

Iran's Ambassador to Russia Says President Masoud Pezeshkian Will Attend the Upcoming Meeting of the BRICS Group of Emerging Countries, Which Is Scheduled to Be Held in the Russian City of Kazan Next Month

IRAN NEWS

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Leader: Issue of the "Islamic Ummah" Must Not Be Forgotten



TEHRAN - The Supreme Leader described protecting the valuable identity of the "Islamic Ummah" as essential and, emphasizing the importance of Islamic unity and the efforts of ill-wishers to undermine it, said: "The issue of the 'Islamic Ummah' must never be forgotten."

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei Khamenei, in a meeting this morning with a group of scholars, Friday prayer leaders, and directors of Sunni religious schools from across the country, held on the occasion of Unity Week and the birth anniversary of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), stated: "The identity of the Islamic Ummah is a fundamental issue, transcending nationality, and geographical borders do not alter the reality and identity of the Islamic Ummah."

He referred to the hostile efforts aimed at making Muslims indifferent to their Islamic identity, adding: "It goes against Islamic teachings for a Muslim to be unaware of the suffering of another Muslim in Gaza or other parts of the world."

He also urged Sunni scholars to emphasize Islamic identity and the unity of the Islamic Ummah. He highlighted the long-standing efforts by ill-wishers to fuel religious divisions within the Islamic world, especially in Iran, noting: "They use intellectual, propaganda, and economic tools to separate Shia and Sunni in our country and other Islamic regions, and by provoking individuals from both sides to insult one another, they intensify conflicts."

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the solution to counter these plots lies in unity, stressing that "unity is not just a tactic but a fundamental Quranic principle."

He called the protection of the precious identity of the "Islamic Ummah" essential and, emphasizing the importance of Islamic unity and the efforts of enemies to distort it, stated: "The issue of the 'Islamic Ummah' must never be forgotten."

He expressed regret over certain deliberate or unintentional actions aimed at undermining Shia-Sunni unity, noting: "Despite numerous conspiracies, our Sunni community has actively opposed these hostile motives, as evidenced by the 15,000 Sunni martyrs during the Sacred Defense and other periods, as well as the martyrdom of many Sunni scholars in the path of truth and the revolution."

Ayatollah Khamenei also stated that achieving the important goal of the dignity of the Islamic Ummah is only possible through unity, adding: "Today, one of the absolute duties is to support the oppressed in Gaza and Palestine, and anyone who neglects this responsibility will undoubtedly be questioned by God."

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Iran Ready to Negotiate, Will Never Bow to Bullying

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says Tehran is ready to negotiate with the West and remains committed to all international regulations, but will never bow to pressure. He made the remarks on Monday while addressing Iranian and foreign reporters during his first press conference since he took office late August.

"We are not in conflict with anyone," the Iranian president stated.

He said that his administration will negotiate with the West on contentious issues and expand relations with neighboring countries to improve the economy and achieve long-term objectives.

However, he added that the United States first needs to prove it is prepared to negotiate in good faith and is committed to its international obligations. The president noted that so far the Americans have "closed all avenues to us."

Pezeshkian emphasized that Iran is committed to the agreements it signed with the US and Europe. "We do not seek atomic weapons, but they (the West) are threatening us and say Iran should not possess any missile."

He said Iran will pursue every possible path leading to the removal of obstacles.

At the first step, the president said, Iran will create common views and language with its neighboring countries to establish a region full of peace and tranquility.

It is the foreign powers which are hindering the establishment of peace in the region by creating economic, cultural and ethnic conflicts, Pezeshkian said.

He underscored the need for Iran to remain strong, saying, "We need defense power to maintain security of our people and country."

Pezeshkian also hailed Iran's relations with China and said Tehran is determined to implement the 25-year partnership agreement with Beijing.

"We have very good relations with China and a large part of our relationship is with China, Russia and the neighboring countries."

Iran and China signed the landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in a bid to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance.

Pezeshkian said China took a "major step" in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia to resume mutual relations and creating coordination in the region.

He said Iran's cooperation with regional countries via connecting corridors can improve the access of Iran and China to the respective markets through the Silk Road.

The Iranian president described China as a "strategic" partner and vowed to further develop ties between the two countries.

The Iranian president said his attendance at the 2024 meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York will be "to defend the rights of our people because we do favor peace

and not war."

Asked about the possibility of his meeting with the US president, Pezeshkian said the United States must prove its sincerity in practice. The Iranian president said Tehran should see whether or not Washington is committed to its obligations.

"Americans must show that they are not hostile to us. We did not set up bases around their country and did not impose sanctions on them. Rather, we are brothers with the American people," Pezeshkian stated.

Pezeshkian dismissed claims that Iran has provided Yemen with hypersonic missiles or the technology to manufacture the weaponry.

"It will take one week for a person to go to Yemen. How did the missile go there [to Yemen] and no-one saw it? In Iran, we do not have the hypersonic missiles of the type used by Yemen's Ansarullah against Israel."

Pezeshkian said it has been a gradual consolidation of Yemen's resistance and the Yemenis did not get where they are now over the past months of Israel's campaign of genocide in Gaza.

"We have the missile power but we do not give missiles to Yemen. Before the war [in Gaza], Yemen had acquired the technology to manufacture missiles and was producing them."

Iran and Yemen have a common stance in rejecting the Israeli regime, he said.

The Iranian president slammed the West's inaction toward Israel's barbarism in Gaza and urged the international community not to allow one group, backed by super powers, to kill innocent people.

Asked about Iran's policy on relations with Egypt, Pezeshkian said his administration will initiate contacts with senior Egyptian officials as soon as possible.

"We will welcome relations with the friendly and brotherly country of Egypt."

Pezeshkian underscored the importance of facilitating travel for people living in Muslim countries, which, he said, will lead to common viewpoints and language and the establishment of joint markets.

Enhanced unity among Muslims will help defend their rights, the Iranian president noted.

He also reaffirmed the need to settle differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia and said he welcomes any measure which will bring the two Muslim countries closer together.

Muslims must foster unity to make the Israeli regime understand that it has no right to kill children, women and the elderly, the Iranian president said. "If we join hands, Israel will not dare to do this."

Iran Determined to Increase Interaction With Persian Gulf States



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi says the country is determined to hold constant consultation and interaction with the eight littoral states of the Persian Gulf.

Takht Ravanchi made the remarks during a meeting with heads of the representatives of the Persian Gulf littoral states in Tehran on Sunday.

He said the new administration in Iran attaches special importance to the expansion of ties with the neighbors, particularly the Persian Gulf countries and will devise plans to improve relations in all issues of common interest.

"The geographical proximity and bonds as well as the commonalities among the eight Persian Gulf countries have prepared an appropriate ground for holding dialogue and consultations among us," the Iranian diplomat added.

He stressed the importance of developing cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries on all issues of common interest.

Takht Ravanchi noted that all the eight Persian Gulf countries have a common stance on issues such as economic cooperation, transit, the environment, shipping, the fight against drug trafficking and the coast guard.

He said Iran is prepared to promote cooperation in the region through dialogue and interaction.

In a phone call with Secretary General of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Jassim Mohammed al-Budaiwi late in August, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi called for a "new phase" of mutual understanding and cooperation.

Iranian, Russian Commanders Weigh Joint Maritime Patrols, Maneuvers



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Senior military officials from Iran and Russia have discussed the promotion of naval cooperation through joint maritime patrols in the Caspian Sea and in Iran's southern waters, as well as holding joint naval maneuvers.

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the deputy chief of the Iranian Army for Coordination, and Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin met on Sunday on the sidelines of the 11th Beijing Xiangshan Forum in China, a high-level security and defense gathering.

During the meeting, Sayyari and Fomin exchanged views about ways to protect the strategic interests of the two countries by using the capacities of the North-South Corridor.

They also stressed the importance of improving educational interactions such as the exchange of university students and professors.

Sayyari described the Caspian Sea as the sea of peace and friendship and urged its littoral states to join hands to ensure collective security without the presence of foreign powers.

The Beijing Xiangshan Forum was held at the Beijing International Convention Center from September 12 to 14. Over 500 representatives from official delegations of more than 100 countries and international organizations in addition to over 200 experts and scholars participated in China's top security and defense forum.

The meeting was held under the theme "Promoting Peace for a Shared Future."

Addressing the event on Friday, Sayyari said the Iranian Armed Forces are the world's "greatest and most potent" counter-terrorism organization.

Sayyari embarked on his journey to Beijing on Wednesday evening, leading a delegation in response to an invitation from senior Chinese officials.

Prior to his departure, the high-ranking Iranian military official stated that the conference in Beijing aims to discuss strategies to counter the influence of global dominance, emphasizing that a multipolar system will serve as the foundation for future international cooperation.

He indicated that Iran's official position at the conference will focus on the advancement of global peace and security, underscoring the significance of navigation security in the northern Indian Ocean, as well as the Strait of Hormuz and Bab al-Mandab, with an emphasis on collaboration among neighboring nations.

Indigenous Systems Superior Factor in Iran's Air Defense Power



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard (center) visits the southeastern air defense region of Iran's Army Force on Sunday.

A senior Iranian commander says the use of indigenous systems, which were created amid decades-long sanctions by the West, is the superior factor in the country's air defense power.

Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahi-Fard asserted that the country's air defense force has become self-sufficient in the field of producing the detection, surveillance and signaling systems as well as training manpower.

"The busy skies of the Persian Gulf are under continuous monitoring by [Iran's] air defense," Sabahi-Fard said on Sunday.

He highlighted the preparedness of Iran's southeast air defense zone given the high number of flights over the Persian Gulf, saying, "Today, with God's help, this zone enjoys a watchful and agile unit."

"The enemy is aware of the preparedness of the Islamic Iran's personnel and defense systems and knows that any mistake will be met with a resolute response," the commander warned.

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

Iran Will Not Wait for America to Negotiate

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says Tehran will start contacts with the Europeans and will not wait for the United States to start negotiations.

"We will not agree to any agreement until our interests are secured," Araqchi said in an interview on Sunday.

He said, "It doesn't matter who the other party is we will negotiate in which our interests are secured."

"Of course, it has its own conditions with the Americans. There were contacts in the previous government and we will continue in this government if necessary," he said.

"It is a fact that the Americans are not ready to negotiate now," he said.

"There is not much time left until their [presidential] elections. No country is ready for serious negotiations at the time of elections and this is completely normal," Araqchi added.

"If necessary, we will start contacts with the Europeans and we will not wait for America," he stated.

The top Iranian diplomat said Europeans should understand Iran's concern. "If they have concerns, we also have concerns."

He went on to say that Iran has "a problem with Europe in the field of economic sanctions. The way is not to use failed tools."

Araqchi said Europeans previously imposed all kinds of sanctions against Iran over its peaceful nuclear program, but they had to come to the negotiating table.

"It is clear that the embargo has failed," he said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Araqchi said that Europeans are worried that Iran is exporting sophisticated weapons to Russia to be used in the Ukraine war.

"If Europe is really concerned, the way is dignified talks," he explained.

Europeans should not expect that their concerns will be solved by only one side. Iran is

ready to talk with them, the foreign minister said.

Araqchi expressed his surprise that Europe is still hopeful about the failed policy of imposing sanctions on others and is acting based on such a defeated experience.

The Iranian foreign minister's comments came after the foreign ministers of the United Kingdom, France and Germany - known as the E3 - denounced what they alleged to be "Iran's export and Russia's procurement of Iranian ballistic missiles."

They also moved to "cancel bilateral air services agreements with Iran" and announced that they would work towards imposing sanctions against Iran Air, the country's national airliner, under the pretext of allegedly interfering in the conflict in Ukraine.

Araqchi said that "a proper foundation must be created for restarting the negotiations and then we enter into negotiations that proceed based on the same formula used in the JCPOA, which was confidence building instead of lifting sanctions."

"The JCPOA was based on the logic that Iran would build confidence in its peaceful nuclear program and the other side would lift sanctions. We can return to this formula," he stated.

"In my opinion, the JCPOA is still a suitable framework that will lead us to a new agreement," he said.

"Of course, all of this depends on us reaching a point of mutual understanding with the Europeans and the rest of the JCPOA members so that we can enter into renewed negotiations from an equal position," he added.

"It's not like we need to remove the sanctions in such a way that we violate our larger interests or our own dignity. No, we are ready to enter into respectful discussions," Araqchi said.

"Our look at the past is to learn from the past, but we don't stop at the past. We'll look to the future," he stated.

IRAN NEWS



Bagheri Kani Appointed as Secretary of Iran's Council on Foreign Relations

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Former Iranian acting foreign minister Ali Bagheri Kani has been appointed as secretary of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations. The appointment was made on Saturday upon a decree by Kamal Kharrazi, the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations.

Bagheri Kani succeeded Abbas Araqchi, the current Iranian Foreign Minister. During a ceremony, Araqchi for his great efforts during his tenure.

In a decree on August 31, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei appointed Bagheri Kani as a member of the council. Meanwhile, Araqchi also on Monday appointed the former acting foreign minister as his advisor.

Bagheri Kani became Iran's interim foreign minister after his predecessor Hossein Amir-Abdollahian died in a tragic helicopter crash along with President Ebrahim Raisi and six others on May 19.

Iran Trade With Tajikistan Hits \$270m



MASHHAD (IRNA) - Tajikistan's Ambassador to Iran Nizamuddin Zahedi says the trade exchanges between Tehran and Dushanbe have reached \$270 million.

The envoy of Tajikistan made the remarks in a meeting with Yaghub Ali Nazari, the Governor General of the northeastern province of Razavi Khorasan.

The value of trade between Iran and Tajikistan has increased from \$57 million five years ago to \$270 million last year (until late-March 2024), he said.

In the past few years, the volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan has increased significantly, he said.

For his part, Nazari said that cultural commonalities between the two countries should be considered to expand trade exchanges.

He went on to say that trade exchanges between the two countries are on an upward trajectory.

Khorasan Razavi province enjoys requirements to host exhibitions, he stated.

Tehran-Baghdad Trade Capacity of \$40b

TEHRAN - Yahya Al-Eshaq, head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with an ILNA reporter, spoke about the significance of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce's president accompanying the President of Iran on his trip to Iraq. He explained that this reflects the importance of the economic dimensions of the visit and the significance of economic relations between Iran and Iraq. The relationship between Iran and Iraq in all economic, political, social, and cultural fields is considered strategic, with a long historical background.

He added that around 3 million Iranians and Iraqis travel between the two countries annually for health and religious tourism. The official value of trade between Iran and Iraq is announced at \$10 billion, and if informal trade at border markets is also considered, this figure exceeds \$13 billion. Since Iraq has limited export capacity, over 95% of the trade value between the two countries consists of Iranian exports to Iraq, which presents a trade imbalance that needs to be addressed.

Al-Eshaq continued by saying that joint investments between the two countries could play a significant role in addressing this imbalance. Iranian companies can produce goods in Iraq and export them to various parts of the world. Iraqi investors can also engage in joint production with Iranians in various sectors, from food products to steel and building materials. There are available capacities in Iran for such cooperation, and Iranian economic actors welcome this joint investment.

The head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce emphasized that both governments, under the 13th and 14th administrations, have aimed to increase the trade value between the two countries to \$20 billion over the next three years. Both sides agree on the necessity of achieving this trade level and are actively

working to overcome obstacles. Additionally, in the long term, the trade value could increase to \$40 billion.

He pointed out that Iraq's parliament has approved \$150 billion in annual economic investments, with 70% dedicated to exports, and Iran has significant advantages in accessing the Iraqi market. However, competitors from China, Turkey, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are also trying to seize the opportunities in this market.

Al-Eshaq highlighted that this market will remain viable for the next 15 years. Iraq, with its 45 million population, has double the oil income of Iran. Besides its oil reserves, Iraq's geographical location and connectivity give it special importance. Hence, Iraq has both considerable financial resources and many needs, which present an opportunity for Iran. However, to take advantage of this opportunity, issues related to currency transfers, bank guarantees, and transportation need to be resolved.

He also mentioned that Iranian companies providing technical and engineering services and contractors need the necessary banking, legal, and political support to participate in Iraqi projects, especially considering the approval of the \$150 billion budget. Additionally, since both Iran and Iraq share borders with various countries, they can cooperate extensively in land and air transit.

In conclusion, Al-Eshaq expressed satisfaction with the signing of 14 agreements during the President's visit to Iraq. He said that while the challenges and opportunities of trade with Iraq are clear, both countries need to take actions to resolve the issues and seize the opportunities, which will require strong diplomacy. Without political and security agreements in place, economic matters cannot progress.

Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce, Omani Province Sign Cooperation Agreement.

TEHRAN - The President of the Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture stated that during a visit to Khuzestan Province, the Omani economic delegation emphasized increasing cooperation between the private sectors of both countries through several signed cooperation agreements aimed at expanding trade exchanges.

At the 85th meeting of the Khuzestan Province Government-Private Sector Dialogue Council, which was attended by the Omani

trade delegation, Mohammad Javad Amani added that the Omani delegation visited the special economic zone at Imam Khomeini Port. During the visit, they focused on port capacities related to goods supply, transit, potential for re-export of goods, and opportunities for joint investment in this region.

Amani noted that the Omani economic delegation comprised two deputy ministers, the president and vice president of the Chamber of Commerce of Oman's Northeastern Province, and a group of businessmen and investors who had been invited by the Ahvaz Chamber to explore the economic potential of Khuzestan.

The Governor of Khuzestan, also present at the meeting, emphasized the need to establish a joint chamber of commerce and cooperation between Oman's Northeastern Province and Khuzestan. He highlighted that this Omani province could become a hub for exporting Khuzestan's products to other regions of Oman.

Ali Akbar Hosseini Mehrab added that Oman has close cultural, ideological, and political ties with Iran, a relationship that can be leveraged to strengthen trade between Khuzestan and Oman. He also mentioned that Khuzestan has significant capabilities that could contribute to Oman's growth and progress. The province's knowledge-based companies are at the highest scientific levels in Iran, and Oman could benefit from these resources.

He mentioned that last year, more than \$6 billion worth of goods were exported from Khuzestan to various countries and that Omani investors would generate good income by investing in any sector of the province.

The Governor emphasized that Khuzestan's governorate is



committed to facilitating interactions between Oman's private sector and Khuzestan and supports these efforts.

In the Arvand Free Zone of Khuzestan, all barriers and regulations hindering investment have been removed, and Omani traders are fully free to organize joint conferences and exhibitions in this region.

He added that the political and security agreements between Iran and Oman are such that trade relations between Khuzestan and Oman can easily proceed.

Hosseini Mehrab also pointed out that Iran and Oman collaborate extensively on many issues, including political ones, which has laid the groundwork for economic exchanges between Oman and Khuzestan.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Oman's Northeastern Province expressed hope that the doors to investment in Khuzestan would open to Omani businessmen.

Mohammad bin Nasser Al-Maskari mentioned that during their recent visit to Khuzestan, several cooperation agreements were signed between the two regions, and their positive outcomes will be seen in the future.

He remarked that during their visits to Ahvaz and Khorramshahr, they found them to be beautiful cities with high economic and tourism potential.

Despite the extremely high temperatures in Ahvaz, the warm hospitality of its residents made them forget the heat.

The president of the Northeastern Province Chamber of Commerce emphasized the importance of supporting the private sector, as it drives economic growth. He added that Khuzestan has abundant industrial and tourism facilities, which need to be introduced to investors.

Al-Maskari noted that the private sector always requires the support and backing of government agencies, and this cooperation will lead to economic development.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

20,000 Tons of Chicken Exported Monthly



TEHRAN (ILNA) - Akbar Fathi, acting Deputy Minister for Planning and Economic Affairs at the Ministry of Agriculture, in an interview denied the halt in chicken exports. He explained further: During the recent holidays, due to increased domestic demand for chicken, the freezing of fresh chicken was limited to manage the domestic market.

He added that the northern provinces, which supply the Tehran market, hosted a large number of travelers during the mentioned holidays, and demand for chicken in these provinces had increased during that period. These provinces could only meet their own internal demand for a few days, so meeting domestic needs temporarily became a priority.

The Secretary of the National Food Security Coordination Committee emphasized that the relevant unions and producers are aware of these matters and know that exports are currently ongoing. The temporary halt occurred not in exports but in the freezing of fresh chicken. Now, both the freezing of fresh chicken and chicken meat exports are continuing, with an average of 20,000 tons of chicken being exported each month.

Migration of Seafarers Is Not a Crisis



TEHRAN - Ali Akbar Marzban says that Pouria Koulivand has been appointed as the permanent representative of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for a term of four years.

He mentioned, "Unfortunately, the issuance of the visa for Iran's representative to the IMO took about eight months. However, through the efforts of the PMO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Iranian Embassy in the UK, the visa is finally issued, and Iran's representative will be stationed at this international organization."

He continued, "The previous representative, the late Mandana Mansourian, was an active delegate in the IMO. After her passing, we immediately prioritized sending a new representative. If the British government had cooperated earlier, Iran's representative would have been stationed at the IMO before the new year. Although sending delegates has become somewhat challenging, it is crucial for the PMO, as the presence of an Iranian representative in the IMO can strengthen our country's position."

The PMO board member added, "It's important to mention that during the COVID-19 pandemic, online participation in IMO meetings was enabled and has continued. Over the past eight months, we attended virtual meetings and voiced our opinions. Whenever necessary, we have expressed our positions online."

Regarding the migration of seafarers and the workforce in the maritime industry, Marzban stated, "Fortunately, we are not facing a migration crisis among seafarers. Companies like the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), and other shipping firms offer good salaries and benefits to seafarers. Currently, ship officers and captains in Iran receive both rial and significant foreign currency-based monthly salaries. Additionally, seafarers' families are well taken care of in terms of welfare."

The Deputy of Maritime Affairs at the PMO added, "Moreover, Iranian seafarers take pride in working on ships flying their national flag and show a special dedication to working for their country."

He explained that most of the seafarers expressing dissatisfaction are those working on vessels under 500 tons, mainly wooden and traditional ships. "The wages for these seafarers might not meet their expectations. The Seafarers' Union is working to address these issues, and we are also trying, through various means, to persuade shipowners to offer fair wages to these seafarers."

Increasing Trade Interaction Between Iranian Cooperatives and Russian Trade Delegation



TEHRAN - The enhancement of trade interactions between Iranian cooperatives and a Russian trade delegation led by Leonid Loshchko, chairman of the Iran-Russia Business Council, was discussed in a meeting attended by the Deputy of International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives.

The meeting, held on Sunday, introduced the capabilities of Iran's cooperative sector in various economic areas. The key challenges in trade interactions were also discussed, and solutions to overcome these obstacles were shared.

During the meeting, which included economic participants from Iran's poultry and egg production sector, the capacities in areas such as poultry farming, animal feed, wheat, and more were explained, and proposals for expanding cooperation were presented.

Alireza Banaei Far, the Deputy of International Affairs of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, said that strategies to increase trade volume between Iran and Russia through developing trade interactions among economic actors in the cooperative sector are being explored. He emphasized that facilitating conditions for economic actors could lead to a significant increase in the trade exchanges between the two countries.

He also pointed out that the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives' trade center in Russia has great potential to help members and economic actors successfully enter the Russian markets.

Leonid Loshchko, chairman of the Iran-Russia Business Council, emphasized their pursuit of developing trade relations between Iran and Russia. He explained the council's capabilities and announced that it has representatives in 89 regions of Russia.

He stated that the direct trade volume between the two countries currently stands at \$5 billion, with additional indirect trade occurring through third countries. Based on recent evaluations, Iran-Russia trade could reach \$15 billion.

Loshchko added that in recent years, trade interactions between the two countries have increased, with 2,500 agreements and contracts signed, involving both state-owned and private companies.

Eight Die in Channel Crossing Attempt

PARIS (Dispatches) - Eight people have died trying to cross the Channel from France to England, French authorities said on Sunday, confirming earlier media reports. This latest incident follows the deaths of 12 people earlier this month when their boat capsized in the Channel on its way to Britain and highlights the pressure on the British and French governments to find ways to tackle the boat crossings.

Jacques Billant, the Prefect of the Pas-de-Calais region, said that rescue crews were alerted that a boat with 59 people onboard was in difficulty in waters off the coast of Ambleteuse in the Pas-de-Calais area.

"A new drama took place around one in the morning and we deplore the death of eight people," he told a news conference, adding that the other 51 onboard were now in the care of rescue and medical crews.

The dead were men from Eritrea, Sudan, Syria, Egypt, Iran and Afghanistan, he added.



IRAN NEWS

Ukraine Suffering High Losses Due to Slow Arms Supplies



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian troops are suffering high losses because Western arms are arriving too slowly to equip the armed forces properly, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told CNN in an interview aired on Sunday.

Russia has been gaining ground in parts of eastern Ukraine including around Pokrovsk. Capture of the transport hub could enable Moscow to open new lines of attack.

Zelenskyy said the situation in the east was "very tough", adding that half of Ukraine's brigades there were not equipped.

"So you lose a lot of people. You lose people because they are not in armed vehicles ... they don't have artillery, they don't have artillery rounds," said Zelenskyy, speaking in English. CNN said the interview had been conducted on Friday.

Zelenskyy said weapons aid packages promised by the United States and European nations were arriving very slowly.

"We need 14 brigades to be ready. Until now ... from these packages we didn't equip even four," he said.

White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Saturday said Washington was working on a "substantial" new aid package for Ukraine.

Zelenskyy is due to meet with U.S. President Joe Biden this month and will present a plan for ending the war. The main elements are security and diplomatic support, as well as military and economic aid, he said.

Philippine Ship in Standoff With China Leaves Flashpoint Reef

MANILA (Dispatches) - A Philippine vessel that spent months anchored at a disputed reef in the South China Sea has left the area, the national maritime council said Sunday.

The Philippine Coast Guard ship BRP Teresa Magbanua had been anchored inside the Sabina Shoal since April to assert Manila's claims to the area and prevent China from seizing it.

Beijing has continued to press its claims to almost the entire South China Sea despite an international tribunal ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Philippine and Chinese vessels have collided at least three times recently near Sabina Shoal, located 140 kilometres (86 miles) from the Philippines' western island of Palawan and 1,200 kilometres from China's nearest major landmass, Hainan island.

The Teresa Magbanua's bridge wing and freeboard were damaged in one of the collisions.

"During her deployment... she challenged an encirclement by a larger flotilla of intruders, battled inclement weather, with her crew surviving on diminished daily provisions," National Maritime Council Chairperson Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin said in a statement Sunday.

Last month Chinese vessels blocked a resupply mission to the Filipino sailors on board the ship, leaving them running critically low of food and other provisions.

The Teresa Magbanua "carried out her sentinel duties against overwhelming odds", Bersamin added.

China's coast guard noted the ship's withdrawal on Sunday, and said Beijing "has indisputable sovereignty over... Xianbin Jiao and its adjacent waters", using the Chinese name for Sabina Shoal.

Trump Safe After New Assassination Attempt, Suspect Arrested



WEST PALM BEACH (Dispatches) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was safe on Sunday after the Secret Service foiled what the FBI called an apparent assassination attempt while he was golfing on his course in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Secret Service agents spotted and fired on a gunman in bushes near the property line of the golf course, a few hundred yards from where Trump was playing, law enforcement officials said.

The suspect left an AK-47-style assault rifle and other items at the scene and fled in a vehicle but was later arrested.

The apparent attempt on Trump's life came just two months after he was shot at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, sustaining a minor injury to his right ear.

Both incidents highlight the challenges of keeping presidential candidates safe in a hotly contested and polarized campaign with just over seven weeks to go before the Nov. 5 election.

It was not clear if or how the suspect knew Trump was playing golf at the time, but the attempted attack was sure to raise new questions about the level of protection he is given.

CNN, Fox News and The New York Times identified the suspect as Ryan Wesley Routh, 58, of Hawaii, citing unnamed law enforcement officials. The FBI declined to comment and Reuters could not independently verify his identity.

Reuters found profiles on X, Facebook, and LinkedIn for a Ryan Routh who appeared to be the man identified as the suspect by those news organizations.

Reuters was not able to confirm these were the suspect's accounts and law enforcement agencies declined to comment, but public access to the Facebook and X profiles was removed hours after the shooting.

The three accounts bearing Routh's name suggest he was an avid supporter of Ukraine in its war against Russia. In several of the posts, he appeared to be trying to help recruit soldiers for Ukraine's war effort.

Palm Beach County Sheriff Ric Bradshaw said Secret Service agents saw a rifle barrel poking out from bushes about 400 to 500 yards (365 to 460 meters) away from Trump as they cleared holes of potential threats ahead of his play.

The agents engaged the gunman, firing at least four rounds of ammunition around 1:30 p.m. (1730 GMT). The gunman then dropped his rifle, and left behind two backpacks and other items, and fled in a black Nissan car. The sheriff said a witness saw the gunman and managed to take photos of his car and license plate before he escaped.

"The Secret Service did exactly what should have been done," Bradshaw said, declining to identify the suspect or provide a possible motive.

After the suspect fled the scene, police sent out an alert to statewide agencies with the information on his vehicle, which led to sheriff's deputies in neighboring Martin County apprehending the suspect on I-95 about 40 miles (65km) from the golf course.

Fox News presenter Sean Hannity said he'd spoken to both Trump and Steve Witkoff, a New York real estate investor and longtime Trump friend who was on the golf course with him on Sunday.

"They were on the fifth hole. And the way Steve described this, the way the president described it, they both had exactly the same story, which is that they heard pop pop, pop pop," said Hannity. The Secret Service "pounced on the president, covered him", he added.

Republican U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, in an interview with the New York Times, said he had spoken with Trump and the former president expressed gratitude for his Secret Service detail, adding that the president said, "These people are awesome."

In response to a reporter's question, officials acknowledged that because Trump is not in office, the full golf course was not cordoned off.

"If he was, we would have had the entire golf course surrounded," Bradshaw said during Sunday's briefing. "Because he's not, security is limited to the areas that the Secret Service deems possible."

A map showing the location of Trump's golf club and the location where police apprehended the suspect about 40 miles away.

Trump sent an email to supporters saying there were "gunshots in my vicinity, but before rumors start spiraling out of control, I wanted you to hear this first: I AM SAFE AND WELL!" according to an email seen by Reuters.

The White House said in a statement that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris had been briefed about the incident and were relieved to know that he was safe.

Biden later said he had directed his team to ensure the Secret Service has the resources it needs to ensure Trump's safety, according to a statement released by the White House.

2 People Die in Odesa After Moscow, Kyiv Exchange Drone and Missile Attacks

KYIV (Dispatches) - Two people died in a missile attack on the Ukrainian Black Sea port city of Odesa, local officials said, as Moscow and Kyiv exchanged drone and missile attacks.

The Ukrainian air force said Sunday it shot down 10 of the 14 drones and one of the three missiles Russia launched overnight.

Oleh Kiper, Odesa's regional governor, said the two who died in the suburbs of Odesa on Saturday night were a married couple, and that another person was wounded in the attack.

At least 41 people were wounded Sunday afternoon when a Russian aerial bomb struck a multistory residential building in Kharkiv, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said, adding that the guided bomb hit the 10th floor of the building, with the fire spreading across four stories. Twelve other buildings were also damaged, he said.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry said that it downed 29 Ukrainian drones overnight into Sunday over western and southwestern regions, with no damage caused by the falling debris. It also said another Ukrainian drone was shot down Sunday morning over the western Ryazan region.

While Ukraine and Russia regularly launch overnight drone raids on each other's territory, Ukrainian officials generally don't confirm or



deny attacks within Russia's borders.

The latest attacks came after Ukraine made a new call Saturday on the West to allow it to use the long-range missiles they have provided to strike targets deep inside Russia, as Ukrainian forces struggle to hold back Russian advances in eastern Ukraine.

So far, the U.S. has allowed Kyiv to use American-provided weapons only in a limited area inside Russia's border with Ukraine.

Kyiv officials argue the weapons are vital to weaken Russia's ability to strike Ukraine and force it to move its strike capabilities further from the border.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took to social media on Sunday to again appeal for a shift in the West's policy on the use of long-range weapons, noting that Russia had launched "around 30 missiles of various types, more than 800 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 300 strike drones against Ukraine" this week.

"Ukraine needs strong support from our partners to defend lives against Russian terror — air defense, long-range capabilities, support for our warriors. Everything that will help force Russia to end this war," Zelenskyy posted on X.

Starmer Pledges Migration Cooperation With Meloni Ahead of Italy Talks



LONDON (Dispatches) - British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has promised "a new era" in cross-border cooperation to tackle people smuggling gangs ahead of talk with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, part of his push to reset Britain's relations with Europe.

Starmer has put renewing ties with European leaders at the top of his diplomatic agenda since winning an election in July, and Monday's visit to Rome follows trips to Berlin, Paris and Dublin in recent weeks.

Heading to Rome to meet Meloni, who had close ties with Starmer's predecessor Rishi Sunak, Starmer will stress his commitment to tackling illegal migration and the need to work with European partners to smash the business model of the illegal networks that fuel it.

Starmer has scrapped the previous government's contentious plan to deport asylum seekers who arrive in small boats to Rwanda, but has not ruled out arrangements that would see asylum claims processed offshore, similar to an agreement Italy has struck with Albania.

Ahead of the talks with Meloni, Starmer said Martin Hewitt, a former chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, would run a new Border Security Command

which would be empowered to lead joint investigations with other countries.

"No more gimmicks. This government will tackle the smuggling gangs who trade the lives of men, women and children across borders," Starmer said, promising "a new era of international enforcement to dismantle these networks, protect our shores and bring order to the asylum system".

Earlier on Sunday, French authorities said eight people had died trying to cross the Channel after their boat got into difficulty, bringing the death toll in attempted crossings to 46 since the start of the year.

Starmer's Labour government has said it will step up deportation flights and use money saved from the Rwanda scheme to help law enforcement to tackle the crossings.

During his visit to Italy, Starmer will visit the National Coordination Centre for Migration to discuss Italy's approach to the issue, which has seen a 60% drop in irregular arrivals by sea, his office said.

He will also raise defence matters in the talks with Meloni, which could touch on Britain's involvement in the GCAP fighter jet project with Italy and Japan.

In July, Starmer emphasised the programme's importance, dampening some speculation it could be axed in a defence review, but he stopped short of guaranteeing continued British involvement.



Piastri Wins in Baku as McLaren Take Over at the Top

BAKU (Dispatches) - Oscar Piastri won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix as McLaren went top of the constructors' standings in a race that finished with a virtual safety car after a penultimate lap collision between Ferrari's Carlos Sainz and Red Bull's Sergio Perez.

Ferrari's pole-sitter Charles Leclerc, who was overtaken by Piastri on the 20th of 51 laps and then battled nose-to-tail before his tyres faded, came second with George Russell inheriting third for Mercedes after the Sainz-Perez collision.

Red Bull's Formula One leader Max Verstappen finished fifth, just behind his closest title rival Lando Norris, who started 15th for McLaren and ended up fourth with a bonus point for fastest lap.

"That was probably the most stressful afternoon in my life," said Piastri, after soaking up relentless pressure from Leclerc to take his second career win.

"It definitely goes down as one of the better races of my career."

Triple champion Verstappen's lead over Norris, who went long on his first stint with hard tyres and then reeled in a 15 second gap to pass the Dutch driver on lap 49 thanks to his fresher mediums, was cut from 62 points to 59.

McLaren are now 20 points clear of Red Bull in the standings with seven grands prix and three sprint races remaining.

Leclerc led away from the start, and was six seconds clear before the first pitstops, but his fourth successive pole in Baku was destined to end in defeat like the previous three.

Piastri was first of the two to change tyres, on lap 16 with Norris crucially preventing Perez from getting an advantage from an earlier stop, and Leclerc followed him down the pit lane a lap later.

The Australian then made a great passing move on Leclerc at turn one but the battle was just heating up. The top two duelled for lap after lap, with the Ferrari driver trying in vain to use the DRS drag reduction to get past Piastri who had the benefit of clean air as he defended tenaciously but fairly.

Time and again Leclerc tried but just fell short on a circuit with long and fast straights along the shores of the Caspian Sea but tight and twisty turns through the old town.

"I couldn't get as close as I wanted and eventually we lost the race when I didn't defend as well as I could have at the end of the straight," said Leclerc. "Sometimes you make mistakes and I'll learn from it."

Piastri eventually pulled clear to win by 10.910 seconds while Leclerc fell into the clutches of Perez and Sainz, with a dramatic sting in the tail.

Perez tried and failed to pass Leclerc on the penultimate lap, opening the door for Sainz to breeze past the Mexican and into third at turn one. As the Red Bull driver tried to get the place back at turn two, the cars collided and went into the wall in a shunt that effectively ended the race with the virtual safety car deployed to the finish. "What happened there?," exclaimed Sainz, with Perez asking the same thing in more colourful language. Both were summoned to the stewards, who decided to take no further action.

Fernando Alonso was sixth for Aston Martin with Williams benefiting from the late crash to see Alex Albon finish seventh with Argentine rookie Franco Colapinto following him home in eighth.

The points windfall catapulted Williams above Renault-owned Alpine and into eighth place overall.

Seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton was ninth for Mercedes, after starting in the pit lane due to a power unit change, and British rookie Oliver Bearman collected the final point for Haas as a stand-in for suspended Kevin Magnussen.

Yamal Brace as Barca Perfect March on



GIRONA (Dispatches) - Teenage star Lamine Yamal struck twice as La Liga leaders Barcelona thrashed Girona 4-1 on Sunday.

Elsewhere Atletico Madrid eased to a 3-0 victory over Valencia to pull level with second-place Real Madrid.

Hansi Flick's Barca have now won all five of their opening matches and avenged two humiliating Catalan derby defeats by Girona last season with an emphatic victory at Montilivi.

Yamal's first-half double sent Barcelona on their way with Dani Olmo and Pedri Gonzalez adding further goals after the break.

Cristhian Stuani pulled one back for the hosts, last season's surprise package who finished third in only their fourth season in the top flight.

Girona lost several key players in the summer with coach Michel Sanchez forced to rebuild.

Barcelona have new momentum under former Bayern Munich and Germany coach Flick and produced their best performance of his reign to date.

"I think you can see the confidence we have, and when we have the ball, we have the quality to play and to create chances," Flick told reporters.

"I think today we had a lot of chances to score one or two goals more, but in the end I'm very happy with the performance of the team."

Yamal, 17, and striker Robert Lewandowski came close in the opening exchanges before the teenage star, who led Spain to Euro 2024 victory in the summer, broke the deadlock.

The winger picked the pocket of David Lopez as he tried to bring the ball out of defence, before finishing with aplomb past Paulo Gazzaniga after 30 minutes.

"We started very concentrated, very focussed, we pressed them -- we know when we give them the space they need for combinations we get in trouble," said Flick.

Saints Crush Cowboys in Another Big Early-Season NFL Win

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara scored four touchdowns and the Saints ran roughshod over the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday as Tampa Bay and Seattle won tight contests to remain unbeaten in the young NFL season.

Kamara's three rushing touchdowns included a five-yarder on the Saints' opening drive in Dallas, where New Orleans roared to a 44-19 victory and ended the Cowboy's 16-game regular-season home winning streak.

After their rout of Carolina in week one the Saints have opened the season with back-to-back 40-point games for just the second time in franchise history. The other was in 2009 when they would go on to win the Super Bowl.

The Saints scored on their first six possessions against the shell-shocked Cowboys. Kamara added TDs on runs of 12 and seven yards and added another on a 57-yard catch and run.

A Cowboys defense that dominated in week one was helpless against the Saints.

Rashid Shaheed had four catches, including a 70-yard TD reception, as Saints quarterback Derek Carr threw for two touchdowns and a grabbed another on a quarterback sneak.

"When you're able to go out there and execute, limit the self-inflicted wounds, have explosive plays, man, it's like the sky's the limit," Kamara said.

"So it feels good right now. The receivers did their thing. The O-line did what they were supposed to do. It



was easy for me," he added. "I didn't even have to run, really."

Tampa Bay quarterback Baker Mayfield threw for 185 yards and a touchdown and ran for another TD and the Bucs defense came up big in a 20-16 victory over the Lions in Detroit.

The Lions were in the red zone seven times but had just one touchdown -- on David Montgomery's one-yard run late in the third quarter.

They were in scoring range on their final three drives but came up empty and the Bucs improved to 2-0.

The Seattle Seahawks denied the New England Patriots a second straight upset victory, Jason Myers booting his third field goal of the day in overtime to seal a 23-20 victory.

DK Metcalf caught 10 passes, including a 56-yard touchdown for the Seahawks.

Seattle quarterback Geno Smith connected on 33 of 44 passes for 327 yards, piloting a game-tying drive at the end of regulation.

In other early games, the Minnesota Vikings led wire-to-wire in a 23-17 victory over the San Francisco 49ers.

Justin Jefferson starred for Minnesota, reeling in a 97-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter before departing late in the third with a quadriceps contusion.

The New York Jets, with two touchdown passes from veteran quarterback Aaron Rodgers, bounced back from a week one defeat with a 24-17 victory over the Tennessee Titans in Nashville.

In-Form Napoli Top Serie A After Inter Stumble at Monza



MILAN (Dispatches) - Napoli are top of Serie A after thrashing Cagliari 4-0 on Sunday in a match which was stopped in the first half due to fan disorder, as Inter Milan were held to a 1-1 draw at Monza ahead of their Champions League opener at Manchester City.

Goals from Giovanni Di Lorenzo, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Romelu Lukaku and Alessandro Buongiorno gave Napoli their third straight win and a one-point lead over Inter, Torino and Juventus, who they face in Turin next weekend.

Sunday's display was another step in the right direction for new coach Antonio Conte, who is already having to field questions about whether his team will challenge for the league title.

"Teams are still settling in as the transfer window closed late and we are all trying to find our shape," said Conte to DAZN.

"We've worked hard over the last two and a half months, we've got to keep pushing forward without thinking about anyone else."

Napoli's win was marred by ugly scenes midway through the opening period when the away fans unveiled a banner which mimicked sheep bleating and sparked the throwing of objects between the two sets of supporters.

That banner came after Napoli's fans were pictured with another one on their ferry trip to largely rural Sardinia which read "sheep hunting".

The match was stopped for seven minutes as both home and away ends supporters threw projectiles and flares.

Antonio Conte's side were already leading at that point through Di Lorenzo's wildly deflected 18th-minute opener, and Kvaratskhelia and Lukaku showed signs of a burgeoning partnership by setting each other up for the goals which sealed the three points by the 70th minute.

Buongiorno nodded home the fourth in stoppage time to make it a perfect night for Napoli and set up a mouth-watering clash with Juve.

Inter gave up their league lead as Denzel Dumfries saved a point for the champions with three minutes remaining after Dany Mota's brilliant 81st minute header threatened to give Monza their first win under new coach Alessandro Nesta.

Canada Beat Britain to Reach Davis Cup Quarters

LONDON (Dispatches) - Canada powered into the quarter-finals of the Davis Cup for the third straight year with a victory over Britain, while the Netherlands advanced despite a narrow defeat by defending champions Italy.

Needing only one match win in Manchester to eliminate the hosts and top Group D, Canada got the job done in double quick time as Denis Shapovalov dismissed Dan Evans 6-0 7-5 before celebrating by eating ice cream on court.

"It definitely wasn't easy to play against so many Britons," said Shapovalov, who kept his cool in front of a partisan crowd of around 15,000 fans.

"I've experienced it in the past as well... I just tried to stay focused, tried to stay in my bubble and tried to stay ahead as much as I could because I could feel Dan getting pumped up and the crowd getting pumped up.

"It was definitely starting to turn, so I'm very happy I was able to get it done in straight sets."

Felix Auger-Aliassime gave the 2022 winners an unassailable 2-0 lead by outlasting British number one Jack Draper 7-6(8) 7-5 in a high-quality clash.

Britain then ensured the crowd had something to cheer about as Henry Patten and Neal Skupski cruised past Gabriel Diallo and Alexis Galarneau 7-5 6-4.



The Final 8 knockout stage will be held in Malaga from Nov. 19-24, with a draw taking place this week to determine ties.

Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Australia, the United States, Germany, Canada and Argentina have qualified.

With world number one Jannik Sinner watching on in Bologna, Italy surged to a 2-0 lead against the Netherlands to top Group A after Matteo Berrettini beat Botić van de Zandschulp 3-6 6-4 6-4 and Flavio Cobolli downed Tallon Griekspoor 7-6(4) 4-6 6-3.

The Dutch did not lose hope and advanced as runners-up when Wesley Koolhof and Van de Zandschulp defeated Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6(6) 7-5 in the doubles match.

Spain rested world number three Carlos Alcaraz for their tie with Australia but earned a hard-fought 2-1 victory to top Group B in Valencia as Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martinez rallied past Matthew Ebden and Max Purcell 5-7 6-4 6-4.

Pablo Carreno Busta had given Spain the lead with a 2-6 6-2 7-6(3) win over Jordan Thompson but Alexei Popyrin beat Martinez 6-4 6-4 to draw last year's runners-up level.

Earlier, Chile finished their campaign on a positive note in Zhuhai with a 2-1 victory over Slovakia to finish third in Group C, although both teams were out of contention.

Meanwhile former world number one Novak Djokovic teamed up with doubles partner Hamad Medjedovic on Sunday to seal a 3-0 play-off win over Greece which keeps Serbia in World Group I of the Davis Cup.

The 37-year-old, playing his first competitive tennis since losing in the third round of the US Open, and his 21-year-old team-mate won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 against Aristotelis Thanos and Petros Tsitsipas, the younger brother of Stefanos, who had to withdraw.

On Saturday, Miomir Kecmanovic had given Serbia their first point by beating Thanos 6-3, 6-3 before Djokovic blew away Ioannis Xilas, ranked 770 in the world, 6-0, 6-1 in just 45 minutes.