

Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran has the right to retaliate against the assassination of Hamas Political Leader Ismail Haniyeh

IRAN NEWS

Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi Says He Had Talks With Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Enrique Mora on Nuclear-Related Issues and the Lifting of Sanctions on Iran

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Iran Says World Should Not Remain Silent on Israeli Crimes



TEHRAN - The Iranian deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs has underlined the urgency of taking a decisive and prompt action against Israel, saying the international community should not stand idly by in the face of the regime's crimes against Palestinians.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks on Monday in an address to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting, which was held in New York on the sidelines of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

He said the brutal atrocities that Israel is committing against Palestinian people both in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank are tantamount to a "systematic and deliberate campaign" of war crimes, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing and genocide, and are in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

"The unlimited impunity for the Israeli regime is a threat that can cause a greater human catastrophe in the occupied territories," he added.

"Every moment of inaction by the international community means the continuation of the massacre of innocent Palestinian civilians. The world cannot remain silent in the face of these crimes; a swift and decisive action is not only expected, but also a moral and human obligation."

Gharibabadi referred to Israel's mass murder in Lebanon that took place last week through the explosion of telecommunication devices, saying the terror attack once again showed the regime's absolute disregard for human life and international law.

"Now is the time for a decisive action. The innocent are calling for justice; the history will judge those who act and those who turn a blind eye [to crimes]," he asserted.

Iran Reacts to Pact for Future Document Approved by UN



NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations calls it a non-binding and voluntary the adoption of a document dubbed 'Pact for Future' which some members referred to as a ground-breaking move by the world body aimed at transforming the global governance.

The Islamic Republic of Iran will in no way be committed to elements of the document that in any way contradict the priorities, laws, regulations, and policies of the country, as well as Islamic principles and instructions, doctrines, cultural and religious norms, the Iranian Mission said in a statement on Monday.

"The Pact for the Future document is a non-binding and voluntary from the perspective of the Islamic Republic of Iran," statement said.

On Sunday, the United Nations released a statement confirming that the General Assembly adopted a Pact for the Future to bring the world's increasingly fragmented countries together to meet the challenges of the 21st century, ranging from climate change and artificial intelligence to escalating conflicts and increasing inequality and poverty.

The Pact for Future is a 42-page plan that calls on the leaders of the 193 member countries to turn their promises into real and practical actions, that will make a difference to the lives of the world's population of more than 8 billion people.

According to the UN statement, the plan was approved at the "Future Summit" held for two days at the invitation of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, despite Russia's opposition.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



President Calls for End to Israeli Occupation, Apartheid in Palestine and Truce in Gaza

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for a cessation of the Israeli occupation and apartheid in Palestine and immediate implementation of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, where the regime has been waging a genocidal war for more than 11 months.

He made the remarks on Monday, addressing the "Strengthening the United Nations Goals" session held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

"Cessation of the [Israeli] occupation and apartheid in Palestine and immediate ceasefire in Gaza are preconditions for international development and peace," he said.

"In a world where civilians are being killed ruthlessly in Gaza, blind state terrorism sheds the blood of children and women, and genocide and assassination is being supported, [conclusion of] no document would serve to guarantee peace and development," the president said.

Pezeshkian said Iran demanded elimination of weapons of mass destruction from the region without any preconditions.

"Iran demands a strong, united, safe, and stable region, where the resources of the regional countries are used for [bringing about] synergy towards [realization of] economic and social development and disposal of common problems," he added.

Citing an instance of Iran's contribution to regional stability, he mentioned the Islamic Republic's having invariably served as a leading force in fighting terrorism, and said the country was prepared for cooperation with other countries, which were similarly after "real confrontation" with the evil phenomenon.

The president, meanwhile, addressed the issue of the unilateral sanctions that have been imposed on the Islamic Republic and some other countries on the part of the United States and its allies.

"Unilateral sanctions stop realization of sustainable development goals," he said, adding, "This fact has to be included in whatever document that is being prepared for the future."

Pezeshkian proposed that UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres present the world body's General Assembly with a comprehensive report on the issue of the sanctions that is compiled in cooperation with the countries that have been subjected to the economic measures.

"Achievement of peace and development requires respect for the countries' right to development...and adherence to the principles of fairness and implementation of the developed countries' commitments towards the developing ones," he asserted.

Pezeshkian demanded immediate reformation of the ruling structure of the international financial institutions towards guaranteeing inclusion of developing countries in decision-making and norm-making processes and emergence of a just system that is answerable to those countries' financial needs.

The president advised that world countries engage in cooperation and interaction on the basis of justice and honesty in order to be able to successfully confront the present and future challenges that face the international community.

He said such common endeavor required attention towards the role and stance of the United Nations, as the symbol of multilateralism, and attachment of respect to the goals and principles of the world body's charter.

"Let us create a just and prosperous future for our children," he said. Joint efforts aimed at realization of such a future have to be based on reinforcement of an international system of multilateralism that enables tackling such challenges as war, discrimination, poverty, and hunger at their roots, Pezeshkian said.

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran warns against the "dangerous consequences" of Israel's new "adventurism" in Lebanon, following the regime's extensive airstrikes on Lebanese towns and villages.

Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on southern towns and villages since Monday morning killed 274 people and wounded over 1000 others, in the worst toll by far in nearly a year of cross-border clashes between the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah and Israel.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani vehemently denounced Israel's large-scale aggression on residential areas in south Lebanon and the killing of hundreds of its defenseless people as insane.

He lashed out at the United States and some Western supporters of Israel for keeping silent and even supporting the regime.

He cautioned that Israel continues its criminal acts against the people of Palestine in the

The Islamic Republic has included its standpoints in this regard in the Pact of the Future that was concluded among world leaders at the UN summit on Monday with the aim of adapting international cooperation to the current and future realities, he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian enumerated the practical priorities of his administration. The priorities, he said, featured attention towards such issues as healthcare, education, welfare, creating equal opportunities, proper income distribution, reducing poverty and discrimination, and further empowerment of women and youths among other things.

Meanwhile in a meeting with senior managers of American media outlets on Monday, Pezeshkian said Israel wants to drag the entire region into a full-blown war and spread insecurity, which will not benefit any country.

"We do believe that if a larger war were to erupt in the region, it will not benefit any country. It is the Zionist regime (Israel) that seeks warmongering and the expansion of insecurity in the region," he said.

Pezeshkian said Iran defends the oppressed people of Palestine. The Iranian president criticized the inaction of leading international media on Israel's ongoing genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.

In response to a question about Iran's defense power, Pezeshkian said that Tehran does not seek to wage a war and spread insecurity and has never launched any attack against a country but it has been invaded by others many times.

"We want defense power to maintain [national] security and defend our people and country. However, the Zionist regime has repeatedly conducted terrorist acts against our country," the Iranian president emphasized.

Asked about Iran's response to Israel's assassination of Ismail Haniyeh, the head of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, in Tehran in late July, Pezeshkian said the move, which is condemned based on all international rules, will not remain unanswered.

He noted that Iran has proved it is capable of giving a proper response to the crimes of Israel but the country does not seek to spread instability and insecurity in the region.

The Iranian president once again reiterated his administration's policy of expanding interaction with world countries based on mutual respect.

He said Iran seeks "constructive, healthy and equal" interaction with all world countries.

"We are trying to replace war and bloodshed with peace and security and create a world in which people have coexistence on the basis of justice, peace, prosperity and security instead of killing each other."

He criticized certain Western media outlets for portraying a tarnished image of Iran and said he would convey his country's message of peace and friendship to the world during the General Assembly meeting.

The Iranian chief executive, however, warned that it will not be possible to establish peace and security in the region as long as the Israeli regime continues its crimes.

Pezeshkian also rejected allegations about Iran's supplying of weapons to Russia to be used in the war in Ukraine.

"Iran has never supported and will never support Russia's war against Ukraine."

Iran, Pezeshkian said, respects the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries, but no one should keep silent on the crimes of Israel in Gaza while accusing others of pursuing aggressive policies.

Iran Warns Against Dangerous Consequences of Israel's New Adventurism in Lebanon



Gaza Strip and seeks to drag the entire region into a war.

Kanaani said that appeasement against Israel's crimes against Palestinians in the past year has encouraged the regime to continue its criminal and genocidal acts.

The Iranian spokesperson emphasized that the continuation of Israel's crimes in Palestine and the spread of the regime's criminal acts to Lebanon are a "clear example of a serious threat to regional and international peace and security."

He called on the United Nations Security Council to take a swift measure to put an end to Israel's crimes.

The large-scale Israeli attacks follow Hezbollah's farthest-reaching Sunday strikes against the territories since October, firing scores of rockets against the Ramat David Airbase, southeast of the city of Haifa, and the Rafael weapons manufacturing facility in the Zevulun area north of the city.

Gov't to Pursue FATF Issue Within the Framework of National Interests



TEHRAN - The government spokesperson said: "The release of some individuals who were imprisoned has restored the positive feeling in society that accord is being implemented and has gone beyond mere words."

In her first press conference and in response to a question regarding the efforts of the fourteenth government for the freedom of political prisoners, Fatemeh Mohajerani stated: "While the principle of separation of powers is acknowledged, a key point in the keyword of accord is solidarity. I thank the judiciary for giving society this feeling by releasing prisoners."

The freedom of some imprisoned individuals demonstrated that accord is being realized.

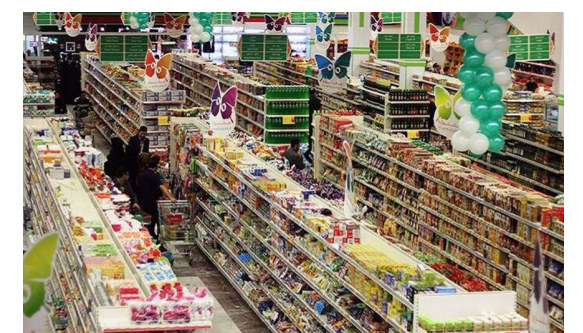
She continued: "The release of some individuals has brought back the good feeling to society that accord is being realized and has gone beyond just words. God willing, we will witness further openings, as we have seen so far."

Mohajerani noted that President Pezeshkian's trip to New York for the United Nations General Assembly occurs during a time of outright genocide in Gaza, accompanied by the repulsive and insane actions of a racist regime, placing the nations of the region on the brink of threat and war. This trip carries a message of lasting and fair peace for all nations.

She added: "For Dr. Pezeshkian, national accord is a launching pad for promoting unity and solidarity among Muslim and neighboring nations in the region and beyond, marking the beginning of peace and cooperation instead of war and animosity. In this trip, foreign policy for the President is an extension of domestic policy and must reflect the choices and orientations of our people."

The government spokesperson added: "Another piece of good news is the Supreme Leader's approval of pardons, reductions, and commutations for about three thousand defendants from public and revolutionary courts, and we should express our gratitude for this action at the beginning of Unity Week, which aims to enhance national accord."

Iran's Headline Inflation Down 0.6% to 34.2% in September



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Annual inflation rate in Iran dropped 0.6% in September to stand at 34.2%, SCI figures show.

Figures by the Iranian government's official statistics agency show that the country's headline inflation rate dropped slightly in September. The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) said on Monday that the consumer price index in the country had reached 264.7 in the calendar month to September 21, down 34.2% from the same month in 2023.

Annual inflation had been at 34.8% in the calendar month to late August, according to the SCI.

It said month-on-month inflation had increased by 1.7% in September, adding that prices of food, beverages and smoking products had increased by 0.9% while prices of non-food products and services had risen by 2.1% compared to August.

The SCI said that inflation measured on a point-to-point scale, which compares the price index in two similar months in back-to-back years, had increased by 31.2% in September this year.

A new Iranian administration, which came to office in August, has introduced policies to control inflation and stabilize the market as the country is still grappling with the economic impacts of US sanctions and changes in global supply and demand.

Iran's annual inflation rose to nearly 49.1% in May last year, just shy of an all-time record reported some three decades ago.

Economic experts say lower inflation rates in Iran in recent months has been a result of better government controls on imports and distribution of basic goods supplies, including animal feed and grains.

They say tighter monetary rules have also allowed the Iranian government to have a better control on the money supply and inflation in the country.



Statistics on Steel Product Exports in H1

TEHRAN (ILNA) - In the first half of this year, 5.7 million tons of steel products and related items, valued at \$2.9 billion, were exported from the country.

According to the Public Relations of Iran Customs, the amount of steel products exported in the first half of this year shows a 13% decrease in weight and a 14% decrease in value compared to the same period last year.

According to the report, iron and steel billets with \$730 million, rebar with \$571 million, steel sheets with \$210 million, semi-finished iron or steel products with \$151 million, and hollow steel pipes or profiles with \$143 million were the five main exported steel products.

These five items together accounted for \$1.8 billion of the total value of steel product exports.

Iran-Iraq Relations to Expand with Completion of Shalamcheh-Basra Railway Project



TEHRAN - Iran-Iraq relations will expand with the completion of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway project.

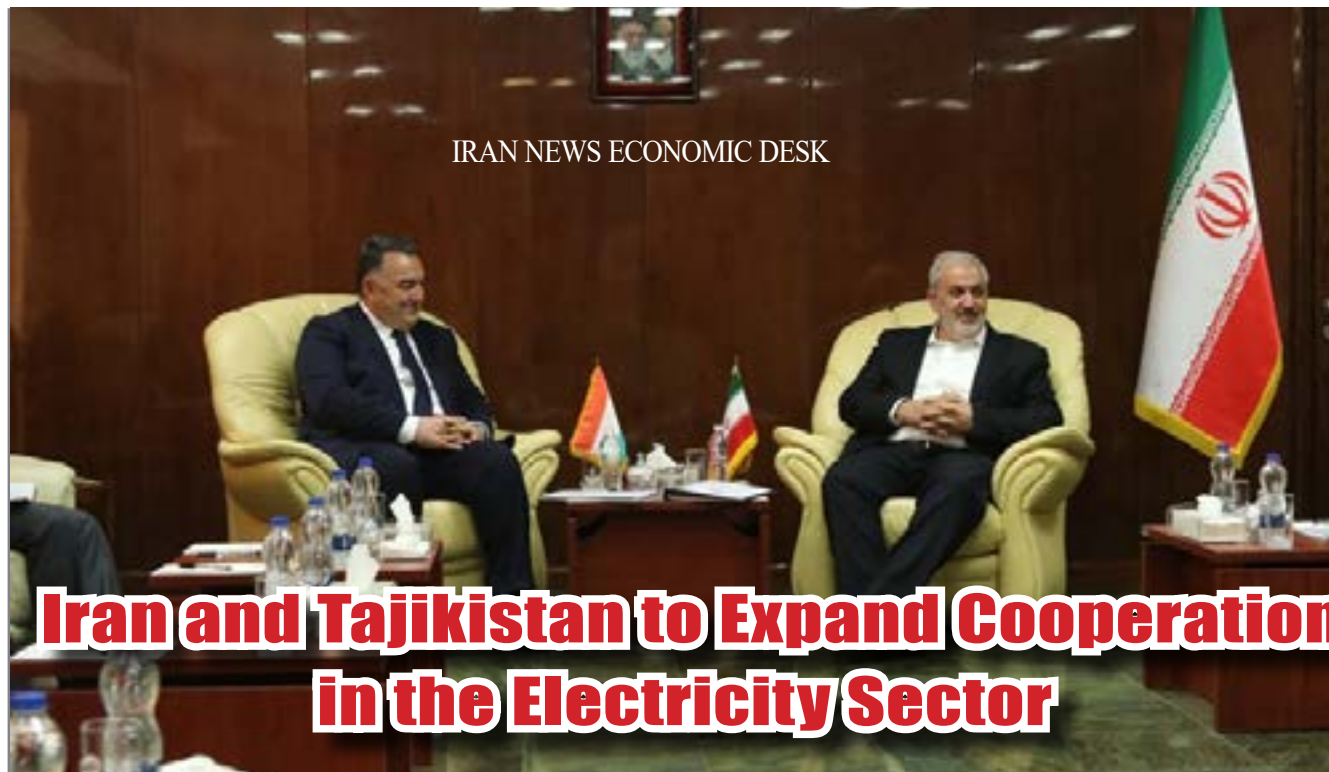
The Minister of Roads and Urban Development stated that the completion and operation of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway line will mean the development of relations, as well as the transit of goods and passengers between Iran and Iraq.

Farzaneh Sadegh, the Minister of Roads and Urban Development, during a ceremony commemorating the Holy Defense Week, addressed the families of martyrs and veterans from the ministry, stating that the eight-year war was imposed on our country and people. However, with limited resources, we successfully defended the nation.

During the event, Sadegh also announced the signing of an agreement to provide housing for veterans with the Foundation for Martyrs and Veterans Affairs. She emphasized that this is not a favor to the honorable families of veterans but rather the fulfillment of the ministry's overdue legal obligations. She expressed happiness that, after nearly two decades, the Comprehensive Service Law for Veterans is being implemented, making up for the delays in executing this legal duty.

She added that, out of the 200,000 people covered by the Comprehensive Service Law for Veterans, commitments have been fulfilled for 80,000 people so far, while 120,000 remain neglected, with 20,000 of them being renters. She personally pledged to follow up on securing housing for these individuals.

Referring to the Shalamcheh-Basra railway project, the Minister said that the completion and operation of this railway line will not only develop relations and the transit of passengers and goods between Iran and Iraq but also connect these two countries with their neighboring nations. This, in turn, will enhance security and stand as a strong message against war.



Iran and Tajikistan to Expand Cooperation in the Electricity Sector

TEHRAN - Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi, in a meeting with Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan Daler Juma, said: "Under the activities of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan, negotiations have taken place in various fields with the Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan."

The Minister of Energy stated that some of the topics discussed in this meeting were related to the water and electricity sectors. He highlighted the progress and execution of multiple projects by Iranian companies in Tajikistan, adding that the Sangtuda-2 project is one of these initiatives, where issues related to overcoming obstacles for the project's advancement were discussed.

He noted: "In this meeting, important discussions were also held regarding the expansion of trade between the two sides. This matter pertains to most sectors, including both public and private sectors. Despite having established good and effective communications, the level of trade exchanges is low, and in this regard, we hope to witness an increase in the level and volume of exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan."

Aliabadi referred to the discussions on expanding and strengthening cooperation in the electrical sector and other areas, expressing hope that, given the historical ties between Iran and Tajikistan, these relations will be further enhanced through the development of tourism and other matters.

In continuation, Daler Juma expressed satisfaction with the meeting with "Abbas Aliabadi," the Minister of Energy and Chairman of the Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan, stating: "I am confident that under the leadership of the new Minister of Energy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, bilateral cooperation in the

energy sector between Iran and Tajikistan will be strengthened."

The Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan referred to the advancement of joint projects between the two countries, adding that the Sangtuda-2 hydroelectric power plant is one of the joint projects between Iran and Tajikistan, which is currently underway.

He emphasized that Tajikistan is eager to attract investors and benefit from the expertise of Iranian specialists, who are considered among the best in the world.

Daler Juma also highlighted the importance of developing green energy through the construction of hydroelectric power plants in Tajikistan, adding that increasing the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan is another significant matter. He pointed out that this could include oil and related products, as well as technical expertise in the energy sector and beyond.

He also referred to the advancement of joint projects between Iran and Tajikistan, adding that the Sangtuda 2 hydroelectric power plant is one of the joint projects between the two countries, which is currently underway.

He also noted that Tajikistan welcomes the attraction of investors as well as benefiting from the technical expertise and specialists from Iran, who are considered among the best in the world.

The Minister of Energy and Water Resources of Tajikistan further emphasized the importance of developing green energy through the production of hydroelectric power plants in Tajikistan. He expressed that increasing the volume of economic exchanges between Iran and Tajikistan is another important issue, which includes oil and related products, as well as technical expertise in the field of energy and more.

Not Joining FATF Is a Major Obstacle in Development of Mining Sector



TEHRAN - The Vice President of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, referring to the Tabas mine accident, called the incident painful and expressed condolences to the mining community and the families of the victims.

Mohammad Reza Bahraman, speaking at the 13th Conference on Investment Opportunities in Iran's Mines and Mineral Industries, discussed the role of the mining sector in achieving the economic growth goals of the Seventh Development Plan. He stated: "The Seventh Development Plan aims for an 8% economic growth for the entire country. This 8% growth target comes in the context where Iran's long-term economic growth performance over the past six decades has averaged 4.3%."

The Vice President of Iran's Chamber continued: "The total activities of mines and mineral industries have, on average, contributed 5.5% to Iran's GDP over the past decade. This share reached its peak at 9.8% in 2020."

Bahraman emphasized: "The mining extraction sector's contribution to the GDP was at its highest, 3.1%, in 2020. Over the past few years, this share has gradually declined to 2.1% by 2024."

He further added: "One of the main reasons for the decline in economic growth is the sharp drop in investment rates. A review of investment trends in the country shows that the investment rate (gross fixed capital formation to GDP) in Iran has decreased from a long-term average of 32% to 24% over the past decade. This means a reduction in productive capacity and a deviation from the long-term growth path."

According to Bahraman, the decline in investment rates has affected long-term economic growth. Therefore, to achieve the economic growth targets set in the Seventh Development Plan, it

is necessary to prioritize the development of key economic sectors.

The Vice President of Iran's Chamber also addressed the issue of sanctions and FATF, stating: "The FATF issue must be resolved. Only then will foreign investors feel confident about the transfer of their capital. All production units are facing sanctions-related issues. Foreign investors want to be assured about the flow of their money."

Bahraman pointed to the goals of the mining sector in the Seventh Development Plan: "In the Seventh Development Plan, the average growth in the added value of the mining sector is set at 13%. Meanwhile, a review of the sector's performance shows that since the First Development Plan (1989-2023), the average growth in the added value of the mining extraction sector has been 8.6%. We need to change our approach to exploration, processing, and markets. If a new movement happens in the mining sector, Iran will secure a strong position in this area."

Referring to the challenges of mining work, Bahraman said: "Mining is a tough job, but the general view is that it's a form of wealth accumulation. In the Tabas mine, the best engineering company was working, but an accident changed the situation, and it is impossible to make up for that painful loss. The government must remove all barriers to the export of minerals. We cannot stop production. Who will suffer from this? We must focus on making the right decisions so that both domestic and foreign investors can enter this field."

Bahraman concluded: "Today, the mindset is ready to strive for achieving the 8% growth target, and people are demanding this from the government, the economy, and policymakers."

Let's Turn the Presence of Afghans into an Opportunity



TEHRAN - Hamidreza Rostegar, the head of Tehran's Chamber of Guilds, in an interview with ILNA, rejected the use of the term "threat" for Afghan employment in Iran. He stated, "In my view, the issue of Afghan employment in various trades does not need to be entirely dismissed but rather requires reforms. Our people can turn the significant presence of Afghans, which is often referred to as a threat, into an opportunity."

He added that the Chamber of Guilds has not yet reached a final decision on how to manage Afghan employment in Iran. However, within the next month, they will announce the results of their meetings on this issue. Nevertheless, the Chamber's approach is not to remove these individuals from various trades, but rather to manage their presence.

Rostegar noted that the leatherworking guild has been more affected than others by Afghan employment and is actively pursuing ways to manage their presence. However, it's important to recognize that Afghans are no longer merely unskilled workers in Iran's labor market. Gradually, they have upgraded their skills and become skilled laborers. Therefore, in my opinion, addressing this matter should not be mixed with nationalist sentiments.

He reminded, "Afghans who are in Iran illegally should be identified, but we must remember that there are also Iranians living abroad. Just as we do not condone mistreatment of our fellow citizens in other countries, we should not treat Afghans inhumanely or in ways that create costs for the country."

Israel Seeks to Expand War to Exit Gaza Quagmire



TEHRAN (IP) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has sharply criticized Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, saying that the regime is seeking to widen the conflict across the region as a way to escape the quagmire it faces in Gaza.

In an interview, Araqchi highlighted the regime's inability to defeat Hamas despite its superior military arsenal after 11 months had passed since the start of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza.

"The fact is that the Israeli regime has been caught in a quagmire in Gaza," Araqchi said. "Despite having sought to destroy Hamas with an army that has been armed to the teeth with the most advanced weapons, it has not been able to achieve its goal after a year."

Araqchi also rejected U.S. claims of being unaware of the Lebanon attacks in advance, questioning Washington's stance. "In our view, this is not acceptable. One cannot believe claims that the Americans were not aware," he stated. "They [the Americans] cannot evade these crimes."

Reflecting on earlier comments from August, Araqchi reiterated Iran's willingness to manage tensions with the U.S. "We have differences with the Americans, many of which are fundamental," he said, citing Tehran's opposition to Washington's imperialist policies and military interventions.

"Complete resolution of these differences is not possible, and is principally not feasible," he added. "However, the cost can be reduced," with Araqchi noting that the Foreign Ministry would explore honorable ways to achieve this goal.

Iran-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission Will Be Held Soon

TEHRAN - Oil Minister says based on the agreements and planning made, we hope to witness the holding of the Iran-Saudi Arabia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission in the near future.

Mohsen Paknejad noted at the ceremony of Saudi Arabia's National Day: "I am very pleased to, on behalf of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and as the head of the Joint Economic Commission of the two countries, extend my congratulations to the ambassador of Saudi Arabia, its government, and the dear people of Saudi Arabia on the occasion of their National Day."

He added: The 14th government, under the leadership of Massoud Pezeshkian, has paid special attention to the development of relations with neighbors within the framework of its policy of expanding ties, particularly with Saudi Arabia. The government believes that cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as two important countries in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East, in addition to securing the national and mutual interests of both nations, can bring many benefits for the stability and security of the region, as well as the development and improvement of the welfare of the people in these countries.

The Minister continued: The two countries and their people, with their numerous religious and cultural commonalities, and being situated in a highly important and strategic region of the world, can play an influential and historic role in regional affairs. Based on the agreements and plans made, we hope to see the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission of the two countries convene soon.

Paknejad, stating that Iran-Saudi Arabia multilateral cooperation within international and regional organizations presents an extraordinary opportunity that has created new possibilities like never before, emphasized: In addition to various branches of the United Nations, OPEC, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, which have longstanding histories, new international mechanisms such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS also have the potential to strengthen relations between the two countries in the future.

Argentina Seeks Maduro's Arrest for Crimes Against Humanity

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Courts in Argentina and Venezuela issued warrants for the arrests of each other's presidents on Monday amid a showdown between "anarcho-capitalist" leader Javier Milei and socialist strongman Nicolas Maduro.

Venezuela was first off the mark with its warrant for Argentina's Milei over what it called the "theft" of a Venezuelan plane seized in Buenos Aires for alleged sanctions violations. A court in Caracas also issued warrants for Argentina's Security Minister Patricia Bullrich and Karina Milei, the president's sister and presidential advisor. In a tit-for-tat measure hours later, an Argentine court ordered the arrest of Venezuela's Maduro and dozens of aides for crimes against humanity. Significantly, the court also asked international police organization Interpol to issue a red notice for their capture, local media reported.



Morales Issues Bolivian President 24-Hour Ultimatum to Shake Up Cabinet



LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Bolivia's ex-president Evo Morales demanded Monday that his successor Luis Arce change his cabinet "within 24 hours" or face the wrath of thousands of protestors, whom he led in a march on the capital La Paz.

The group of mainly Indigenous Bolivians arrived on the outskirts of La Paz at the end of a weeklong, nearly-200-kilometer (124-mile) "March to save Bolivia," which was marked by clashes with Arce supporters.

Addressing the crowd, Morales, who led the march from the western village of Caracollo, declared that Bolivians had had "enough of betrayal and above all enough of corruption, protection of drug trafficking and economic mismanagement."

Issuing an ultimatum to his former economy minister Arce, he said: "If Lucho wants to continue governing, first, in 24 hours he should change the drugs ministers, corrupt ministers and racist ministers."

Lucho is Arce's nickname.

Morales also gave the government 24 hours to resolve the country's chronic fuel shortage, adding that in the absence of a solution, "the mobilizations will continue."

Morales, a former coca grower who rose to become Bolivia's first Indigenous president in 2006, was extremely popular until he tried to bypass the constitution to seek a fourth term.

He went on to claim victory in a 2019 election marked by allegations of fraud but was forced to resign after losing the support of the military.

With his eye on a comeback he has stirred up large protests against the government that he helped elect.

Over the course of the march from Caracollo his supporters clashed twice with Arce supporters in unrest that left 34 people injured, according to the authorities.

He and Arce are vying for the presidential nomination of the ruling MAS party ahead of elections set for August 2025.

Arce has accused Morales, whom he served for 13 years in the economy portfolio, of plotting to overthrow him.

Israeli Strikes Kill 492 in Heaviest Daily Toll in Lebanon Since 1975-90 Civil War

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - At least 492 people have been killed and 1,645 injured, Lebanon's health ministry has said, after a wave of Israeli airstrikes on alleged Hezbollah targets that left the country with its highest daily death toll since the end of the 1975-90 civil war.

Tens of thousands of people fled from south Lebanese towns and villages along the main road towards the capital, Beirut, in Israel's most intense barrage in nearly a year of cross-border clashes, as sirens were also heard in the northern Israeli city of Haifa. The Lebanese health ministry said 35 children and 58 women were among those killed.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, said the military was changing the "security balance" along its northern border. "I promised we would change the security balance, the balance of power in the north - and that is exactly what we are doing," the Israeli prime minister told a security meeting on Monday.

The Israel Defense Forces chief of staff, Lt Gen Herzl Halevi, said the Israeli military was preparing for the "next phases" in Lebanon, saying he would elaborate later. "Essentially, we are targeting combat infrastructure that Hezbollah has been building for the past 20 years. This is very significant," he said.

The IDF said it had hit more than 1,300 Hezbollah targets in the previous 24 hours, in its biggest attack on the militant group since the Gaza war began last October, when Hezbollah began strikes in Israel in support of Hamas. Israel also carried out airstrikes in the Beqaa valley and its second airstrike on Beirut in a week, with what it said was a "limited" airstrike in the northern suburb of Dahieh. Israeli media reported that the target of the strike was Ali Karaki, Hezbollah's number three military commander, although the group said he was in a safe location and unharmed by the attack.

About 35 rockets were meanwhile fired from Lebanon towards the Safed area of Israel, the Israel Defense Forces said, with some coming down in open areas close to the community of Ami'ad.

The US president, Joe Biden, who on Tuesday was to address the main debate of the United Nations general assembly in New York, said he was working to calm the situation. "I've been briefed on the latest developments in Israel and Lebanon. My team is in constant contact with their counterparts, and we're working to de-escalate," he said as he held talks with the UAE president, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, at the White House.

Earlier in the day, the IDF had warned Lebanese people in Beirut and other areas via a phone call to evacuate their residences and distance themselves from any buildings holding Hezbollah weapons.

"The actions will continue until we achieve our goal to return the northern [Israel] residents safely to their homes," the Israeli defence minister, Yoav Gallant, said in a video published by his office, setting the stage for a long conflict as Hezbollah has vowed to fight on until there is a ceasefire in Gaza. "These are days in which the Israeli public will have to show composure."

Roads leading out of south Lebanon were jammed with traffic as people fled the relentless bombing, with areas that have served as safe zones for displaced people since last year suddenly in the crosshairs of the Israeli military.

Videos of collapsed buildings and of bombs falling from the sky and the resulting explosions shaking the hands of those filming circulated on social media as people tried to track the extent of Israel's campaign. In one video, a driver films as smoke fills the air on the road ahead of them after a strike. "Stop, stop, stop!" one of the passengers yells as the video cuts.

The UN peacekeeping body in Lebanon (Unifil) asked its civilian staff to relocate from south Lebanon northwards, as a "precautionary measure" as fighting in south Lebanon escalated on Monday. UN peacekeepers and critical staff will remain in the south.

China Unveils Fresh Stimulus to Boost Ailing Economy

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China on Tuesday unveiled some of its boldest measures in years aimed at boosting its struggling economy as leaders grapple with a prolonged property sector debt crisis, continued deflationary pressure and high youth unemployment.

The world's second-largest economy has yet to achieve a highly anticipated post-pandemic recovery and the government has set a goal of five percent growth in 2024 -- an objective analysts say is optimistic given the headwinds it is facing.

On Tuesday, central bank chief Pan Gongsheng told a news conference in Beijing that it would cut a slew of rates in a bid to boost growth, pledging to "promote the expansion of consumption and investment".

The moves represent "the most significant... stimulus package since the early days of the pandemic", Julian Evans-Pritchard, Head of China economics at Capital Economics.

But "it may not be enough", he warned, adding a full economic recovery would "require more substantial fiscal support than the modest pick-up in government spending that's currently in the pipeline".

Among the moves unveiled Tuesday was a cut to the reserve requirement ratio (RRR), which dictates the amount of cash banks must hold in reserve.

The move will inject around a trillion yuan (\$141.7 billion) in "long-term liquidity" into the financial market, Pan said.

Beijing would also "lower the interest rates of existing mortgage loans".

And it will "guide commercial banks to lower the interest rates of existing mortgage loans to the vicinity of the interest rates of newly issued loans".

The move would benefit 150 million people across the country, Pan said, and reduce "the average annual household interest bill by about 150 billion yuan."

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -Decisive actions by the United States now could hasten the end of the Russian war against Ukraine next year, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday after telling the ABC News that his country was "closer to the end of the war."

"Now, at the end of the year, we have a real opportunity to strengthen cooperation between Ukraine and the United States," Zelenskyy said in a post on his Telegram messaging app after meeting with a bipartisan delegation from the U.S. Congress.

"Decisive action now could hasten the just end of Russian aggression against Ukraine next year."

Zelenskyy is in the United States for the U.N. General Assembly. Later in the week he will travel to Washington to present his "victory plan" and influence White House policy on the war no matter who wins the U.S. election on Nov. 5.

On Monday, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump - who says he will end the war within days if elected - claimed without evidence that Zelenskyy wanted the Democrats to win in November.

The presidential office in Kyiv did not immediately respond to a request for comment but Zelenskyy has previously said he is willing to work with whoever occupies the White House.

In the interview with ABC News, Zelenskyy urged Washington and other partners to continue supporting Ukraine. Washington and its allies have provided a multi-billion dollar assistance program to Ukraine while also imposing several rounds of sanctions against Moscow.

"I think that we are closer to the peace than we think," he was quoted as saying. "We are closer to the end of the war."

The full-scale Russia invasion of Ukraine, or "special



military operation" as Moscow calls it, began in Feb 2022 and has killed thousands of people, uprooted millions more and turned Ukrainian towns and cities into rubble.

The Ukrainian leader said in the ABC interview that only from a "strong position" can Ukraine push Russian President Vladimir Putin "to stop the war."

Zelenskyy has said very little so far about his "victory plan," except that it would act as a "bridge" to a second Ukraine-led summit on peace that Kyiv wants to hold and invite Russia to later this year.

The Ukrainian president's chief of staff, Andriy Yermak, said in New York on Monday that the plan included accelerated NATO membership for Ukraine, something Moscow says it will never tolerate.

Putin says peace talks can begin only if Kyiv abandons swathes of eastern and southern Ukraine to Russia and drops its NATO membership ambitions. Zelenskyy has called repeatedly for a withdrawal of all Russian troops, and the restoration of Ukraine's post-Soviet borders.

Russia controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory and has been advancing in the east, taking control of a series of settlements in a push to seize the entire Donbas region.

In a bold move to grab back the initiative, Ukrainian troops attacked into Russia's western Kursk region on Aug. 6 and continue to occupy dozens of villages on Russian soil.

Zelenskyy told ABC News the Kursk operation exposed the weakness of Putin's position, even though the Russian military continues to advance on its objectives in Donbas.

"He's afraid very much," he said. "Why? Because his people saw that he can't defend - that he can't defend all his territory."

Ukraine and the West say Russia is waging an imperial-style war. Putin cast the Ukraine invasion as a defensive move against a hostile and aggressive West.

Biden Designates UAE as a Second Major Defense Partner After India

WASHINGTON (Reuters) -President Joe Biden recognized the United Arab Emirates as a major defense partner of the United States on Monday after talks with its president on topics that included the war in Gaza and growing Middle East instability.

The U.S. designation - India is the only other country to have been designated as such - allows for close military cooperation through joint training, exercises and other collaborative efforts.

Biden and UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan called for "urgent, unhindered" humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza and shared their commitment to a ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas in a statement after their meeting.

At the start of the meeting, Biden said he had been briefed on the latest developments between Israel and Lebanon, where Lebanese officials said Israeli airstrikes killed at least 492 people on Monday.

"My team is in constant contact with their counterparts, and we're working to de-escalate in a way that allows people to return to their home safely," he said.

Their joint statement touched on the Persian Gulf state's involvement in the Sudan conflict, with both stressing that there was no military solution to the war, which has triggered the world's largest displacement crisis.

They also underscored plans to deepen cooperation on space exploration, clean energy and artificial intelligence, where the UAE has launched ambitious plans drawing interest from U.S. geopolitical rival China.

Vice President Kamala Harris met separately with the UAE leader, but the talks were closed to press.

"The vice president raised her deep concerns about the conflict in Sudan," the White House said. "She expressed alarm at the millions of individuals who have been displaced by the war and the atrocities committed by the belligerents against the civilian population."





Bills Trample Jaguars, Commanders Claw Bengals

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Josh Allen produced a monster performance as the Buffalo Bills trampled over the Jacksonville Jaguars 47-10 to maintain their perfect start to the NFL season on Monday. Bills quarterback Allen was in superb form as Buffalo buried the Jags in an avalanche of first-half scoring that saw them power into a 34-3 lead at the break. Allen threw four touchdowns and finished with 263 passing yards while Buffalo's defense gave Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence a torrid time at the Bills' Highmark Stadium. Lawrence was sacked four times as the Bills sent winless Jacksonville sliding to their third defeat of the season from three games. Bills running back James Cook grabbed the first touchdown of the game, rushing over from six yards to cap a 10-play, 70-yard opening drive. After Jacksonville punted their first possession, Buffalo were back in the end zone on their next drive when Dalton Kincaid collected Allen's short pass to make it 13-0 after Tyler Bass's extra point. Cam Little got Jacksonville on the board with a 41-yard field goal early in the second quarter, but Allen then took over with touchdown passes to Keon Coleman, Khalil Shakir and Ty Johnson to leave Buffalo up by 31 points at the end of the second quarter. The biggest roar of a one-sided first-half came when safety Damar Hamlin -- who almost died on the field after suffering a cardiac arrest in a game against Cincinnati last year -- snagged the first interception of his career to set up the drive which led to Shakir's touchdown.

Hamlin was mobbed by his Bills teammates after his maiden pick, and said they had been instrumental in his recovery last year. "They were a big part of me being able to make this type of comeback," Hamlin said. "They were even happier than I was to get my first interception. That just shows the community we have here in Buffalo. It's a special place." There was a flicker of offense from Jacksonville early in the second half, with Lawrence stitching together an eight-play, 70-yard drive that finished with Brenton Strange gathering a six-yard touchdown pass. But two more Bass field goals left Buffalo 40-10 up before Ray Davis's late rushing touchdown from three yards completed the scoring. In Monday's other game, the Cincinnati Bengals were left still looking for their first win of the season after suffering a 38-33 home defeat to the Washington Commanders. Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow made a bright start, finding Ja'Marr Chase for a 41-yard touchdown to open the scoring in the first quarter. But thereafter Washington took over with rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels showing a composure that belied his 23 years to guide the Commanders to a superb win. Daniels finished with two touchdowns and 254 yards from 21 of 23 passes -- a record 91.3 percent completion rate for a rookie quarterback.

Man Utd, Spurs Eye Respite From Domestic Woes in Europa League



PARIS (Dispatches) - Manchester United and Tottenham kick off their Europa League campaigns this week, hoping to put disappointing starts to the Premier League season behind them. Erik ten Hag's United have failed to show any real improvement from a miserable season last term, sitting outside the top 10 already domestically with just seven points from five matches. The Dutch manager narrowly clung on to his job despite leading the Old Trafford giants to their worst-ever Premier League finish of eighth last term, largely thanks to a surprise FA Cup final victory over Manchester City. United spent heavily in the transfer market, but the expected upturn in fortunes on the pitch are yet to materialise ahead of their Europa League opener at home to Twente on Wednesday. A goalless draw at Crystal Palace last weekend snuffed out some of the positivity garnered from the 3-0 win over Southampton and League Cup thrashing of Bamsley, but Ten Hag insists his team are progressing. "The performance is good, but we are not happy with the score. We are disappointed with the score, it's clear," he said after the stalemate at Selhurst Park. "But I know one thing for sure in football, it's a long way to go and when you play in the quality we now deliver the points will come, the goals will come. "Now we can work on the team, we can build structures, we can also bring out some consistency in selection, and that helps, of course, to bring the patterns and routines in, and then you play better."

Nadal Included in Spain Squad for Davis Cup Finals

MADRID (Dispatches) - Rafael Nadal has been included in Spain's squad for the Davis Cup Final Eight in November. The former world number one, 38, has been added alongside world number three Carlos Alcaraz, Roberto Bautista Agut, Pablo Carreno Busta and Marcel Granollers. Nadal has not competed since the Paris 2024 Olympics, where the 22-time Grand Slam champion was beaten in the singles by Novak Djokovic and lost in the quarter-finals of the doubles after partnering Alcaraz. He withdrew from the US Open in August and last weekend's Laver Cup because of fitness concerns. Six-time champions Spain, whose most recent success came in 2019, face Netherlands in the quarter-finals, starting on 19 November. Nadal missed the US Open because he said he would not "be able to give my 100% at this time". He then pulled out of the Laver Cup earlier in September, saying he believed there are "other players who can help the team deliver the win". Nadal also missed the Australian Open in January through injury and decided not to play Wimbledon to focus on the Olympics. He previously hinted at retirement later this year, but said



before the French Open he was not "100%" certain that would be the last time he played at Roland Garros. The Davis Cup quarter-finals take place 19-21 November, with the semi-finals following on consecutive days before the final on Sunday, 24 November. Reigning world number one Jannik Sinner is set to lead defending champions Italy, who will seek to become the first team to retain the title since 2013. Emma Raducanu retired from the Korea Open quarter-finals on Saturday (PA Wire) Meanwhile Emma Raducanu has been forced to withdraw from the China Open in Beijing due to a foot injury, in a major blow to the 21-year-old's end of season plans. The former US Open champion retired from her Korea Open quarter-final against Daria Kasatkina on Saturday. "Last week in Seoul I sprained some ligaments in my foot which unfortunately need some more time to heal," the British No 2 said on Monday afternoon in a post on Twitter/X. "It means I can't play in Beijing but I hope to be back competing as soon as I can." Raducanu was included in the draw for the WTA 1000 event, which begins on Wednesday, and was scheduled to face a qualifier in the first round.

Verstappen Says Swearing Penalty Could Hasten His F1 Exit



SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Max Verstappen suggested he could turn his back on Formula One sooner than expected if the sport's governing body stopped him having fun and being himself. Red Bull's triple world champion was ordered by stewards to do "work of public interest" with the FIA after he used a swear word in a press conference at the Singapore Grand Prix last Thursday. The penalty, which he described as 'super-silly' on Sunday, led the Dutch driver to give only terse replies in FIA press conferences and meet reporters elsewhere in a paddock media huddle. He did the same after finishing second in the race behind McLaren rival Lando Norris, using the opportunity to explain further why he felt so strongly about the penalty. "These kind of things definitely decide my future as well," he said. "When you can't be yourself or you have to deal with these kind of silly things. "I think now I'm at the stage of my career that you don't want to be dealing with this all the time. "It's really tiring. Of course, it's great to have success and win races but once you have accomplished all that, winning championships and races, then you want to just have a good time as well." Verstappen has spoken previously about retiring from Formula One while still comparatively young, emphasising that he would not go on as long as the likes of Lewis Hamilton, 39, and Fernando Alonso, 43. "If you have to deal with all these kind of silly things, for me, that is not a way of continuing in the sport, that's for sure," said the 26-year-old. Asked if the FIA might relent if they were told they risked pushing a multiple world champion out of the sport, Verstappen doubted they would take it very seriously. "For me, of course, at one point, when it's enough, it's enough. And we'll see. I mean, like I said, racing will go on," he added. "F1 will go on also without me. It's not a problem. But it's also not a problem for me." Verstappen said he felt he was being prevented from being authentic. "If you can't really be yourself, like to the fullest, then it's better not to speak," he said. "That's what no one wants, because then you become a robot and it is not how you should be going about it in the sport."

Barca Goalkeeper Ter Stegen to Undergo Knee Operation

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen will have surgery on a ruptured knee tendon, the Catalan club said, with the club's captain potentially sidelined for the rest of the season. The 32-year-old German international was stretched off after falling awkwardly during his team's 5-1 victory over Villarreal on Sunday. "(Ter Stegen) has a complete rupture in the patella tendon in his right knee," said Barcelona in a statement. "On Monday afternoon he will undergo a surgical process and once complete a new update will be released." Ter Stegen, who was criticized after making a mistake in Barcelona's 2-1 Champions League defeat at Monaco on Thursday, suffered the injury before half-time at Villarreal's Estadio de la Ceramica. "I think it will be a huge injury, when he lay down on the field... you can see it directly," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick said after the game. Inaki Pena replaced Ter Stegen and is set to fill in for the German, although Barcelona may look to sign a replacement. Flick said it was too soon to comment on the issue. "I don't know if I like this question directly after the match... I just want to see how Marc is, he's our captain and is a very important player for us," said Flick. "Please understand that I don't want to talk about that." Ter Stegen started two Nations League matches for Germany in September after Bayern Munich veteran



Manuel Neuer's retirement from international duty in August. Barcelona are once again lamenting their fortune after Marc-Andre ter Stegen was struck down by a brutal knee injury during their 5-1 win over Villarreal. No medical degree was necessary to see that ter Stegen's knee was not in the right place after the injury, and now Barcelona will have to assess their options in goal. He was substituted by Inaki Pena, who also replaced him last season for a period of three months, while youngsters Ander Astralaga and Diego Kochen are also options. The latter is injured for a month himself, but Cadena SER have noted that none of the options in goal fully convince the club of their ability. While Barcelona can no longer sign a player from another team this season, after the rule that allowed them to activate Martin Braithwaite's release clause in 2020 was erased, but they can sign a goalkeeper that is currently a free agent. Their options in that regard run through Keylor Navas, Jiri Pavlenka, Sergio Rico, Tomas Vaclik, Kristoffer Klaesson or Antonio Adan. Two former La Masia goalkeepers in Edgar Badia and Jordi Masip also remain without teams currently, while the Spanish radio station also noted that Wojciech Szczesny has recently retired, and Robert Lewandowski might put in a call to his Polish teammate, although that is pure speculation.