

**President Masoud Pezeshkian in a Message on the Occasion of Anniversary of Uzbekistan's Independence to Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev emphasized Relations Based on Mutual Respect Between the Two Countries**

# IRAN NEWS

**The Iranian Embassy in a Message Recalling the Assassination of Iran's President Mohammad Ali Rajai and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar on August 30, 1981, by the Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK), a Group That Was Long Recognized as a Terrorist Organization by the International Community**

**2 DOMESTIC**

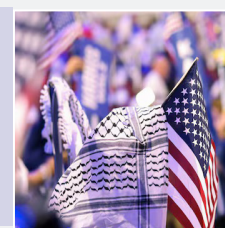


## Society Cannot Endure Shock Therapy

> SEE PAGE 2

**3 INTERNATIONAL**

## Pro-Palestinian Groups to Protest Harris Campaign Stops, Trump Debate



> SEE PAGE 3

### Modernized Air Defense Force Fully Ready to Guard Iran's Airspace: Cmdr.



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has completed an already impressive multi-layered air defense arsenal with the unveiling of two new air defense missile systems, Arman (Aspiration) and Azarakhsh (Thunderbolt).

A senior Iranian military commander says the Army's Air Defense Force has produced state-of-the-art systems and is ready to defend the country's airspace.

Brigadier Ali Asadi, commander of Iran's Western Air Defense Zone, said on Friday that the country's Air Defense Force has succeeded in manufacturing all its required systems and equipment in cooperation with Defense Ministry in the recent years.

"All the old radars have been updated and reproduced after converting to indigenous technologies."

He said his forces enjoy the know-how to manufacture different types of radars and managed to produce up-to-date radars, including Arash, Keyhan, Moraqeb and Nazir.

"These radars work in all kinds of frequencies and do not allow any flying object to infiltrate the country's sky," Asadi said.

The commander noted that his forces plan to design and manufacture various types of electronic listening systems and to develop electronic warfare systems based on operational needs of the country's air defense.

The designing of new missile systems proportional to adversarial threats is also on the agenda of Iran's Air Defense Force, he stated.

Asadi warned the enemies that the Iranian Armed Forces are fully prepared to repel any threat against the country.

Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said last week that the country will 'resolutely' continue to make more progress in the field of defense and deterrence.

### Zionist Regime Main Obstacle to Achievement of Stability in Islamic World



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Zionist regime is the main obstacle to the achievement of stability and sustainable development in the Islamic world and the region, the director general of the International Peace and Security Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran says.

Asadollah Eshragh-Jahromi made the remarks in the 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in the capital of Cameroon Yaoundé, noting that the Israeli regime's destabilizing actions are a major obstacle to cooperation among Islamic countries.

The 50th session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC was held in Yaoundé on Thursday and Friday under the theme of "Development of Transport and Communications Infrastructure within the OIC Framework: A Key Tool in the Fight against Poverty and Insecurity."

Eshragh-Jahromi expressed deep concern and strongly condemned the aggression and barbaric crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the oppressed people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip during the past eleven months, as well as the recent terrorist act of assassinating Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, calling for decisive stance by the international community and the OIC to stop the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide and to hold the regime accountable for its crimes.

The representative of the Islamic Republic also pointed to the need to pay attention to the roots of insecurity and crisis-creating in West Asia, stressing that the regime's policies are a major obstacle to convergence among the member states of the OIC.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he denounced economic sanctions, which have been imposed in violation of the international law on a number of developing countries that must be rejected by all countries, noting that sanctions are disruptive to economic stability and a major impediment to development and access to resources and technology.



## Iranians Living Abroad Lead Investment Demands in Iran

TEHRAN - Sirus Talari, a board member of the Iranian-Foreign Joint Investment Association (IFJIA), discussed the impact of the government change on attracting foreign investment to the country in an interview with ILNA.

He stated that he believes the policies outlined by the President of the 14th administration regarding international relations cannot be implemented in the short term. However, it remains to be seen how this administration will shape its future interactions with the world and how it will address the challenges of attracting foreign investment.

In response to whether the 14th government could advance Iran's foreign relations and attract foreign investment through methods other than circumventing sanctions, Talari commented that circumventing sanctions does not hold meaning in foreign investment. He explained that Russia, even after the war with Ukraine, did not need to circumvent sanctions to sell its oil because Western countries that impose sanctions on Iran and Russia are also the consumers of their oil. The absence of Iranian and Russian oil from major global economies would lead to their collapse.

Consequently, these economic powers cannot afford to impose sanctions on the 4 million barrels of oil Russia injects into the global market daily. Iran also supplies 1.5 to 2 million barrels of oil daily, and the sanctioning countries understand that Iranian and Russian oil is crucial for balancing the global energy market.

Talari elaborated on the details of current foreign investment in Iran, noting that, according to the latest data from the Iranian-Foreign Joint Investment Association, the highest foreign investment demand in Iran comes from Iranians residing abroad.

These individuals invest between \$10 to \$30 million in Iran. Additionally, Afghan investors contribute between \$200,000 to a maximum of \$15 million in Iran, often seeking

residency permits as a motive. Aside from these groups, there has not been a significant increase in foreign investment demand with larger figures, despite the country's need for foreign investment in various sectors, particularly infrastructure development.

When asked about the impact of the government change on the global perception of Iran, Talari explained that investors seek to place their capital in locations where they are confident about the security and productivity of their investment. For instance, an investor might choose Pakistan over Afghanistan due to Pakistan's stable government and adherence to international laws, which ensure investment security. Thus, economic realities drive investment decisions more than the psychological climate. He compared global investment to a cloud moving around the world, turning into rain only where favorable conditions exist. He believes that capital is never stagnant, even in large economies like China and the US, and is continually circulating.

He further clarified that the lack of investment security in Iran stems from two factors: external relations and internal conditions. Externally, Iran faces sanctions and is on the FATF blacklist. Internally, the issue arises from the disconnection of economic growth factors and the dominance of economic mafias that consume all resources and infiltrate various industries, undermining investment security. Even if external relations improve, internal issues can prevent investor attraction.

Talari concluded by noting that the specific location of investment is often less important to foreign investors compared to the role of government officials and their cooperation with the private sector in directing foreign investment. Currently, the amounts of foreign investment in Iran are relatively modest and could be utilized for financing small-scale industries.

## Universities Can Save the Country Provided That Elites Are Respected

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking earlier today during the ceremony honoring and introducing the former and new ministers of Science, Research, and Technology, paid tribute to the memory of government martyrs, particularly Martyr President Ayatollah Raisi.

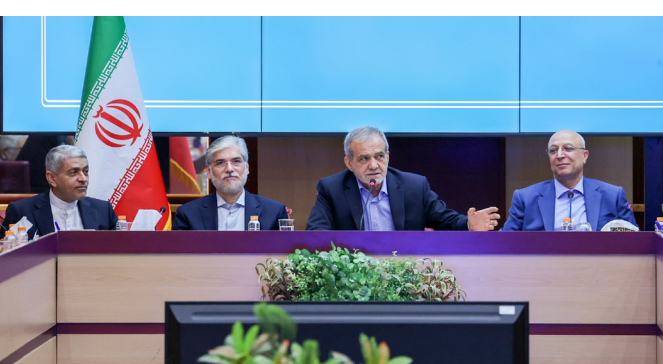
He emphasized that the most important philosophy and reason for human creation by God is "pure knowledge and action," as stated in the Quran. He questioned whether a society that understands its existence as being tied to knowledge and action, performed with sincerity for God and the people, could fall into backwardness, poverty, corruption, or discrimination.

The President clarified that if we understand the purpose of our creation—that is, acquiring knowledge and awareness—and apply this knowledge sincerely to serve the people, we will better appreciate our scholars and thinkers, and no problems will remain unsolved.

Pezeshkian pointed to the complexity and inefficiency of the country's education system. He noted that while economics deals with four fundamental questions—what to produce, how much to produce, with what quality to produce, and where to distribute—we still struggle to answer these questions correctly despite having many universities.

He questioned the purpose of having so many universities and why we compel our youth to study fields where there are no job opportunities after graduation. This is a serious issue, and we need to address it with the help of the parliament and the ministries of Science and Health.

Pezeshkian lamented that while we take pride in producing many talented individuals across various fields, many of these individuals easily leave the country. He attributed this issue to the nature of the education they receive. He emphasized the need to teach not only academic subjects but also teamwork skills, communication, and problem-solving to ensure that graduates are prepared to address challenges rather than abandoning their work at the first difficulty.



He stressed that solving societal problems relies on utilizing knowledge and scholars. He noted that a talented individual is valuable only if they understand the societal issues and are trained to stay and work towards solving these problems. We need to train scholars whose knowledge and abilities will contribute to resolving societal issues and improving people's lives.

Pezeshkian argued that every problem in the world has scientific solutions, but our issue is either not knowing these solutions, knowing them but lacking the skills to implement them, or knowing and having the skills but lacking the willingness to act. Education must move beyond the confines of the classroom and address the real-world problems it aims to solve.

He mentioned that we are currently working on developing tools to assess individuals' capabilities and make appointments based on these assessments. He urged all scholars and intellectuals to assist the government in this effort. Unfortunately, we have not yet developed precise criteria and tools for evaluating managers and employees. We need to clearly define who should be responsible for each position, what they should do in that role, and how they should be held accountable.

He emphasized that universities must evolve to solve societal problems. Globally, universities generate income and train skilled professionals through scientific projects, but our universities are still dependent on government funding and produce graduates lacking practical skills.

Dr. Pezeshkian criticized the failure to entrust work to experts and not applying knowledge to solve societal issues. He stressed that universities could save the country if we respect scholars and intellectuals regardless of their preferences, beliefs, and ideologies. He cited Imam Ali's view that learning even one word from someone makes you their servant. Yet, we sometimes disrespect scholars who have contributed to the rise of our youth by choosing them as leaders.

### Israeli Regime Biggest Obstacle to Peace, Root Cause of Regional Tensions



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has blasted the Israeli regime and its incessant atrocities as the main factor behind expansion of tensions and conflict across the West Asia region.

The top diplomat made the remarks during a telephone conversation with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi on Friday.

The remarks concerned the regime's October-present genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, escalated deadly attacks in the occupied West Bank, intensified deadly aggression against Lebanon, and assassination of senior resistance figures throughout the region.

As a case in point, Araqchi cited the regime's constituting the biggest obstacle to conclusion of truce agreement that could bring an end to the war on Gaza that has so far claimed the lives of upwards of 40,600 Palestinians, mostly women and children.

In July, the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement Hamas agreed to a deal featuring withdrawal of the Israeli forces, return of the displaced people, an end to the siege that has been imposed by Tel Aviv on Gaza, and initiation of the territory's reconstruction process.

The regime, however, rejected the proposal before coming up with "new conditions," including its keeping its forces inside Gaza along the coastal sliver's border with Egypt.

Araqchi said, "The Islamic Republic would support a [truce] agreement that meets the approval of the Palestinian people and resistance."

He underscored the need for effective action on the part of the international community towards cessation of the genocide and transfer of humanitarian aid to the coastal sliver.

For his part, the Jordanian official said, "It is necessary for the tensions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to come to an end as soon as possible."

### Iran Closely Monitoring Israeli Threats



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian Air Defense Force is closely monitoring the activities of adversaries, including the Israeli regime, as the force enjoys the highest level of readiness, says its commander.

"In the Air Defense Force, considering the aerospace threats from global arrogance, we have enhanced our air defense capabilities and remain vigilant against other threats; we are also closely monitoring the wicked Zionist regime," Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard said on Friday.

He said that the force devotes special attention to the guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, who once stated that the life of a nation depends on strengthening the components of its military might.

General Sabahifard went on to highlight that Iran has well fought off enemies' fendiish plots against its independence, freedom and the Islamic system, and this accounts for the rise in adversaries' animosity towards the Islamic Republic as the main pillar of the Axis of Resistance.

The high-ranking commander pointed out that the Iranian Air Defense Force is currently at the "highest level of its self-sufficiency, preparedness and combat prowess."

He stated that the Air Defense Force can now design and manufacture various types of control systems, radars, sensors, electronic warfare systems and cybersecurity systems.

The force can detect any kind of the enemy's stealth aircraft from thousands of miles away, Sabahifard said.

He stated that the Iranian Air Defense Force is monitoring potential threats round the clock, stages multiple military exercises throughout the year, and is continuously upgrading its military gear to achieve maximum efficiency.



## 22% Growth in Bus Production

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Director General of the Automobile Industry Office of the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade announced that bus production from the beginning of this year until the end of August has seen a 22% increase compared to the same period last year.

Mehdi Khoosravi added that in August 2024, there was a 140% growth compared to the same period last year.

The Director General of the Automobile Industry Office of the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade emphasized the importance of public transportation and the comfort of citizens, stating that the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade is making every effort to increase bus production.

Previously, the Acting Deputy Minister of Transportation at the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade announced that the capacity and ability to produce 1,000 electric buses annually has been established in the country. However, production depends on orders placed by transportation companies.

## Increase in China's Oil Purchases from Iran



TEHRAN - According to OilPrice, Kpler data shows that China's oil imports from Iran this month have reached 1.75 million barrels per day.

The highest purchase of Iranian oil by China dates back to October 2023, which was 1.66 million barrels per day. Currently, China is buying 50% more oil from Iran than in the previous month. Last month, Iran's oil sales to China were 1.24 million barrels per day.

Reports indicate that oil imports to Dalian and Rizhao in China have seen a significant increase, rising to 132,000 and 342,000 barrels per day, respectively.

Analysts believe that the profit margins of China's independent refineries, known as teapots, are on the rise. These refineries now have more motivation to increase production and consequently demand more crude oil.

Last week, Bloomberg reported that China's oil imports from Malaysia reached a new record last month, indicating a greater inclination of the country's refineries for cheaper Iranian oil. China's refineries are struggling with low profit margins due to unfavorable economic conditions.

The world's largest importer of crude oil imported 6.21 million tons of oil from Malaysia in July, equivalent to 1.47 million barrels per day, almost three times the daily production average of this Southeast Asian country in 2023.

Malaysia's waters have long been a hub for the transfer of oil and petroleum products from one tanker to another, used to hide the true origin of the oil. Officially, China hasn't purchased any oil from Iran since June 2022, but unofficially, China's purchase of oil from Iran has reached a new record.

In reality, Iran's oil, which is under U.S. sanctions, is one of the cheapest options for Chinese buyers, even more economical than Russian oil. Therefore, many of China's independent refineries prefer Iranian barrels to improve their profit margins.

## Society Cannot Endure Shock Therapy

TEHRAN - Minister of Economy stated that the coordination of the economic team in the government's economic headquarters is ongoing. He emphasized that society cannot endure shock therapy and mentioned that the government has not yet discussed the issue of gasoline prices.

In a televised interview on Friday, Abdolnasser Hemmati said: "We have 14 significant economic challenges, some of which are very important. The outcome of all government operations should be reflected in four areas: inflation, economic growth, reducing income disparity, and reducing unemployment. If we don't succeed in these four areas, our efforts will be futile."

He continued, "Some say the government has been handed a prepared horse, but our economic growth is still far from 8%, and inflation is still close to 40%."

Hemmati added, "If we calculate the unemployment rate based on the 2019 participation rate, it would now reach 13%, meaning our number of unemployed has increased."

He emphasized that 300,000 people, equivalent to 90 trillion rials, are waiting for marriage loans. He clarified, "I didn't suggest that part of the marriage loan be paid in non-cash forms; I merely mentioned that some may want to use the marriage loan to purchase household items. Therefore, banks can prepare a plan to pay this loan in non-cash form, outside the usual queue, and even up to 4 billion rials to applicants."

He also pointed out that of the 8% economic growth mandated by law, 2.4% should come from increased productivity in the economy. "To achieve economic growth, we need to facilitate the start of work; the future must be predictable for economic actors, and government regulations should not change frequently."

He added that for stability in the economy, government interventions and price controls should be minimized.

Hemmati stated, "We should not increase the risk for those who want to invest in the stock market. Today, the average profit of stock market companies has halved, dropping from 24% to 12%."

He emphasized that the Central Bank is responsible for inflation, stating, "We are helping the Central Bank by controlling the budget deficit and the imbalance in banks. Until these two problems are resolved, inflation will not be controlled."

He noted that the capital adequacy of some of our major banks is negative, whereas globally, it's unacceptable for banks' capital adequacy to be below 8%.

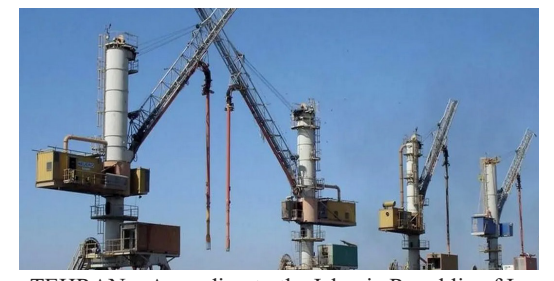
Hemmati stressed that to control the budget deficit, revenues must increase and expenses must be controlled. "We are behind in privatization and tax collection. Through the almost complete taxpayer system and sales terminals, we can increase tax revenues."

He also posed the question, "Who says sanctions have had no effect on the country?" He clarified, "Sanctions have slowed down the country's growth and development and have caused problems in our banking relations. To resolve banking issues, we need to address our issues with FATF."

Hemmati said, "We will definitely unify the currency exchange rate in collaboration with the Central Bank. Part of our currency deficit is due to the disparity between the preferential and free-market rates. However, aligning the NIMA rate with the market rate does not mean the dollar price will rise; when we bring the NIMA rate closer to the market rate, the free-market dollar will become cheaper."

Emphasizing that society cannot endure shock therapy, he stated, "The government has not yet discussed gasoline prices. Some experts have pointed out whether our car prices are comparable to foreign cars and whether our cars are fuel-efficient. Therefore, gasoline price reform is also a comprehensive package."

## Solyanka Port Ready to Expand Cooperation With Major Grain Traders



TEHRAN - According to the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines Group, the Iranian port of Solyanka has officially announced its readiness to cooperate with major grain traders. This comes at a time when grain trade accounts for over 60% of the total maritime transportation in Caspian Sea ports.

According to the port's director, more than 1.6 million tons of grain were sent from the ports of Astrakhan to the northern ports of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the first half of this year alone, which is double the volume sent during the same period last year.

He added that Solyanka Port, in line with increasing its strategic role in Iran-Russia trade interactions, has invested in and purchased a grain terminal with a silo capacity of 33,000 tons and a loading capacity of 150 tons per hour.

He stated that this terminal began operations this month, and it is expected that approximately 400,000 tons of grain will be added annually to the current operational volume of this port. To take advantage of this capacity, Solyanka Port is ready to expand cooperation with major grain traders, shipping companies, and private vessel owners for grain transportation.

## Kerman Represents Iran in the Selection of the "D8" Tourism Capital



KERMAN - The Director General of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts of Kerman announced that Kerman has been selected as Iran's representative and candidate for the title of Tourism Capital of the "D8" group, comprising developing Islamic countries.

Saeed Shahrokhi stated on Friday regarding the selection of the "D8" Tourism Capital: "The developing Islamic countries include eight nations—Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Nigeria, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Pakistan. The Cultural Heritage Department of Kerman, by preparing and presenting a written and well-structured proposal in a specific format, has nominated Kerman as Iran's representative to compete for the title of 'D8' Tourism Capital."

The Director General of Kerman's Cultural Heritage added: "Kerman has been recognized as deserving to represent Iran in securing this title due to its advantages such as suitable tourism infrastructure, cultural heritage preservation, innovation and technology, tourist safety and security, tourism promotion and marketing, and intercultural interaction."

He emphasized: "Providing accurate, credible, and creative information will increase Kerman's chances of obtaining this title and hosting the event. The cooperation of executive bodies at the national, provincial, and private sector levels has had a significant impact on securing the 'D8' Tourism Capital title, and I must thank the Kerman Chamber of Commerce for its support in this endeavor."

Shahrokhi also noted: "Systematic lobbying at the level of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Foreign Affairs, along with substantial assistance from the private sector, gives hope and promise for Kerman to secure the hosting title of the 'D8' Tourism Capital."

Kerman is competing with the cities of Antalya in Turkey and Lahore in Pakistan for this title.

Kerman is a historic city located in southeastern Iran and serves as the capital of Kerman Province. Known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and historical significance, Kerman is one of Iran's oldest cities.

It has a long and storied history, dating back over 4,000 years. It was known as "Carmania" in ancient times.

The city has been an important center of trade, particularly during the Safavid and Qajar dynasties, due to its strategic location along the Silk Road.

## Iran Ready to Construct 150,000 Housing Units in Iraq

TEHRAN - Bahman Abdollahi, Head of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), in a meeting aimed at collaboration between the Iranian Cooperative Chamber and Iraqi trade delegations, announced that Iran's cooperative sector is very active in housing, a sector that has gained significant prominence since the revolution. He added that the current exhibition effectively showcases the capabilities of the construction industry in the country.

He continued, stating that the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, representing the country's cooperatives, is ready to supply materials, engage in construction, supply goods for consumer stores, and cooperate in the agricultural sector in Basra.

The President of the ICC emphasized that Iranian consumer cooperatives are prepared to equip goods and services, and transfer related software to Iraqi consumer cooperatives for chain stores.

Abdollahi further stated that in response to the Iraqi side's request and invitation to utilize the capabilities of Iranian housing cooperatives for the mass construction of affordable housing in Iraq, there is readiness in this regard.

In response to the Iraqi delegation's request for the supply of agricultural goods and the transfer of experiences from agricultural cooperatives, Abdollahi highlighted the capacities of cooperatives in agriculture, noting that more than 55% of agricultural production is carried out by cooperatives, indicating their high potential in Iran.

The President of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives expressed readiness to transfer experiences, stating that cooperatives in the agricultural sector can also meet the market needs of Iraq.

Abdollahi suggested that cooperation in various sectors, such as housing construction, supplying goods for consumer stores, and cooperation in agriculture, could be formalized through a memorandum of understanding.

He also mentioned Iran's membership in the Board of Directors of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) and suggested that Iraqi cooperatives join the ICA in Asia, especially considering that the United Nations has designated



2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives. Such membership would undoubtedly offer numerous benefits to Iraqi cooperatives.

Osama Abdulreza Saad, Vice President of Basra's Provincial Council, stated that the International Building Industry Exhibition effectively demonstrates the capabilities of Iran's construction industry. He expressed hope for successful cooperation, noting that Iranian contractors are very successful, although challenges remain.

Referring to his visit to the 24th International Building Industry Exhibition, he expressed readiness to strengthen cooperation with Iran and to work with Iranian companies to boost the housing sector in Iraq.

The Vice President of Basra's Provincial Council mentioned having had good discussions with some construction companies during the exhibition and expressed hope for significant cooperation in housing construction.

He added that the housing construction market in Iraq is largely controlled by Iranian contractors, and thus the presence of successful Iranian companies in Iraq could greatly benefit the country's housing sector.

The head of the Iraqi trade delegation pointed out the increasing importance of housing and township construction in Iraq, noting that construction and township development costs have risen significantly, making it difficult for low-income groups to afford housing.

He continued by stating their intention to collaborate with the ICC and leverage the capacity of Iranian housing cooperatives to reduce construction costs in Iraq while also speeding up housing development. The goal is to achieve this by using prefabricated houses, similar to Iran's experience.

The head of the Iraqi trade delegation noted that they are currently building a thousand-unit township, which is expected to take three years to complete.

He added that they aim to sign a memorandum of understanding between Iraqi and Iranian cooperatives to supply goods for Iraq's consumer cooperatives through this agreement.



## Food Industry Urged to Focus on Showcasing Country's Capabilities at Int'l Exhibitions

TEHRAN - During a meeting to discuss the activities of the specialized committees of the Food Industry Commission of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the emphasis was placed on the active and targeted participation of the private sector in two exhibitions—Gulfood in Dubai and the Food Industry Expo in India. These exhibitions aim to introduce Iran's capabilities and capacities in this sector while also providing an opportunity to become familiar with the latest global methods and changes in this field.

According to the available information, the Food Industry Expo in India will be held from September 19 to 21, and the Gulfood Dubai exhibition from February 18 to 22, 2025.

In the meeting, Rasheed Azizpour, Vice Chairman of the Food Industry Commission, emphasized focusing on exhibitions that have significant potential in the food sector. He stated, "To advance the country's goals and priorities in the food sector, we must seize the opportunity to optimally showcase Iran's capabilities, while also participating in exhibitions to stay updated on the latest changes in this field."

He further noted that one of the real needs of Iran's industry is to develop an industrial development strategy. He added, "If we want to draft a strategy for the food industry, we need an overarching document, which unfortunately, despite decades of effort, has not yet been finalized."

This economic activist also pointed out that a law, referred to as the Food Law in Iran, was drafted many years ago and needs to be updated.

## China Manufacturing Contracts for Fourth Straight Month

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese manufacturing contracted for a fourth consecutive month in August, official data showed Saturday, a worse-than-expected result reflecting the world's second-largest economy's struggle to recover.

China is facing a crisis in its vast real estate sector as well as lackluster confidence among households and businesses, which is hindering consumption, while geopolitical tensions with Washington and the European Union threaten foreign trade.

In August, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) -- a key barometer of industrial output -- stood at 49.1 points, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) announced.

This represents a stronger contraction than in July (49.4 points) for the index, which is based in part on company order books.

A figure above 50 indicates an expansion in manufacturing activity, while below that is a contraction. Analysts surveyed by Bloomberg had anticipated a decline in August -- but a more moderate one of 49.5.



## Taiwan Military Says China Lacks Ability to Invade



TAIPEI (Dispatches) - China lacks the ability to "fully" invade Taiwan as it does not have the equipment, but is bringing on line advanced new weapons and has other options to threaten Taiwan, such as inspecting foreign cargo ships, the island's defense ministry said.

China, which views democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory, has ramped up military and political pressure over the past five years to assert its claims, which Taipei strongly rejects.

China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control. The government of the defeated Republic of China fled to Taiwan in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists, and no peace treaty or armistice has ever been signed.

In an annual threat assessment of China sent to lawmakers on Friday, a copy of which was reviewed by Reuters, Taiwan's defense ministry said Beijing continues to hone skills such as joint command operations.

"However, the use of tactics and strategies against Taiwan is still limited by the natural geographical environment of the Taiwan Strait and insufficient landing equipment and logistic capabilities," it said.

China "is not yet fully possessed of the formal combat capabilities for a comprehensive invasion of Taiwan".

But China is speeding up development of a slew of new weapons, such as the H-20 bomber and hypersonic missiles and beefing up the number of nuclear warheads, while trialling new tactics, the ministry said.

The report said that in May, when China staged war games around Taiwan shortly after Lai Ching-te took office as the new president, Chinese coast guard ships were sent for the first time on interception and inspection drills off the east coast.

## Judge Orders Shutdown of Musk's X in Brazil

BRASILIA (Dispatches) - A Brazilian Supreme Court justice ordered on Friday the "immediate suspension" of social media platform X in the country, after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil.

The move is the latest chapter in an ongoing feud between a Brazilian Supreme Court justice and Elon Musk, which also included the freezing of the satellite internet provider Starlink's financial accounts in Brazil.

In the decision, Moraes ordered the full and immediate suspension of X in the country until all related court orders on X were complied with, including the payment of fines amounting 18.5 million reais (\$3.28 million) and the nomination of a legal representative in Brazil.

Moraes ordered telecommunications regulator Anatel to implement the suspension order, and to confirm to the court within 24 hours that it has carried it out.

In a bid to avoid the use of virtual private networks (VPNs) to circumvent the blockage, Moraes said that individuals or companies who tried to keep access to the social network that way could be fined up to 50,000 reais a day.

X said late on Thursday that it expected Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes to order a shutdown "soon," after a court-imposed deadline expired for the company to identify a legal representative in Brazil. Earlier this year, Moraes ordered X to block certain accounts implicated in probes of so-called digital militias accused of spreading distorted news and hate.

Musk, denouncing the order as censorship, responded by closing the platform's offices in Brazil. X, formerly known as Twitter, said at the time that its services would still be available in Brazil.

Amid the underlying feud over X, Brazil's Supreme Court also blocked the local bank accounts of the Starlink satellite internet firm, which is 40% owned by Musk, leading the company on Friday to ask the court to suspend that decision.

## Pro-Palestinian Groups to Protest Harris Campaign Stops, Trump Debate

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Kamala Harris' strong support for Israel as it continues its war in Gaza is fueling calls for a fresh round of protests at campaign stops, universities and public events in the weeks ahead, activists told Reuters, describing what they said was her failure to listen to pro-Palestinian voices.

Arab Americans, Muslims and their allies, shut out of a Democratic National Convention speaking slot in Chicago, plan to show up in force during Harris' debate against Donald Trump in Philadelphia on Sept. 10 and in major cities and college campuses on the Oct. 7 anniversary of the Hamas attack.

On Thursday, they interrupted Harris' speech at a Savannah, Georgia rally.

Since replacing President Joe Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket, Harris has made it clear she will not consider cutting arms sales to Israel, one of the main asks of pro-Palestinian groups. She reiterated the position in a Thursday interview with CNN, saying "No, we have to get a (ceasefire and hostage) deal done," when asked about limiting weapons.

Harris' firmly stated position threatens to open the same cracks in the Democratic coalition that faced Biden before he ended his campaign on July 21, despite a huge surge in enthusiasm from Democrats when she took over the ticket.

"That's right. War crimes and genocide will continue," Representative Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat and the first Palestinian-American woman elected to Congress, said about Harris' CNN interview on her personal account on X.

Campaign officials say Harris and top campaign officials have met with pro-Palestinian advocates, and approved space for a panel on the issue during the DNC. Harris has hired two officials in recent weeks to reach out to the Arab American and Muslim communities, but declined to make them available for interviews.

Protests that roiled college campuses last spring are bubbling up in Michigan, Pennsylvania and other battleground states. Democratic party insiders fear Harris will lose needed votes in the Nov. 5 presidential election, which is expected to be decided by slim margins in a handful of states.

Harris has pulled ahead of Republican Donald Trump nationally in most recent polls, but trails in some polls of battleground states that will decide the 2024 winner. Until now, she has mostly avoided the same protests over Gaza that shadowed Biden events, as likely voters hoped she would craft a foreign policy more empathetic to Palestinians.

Ahmet Tekelioglu, executive director of the Council of American Islamic Relations (CAIR)-Philadelphia, said he expected thousands of protesters to show up on the day of the Harris-Trump debate.

Student protesters made a noisy return to Columbia University in recent days, the epicenter of the pro-Palestinian student movement. Elena Nissan Thomas, 19, a student at Indiana University, who drove to Chicago to take part in a DNC protest, said she was ready to continue protesting as the school year begins.

"I don't understand Vice President Harris saying she supports a ceasefire and doing nothing to do an arms embargo," she said. Political strategists estimate nearly a million Muslims cast a ballot in the 2020 presidential election, many of them concentrated in battleground states, with about 70% backing President Joe Biden.

The war began on Oct. 7 when Hamas attacked Israel, killing about 1,200, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's retaliatory strikes on Gaza, aided by U.S. support, have since killed 40,000 Palestinians, Gaza health officials say, displacing nearly its entire 2.3 million population and creating a famine crisis.

Tarjina Islam, a delegate to the DNC from Georgia, said she wants to support Harris, but is devastated by the lack of concern for Palestinians.

"Everybody is hurting. A lot of people are leaning towards the third party - Jewish Voice for Peace, students, Black Muslims, the Muslims, the Arabs. Everybody is hurting. And these are majority Democrat voters," she said. "So if Harris loses Georgia, the only reason would be that people did not go out to vote, or people voted for the third party."

## UN to Vaccinate Gaza's Children Against Polio



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The United Nations will start vaccinating some 640,000 children in the Gaza Strip against polio on Sunday, a campaign that relies on daily eight-hour pauses in fighting between Israel and Hamas militants in specific areas of the besieged enclave.

The complex campaign, which is targeting children under age 10, follows confirmation last week that a baby was paralysed by the type 2 polio virus, the first such case in the territory in 25 years.

WHO officials say at least 90% of the children need to be vaccinated twice with four weeks between doses for the campaign to succeed, but it faces huge challenges in Gaza, which has been largely destroyed by nearly 11 months of war.

"It's not ideal," Rik Peepker, the World Health Organization's senior official for the Palestinian territories, told reporters in Geneva on Friday.

"We think it is feasible if all of the pieces of the puzzle are in place," he said.

The U.N. agency said the campaign would occur in three phases - in central, southern and northern Gaza.

Fighting will pause for at least eight hours on three consecutive days in each phase. The pauses could be extended for a fourth day in each phase, which the WHO said would likely be needed. That would mean each round of vaccinations could take just under two weeks.

But it appears the pauses in fighting will not cover the entirety of each zone, according to a map - seen by Reuters on Friday - that a U.N. source said was from COGAT. The map appears to show that the pause will take place in a smaller area within each zone.

COGAT referred questions on the map to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office.

The planned pauses are not part of ceasefire negotiations that have been under way for months to try to agree a halt in the fighting in Gaza and a return of Israeli and foreign hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

"What is now most important is to ensure both the security and access needed to implement the campaign effectively. I don't need to tell you how disastrous it would be if we were unable to contain this preventable disease - a disease that knows no borders," acting U.N. aid chief Joyce Msuya said on Thursday.

Tests on wastewater collected on June 23 confirmed in mid-July that the type 2 polio virus had been detected in six samples.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the WHO and the U.N. children's agency UNICEF appealed on Aug. 16 for the warring parties to commit to humanitarian pauses to allow the vaccination campaign to take place.

## Russian Attack on Ukraine's Kharkiv Kills at Least Six



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - A Russian guided bomb attack on Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv hit a residential building and a playground, killing six people and injuring at least 55 more, local authorities said.

Ihor Terekhov, the city's mayor, said on Telegram one child was killed in the playground. Three people were killed in the 12-storey apartment block that caught fire as a result of the strike, he said.

About 20 of the injured were in severe condition, regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said.

One end of the block was engulfed in black smoke, with many of the upper floors in flames. Several cars parked outside were gutted by fire.

Emergency services and rescue volunteers rushed to carry survivors out of the building. The body of one of

the victims lay under a carpet on the ground outside, surrounded by police.

Residents of all ages, some of them covered in blood, sat stunned on benches and walls outside as medics attended to their injuries.

The authorities did not give the circumstances in which the two other people died in the strikes, which hit four areas of the city.

Kharkiv has been the focus of heavy Russian bombing throughout the war, although there had been a drop in intensity in recent weeks, possibly related to a shock incursion launched by Ukrainian forces into Russia's Kursk region.

Ukrainian authorities said that Friday's attack involved five aerial guided bombs launched from planes in Russia's Belgorod region, also known as "glide bombs" which are fitted with a navigation system taking them to their targets.

The weapons are hard to intercept and they have become a fearsome tool in the war in eastern Ukraine in recent months that can cause huge devastation.

Also on Friday, Ukrainian strikes on Russia's Belgorod killed at least five and wounded 37, the region's governor said.

"One woman and four men died of their wounds on the spot" after Ukraine hit the city of Belgorod and the surrounding area with "cluster munitions", Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said in a post on Telegram.

Russia denies deliberately targeting civilians. Thousands have been killed and wounded during the full-scale invasion Moscow launched in Ukraine in 2022.

In the wake of the Kharkiv strike, President Volodymyr Zelensky renewed a call on Western allies to allow Ukraine to use long-range Western weapons to attack

Russian military air bases.

"A strike ... would not have happened if our defence forces had the ability to destroy Russian military aircraft where they are based," Zelensky said on Telegram. "There is no rational reason to restrict Ukraine's defences."

Kyiv says that the most effective way to counter such strikes is to target Russian planes, not the bombs themselves.

Meanwhile the Kremlin said Friday it was not worried that Mongolia could arrest President Vladimir Putin during his visit there next week, despite it being a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which has issued a warrant for the Russian leader.

Putin will travel to Mongolia on Tuesday, in a first trip to an ICC member since The Hague-based court issued a warrant for his arrest over the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children in March 2023.

"There are no worries, we have a great dialogue with our friends from Mongolia," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said.

Asked if Moscow had discussed the arrest warrant with Ulaanbaatar ahead of Putin's trip, he said: "All aspects of the visit were carefully prepared."

Russia does not recognize the jurisdiction of the ICC.

Ukraine on Friday urged Mongolia to arrest Putin when he visits the country.

"The Ukrainian side hopes that the government of Mongolia is aware of the fact that Vladimir Putin is a war criminal," Kyiv's foreign ministry said.



## Tiafoe Outlasts Shelton, Gauff Keeps US Open Repeat Bid Alive

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Coco Gauff survived late-match drama to keep her US Open title defence alive with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Elina Svitolina. The 20-year-old American opened the action on Arthur Ashe Stadium, where men's defending champion Novak Djokovic aimed to further his bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title against Alexei Popyrin. Gauff's third-set surge had carried her to triple match point at 5-2, but she delivered a pair of double faults and Svitolina saved another with a blazing backhand on the way to a break. But Gauff broke Svitolina at love in the next game to lock up the win in a tense physical encounter that featured one 37-shot rally. Gauff regrouped after a rocky end to the first set saw Svitolina break at love for a 5-3 lead and pocket the opener with a love game. "I lost, like eight points in a row at the end of the first set, probably more," Gauff said. "I knew I needed a reset at that point." Gauff gained her first break of the match on her fourth opportunity for a 4-2 lead in the second and held on to force the third. She won nine games in an 11-game span. "I knew today was going to be a tough match - she's a fighter," Gauff said, saying more aggression on her forehand and fewer backhand errors helped her turn things around. She lined up a last-16 clash with fellow American Emma Navarro, who upset Gauff in the fourth round at Wimbledon. Navarro beat Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Gauff had fans in Arthur Ashe on the edge of their seats, but Frances Tiafoe and Ben Shelton brought them to their feet in a five-set, four-hour thriller that Tiafoe won 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-4, 6-3. It was a dogfight between the young American rivals. Shelton gained the upper hand with a dramatic third-

set tiebreak victory, taking a 6-0 lead only for Tiafoe to win five straight points before Shelton closed out the set with a 143 mph ace. "Highlight after highlight," said Tiafoe, who grabbed the only breaks in each of the last two sets. "I really hope you guys enjoyed the show." Tiafoe next faces either Djokovic or 28th seeded Australian Popyrin. Djokovic has won all three of their prior meetings, including at the Australian Open and Wimbledon this year, but the Serbian superstar had reason to be wary with Popyrin riding the high of the biggest title of his career at the Montreal Masters this month. Djokovic won the Olympic singles gold he coveted at the Paris Games, but that was a rare high spot in an uneven season and last year's US Open title, which saw him tie Margaret Court for most all-time Grand Slams with 24, is his most recent major triumph. Second-seeded Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka closed out the night session, taking on Russian Ekaterina Alexandrova. The two have split their six prior meetings, Sabalenka winning most recently in the fourth round at Wimbledon last year. Seventh-seeded Olympic gold medalist Zheng Qinwen of China, who rallied from a set down in each of her first two matches, dispatched Germany's Jule Niemeier 6-2, 6-1. "Finally, it's the first match I won in two sets," said Zheng, who next faces Croatian Donna Vekic in a rematch of the Paris Games gold medal match. Vekic beat American Peyton Stearns 7-5, 6-4.

## Hamilton Top of the Pile in Italian GP Second Practice



MONZA (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton topped the times for Mercedes in the second practice session for the Formula One Italian Grand Prix by the finest of margins in front of Lando Norris. Seven-time world champion Hamilton clocked a fastest lap of one minute, 20.738 seconds at Monza, just 0.003sec ahead of McLaren's Norris who is the closest challenger to Max Verstappen's current F1 supremacy. Norris trails Red Bull's championship leader by 70 points in the drivers' championship after a stunning win at last weekend's Dutch GP. That was the fifth straight race not to be won by Verstappen, who was fastest in the first practice session but was 0.872sec behind Hamilton in the second back in 14th place. Hamilton's display in a session disrupted for over 10 minutes by Kevin Magnussen crashing his Haas at the Lesmo corners is a good sign for the rest of the weekend, as he has won two of the last four GPs and is racing at the home track of his future team Ferrari. The 39-year-old will join the Scuderia next season, replacing Carlos Sainz who was third in the second session, 0.103 off the pace. Hamilton's current teammate at Mercedes George Russell finished the session 0.348sec back in sixth, a decent result after his car was badly damaged by rookie Andrea Kimi Antonelli earlier in the day. Italian Antonelli's first ever F1 drive ended quickly and in spectacular fashion early in the first practice session as he spun off the track with just four completed laps under his belt.

## Tebogo Scorches to Rome Diamond League 100m Win

ROME (AFP) - Botswana's Letsile Tebogo outstripped Christian Coleman to win the 100m in impressive style at the Diamond League meeting in Rome on Friday. Tebogo, the newly-crowned Olympic 200m champion, clocked 9.87 seconds for the victory, the 21-year-old having eased up and looked over at his rivals well before the finish line. "This was one of my best 100m races," the Botswanan said. "Today I had a great start and it made me think 'Why did I not have one like this in the Olympic final?'" Coleman, who failed to make the US team for the Paris Games, came in second in 9.92sec, with Paris bronze medallist Fred Kerley again in third (9.95). Home favourite Marcell Jacobs, who won a shock gold in the Covid-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021 and came in fifth in Paris, looked to be struggling as he finished ninth and last in 10.20sec. "Tonight I could not run faster than that," said Jacobs. "The race was not how I wanted it to be and I also did not want to risk an injury. I am not happy about this result, but it was really great to run here in Rome, in front of this wonderful home crowd." A high-quality field at the Stadio Olimpico, already host to a memorable European championships in June -- when Jacobs defended his continental 100m crown, promised a couple of world records in danger.

But it proved not to be on the night. Kenya's Faith Kipyegon, who became the first woman to win three consecutive Olympic 1,500m titles in Paris, won the event in 3min 52.89sec.



That might have been faster, and closer to her own world record, had it not been for botched pace setting. "The world record was not for today with the Olympics only two weeks ago," Kipyegon said. Bahrain's Winfred Yavi went within a whisper of setting a new world record in the women's 3000m steeplechase, running the second fastest time ever. The Kenyan-born runner clocked an electric 8:44.39, a faltering jump off the last hurdle meaning she finished just seven-hundredths of a second off Beatrice Chepkoech's record set back in 2018. "I looked at the time after the race and I went 'Oh, no!'" said Yavi, who won gold in Paris in an Olympic record. "I was really expecting that record and I was going for it. I definitely feel I should break it and I believe it will happen."

American shot put star Ryan Crouser, whose gold at the Paris Games was a record third consecutive in the discipline, won with a best of 22.49m, a meet record. But his fellow Olympic champion Roje Stona of Jamaica, whom Crouser coaches, could only come in second in the men's discus as Slovenian Kristjan Ceh claimed victory with his final throw of 68.61m.

## Inter Hammer Atalanta to Take Charge in Serie A



MILAN (Dispatches) - Inter Milan thrashed Atalanta 4-0 on Friday to move provisionally top of Serie A, while Torino snatched a late 1-0 win at Venezia to continue their positive start to the campaign. Italian champions Inter sent a message to any pretenders to their league crown with a dominating performance at a baking hot San Siro. The hosts went in front in the third minute when the unfortunate Berat Djimsiti diverted Marcus Thuram's low cross past his own goalkeeper Marco Carnesecchi before Nicolò Barella smashed home a stunning volley seven minutes later. And Simone Inzaghi's side didn't let up until France forward Thuram completed another powerful individual display with strikes in the 47th and 56th minutes. Federico Dimarco also had a close-range finish ruled out for a tight offside as Atalanta wilted in the face of Inter's attacking onslaught. "We've only played three matches, it's not a message for anyone. We played very well against a very difficult team. We're happy," said Thuram to DAZN. Friday's display will be a worry for Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini, whose team came into the season with high hopes after winning the Europa League last season, their first major trophy since 1963. Gasperini was missing a host of players and had to deal with Teun Koopmeiners -- who eventually signed for Juventus on Wednesday -- and Ademola Lookman agitate for moves away from Bergamo. "The first 10 minutes had a big impact on the morale of the team... I think our season will truly start after the international break," said Gasperini. "Our new players have all arrived in recent weeks so the team still needs to be built." Atalanta have also lost at Torino, who are level with Inter on seven points after Saul Cocco's looping header in the 86th minute secured a dramatic win on the Venice Lagoon. Juventus will retake top spot from Inter if they maintain their perfect start to the campaign by beating Roma on Sunday night.

## Chelsea to Sign Sancho, Sterling Joins Arsenal

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Chelsea reportedly agreed a deal to sign Jadon Sancho from Manchester United as Raheem Sterling is set to exit Stamford Bridge and join Arsenal on loan after a frenzied transfer deadline day for Premier League clubs. The clubs did not confirm the deals for the deadline, but Sancho is expected to join the Blues initially on loan with an obligation to make a permanent move next season for a reported £25 million (\$33 million). United have cut their losses on the 24-year-old, who has failed to live up to his price-tag ever since a £73 million move from Borussia Dortmund in 2021. Sancho has not played a league game for United since posting on social media he had been made a "scapegoat" for poor performances just under a year ago. But he shone during a loan spell back at Dortmund during the second half of last season, helping the German giants reach the Champions League final. Sancho's arrival adds to Chelsea's bloated squad, but one of those outcast by new boss Enzo Maresca has found a new home as Sterling moved across London to Arsenal. The England international previously worked with Gunners' boss Mikel Arteta during their time at Manchester City. Sterling, who cost Chelsea £50 million from City just two years ago, was just one of a number of players urged to find a new club. The 29-year-old gives Arsenal an extra attacking dimension in their bid to become champions for the first time since 2004. Chelsea's attempts to agree a deal for Napoli striker Victor Osimhen fell through.



Saudi club Al-Ahli had also been interested in the Nigerian but instead signed England international striker Ivan Toney. Brentford have reportedly received a £40 million fee for Toney. "We thank him for so many magic moments and wish him all the best for his next chapter. Ivan leaves as a Brentford legend," said Bees manager Thomas Frank. United completed a 50 million euro (£42 million) move for Uruguayan international midfielder Manuel Ugarte from Paris

Saint-Germain. "Together we will fight to win trophies and reach the level where this club needs to be," said the 23-year-old. Ugarte becomes the Red Devils' fifth major signing of the window after Leny Yoro, Matthijs de Ligt, Noussair Mazraoui and Joshua Zirkzee. But Erik ten Hag said he was sad to see Scott McTominay go after the Scottish international joined Napoli. Arsenal added goalkeeper Neto as cover for David Raya on a season-long loan from Bournemouth, after letting Aaron Ramsdale leave for Southampton in a £25 million move. Manchester City, though, refused to delve into the market on deadline day even if Pep Guardiola admitted he is taking a risk in not replacing Argentina striker Julian Alvarez, who departed for Atletico Madrid earlier this month. "Maybe it is a mistake, I don't know but I don't like leaving players without playing for a long time," said Guardiola on his preference for a smaller squad. Crystal Palace were among the busiest sides on Friday despite rebuffing interest in captain Marc Guehi from Newcastle. The Eagles signed striker Eddie Nketiah from Arsenal in a deal worth up to £30 million, French defender Maxence Lacroix from Wolfsburg and a loan deal for Chelsea's Trevoh Chalobah. Wolves bolstered their squad with the signings of Brazilian midfielder Andre from Fluminense for £21 million and England goalkeeper Sam Johnstone.