

Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, Kazem Gharibabadi, Held a Meeting With Antonio Sánchez-Benedito Gaspar, the ambassador of Spain to the Islamic Republic, Where Both Sides Emphasized the Need to Expand Legal and Judicial Cooperation

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Customs Office (IRICA) Figures Show the Country's Agriculture Exports Rose Significantly in the Five Months to Late August Compared to the Same Period Last Year, as the Country Exported Some \$1.453b Worth of Agricultural Products in This Period

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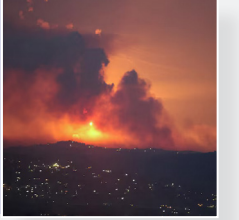
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New Iran Gov't's Mission Is to Neutralize Illegal Sanctions



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says the government has been given a mission by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to neutralize illegal sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic and their possible impacts on the Iranian nation.

Araqchi, a former nuclear negotiator, made the remarks in a television interview on Friday, two days after he won a vote of confidence from the parliament as the new Iranian foreign minister.

"Our foreign policy will be active and not passive. We'll try to be present on international forums. If a new order is being formed, we should not be passive. We must play a role for our own interests, for the region and the Islamic world," the foreign minister said.

Araqchi said that Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei emphasized two missions: "The first mission is to neutralize sanctions, which the whole government should follow. Our first goal is to neutralize the sanctions and its impacts on the people."

The new Iranian foreign minister added, "Our first priority is our neighbors. Our second priority is to expand the field of diplomacy to Africa and East Asia. The third priority is the countries that stood by Iran in difficult situations."

In a telephone call with the European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell on Thursday, Araqchi also exchanged views on negotiations to lift sanctions against Iran.

Later Araqchi says there exists close coordination between the country's diplomatic and military bodies in order to take revenge against the Israeli assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement's former political bureau chief, in Tehran.

He made the remarks on Saturday while speaking to reporters after visiting the burial place of the late Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian in southern Tehran.

"The issue of resistance is among the fundamentals of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy. This has always been the case in the past and will be in the future. Our bond with the Axis of Resistance is a strong one. We will utilize all our capacities to support the Axis of Resistance and support oppressed Palestinians, especially those in Gaza," the top Iranian diplomat said.

Iraqi Resistance Fires Drone Towards Vital Target in Haifa



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraq's Islamic Resistance has announced firing a drone towards a "vital target" in the city of Haifa in the northern part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

The resistance, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, said through a statement that it had staged the strike on Sunday.

It said it had carried out the operation "in continuation of our path in resisting the occupation."

The coalition also said the strike had come "in support of our people in Gaza, and in response to the massacres committed by the usurping entity against Palestinian civilians, including children, women, and the elderly."

The resistance has been conducting numerous such operations against sensitive targets lying across the occupied territories since October 7 last year, when the Israeli regime began bringing the Gaza Strip under a genocidal war. More than 40,300 Palestinians, most of them women and children, have been killed in the brutal Israeli military onslaught so far.

Concluding its statement, the group said it "confirms its continuation in striking the enemy's strongholds."

Over the past weeks, the resistance has also stepped up its retaliatory attacks against United States-occupied bases across Iraq and neighboring Syria, seething at Washington's unflinching political, military, and intelligence support for Tel Aviv's atrocities in Gaza.

On Tuesday, Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba, a component of the coalition, claimed responsibility for an August 15 strike against the US-occupied Ain al-Assad Airbase in western Iraq, saying it would launch further attacks that would "surprise" the enemy.

Leader Says Fight Against Oppression Ongoing

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the fight against oppression has been going on since before the era of Imam Hussein (AS), adding that the battle has taken different forms in different eras.

He made the remarks during a Sunday ceremony attended by students mourning Arba'een, the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam.

Ayatollah Khamenei said that the battle has been "ongoing" between the Hussein front, which is fighting against oppression, and the front of injustice and oppression.

"The fight between the Hosseini front and the Yazidi front is not terminable," he added.

The Leader also noted that these two fronts had existed before the era of Imam Hussein (AS) until today and it will remain the case.

"This war has different forms. In the era of sword and spear, it has one form. In the era of atom and artificial intelligence, it has another. But it exists," he asserted.

In a speech between the two prayers, the Supreme Leader referred to the Ziyarat Ashura, describing the battle between the Hosseini front and the Yazidi front as continuous and never-ending, while emphasizing that the nature of this battle changes according to circumstances and requirements. He stated that the Islamic Revolution of Iran has opened up a wide arena for young people, and this opportunity should be utilized with proper planning and a correct understanding of duties to take timely action toward the lofty goals of the Revolution, paving the way for progress and salvation.

Ayatollah Khamenei described the aim of Imam Hussein's (Peace Be Upon Him) uprising as the fight against oppression and injustice. He added that the methods of the

Hosseini front's fight against oppression and injustice vary according to the circumstances. In the era of swords and spears, the method was one way, while in the age of atoms and artificial intelligence, it is another. During the times of propaganda, the approach involved poetry, odes, and hadiths, and in the era of the internet and quantum technology, other methods must be employed.

He noted that this duty is different during student years compared to the time of holding responsibilities, emphasizing that the confrontation of the Hosseini front with the Yazidi front does not always mean taking up arms; rather, one must think correctly, speak correctly, identify correctly, understand one's duty, and hit the target precisely.

The Supreme Leader stressed that if we move in this direction, life will find meaning and purpose. He said that young people should appreciate the current era, in which, thanks to the Islamic Revolution, a vast field has been opened up before them. With proper planning, study, and correct thinking—necessitating familiarity with the Quran and reflection upon it—they should take timely action.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that this timely action sometimes finds meaning in the university environment, sometimes in social or political spaces, and at other times, this action becomes necessary on the path to Karbala and Palestine, and in pursuit of lofty goals.

In conclusion, he stressed that young people's use of this historic opportunity means success and salvation; however, if this opportunity is not utilized and the duty is not fulfilled, the result will be loss.

President Vows to Pursue Social Justice



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkain has vowed to promote social justice under his "national unity" administration.

"We will be honest with people and act according to truth and justice," he said on Tuesday morning, during a speech at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, on the occasion of the Government Week.

He emphasized that unity means all officials must make every effort to expand truth and justice with the help of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, within the framework of the National Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the general policies, and the 7th National Development Plan.

Pezeshkain also thanked Iran's parliament for approving his proposed cabinet members, saying that the move was a great step toward national unity.

"Since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, the whole world gathered to defeat, destroy us, but it could not do anything, because we had unity and stood against them with strength," he said.

The president also referred to the Israeli regime's crimes in the region, saying regional unity is the way to defeat the Zionist regime.

"If the Muslims held firmly to the rope of Allah together, would the Zionist regime dare to commit these crimes in the region?" he asked. "And if we were united, neither the Zionist regime nor any other regime in the region was able to commit such crimes."

The Iranian president also stressed that the enemy is "trying to sow division in the society, [and] all their efforts are meant to prevent us from being united, and we must do something not to be deceived by the enemy and maintain our unity and cohesion."

Pezeshkain said, "Today at the shrine of Imam Khomeini, we make a pact that we will continue this path with all our strength and we will try to continue the path as far as we can."

Touching on a number of economic woes in Iran due to Western sanctions, Pezeshkain stated, "In our own country, we have no other way to solve our problems than increasing internal unity and cohesion."

He expressed his gratitude to the Iranian Parliament's approval of his proposed cabinet lineup and praised the measure as a "great message" and a beginning to "move forward with all-round unity."

Pezeshkain and his cabinet members paid homage to the late Imam Khomeini (RA).

During his visit, Pezeshkain and his cabinet members renewed allegiance to the ideals of the late Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

They also visited the tombs of the martyrs of the Eight-year Holy Defense (Iraq-imposed war from 1980 to 1988) and the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Iran Tells UK, France It Reserves Right to Punish Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran tells the United Kingdom and France that it reserves the right to punish the Israeli regime for its "unforgivable" crime of assassinating senior Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh last month.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made the remarks during separate telephone conversations with his British and French counterparts, David Lammy and Stéphanie Séjourné.

"The Islamic Republic is not after expansion of war and escalation of tensions in the region, but will not back down from [exercising] its certain right to respond to the Zionist regime's criminal and terrorist act," the Iranian top diplomat told Lammy.

Speaking to Séjourné, he described the assassination as an "unforgivable" violation of Iran's security and sovereignty and underlined the Islamic Republic's right to punish the aggressor.

Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian resistance movement's Political Bureau chief, was assassinated in a targeted killing operation in Tehran on July 31. He was in the Iranian capital to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkain.

Addressing the French official, Araqchi pointed to the Israeli regime's ongoing policies and actions aimed at intensifying tensions and expanding instability across the region.

He urged France and other Western parties to focus their efforts on preventing Tel Aviv from continuing its incendiary measures.

The remarks concerned the regime's other widespread acts of targeted killing against resistance figures across the region, Tel Aviv's ongoing war of genocide against the Gaza Strip, and its daily attacks against neighboring Lebanon.

The European officials, meanwhile, congratulated Araqchi on his recent approval as Iran's new foreign minister.

Lammy considered the inauguration of the Islamic Republic's new administration to be a new opportunity that could be used towards enhancement of bilateral diplomatic consultations, while Séjourné expressed Paris's readiness for continuation of such consultations with Tehran.

Hezbollah Dismisses Israeli Claims of Preemptive Attack as Baseless



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Hezbollah has dismissed as "baseless" Israel's claims of preemptive action against the Lebanese resistance movement, saying that Israeli forces failed to intercept and shoot down the drones launched by resistance fighters.

A Hezbollah source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Qatari al-Araby television network on Sunday that Hezbollah resistance forces had managed to deceive the Israeli army to launch heavy barrages of rockets.

According to the unnamed source, the Lebanese fighters could strike two "strategic" sites at the northern flank of the coastal city of Tel Aviv in the 1948 Israeli-occupied territories, stating that the details of the operation would be announced later on.

There have been no casualties as a result of Israeli aerial assaults on more than 30 buildings, as we had evacuated them earlier, the source said.

"The Israeli military's claims of thwarting the Hezbollah attack are unfounded as our drones have successfully penetrated the airspace over the occupied territories," the source added.

"All offensive drones were launched at specific times from all of their sites" and that they crossed the border into Israel "towards their intended targets from multiple routes."

"Thus, our military operation for today has been completed," the source said.

The source reiterated that Israel's claims about its "preemptive actions, the targets it allegedly hit, and its supposed disruption of the Resistance's attack are baseless and contradict the facts on the ground."

The source noted that more details would be provided in a speech by Hezbollah's Secretary General, Hassan Nasrallah, later today.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news channel, citing reliable information, reported that Hezbollah's large drone and rocket strike against the occupied territories, which came in retaliation for the Israeli military's killing of its commander Fuad Shukur in Beirut in July, was carried out accurately and effectively.

IRAN NEWS



\$1.5b in Agricultural Exports

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Agricultural exports in the first five months of this year showed a 22% increase in weight and a 33% increase in value compared to the same period last year.

The report states that during this period, various types of pistachios with \$352 million, tomatoes with \$177 million, apples with \$111 million, watermelons with \$108 million, and various types of potatoes with \$52 million accounted for the highest value among agricultural exports.

Regarding the highest increase in export value among agricultural products during the first five months of this year, the report adds that greenhouse peppers, oranges, various types of pistachios, apples, and various types of lettuce experienced the most significant growth.

Establishment of a Joint Iran-India Company Is Impossible



TEHRAN - The Secretary of the Shipping Companies Association commented on the exemption of Chabahar Port from sanctions, stating that Chabahar Port was temporarily exempt from sanctions solely for humanitarian cargo operations to Afghanistan. The reason Indian investment in Chabahar has faced a 22-year delay is due to sanctions, and there is no documentation supporting the port's exemption from sanctions.

According to ILNA, in late May, a long-term investment agreement was signed with the Indian company IPGL for equipping and operating the container and general cargo terminals at Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti Port, after a three-year delay. One of the topics proposed in this contract by Iran was the establishment of a joint shipping company between the two countries. The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization had stated that this proposal, initially suggested by Iran's former Minister of Roads and Urban Development, needed to be evaluated by the Indians, and the two countries would have to reach an agreement on its details.

In an interview with ILNA, Masoud Polme, Secretary of the Shipping Companies Association, spoke about the Iran-India agreements in the long-term operation contract of Chabahar Port regarding the establishment of a joint shipping company. He said: "About 40 years ago, a joint investment company between Iran and India was active in the shipping sector, similar to the Iran-Egypt or Iran-Russia shipping companies."

He continued: "However, currently, establishing a joint shipping company and joint investment between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India to create an international company is nearly impossible given the current sanctions. Although international negotiations between the two governments are a different matter, we cannot currently receive our claims from India in dollars or euros. Under such circumstances, how can we enter into joint investments and bilateral deals, which would undoubtedly expose the partner country to sanctions threats and related issues?"

Dushanbe Seeks Broadening Tourism Cooperation With Tehran

By: F. Taherpour



TEHRAN - Ambassador of Tajikistan H.E. Nizomiddin Zohidi says his country is determined to broaden its ties with Iran especially in tourism industry and it has taken some measures for boosting tourism ties with Tehran.

Speaking at a Tajikistan-Iran Tourism Roadshow held at the Embassy of Tajikistan, Mr Zohidi pointed to the good relation between the two countries and recent developments in bilateral ties like revoking visa waiver between the two states.

He announced that the visa waiver agreement between the two countries will soon be revised.

He mentioned that visa-free travel between Iran and Tajikistan has been in effect for about 14 days, but currently, only travelers flying between Tehran and Dushanbe are eligible for visa exemption. He added that in the near future, visa-free travel will extend to all cities in Iran and Tajikistan with active flight connections.

Nizomuddin Zohidi highlighted some measures taken between the two countries to facilitate travel and enhance tourism relations. He stated, "We are working on specific actions with Iran to strengthen tourism ties. One effective step recently taken was the visa waiver, which has been in place since August 10th, about 14 days ago."

He further explained, "In the first phase of this plan, approved during the Thirteenth Government, only passengers flying between Dushanbe and Tehran were included in the visa waiver. However, our goal is to include all travelers between Iran and Tajikistan who fly between the two countries. Our colleagues have emphasized that with the establishment of the Fourth Government, this resolution will be amended, and in the coming days, all flights between the cities of Iran and Tajikistan will be visa-free."

The Tajik Ambassador in Iran also stated that the purpose of the tourism meeting between the agencies of the two countries is to strengthen tourism ties between Iran and Tajikistan. "As you know, tourism has become a key component of economic development. Countries with tourist attractions use this potential for growth and development. Tourism has played an important role in strengthening the economic standing of many countries."

Zohidi added, "Tourism is not only about economic and commercial benefits but also has cultural and human significance. When tourists from one country visit another and get to know its attractions, it strengthens cultural activities and friendship between countries and governments. For us, alongside the economic aspects of tourism, its cultural and human dimensions are also important."

The Tajik Ambassador in Tehran further referred to some actions taken by Tajikistan under the initiative of the President to promote tourism through interaction with neighboring countries, developing infrastructure, and facilitating travel for more countries. He announced the launch of a special tourism police force to ensure the safety of tourists.

He continued, "Tajikistan has historical and cultural attractions. Last year, 1.4 million tourists visited our country, which is a significant number considering our population

of 10 million, and this number is increasing."

The Tajik Ambassador in Iran stated, "Iran holds a special place among the countries with which we want to strengthen tourism. The two countries share many cultural and historical commonalities, making it conducive to developing tourism. We have shared cultural figures, such as Rudaki, whose origins are in Iran but is buried in our country, and Seyyed Ali Hamadani, born in Hamadan, who is buried in Kulob, Tajikistan. These figures serve as a link between the people of the two countries and can greatly contribute to the growth of tourism."

He added that Tajikistan is a landlocked country with 93% mountain and having some 68 rivers which make the country a good tourism destination.

Meanwhile in the event, General Director of Tourism Marketing Promotion, Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran Mohammad Ghasemi pointed to the good political relations between the two countries but insisted that cultural commonalities and language have been the reasons behind this good relation. He added that in tourism language can be a hinder bur Iran and Tajikistan face no language barrier and during common Eids and festivities they can boost tourism.

He reiterated Iran is good at health tourism and welcomes Tajik tourists. He reiterated that Iran and Tajikistan are determined to expand ties in tourism and it is now up to the private sector to boost tourism because the governments have laid the required railways for boosting tourism.

Meanwhile addressing the event, the CEO of Somon Air Mr. Umedjon Saidov said that the airline has one direct flight between Tehran and Dushanbe and announced readiness of his company to increase the flights.

Somon Air is a privately-owned airline based in Tajikistan, operating since 2008. It serves as the first private airline in the country and is headquartered in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan.

At the end of the event Somon Air and Matin Travel of Tajikistan signed some agreements with Iranian tourism companies like Kados Holding.

Tajikistan is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. The towering peaks of the Pamir Mountains, often referred to as the "Roof of the World," dominate the landscape, offering unparalleled opportunities for trekking, mountaineering, and even high-altitude cycling. The Pamir Highway, one of the highest and most scenic roads in the world, is a bucket-list journey for adventurers, taking travelers through remote villages, stunning valleys, and alongside crystal-clear rivers.

The Tajikistan-Iran tourism roadshow took place about two weeks after the mutual visa waiver was implemented, organized by the Tajik Embassy in Tehran. The event was attended by representatives from private tourism companies of Iran and Tajikistan like Somon Air and Matin Travel, ambassadors from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, representatives from the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), UNESCO's office in Tehran, and representatives from Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Increase in Oil Production by 400,000 Barrels



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The CEO of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) stated that the strategic and national mission of this organization is a significant increase in oil and gas production. He mentioned that the most important task assigned by the Oil Minister is to increase oil production by 400,000 barrels.

Mohsen Khojasteh Mehr, the CEO of NIOC, expressed gratitude for the efforts of Hormoz Qalavand during his tenure as the Director of Production Supervision at NIOC during a meeting held today (Saturday, August 24th). He emphasized that increasing production leads to an increase in national wealth, and this is a special mission entrusted to the NIOC.

He added that the Oil Minister's emphasis on increasing oil production by 400,000 barrels in the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Council of Deputies underscores the high importance of oil and gas production. In this regard, oil workers, as in the past, will continue their tireless efforts, and we are determined to utilize all our capabilities and resources to increase oil and gas production.

The CEO of NIOC noted that achieving export targets, supplying feedstock to refineries and petrochemical units, and realizing revenue goals for 2024 and 2025 are among the most important missions of the Ministry of Oil and the NIOC.

Khojasteh Mehr further stated that supervising production is one of the most important missions and approaches of the NIOC. He noted that the appointment of Mr. Alikhani as the Director of Oil and Gas Production Supervision marks the beginning of a new era for this management.

At the same meeting, Kasra Nouri, the Oil Minister's advisor and head of the ministerial office, conveyed the Oil Minister's message of appreciation for Hormoz Qalavand's efforts. He stated that production in the upstream sector is one of the most critical missions of the Oil Ministry in the current administration, and they will continue to benefit from Mr. Alikhani's capabilities and Mr. Qalavand's experiences.

Iran and Vietnam Seek to Strengthen Bilateral Relations



TEHRAN (IP) - The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Vietnam's Minister of Public Security have called for the expansion and strengthening of bilateral relations between their two countries.

In a meeting held on Friday, Ali Akbar Nazari, Iran's Ambassador to Vietnam, met with Luong Tam Quang, Vietnam's Minister of Public Security. The discussion centered on enhancing cooperation between the two nations, with a focus on mutual interests.

Quang expressed his gratitude to Ambassador Nazari for his congratulatory message on his recent appointment.

He also extended congratulations to the people of Iran on the successful conduct of their elections and the election of Masoud Pezeshkian.

"We must develop and strengthen the relations between our countries to secure our national interests," Quang stated.

He noted that despite the many global and regional changes over the past fifty years, the friendly relations between Iran and Vietnam have been maintained, strengthened, and developed.

Quang emphasized the implementation of signed agreements between the two countries and expressed his readiness to finalize ongoing negotiations on cooperation documents. He also called for collaboration in areas such as cybercrime, transnational organized crime, and counterterrorism, citing Iran's valuable experience in these fields.

Quang also underscored the importance of delegations in expanding bilateral relations. He welcomed and appreciated the invitation extended for a visit to Iran at a suitable time.

It is noteworthy that Quang was appointed Minister of Public Security two months ago, replacing To Lam, the current Secretary General of the Communist Party and President of Vietnam. Last week, Quang was also elected as a member of the Politburo, the highest authority within the ruling Communist Party.

Iran, Turkey Insist on Interaction to Address Regional Tensions



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey emphasized the need for close political consultations between Tehran and Ankara to settle regional problems and prevent the spread of instability.

In a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart on Saturday evening, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan expressed Turkey's readiness to continue political consultations with Iran in order to strengthen the bilateral relations.

He also noted that Ankara is ready to collaborate and consult with Tehran on important regional issues and international developments.

Hailing the growing ties between the two neighbors, Fidan underlined the need to strengthen political consultations about the tensions in the West Asia region.

Araqchi, for his part, stressed the need to enhance the good relations between the two countries.

He also voiced Tehran's readiness to strengthen constructive dialogue with Ankara aimed at expanding cooperation in all areas, the Foreign Ministry's website reported.

Araqchi also referred to the deteriorating situation in the West Asia region and the terrorist actions of the Zionist regime that have escalated tensions and instability across the region.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized the need for continued consultations among Muslim countries, particularly between Iran and Turkey, to address the problems.

Export of \$2.6 Billion in Steel Products



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian Customs Administration announced the export of \$2.566 billion worth of steel products and related items in the first five months of this year.

According to IRNA, the value of steel product exports in the first five months of this year reached \$2.566 billion. The weight of exported steel products and related items was 4.979 million tons.

The report highlights that the major export items in the steel products category during the first five months of 1403 (the Iranian calendar year) included iron and steel ingots valued at \$651 million, rebar at \$455 million, steel sheets at \$210 million, steel pipes or hollow profiles at \$140 million, and semi-finished steel products at \$135 million.

These five items together accounted for \$1.6 billion of the total steel product exports during the mentioned period.

Worldsteel figures, which partly relies on data supplied by Iran's state metals and mining company IMIDRO, showed that Iran's steel output had dropped by 18.7% year on year in July to reach 1.8 million mt.

However, the output accounted for nearly a half or 48.6% of the total steel production in the West Asia region which includes Iran and seven Arab steel producing countries.

The fall in Iran's steel output in July was the largest recorded among 71 steel producing countries, according to the worldsteel data which showed that Brazil had reported a 11.6% rise in production in the same month, the largest among all producers.

China Slams U.S. for Adding Firms to Export Control List

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's Ministry of Commerce said on Sunday it strongly opposed a U.S. decision to add multiple Chinese entities to its export control list over Russia-related issues.

The United States on Friday added 105 Russian and Chinese firms to a trade restriction list over their alleged support of the Russian military.

The companies - 42 Chinese, 63 Russian and 18 from other countries - were targeted for reasons from sending U.S. electronics to Russian military-related parties to producing thousands of Shahed-136 drones for Russia to use in its invasion of Ukraine.

U.S. suppliers must get difficult-to-obtain licenses in order to ship to companies on the "entity list", as it is called.

China's ministry said the U.S. action disrupts the international trade order and hinders normal economic exchanges, adding China would take necessary measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights of its companies.



Gaza Ceasefire Talks Resume in Cairo, With No Sign of Progress



CAIRO (Dispatches) - Gaza ceasefire and hostage negotiators discussed new compromise proposals in Cairo on Saturday, seeking to bridge gaps between Israel and Hamas, but there was no indication of progress after hours of talks.

"The talks in Cairo didn't make any progress. Israel is insisting to keep eight positions along the Philadelphi corridor," one Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the subject.

The Cairo talks came as the humanitarian situation in Gaza deteriorated, with malnutrition soaring and polio discovered in the Palestinian enclave.

Israeli military strikes in Gaza killed 50 people on Saturday, Palestinian health authorities said, with victims trapped under rubble or lying on roads where fighting continued.

A Hamas delegation had arrived in Cairo on Saturday to be nearer at hand to review any proposals that emerged in the main talks between Israel and mediators Egypt, Qatar and the United States, two Egyptian security sources said.

A U.S. official said negotiators from the United States met with Egypt, then with Egypt and Qatar on Saturday, and believed that representatives from Egypt and Qatar were meeting with Hamas.

The Hamas delegation returned to Doha, Qatar, after the briefing on the round of talks ended, the Palestinian official said.

Months of on-off talks have failed to produce a breakthrough to end Israel's devastating military campaign in Gaza or free the remaining hostages seized by Hamas in the militant group's Oct. 7 attack that triggered the war.

The Egyptian sources said the new proposals include compromises on outstanding points such as how to secure key areas and the return of people to north Gaza.

German Stabbing Suspect Admits to the Crime

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - The suspect in custody for a stabbing rampage in the western German city of Solingen that killed three people and injured eight is a 26-year-old Syrian man, authorities said early on Sunday.

The suspect turned himself in and admitted to the crime, Duesseldorf police and prosecutors said in a joint statement.

"The involvement of this person is currently under intensive investigation," they said.

The details provide a somewhat fuller picture of an account late on Saturday by a state official who announced on German television the arrest of the man that authorities had been searching for in the 24 hours since the attack.

The attack, for which the Islamic State group claimed responsibility, occurred on Friday evening at a festival to celebrate the city's 650-year history.

The suspect is affiliated with a home for refugees in Solingen that had been searched on Saturday, authorities said.

Der Spiegel, citing unidentified security sources, said that the suspect's clothes had been smeared with blood.

The police declined immediate comment on the Spiegel report.

Islamic State described the man who carried out the attack as a "soldier of the Islamic State" in a statement on its Telegram account on Saturday: "He carried out the attack in revenge for Muslims in Palestine and everywhere."

It did not immediately provide any evidence for its assertion and it was not clear how close any relationship between the attacker and Islamic State was.

Hendrik Wuest, premier of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, on Saturday described the attack as an act of terror.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Hezbollah launched hundreds of rockets and drones against Israel on Sunday in retaliation for the assassination of a senior commander in Beirut last month, the Iranian-backed movement said, as Israel's cabinet met to prepare a response.

Israeli jets hit targets in Lebanon shortly before the strikes as the military assessed that Hezbollah was preparing to begin the barrage, the military said.

Hezbollah said it had launched more than 320 Katyusha rockets towards Israel and hit 11 military targets. It said the barrage had completed "the first phase" of its response to the assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior commander, in Beirut but that the full response would take "some time".

Expectations of an escalation between the two sides had risen since a missile strike in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights last month killed 12 youngsters and the Israeli military assassinated Shukur in Beirut in response.

Israel's cabinet was to meet at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT), Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office announced.

Foreign Minister Israel Katz said Israel would respond to developments on the ground but did not seek a full-scale war. Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel would do whatever necessary to defend itself.

"We have conducted precise strikes in Lebanon in order to thwart an imminent threat against the citizens of Israel. We are closely following developments in Beirut, and we are determined to use all the means at our disposal in order to defend our citizens," Gallant said in a statement.

Most of the Israeli strikes were hitting targets in southern Lebanon but the military was ready to strike anywhere there was a threat, an Israeli military spokesperson said.

Gallant declared a state of emergency, and flights to and from Ben Gurion airport in Tel Aviv were suspended for around 90 minutes, but the airports authority said normal operations were expected to resume by 7 a.m.

In northern Israel, warning sirens sounded and multiple explosions were heard around several areas as Israel's Iron Dome aerial defence system shot down rockets coming from southern Lebanon. Israel's Magen David Adom ambulance service said it was on high alert all over the country.

The Israeli military issued civil defence instructions from central Israel to the north, limiting gatherings but authorising people

to go to work as long as they were able to reach air raid shelters quickly. There were no casualties immediately reported in Israel, according to the ambulance service.

A security source in Lebanon said at least 40 Israeli strikes had hit various towns in the country's south in one of the densest bombardments since hostilities began in October.

A resident of the southern Lebanese town of Zibqeen, some 7 km (4 miles) from the border, told Reuters it was the first time he had awakened "to the sound of planes and the loud explosions of rockets - even before the dawn prayer. It felt like the apocalypse."

Israel's Army Radio, citing defence officials, said the military assessed that Hezbollah had been preparing to fire hundreds of missiles into central Israel in an attack planned for 5 a.m.

Around 100 Israeli jets foiled the Hezbollah missile strikes, beginning their attack half an hour beforehand, the report said, adding that the military assessed the subsequent Hezbollah barrage was "improvised".

"Dozens of (Israeli Air Force) jets are currently striking targets in various locations in southern Lebanon. We are continuing to remove threats, and to intensively strike against the Hezbollah terrorist organization," said a military spokesman, Rear Admiral Daniel Hagari.

The Israel-Hezbollah escalation has drawn fears of a wider regional conflict, potentially involving both the United States and Iran. President Joe Biden was following events closely, the White House said.

"At his direction, senior U.S. officials have been communicating continuously with their Israeli counterparts. We will keep supporting Israel's right to defend itself, and we will keep working for regional stability," said National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett.

The strikes came as negotiators were meeting in Cairo in a last-ditch effort to conclude a halt to fighting in Gaza and a return of Israeli and foreign hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners.

Hezbollah fired missiles at Israel immediately after the Oct. 7 attacks by Hamas gunmen on Israel. Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging fire constantly ever since, while avoiding a major escalation as war rages in Gaza to the south.

Telegram Chief Pavel Durov Arrested at French Airport

PARIS (Dispatches) - Telegram chief executive Pavel Durov is expected to appear in court after being arrested by French police at an airport near Paris for alleged offences related to his popular messaging app, sources told AFP.

The Franco-Russian billionaire, 39, was detained at Le Bourget airport north of the French capital on Saturday evening, one of the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Durov had arrived from Baku, in Azerbaijan, another source close to the case said.

France's OFMIN, an office tasked with preventing violence against minors, had issued an arrest warrant for Durov in a preliminary investigation into alleged offences including fraud, drug trafficking, cyberbullying, organised crime and promotion of terrorism, one of the sources said.

Durov is accused of failing to take action to curb the criminal use of his platform.

"Enough of Telegram's impunity," said one of the investigators, adding they were surprised Durov came to Paris knowing he was a wanted man.

The encrypted messaging app, based in Dubai, has positioned itself as an alternative to US-owned platforms, which have been criticised for their commercial exploitation of users' personal data.

Telegram has committed to never disclosing any information about its users.



In a rare interview given to right-wing talk show host Tucker Carlson in April, Durov said he got the idea to launch an encrypted messaging app after coming under pressure from the Russian government when working at VK, a social network he created before selling it and leaving Russia in 2014.

He said he then tried to settle in Berlin, London, Singapore and San Francisco before choosing Dubai, which he praised for its business environment and "neutrality".

People "love the independence. They also love the privacy, the freedom, (there are) a lot of reasons why somebody would switch to Telegram," Durov told Carlson.

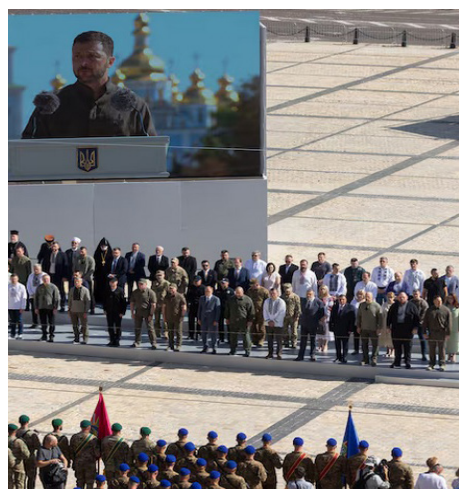
He said at the time that the platform had more than 900 million active users.

By basing itself in the United Arab Emirates, Telegram has been able to shield itself from moderation laws at a time when Western countries are pressuring large platforms to remove illegal content.

Telegram allows groups of up to 200,000 members, which has led to accusations that it makes it easier for false information to spread virally, as well as for users to disseminate neo-Nazi, paedophilic, conspiratorial and terrorist content.

Competitor messaging service WhatsApp introduced worldwide limits on message forwarding in 2019 after it was accused of enabling the spread of false information in India that led to lynchings.

Zelenskiy Touts New Drone Missile



KYIV (Dispatches) - President Volodymyr Zelenskiy touted a newly developed Ukrainian "drone missile" on Saturday that he said would take the war back to Russia and scornfully derided Russia's Vladimir Putin as a "sick old man from Red Square".

As Ukraine marked 33 years of post-Soviet independence, Zelenskiy said the new weapon, Paliantsia, was faster and more powerful than the domestically made drones that Kyiv has so far used to fight back against Russia, striking its oil refineries and military airfields.

"Our enemy will ... know what the Ukrainian way for retaliation is. Worthy, symmetrical, long-ranged," he said.

Zelenskiy said the new class of Ukrainian weapon had been used for a successful strike on a target in Russia, but did not say where.

He used derisive language to describe Russia's 71-year-old president and the nuclear rhetoric coming out of Moscow.

"A sick old man from Red Square who constantly threatens everyone with the red button will not dictate any of his red lines to us," he said in a video on the Telegram messaging app.

Russia, which has attacked Ukraine with many thousands of missiles and drones since it invaded in February 2022, has derided Ukraine's drone attacks as terrorism. Moscow's troops are advancing in Ukraine's east and occupy 18% of the country.

Zelenskiy has been pressing Kyiv's allies to allow him to use Western weapons deeper in Russian territory such as to strike airbases used by Russian warplanes that pound Ukraine with missiles and glide bombs.

"I want to stress once more that our new weapon decisions, including Paliantsia, is our realistic way to act while some of our partners are unfortunately delaying decisions," Zelenskiy told a news conference.

Ukrainians say the word "Paliantsia", a type of Ukrainian bread, is too difficult to pronounce for Russians and it has been used - sometimes humorously - during the war as a way to tell Ukrainians and Russians apart.

"It will be very difficult for Russia, difficult to even pronounce what exactly has hit it," Zelenskiy said of the drone missile.

In a decree, Zelenskiy promoted his top commander, Colonel General Oleksandr Syrskyi, to the rank of general, a tacit gesture of praise after Ukraine's lightning

cross-border incursion into Russia's Kursk region launched on Aug. 6.

Slammed by Russia as an escalation and major provocation, Ukraine's incursion has captured more than 90 settlements in the Kursk region according to Kyiv, the biggest invasion of Russia since World War Two.

Speaking at a joint news conference with Poland's and Lithuania's leaders, Zelenskiy told reporters the operation had in part been a preventive move to stop Russian plans to capture the northern city of Sumy.

Apart from capturing prisoners of war and creating a "buffer zone", Zelenskiy said the operation had other objectives that he could not disclose publicly.

Polish president Andrzej Duda confirmed that Polish PT-91 Twardy tanks given to Kyiv by Warsaw were taking part in the fighting in Kursk region.

"We are touched to see how the PT-91 Twardy tanks, given by Poland (to Ukraine) more than one year ago, are defending today Ukraine on the battlefields, fighting in the Kursk region," he said.

Russia has strongly condemned the use of western weapons for the incursion, which Putin has said will receive a "worthy response".

Independence Day has surged in importance for Ukrainians during the invasion, which has spurred widespread patriotic sentiment.

This year the public holiday took place after the U.S. and German embassies issued warnings of a heightened risk of Russian missile and drone attacks across the country.



Arsenal Pass Aston Villa Test, Brighton Rock Man Utd

LONDON (Dispatches) - Arsenal passed an early test of their Premier League title credentials with a 2-0 win at Aston Villa as Manchester United crashed to a last-gasp 2-1 defeat at Brighton on Saturday.

Erling Haaland's hat-trick fired champions Manchester City to the top of the table with a 4-1 win over Ipswich, while Tottenham thrashed Everton 4-0.

Arsenal's two defeats to Villa last season cost them a first league title in 20 years.

The Gunners gained revenge in Birmingham but needed a stunning save from David Raya to prevent Ollie Watkins heading Villa in front.

Leandro Trossard came off the bench to make the breakthrough with a composed finish on 67 minutes.

Thomas Partey then made sure of the victory with a low effort that Emiliano Martinez should have kept out.

Arsenal have finished second to City in each of the past two seasons and they seem set to battle it out for the title once more.

Pep Guardiola's men were shocked early on by newly-promoted Ipswich when Sammie Szmodics squeezed a shot through Ederson's legs at the Etihad.

But City responded with three goals in four minutes.

Haaland levelled from the penalty spot before Ipswich keeper Arijanet Muric handed his old club a gift as he was dispossessed by Savinho and Kevin De Bruyne slotted into an empty net.

City made it three when the unstoppable Haaland flicked De Bruyne's deft pass past Muric.

Haaland completed his 10th City hat-trick in the 88th minute with a typically predatory finish for his fourth goal already this season.

With 94 goals in 96 starts for City, Haaland deserves to be ranked alongside the likes of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo according to boss Guardiola.

"The numbers are ridiculous. He can compete in terms of goals with Ronaldo and Messi," he said.

Hope of a new dawn for under-fire United boss Erik ten Hag was shattered by Joao Pedro's 95th-minute winner for Brighton at the Amex Stadium.

"Both goals are very soft," said Ten Hag. "As a team, we should have done better. We have to be more clinical in both boxes."

United fell behind to a 32nd-minute goal from Danny Welbeck.

Amad Diallo equalised for United after an hour, cutting inside for a shot that deflected in off Brighton defender Jan Paul van Hecke.

Joshua Zirkzee prevented Alejandro Garnacho from putting the visitors ahead in the closing stages when the United forward touched home his team-mate's finish on the line from an offside position.

Brazilian striker Pedro rubbed salt into United's wounds as he headed home from Simon Adingra's cross to ensure Brighton boss Fabian Hurlzeler maintained his 100 percent start following last weekend's win at Everton.

The 31-year-old German is the youngest permanent manager in Premier League history.

"My team deserved to win. These moments make memories and we have to enjoy it," Hurlzeler said.

Tottenham midfielder Yves Bissouma got back in favour with boss Ange Postecoglou as his superb strike opened the floodgates against Everton.

Postecoglou picked Bissouma following a one-game suspension for posting a social media video that showed him inhaling nitrous oxide.

Lewandowski Secures Barca Win Over Athletic



BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Robert Lewandowski shrugged off a string of missed opportunities to earn Barcelona a 2-1 win over Athletic Bilbao on Saturday in La Liga.

The 36-year-old striker twice hit the woodwork, among other wasted chances, but kept his cool to slot home a 75th-minute winner for the Catalan giants.

Teenage starlet Lamine Yamal put Barcelona ahead with a deflected effort but Oihan Sancet pulled Athletic level from the penalty spot before half-time.

Lewandowski's strike earned Barcelona their second win from two league matches under new coach Hansi Flick.

"Especially in the first half he could have scored one or two goals... but in the end this is a goal getter, a striker, who scores goals," Flick told reporters.

"The second goal was the winner, three points, perfect."

The former Germany and Bayern Munich boss had hoped to utilise new arrival Dani Olmo but with Barcelona unable to register him because of their financial difficulties, the former RB Leipzig playmaker could only watch from the stands.

Pedri started in midfield after injury, along with 17-year-old Spain star Yamal, who shared a joke with his compatriot Nico Williams, a Barcelona target this summer.

The winger is set to stay with Athletic this season and some Barcelona fans whistled him during his engaging battle with Jules Kounde.

Barcelona drew first blood, with Yamal's effort from the edge of the box deflecting home off Inigo Lekue's head.

"I'm very happy for the win, it's important to win at home," Yamal told DAZN.

"(For my goal) I saw a bit of space, I saw Nico coming, who is not very intense when it comes to defending, and when I found the space, I shot."

Williams whipped a dangerous cross inches wide of the far post at the other end as Athletic threatened.

Jack Plummer, Panthers Outlast Bills

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jack Plummer completed 21 of 29 passes for 278 yards and a pair of touchdowns as the Carolina Panthers held off the Buffalo Bills for a 31-26 victory in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Saturday in the preseason finale for both teams.

Plummer gave Carolina (1-2) a 31-19 lead when he found Jalen Coker for a 36-yard touchdown with 14:54 left in the game. It took Buffalo nearly 13 minutes to respond, as KJ Hamler rushed for a 1-yard score with 1:57 to go.

The Panthers faced a third-and-11 on the ensuing drive, but Plummer hit Coker for a 12-yard gain to put the Bills (1-2) to bed.

Bryce Young attempted eight passes for Carolina, completing six for 70 yards and a touchdown. Mike Boone found the end zone on the ground.

Frank Gore Jr. headlined Buffalo's offense with 101 yards and a touchdown on 18 carries. Anthony Brown threw for 102 yards on 11-of-12 passing, and Ben DiNucci chipped in with 76 yards and a touchdown on 11-for-15 passing.

Jermar Jefferson rushed for two touchdowns to help Detroit Lions overcome a 14-point deficit against visiting Pittsburgh Steelers to win 24-17.

Jefferson scored from 1 and 7 yards out. Hendon Hooker ignited the Lions' comeback with a 2-yard touchdown pass to



Jake Funk. Hooker completed 12 of 20 passes for 114 yards, the touchdown and an interception.

Cordarrelle Patterson ran for a 31-yard score and La'Mical Perine added a 1-yard scoring scamper to lift the Steelers (0-3) to a 14-0 lead with 6:05 remaining in the first quarter. Detroit (2-1) held Pittsburgh to one field goal the rest of the way.

Michael Pratt and Sean Clifford each threw for a touchdown and host Green Bay Packers rattled off 24 unanswered points to steamroll Baltimore Ravens 30-7.

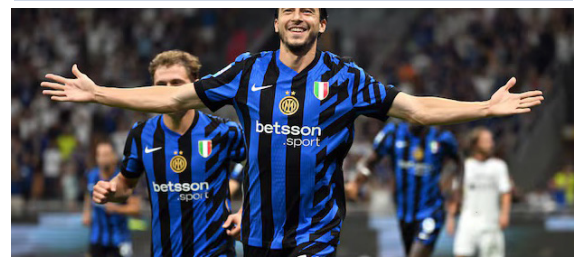
The Ravens (1-2) were up 7-6 after Josh Johnson connected with Tylan Wallace for a 48-yard score with 11:21 left in the second quarter. But the Packers then completely took over, getting touchdown passes from Pratt and Clifford during their outburst.

Anthony Johnson Jr. returned a fumble 24 yards for a touchdown for Green Bay (2-1), which held Baltimore to 177 yards of total offense.

Will Reichard did enough with his leg to send visiting Minnesota Vikings past Philadelphia Eagles 26-3.

Reichard made good on four field goals, converting from 31, 33, 20 and 57 yards out. Jaren Hall put together a strong showing under center for the Vikings (3-0), throwing for 189 yards and two scores on 17-of-25 passing.

Inter See Off Lecce as AC Milan Crash at Promoted Parma



MILAN (AFP) - Inter Milan got their Serie A title defence up and running on Saturday with a straightforward 2-0 home win over Lecce, while rivals AC Milan crashed to a 2-1 defeat at promoted Parma.

Matteo Darmian nodded Inter ahead in the fifth minute before Hakan Calhanoglu made sure that the majority of the around 70,000 fans at the San Siro went home happy with his 70th-minute penalty.

Simone Inzaghi's team are level with three other teams on four points, including Parma and Genoa who were 1-0 winners at Monza, after their first two matches of the new campaign.

"Winning is hard but staying up there is even harder. We had to bounce back after drawing at Genoa and we managed to do that," said Darmian to Sky Sport.

"Our secret is who we have in the squad. At Inter there is a lot of competition and that internal competition is good for everyone."

Inter were far from their thrilling best but didn't need to be against sorry Lecce who are pointless, have conceded six and are yet to score after two fiendish opening fixtures against the champions and Atalanta.

Without injured captain and star striker Lautaro Martinez, Mehdi Taremi made his first start for Inter since signing last month after being released by Porto.

The Iran forward had a hand in Darmian's opener, getting a slight touch on a cross and diverting the ball to the Italy defender who made no mistake with an angled header.

Taremi also had claims for a penalty waved away shortly after the break following a clash with Kialonda Gaspar in a bit of penalty box chaos, which led to Marcus Thuram having a close-range shot saved by Wladimiro Falcone.

It was Thuram who earned Calhanoglu the chance to seal the points from the spot when he challenged for a cross Gaspar bundled over the France forward, and Turkey midfielder Calhanoglu confidently stroked home.

Djokovic Eyes Slam Record in US Open Defense

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic, fueled by an emotional Olympic triumph, has new Grand Slam records in his sights at the US Open, where title rival Jannik Sinner hopes to shake off a doping controversy.

Defending champion Djokovic can become the oldest Open era champion at the tournament if he secures a fifth title, a record he would share with Jimmy Connors, Pete Sampras and Roger Federer.

The 37-year-old would also move to 25 Grand Slam triumphs, taking him clear of the 24 he currently shares with Margaret Court.

The final Grand Slam of the year comes at a critical time for Djokovic.

This year he was succeeded as Australian Open champion by Sinner who also relieved him of his world number one ranking.

Carlos Alcaraz took his French Open title with the Spanish crowd-pleaser then sweeping Djokovic off court in a one-sided Wimbledon final.

However, Djokovic, returned to the clay courts of Roland Garros to stun Alcaraz in the Olympic final in what he Saturday called "the greatest achievement and greatest highlight of my career overall, winning the gold for Serbia."

Djokovic became just the fifth player to complete a career Golden Slam of all four majors and Olympic gold.

The victory also silenced the increasing number of doubters who had written off the Serb as a spent force in a



new era where Sinner, 23, and 21-year-old Alcaraz are steadily moving center stage.

Djokovic, who underwent surgery on his right knee in June, said he wondered if his chances to win Olympic gold were running out.

"At 37 I thought, you know, I don't know, could this be the last chance? Maybe. So I had to push more than I have ever done," he said.

"Turned out to be one of the best performances I had in

years overall throughout the entire tournament.

"Of course in the finals against Carlos, it was kind of a dream scenario really, having my wife and children there, the entire nation watching."

When they hung the gold around his neck and the Serbian anthem played, Djokovic said, it was "probably the most intense emotions I have ever had on a tennis court."

Sinner, meanwhile, arrives after an emotionally draining doping investigation, in which he escaped a lengthy ban after officials accepted his explanation that the banned substance entered his system as a result of contamination from a support team member.

The 23-year-old Italian had twice tested positive for clostebol, a banned anabolic agent, back in March. The International Tennis Integrity Agency announced this week he had been cleared of wrongdoing -- a day after he won the Cincinnati Masters.

"I'm just happy that it's finally out," said Sinner, who fired his physiotherapist and trainer in the wake of the affair.

But his hopes for "clean air" at the US Open could be dashed as players question why there was never any announcement of a provisional suspension as the investigation proceeded.

Sinner said he wouldn't get caught up in concerns over his reputation.

"This, I can't really control," he said. "So let's see."