russians out," he added.

The base in Rudninkai, close to the capital Vilnius and only 20 km (12 miles) from Russian ally Belarus, will accommodate up to 4,000 troops, storage and maintenance for tanks and other equipment, and shooting ranges of all sizes. About a thousand more German military and civilian contractors will be posted to other sites in Lithuania.

However, only about a fifth of the compound buildings in Rudninkai have been contracted for construction, raising fears it will not be ready in time.

Blinken Wraps Up Mideast Trip With Gaza Deal Still Elusive



DOHA (Dispatches) - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken sought during a whirlwind trip to the Middle East to inject urgency into efforts to broker a Gaza ceasefire deal, but departed the region on Tuesday with an agreement between Israel and Hamas still elusive.

Blinken and mediators from Egypt and Qatar have pinned their hopes on a U.S. "bridging proposal" aimed at narrowing the gaps between the two sides in the 10-month-old war, after negotiations last week paused without a breakthrough.

The deal "needs to get done, and it needs to get done in the days ahead, and we will do everything possible to get it across the finish line," Blinken told reporters in Doha before departing for Washington.

A senior Biden administration official travelling with Blinken said the U.S.

expects the ceasefire talks to continue this week.

Blinken travelled to Egypt for talks on Tuesday with President Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi and then to Qatar.

After meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday, Blinken said Israel had accepted the proposal and urged Hamas to do the same. The Palestinian group has not explicitly rejected it, but says it overturns previously agreed terms.

Blinken was asked in Qatar about Israeli troop withdrawal terms within the ceasefire framework and about an Axios report that quoted Netanyahu as saying he may have convinced Blinken that Israel should keep troops in the Philadelphi Corridor between Egypt and Gaza.

"The United States does not accept any long-term occupation of Gaza by Israel," Blinken said. "More specifically, the agreement is very clear on the schedule and the locations of (Israel Defense Forces) withdrawals from Gaza, and Israel has agreed to that. So that's as much as I know. That's what I'm very clear about."

Blinken did not comment directly on the Axios report. Netanyahu's office did not respond to a request for comment.

Both Hamas and Egypt oppose Israel keeping troops in the Philadelphi Corridor, but Netanyahu has insisted they are needed to stop weapons being smuggled into Gaza. A senior U.S. official disputed the Axios report earlier on Tuesday.

Egyptian security sources said the U.S. has proposed an international presence

in the Philadelphi Corridor area, a suggestion the sources said could be acceptable to Cairo if limited to a maximum of six months.

"The ceasefire in Gaza must be the beginning of broader international recognition of the Palestinian state and the implementation of the two-state solution, as this is the basic guarantor of stability in the region," Sisi said after meeting Blinken.

At stake in the talks is the fate of tiny, crowded Gaza, where Israel's military campaign has killed more than 40,000 people since October according to Palestinian health authorities, and of the remaining hostages being held there.

Blinken has called the latest push for a deal "probably the best, possibly the last opportunity", and said his meeting with Netanyahu was constructive. He said it was incumbent on Hamas to accept the bridging proposal.

Asked about Blinken's comment, senior Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri told Reuters: "Blinken is insisting on not quitting the sphere of lies, and that is one of the reasons for the failure of efforts to reach an agreement."

Qatar's foreign minister told Blinken his country is committed to its role as a mediator in the ceasefire talks, along with Egypt and the U.S.

In a phone call, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani stressed to Blinken the importance of consolidating regional and international efforts to reach a Gaza ceasefire and a hostage-prisoner swap deal, Qatar's foreign ministry said.



Foden Wins PFA Player of the Year Award

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City forward Phil Foden won the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award.

Foden played a key role in City winning an unprecedented fourth consecutive Premier League title last term.

The 24-year-old scored 19 times and delivered eight assists for Pep Guardiola's team as they pipped Arsenal to the title on the last day of the season.

"To win this award is something very special and it is one that I am very proud of and grateful for. To be recognised this way by your fellow professionals means everything and I would like to thank everyone who voted for me," Foden said.

"I also want to pay special thanks to Pep, the City coaches and all my teammates as they help me to try and get better every single day."

Foden has already set his sights on a fifth successive Premier League crown after City started their title defence with a 2-0 win at Chelsea on Sunday.

"Last season was another very special one for everyone at the Club but now all our focus is concentrated on trying to achieve more success this term," he said.

Foden also won the 2023-24 Premier League player of the season award and was named the Football Writers' Association footballer of the year.

City director of Football Txiki Begiristain added: "Everyone here is so thrilled to see Phil win this award. To have your fellow professionals recognise you in such a way is very special."

"Phil embodies everything we stand for at Manchester City. He is a supremely talented player but is someone who always strives to seek to improve."

"He is a very humble guy who is hugely popular throughout the Club. We are all very proud of him."

Foden's City team-mates Erling Haaland, who won the award last year, and Rodri, as well as Chelsea's Cole Palmer, Arsenal's Martin Odegaard and Aston Villa's Ollie Watkins were also on the Player of the Year shortlist.

Chelsea forward Palmer was named the men's PFA young player of the year.

Foden and Palmer's awards made it the first time that both the senior and young player trophies went to English players since 2009-10, when Wayne Rooney and James Milner took home the silverware.

England international Palmer was second only to Haaland in the Premier League scoring charts with 22 goals in a breakthrough campaign after leaving Guardiola's team to move to Stamford Bridge.

City enjoyed a clean-sweep of the main awards at the Manchester ceremony as Khadija Shaw was voted the women's Player of the Year.

Jamaican forward Shaw was the top scorer in the Women's Super League with 21 goals as City were edged out for the title on goal difference by Chelsea.

"I am both happy and proud to have received this award, to be recognised in such a way by my peers is a very special honour," Shaw said.

Duplantis, Tebogo Headline Lausanne Diamond League



LAUSANNE (Dispatches) - Armand Duplantis and Letsile Tebogo headline a raft of Olympic champions who will descend on Lausanne for the first Diamond League meeting since the end of the Paris Games.

Some 18 current Olympic or world champions will be present in the Swiss city for Thursday's meet, coming just 12 days after the last of the track and field action at the Stade de France.

Duplantis defended his gold in France's national stadium and improved his own world record to 6.25 metres.

In Lausanne, the Swede will take part in a City Event held on an esplanade bordering Lac Lemman -- better known in English as Lake Geneva --, 24 hours before the main fare at the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise.

Duplantis will be up against American Sam Kendricks, the silver medallist in Paris, and also Renaud Lavillenie, the 2012 Olympic champion and former world record holder who failed to qualify for what would have been his home Games.

"It's the only pole vault event next to a lake," Duplantis said.

"I love to have it scenic, fun, more like a show. It suits us well. I jumped 6.10m in Lausanne last time and have felt well rested since Paris."

"I think there are still some good jumps in my legs," said the US-born Swede, who left Paris the day after the event for a "much-needed vacation with my girlfriend to chill as much as I could".

Botswana's Tebogo will race the 200m on Thursday, the event he won in Paris when he outstripped a Covid-hit Noah Lyles.

The American, a three-time world champion in the distance and the 100m winner in the French capital, has called time on his season.

Sinner Cleared of Wrongdoing After Failing Anti-Doping Tests

PARIS (Dispatches) - Tennis world number one Jannik Sinner has been cleared of any wrongdoing after twice testing positive for a banned substance earlier in the season, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) announced Tuesday.

Sinner provided an in-competition sample at the Indian Wells Masters on March 10, 2024 which contained the presence of a metabolite of clostebol at low levels, according to the ITIA.

Clostebol is an anabolic agent prohibited at all times by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

A further sample, conducted eight days later out of competition, also tested positive for low levels of the same metabolite.

"ITIA today confirms that an independent tribunal convened by Sport Resolutions has ruled that Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner bears No Fault or Negligence for two Anti-Doping Rule Violations under the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (TADP)," said the agency in a statement on Tuesday.

"The player explained that the substance had entered their system as a result of contamination from a support team member, who had been applying an over-the-counter spray (available in Italy) containing clostebol to their own skin to treat a small wound."

The ITIA added that the support team member in question had applied the spray between March 5-13 during which time they also



provided daily massages and sports therapy to Sinner, which resulted in the contamination.

While the 23-year-old Italian has been cleared of any wrongdoing, he will be stripped of his results, prize money and the 400 ranking points he accumulated at Indian Wells, in accordance with the anti-doping rules in force.

"I will now put this challenging and deeply unfortunate period behind me," said Sinner in a statement published on X.

"I will continue to do everything I can to ensure I continue to comply with the ITIA's anti-doping programme and I have a team around me

that are meticulous in their own compliance."

But other players on the tour have reacted to the news with scepticism and anger.

"Ridiculous -- whether it was accidental or planned," wrote Australian player Nick Kyrgios on X.

"You get tested twice with a banned (steroid) substance... you should be gone for 2 years. Your performance was enhanced. Massage cream... Yeah nice."

Canadian Denis Shapovalov wrote on social media: "Can't imagine what every other player that got banned for contaminated substances is feeling right now."

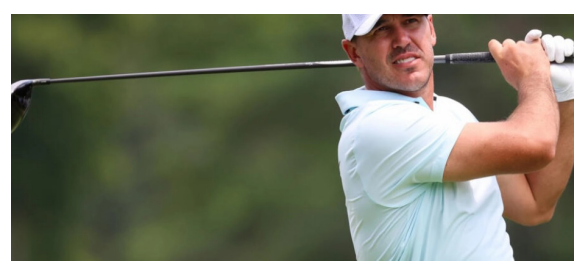
The positive tests were not initially made public while the ITIA investigation was ongoing.

Provisional suspensions were applied to Sinner after the two tests, however he successfully appealed them both meaning that he was able to continue competing.

ITIA CEO Karen Moorhouse said: "Following that investigation, the ITIA accepted the player's explanation as to the source of the clostebol and that the presence of the substance was not intentional."

The ATP, the governing body of men's professional tennis, backed up Sinner and the investigation process.

Lakers Open Cup Title Defense Nov. 15 Against Spurs



NEW YORK (AP) - The Los Angeles Lakers' defense of the NBA Cup title will begin on Nov. 15 in San Antonio against Victor Wembanyama and the Spurs, and Klay Thompson will be back at Golden State -- as a visitor with Dallas -- on Nov. 12.

The NBA released the schedule of the group play games, with those contests getting played on a series of Tuesdays and Fridays starting Nov. 12 and ending Dec. 3. Each team was assigned to a five-team group and plays the other four clubs in that group once.

LeBron James, Anthony Davis and the Lakers went 7-0 in the tournament last season -- when it was simply called the In-Season Tournament -- and beat the Indiana Pacers in the final in Las Vegas. The semifinals and finals return to Las Vegas this year, with the semis on Dec. 14 and the title game on Dec. 17.

The NBA Cup will provide some obvious storylines. Among them: Thompson going back to Golden State, where he helped the Warriors win four titles, after joining the Mavericks this summer. And then the Lakers open defense of the Cup title, it'll be a game where James and Davis face Wembanyama again after helping the U.S. beat France in the gold-medal game at the Paris Olympics.

Almost all of the games for the 2024-25 NBA season will be released Thursday. All games in the NBA Cup will count in the regular-season standings except for the title game in Las Vegas; that would be an 83rd game for both of those teams, which doesn't fit into an 82-game season.

Teams will get schedules Thursday with 80 games on them. Every team will play two more, either in the playoffs of the NBA Cup or in games scheduled between teams that did not make the tournament quarterfinals. And those teams that lose in the quarterfinals will meet for what essentially becomes the 82nd game on their schedule for the coming season.

There will be 60 group-stage games in all -- eight games on Nov. 12, then 12 on Nov. 15, six on Nov. 19, eight on Nov. 22, five on Nov. 26, 10 on Nov. 29 and the final 11 on Dec. 3.

Ronaldo Aiming to Help Al-Nassr End Al-Hilal's Dominance

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo is lining up for another Saudi Pro League season with the main aim of helping Al-Nassr end the dominance of Riyadh rival Al-Hilal.

Ronaldo signed for Al-Nassr in December 2022 and has yet to win a domestic trophy with the club. In a social media post this week, he wrote: New season, same goal.

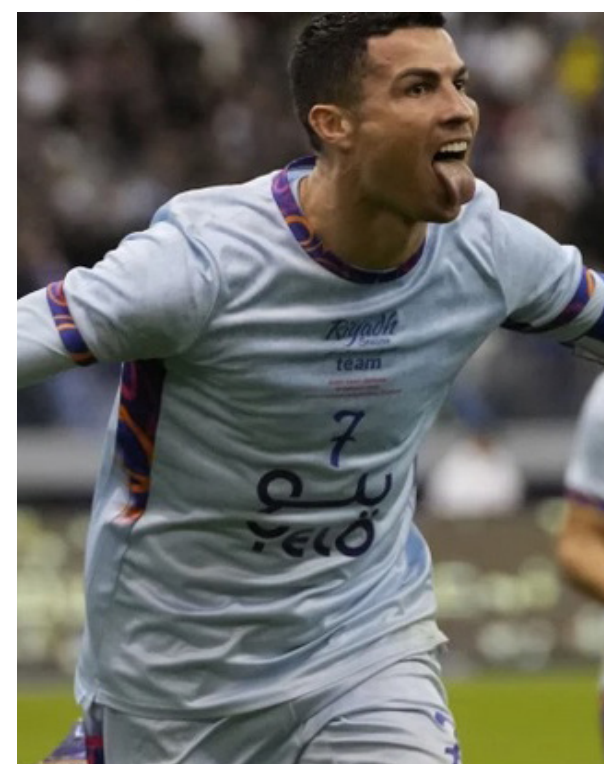
Al-Hilal won the title last season with 31 wins and three draws, finishing 14 points clear of second-place Al-Nassr.

Hilal beat Ronaldo's team 4-1 in the final of the Saudi Super Cup last weekend. The 18-team league kicks off its season on Thursday.

"I'm feeling a lot of apprehension because this season is going to be very difficult," Al-Hilal defender Kalidou Koulibaly, who signed from Chelsea last year, told The Associated Press. "Last year, it was a tough championship, but we managed to come out on top. This year, all the teams will be gunning to beat Al Hilal."

Last summer, a string of big-name stars arrived from Europe's top leagues to join Ronaldo in Saudi Arabia. According to Deloitte's Sports Business Group, a total of \$957 million was spent. This summer has been comparatively quiet, although the transfer window remains open until Sept. 2.

For Al-Hilal, the return of Neymar will be like a new signing. The Brazilian superstar made only five appearances



for the Riyadh club before sustaining a serious left knee injury while playing in a World Cup qualifier in October.

"Neymar's return is highly anticipated by our players," Koulibaly said. "We know that there is still a little bit of waiting due to his injury but people will see a great Neymar. He still has this motivation when we see him in training."

Neymar returned to training last month and, according to local media, could start playing again in September.

In Neymar's absence, Serbian striker Aleksandar Mitrovic scored 28 league goals last season, second only to Ronaldo's record 35. Al-Hilal also has Portuguese international Ruben Neves and Morocco's Yassine Bounou in goal.

Al-Nassr's major new signing so far has been Brazilian goalkeeper Bento, who replaces Colombian international David Ospina. As well as Ronaldo, the Yellows have Senegalese star Sadio Mane, Croatian midfielder Marcelo Brozovic and defender Aymeric Laporte, who helped Spain to the European championship in July.

Other challenges are expected to come from Jeddah clubs Al-Ahli, led by Riyadh Mahrez, and Karim Benzema's Al-Ittihad, which has made the biggest signing this summer so far, paying over \$60 million to Aston Villa for French winger Moussa Diaby.