

The Arbaeen Headquarters Announced that as of Sunday Night, the Number of Iranian Pilgrims who Had traveled to Iraq Was 3,622,254 While the number of Deaths Was 59 Which Shows a 50% Decrease Compared to Last Year

# IRAN NEWS

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei Has Said "We Shia Muslims Are Proud to Be Followers of Imam Hussein (AS) But Imam Hussein Does Not Belong Only to Us," Adding All Muslims Are Under the Banner of Imam Hussein (AS) and That Even Non-Muslims Participate in the Arbaeen March

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DOMESTIC



## Without Sanctions, China Would Still Be Iran's Trading Partner

> SEE PAGE 2

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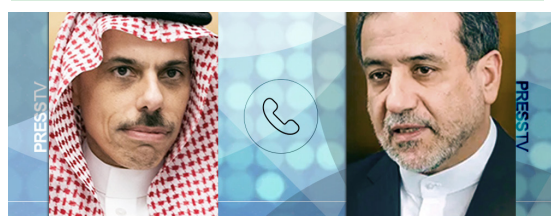
INTERNATIONAL

## No Breakthrough in Gaza Ceasefire Talks as Negotiations Stall in Cairo

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## Iran, Saudi Arabia Urge More Efforts to End Crimes of Israel, Send Aid to Gaza



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia agree that there is an urgency to stop the crimes of Israel against the Palestinians and deliver humanitarian aid to the war-stricken people in the besieged Gaza Strip.

In a phone conversation on Sunday, Prince Faisal bin Farhan and his newly appointed counterpart Abbas Araqchi discussed the latest developments in Gaza amid the continuation of the Israeli regime's crimes in the Strip and the intensification of tensions in the region.

The top Iranian and Saudi diplomats also said that mutual relations are on the right track and discussed ways to further enhance them in various fields. Araqchi and bin Farhan highlighted the importance of continuing coordination and consultation between the two countries which will be beneficial to Tehran and Riyadh and the entire region.

Moving towards 'strong and united region' among priorities of Iran's foreign policy: Araqchi

In a post on his X account on Sunday, Araqchi said moving towards a "strong and united region" through dialogue, cooperation, synergy and empathy with regional countries is among the priorities of Iran's foreign policy.

He added that he held separate phone talks with his Egyptian, Turkish and Saudi Arabian counterparts over the past two days.

In another post, the Iranian foreign minister said he received phone calls from his Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts in the past two days as they extended their congratulations to him over his appointment.

"The Caucasus region has geopolitical and strategic importance for the Islamic Republic of Iran," Araqchi stated.

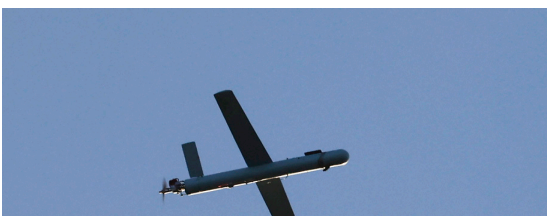
He said historical, cultural and geographical affinities have doubled the importance of expanding relations with the countries in this region.

Earlier Araqchi described as "definitive" the country's response to Israel's assassination of senior Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh last month.

In a phone call with his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani on Sunday, Abbas Araqchi said the response is "definitive" but it "will be measured and well calculated."

The top Iranian diplomat added that, unlike Israel, Iran is not seeking escalation but at the same time "we do not fear escalation."

## Borrell Warns of Full-Blown War in West Asia



BRUSSELS (Dispatches)- The European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, has warned that the current "critical" situation in West Asia risks turning into a "full-blown war" amid renewed tensions between Lebanon and Israel.

He made the remarks in an X post on Sunday, after Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement avenged the July 30 assassination of its senior commander Fuad Shukur by conducting a massive rocket drone attack against 11 military installations in the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, Israel claimed that it had waged a preemptive assault. Hezbollah, however, rejected the allegation, saying the regime had only carried out an air raid that failed to destroy the resistance group's rocket launchers.

"The situation in the Middle East has reached a critical level of dangerousness, for the region and beyond," Borrell said.

He added that he supports Lebanese caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati's call for "the immediate application of UNSCR 1701, in addition to the much-needed ceasefire in Gaza, to conjure the risk of a full blown war."

UNSCR 1701 refers to a resolution that ended Israel's 2006 war on Lebanon and called for Israeli forces to withdraw behind the UN Blue Line, the de-facto border between Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

In an emergency meeting of his cabinet on Sunday, Mikati said that "what is required is first to stop the Israeli aggression, and then to implement Resolution 1701."

He also emphasized Beirut's "support for international efforts that could lead to a ceasefire in Gaza."



## President Says Door Is Open for Honest Service

TEHRAN - The President stated that today, anyone who claims to be revolutionary and is concerned with honest service to the people has an open field before them. He said: "If we are in this position today, it is not for ruling over the people but for serving them and gaining their satisfaction, and anyone who strives in this path will be fully supported by us."

Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, at the inauguration ceremony of Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani Hospital, described the efforts of the Special Diseases Foundation in constructing this hospital in one of the deprived areas of Tehran as valuable and worthy of appreciation. He emphasized: "One of the issues we stressed during the election period was the need to pay attention to the deprived and to listen to the voiceless, and the construction of this hospital in one of the most deprived areas of Tehran shows that the head of the Special Diseases Foundation, independent of governments, has paid special attention to this important matter."

The President further listed addressing the needs and solving the problems of the underprivileged sections of society as one of the most important duties of the government and added: "The value of officials' actions is measured by their concern and attention to solving the problems of the people, especially the deprived, the voiceless, and those left behind."

Pezeshkian, referring to the decisive role of the people in various periods after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, especially during the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq War), emphasized: "Such people should not be forgotten, but efforts should be made to meet their needs and solve their problems with unconditional service."

The President, noting that being revolutionary is defined by satisfying the people, added: "Today, anyone who claims to be revolutionary and is concerned with honest service to the people has an open field before them."

Pezeshkian stated that the condition for success in any of our actions is ensuring the satisfaction of the people. He remarked: "If we are in this position today, it is not for ruling over the people but for serving them and gaining their satisfaction, and anyone who strives in this path will be fully supported by us."

The President, while honoring the memory of the late Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani and

his lasting services to the country and the Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasized: "Undoubtedly, the enduring services and efforts of the late Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani should be respected and appreciated."

Pezeshkian went on to say that success in ensuring and stabilizing the health of society depends on ensuring the health of the deprived and the poor, and added: "The Fourteenth Government considers itself responsible and obligated in this regard and will spare no effort in serving the deprived in society."

The President stated: "If we want Iran to be outstanding and the best among other countries, it does not depend on words and claims but on our actions and efforts," and he emphasized: "For the honor of Iran and the dignity of our dear people, we must all work together, independent of political views and ethnic and religious affiliations."

Earlier in meeting with President Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Hojatoleslam Gholam-Hossein Mohseni, stating that the strong vote of confidence in the 14th government's cabinet has become a very good support for the government, said: "Wednesday event in the parliament has positive internal and external effects for the country, and now we must work together to solve the people's problems in various areas."

At the beginning of this meeting, the head of the judiciary congratulated Dr. Pezeshkian on Doctor's Day and wished success for the 14th government.

Mohseni Ejei, referring to the parliament's vote of confidence in all the ministers of the 14th government's cabinet, added: "Yesterday's event in the parliament, with the positive vote for the government's proposed ministers, was unprecedented in some areas and rare in others, and it is a great blessing for the country."

The head of the judiciary, emphasizing that the strong vote for the 14th government's cabinet has become a very good support for the government, stated: "Yesterday's event in the parliament has positive internal and external effects for the country."

Mohseni Ejei stressed: "As Dr. Pezeshkian mentioned, now we must work together to solve the people's problems in various areas."

## Majlis Speaker Hails Successful Hezbollah Operation on Israeli Sites



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has praised the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah for its successful operation against the Israeli regime's sensitive military and espionage sites.

Qalibaf made the remarks in a post on his X account on Sunday after the resistance movement fired hundreds of rockets and drones toward the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the assassination of Fuad Shukur, a senior Hezbollah commander, in an Israeli airstrike on a building in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh on July 30.

Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news channel, citing reliable information, reported that Hezbollah's large drone and rocket strike against the occupied territories was carried out accurately and effectively.

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also called the retaliatory strikes "Arbaeen Operation."

In his post, Qalibaf sent his greetings to Hezbollah fighters and the resilient people of Lebanon, particularly in Dahieh.

"The Zionist regime's defeat today was equal to its defeat in the 2006 operation," Qalibaf said, referring to a 33-day war between Hezbollah and Israel.

Israel launched the full-scale military offensive against Lebanon on July 12, 2006, but Hezbollah fighters defeated the regime's military and forced it to retreat without achieving any of its objectives.

## Yemen Ready to Strike Painful Blow Deep Inside Israeli-Occupied Territories



SANAA (Dispatches) - Yemen has vowed to carry out further attacks against targets lying deep across the occupied Palestinian territories in response to the Israeli regime's ongoing deadly atrocities against the Palestinian people and other regional nations.

"The Yemeni Armed Forces, in all their formations, are at the highest level of readiness to deliver painful strikes deep into the Zionist entity," Yemeni Defense Minister Major General Mohammed Nasser al-Atifi said.

"The military decision-making process has studied all military determinants and carefully analyzed the weaknesses of the Zionist enemy," he added.

"The most important points in the Zionist target bank have been carefully and precisely identified, subjected to deep informational and intelligence analysis."

Since October 7, when the regime began a genocidal war against the Gaza Strip, the Yemeni forces have been carrying out numerous pro-Palestinian strikes against the occupied territories.

They have also been targeting Israeli ships and vessels heading towards or away from the territories as means of trying to force the regime into stopping the military onslaught and a siege that it has been simultaneously imposing on Gaza.

Reaffirming the forces' preparedness, al-Atifi said they "possess the capabilities and means to execute accurate and precise strikes."

He also addressed the readiness that has been announced by the Yemeni forces and the other components of the regional Axis of Resistance to respond strongly to the regime's assassination of senior resistance figures. The targeted killing operations that took place late last month led to the martyrdom of Ismail Haniyeh, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas's former Political Bureau chief, and Fuad Shukur, a ranking commander of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement.

"We assure everyone that the response from the Axis of Jihad and Resistance to the Zionist enemy's crimes is imminent and inevitable," as confirmed by the leader of Ansarullah movement (Abdul Malik al-Houthi), and it will be "a strategic and decisive response," he said.

## Israel Crosses All Redlines in Aggression Against Southern Beirut



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement says Israel has crossed "all redlines" in aggression against southern Beirut, noting that the group will decide on more retaliatory strikes against the regime in the future.

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in a televised speech broadcast live on Sunday after the resistance movement fired hundreds of rockets and drones toward Israel in retaliation for senior commander Fuad Shukur's assassination.

He said that Hezbollah has targeted Israeli military sites rather than civilians in its recent retaliatory strikes, which he called "Arbaeen Operation."

The Hezbollah leader also said the main targets were the spy bases and the air defense bases that were hit, adding that the resistance group has decided to target the Gilot military spy base close to Tel Aviv.

Nasrallah further noted that Israel has failed to hit any Hezbollah strategic or ballistic missiles, stressing that the occupying regime is trying to cover up the losses inflicted upon it as a result of the resistance group's retaliatory operation.

The regime's "pre-emptive" strikes had no impact on Hezbollah's retaliatory operations, he added.

Nasrallah further stated that Hezbollah delayed its retaliatory operation against Israel over the Gaza ceasefire talks in an attempt to see an end to the Israeli genocidal war

against the besieged enclave.

He added that Hezbollah did not target civilians in retaliatory operations against the Israeli regime.

The regime's "pre-emptive" strikes had no impact on Hezbollah's retaliatory operations, he added.

As part of an "initial response" to the Israeli assassination of Fuad Shukur in the southern Beirut suburb of Dahieh, Hezbollah launched at dawn Sunday a large number of rockets and drones deep into the occupied territories.

The Lebanese resistance group said it fired more than 320 rockets along with several explosive-laden drones that targeted 11 military bases in northern Israel, also setting off sirens in the coastal city of Acre, Katzin in the occupied Golan Heights as well as numerous settlements in the Galilee.

Hezbollah also struck multiple sites, military barracks, and Iron Dome installations belonging to the occupation forces in northern occupied territories with a heavy barrage of missiles, among which were Meron Base, Naftali Ze'ev artillery position, Zaitoun Base and Yarden Base in Golan Heights.

Following the retaliatory strikes, the Israeli regime declared a 48-hour state of emergency as a wave of panic swept across the occupied territories.

# IRAN NEWS



## Pistachio Exports Reach \$352m

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – According to the Iranian Customs Office, \$352 million worth of various types of pistachios were exported in the first five months of this year, representing a 213% increase compared to the same period last year.

The weight of pistachio exports during this period amounted to 36,000 tons, showing a 122% increase compared to the same period last year.

The report also highlights the major types of pistachios exported in the first five months of 1403: pistachios with fresh or dried shells accounted for \$245 million, fresh or dried pistachio kernels for \$103 million, and slivered fresh or dried pistachio kernels for \$3.3 million, making them the most exported pistachio products.

## Opportunities for Iranian Industries in Processing Afghanistan's Mineral Resources



TEHRAN - Alireza Khamseh, President of the South Khorasan Chamber of Commerce, discussed the shared economic cooperation opportunities between Iranians and Afghans.

He stated that with the establishment of the interim Islamic Emirate government in Afghanistan, a new mechanism has taken over Afghan businesses. This development requires Iran to reclaim its position in this neighboring country of 40 million people.

He added that Afghanistan possesses untapped mineral reserves, which have garnered special attention since the new government took office. Meanwhile, Iran both consumes some of the mineral resources found in Afghan soil and has technical and engineering expertise in the mining sector, which can be utilized in the exploration, extraction, and processing of these minerals.

Khamseh emphasized another significant issue: Afghanistan's weakness in securing the energy needed for production, particularly electricity. This weakness provides an opportunity for Iran to import Afghanistan's raw minerals, process them into semi-finished materials, and then re-export them to Afghanistan. Coal, zinc ore, lead ore, talc, iron ore, copper minerals, and building stones are among the resources present in Afghanistan that Iranian industries can process, consume, or export.

He clarified that achieving these goals requires an increase in diplomatic exchanges between the two countries. To this end, an exhibition of the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran will be held in Kabul later this month. Furthermore, last year, the Joint Iran-Afghanistan Economic Cooperation Commission was established in Iran with the participation of the Taliban delegation, and Iran's Ministry of Agriculture was appointed as the commission's lead. Following these activities, trade operators in border provinces have expanded their operations concerning Afghanistan.



TEHRAN - Majidreza Hariri, the president of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce, explained the factors that have made China Iran's main trading partner in an interview.

He stated that the general policy of Iran-China relations in various areas, including economic and commercial fields, is based on the overall policies of the Iranian government, rather than the decisions of individual administrations. While governments can manage their relationships with other countries based on their preferences, the change in government in Iran does not alter its policy towards China. The overarching policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to strengthen ties with China.

Hariri added that beyond political issues, what has strengthened the economic relationship between Iran and China is that the economies of both countries are complementary. Countries like Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE in the Persian Gulf region mainly supply raw materials and energy to the world, while China is the largest buyer of these materials globally. Since trade is a two-way street, Iran also meets its needs through China, which has led to China becoming the main trading partner for many countries, including Iran. Today, an economy as large as China's is a trading partner to over 120 countries worldwide, and Iran is one of them. The annual trade value between Iran and China is \$40 billion, while China's trade with the US exceeds \$650 billion.

Hariri noted that even countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are politically aligned with the West, have stronger trade relations with China compared to Iran. Iran used to be China's top trading partner in the Persian Gulf, but due to sanctions and trade restrictions with Iran, countries like Qatar, Oman, Iraq, and Kuwait have surpassed Iran.

When asked how Iran's inclination towards the Eastern Bloc has influenced China's

status as Iran's largest trading partner, Hariri explained that even without sanctions, China would still have been Iran's top trading partner. This is mainly due to Iran's vast reserves of oil, gas, and minerals. Although Iran's preference for the East has also played a role in strengthening its trade relationship with China, it is not the primary factor.

He mentioned that while Iran shares a border with Russia and has deeper political relations with Russia compared to China, and despite shared security and military interests, the value of trade between Iran and Russia has not exceeded \$2.5 billion. In contrast, Iran's trade with China, even at its weakest, has been \$30 billion and at its strongest \$52 billion. This shows that while leaders may wish to develop economic ties, the similarity between the economies of Iran and Russia limits the potential for increased trade, as both countries are competitors in many sectors.

Regarding the removal of visa requirements for Iranians traveling to China, Hariri explained that while Chinese nationals do not need a visa to enter Iran, China has only recently started to waive visa requirements for about 53 countries and has done so gradually. Iran has requested visa-free travel to China, but attracting tourists, among other factors, is significant in this matter. China is not a particularly attractive destination for Iranians, given the long flight time of eight hours, high travel costs (with economy flights costing around 40 million tomans), and the small Iranian community in China, which reduces the demand for visits to China.

Hariri also discussed the participation of Iranians in the China International Import Expo held in November. He mentioned that this year's exhibition will be the seventh edition, with three previous editions held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In all six previous editions, the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce set up Iran's pavilion, and Iran, with a space of 2,000 square meters, was the largest participant in the event.

## Steel Production to Decrease by 2m Tons This Year



ISFAHAN (IRNA) - The head of the Iranian Steel Association stated that despite the country's annual steel production capacity of 50 million tons, energy constraints have limited actual production to a maximum of 32 million tons. This figure is expected to drop even further, to below 30 million tons, this year.

Bahram Sobhani, in a press conference on Tuesday afternoon at the "Balanced and Sustainable Development of Iran's Iron and Steel Industry" specialized conference at the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, added that today, with over 30 million tons of steel production, Iran is the largest producer of this strategic product in the Middle East. He also noted that 40% of the country's steel production takes place in Isfahan. The presence of the Zob Ahan plant, as the first steel producer in the country, and Mobarakeh Steel Company, the largest steel unit in Iran, has established Isfahan as the cradle of steel production in the country.

The head of the Iranian Steel Association continued by saying that upon examining every steel industry established in the country, we find that they have utilized specialists from Mobarakeh Steel or Zob Ahan, highlighting that this industry in the province has trained many experts in this field. Thus, Isfahan has the capacity to host more specialized conferences on national and international levels in this domain.

He also mentioned that while the UAE's steel production is one-tenth that of Iran, they host around eight international conferences on steel each year. In contrast, the number of steel-related conferences in our country does not match our

production volume, and Isfahan has the greatest right and capacity to hold such conferences.

Sobhani, who is also the chairman of the strategic council for the "Balanced and Sustainable Development of Iran's Iron and Steel Industry" conference, emphasized that Isfahan, as the cradle and capital of Iran's steel industry, can host the best and most numerous conferences and exhibitions in this field. In this regard, the strategic council for the conference has been formed, with its secretariat in the Mines Commission of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and its members including the CEOs of steel companies in Isfahan.

Sobhani announced that the first "Balanced and Sustainable Development of Iran's Iron and Steel Industry" conference will be held next Wednesday at the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce. The conference will include four specialized panels focusing on policy-making and governance, the role of sustainable raw material supply, production and trade, infrastructure and energy challenges, and the role of technology enhancement and smart industry in the sector.

The head of the Iranian Steel Association also remarked that the steel industry has the least role in the water shortage crisis. According to the Ministry of Energy, about 92% of the country's water is consumed in agriculture, 5% in residential areas, and only about 3 to 4% in the entire industrial sector. Official statistics indicate that only "0.2%" of the country's water is used in the steel industry, so incorrect information should not be given to the public regarding environmental problems and the water crisis.

## Iraq Becomes the Top Destination for Iran Agro Exports



TEHRAN - The National Center for Strategic Agricultural and Water Studies of Iran's Chamber of Commerce has released a report comparing the foreign trade statistics of agricultural products for the first two months of this year with the same period from 2018 to 2023, providing an analysis of the trade situation in this sector.

The Center has reviewed and compared the foreign trade statistics of agricultural products and food industries for the first two months of this year with the same period from 2018 onwards. The report, prepared based on preliminary statistical data from the first two months of 2024 provided by Iranian Customs, compares the trade balance, imports of essential agricultural products, food industries, inputs, machinery, and equipment, and exports of major agricultural products and food industries in the first two months of this year with data from the same period over the past six years (2018 to 2023).

The trade balance for agricultural products and food industries (agricultural sector) in the first two months of 2024 was negative by \$1.375 billion, which is 10.8% worse compared to the same period last year (exports increased by 21.3% and imports by 15.3%). The trade deficit for the first two months of 2024 was 11.3% worse compared to the average of the past six years, which had a deficit of \$1.235 billion.

The trade balance for agricultural products in the first two months of 2024 was negative by \$1.444 billion, which is 11.7% worse than the same period last year (exports increased by 21.3% and imports by 15.3%). The trade deficit for the first two months of 2024 was 8.8% worse compared to the six-year average up to 2023, which had a deficit of \$1.327 billion.

The trade balance for food industry products in the first two months of this year was \$69 million, which grew by 32.4% compared to the same period last year (exports decreased by 21.2% and imports increased by 15.7%). The trade balance for the first two months of 2024 decreased by 25% compared to the six-year average for the same period up to 2023, which was \$92 million.

## CBI Governor in Bangalore



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Global Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies Conference, aimed at sharing countries' experiences in implementing electronic banking infrastructure and assessing its feasibility for cross-border payments, has commenced in Bangalore, India. The event features the presence of governors and senior officials from central banks of various countries, including Iran and India, as well as experts in modern and emerging banking technologies.

In the framework of strengthening monetary and banking diplomacy, "Mohammad Reza Farzin," the Governor of the Central Bank, arrived in Bangalore, India, last night to attend the Global Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies Conference. His visit also aims to enhance and develop economic, monetary, and banking relations with the core members of the BRICS group.

During this trip, accompanied by a technical delegation, the Governor of the Central Bank will engage in consultations and discussions with his counterparts on the sidelines of the conference to boost monetary and banking cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran's economic partners.

Bangalore, the capital of the state of Karnataka, is one of the major cities of India with a population of over 12 million. In recent years, Bangalore has also gained a reputation as the information technology hub of India.



## Need to Reduce Electricity Consumption by 10% for All Subscribers

TEHRAN – The CEO of Ravanir Mr. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi stated that yesterday, during peak consumption hours, the demand for electricity reached 77,000 megawatts. He added that on September 3rd, the demand for electricity exceeded unbelievable numbers 42 times over 42 days compared to last year's consumption levels.

The CEO of Tavanir further noted that, according to the Meteorological Organization, we experienced an unprecedentedly hot August in the past fifty years. Based on their forecasts, a slight drop in temperatures was expected starting yesterday. However, not only did the temperature not decrease, but reports indicate that we are facing persistent and unusual heat until the end of this week.

The spokesperson for the electricity industry expressed gratitude to all citizens who have helped the hardworking personnel of the electricity sector by managing their electricity consumption. He emphasized that given the continued high temperatures and the resulting increase in electricity demand, which has caused some challenges in ensuring a stable power supply, it is necessary for consumers to reduce their consumption by at least 10% to help mitigate these issues and ensure a stable and continuous electricity supply across the country.

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

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

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

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

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

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



# IRAN NEWS

## Russian Attacks on Ukraine Kill 4 and Injure 37



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia launched attacks on northern, eastern and southern Ukraine, killing at least four people and injuring 37, Ukrainian military and local authorities said on Sunday.

Overnight attacks targeted Ukraine's frontline regions of Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv and Donetsk, Ukraine's air force said on the Telegram messaging app.

Russia has been pummeling Ukrainian border regions with strikes, and Kyiv said its surprise incursion earlier this month into Russia's Kursk region aimed to hinder Moscow's ability to stage such attacks.

"Most of the missiles did not reach their targets," the air force said, adding that Russia launched an Iskander-M ballistic missile, an Iskander-K cruise missile and six guided air missiles. It did not specify how many were destroyed.

A missile attack on the northern region of Sumy killed one person, injuring at least 16 more, including three children, local authorities said on Telegram.

Oleh Sinehubov, governor of the Kharkiv region in the east, posted that at least 13 people were injured in the Russian attacks, including a 4-year-old child.

Ihor Terekhov, mayor of Kharkiv city, said a gas pipeline was damaged in the city and at least two houses were destroyed and 10 damaged.

The air force said Russia launched nine attack drones, with Ukraine's air defence systems destroying eight of them over the Mykolaiv region.

Russian attacks continued throughout the day in the southern region of Kherson, killing one person and injuring six more, according to Roman Mrochko, head of Kherson city's military administration.



## No Breakthrough in Gaza Ceasefire Talks as Negotiations Stall

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - There was no agreement on Sunday in the Gaza ceasefire talks that took place in Cairo, with neither Hamas nor Israel agreeing to several compromises presented by mediators, two Egyptian security sources said, casting doubt on the chances of success in the latest U.S.-backed effort to end the 10-month old war.

A senior U.S. official, however, described the talks as "constructive", saying they were conducted in a spirit on all sides to reach "a final and implementable agreement."

"The process will continue over the coming days through working groups to further address remaining issues and details," said the official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, adding that the teams would remain in Cairo.

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

Speaking at a news conference in Halifax, Canada, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said Washington was still "feverishly" working in Cairo to get a ceasefire and a hostage deal.

Key sticking points in ongoing talks mediated by the United States, Egypt and Qatar include an Israeli presence in the so-called Philadelphi Corridor, a narrow 14.5-km-long (9-mile-long) stretch of land along Gaza's southern border with Egypt.

Mediators put forward a number of alternatives to the presence of Israeli forces on the Philadelphi Corridor and the Netzarim Corridor which cuts across the middle of the Gaza Strip, but none were accepted by the parties, Egyptian sources said.

Israel also expressed reservations on several of the Palestinian detainees Hamas is demanding the release of, and Israel demanded their exit of Gaza if they are released, the sources added.

There has been much back and forth between the teams from Israel, the United States and Egypt since Thursday to narrow the remaining gaps, the senior U.S. official said, in preparation for Saturday, when Qatar and Egypt met with senior representatives of Hamas to walk through the proposal in detail.

On Sunday, senior officials from Israel joined the talks to address outstanding issues with the support of mediators, the senior U.S. official said but did not provide a definitive assessment on whether there was a breakthrough or not.

Hamas said Israel has backtracked on a commitment to withdraw troops from the Corridor and put forward other new conditions, including the screening of displaced Palestinians as they return to the enclave's more heavily populated north when the ceasefire begins.

"We will not accept discussions about retractions from what we agreed to on July 2 or new conditions," Hamas official Osama Hamdan told the group's Al-Aqsa TV on Sunday.

In July, Hamas accepted a U.S. proposal to begin talks on releasing Israeli hostages, including soldiers and men, 16 days after the first phase of an agreement aimed at ending the Gaza war, a senior Hamas source has told Reuters.

A Hamas delegation left Cairo on Sunday after holding talks with mediators, senior official Izzat El-Reshiq said, adding that the group had reiterated its demand that any agreement must stipulate a permanent ceasefire and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

## Paris Commemorates the 80th Anniversary of Liberation From German Occupation

PARIS (Dispatches) - Paris on Sunday celebrated the 80th anniversary of its liberation from German troops in World War II with tributes, military marches and the hoisting of a flag at the Eiffel Tower.

On August 25, 1944, the 2nd French Armoured Division entered the capital under the command of General Philippe Leclerc de Hautecloque, ending 1,500 days of German occupation.

Their triumphant arrival followed a tumultuous week of uprisings, strikes, combat at barricades and street battles between French Resistance fighters and occupying forces.

On Sunday a parade followed one of the itineraries of the French division from the south of the capital to its centre.

The parade featured vintage military vehicles, as surviving veterans of the 2nd Armoured Division looked on.

President Emmanuel Macron led the commemoration, also attended by Prime Minister Gabriel Attal, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and an audience including prominent cultural figures including American actor Jodie Foster.

"Beyond all divisions and contradictions, to be French is to be together," Macron said in a speech. "Free, and true to the great things that have been achieved and determined to achieve more together."

A torch for the Paris Paralympics, which open Wednesday, was lit, ahead of a flyover by the Patrouille de France, a unit of French air force fighter planes.

Earlier Sunday, the French flag was raised under the Eiffel Tower in memory of firefighters who at midday 80 years ago took down the Nazi flag that had been flying there for four years, and replaced it with the tricolour.

KARBALA (Dispatches) - More than 21 million Shiite Muslims took part in the Arbaeen pilgrimage in Iraq this year, which reached its peak on Sunday with attendees displaying their support for Gaza.

Arbaeen, which means forty in Arabic, marks the 40th day of mourning for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and a founding figure in Shiite Islam.

It is one of the world's biggest religious gatherings and a major event for Shiites, who are the majority in Iraq and Iran.

Karbala, where Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother Abbas are buried in two enormous mausoleums facing each other, is the centre of the Shiite world during this time.

This year, the events have included prominent displays of Palestinian flags by pilgrims, AFP photographers reported, amid the war in Gaza.

"The total number of Arbaeen pilgrims... reached 21,480,525", the institution that manages the Abbas mausoleum and is responsible for the count, said.

Among them were about 3.5 million Iranian pilgrims, according to official figures reported in Tehran.

Mohammed al-Tamimi, a 32-year-old pilgrim told AFP-TV that the Palestinian flags waving among the pilgrims are "in support of our brothers in Palestine and in response to the Zionists, saying that Muslims stand as one against the Zionist actions and against the crimes taking place in Gaza."

The Arbaeen celebrations, which always take place amid tight security, drew around 22 million pilgrims last year, according to official figures. Iran provided the most foreign visitors, with four million.

The war in Gaza was sparked by Hamas's October 7 attack on southern Israel.

Israel's retaliatory military campaign has killed at least 40,405 people in Gaza, according to the Hamas-run territory's health ministry, which does not break down civilian and militant deaths. The UN rights office says most of the dead are women and children.



## Millions of Shiite Muslim Pilgrims Rally in Iraq

## North Korea's Kim Jong Un Oversees Tests of Suicide Drones



SEOUL (Reuters) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched as new "suicide drones" took off and destroyed test targets including a mock tank, and urged researchers to develop artificial intelligence for the unmanned vehicles, state media reported on Monday.

Kim visited the Drone Institute of North Korea's Academy of Defence Sciences on Saturday and viewed a successful test of drones correctly identifying and destroying designated targets after flying along different preset routes, state news agency KCNA said.

Kim called for the production of more suicide drones to be used in tactical infantry and special operation units, such as underwater suicide attack drones, as well as strategic reconnaissance and multi-purpose attack drones, KCNA said.

Also known as loitering munitions, such weapons been widely used in the war in Ukraine as well as in the Middle East.

Loitering munitions can typically be aloft and ready to strike before a specific target is located, then attack by crashing into the target with a built-in warhead.

Photos released by state media showed at least four different types of drones, some of which were launched with the aid of small rocket engines before their propellers took over.

When asked about visual similarities between some of the North Korean drones and Russia's ZALA Lancet and the Iranian-designed Shahed, which is also used by Russia, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said more analysis is necessary.

"We understand that some gifts (drones) were given in an exchange between North Korea and Russia in the past... We need to analyse various measures to see if those have improved performance," a spokesperson for the JCS said in a briefing.

Nuclear-armed North Korea has close ties to Russia and Iran and a history of military cooperation with both.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said it was the first time Pyongyang had unveiled suicide drones.

Several North Korean drones crossed the border into the South in 2022 and even briefly entered a no-fly zone surrounding Seoul's presidential office, before turning back.

South Korea has said it will deploy laser weapons to shoot down North Korean drones this year, becoming the world's first country to deploy and operate such weapons in the military, and some skyscrapers in Seoul host anti-aircraft guns on their roofs.

South Korea and the U.S. kicked off annual summertime military exercises last week, including practising responses to North Korean drones.



## Norris Stuns Verstappen to Win Dutch Grand Prix

ZANDVOORT (Dispatches) - McLaren's Lando Norris stormed to victory at the Dutch Grand Prix Sunday, a superb drive consigning home favourite Max Verstappen to his first-ever loss in front of his "Orange Army" fans.

The British driver claimed his second career chequered flag after winning in Miami in May, closing Verstappen's lead over him in the world championship to 70 points, with the Dutchman coming second.

Despite raucous encouragement from a packed Zandvoort circuit, Verstappen could not extract enough from his Red Bull to compete with a recently upgraded McLaren that is beginning to look like the car to beat in Formula One.

"It feels amazing... The pace was very strong and the car was unbelievable today," said Norris, who also secured a point for the fastest lap.

The start was critical. Questions have been asked of the starting ability of Norris, who has three times this season failed to convert pole position into a first lap lead.

And again Norris was sluggish off the line, allowing Verstappen to power around the outside to huge cheers from the crowd, who saw their man take a 0.9-second advantage into the second lap.

Buoyed by the fast start, Verstappen clocked the quickest lap in lap two, putting clear daylight between him and the McLaren of Norris.

But the McLaren had been the fastest car in the paddock all race weekend and Norris started slowly but surely eating into Verstappen's lead.

By lap 17 out of 72, Norris was only a few tenths of a second behind Verstappen, the Dutchman complaining on his team radio of a lack of grip from his tyres.

Norris passed him a lap later on the outside at turn one, Verstappen powerless to prevent the overtake and quickly falling further behind.

"I can't go faster. The car is not responding to my inputs," a desperate Verstappen told his engineers as Norris

stretched his advantage to more than four seconds.

On lap 25, Verstappen decided enough was enough and he needed a new set of tyres.

Norris pitted the lap after, his team taking 0.6 seconds longer than the Red Bull for the pit stop.

Nevertheless, Norris emerged from the two stops five seconds ahead of his rival and promptly produced the fastest lap of the race on his new set of tyres.

By lap 40, Norris had extended the advantage to more than 10 seconds over the three-time champion and just had to stay out of trouble to take the chequered flag.

His eventual margin of victory was 22.896 seconds, with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc holding off Norris's McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to claim the third podium spot after a thrilling battle.

Red Bull's struggling second driver Sergio Perez finished in sixth position, meaning the gap in the constructors' championship also narrowed from 42 points to 30.

"I wouldn't say a perfect race because of lap one again, but afterwards it was beautiful," said Norris.

"I expected Max to start pushing and get a bit of a gap. And he never did. So from that point, I knew we were in with a good fight," added Norris.

"But he seemed to just keep dropping off. And my pace was getting better. So it's a nice feeling inside the car. And especially when I got past, you know, I could just get comfortable."

The F1 circus now moves on to the famous Monza track in Italy next weekend, round 16 of 24 with everyone snapping at Verstappen's heels.

Verstappen has not won a Grand Prix since Barcelona in June, his longest barren spell since 2020 and while it is premature to talk of panic stations at Red Bull, the Dutch weekend will have given some cause for concern.

"You always try to do better and we had a good start, we tried everything we could today, but throughout the race it was quite clear that we are not quick enough, so I tried to be second today," said Verstappen.

## Jackie Chan to Carry Torch Ahead of Paris Paralympics Opening Ceremony



PARIS (Dispatches) - Hong Kong-born martial arts actor Jackie Chan was named on Sunday as one of the torchbearers in the lead-up to the opening ceremony of the Paralympics in Paris.

The 70-year-old, known for his stunts and acrobatic fight scenes, will carry the flame on Wednesday afternoon in the French capital just hours before the opening ceremony, the organising committee announced.

French actress Elsa Zylberstein, and dancer/choreographer Benjamin Millepied will also take part in the torch relay.

As with the Olympic opening ceremony, Wednesday's event will take place beyond the confines of the Stade de France, with a parade down the Champs-Élysées to the Place de la Concorde in central Paris.

The flame, which was lit on Saturday in Stoke Mandeville in the UK, the historic birthplace of the Paralympic Games, arrived in France via the Channel Tunnel on Sunday, carried by wheelchair fencing medalist Emmanuelle Assmann.

"It's all about inscribing sport in the hearts of people with disabilities," said French sports minister Amélie Oudéa-Castera who was on hand to welcome the flame, alongside Tony Estanguet, head of the organising committee.

The flame was due to continue its journey where it would be "multiplied" into 12 Paralympic flames, which will be carried by 1,000 torchbearers in around 50 towns, in 12 simultaneous relays.

These 12 relays will converge on Paris, where the flame will arrive on Wednesday for the opening ceremony.

## Slot Extends Perfect Liverpool start, Chelsea Hit Wolves for six

LONDON (Dispatches) - Arne Slot extended his perfect start as Liverpool manager with a 2-0 win against Brentford on his Anfield debut, while Noni Madueke hit a hat-trick and then apologized for a social media slur as Chelsea crushed Wolves 6-2 on Sunday.

Slot was serenaded by Liverpool fans before kick-off and goals from Luis Diaz and Mohamed Salah ensured the mood remained upbeat as Liverpool made it two successive victories under their new boss.

The 45-year-old was taking charge of his first Premier League home game after opening his reign with a 2-0 win at Ipswich last weekend.

Slot was hired from Feyenoord to replace Jurgen Klopp after the German stepped down at the end of last term following nine successful years at Anfield.

The early signs are promising for Slot as he looks to build on the foundations laid by Klopp, who bowed out with a third-placed finish in the Premier League and a League Cup final victory last season.

In front of an Anfield league record crowd of 60,107, Liverpool took the lead in the 13th minute with a blistering break that climaxed with Diaz taking Diogo Jota's pass and firing high into the net.



Salah put the result beyond doubt in the 70th minute, cleverly adjusting his body position to dink his shot into the far corner from 12 yards after Dominik Szoboszlai tenaciously won possession in midfield.

"I think Liverpool fans saw these performances under Jurgen Klopp many times. I want to see everybody sprinting back and doing everything they can to avoid conceding a goal and that's what we did very well today," Slot said.

"If you keep on insisting in what you do, the execution becomes better. Brentford didn't have the legs anymore to defend us."

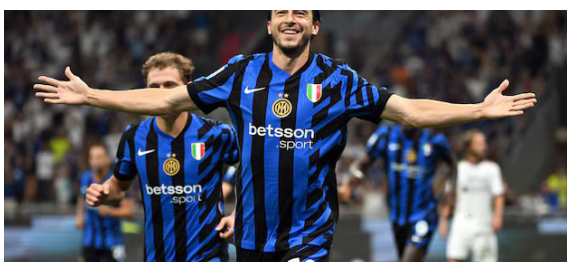
Slot will get his first taste of a Liverpool grudge match next weekend when his team travel to bitter rivals Manchester United.

"Brentford made it very tough for us today but I am not expecting them in the top six this season so we have to improve to make sure we can do it against teams that can end up in the top six," he said.

At Molineux, Chelsea made the perfect start after just 98 seconds when Mathew Cunha could only flick his attempted clearance from a corner towards Nicolas Jackson, who was left unmarked to head in from six yards.

Jackson's goal infuriated Wolves fans already angry with Chelsea after Madueke posted and then deleted a critical review of Wolverhampton just hours before kick-off.

## Madrid Win But Mbappe Fires Bernabeu Blanks



MADRID (Dispatches) - Spanish champions Real Madrid earned a 3-0 win over Real Valladolid in La Liga on Sunday as Kylian Mbappe made his Santiago Bernabeu bow without finding the net.

Atletico Madrid comfortably beat last season's surprise package Girona by the same scoreline later on in the capital. Madrid's French striker Mbappe played at home for the first time in a Los Blancos shirt but was largely frustrated by Valladolid's defence.

Madrid midfielder Fede Valverde opened the scoring after 50 minutes and substitutes Brahim Diaz and debutant Endrick struck late on.

Without the injured Jude Bellingham Madrid created little in the first half but did enough after the break to earn their first win of the season, following an opening draw at Real Mallorca.

Still lacking fluency in attack, Carlo Ancelotti's side stayed two points behind rivals Barcelona, who beat Athletic Bilbao on Saturday.

"We were too slow in the first half, the second half we were much more active, there was more movement, much faster with the ball," said Ancelotti.

Real Valladolid set out to frustrate the champions in the summer heat and succeeded for 45 minutes.

Madrid came out with more bite in the second half and Valverde smashed home a vicious low free-kick with the help of a deflection to break the deadlock.

Mbappe blew a golden opportunity to get off the mark when Vinicius cut the ball across to him, but Estonian goalkeeper Karl Hein saved well.

The France captain had another chance on the counter-attack but fired wide before being replaced by 18-year-old Brazilian forward Endrick.

Mbappe scored on his debut in a UEFA Super Cup triumph but in La Liga, has failed to score in his opening two matches.

"He's a spectacular forward, very fast, moves well without the ball, attacks in behind, he had three or four chances (which were) created with his movement," said Ancelotti.

"In this position, he will score like he always scores, I don't think he needs to play from the left, in the centre in the end he will score goals."

## Record-Breaking Duplantis and Ingebrigtsen Sparkle in Polish Meet

CHORZOW (Dispatches) - Armand Duplantis and Jakob Ingebrigtsen thrilled spectators as they set world records at the Silesia Diamond League meeting on Sunday.

Duplantis celebrated in his usual exuberant style as he set a new mark of 6.26 metres in the pole vault, less than three weeks after he last broke it when defending his Olympic title in Paris.

The 24-year-old Swede was congratulated by Polish President Andrzej Duda, who came onto the track and shook his hand.

"Everything just came together to allow me to do this," said Duplantis, whose first world record also came in Poland in February, 2020.

"I know a lot of people came here to see me jump, so I wanted to put in a good showing for them.

"This year I focused on the Olympics, the record just came naturally because I was in good shape.

"So I am not surprised with the record today, but I am thankful."

In the 3,000 metres, Ingebrigtsen, who lost his 1500m Olympic crown but won the 5,000m title, held his hands to his face in astonishment, then on top of his, head mouth agape, after posting a time of 7min 17.55sec.

The 23-year-old Norwegian smashed Kenyan Daniel Komen's 28-year-old mark by more than three seconds.



"It feels special, amazing," said Ingebrigtsen.

"I was hoping to challenge the world record here, but based on my training, I can never predict exactly what kind of time I am capable of.

"I would not have imagined I could run 7:17, though."

Kenya's Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi had entertained hopes of breaking compatriot David Rudisha's 800m world record of 1:40.91 set as he won Olympic gold in London in 2012.

However, Wanyonyi's thunder was stolen by his great rival over the distance Canada's world champion Marco Arop, who looked on course to set the record himself until tying up in the final few metres.

Arop, who took silver behind Wanyonyi in Paris earlier this month, finished in 1:41.86.

Expectations had been high for Wanyonyi after he went within 0.20sec of Rudisha's mark in Lausanne last Thursday.

Nevertheless he sounded less than enamoured at the hype that had surrounded him potentially breaking the record.

"My body did not respond well but I have done my best," he said.

"I do not like when people say that I am going to break the world record."