

Iranian Foreign Ministry Has Urged All International Organizations to Document the Gross Violation of Human Rights by the Zionist Regime After the Martyrdom of Iranian national, Dr. Ali Heydari, in Lebanon During the Zionist Regime's Barbaric Attack

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Israeli Cyber Attacks Fail, "Layered Cyber Defense" Implemented



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Passive Defense Organization announced that recent cyberattacks by Israel were met with failure, as the enemy's offensive Unit 8200 suffered significant setbacks, marking a decline in their large-scale operations.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, October 23, commemorating Passive Defense Week, Brigadier General Gholamreza Jalali stated, "This year, we are engaged in a confrontation between the Axis of Resistance and the Israeli regime and its allies. The world is witnessing the anti-humanitarian crimes and genocide being committed by the Israeli regime in Gaza and Lebanon, to a level that even would have astounded Hitler."

Jalali continued, saying, "These atrocities are happening in full view of global media and public opinion, leaving the world in shock and disbelief. The level of genocide and brutality being perpetrated, with so-called human rights defenders supporting these actions, is creating a dire situation for the people of Gaza and Lebanon. For example, to assassinate a single individual, they destroy five residential towers—something even Hitler didn't do, but this is what the criminal gang running the Israeli regime is doing."

Emphasizing the notion of resistance, Jalali said, "The martyrdom of commanders and their heroic presence in the battlefield demonstrate that resistance is alive. If one martyr falls, others will rise to take their place."

He added, "The victory of Imam Hussein (PBUH) over the sword has shown that the blood of martyrs like Nasrallah, Zahedi, Nilforoushan, and others will prevail over the crimes of the enemy."

Jalali highlighted the loss of legitimacy of the old world order and said that resistance fighters are now establishing a new order. He predicted, "The vanguard of this movement will undoubtedly be the Resistance, and we will witness the downfall of the Israeli regime and the victory of the Axis of Resistance."

Regarding Iran's defense strategies, Jalali stated, "This year's Passive Defense Week has a special focus due to current circumstances. We are emphasizing the design and execution of operational programs. The assessment of enemy actions and potential scenarios in the realm of defense, particularly the role of passive defense, is crucial and has been designed and implemented."

In another part of the press briefing, Jalali addressed the recent cyberattacks by Israel, stating, "The enemy's offensive Unit 8200 suffered a major blow, and we saw a significant decline in their large-scale attacks."



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian lays emphasis on Iran's endeavor towards preventing the expansion of regional tensions, calling for an end to Israel's genocide and crimes.

The Iranian chief executive made the remarks during a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday in the western Russian city of Kazan, as they attend the summit of the BRICS group of nations.

"We believe that warfare prevents countries' development, and have, therefore, decisively pursued and continue to pursue preventing expansion of tension and conflict in the region," Pezeshkian asserted.

He contrasted Iran's message and performance that was directed towards development of peace and friendship with those of the Israeli regime, which was "pursuing crimes, massacres, and warmongering."

Pezeshkian cited the regime's assassination of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas' former Political Bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, only a day after his presidential inauguration, as an instance of the regime's attempts at obstructing the Islamic Republic's pursuit of its peaceful goals.

"The Zionist regime has shown that it only seeks warfare and conflict," the Iranian president said, hoping that the regime's supporters, which laid claim to defending human rights, revisit their approach and support for Tel Aviv, to help cessation of its atrocities.

For his part, Modi denounced Israel's atrocities in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon, where it has killed tens of thousands of people since last October, saying India was taking part in consultations that were aimed at helping establishment of peace and calm in the region.

The officials, meanwhile, condemned the existing double standards regarding the issue of human rights, which has seen the regime's supporters defending its atrocities in the region in the name of "self-defense," while denouncing regional resistance groups' retaliatory operations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Pezeshkian considered expansion of economic relations and cooperation among the regional countries to be a source of enhancement of the nations' welfare and security.

He said he had proposed formation of a regional communication network among the countries towards realization of the purpose, noting that BRICS' structure serves as a proper model and platform for realization of the idea.

Modi concurred with Pezeshkian on the need for development of the regional economic ties, saying the prospect served the interests of the entire region.

The officials also expressed their respective countries' interest in development of their bilateral relations, stressing the need for expedient implementation of the agreement that the two sides signed in May on development of the southern Iranian port city of Chabahar.

The Indian prime minister pointed to his trip to the Islamic Republic in 2016, during which he met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, describing his visit as memorable and asking Pezeshkian to convey his regards to Ayatollah Khamenei.

Later Pezeshkian asserted that any potential Israeli act of aggression against Iran will be met with a "decisive and unbelievable" response from the Islamic Republic.

The chief executive made the remarks during a meeting with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed on Wednesday in the western Russian city of Kazan, which hosts a meeting of the BRICS group of nations.

"We are not inclined towards expansion of conflict and tension in the region, and welcome any action that is in line with peace and calm," Pezeshkian said, adding, "The Zionist regime's actions, however, are being carried out with the precise aim of setting the entire region on fire."

Pezeshkian cited the regime's assassination of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas' former Political Bureau chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, only a day after his presidential inauguration, as an instance of the regime's attempts at obstructing the Islamic Republic's goal of enhancing relations and cooperation with the countries of the world.

Iran Calls for Economic Sanctions Against Israeli Regime



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Parliament speaker has urged Islamic countries to act in coordination and work for imposing "economic sanctions and cutting off vital lifelines of the usurping regime."

Speaking at a meeting with ambassadors from the Islamic countries on Tuesday, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf urged Islamic nations to leverage "international avenues" to condemn the crimes of Israel.

"This regime must not be permitted to exploit the resources of Islamic nations to commit crimes against Muslim brothers and sisters."

"Islamic countries should act in coordination to leverage the favorable international avenues to condemn the crimes of the Zionist regime and enforce a ceasefire."

"We need to impose economic sanctions and sever the vital lifelines of the usurping regime."

Qalibaf underscored the role of the ambassadors, stating that they can urge their governments to extend support for the oppressed people in Gaza and Lebanon.

"The sinister regime finds itself grappling with internal protests and external security threats, placing its illegitimate existence at risk of collapse."

"In this critical moment, Muslims and Islamic nations bear a significant responsibility to respond," the Iranian Parliament speaker said.

Hezbollah Hits Six Israeli Merkava Tanks in Southern Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah continues to repel Israeli aggression on Lebanese soil while hitting the regime's targets deep inside the occupied territories.

In the latest operations, Hezbollah said on Tuesday that it hit six Israeli Merkava tanks in different locations south of the Arab country, using guided missiles.

"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, while a force of Israeli enemy soldiers were advancing towards the targeted Merkava tank on the outskirts of the town of Taybeh, at 02:00 pm on Tuesday, 22-10-2024, the fighters of the Islamic resistance targeted it with a guided missile and inflicted confirmed casualties including the dead and wounded," Hezbollah said in a statement.

Another statement said that "fighters of the Islamic Resistance targeted a Merkava tank in the vicinity of 'Misgav Am' with a guided missile, which led to its burning and the death



and injury of its crew."

The resistance group also shot down a Hermes 450 drone over the Lebanese town of Jebchit.

Barrages of Hezbollah rockets also hit gatherings of Israeli soldiers in Aita Al-Shaab and Khallet Al-Asaker, within the Lebanese borders, and Kiryat Shmona and Manara settlements in occupied Palestine.

The Hezbollah statement said that "at 10:00 pm on Tuesday, 22-10-2024, the fighters of the Islamic Resistance targeted movements of 'Israeli' enemy soldiers in Malikiyah with a rocket barrage."

The group also launched a squadron of suicide drones on the regime's Eliakim base south of occupied Haifa.

Israel has been targeting Lebanon since October 2023, when it launched a genocidal war on the Gaza Strip. As many as 2,483 Lebanese people have been killed and 11,628 others wounded as a result of the regime's intensified attacks against the country.

Hezbollah has been responding to the aggression with numerous retaliatory operations, targeting the occupied Palestinian territories.

Economic Growth Forecast of 3.7% for Iran



TEHRAN - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected steady yet weak global economic growth. It also forecasts that Iran, which experienced a 5% economic growth last year, will see a 3.7% growth this year.

The IMF report outlines challenges that may hinder economic growth over the next five years, such as aging populations and low productivity. While inflationary pressures have eased in many regions, the report warns that high policy uncertainty continues to dampen growth forecasts and advises countries to prepare for unpredictable times.

The report raises the U.S. growth forecast for 2024 from 2.6% to 2.8% and for 2025 from 1.9% to 2.2%.

However, economic growth in Europe appears less optimistic. The Eurozone's growth estimate for 2023 was reduced from 0.9% to 0.8%, with the 2024 projection lowered from 1.5% to 1.2%. Germany, Europe's largest economy, saw its 2023 growth forecast drop from 0.2% to 0%, with the 2024 forecast down from 1.3% to 0.8%. France's forecast for 2024 was raised slightly to 1.1%, but it still represents a decline from 1.3%. Spain's 2023 growth forecast was increased to 2.9%, and it is expected to remain stable at 2.1% in 2024. Italy's growth projection stands at 0.7% for this year and is expected to decline to 0.8% next year.

Japan's growth for 2023 is expected to drop to 0.3%, with a rise to 1.1% in 2024. The U.K.'s 2024 growth forecast increased to 1.1%, with 2025 remaining at 1.5%.

In emerging Asia, China's 2023 growth forecast was reduced from 5% to 4.8%, while the 2024 forecast remains at 4.5%. India's growth is projected at 7% this year and 6.5% next year.

Russia's 2024 growth forecast improved from 3.2% to 3.6%, but its 2025 projection was downgraded from 1.5% to 1.3%. Turkey's 2023 growth forecast was lowered to 3%, down from the 3.6% projected in July, while the 2024 forecast remains unchanged at 2.7%.

The IMF estimates that global inflation will gradually decrease towards target levels. However, inflation in emerging markets is expected to remain in double digits. Global headline inflation is expected to fall from an average of 6.7% in 2023 to 5.8% this year.

Any Action by Israel Against Iran Will Draw Much Bigger Response



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony commemorating the martyred Iranian military advisor to Lebanon, Major General Abbas Nilforoushan, October 22.

A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned that if the Zionists undertake a "significant action" against Iran, they will surely face a response "several times greater" in intensity.

"Iran's response depends on the intensity of the enemy's attack. If a significant action is taken, the response will certainly be several times greater," said Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari, speaking on the sidelines of a ceremony commemorating the martyred Iranian military advisor to Lebanon, Major General Abbas Nilforoushan.

Israel assassinated Nilforoushan and the leader of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, in southern Beirut on September 27.

On Tuesday, Jafari reassured the Iranian public regarding potential actions from the Zionists, characterizing them as "desperate."

"I assure (the Iranian) people with certainty that the Zionists will not undertake any significant or substantial action; whatever they do will be nothing more than a desperate attempt."

"The Zionist regime may carry out a desperate, limited, and minor attack," Jafari said, reiterating that it "definitely cannot" execute an operation comparable to Iran's Operation True Promise II.

On October 1, the IRGC launched hundreds of supersonic ballistic missiles toward the Israeli entity's military, espionage and intelligence bases all over the occupied territories, inflicting damage on them.

The operation was in retaliation for the Israeli assassination of Nilforoushan as well as Hamas and Hezbollah leaders.

IRAN NEWS



IRGC Navy Commander Reaffirms Iran's Sovereignty Over Persian Gulf Islands

TEHRAN (IP) - Speaking on the sidelines of a memorial ceremony for Major General Niloofarshan, Tangsiri emphasized that the three islands "have always belonged to Iran" and are officially recognized as Iranian territory. He called on the United Arab Emirates to prevent external forces from using the issue to ignite tensions in the region. Tangsiri also criticized Western countries, accusing them of deflecting attention from their involvement in the killing of Muslims in Gaza and Lebanon by using the islands dispute as a pretext to justify their presence in the Middle East. "The West seeks to create distractions and legitimize its regional interference," Tangsiri said, urging regional nations to remain vigilant against foreign attempts to provoke conflict.

No Gasoline Price Increase Without Public Preparedness



TEHRAN - The spokesperson for the government emphasized that there will be no increase in gasoline prices without the public's preparedness. Speaking on Wednesday, Fatemeh Mohajerani assured the public that they would not be surprised by any price hikes. "If a decision is made to increase gasoline prices, it will be announced and discussed with the people first," she said during a press briefing following a cabinet meeting.

Mohajerani reiterated that any price hike would be handled transparently and without catching the public off guard. "The government's priority is to ensure that any potential pressure from price increases is minimized for the people, despite the economic challenges the government faces," she added.

Regarding claims over Iran's three islands, Mohajerani stated: "Iran's absolute sovereignty over Abu Musa, Greater Tumb, and Lesser Tumb islands is unquestionable. No one has the right to question or challenge this." She stressed that these islands have always been part of Iran, and historical documents prove this. She called on certain countries to refrain from media provocations, labeling such actions as mere "media games."

Addressing the issue of two detained journalists, the spokesperson noted that this matter falls under the jurisdiction of the judiciary. "The government is closely following the situation through the judiciary," Mohajerani said, expressing gratitude for the judiciary's cooperative approach and its efforts to resolve the matter.

On the subject of rising gold and coin prices, Mohajerani explained that part of the increase is due to global market fluctuations, with international gold prices soaring. She mentioned the presence of a "bubble" in the coin market but assured that the government, in coordination with the Central Bank, is managing the situation. "People should know that the government is doing everything it can, and despite the region's unique circumstances, we are not facing any serious challenges in this area. We hope stability returns to the gold market soon," she concluded.

Annual Export of 20b Cubic Meters of Iran's Natural Gas



TEHRAN - Saeed Tavakkoli, speaking at the Fifth International Conference on New Technologies in the Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Industries, mentioned the current state of the National Iranian Gas Company. He stated that the company has 21 refineries with a capacity of 1.075 billion cubic meters, 40,680 kilometers of natural gas transmission pipelines, an annual storage capacity of 3.4 billion cubic meters, the ability to recover up to 30 million cubic meters of stored gas daily, 92 pressure boosting stations, and 338 turbo-compressors. Additionally, there is a 453,000-kilometer network of urban and rural gas lines. However, while the country's gas imports are zero, its annual gas exports amount to approximately 20 billion cubic meters.

Tavakkoli highlighted the Supreme Leader's emphasis on the use of new technology in industries and added that the strategic plans and policies of the National Iranian Gas Company have been outlined to meet the objectives of the 14th government.

He listed key strategies for the company, including improving energy diplomacy, governance, indigenous technology development, and organizational management.

Referring to the indigenous governance model of the National Iranian Gas Company, Tavakkoli explained that this model has adapted the FAS regulatory experience from Gazprom in Russia, the EMRA gas regulation system from Botas in Turkey, and the EC gas regulatory system from Petronas in Malaysia. The outcomes include providing incentives to distribution companies to foster innovation in reducing consumption, decreasing dependence on natural gas through renewable energy, synthetic natural gas (SNG), and hydrogen alternatives, and promoting the spread of fourth-generation industrial technologies.

He emphasized the importance of optimizing the supply chain of the National Iranian Gas Company, which includes refining, transmission, distribution, and final consumers, which comprise households, electricity generation, steel, cement, and petrochemical industries.

Tavakkoli noted that while natural gas accounts for 25% of the global energy mix, in Iran, this figure is around 70%. Despite this, he believes that expecting imbalances in the gas sector is a mistake.

In regard to policies and strategies for knowledge-based development within the National Iranian Gas Company, Tavakkoli stressed that through the development of technology, innovation, and support for knowledge-based companies, as well as fostering closer relationships between these companies, universities, and research centers with industry, Iran can access the world's latest technologies even under sanctions. He added that the knowledge-based model in the National Iranian Gas Company is based on three principles: networking, guidance, and mediation.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - The Minister of Interior discussed the organization of foreign nationals, stating that the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the Supreme National Security Council, has drafted a bill to establish a "National Immigration Organization," which will be submitted to Parliament at the appropriate time.

Eskandar Momeni, speaking on Wednesday, during a government meeting, responded to a question about organizing foreign nationals. He explained: "The Seventh Development Plan stipulates the formation of a National Immigration Organization. Based on this, the Ministry of Interior, with the cooperation of the Supreme National Security Council, has prepared the draft, which has been submitted to the government."

He added, "God willing, this bill will be submitted to Parliament at the scheduled time so that the National Immigration Organization can begin its work comprehensively with full authority."

The Interior Minister emphasized that, although they are awaiting the bill, the work of managing foreign nationals has already started under current laws and regulations. He stated, "We have repeatedly announced that we are not anti-immigrant, but we are no longer able to accept more foreign nationals."

He also stressed that international bodies are obligated to assist immigrant-receiving countries, yet no aid has been given to the Islamic Republic of Iran. "We have no choice but to prioritize the deportation of undocumented foreigners," he said. "The relevant agencies and law enforcement are fully engaged in this matter."

Momeni further commented on employment, saying: "When we visited Tabas mine, there were 1,700 workers working underground, all of whom were Iranian. Therefore, the organization of foreign nationals cannot only be restrictive; their employment and work opportunities must also be considered."

Regarding the security of border residents, the minister said, "The regulations to facilitate border residents' affairs are in their final stages."

Momeni added: "When we speak about border security in cooperation with all agencies and border residents, a large portion also includes porters [Koulbars], for whom regulations are in the final stages to ease their affairs."

In response to a question about the appointment of governors, the Minister of Interior stated that governors are selected based on the President's policies and his election promises, with the Ministry of Interior proposing them to the government. "Except for one or two cases, all governors have been approved by majority consensus, and several firsts have occurred under this administration, which has not been an easy task," he said.

The Minister emphasized that these appointments were made in line with the President's emphasis on national unity and his directives, noting: "We appointed the first Sunni governor after the revolution in this government, as well as the first Arab governor and the first female Sunni district governor."

Regarding the appointment of the remaining governors, Momeni said, "A few more governors were supposed to be introduced in today's meeting, but due to the President's absence, this has been postponed. The remaining governors will be finalized within the next few weeks."

He highlighted the importance of neighborly diplomacy, noting, "Borders are two-way, and both we and the other side must ensure that there are no unauthorized entries, such as arms smuggling or human trafficking."

Momeni emphasized that neighboring countries must also be responsible for securing their borders and monitoring them.

He added that a regional meeting is planned with the interior ministers of neighboring countries to discuss enhancing border security. "One country alone cannot fully safeguard borders; this must be a bilateral effort."

We Must Value Investors, Says Official



TEHRAN - The Executive Vice President of Iran emphasized the importance of recognizing the value of investors and entrepreneurs in order to boost employment in the country. He stated that their contribution is no less significant than those who fought in the Iran-Iraq war. "If we consider unemployment as the enemy's desire, then anyone who takes steps against it is valuable and deserves recognition. We should not apply communist ideas to them," he said.

Mohammad Jafar Qaem Panah made these remarks on Wednesday at a ceremony introducing the new head of the Entrepreneurship Fund. He noted that Iran is facing economic challenges, including 30% inflation, unemployment, and people's living conditions. In such challenging times, supporting production and removing obstacles to it should be a priority.

Qaem Panah added that the government must create wealth through investment. "The real skill is to make the people wealthy. Wealthy people live comfortably, which leads to public satisfaction. Poverty cannot be eradicated merely through subsidies or reliance on support centers. We must eliminate the barriers to production," he stated.

He highlighted the importance of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in creating jobs, explaining that while all forms of investment are commendable, SMEs can deliver quicker and more effective results.

He also criticized banks for engaging in business activities. "It's a form of exploitation when banks collect public funds and invest them

for their own gain. Banks should avoid such practices," Qaem Panah said, noting that the Entrepreneurship Fund has not engaged in such activities and expressing hope it will continue this approach after being upgraded to a bank.

He concluded by stating that efforts should be made to encourage investors to take pride in creating jobs for others, citing the importance of private sector activity in reducing poverty.

Jaafar Safaie Maziad, the new head of the Entrepreneurship Fund, expressed his commitment to continuing the fund's mission. He acknowledged the progress made by his predecessor and emphasized that transforming the fund into a bank would require significant effort and collaboration.

Former head of the fund, Hadi Aghababaei, highlighted the fund's achievements, including the creation of 150,000 jobs in the past three years through over 300,000 loans. He pointed out the fund's role in supporting SMEs, an area where developing countries are focusing their resources.

Aghababaei also noted the fund's growth in investment and operations, the creation of a three-year strategic plan, and its transition towards becoming a technology-driven institution.

At the ceremony, Aghababaei handed over leadership of the Entrepreneurship Fund to Safaie Maziad in the presence of the Executive Vice President.

Iran, Tanzania Sign MoU for the Formation of a Joint Business Committee Between the Chambers of Commerce



TEHRAN - In a significant move to enhance economic cooperation, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the establishment of a joint business committee between the Chambers of Commerce of Iran and Tanzania was signed. The agreement took place during the Joint Commission meeting between the two countries held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in the presence of Iran's Minister of Agriculture and Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The MoU was finalized after numerous discussions between representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of both nations. It reflects the mutual desire to foster closer ties between economic actors in both countries, strengthen collaboration, and explore new forms of economic interaction to serve the interests of the business communities in Iran and Tanzania. This agreement was signed by representatives of the affiliated organizations and unions of the chambers.

The Joint Commission on Economic Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tanzania was attended by representatives from various ministries, governmental bodies, and the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, along with several economic players in agriculture, petrochemicals, and livestock vaccine production. The meeting was co-chaired by Iran's Ministry of Agriculture and Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian capital.

During the event, Shahram Khasipour, Director-General of the Arab and African Affairs of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, met with Oscar Kisanga, Executive Director of the Tanzanian Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture. The two discussed ways to expand trade relations and strengthen economic cooperation between the private sectors of both countries.

Khasipour emphasized the importance of continuous cooperation between the chambers of the two countries, stating: "Given the high-quality and advanced industrial products of Iranian companies, the Iranian private sector is ready to meet Tanzania's import needs in areas such as petrochemical products, bitumen, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, and food products. In return, Tanzania can export agricultural and tropical products required by the Iranian market."

He added that cooperation in exporting Iranian technical and engineering services, particularly in road construction, housing, mining, and energy sectors, is another significant area for collaboration between Iran and Tanzania.

Kisanga, on his part, expressed the Tanzanian private sector's strong interest in developing relations with Iranian economic actors. He noted that Tanzanian companies are eager to benefit from Iranian technology in the fields of agriculture and mining.

He also invited Iranian companies to participate in Tanzania's International Agricultural Exhibition, highlighting the Tanzanian private sector's interest in exporting agricultural products to Iran. Additionally, he mentioned education, tourism, and fisheries as other areas of cooperation between the two countries.

In conclusion, both sides agreed to cooperate in exchanging delegations between their chambers, promoting exhibitions and trade events, and organizing economic conferences.

Spanish Tourist Motorcyclists Arrive in Sistan and Baluchestan



TEHRAN - According to citing the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Alireza Shah Bakhsh stated that, with the cooperation of UNESCO, 16 Spanish motorcyclists, acting as ambassadors of peace and friendship, arrived in Zahedan on October 21. They visited several historical and tourist sites in the city.

The Deputy Director of Tourism at the Sistan and Baluchestan Department of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts added that these tourists also visited the Southeast Regional Museum and, after a one-day stay in Zahedan, departed for Pakistan via the Mirjaveh border.

According to Shah Bakhsh, the 12,000-kilometer journey of this group of tourists started from Barcelona, Spain, and will conclude in Kathmandu, Nepal, over the course of 50 days, with the group traveling as ambassadors of peace and friendship.

He further mentioned that the warm hospitality of the Sistan and Baluchestan Cultural Heritage Department officials, along with the friendliness and warmth of the local people and the stable security in Iran and the province, were highlighted by these tourists. The 16-member group exited the country through the Mirjaveh border.

UK Warns Russian Strikes on Black Sea Delay Grain Supplies to Palestinians

LONDON (Dispatches) - Russia's increased attacks on the Black Sea ports in Ukraine are delaying vital aid reaching Palestinians and stopping crucial grain supplies from being delivered to the global south, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said late on Tuesday.

"Russia's indiscriminate strikes on ports in the Black Sea underscore that (Russian President Vladimir) Putin is willing to gamble on global food security in his attempts to force Ukraine into submission," Starmer said in a statement issued by his press office.

The United Nations said on Monday that Russian attacks on Ukrainian Black Sea ports have damaged six civilian vessels as well as grain infrastructure since Sept. 1, calling the ramp-up in strikes "distressing".

According to British Defence Intelligence, Starmer said, at least four merchant vessels have been struck by Russian munitions in the Black Sea between Oct. 5-14.



Zelenskyy Says Only a U.S. Green Light on a NATO Invitation Will Sway a Reluctant Germany



KYIV (AP) - Ukraine's president is hoping allies will take a more positive stance on his so-called "victory plan" after the U.S. election, but concedes that its key demand — an invitation to join NATO — is not welcome by some major Western partners, in particular Germany.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia was also likely looking at the postelection scenario in the U.S. to assess the possibility of cease-fire talks with Ukraine. He assessed that if partial cease-fire deals could be reached over attacks on energy infrastructure and Black Sea shipping routes, it would signal the end of the "hot phase" of the war.

Zelenskyy spoke to journalists on Monday and his comments were embargoed until Tuesday.

He said the U.S. is analyzing his plan, but he doesn't expect a meaningful response until after the Nov. 5 election.

"They said, yes, we've started working on the Victory Plan, they want to analyze everything, and so on. But it's very clear to me that all the major partners, especially during the election period, will be afraid of Russia's reaction," he said. "Because they understand that with this package, we can destroy them."

On NATO, Zelenskyy said France, Britain and Italy have shown signs of support. Germany has reservations, however, and Zelenskyy believes only a U.S. green light will convince Berlin to accept the idea.

"But the fact is that the German side is skeptical about our NATO membership — that's a fact. I believe their stance is softer than it was before — this is also a fact."

"But when it comes to the invitation I'm talking about now, they are afraid of... Russia's reaction," he said.

"I believe that their position will be influenced by a bigger alliance. A bigger alliance in supporting us — a confident 'Yes' from the United States."

Many significant issues will hinge on decisions taken following the fraught election period, the president said.



Modi Tells Putin That India Wants Peace in Ukraine

KAZAN (Dispatches) - India's Narendra Modi told Russian President Vladimir Putin on the eve of the BRICS summit that he wanted peace in Ukraine and that New Delhi was ready to help achieve a truce to end Europe's deadliest conflict since World War Two.

Putin, who ordered tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine in February 2022, wants the BRICS summit to showcase the rising clout of the non-Western world after the United States and its European and Asian allies tried to isolate Russia over the war.

Russia is expecting 22 leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping who arrived on Tuesday, to attend the summit meeting of the BRICS, which accounts for 45% of the world's population and 35% of the global economy.

Putin, who is cast by the West as a war criminal, thanked Prime Minister Modi for accepting the invitation to visit Kazan, a city on the banks of the Volga, and said Russia and India shared a "privileged strategic partnership".

Modi thanked Putin for his "strong friendship", praised growing cooperation and the evolution of BRICS but also said that India felt the conflict in Ukraine should be ended peacefully.

"We have been in constant touch on the subject of the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine," Modi said. "We believe that problems should be resolved only through peaceful means."

"We fully support the early restoration of peace and stability. All our efforts give priority to humanity. India is ready to provide all possible support in the times to come," he said, adding that he would discuss the issues with Putin.

Xi and Putin also discussed the Ukraine crisis, said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, though he gave no details about those talks.

The BRICS summit takes place as global finance chiefs gather in Washington amid war in the Middle East as well as Ukraine, a flagging Chinese economy and worries that the U.S. presidential election could ignite new trade battles.

With BRICS expanding - and a waiting list of potential members - there is anxiety among some about whether expansion will make the group unwieldy.

China and India, the top purchasers of Russian oil, have difficult relations, while there is little love lost between Arab nations

and Iran.

When asked by BRICS reporters about the prospects for peace, Putin said that Moscow would not trade away the four regions of eastern Ukraine that it says are now part of Russia and that Moscow wants its long-term security interests taken into account in Europe.

Two Russian sources said that, while there was increasing talk in Moscow of a possible ceasefire agreement, there was nothing concrete yet - and that the world was awaiting the result of the Nov. 5 presidential election in the United States.

Russia, which is advancing, controls about one fifth of Ukraine, including Crimea which it seized and unilaterally annexed in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas - a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions - and over 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Putin said the West had now realised that Russia would be victorious, but that he was open to talks based on draft ceasefire agreements reached in Istanbul in April 2022.

On the eve of the BRICS summit, Putin met with United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for informal talks that went on until midnight at his Novo-Ogaryovo residence outside Moscow.

Putin has praised both Sheikh Mohammed and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who will not attend the summit in Kazan, for their mediation efforts over Ukraine.

"We are ready to make any efforts to resolve crises and in the interests of peace, in the interests of both sides," Sheikh Mohammed told Putin.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva cancelled his trip following medical advice to temporarily avoid long-haul flights after a head injury at home.

The acronym BRIC was coined in 2001 by then-Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill in a research paper that underlined the massive growth potential of Brazil, Russia, India and China this century.

Russia, India and China began to meet more formally, eventually adding Brazil, then South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Saudi Arabia has yet to formally join.

Harris Says U.S. Ready for Woman President



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Kamala Harris said Tuesday that America is "absolutely" ready to elect its first woman president but downplayed her historic bid, saying she simply wants to turn the page for a nation "exhausted" by Donald Trump.

With two weeks to Election Day, Harris and Trump are saturating swing states with rallies and taking to the airwaves and podcasts on the hunt for an advantage in a race that polls suggest is effectively tied.

Speaking on the national NBC network, Harris responded "absolutely" when asked if America was ready to elect its first woman -- but also noted her candidacy was about "turning the page."

"People are exhausted with Donald Trump and his approach, because it's all about himself," she said.

Trump, speaking to supporters in North Carolina, pitched a very different message.

"This election is a choice between whether we will have four more years of incompetence, failure and disaster, or whether we'll begin the four greatest years in the history of our country," he said to cheers.

He repeatedly called Harris and her running mate Tim Walz stupid during the rally.

The race is overshadowed by extraordinary tensions and fears of violence or a refusal by Trump to recognize the results if he loses, as he continues to do over his 2020 loss to Joe Biden.

Harris told NBC that her campaign was "of course" ready for a scenario where Trump prematurely claims victory during a vote-counting process that could take days to complete.

Biden, who has been an infrequent presence in Harris's campaign, took a shot at Trump Tuesday by re-wording the ex-president's notorious anti-Hillary Clinton chant of "Lock her up".

U.S. Remains Engine of Global Growth in Latest IMF Forecasts

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The U.S. economy will continue to provide most of the thrust for global growth through the balance of this year and in 2025, led by robust consumer spending that has held up through a wrenching bout of inflation and the high interest rates used to tame it, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF raised its 2024 and 2025 economic growth forecasts for the U.S. - the only developed economy to see its outlook marked up for both years - and its chief economist said the "soft landing" sought by the Federal Reserve in which inflation eases without big damage to the job market had largely been achieved.

Emerging market powerhouses India and Brazil also stood out on the upside of the IMF forecasts, while it dialed back growth expectations for China for this year and left next year's forecast for the world's No. 2 economy at a below-trend 4.5%.

Still, it warned that risks abound from armed conflicts, potential new trade wars and the hangover from the tight monetary policy employed by the Fed and other central banks to rein in inflation.

"Today, the IMF reported that the United States is leading the advanced economies on growth for the second year in a row," Lael Brainard, the director of the White House's National Economic Council, said in a statement.

The IMF's latest World Economic Outlook said the shifts will leave 2024 global GDP growth unchanged from the 3.2% projected by the global lender in July, setting a lackluster tone for growth as world finance leaders gather in Washington this week for the IMF and World Bank annual meetings.

Global growth is projected to be 3.2% in 2025, one-tenth of a percentage point lower than forecast in July, while medium-term growth is expected to fade to a "mediocre" 3.1% in five years, well below its pre-pandemic trend, the report showed.

Nonetheless, the IMF's chief economist, Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, said some countries, including the U.S., were showing resilience.

"The news on the U.S. is very good in a sense," Gourinchas said at a press conference in Washington. "The labor market picture remains one that is fairly



robust, even though it has cooled off."

"I think the risks of a recession in the U.S. in the absence of a very sharp shock would be somewhat diminished," he said.

Although Gourinchas said it looked as if the global inflation battle had largely been won, he told Reuters in an interview there is a risk that monetary policy could "mechanically" become too tight without interest rate cuts in some countries as inflation subsides, weighing on growth and jobs.

The IMF revised its 2024 U.S. growth forecast upward by two-tenths of a percentage point to 2.8% due largely to stronger-than-expected consumption fueled by rising wages and asset prices. The global lender also upgraded its 2025 U.S. growth outlook by three-tenths of a percentage point to 2.2%, slightly delaying a return to trend growth.

Brazil got a sharp upgrade of nine-tenths of a percentage point, raising its projected growth rate this year to 3.0%, also on the back of stronger private consumption and investment. Mexico's growth, however, was marked down by seven-tenths of a percentage point to 1.5% because of the effects of tighter monetary policy.

The IMF cut China's 2024 growth rate by two-tenths of a percentage point to 4.8%, with a boost from net exports partly offsetting continued weakness in the property sector and low consumer confidence. The IMF's 2025 China growth forecast, which was unchanged, does not include any impact from Beijing's recently announced fiscal stimulus plans, which are still largely undefined.

Germany will see zero growth this year, a markdown of two-tenths of a percentage point, as its manufacturing sector continues to struggle, the IMF projected. The reduction helped to drag down the forecast for overall euro zone growth slightly to 0.8% for 2024 and 1.2% for 2025 despite a half-percentage-point upgrade that pushed Spain's projected growth to 2.9%.

Britain's long-suffering growth outlook got a boost of four-tenths of a percentage point to 1.1% for 2024 as falling inflation and lower interest rates are expected to stoke consumer demand. The growth forecast for Japan was lowered by four-tenths of a percentage point to 0.3% due to the lingering effects of supply disruptions.

Taiwan Says Chinese Warships Sailing Towards Sensitive Strait

TAIPEI (Dispatches) - Taiwan said Wednesday it had detected a Chinese aircraft carrier group sailing towards waters separating Taiwan and China, a day after Beijing held a live-fire exercise near the self-ruled island.

China considers Taiwan to be part of its territory and has ramped up military activity around the island in recent years to pressure Taipei into accepting its claims of sovereignty.

The Liaoning aircraft carrier group was spotted overnight in waters near the Taipei-administered Pratas Islands, about 400 kilometres (250 miles) southwest of Taiwan, and heading north towards the sensitive Taiwan Strait.

Chinese navy vessels "led by the aircraft carrier Liaoning, sailed through waters near Dongsha (the Pratas Islands) and continued northward toward the Taiwan Strait," Taiwan's defence ministry said in a statement on the social media platform X.



Taiwan's military "monitored the situation and responded accordingly", the ministry said.

The Liaoning took part in China's large-scale military drills around Taiwan last week that were condemned by Taipei and its key backer Washington.

China sent a record number of fighter jets as well as warships to encircle Taiwan in what Beijing said was a "stern warning to the separatist acts of 'Taiwan Independence' forces".

That was followed by an announcement that China would hold a live-fire exercise on Tuesday in an area about 105 kilometres from Taiwan.

Over the weekend, a US and a Canadian warship passed through the 180-kilometre Taiwan Strait, part of regular passages by Washington and its allies meant to reinforce its status as an international waterway.

Beijing condemned the passage as disrupting "peace and stability" in the strait.

Vinicius Hat-Trick Saves Real Madrid in Champions League



MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid came from behind to beat Borussia Dortmund 5-2 in the Champions League on Tuesday with Vinicius Junior scoring a hat-trick, as Aston Villa maintained their 100 percent record to go top of the table.

Vinicius struck three times in the second half as Madrid bounced back from two goals down to inflict further anguish on Dortmund -- in the repeat of last season's final which Real won 2-0.

First-half goals in quick succession by Donyell Malen and Jamie Gittens had given Dortmund a two-goal lead at half-time.

"Things were very quiet when we got to the dressing room 2-0 down at half-time," Vinicius, 24, told Movistar.

"But we listened to the boss (coach Carlo Ancelotti) and agreed one simple thing: if we can score first then we'll fight back and win once again."

The 15-times champions duly struck back early in the second period via Antonio Rudiger and Vinicius, before Lucas Vazquez sent Real ahead and the Brazilian netted two more inside the final 10 minutes.

After the surprise defeat at Lille last time out, Madrid's hunt for a record-extending 16th Champions League crown is back on track as they move to ninth in the standings, on six points.

Malen swept the Germans into the lead on the half-hour following a deft pass from Serhou Guirassy that split open the defence.

Madrid defender Eder Militao was then left beating the turf in frustration four minutes later when Gittens flew in at the back post to double Dortmund's lead.

Rudiger halved the deficit with a powerful header from a Kylian Mbappe cross on 60 minutes.

Vinicius equalized two minutes later by tucking away a stray ball, the goal being awarded by VAR after Mbappe was shown to have been inside in the build-up.

A rare Dortmund foray forward resulted in a fine Thibaut Courtois save, with the holders then racing straight down the other end and Vazquez lashing home on 83 minutes.

Vinicius then completed his hat-trick in the 86th and 93rd minutes, his second coming after a lung-busting sprint down the line from inside his own half.

Arsenal emerged 1-0 winners at home to Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk thanks to an own-goal from the visitors' goalkeeper.

Dmytro Riznyk could only grasp at thin air after Gabriel Martinelli had cut in from the left and smacked the ball against the near post before it rebounded back off the goalie and over the line.

Leandro Trossard missed a penalty near the end, but Arsenal had already done enough to secure their second win of the tournament.

Fellow Premier League side Aston Villa are enjoying an excellent return to European football's top table after 41 years as they won their third match in three Champions League outings this term with a 2-0 victory against Bologna.

"We are playing seriously, we are playing focussed, responsible and the team is progressing and mature in everything," manager Unai Emery told TNT Sports.

John McGinn opened the scoring at Villa Park 10 minutes after the interval and Jhon Duran wrapped up the points in the 64th minute, sending Emery's side to the top of the league phase table on nine points with zero goals conceded.

Stuttgart sank Juventus 1-0 in Turin, thanks to a stoppage-time winner by El Bilal Toure.

The Italians were reduced to 10 men when Danilo picked up a second yellow while conceding a penalty in the 84th minute.

Mattia Perin looked to have saved his side when he stopped the resulting spot-kick from Enzo Millot, but Toure slammed home in the 92nd minute for Stuttgart.

PSV Eindhoven surprised Paris Saint-Germain with a Noa Lang goal against the run of play in the first period, before Achraf Hakimi hit back on 55 minutes to ensure the points were shared.

AC Milan beat 10-men Club Brugge at the San Siro with Christian Pulisic and a Tijjani Reijnders brace giving the Italians a 3-1 victory.

Monaco won 5-1 at home to Red Star Belgrade, while Sporting Lisbon beat Sturm Graz 2-0 in Austria.

Last season's Spanish league surprise-packages Girona picked up their first points in the competition with a 2-0 win at home to Slovan Bratislava.

De Minaur Rallies in Vienna

VIENNA (Dispatches) - Second seed Alex de Minaur of Australia bounced back from a tough first set and defeated Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the first round of the Erste Bank Open on Tuesday in Vienna, Austria.

Struff won 10 of his 11 first-serve points in the opening set, but de Minaur took over from there. He finished the match 4-for-6 in both saving break points and converting chances to break Struff's serve.

Luciano Darder of Italy defeated Dominic Thiem 7-6 (6), 6-2 in the final match of the retiring Austrian star's career. The former World No. 3 never regained his form after a major right wrist injury in 2021. After the match, Thiem received a thunderous ovation and his racket was placed in a glass case.

Also advancing in straight sets were American No. 5 seed Frances Tiafoe, Italian No. 6 seed Lorenzo Musetti, British No. 7 seed Jack Draper, American Marcos Giron, Frenchman Gael Monfils and Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic.

No. 3 seed Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece needed 2 hours, 32 minutes to battle past Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4) in the first round in Switzerland.

Tsitsipas trailed the third-set tiebreaker 4-2 before pulling off the final five points in a row to come from behind. Cerundolo out-aced Tsitsipas 9-6, but Tsitsipas saved 6 of 8 break points. The Greek's next opponent will be Dutch qualifier Botic van de Zandschulp, who



led his match 3-6, 6-4, 4-0 when Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik retired due to injury.

No. 4 seed Holger Rune of Denmark defeated Nicolas Jarry of Chile 6-4, 7-6 (3), while No. 6 seed Ben Shelton of the U.S. beat Argentina's Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-3, 6-4. Also advancing in straight sets were Canadian Denis Shapovalov, Switzerland's Dominic Stricker and Chile's Alejandro Tabilo.

Meanwhile former U.S. Open champion Thiem to Italy's L Darder in what was the 31-year-old Austrian's final professional match.

The former world number three looked emotional after his first-round defeat on home soil as he received a standing ovation from the crowd at the Vienna Stadthalle arena.

Thiem has struggled to reproduce the form that carried him to the 2020 Flushing Meadows title and announced he would retire this season after being troubled by a wrist injury in recent years.

Thiem had said this season was his last chance to get back to playing at a level he expected of himself and climb back up the rankings, before announcing his retirement in May.

The Austrian had an impressive career, winning 17 singles titles and reaching back-to-back Roland Garros finals in 2018 and 2019, knocking out Serbian great Novak Djokovic before losing to Rafael Nadal on both occasions.

Thiem also recorded victories over Spaniard Nadal, his biggest coming in the quarter-finals of the 2020 Australian Open where he reached the final before losing to Djokovic.

Curry Passes LeBron James as NBA's Top Earner



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Golden State Warriors star guard Stephen Curry is projected to bring in the most money among NBA players this season from his salary and off-court endeavors, Sportico reported Tuesday.

Curry, the league's all-time leader in the 3-pointers, is expected to make roughly \$155.8 million, per the report. That would top the \$133.7 million that Los Angeles Lakers star LeBron James is supposed to earn.

No player had earned more money than James in each of the past 11 seasons, per Sportico. Kobe Bryant was the last player to finish above James, back in 2012-13.

Among the companies Curry endorses are JPMorgan Chase, Panini and Fanatics. Curry has also founded a media business and venture capital firm to add to his bankroll.

The Phoenix Suns' Kevin Durant (\$97.9 million) is on track to be the fourth-highest earner during the 2024-25 campaign, and he is sandwiched between Milwaukee Bucks stars Giannis Antetokounmpo (the third-highest earner at \$103.8 million) and Damian Lillard (fifth highest at \$66.8 million).

The top 15 players in the NBA are projected to combine for \$1.13 billion in salaries and endorsement deals, a rise of 11 percent from the prior season, according to Sportico.

ITF Confirm Rule Change for 2025 to Make Tennis Fairer



LONDON (Dispatches) - With tennis always after new innovation, the ITF have confirmed a major rule change will be coming at the beginning of 2025.

The tennis season is quickly coming to an end with the Asian swing all but concluded.

With Yannik Sinner having confirmed his status as the year-end number one and Aryna Sabalenka having just overtaken Iga Swiatek to top spot, a thrilling 2025 season will soon be upon us.

Exciting but somewhat controversial news was announced this month about Wimbledon's plan to get rid of line judges and, like the Australian and US Open, replace them with electronic line-calling.

A spate of new rules came in at the US Open this year too, all of which broadly didn't suffer any major hiccups.

With 2025 fast-approaching, the ITF have announced a major rule change that it claims will liven up the game.

In another new and exciting change to tennis, the ITF have said that coaches will be allowed to advise their players off-court.

The ITF said: "Following a majority vote from National Association delegates at the 2024 ITF AGM in Hong Kong, the ITF Rules of Tennis will be amended to allow off-court coaching from 1 January 2025."

While they have said that coaching when coming from an off-court location will now be permitted, the ITF have sought to clarify that their position on on-court coaching has not changed.

They added: "In team events only, where a team captain sits on-court, the team captain may give coaching the player(s) at such times permitted by the sanctioning body concerned."

In all other competitions, on-court coaching will not be allowed.

The ITF say that they have aided this decision, with the players and officials welfare and enjoyment at the forefront.

The change will align the approaches to coaching across the international sanctioning bodies of tennis. Having this kind of rule consistency makes sense for players and allows everyone to know exactly where they stand.

The ITF have suggested that the change will both reduce the burden on Chair Umpires to police current restrictions on coaching, while also limiting the scope for subjectivity in the enforcement of punishment.

Importantly, they have also added that it will enable the development of players and make tennis fairer and maybe even more entertaining.

Tatum, Celtics Celebrate Banner 18 by Making Record-Tying 29 3-Pointers

BOSTON (AP) - Jayson Tatum continued Boston's Banner 18 celebration by scoring 37 points and making eight of the Celtics' NBA record-tying 29 3-pointers on Tuesday as Boston ran away with a 132-109 victory over the New York Knicks on opening night.

Derrick White scored 24 points, Jaylen Brown added 23 and Tatum had 10 assists for the defending champions, who raised their NBA-most 18th championship banner to the rafters before the game. Boston led by as many as 35 points before missing its last 13 3-point attempts while trying to break the record.

Jalen Brunson scored 22 points for New York, and new addition Karl-Anthony Towns had just 12 points and seven rebounds.

With the Celtics leading by more than 20 points early in the third quarter, the TD Garden crowd's attention strayed from the basketball game and it began chanting "Yankees Suck!"

The new-look Knicks were supposed to be the biggest threat to



the Celtics in the Eastern Conference, but even after adding Towns and Mikal Bridges over the summer, they were no match for the team that finished 14 games in front last season.

On July 28, U.S. Olympic basketball coach Steve Kerr benched Tatum for a game against Serbia, guaranteeing Tatum would be motivated for the Celtics' title defense.

The Celtics hit their 29th 3-pointer early in the fourth quarter, then fired up two long airballs and 13 misses in a row from beyond the arc as they went for the record set in 2020 by Milwaukee. The crowd chanted "One more 3!" in the final minutes, but on Boston's last possession Payton Pritchard dribbled out the shot clock without making another attempt.

The Celtics visit Washington on Thursday and the Knicks play their home opener against Indiana on Friday.