

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei Has Stressed That the Martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah Will Increase the Motivation and Strength of the Resistance Front All Over the World, Saying That by the Grace and Power of God, the Blows Struck by the Resistance Front on the Worn-Out, Deteriorating Body of the Zionist Regime Will become Even More Crushing

# IRAN NEWS

Commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Says Iran Will Stand by the Lebanese Resistance Movement Hezbollah Until the Liberation of Palestine and the Holy al-Quds

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## President Vows Decisive Response to Criminal Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian says it is imperative for Tehran to give a "decisive" response to the criminal Israeli regime.

Addressing a cabinet session, Pezeshkian once again strongly condemned Israel's assassination of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, in a massive airstrike on southern Beirut on Friday using American-supplied bunker-buster bombs.

"This crime once again proved that this criminal regime does not adhere to any of the international principles and rules," he said.

He added that Israel's criminal acts are not "unacceptable" and will not go unanswered.

He emphasized that historical experience showed that freedom-seeking and awakening movements will not disappear with the assassination of their figures.

"Dozens more people are ready to raise the flag of anti-tyranny and anti-justice," the Iranian president said.

He added that inaction on crimes committed by Israel, the US and their allies will only encourage them to carry out more criminal acts.

Pezeshkian stressed the importance of supporting the Hezbollah fighters in their war with Israel to prevent the atrocious regime from attacking countries of the axis of resistance and killing innocent women and children.

He reiterated the heavy responsibility of Arab and Muslim countries in the face of the Israeli regime's brutal aggression in the region.

He said, "Muslim countries should not be indifferent to the Israeli regime's criminality because it has been proven to all nations across the world who is the main criminal and the cause of war, insecurity and murder in the world!"

The Iranian chief executive also lashed out at Western media outlets for pursuing contradictory attitude to Israel's terrorism and noted that they "magnify the smallest events in Iran" but remain silent vis-à-vis the Israeli regime's criminal acts.

He further said Iran's Health Ministry and all relief bodies are fully prepared to help victims of the recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon.

In a message of condolences on Saturday, the Iranian president said the international community will not forget that the order for Israel's terrorist act to assassinate the Hezbollah secretary general was issued from New York.

## Electricity Production at Iran's Only Nuclear Power Plant at Record Highs



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's only nuclear power plant reached a production milestone of over 7 billion kilowatt-hours in the calendar year to March, according to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Mohammad Eslami said that the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, located in southern Iran along the Persian Gulf coast, was among the best eight nuclear power plants in the world last year in terms of efficiency and safety.

Eslami, who was briefing members of the Iranian parliament's Committee on Plan, Budget and Audit, said that the electricity generated at Bushehr nuclear plant in the past 10 years was worth two times the investment the government has made to build the electricity station.

He said that Iran is seriously pursuing plans to build new nuclear power plants in its north and south because of the high efficiency rates that exist in the sector.

The official, who also serves as a deputy president, said the AEOI is in the midst of the 2-year project to carry out geological studies to find locations for its new nuclear plants, adding that the entire process for building the plants will take 5-7 years.

Eslami said one of Iran's new power plants will be a home-made 300-megawatt factory for which contracts have been awarded to domestic industries and manufacturers.



TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman, in response to the recent crimes of the Zionist regime, stated: "Anyone who stands against Iran's national security will receive a response to these adventurous actions."

Nasser Kanaani said in his weekly press conference with reporters: "We are not all about slogans, we act, and we have shown this by firmly standing against aggressors and cutting off the hands and feet of the aggressor."

He further expressed his condolences and congratulations to the dear Lebanon, its government, people, Hezbollah, and especially to the honorable family of martyr Nasrallah. He stated: "Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was martyred, but his ideology remains alive, and his teachings will continue."

He emphasized that the resistance front and the Lebanese people will undoubtedly witness the death of Zionism and celebrate the liberation of Al-Quds in the near future. He further asserted that the Zionist usurping regime will not gain anything from its crimes and will never be able to recover from the irreparable defeat it has inflicted upon itself through these acts of violence.

The spokesperson also added that the United States will not gain any advantage from these crimes and will not be able to compensate for its long-standing failures in the region.

Kanaani stated that immediately after the Zionist regime's criminal act of targeting the Dahiyeh region in Beirut and using American-donated bombs to assassinate Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Islamic Republic of Iran immediately took international and legal actions. Considering the presence of Mr. Araqchi in New York, he announced Iran's position there.

Kanaani emphasized that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs promptly issued a statement. Mr. Araqchi attended a meeting at the UN Security Council, where he condemned the Zionist regime's terrorist actions and called for immediate global and Security Council action.

The spokesperson mentioned that Araqchi had conversations with the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), calling for an extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries. Additionally, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations sent letters to the Secretary-General of the UN and the president of the Security Council, urging immediate action on this matter, reiterating that Iran will defend its rights.

He added: "In this letter, we described the assassination of martyr Hassan Nasrallah and the IRGC advisor as a threat to peace and security in the region and the world, which could lead to more conflicts and tensions. The Secretary-General of the UN must heed the calls from the international community, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran to take immediate actions through the UN. Iran's actions are ongoing, and we are closely consulting with Lebanese officials."

Kanaani said: "Our First Vice President also spoke with Mr. Miqati (Lebanon's Prime Minister) to ensure that serious actions are undertaken by both Lebanon and Iran. We continue our political and legal efforts, and you should know that none of the Zionist regime's actions will go unanswered, and this regime will not go unpunished for its crimes. Iran will take appropriate and decisive actions."

Kanaani affirmed: "We are confident that Islamic countries have great capacity to punish the Zionist regime, and it is the rightful demand of the Palestinian people that Islamic countries use their tools and resources to exert pressure on the Zionist regime. Meanwhile, the UN Security Council, due to the destructive role of the U.S., has not been able to deter the Zionist regime."

He added: "Lebanon's current experience and past aggressions by this regime on surrounding countries show that the Zionist regime's aggressions are not limited to a specific geography. Therefore, political

## Iran Urges Swift Action by Islamic Countries to Support Lebanon

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Vice-president Mohammad Reza Aref says Islamic countries should take swift and effective measures to support Lebanon and Palestine in the wake of inaction and lack of determination by the international community to resolve the crises they face.

Aref made the comment as he spoke with Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Sunday, expressing condolences to him over the martyrdom of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who lost his life in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut two days earlier.

The massive attack on residential areas in the Dahieh neighborhood of Beirut and the martyrdom of Nasrallah shows the peak of brutality of the Israeli regime, which was conducted under US support, the Iranian VP said, adding that Israel is responsible for this crime.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



He criticized lack of determination by the international community, especially the UN Security Council, to deal with the crises in Lebanon and Gaza in an effective and immediate way, stressing that it is high time that all countries, which are committed to upholding law, security and peace, courageously stand up against this illegal behavior.

All political and diplomatic capacities should be used to increase pressure on Israel to stop its brutal attacks against civilians and civilian areas, Aref said, adding that all Islamic countries should take swift, practical, and decisive measures to support Lebanon and Palestine.

The Iranian official also reaffirmed his country's political and economic support for Lebanon.

On his part, the Lebanese PM said that Nasrallah's death is a great loss for Lebanon, and called on all countries to support the country.

## Iran's Army Chief Warns Zionists



TEHRAN - "Wait for it," Iranian Army Chief Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said, commenting on the Islamic Republic's response to the Israeli regime.

"What the enemies say is mostly based on psychological operations," Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi told reporters on Monday.

The Zionists are trying to present the image of a victory to their masters and people to help the criminal Netanyahu survive, he said, adding that however, they are moving toward destruction very fast.

Referring to the Israeli assassination of the late Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Mousavi said that the blood of martyr Nasrallah would speed up the fall of the Israeli regime and its leaders.

Meanwhile the chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces offered his condolences on the loss of Iranian military adviser Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan in Beirut, saying the martyrdom of resistance commanders will strengthen the anti-Israeli struggle.

In a message released on Monday, Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri sent his condolences on the martyrdom of General Nilforooshan, who was killed along with Secretary General of Hezbollah Seyed Hassan Nasrallah in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a number of residential buildings in Beirut's southern suburb of Dahiyeh on September 27.

The top commander paid tribute to the late Iranian military adviser for dedicating himself to serving the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic resistance front.

The flag that the martyrs of al-Quds have raised to liberate Palestine and Muslim nations from the global arrogance and evil Zionism will not be taken down after the martyrdom of the resistance commanders and fighters, he said.

Major General Baqeri stated that the martyrdom of the resistance forces will become a source of awareness and awakening and boost the morale of the colossal Islamic resistance organization in the fight against arrogance.

## Hezbollah Launches Attacks on Israeli Military Positions, Settlements



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah has carried out fresh retaliatory attacks on Israeli military positions and settlements in northern occupied Palestinian territories.

"In support of our steadfast Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and in support of their valiant and honorable resistance, and in defense of Lebanon and its people, the fighters of the Islamic Resistance, on Monday, 30-09-2024, targeted the 'Sadah' site with artillery shells, hitting it directly," Hezbollah said in a statement issued on Monday morning.

The resistance movement said it also fired a barrage of Fadi-1 missiles toward the "Ovik" camp on Monday morning.

A squadron of drones also struck Israeli forces at the "Ali-atakim" camp, while artillery shells targeted the "Ramia" site.

A number of Israeli settlements came under Hezbollah's rocket attacks as well, while the occupied city of Safed was hit with a barrage of rockets.

The movement said the attacks were in response to brutal Israeli violations against Lebanese towns, villages and civilians.

It added that the retaliatory operations were also carried out in support of Palestinians in Gaza and their resistance.

The Lebanese Government Emergency Committee announced that the Israeli war machine launched 216 air attacks in the past 24 hours across Lebanon.

The Public Health Emergency Operations Center of Lebanon's Ministry of Public Health said that a total of 105 people have been killed and 359 others wounded in the Israeli offensive.

The ministry said that the attacks were carried out "on towns and villages in southern Lebanon, the Bekaa, Baalbek-Hermel, and the southern suburbs of Beirut."



# IRAN NEWS



## Central Bank Governors of Iran and Turkey Meet

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The governors of the Central Banks of Iran and Turkey met ahead of the 6th Summit of Central Bank Governors of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) member countries. "Mohammad Reza Farzin" and "Fatih Karahan," the governors of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey, met today (Monday, September 30, 2024) in Istanbul before the summit. During this international summit, discussions are expected to focus on the latest economic growth and inflation status of OIC member countries, as well as the exploration of the use of new technologies in electronic banking. There are 57 member countries in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

## With Development of AI, Centenarians in World Will Increase



TEHRAN - Ariman Sadri, President of the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber, spoke at the Foresight Conference on Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, focusing on the achievements of AI in medical science. He stated that AI has brought about significant changes in medical science over the past three decades, increasing our life expectancy. As a result, today, with the advancement of these technologies, two out of every three people under the age of 50 will live to see 100 years, and among those over 50, one in three will have this chance.

He added that these technologies have reduced the time for disease diagnosis from several hours to just a few minutes. In the future, not only will tests be faster, but AI will also assist doctors by using accurate mathematical models based on the patient's age, gender, ethnicity, and underlying conditions to provide the best diagnosis.

Sadri continued by stating that laboratory tests in future medicine will differ from those of today. While today MRI, CT scans, and ultrasound have improved diagnostics, in the future, AI technology in medicine will provide 4D imaging for doctors.

The President of the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber also noted that with AI technology, surgeries could be performed robotically. Currently, the Da Vinci robot assists surgeons by sending surgical tools into the body through body cavities. This technology even allows for remote surgeries. Today, surgeons are assisted by AI, but in the future, the roles might reverse, with AI performing surgeries and humans assisting.

He concluded by saying that in the future, all medical data will be stored in big data systems, reducing medical errors. As a result of these advancements, it is claimed that most of us will live to 100 years or more.

## Details of 18th Iran ConMine 2024 Int'l Event Unveiled



TEHRAN - Mohammad Reza Bahraman, President of the Iranian Mine House, highlighted that a 13% growth in the mining sector would require an investment of €55 billion. He emphasized that presenting investment opportunities in the mining sector and attracting new investors, both domestic and foreign, are among the key objectives of the 18th International Iran ConMine (IRAN CONMINE 2024).

Bahraman mentioned that the Iranian Mine House has been working for over two decades to improve the International Exhibition of Mining Machinery and Equipment, Road Construction, and Related Industries, which is the country's largest mining event. The event is held annually with experienced organizers under the supervision of the Iranian Mine House and in collaboration with the Arbitration Center of Mines and the Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Trade (SMTA). This year, it will take place from November 23-26 at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground.

One of the main goals of this event is to attract domestic and foreign investors to the mining industries, aiming to reduce the country's reliance on oil and gas. The event also seeks to channel existing capital towards processing and creating added value for the national economy. Additionally, it focuses on preventing the raw sale of mining products, maintaining and upgrading machinery, applying modern technology for exploration, extraction, and processing to boost productivity, and reducing mining-related accidents.

This year's exhibition will cover three main sectors: exploration, extraction, and processing. It will feature various industries, equipment, machinery, mining companies, financial institutions, and consulting engineers across eight halls and an outdoor area of 21,900 square meters. Around 300 domestic companies have applied to participate, with 200 securing space. Additionally, 74 foreign companies from countries such as China, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey, Russia, Germany, India, Oman, Qatar, Greece, and Brazil are confirmed to attend.

Bahraman highlighted that 30% of participants are focused on exploration, 45% on extraction, and 25% on processing, with some companies involved in multiple sectors. The event's theme is "Designing our future society by utilizing mineral resources and recognizing Iran's vital elements," with a focus on modern technology across the mining value chain.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

By: F. Taherpoor



## Economic Behavior Towards Tehran is Unfair

TEHRAN - Majidreza Hariri, Head of the Iran-China Chamber of Commerce, in an interview with ILNA, spoke of fundamental changes in the global order, considering these transformations favorable for Iran. He referenced the Belt and Road Initiative and said that Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed this plan in 2013 as one of the country's strategies for the future. Since 2021, additional projects have been introduced to complement the Belt and Road Initiative, including the Global Development Initiative, the Global Civilization Initiative, and the Global Security Initiative, all of which aim to shape modernization in a Chinese style.

He added that the world is ready for a paradigm shift, where China will become the world's leading economic power. While some are optimistic and others pessimistic about when this will occur, there is a consensus that it is inevitable in the coming decades.

Hariri continued: China's economic dominance will elevate its international standing. In recent years, China has strengthened ties with the Gulf Cooperation Council and has sought to resolve conflicts between Iran and Saudi Arabia. All of these moves indicate that China's global role is becoming more significant.

Hariri discussed Iran's position in the Belt and Road Initiative, noting that the plan includes roles for all participating countries. In 2014, the first book on the subject was published in the Chinese city of Yiwu, which highlighted key cities along the Silk Road, including Tehran. At least three routes connecting the East and West pass through Iran. However, each country's benefits from the initiative depend on its level of active participation.

He added that the plan leads to infrastructure development in participating countries. The Belt and Road's benefits extend beyond economic issues, covering areas such as culture, society, new technologies, and student exchanges. However, the development of infrastructure brings about employment opportunities, economic stability, and improved international

relations.

Hariri emphasized that in the current global order, the treatment of Iran is unfair. Iran has been deprived of all international economic privileges in areas such as banking, transportation, and insurance. As a result, Iranians have a greater incentive to seek a new, fair global order, in which each country can benefit based on its own talents, reserves, and resources.

He noted that alongside the Belt and Road Initiative, Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS opens new avenues for a different type of international trade and economic exchange. In this new system, Iran is an active and accepted participant, now recognized as a full member of both organizations.

Hariri also addressed the obstacles to this change, noting that the current Western hegemony, led by the U.S., will not accept this shift without resistance and will try to delay it. Unexpected behaviors may emerge, as seen recently in Lebanon, where events unfolded that would have seemed unbelievable just ten days prior. However, as he mentioned earlier, this change in the global order is inevitable, even though the timing is unpredictable.

He stressed that the economic growth statistics of the SCO and BRICS member countries indicate an inevitable shift in the global order. The philosophy behind BRICS is to bring together the world's emerging economies. The growth rates of economies such as China, India, Brazil, and South Africa are significantly higher than those of dominant Western economies.

Hariri added that China's average annual growth rate over the next decade is about 5%, while the U.S. is expected to grow by only 1.5%. As a result, China will grow 3.5% larger than the U.S. each year in the next decade. By 2035, at least five of the world's top ten economies will be based in Asia, including China, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Japan, and South Korea.

## Construction of 500 Hotels by End of the Seventh Development Plan



TEHRAN - The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts stated that according to the Seventh Development Plan, we need to construct 500 new hotels, which requires the presence and participation of the private sector.

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, during the opening ceremony of 167 tourism projects via video conference held at the five-star Miras Rashidiyeh Hotel, attended by several public and private sector tourism managers, said: With the opening of these projects, 712,000 square meters have been added to the tourism space, creating 2,300 jobs, while 4,455 beds have been added to the country's capacity.

The Minister continued: Currently, we have 2,700 tourism projects under construction in the country. If these projects are fully completed and operational, more than 100,000 jobs will be created. This level of investment shows that we need a national will at the system, government, and private sector levels to boost tourism.

Salehi Amiri added: According to the Seventh Plan, we must open 500 hotels by the end of this program. However, the government's will alone is incomplete without the will of the private sector and the people.

The Minister emphasized: The only way to develop the country's infrastructure is through the presence of investors in a secure environment. Therefore, in the Seventh Plan, permits will be issued for the construction of tourism facilities with mixed-use purposes. For example, if a hotel is to be built, the investor will also be granted permits to build commercial and residential complexes.

Salehi Amiri noted: Tourism relies on three factors: attraction, infrastructure, and security. We rank seventh in attractiveness, but I believe we are among the top three countries in the world, and if the cases we have prepared for global registration are approved, we will

achieve the top rank worldwide.

He continued: However, we face challenges in the field of infrastructure. For example, Tehran has 140 hotels, which is not adequate for the stature of its people. We need the private sector's involvement, and there must be a leap in infrastructure development.

The Minister said: By God's grace, Iran is safe. But Western media giants are trying to portray Iran as insecure. We must work to break this mentality created by Western media and collectively strive to present the real, beautiful image of Iran to the world.

Salehi Amiri added: The late Rashidi, the investor in the Miras Rashidiyeh Hotel, was someone with a forward-looking vision. We must honor all investors in the tourism sector and value them.

The Minister, emphasizing the role of the media in presenting a secure image of Iran to the world, said: I ask national media, newspapers, news agencies, influencers, celebrities, and everyone to work to present the true, beautiful, and secure image of Iran to the world.

Salehi Amiri also highlighted the importance of delegating authority to provincial managers, noting: During my management at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, a large portion of authority will be delegated to provincial managers and specialized associations, and I will minimize ministry intervention.

The Minister condemned the crimes of the Zionist regime, stating: Today, we are witnessing the crimes of the child-killing Zionist regime, and we condemn them. We must be grateful to the martyrs who have brought us security. We honor the memory of all martyrs, including General Qasem Soleimani and the martyrs of the resistance front and Lebanon. We believe that supporting resistance is the strategic depth of the Islamic Republic's system.

## Reason for Russia's Delay in Finalizing the Rasht-Astara Railway Contract

By: F. Taherpoor



TEHRAN - Majlis lawmaker Mojtaba Yousefi discussed the reason for the delay in signing the commercial contract for the Rasht-Astara railway project. He stated, "One of the important developments during President Raisi's administration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was the activation of regional diplomacy. We are open to dialogue and must utilize all capacities. We are negotiators and must also engage with European countries wherever there is an opportunity, except for the U.S. and the illegitimate, child-killing regime of Israel."

He further emphasized that the doctrine and foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the principles of the revolution and the guidance of the Supreme Leader, are centered on dialogue. One of the positive developments in the last three years has been the diversification of diplomatic and foreign relations. Iran has been involved in negotiations over the JCPOA (nuclear deal) and has also sought to leverage regional capacities. During this time, Iran has joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS, while paying special attention to Africa. These agreements not only benefit mutual interests but also strengthen national security.

As a member of the Parliament's Construction Commission, Yousefi added, "When we enter into multilateral agreements with China, Russia, and regional countries, we are effectively enhancing the political and economic security of the country by creating shared interests with these nations. Sanctions then become detrimental to both sides."

Referring to the need to continue projects initiated by the previous government, he mentioned that good contracts, including the Rasht-Astara railway, were drafted and signed in the past three years. "As per the Supreme Leader's guidance and Mr. Pezeshkian's emphasis, if there are issues with these international contracts—which there certainly are—they should be corrected in the 14th government, but these negotiations should not be halted. Some projects may have flaws, but the new government should address these shortcomings and continue both national and international projects, rather than stopping them due to potential problems."

Yousefi expressed optimism about the continuation of these projects based on Mr. Pezeshkian's remarks, noting that Pezeshkian is a diligent member of parliament with a background in the Iran-Iraq war and will strive for success. However, some of his advisors still advocate for conditional approaches, linking all the country's problems to a single issue.

## Weekly Trade on IME Exceeds 2.6m Tons



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 2,630,220 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$646m on its physical market.

According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 1,190,117 tons of commodities valued at more than \$409m.

On this floor the IME sold 1,160,053 tons of cement, 565,000 tons of iron ore, 291,484 tons of steel, 155,300 tons of sponge iron, 9,745 tons of copper, 6,900 tons of aluminum, 1,405 tons of zinc and 230 tons of molybdenum concentrate.

Moreover, the IME sold 1 tons of saffron on its agricultural trading floor.

Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 396,180 tons of commodities worth nearly \$216m.



## Kim Jong Un Visits Flood-Hit Areas of N. Korea

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited flood-damaged areas in the country and ordered swift action to rebuild homes, state media reported on Monday. North Korea experienced a record downpour in late July which killed an unspecified number of people, flooded homes and submerged swathes of farmland in its northern regions near China.

Thousands of displaced flood victims were relocated to facilities in the capital while their homes are being rebuilt.

Visiting the construction site, Kim ordered workers "to alleviate the pain of the flood victims as early as possible," according to the official KCNA news agency. Photos from KCNA showed Kim walking through the muddy site and speaking with officials in front of partially built structures.

This marks his third visit to flood-hit areas, with previous appearances showing him holding children, inspecting damage from a dinghy, and driving through floodwaters in his luxury vehicle.



## Moldovan Minister Urges Voters to Shun Thieves



CHISINAU (Dispatches) - A senior government minister urged Moldovans on Sunday to shun "thieves, fugitives and bandits" after an exiled pro-Russian business magnate pledged to pay voters to vote "no" in a referendum on joining the European Union.

Infrastructure Minister Andrei Spinu's call underscored the increasingly unruly campaign for the Oct. 20 presidential election in which pro-European incumbent Maia Sandu is seeking a second term.

Voters will also take part in a referendum on altering the constitution to enable ex-Soviet Moldova, one of Europe's poorest countries, to press for membership of the 27-nation EU.

The most vocal opponent of EU membership, fugitive pro-Russian businessman Ilan Shor, offered in a weekend Telegram post to pay voters the equivalent of \$29 if they registered for his campaign in the country lying between Ukraine and Romania.

Voters, he said, would get larger rewards if they cast "no" ballots in the referendum and if results showed they lived in electoral districts rejecting the proposal.

Shor was sentenced to 15 years in prison last year in absentia in connection with his role in the disappearance of \$1 billion from Moldova's banking system.

Exiled in Russia, he now heads the "Victory" election bloc, barred from taking part in the campaign.

Andrei Spinu, infrastructure minister and head of Sandu's re-election campaign team, said opponents of the president's EU drive were "using money to buy votes and people".

"They are using propaganda to spread lies about the European Union and frighten people with all sorts of tall tales," he wrote on Telegram. "Let us not believe thieves, fugitives and bandits."

Sandu, who denounces Russia's invasion of Ukraine and views Moscow as one of the biggest threats facing Moldova, also told voters in a Saturday address to be on guard against fraud.

## Austria Far-Right Supporters Toast Historic Victory



VIENNA (Dispatches) - As jubilant Austrian far-right supporters celebrated their party's historic win in Sunday's national elections with beers, they knew forming a government would not be easy.

"It's a real success... (but) I predict that no matter who forms the government, we will certainly not have one before Christmas," Erik Berglund, a 35-year-old waiter, told AFP.

Led by sharp-tongued Herbert Kickl since 2021, the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ) had been tipped to narrowly beat the ruling conservatives but Sunday's results -- with the party getting around 29 percent -- were even slightly better than expected.

Like other party supporters around him in traditional Austrian dress, Berglund credited Kickl the "most competent leader".

But he said it would now be up to the other parties to decide if the FPÖ head can become chancellor.

"It will certainly be a very, very exciting time," he added as electric blue light -- the FPÖ colour -- illuminated the restaurant in downtown Vienna where the party was celebrating.

Chancellor Karl Nehammer, whose conservatives came second in the elections, has already said he would not form a coalition government with Kickl. Other party leaders have also rejected him.

"I am a mountain climber, but the bag that I have been given is not light," the sporty Kickl told his cheering supporters.

As supporters watched the vote night unfold on private television rather than public broadcaster ORF, which the FPÖ has accused of being biased, they booed whenever other parties' representatives appeared onscreen.

Hilmar Kabas, an FPÖ member since the 1960s, said other parties' "weakness" was the main reason that propelled the far right to victory.

But supporters wearing "Team Kickl" parkas also rattle off other reasons, such as asylum seeker applications deemed too many, a slumping economy and the high cost of living that has seen far-right parties across Europe gain ground.

But if no one is willing to form a coalition under Kickl, it's better to stay in the opposition, Kabas said.

"It is not the other parties that decide for us," he added.

A loden-clothed activist from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party was also among the crowd, having come specially from Bavaria state in neighbouring Germany to celebrate with his "friends".

"Germany is looking toward Vienna tonight," he said, declining to give his name.

With him, he brought a gift for Kickl: a small blue lighthouse engraved with his name because "he is a beacon in our night".

Outgoing lawmaker Petra Steger said President Alexander Van der Bellen must now give the mandate to Kickl to form a government "respecting the voters".

"That's how it works in a democracy," she said.

Having expressed reservations about Kickl a few months ago, Van der Bellen promised after the results were announced he would make sure a government is formed that respects the "foundations of our liberal democracy".

Not far from the FPÖ celebration, in front of parliament, a few hundred people gathered to say "no to Kickl", leader of a party formed by former Nazis.

"Nazis out," they chanted.

"Unfortunately, it was to be expected that the FPÖ would be in the lead, but it is quite sad (to have this result), because somehow we have learned nothing from history," Juliana Hofmann, a 19-year-old student, told AFP.

## Dozens Missing After Migrant Boat Sinks Off Canary Islands, Nine Dad



EL HIERRO (Dispatches) - Hopes of finding any of the 48 migrants missing since their boat sank near the Spanish island of El Hierro are diminishing, authorities said on Sunday, in what threatens to be the deadliest such incident in 30 years of crossings from Africa to the Canary Islands.

Nine people, one of them a child, had earlier been confirmed as dead after the boat sank in the early hours of Saturday morning, emergency and rescue services said.

Rescuers were able to pick up 27 of 84 migrants who were trying to reach Spanish shores on Saturday. Three patrol boats and three helicopters were taking part in a renewed search for the others on Sunday, a Spanish coastguard spokesman said.

"Unfortunately we presume the worst. The search goes on but it seems that the chances of finding someone alive are slim," a spokeswoman for the Canary Islands government told Reuters on Sunday.

The migrants were from Mali, Mauritania and Senegal, Spanish authorities said.

## Three Palestinian Leaders Killed in Israel Strike in Beirut

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - A Palestinian militant group said on Monday that three of its leaders were killed in an Israeli strike on Beirut, the first attack within city limits as Israel escalated hostilities against Iran's allies in the region.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said the three leaders were killed in a strike that targeted Beirut's Kola district.

The strike hit the upper floor of an apartment building in the Kola district of Lebanon's capital, Reuters witnesses said.

There was no immediate comment from Israel's military.

Israel's increasing frequency of attacks against the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon and the Houthi militia in Yemen have prompted fears that Middle East fighting could spin out of control and draw in Iran and the United States, Israel's main ally.

The PFLP is another militant group taking part in the fight against Israel.

Israel on Sunday launched airstrikes against the Houthi militia in Yemen and dozens of Hezbollah targets throughout Lebanon after earlier killing the Hezbollah leader.

The Houthi-run health ministry said at least four people were killed and 29 wounded in airstrikes on Yemen's port of Hodeidah, which Israel said were a response to Houthi missile attacks. In Lebanon, authorities said at least 105 people had been killed by Israeli air strikes on Sunday.



Lebanon's Health Ministry has said more than 1,000 Lebanese have been killed and 6,000 wounded in the past two weeks, without saying how many were civilians. The government said a million people - a fifth of the population - have fled their homes.

The intensifying Israeli bombardment over two weeks has killed a string of top Hezbollah officials, including its leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Israel has vowed to keep up the assault and says it wants to make its northern areas secure again for residents who have been forced to flee Hezbollah rocket attacks.

Israeli drones hovered over Beirut for much of Sunday, with the loud blasts of new airstrikes echoing around the Lebanese capital. Displaced families spent the night on benches at Zaitunay Bay, a string of restaurants and cafes on Beirut's waterfront.

Many of Israel's attacks have been carried out in the south of Lebanon, where the Iran-backed Hezbollah has most of its operations, or Beirut's southern suburbs.

Monday's attack in the Kola district appeared to be the first strike within Beirut's city limits. Syrians living in southern Lebanon who had fled Israeli bombardment had been sleeping under a bridge in the neighborhood for days, residents of the area said.

The United States has urged a diplomatic resolution to the conflict in Lebanon but has also authorised its military to reinforce in the region.

U.S. President Joe Biden, asked if an all-out war in the Middle East could be avoided, said "It has to be." He said he will be talking to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

## Trump Urges Violent Police Crackdown as Harris Campaigns in Nevada

ERIE (Dispatches) - Donald Trump on Sunday used a speech in key swing state Pennsylvania to urge a "violent" police crackdown on crime in the United States, while his White House rival Kamala Harris emphasized the need for immigration reform at a rally in Nevada.

Pennsylvania is considered the most important of the seven toss-up states that will likely decide the November 5 presidential election, but Nevada is also one of the key battlegrounds.

The Republican former president and current candidate, who held a similar rally in swing state Wisconsin on Saturday, reprised his dark, racially charged message about an America crumbling under "invasion" by violent migrants and other criminals.

Recounting isolated -- but widely publicized -- incidents of thieves staging brazen daylight robberies of shops in major cities, Trump got a loud cheer when he said police should become "extraordinarily rough."

Criminals, he said, "have to be taught" and this could be done "if you had one really violent day."

"One rough hour -- and I mean real rough -- the word would get out and it would end immediately," Trump said.

"The police aren't allowed to do their job" because "the liberal left won't let them."

Harris, the vice president and Democratic candidate, addressed the "serious problems" of border security at a rally in Las Vegas later in the day, where she reeled off her usual stump speech, emphasizing the economy, health care and the need for immigration reform.

"As president, I will double the resources for the Department of Justice to go after the transnational cartels," Harris said.



"We know Donald Trump won't solve them. When he was president, he did nothing to fix our immigration system," she added, calling for comprehensive reform but without offering details.

As on Saturday in Wisconsin, Trump spent much of his speech painting a picture of a failing United States, inundated by what he said was the "massive number of savage criminal aliens that Kamala Harris has allowed to invade."

He claimed "terrorists are pouring into our country" and cited "a big prison in the Congo, in Africa," as the source of "a lot of people" last week.

Anti-immigrant sentiment has been at the core of Trump's appeal in economically depressed, majority-white parts of the country ever since his 2016 presidential victory, but the rhetoric is turning ever more extreme as election day nears.

Following record numbers of illegal border crossings earlier in President Joe Biden's administration, a tightening of rules -- to the consternation of immigrant rights and civil liberties groups -- led to a plunge in numbers this year.

Crime, including murder, is also in steep decline nationwide, the FBI says.

Trump has long prided himself on his ability to coin insulting nicknames or slurs for his opponents and on Sunday, he repeated one that he aired on Saturday, calling Harris -- a former top California prosecutor and US senator -- "mentally impaired."

"Crooked Joe Biden became mentally impaired. Sad. But lying Kamala Harris, honestly, I believe she was born that way," Trump said to loud laughter from the crowd.

Harris did not address Trump's comments during her rally in Vegas, instead focusing on her usual bread-and-butter issues -- protecting access to abortion services and putting more money in the pockets of everyday Americans.





MIAMI (Dispatches) - Sam Darnold and the undefeated Minnesota Vikings continued their impressive start to the NFL season with a 31-29 victory over NFC North rivals the Green Bay Packers.

Darnold, the revelation of the season so far, threw for 275 yards and three touchdowns at Lambeau Field as Minnesota moved to 4-0 on the season -- their best start in eight years.

Super Bowl champions Kansas City ground out their fourth straight win, a 17-10 victory at the Los Angeles Chargers.

But the Pittsburgh Steelers suffered their first defeat of the season with a 27-24 loss to the Indianapolis Colts and their 39-year-old stand-in quarterback Joe Flacco.

The Vikings broke out to an early 14-0 lead thanks to Darnold finding Jordan Addison with a 29-yard touchdown pass and then connecting with Josh Oliver on a two-yard pass at the end of the first quarter.

Minnesota continued to dominate in the second quarter, with Addison rushing in from seven yards and then Darnold finding his favourite target Justin Jefferson with a 14-yard pass to make it 28-0.

But the Packers gave themselves a lifeline at the end of the half when Jayden Reed collected a 15-yard pass from Love to reduce the deficit.

The Packers came roaring back in the fourth quarter with Love throwing touchdowns to Dontayvion Wicks and Tucker Kraft to cut the lead to six points.

A 33-yard Will Reichard field goal for the Vikings made it a two-score lead, however, and although Love found Wicks for another touchdown the attempted onside kick was taken care of by the Vikings and they held on for the win.

"We believe in each other more than anyone else believes in us, we have a really good formula but we need to learn and grow," said Darnold, reflecting on how they had let Green Bay back into the game in the second half.

Packers quarterback Jordan Love threw four touchdowns and put up 389 yards but he was also intercepted three times as the Packers fell to 2-2.

The Chiefs made a slow start in Los Angeles and trailed 10-0 until with four minutes left in the half, quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw a monster 54-yard pass to Xavier Worthy in the end zone.

A 37-yard Harrison Butker field goal tied the game in the third and the Chiefs secured the win with Samaje Perine finishing off a 5 play, 60-yard drive with a 2-yard rush up the middle.

Flacco made yet another return to the NFL, coming on for injured Indianapolis quarterback Anthony Richardson and throwing two touchdowns as the Colts handed divisional rivals the Steelers their first loss.

Flacco, who was awarded the Comeback Player of the Year last season for his efforts with Cleveland, came in during the first quarter and his four-yard pass to Josh Downs put the Colts 14-0 up.

His 15-yard pass to Drew Ogletree at the start of the fourth gave the Colts a 24-10 lead but a 2-yard rushing touchdown from Steelers quarterback Justin Fields made it tight at the end.

The Colts are the third team in the AFC North that Flacco has played for after his spells with Baltimore and the Browns.

The Philadelphia Eagles fell to 2-2 after a 33-16 defeat to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with Baker Mayfield throwing for two touchdowns and 347 yards and also running in a score.

Younghee Koo's 58-yard field goal with two seconds remaining earned the Atlanta Falcons a 26-24 win over NFC South rivals the New Orleans Saints.

The Falcons won without an offensive touchdown -- a KhaDarel Hodge fumble return in the endzone opened the scoring in the first and a 47-yard interception return from Troy Anderson had given the Falcons a 17-4 lead at the half.



MADRID (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid's Angel Correa bundled home an equalizer deep into added time against Real Madrid to snatch a 1-1 draw on Sunday in a nervy LaLiga derby that was suspended for just over 20 minutes after the home fans hurled objects onto the pitch.

The game was stopped in the 69th, five minutes after defender Eder Militao opened the scoring for the visitors, as Atletico ultras Fondo Sur threw objects towards Real's Belgian goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who alerted the referee.

After a delay of over 20 minutes the players returned to the pitch and Atletico piled on the pressure before levelling the scores when substitute Correa forced the ball home from close range after a counter attack in the fifth minute of added time.

Real are second in the standings on 18 points, three behind Barcelona and two ahead of Atletico in third after eight games.

"These are matches with a lot of tension, a lot of intensity," Atletico captain Koke told DAZN regarding the objects being thrown onto the field.

"It was a very tense moment. This can't happen on a football pitch. We are footballers, professionals, and we have to be intelligent. But four people can't pay for the rest of the stadium."

Missing key forward Kylian Mbappe with a leg injury, Real boss Carlo Ancelotti opted to strengthen the midfield by bringing in Luka Modric, who is approaching 40.

The result was a more balanced side that controlled most of the game but failed to turn their dominance into goals.

Real's biggest issue this season has been moving on from the loss of midfield maestro Tony Kroos, who retired in July after playing at Euro 2024 on home soil with Germany.

## Tottenham Triumph Over 10-Man Man United

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Tottenham piled more pressure on Erik ten Hag's position as Manchester United manager with a dominant 3-0 win at Old Trafford.

Spurs made a flying start when Brennan Johnson tapped in from Micky Van de Ven's storming run after three minutes.

Tottenham should have added to their lead long before United were reduced to 10 men when captain Bruno Fernandes was shown a straight red card on 42 minutes.

Dejan Kulusevski finally doubled the visitors advantage two minutes into the second half before Dominic Solanke rounded off the scoring.

Ten Hag began the season under scrutiny after surviving an internal review at the end of last season.

A shock FA Cup final victory over Manchester City was widely credited with saving the former Ajax coach's job after finishing eighth in the Premier League last season.

A third defeat in United's first six league games of the new campaign leaves the Red Devils down in 12th and time surely running out for their beleaguered boss.

United face daunting trips to Porto in the Europa League and Aston Villa on league duty next weekend before a two-week international break that clubs often use to implement managerial change.

"I think we will get better and we need some time," said Ten Hag. "We are all on one page, in the same boat, together, ownership, leadership group, staff and players."

Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou was himself under pressure just over a week ago.

But Spurs have won four games in 12 days and turned in arguably their best performance of the Australian's reign.



"Outstanding," said Postecoglou. "I thought we showed real belief and conviction."

"We were aggressive with and without the ball. A fantastic all-round performance."

Van de Ven's stunning surge from well inside his own half to the United by-line set the tone as his cross left Johnson a simple task to score for the fourth consecutive game.

"What I saw in first 30 mins is below the level we can expect from an Manchester United team," added Ten Hag.

"The players got very stressed after conceding so quick and they made bad decisions."

Tottenham were without injured captain Son Heung-min and missed the South Korean's clinical finishing as they tried to kill the game off.

Andre Onana saved one-on-ones from James Maddison and Timo Werner, while Johnson smashed another effort off the post.

At the other end, Joshua Zirkzee had United's best chance to equalise when he was denied by a brilliant low save from Guglielmo Vicario.

Any hope of a United fightback was killed off by a moment of madness from their skipper.

Fernandes slipped as he slid into a challenge with Maddison but raised his studs to catch the England international.

Ten Hag responded by sacrificing his only striker in Zirkzee for the much-criticised Casemiro at half-time.

The Brazilian was one of those at fault for the second Tottenham goal.

Solanke outmuscled Casemiro to send Johnson tearing down the right and his deflected cross was cleverly flicked beyond Onana by Kulusevski.

## Mengesha and Ketema Crowned Champions at Berlin Marathon



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Ethiopian duo Milkesa Mengesha and Tigist Ketema won the men's and women's races respectively in the 50th running of the Berlin Marathon.

Mengesha finished just five seconds ahead of Kenyan Cibrrian Kotut in an as yet unofficial time of 2hr 03min 17sec with both recording personal bests.

The times were outside the late Kelvin Kiptum's world record time of 2:00.35 and five-time Berlin winner Eliud Kipchoge's course record of 2:01.09, set in 2022.

"It was wonderful," said 24-year-old Mengesha.

"I am totally happy."

"It was good that I wasn't among the favourites, because I had no pressure at all."

"I was totally relaxed and achieved exactly what I wanted in the end."

"I'm not the most experienced runner and I've had bad experiences, but it was perfectly organised and the spectators were wonderful too."

"It was hard and but I enjoyed it -- I prepared for it extremely well."

Ketema, 26 and who only competed in her first marathon in January, won in an as yet unofficial time of 2:16.42.

"I worked very hard with my trainer and I would like to thank my coaches from the bottom of my heart," she said.

Ketema's time was just under five minutes slower than training partner Tigist Assefa's world record of 2:11.53 but is the third-best women's winning time in Berlin Marathon history.

Many of the big names -- including Kipchoge -- gave Berlin a miss having run in July's Paris Olympics.

The leading men's group broke away early, setting a strong pace over the first 10 kilometres of 28:42, just outside world record time, but slowed gradually in sunny conditions.

Just before the 40-kilometre mark, four men pulled away from the pack: Mengesha, Kotut, Haymanot Alew and Stephen Kiprop.

With the Brandenburg Gate in sight, Mengesha and Kotut distanced themselves from the chasers and were neck and neck until the Ethiopian managed to edge ahead in the final metres.

Alongside fellow Ethiopian Azmera Gebru, Ketema opened up an early lead over the rest of the pack, pulling away after five kilometres.

Just before the halfway mark, Ketema began to pull away from Gebru, opening up a 12-second lead.

## Zhang Shuai, Alcaraz Dominate in Beijing

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz barrelled into the China Open quarter-finals in just 56 minutes as 595th-ranked Zhang Shuai extended her historic run.

Rain in Beijing played havoc with the schedule but four-time Grand Slam champion Alcaraz made rapid progress under the roof of the Diamond Court with a 6-1, 6-2 demolition of Tallon Griekspoor.

The 39th-ranked Dutchman looked shellshocked.

"I just want to keep going, to keep getting more and more wins," said Alcaraz after racking up his 200th tour-level victory.

Alcaraz, the second seed behind Jannik Sinner, faces seventh-seeded Karen Khachanov next after an ominous warning of intent from the 21-year-old Spaniard.

Alcaraz, beaten in the second round of the recent US Open, conceded that the "last couple of tournaments didn't feel as good as I wanted".

"Right now I feel ready, I feel good. I feel like my tennis came again," he said.

The Russian Khachanov booked his place with a hard-fought 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (11/9) victory over Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo.

In the only other match completed on the



day in the men's draw, Chinese wildcard Bu Yunchaokete pulled off a shock 6-2, 6-4 win over Italian sixth seed Lorenzo Musetti.

There was home joy too in the women's draw as another Chinese wildcard, Zhang Shuai, reached the last 16 to add another chapter to her fairytale tournament.

The 35-year-old had not won a singles match in more than 600 days when she arrived at the prestigious WTA 1000 event last week.

The two-time Grand Slam singles quarter-finalist, who has been plagued by injuries, has now won three matches in a row after a 6-2, 6-3 defeat of Belgium's Greet Minnen.

Zhang, who faced Minnen as the lowest-ranked player to reach the China Open third round in the tournament's history, faces Poland's 23rd seed Magdalena Frech next.

Zhang hails from Tianjin, near Beijing, and said she felt very much at home on the hard courts of the Chinese capital.

So at home in fact that she compared herself jokingly to the Spanish great Rafael Nadal on his favourite surface of the French Open.

"When I am on the court I feel so like Rafa Nadal on Court Philippe-Chatrier," she laughed.