

IRAN NEWS



Iran Showcases Economic Capabilities in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE (IP) - The Tajikistan-2024 International Universal Exhibition is underway in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital, featuring Iranian businesses and merchants.

Over 100 industrial and manufacturing companies from Tajikistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Russia, China, Belarus, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan are showcasing their latest achievements and products at the Tajikistan International Universal Exhibition 2024 in Dushanbe.

Mohsen Akradi, the director of an Iranian manufacturing company, told an Iran Press reporter in Dushanbe: "that 30 Iranian companies showcased their products – including food, medical equipment, chemicals, and construction materials – at the Tajikistan International Universal Exhibition."

Nearly One Million Historical Artifacts in Iran



HAMEDAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, revealed that while Iran possesses nearly one million historical artifacts, only 40,000 of these have been nationally registered to date. The minister emphasized that to attract international tourists, it is crucial to overcome negative perceptions and promote Iran's safety and rich heritage.

During a visit to the ancient site of Hegmataneh, Minister Amiri shared that the ministry has three core needs to drive its initiatives: first, support from the Islamic Consultative Assembly to secure the necessary budget for projects under the Seventh Development Plan in cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts. Secondly, addressing 'Iranophobia' by demonstrating that Iran, and specifically Hamadan, is a safe and welcoming place for visitors.

"The negative image propagated by foreign media contributes to an atmosphere of fear around Iran," said Amiri, "but we are working to counter this by showcasing our artifacts, promoting Iran's safety, and strengthening cultural diplomacy."

Amiri also underscored the importance of expanding infrastructure, noting that improved facilities would lead to increased tourist numbers. He clarified that the ministry's responsibility is to preserve Iran's heritage for future generations, without influence from political preferences.

With Hegmataneh recently gaining UNESCO World Heritage status, Amiri sees this as a pivotal step to enhance its international profile. He expressed optimism that the site will attract more tourists from the Persian Gulf, Middle East, and Central Asia. Hamadan, which hosts several thousand active handicraft workshops, has significant potential in tourism and handicrafts, with more opportunities expected as local government and provincial representatives continue to coordinate efforts.

Minister Amiri also called for new investments to develop tourism infrastructure, including transportation, ecotourism, and accommodation. He believes Hamadan could triple its current tourist intake, given its unique attractions. Additionally, he outlined plans for the "Center for Western Cultural and Civilizational Studies" based in Hamadan, reinforcing the need for further archaeological research in the area.

Emphasizing private investment as a priority, Amiri stated, "Effective marketing is crucial for the sustainability of handicraft production and employment in this field. Expanding global markets for these products would transform the livelihoods of artisans."

In meetings with local officials, plans for the next four years were discussed, including establishing Hamadan as a hub for handicrafts and cultural tourism, aided by national funding, provincial resources, banking facilities, and private investments.

Development of Iran's Trade with BRICS and Eurasian Members



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Deputy for International Business Promotion of the Iran Trade Promotion Organization stated that agreements and free trade between Iran and the BRICS and Eurasian countries have seen developmental progress, which has led to a boost in Iran's trade.

Mohammad Sadegh Ghanadzadeh told IRNA about strengthening and expanding Iran's trade. He noted that Iran has a good interaction with the members of the Eurasian Economic Union and BRICS. With the expansion of these political and economic relations, we are witnessing growth in exports and imports.

He added that Iran's trade with Eurasian countries includes basic commodities and high-value-added goods.

Ghanadzadeh explained that the Eurasian Economic Union member states import \$400 billion worth of goods annually, a capacity Iran can leverage to supply these markets' needs and increase its export destinations.

The Deputy for International Business Promotion emphasized that developing economic relations requires infrastructure support in various sectors, including transit, transportation, and financial and currency exchange.

Referring to the importance of logistics development, he stated that transportation services need to expand to meet the demands of this area.

Ghanadzadeh noted that with the implementation of trade agreements, 87% of goods traded between the Eurasian Union member countries would fall under free trade.

He pointed out that, according to Iran's agreement with the Eurasian member states, a free trade contract between Iran and this union has been signed. It is currently under review in Parliament and will soon be presented in an open session. Additionally, the parliaments of three member countries in the Eurasian Union have approved this agreement.

Specialized Committees Proposed to Address Iran-Hungary Trade Challenges



TEHRAN - In a recent meeting aimed at strengthening commercial ties between Iran and Hungary, representatives from both nations discussed opportunities to expand bilateral trade. The gathering included the Iranian Ambassador to Hungary, the Deputy Ambassador of Hungary in Tehran, and various business leaders. They emphasized the need for specialized committees to address trade issues and proposed practical steps for expanding collaboration.

The meeting began with remarks from Hamed Asgari, Vice President of International Affairs at Iran's Chamber of Commerce. Asgari noted that the current trade balance between Iran and Hungary is suboptimal, with Iran exporting only \$6-10 million to Hungary annually while importing about \$30 million from the country. "There is a lot of untapped economic potential between our two nations," he said, adding that the limited trade volume is partly due to sanctions.

Asgari highlighted the importance of analyzing the specific barriers in Iran-Hungary trade and called on both embassies to work together on effective solutions. "Sanctions have impacted this low trade volume, but we recognize our true friends in challenging times," he added, emphasizing the resilience of both nations.

The longstanding friendship between Iran and Hungary was another topic that Asgari addressed. He believes that cultural and historical ties can be pivotal in overcoming obstacles in trade. "These shared values can facilitate stronger commercial ties, enabling both nations to find ways to cooperate within the framework of international regulations," he said. Asgari also proposed exploring alternative trade routes and mechanisms to minimize the impact of sanctions, along with initiatives for logistical improvements and reduced transaction costs.

He suggested that the formation of specialized task forces would be instrumental in addressing issues in sectors such as banking, transportation, logistics, customs processes, and market access. Representatives from both chambers of commerce should participate in these task forces to identify actionable solutions for businesses.

Asgari urged that Iran should focus on sectors such as agriculture, technology, and pharmaceuticals, which offer mutual benefits and help diversify trade. Hungary, located in Western Europe, has unique access to both western and eastern EU markets, which could position it as a regional hub for Iranian exports. He also mentioned that digital commerce and cryptocurrency could be leveraged for trade transactions.

Andras Fulop Gabor, Hungary's Deputy Ambassador in Tehran, expressed optimism about expanding trade relations. "Over the past five years, we've navigated global challenges like the pandemic and economic crises," Gabor said. He believes that the shared commitment to peace between the two

countries sets a strong foundation for collaboration. "We are pragmatic, and our presence here underscores our intent. Our words align with our actions, and we look forward to practical cooperation," he stated.

Iranian Ambassador to Hungary Morteza Moradian highlighted Hungary's strategic geographic position within Europe and its strong connections with both European and Iranian counterparts. This location advantage, he argued, could serve as a critical factor in expanding bilateral trade. He also emphasized the need for closer interactions between private companies in Iran and Hungary, suggesting that Iran's Chamber of Commerce could help streamline bureaucratic processes.

Moradian reinforced the proposal for specialized committees to address trade barriers in detail and proposed increased knowledge-sharing between the business communities of both nations.

Robert Nemet, head of Hungary's economic section in Tehran, provided insights into Hungary's investment landscape. According to Nemet, Budapest is one of Europe's top destinations for foreign investors and offers a business-friendly environment, including tax reductions and advisory services for investors. Key sectors with collaboration potential include agriculture, pharmaceuticals, food industries, water purification, and automotive manufacturing.

Nemet described the automotive industry as Hungary's leading economic sector, citing partnerships with South Korea and China for battery manufacturing. He also emphasized Hungary's role as a member of the European Union and the Schengen Zone, which facilitates market access across Europe.

Hussein Argi, Iran's trade counselor in Hungary, participated in the discussion virtually. He highlighted logistical hurdles as a primary challenge for Iran-Hungary trade. "The Ankara-to-Budapest railway could significantly reduce transportation costs for goods shipped from Iran to Hungary," he suggested, noting that a streamlined logistical route could benefit bilateral trade.

Argi proposed creating a shared database to facilitate decision-making for businesses and recommended focusing on non-sanctioned sectors such as water management, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and food industries.

Shahrokh Mirza Hosseini, President of Trade Development at Iran's Industry House and Director of the Industry House's Trade Center in Hungary, noted Hungary's potential as a regional hub. "Products that clear Hungarian borders can reach the entire EU and Central and Eastern Europe," he said. Mirza Hosseini identified sectors such as agriculture, animal husbandry, renewable energy, and automotive as promising areas for joint investment and collaboration. However, he cautioned that understanding Hungary's laws and regulations is crucial for successful investment.

Minister Stresses the Need to Strengthen Iran's Position in BRICS



TEHRAN - Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance has highlighted the growing significance of BRICS as a key global economic and political force, stating, "We must reinforce Iran's position within BRICS."

Abdolnasser Hemmati commented on Friday about the economic issues discussed at the recent BRICS summit, as well as the important side meetings held. Hemmati noted that he held crucial talks with the Presidents of Russia, China, South Africa, and the Prime Minister of India, countries he described as pivotal for Iran's economic relationships.

Hemmati said these discussions led to promising commitments from these leaders to address economic issues and foster closer relations, which he viewed very positively. He added that China and Russia, in particular, expressed interest in expanding economic cooperation. For instance, Hemmati noted the trade imbalance with Russia, which President Putin promised to address. He also mentioned ongoing projects with China, for which the Chinese president pledged continued support.

The minister also underscored a shift on the global stage, describing BRICS as a catalyst for a "Southern alliance against the North" for the first time in 60 years. This year's BRICS summit attracted over 30 presidents and leaders who all advocated for the interests of the "Global South."

In Hemmati's view, this coalition aims to challenge the dominance of the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and the power of the U.S. dollar. He emphasized that unlike past efforts, today's BRICS includes two of the world's top five economic powers—China and India—alongside emerging economies like South Africa and Brazil, as well as other powerful nations such as Russia.

He believes that BRICS is poised to become a crucial economic and political bloc on the global stage. Hemmati acknowledged Iran's own challenges, including sanctions and banking restrictions linked to FATF regulations, which prevent Iranian banks from connecting with international counterparts. Nonetheless, he expressed Iran's commitment to strengthening its role in BRICS despite these hurdles.

In conclusion, Hemmati stressed that Iran needs to create the right groundwork to not only resolve existing issues but also make the most out of its participation in this significant global forum. He expressed confidence that this is achievable for the country.

Many Engineering Service Firms Face Bankruptcy Risks



TEHRAN - Morteza Najafi Arab, head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the importance of exporting engineering services, especially to the Eurasian region, in a recent interview with ILNA. He described trade with Eurasia as a valuable opportunity, noting that this area includes five significant countries where Iranian exports, particularly in engineering services, could provide substantial added value for the country.

Najafi Arab explained that revenue from engineering services has a stronger foreign exchange impact than other exports, making it a high-potential area for Iran's economy. However, he warned that realizing this potential depends on overcoming certain barriers, noting that failure to address these challenges could allow competitors like Turkey to dominate the market.

Many Eurasian countries, he continued, face infrastructure issues and have substantial plans to address these challenges, which creates growth potential for engineering services in the region. This opportunity extends beyond Eurasia to countries like Iraq, Syria, and several in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), though they are not formal members of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Najafi Arab noted, however, that Iranian firms face significant challenges in participating fully in these markets. One critical barrier is the requirement for bank guarantees. Iranian companies often participate in and win bids for major projects but struggle to provide the necessary financial guarantees to complete contracts. He called on the Central Bank of Iran and relevant financial institutions to take action to remove this obstacle.

Reflecting on last year's economic performance, Najafi Arab stated that Iran recorded a \$17 billion trade deficit. Had engineering services exports been stronger, this could have been reduced by an estimated \$10 to \$15 billion. He expressed concern that Iran's current inability to meet infrastructure needs has left many firms facing severe financial hardship or even bankruptcy, as domestic construction projects have stalled due to a lack of funding.

He concluded by warning that time is running out. Without quick action to resolve these issues, other countries will step in to fill the demand, leaving Iranian firms increasingly marginalized in regional markets.

Annual Inflation Rate Reaches 33.6% in Month of Mehr



TEHRAN - Iran's annual inflation rate reached 33.6% in Iranian calendar month of Mehr (Mid-September to Mid-October), according to the latest report by the Statistical Center of Iran. The inflation rate reflects the country's continued economic challenges as prices for consumer goods and services rise steadily.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the average change in prices over time for goods and services purchased by households, reached 271.8 in October. This figure represents a monthly increase of 2.7% compared to September and a year-on-year increase of 31.6% compared to October 2022. Over the twelve-month period ending in October, the CPI saw a total rise of 33.6%, indicating significant inflationary pressures on the Iranian economy.

Point-to-point inflation, defined as the percentage change in the CPI compared to the same month in the previous year, stood at 31.6% in October. This means that, on average, Iranian households paid 31.6% more for the same basket of goods and services than they did in October 2022. Compared to the previous month, point-to-point inflation saw a slight increase of 0.4 percentage points.

The monthly inflation rate, measuring the CPI change from one month to the next, was 2.7% for October. Breaking this down, inflation for food, beverages, and tobacco was 2.3%, while non-food goods and services saw a slightly higher increase of 2.9%.

The annual inflation rate of 33.6% in October shows some variation across different income groups. The lowest-income group, or the first expenditure decile, faced an annual inflation rate of 30.5%, while the ninth and tenth (highest) deciles experienced inflation rates up to 34.1%. This disparity indicates that inflation impacts households differently based on their expenditure levels.

The inflation gap between these expenditure deciles narrowed to 3.6 percentage points in October, a reduction from the 4.1-point gap reported in September. This suggests a slight easing of inflationary pressures on lower-income households relative to higher-income ones.

Russian Drone Hits Kyiv High-Rise Building, Kills One

KYIV (Dispatches) - A Russian drone struck a multi-storey residential building in the Ukrainian capital Kyiv on Friday evening, triggering a fire in the top floors and killing one person and injuring five, officials said.

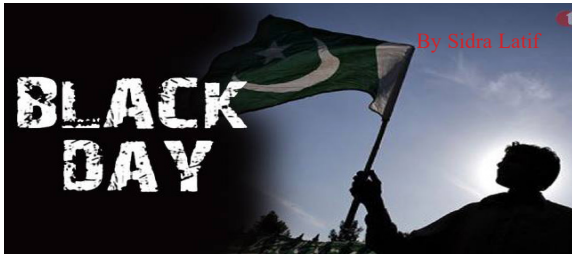
Serhiy Popko, head of the capital's military administration, said more than 100 residents were evacuated from the high-rise in Solomyanskiy district, just west of the city center. Air defence units were in action during the hour-long air raid alert and two hours later a new alert was declared in the city for incoming drones.

"Apartments from the 17th to the 21st storeys were damaged in the apartment building in Solomyanskiy district," Popko wrote on the Telegram messaging app. "Apartments were on fire on the 20th floor."

Mayor Vitali Klitschko said a teenage girl had died. One of the five injured was being treated in hospital and a first aid tent was set up at the site.



Lost Paradise the Dark Legacy of Kashmir Black Day



Kashmir, once hailed as "Paradise on Earth" for its natural beauty, has tragically become synonymous with oppression and violence. The scenic valley that once inspired poets and travellers alike now conceals the anguish of a people trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict. On October 27, 1947, Indian forces entered Jammu and Kashmir, marking the beginning of a military occupation that has led to decades of suffering, transforming this heaven into a living hell for its inhabitants. Every year, Kashmiris observe Black Day on this date, remembering the unlawful annexation and the start of their ongoing struggle for freedom and dignity.

The Indian state has employed repressive measures to silence the legitimate aspirations of Kashmiris, including widespread human rights violations. From the use of pellet guns which have blinded and maimed hundreds to enforced disappearances, extra judicial executions, and sexual violence, the Indian occupation forces have weaponized fear. The valley has become one of the most militarized regions in the world, with 100,000 soldiers stationed for a civilian population of around 12 million, creating an atmosphere of perpetual surveillance and dread.

The relentless violence has devastated families and communities. The tragic killing of Sajad Ahmad Dar in 2024 during crossfire between militants and Indian forces, the forced displacement of families like Rubina

Bano's amidst clashes, and the targeted killing of peace activist Zara Bhat are all stark reminders of the personal toll this occupation continues to exact. These stories are just a glimpse of the ongoing human tragedy unfolding in Kashmir.

Educational institutions have not been spared either. In early 2024, schools in Baramulla were caught in a siege and search operation by Indian forces, traumatizing young students. Such incidents reflect how every aspect of life in Kashmir has been disrupted, from education to daily living, robbing generations of children of their future.

The essence of Kashmir's transformation is stark: what was once a haven of natural beauty has been desecrated into a zone of unceasing conflict and terror. Black Day serves as an annual reminder of the stolen dreams of the Kashmiri people, who continue to resist the systematic brutality of an occupation determined to erase their identity and suppress their right to self-determination.

Kashmir's struggle is not just a political issue but a human one a battle for the soul of a people who long for peace, freedom, and the restoration of their paradise. The beauty of the valley may still capture the imagination of the world, but its people live in the shadows of an unrelenting occupation, with their heaven transformed into a hell on Earth.

Uruguay Set for Election Dominated by Pensions, Crime



MONTVIDEO (Dispatches) - In Uruguay's capital Montevideo and around this South American nation of 3.4 million people, voters are gearing up for today's (Sunday) election, overshadowed by a plebiscite on pensions the same day and fears over crime.

Uruguayans will vote for the next president, vice president and members of parliament, with polls showing a likely runoff needed. If no presidential candidate receives over 50% of the vote on Sunday, a second round will be held on Nov. 24.

Ballot stations open on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. (1030 GMT) with results expected after 9:30 p.m. locally. Polling shows Broad Front center-left candidate Yamandu Orsi in the lead for president, with ruling conservative coalition candidate Alvaro Delgado second.

Uruguay's race between two centrist candidates bucks a Latin America trend of big political shifts. Argentina voted in a third-place outsider last year, libertarian President Javier Milei and Mexico's first female President, Claudia Sheinbaum, took office in October.

"This country needs an overall change," Vivian Sanabria, 64, told Reuters, adding she planned to vote for Orsi, citing issues such as education, support for the elderly and healthcare.

G7 Leaders Agree to Deliver \$50b in Loans to Ukraine as Soon as December



ROME (Dispatches) - Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies on Friday reached consensus on delivery of some \$50 billion in loans to Ukraine backed by the earnings from frozen Russian sovereign assets starting as early as December.

"These loans will be serviced and repaid by future flows of extraordinary revenues stemming from the immobilization of Russian Sovereign Assets," the G7 statement said.

"Our aim is to begin disbursing the funds by the end of the year," said the statement, which was released as global finance chiefs were meeting in Washington for the International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings.

An accompanying statement from G7 finance ministers said that the loans would be disbursed through a series of bilateral loans, starting as soon as Dec. 1 and continuing through the end of 2027 "in installments that will reflect Ukraine's urgent financing needs."

Each bilateral loan would enter into force no later than June 30, 2025, which provides some timing flexibility for G7 members to arrange details.

The statement announcing the principles and some technical details did not provide specific amounts for the bilateral loans but said additional details will be issued in a term sheet to be distributed in coming days.

The U.S. on Wednesday announced it would give Ukraine a \$20 billion loan during December, timing meant to shield the loan funds from a potential claw-back should Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump win the November U.S. election.

Trump has vowed to "get out" of Ukraine's war with Russia. The next U.S. president would not take office until January.

Another \$20 billion loan is expected to come from the EU, home to G7 members Germany, France and Italy, with the remaining \$10 billion split between Canada, Britain and Japan.

"We will stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes," the finance ministers' statement said.

The loans will be disbursed through multiple channels, including a Macro-Financial Assistance Loan from the EU, the IMF's Multi-Donor Administered Account for Ukraine and a newly created Financial Intermediary Fund for Ukraine at the World Bank, the statement said.

Friday's announcement of the "extraordinary revenue acceleration loans" makes good on an easement reached in June by G7 leaders during their annual summit in southern Italy to harness earnings from frozen Russian assets to aid Ukraine, a deal that left many technical details to be hammered out.

Some 260 billion euros (\$280.62 billion) in Russian assets such as central bank reserves were frozen under sanctions imposed following Moscow's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

The vast majority of those assets are held in Euroclear, a Belgium-based central securities depository, making the European Union a key player in any plan to make use of the assets.

"The G7 remains steadfast in its solidarity to support Ukraine's fight for freedom, and its recovery and reconstruction," the G7 leaders' statement said, adding that "time is not on (Russian) President Putin's side."

Israel and Hezbollah Trade Fire Across Lebanon Border

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - An Israeli strike killed three journalists in southern Lebanon on Friday, Lebanese officials said, while Hezbollah killed two people in northern Israel and violence raged in Gaza as Washington pressed for a way out of the conflict.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said there was an urgent need to get a diplomatic resolution, a day after he said Washington did not want to see a protracted campaign in Lebanon by its ally Israel.

Israel launched its major offensive in Lebanon a month ago, saying it was targeting the heavily armed, Iran-backed Hezbollah group to secure the return home of tens of thousands of Israelis evacuated from the north due to cross-border rocket attacks.

Beirut authorities say Israel's Lebanon offensive has killed more than 2,500 people and displaced more than 1.2 million, sparking a humanitarian crisis.

Hezbollah stepped up its rocket attacks when the Hamas-led Oct. 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered Israel's offensive in Gaza, where Palestinian officials said Israeli strikes had killed at least 72 people since Thursday night.

Ahmed al-Farra described digging relatives including his mother from the rubble in the southern city of Khan Younis with a tank aimed at him.

"I was thinking 'shall I dig or shall I watch the tank,' what shall I do? I dug her out full of fear. Everyone was doing the same, digging in fear," he said.

In northern Gaza, a World Health Organization representative said its workers saw "mayhem and chaos" after an Israeli raid on the Kamal Adwan hospital.

Israel said it was targeting "terrorists and terrorist" infrastructure in the area of the hospital and had killed militants in southern Gaza.

The strike that killed two people in Majd al-Krum in northern Israel, according to Israeli media, followed a statement from Hezbollah saying that it targeted the northern Israeli town of Karmiel with a large missile salvo.

"The world must stop Iran now - before it's too late," Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz said on X.

The journalists killed as they slept in guesthouses overnight in south Lebanon were Ghassan Najjar and Mohamed Reda of the pro-Iranian news outlet Al-Mayadeen and Wissam Qassem, who worked for Hezbollah's



Al-Manar, the outlets said in separate statements. Several others were wounded. Five journalists have been killed in previous Israeli strikes while reporting on the conflict, including Reuters visual journalist Issam Abdallah on Oct. 13, 2023.

"This is a war crime," Lebanese Information Minister Ziad Makary said. At least 18 journalists from six media outlets, including Sky News and Al-Jazeera were using the guesthouses.

"We heard the airplane flying very low - that's what woke us up - and then we heard the two missiles," Muhammad Farhat, a reporter with Lebanese broadcaster Al-Jadeed, said.

His footage showed overturned and damaged cars, some marked "Press". Sharing a post about the strike on X, the U.N. special rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression Irene Khan wrote: "Deliberate killing of a journalist is a war crime."

Israel, which denies deliberately attacking journalists, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon said Israeli forces had fired at their troops in an observation post in southern Dhayra on Tuesday.

Israel has denied deliberately targeting the force but says Hezbollah has built strongholds in close proximity to UNIFIL sites. Its previous strikes on UNIFIL posts have drawn international condemnation.

Israel has used airstrikes to pound southern Lebanon, the Bekaa Valley and Beirut's southern suburbs, and has also sent ground forces into southern Lebanon against Hezbollah.

The military said it struck weapon production sites and Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters in Beirut as well as Hezbollah targets around the Jousieh border crossing in the northern Bekaa Valley.

It said Hezbollah used the crossing, controlled by the Syrian military, to transfer weapons into Lebanon.

The Lebanese government said the strikes had knocked the crossing out of service, leaving the northern route as the only way to Syria, where the UN refugee agency said some 430,000 people had fled since Israel's campaign started.

Russia Denies Putin-Musk Secret Talks Since 2022

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The Kremlin denied a report by The Wall Street Journal that Russian President Vladimir Putin and billionaire SpaceX founder Elon Musk had been in regular secret contact since 2022.

"It's all untrue, absolutely false information published in the newspaper," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists.

The WSJ report claimed Putin had discussed personal and political matters with the world's richest man, who has supported Donald Trump's election campaign with donations and messages on his X platform.

The report alleges Putin asked Musk to avoid activating his Starlink satellite internet service over Taiwan as a favour to Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Peskov said that Putin "had one contact with Musk before 2022", when "they spoke on the phone".

"It was a fact-finding conversation. They talked about more visionary technology, about technology for the future," he said.

"It was a medium-length phone call. That was the only contact".



"After that there were no contacts between Putin and Musk. All claims of this are false," he added.

Peskov said the US report was "most likely yet another fake story during a US election campaign that is heated to the limit."

"The race is close to the finishing line — opponents will stoop to any means," he said.

"A week ago, they were saying Putin chats to Trump all day, now he allegedly speaks to Musk," Peskov said, referring to a book by a US journalist published this month.

Written by Bob Woodward, the book, "War" claimed Trump secretly sent Covid test kits to Putin and spoke multiple times with the Russian leader after leaving office.

Peskov confirmed that Trump sent Putin Covid tests but denied any calls between them after Trump left office.



Rune Maintains Basel Form With Clinical Goffin Win

BASEL (Dispatches) - Holger Rune's impressive form at the Swiss Indoors Basel showed no signs of slowing down. The 21-year-old booked his spot in a third consecutive semi-final in Basel after defeating lucky loser David Goffin 6-2, 6-4. Rune was relentless throughout his 80-minute victory, during which he carved out 11 break points, according to Infosys ATP Stats. Rune, who is yet to drop a set this week, is into his 20th tour-level semi-final. With his maiden Lexus ATP Head2Head win over Goffin, Rune became the fourth man to reach more than seven ATP Tour semi-finals in 2024. After improving to a 10-2 record in Basel, Rune is up to 14th in the PIF ATP Live Race To Turin, 1,045 points adrift of eighth-placed Andrey Rublev. Rune wasted little time in taking a stranglehold on the contest. He dismantled Goffin's serve on two occasions to surge to a 4-0 lead before closing out the first set in 39 minutes. Goffin ignited hopes of a comeback in the second set when he clawed back a break of serve to level the score at 4-4. However, Rune dialled in to reclaim the advantage and serve out the contest with ease. Rune will next face Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard for a spot in the championship match in Basel. After taking down two-time-defending champion Felix Auger-Aliassime on Thursday, Mpetshi Perricard maintained solid momentum against Denis Shapovalov on Friday. The Frenchman staged a gritty comeback and ousted the resurgent Canadian 6-7(7), 6-3, 7-6(3), to reach the semi-finals. Playing his third tour-level quarter-final, Mpetshi Perricard emerged victorious in two hours and six minutes. Using his booming serve to take charge, he hit 46 winners, including 27 aces. The Frenchman also won 81 per cent (58/72) of first-serve points and claimed 50 per cent (12/24) of points at the net. The Frenchman has hit 70 aces in three matches this week, and a total of 445 aces in 24 matches for the

2024 season, averaging 18.5 aces per match. The 21-year-old, who started 2024 ranked No. 205, has moved back to his career-high No. 44 by reaching the semi-finals; he is third-highest Frenchman in the PIF ATP Live Rankings. Shapovalov was seeking his 21st tour-level semi-final. Frenchman Arthur Fils, the No 7 seed, advanced to the semi-finals of the Swiss Indoors by winning against Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas, the No 3 seed, 7-6 (5), 6-3 at the St. Jakobshalle in Basel on Friday. Fils's winning streak now stands at 13 matches, following titles in Hamburg and Tokyo. Tsitsipas, meanwhile, is now unlikely to make it to the ATP Finals in Turin, currently at No 12 in the Race and almost 850 points behind Andrey Rublev, who stands No 8. Fils, ranked No 20, will play the winner of the match between Russian Andrey Rublev, the top seed, and American Ben Shelton, the No 6 seed, next. Ahead of his victory, the 20-year-old Frenchman defeated German qualifier Daniel Altmaier (7-6 (5), 6-3) and Spaniard Pedro Martinez Portero (7-5, 6-3). Tsitsipas, ranked No 11, edged out Argentinian Francisco Cerundolo (6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (4)) and won against Dutch qualifier Botic van de Zandschulp (7-6 (3), 7-5) earlier in the tournament. Meanwhile Fils on Friday earned more than a quarter-final victory against Stefanos Tsitsipas at the Swiss Indoors Basel. The Frenchman also guaranteed that he will top the 2024 ATP 500 Bonus Pool. The ATP 500 Bonus Pool this year distributes \$1,340,000 to the five players with the most points earned at the ATP 500 category in 2024. By winning it, Fils will earn an additional \$615,000. Fils now has 1,400 points in the category for the season, leading second-placed Jannik Sinner, who has 1,330. Alex de Minaur, currently competing in Vienna, can pass Sinner. However, no player will be able to catch Fils.

Ex-Morocco and Marseille Midfielder Barrada Dies Aged 35



PARIS (Dispatches) - Former Morocco and Marseille midfielder Abdelaziz Barrada has died at the age of 35. The cause of death has not yet been confirmed, but media reports in Morocco claim he suffered a heart attack. Barrada retired from football in 2021 having made 26 international appearances for his country, including playing at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He scored four goals, with his last one in 2015. The Moroccan Football Federation paid tribute on social media, describing his passing as "a great loss". "The Royal Moroccan Football Federation extends its sincere condolences to the family of the former Moroccan international, the late Abdelaziz Barrada, and through them to all his family and relatives, as well as the national football family," it said. Barrada also played 64 times for Spanish club Getafe between 2011-2013, and scored twice for Marseille during his two seasons there between 2014-2016. "The club would like to extend its sincere condolences to his family and share in the grief of his loved ones," Marseille posted on social media. Following his spell at the Ligue 1 club, Barrada played for Al-Nasr in the United Arab Emirates, Turkish side Antalyaspor and finally Lusitanos Saint-Maur in France, although he did not make any appearances before calling time on his career three years ago. France-born Barrada started his career in the reserve side at Paris St-Germain, who added on social media: "The club extends its heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

Wood Brace Earns Nottingham Forest 3-1 Derby Win at Leicester

LEICESTER (Dispatches) - Chris Wood scored a brace as Nottingham Forest moved up to fifth in the Premier League with a 3-1 victory over hosts Leicester City in the East Midlands derby on Friday, underlining their excellent start to the season. Ryan Yates put Forest in front with a rare goal before Jamie Vardy equalised for the home side. The visitors were much the better side in the second half and Woods' double took them to a comfortable victory. Leicester goalkeeper Mads Hermansen made a stunning save from point-blank range to deny Nicolas Dominguez, Forest winger Callum Hudson-Odoi struck the post and Yates missed a sitter as the visitors should have won by a greater margin. Forest move to 16 points from nine matches and into the top five, though they have played a game more than the teams around them. Leicester stay in 14th place with nine points from as many fixtures as they continue to leak goals. "It's a very nice start for myself and the team. I'm not someone who will put one in the top corner, I rely on the service from my teammates and it's been great," Wood told Sky Sports. "We must keep doing what we are doing all through the season, keep building and getting better." Forest led on 16 minutes when Leicester twice failed to adequately clear from a corner and Yates drilled the ball into net from 25-yards, the second Premier League goal of his career. First Facundo Buonanotte tried to dribble out of his own box



and was dispossessed, before James Justin's feeble clearance fell invitingly for Forest captain Yates to score. The lead lasted seven minutes before a flowing Leicester move found Harry Winks wide on the left and his inviting ball across the six-yard box was poked into the net by Vardy. Dominguez seemed destined to score before he was brilliantly denied by Hermansen, but Wood put the visitors back in front two minutes into the second period, punishing his former side with a shot on the turn from 15 yards. Forest were inches away from extending their lead as Hudson-Odoi curled the ball onto the post but the visitors would not be denied. Leicester defender Wout Faes failed to deal with a long ball from Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels and Wood looped a header into the net from 10 yards. He has now scored seven of Forest's 11 goals in the Premier League this season. "It is self-inflicted, it is on all of us and we have to take responsibility for how the game panned out," Leicester manager Steve Cooper said. "It is a set-back after winning a few games coming into this. We got punished for the poor giveaways that led to their goals."

Alonso Reaches 400th Grand Prix



MEXICO (Dispatches) - Fernando Alonso sets a record he had no ambition or desire to achieve this weekend when he takes part in his record 400th Grand Prix, 23 years on from his fresh-faced debut. To the two-time world champion, it is a sign of his undying love for his sport and devotion to Formula One in particular even if, to his fans and admirers, it is a reminder of a great talent unfulfilled. "To reach 400 now is a big number," said Alonso, who has admitted that travelling to 24 races a season is demanding but that he "pays off all the sacrifices" when he climbs behind the wheel of his Aston Martin. "Knowing that no-one has reached that number in the past, it just demonstrates my love for racing, for F1 and how much I enjoy this lifestyle and motor racing in general." To many, the Oviedo-born Spaniard is the greatest driver of his generation, a man with an unequalled talent for speed and racing, but also someone with a knack of choosing to move to the wrong team at the wrong moment in his career. "I would love to race half of the 400 and win one more championship, or to win more races," he said. "That's the important statistic you want to achieve." His sometimes self-effacing humour and individuality, coupled with a swashbuckling style on track, earned him great admiration as soon as he made his first appearance for Minardi at the 2001 Australian Grand Prix. He kept his personality as he progressed to two world titles with Benetton, in 2005 and 2006, under the guidance of his manager Flavio Briatore. Since then, despite moves to McLaren and Ferrari, a third championship has eluded him. The last of his 32 wins came 11 years ago at his home Spanish Grand Prix with Ferrari. It was his misfortune that sometimes his personality made him a difficult team-mate, notably at McLaren with a young Lewis Hamilton in 2007, and at times with Ferrari and McLaren again in a second spell. His break from the intensity of F1 to race at Le Mans and in the Indy 500 gave him a new sense of perspective that he carried into Alpine and then Aston Martin, showing his talent was undimmed by age. Looking back at his debut season, Alonso admitted: "I didn't have a clear road map for my career. I didn't know the next race or my next team. I was just improvising. Every week was a new adventure." Heading into his record landmark weekend in Mexico, he also admitted he had expected to retire from F1 in 2009 at the end of his three-year contract with Ron Dennis's McLaren. "When I won the championship in 2006 and then I joined McLaren, I had a three-year contract for 2007, 2008 and 2009 and I was 99 per cent sure that 2009 would be my last F1 season. "That was my clear plan in my head," he told the "Beyond the Grid" podcast. That it did not happen is part of the Alonso story—a tale of huge talent, unrivalled race-craft and a competitiveness that, at 43, enabled him to stay on the pace and sign a new deal with Aston Martin to work with incoming star designer Adrian Newey next year.

Vinicius Jr Favorite to Win First Ballon d'Or

MADRID (Dispatches) - Vinicius Jr's remarkable performances at Real Madrid have put the 24-year-old forward as the odds-on favourite to claim his first Ballon d'Or when the award for the best player in the world is announced in Paris on Monday. Vinicius scored 24 goals and provided 11 assists in 39 appearances that were key to help the Spanish powerhouse to a near perfect 2023-24 campaign in which they reclaimed the LaLiga title and grabbed a record-extending 15th European Cup. The Brazilian scored in the Champions League final and was named as the competition's best player. Bookmakers backed Vinicius to win the award ahead of Spain and Manchester City midfielder Rodri and Englishman Jude Bellingham. He is aiming to become the first Brazilian since Kaka in 2007 to win the award and just the third person not named Lionel Messi or Cristiano Ronaldo to claim it since 2008. This will be the first time since 2003 in which neither Messi nor Ronaldo made the final 30-man list of nominees. Portugal's Ronaldo, who has won the award five times, also failed to receive a nomination last year after moving to Saudi Arabia. Messi, who won for a record eighth time in 2023, missed out despite Argentina's Copa America triumph. Previous winners Luka Modric (2018) and Karim Benzema (2022)



are also not in France Football's shortlist. Vinicius' closest challenger appears to be Rodri, the player Pep Guardiola said is "the best midfielder in the world". Rodri was instrumental in helping City win their fourth consecutive Premier League trophy and was named the best player at this year's European Championship after helping Spain lift a record-extending fourth title. Bellingham was named LaLiga MVP after scoring a career best 19 goals in a sparkling debut campaign and helping England reach the Euro 2024 final. However, despite a lacklustre Copa America campaign with struggling Brazil, Vinicius' stellar performances in the Champions League have put him in pole-position. He became the first Brazilian to score in two Champions League finals, having scored the only goal in the 2022 final against Liverpool and again this year in the 2-0 win against Borussia Dortmund. In the women's Ballon d'Or Feminin, Champions League winners Barcelona have six nominees in total, including last year's winner Aitana Bonmati and two-time winner Alexia Putellas.

The Iranian Army Said Two of Its Servicemen Have Been Martyred in the Military Attacks by the Israeli Regime Early Saturday Without Giving More Details

IRAN NEWS

Gov't Spokeswoman Hailed the Country's Air Defense Force for Their Powerful Action to Defend Military Sites Against the Latest Israeli Attacks, Saying That the Action Revived Iranians' National Pride

VOL. XXIX, No. 8114 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SUNDAY OCTOBER 27, 2024 ABAN 06, 1403

2 DOMESTIC



Specialized Committees Proposed to Address Iran-Hungary Trade Challenges

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL



G7 Leaders Agree to Deliver \$50b in Loans to Ukraine as Soon as December

> SEE PAGE 3

Iran Reaffirms Right to Defend Against Aggressive Acts by Israeli Regime



TEHRAN - In a statement, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned what it termed "aggressive acts" by Israel, stressing Iran's right and duty to defend itself against foreign hostility in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, which upholds the right to self-defense.

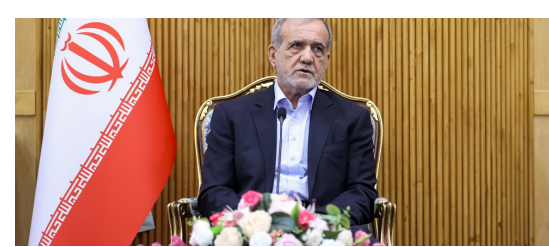
The statement was released on Saturday, and addressed recent Israeli attacks on several military sites within Iran. The ministry's statement labeled Israel's actions as a clear violation of international law and the UN Charter, specifically the principle prohibiting threats or use of force against a nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty. The ministry emphasized Iran's condemnation of Israel's actions in the strongest terms.

As repeatedly underscored by Iranian authorities, the ministry stated that Iran reserves the right to self-defense against any foreign aggressive acts and reaffirmed its commitment to defend the nation's security and interests. The statement further highlighted Iran's determination to use all resources at its disposal, both material and spiritual, to uphold national security. It also called on neighboring nations to recognize their collective responsibility in maintaining peace and stability in the region. Iran expressed gratitude to countries in the region and beyond that condemned Israel's actions and voiced support for peace.

The Foreign Ministry identified Israel's ongoing occupation, illegal actions, and alleged war crimes, particularly against Palestinians and Lebanon, as the main sources of instability and insecurity in the region. It attributed the persistence of these issues to what it described as the unrestrained military and political support provided to Israel by the United States and certain Western nations.

Furthermore, Iran reminded member states of the United Nations, especially those parties to the Genocide Convention and the Geneva Conventions of 1949, of their responsibilities in responding to severe breaches of international law and the UN Charter. It called for immediate global action to halt what it described as "genocide, war, and aggression" against Gaza and Lebanon, urging the international community to prevent Israel's escalation of hostilities.

Implementation of BRICS Decisions to Thwart U.S. Conspiracy



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has stated that the enactment of BRICS 2024 decisions will "gradually thwart the conspiracy of the US and its allies."

Pezeshkian provided an overview of the BRICS 2024 summit in Kazan, Russia on his return to Tehran late Thursday, which marked Iran's debut as a full member of the bloc.

He said that "security, economic, and social issues" were central to discussions at the 16th BRICS Summit.

"BRICS seeks to counter US unilateralism tied to the dollar, as it imposes sanctions at will, exacerbating global economic challenges," he said, adding that a decision was made to establish a new fund in the face of the International Monetary Fund to counter US unilateral actions, aiming to neutralize sanctions policies and bolster financial security in member nations' monetary exchanges.

He also referenced the summit's 32-page final declaration, which covered a range of significant issues, including the Israeli crimes in Gaza.

"The final statement was notably strong, condemning the killings and atrocities committed by Israel in Gaza and Lebanon," Pezeshkian stated.

The declaration, he continued, "underscored the need for member countries to strengthen financial, economic, cultural, scientific, and security cooperation."

"I believe that if we can implement the goals of this organization and the discussions and agreements made at this meeting, the conspiracy by the United States and its allies will gradually be neutralized," he stressed.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Iran Air Defense Successfully Intercepts, Counters' Israeli Aggression

TEHRAN - Iran's air defense force has confirmed Israeli attacks targeting positions in Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam provinces, saying the aggression was successfully thwarted.

"Despite the previous warnings of the officials of the Islamic Republic to the criminal and illegal Zionist regime to avoid any adventurist action, this fake regime attacked parts of military centers in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam this morning in a tension-causing action," the air defense force said in a statement on Saturday morning.

The country's integrated air defense system successfully intercepted and countered the act of aggression, it said.

The attacks caused limited damage in some locations and the dimensions of the incident are under investigation, the statement added.

Earlier, security sources said the loud sounds heard by some people in the vicinity of Tehran were due to the activation of air defense systems.

Iran's official IRNA news agency cited a security source as saying on Saturday morning some of the sounds heard in the capital were caused by "defense activity in Tehran."

The news agency said there were no reports of incidents that required assistance and that the situation at Mehrabad International Airport and the Imam Khomeini International Airport was "normal."

IRNA said Iranian air defenses "successfully shot down adversarial targets in the airspace around Tehran province."

Footage shared online captured what appeared to be interceptions over the Iranian capital. Tasnim News Agency reported on Saturday morning that the situation was normal at Imam

Khomeini International Airport and Mehrabad Airport.

No missile strike or impact occurred on Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) military centers in the west and southwest of Tehran, the agency reported.

According to information obtained by the news agency, there has been no impact on IRGC military centers in the west or southwest of Tehran.

The sounds heard are related to the army's air defenses engaging Israeli military actions in three areas around Tehran.

Informed sources told Tasnim that Iran is ready to respond to Israeli aggression, "as previously stated."

"Iran reserves its right to respond to any form of aggression, and there is no doubt that Israel will receive a proportional reaction to any action taken."

Meanwhile an informed source told the political reporter of the Tasnim News Agency that the Israeli army's claim of targeting 20 locations in the country is unrealistic, and the number of enemy targets is significantly less than that.

This source also mentioned that the actions of the Zionists were carried out from outside the country's borders and caused limited damage.

Confirming the previous news from Tasnim, he emphasized that no military center of the IRGC in Tehran was targeted.

This informed source stated: Reports claiming that 100 Israeli military aircraft were involved in this attack are also completely false, and Israel is attempting to exaggerate its weak attack."

Condemnations Pour in After Israeli Aggression Against Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Israeli regime's aggression on a number of military positions across Iran in the early hours of Saturday has drawn condemnations from the regional countries.

The pre-dawn strikes targeted the capital Tehran as well as the western and southwestern provinces of Ilam and Khuzestan, with Iran's air defense saying the attacks were "successfully intercepted and countered."

In a statement on Saturday, the Saudi Arabian Foreign Ministry condemned Israel's aggression as a "violation of its sovereignty" and international laws, urging all parties to exercise maximum restraint.

Riyadh called on the international community to take action towards de-escalation and ending conflicts in the region.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia expresses its condemnation and denunciation" of the Israeli strikes and emphasized its "firm position rejecting escalation of the conflict in the region", which "threatens the security and the stability of countries and peoples in the Middle East", the ministry said on X.

Malaysia's Foreign Ministry said the aggression constitutes a blatant violation of international law and seriously undermines regional stability.

"Malaysia calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities and an end to the cycle of violence," read the ministry.

It said Israel's continuous acts with impunity have severely affected and will continue



to affect the security and future stability of West Asia, bringing the region closer to the brink of a wider conflict.

Oman's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the aggression as a blatant violation of Iran's sovereignty and a clear breach of international law.

The ministry emphasized in a statement that such actions will exacerbate regional tensions and undermine efforts for peace and stability as it condemned the ongoing Israeli practices and warned that they threaten to escalate conflicts in the region.

Oman's statement called upon the international community to take decisive action to halt aggression and to address the root causes of regional crises, including the illegal Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab lands.

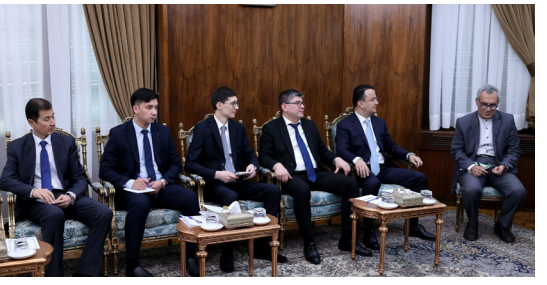
Pakistan also strongly condemned the aggression, saying it is against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran as well as a grave violation of the UN Charter and the international law.

"These strike undermine path to regional peace and stability and also constitute a dangerous escalation in an already volatile region," Islamabad said. "Israel bears full responsibility for the current cycle of escalation and expansion of the conflict."

Pakistan called on the UN Security Council to play its role for the maintenance of international peace and security, and to take immediate steps to bring an end to Israeli recklessness in the region and its criminal behavior.

The international community must also play its role for restoring regional peace and security, it added.

Iran and Uzbekistan Aim to Boost Trade to \$5 Billion



TEHRAN - In a significant development, Iran's First Vice President has announced plans to increase bilateral trade with Uzbekistan to \$5 billion, leveraging the longstanding cultural ties and economic capabilities of both nations.

During a meeting with Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade, Mohammad Reza Aref emphasized the importance of recent high-level discussions between the two countries. He noted that two meetings had recently occurred, including one in Ashgabat between Iranian Vice President Dr. Peyman and the President of Uzbekistan, and another with Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov. Aref expressed concern over the low volume of trade, highlighting a mutual "discontent" regarding current economic exchanges.

Aref pointed out that the existing trade level, in the hundreds of millions of dollars, is inadequate for both nations. He stated that according to existing agreements, bilateral trade should reach \$1 billion by the end of 2024. However, he welcomed the Uzbek Prime Minister's proposal for a \$5 billion trade target.

He urged the Uzbek minister to collaborate closely with Iranian officials to assess the capabilities of both countries across various sectors, stressing the need for expediting the implementation of signed agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation.

Aref also noted the necessity of convening the sixteenth joint commission, which Iran is set to host, and extended an invitation to the Uzbek Prime Minister to attend the meeting. He emphasized the significance of advancing trade relations in areas such as infrastructure, science, and new technologies, where several agreements have already been made.

The Vice President highlighted that a crucial first step in enhancing trade relations is to utilize preferential tariffs and expand the range of goods that benefit from these tariffs. He also underscored the importance of facilitating banking cooperation, calling for support for Iranian banks operating in Uzbekistan to foster future banking activities.

In the broader context of regional collaboration, Aref mentioned Iran's recent participation as an observer in the Eurasian Economic Union, proposing a united front in the Eurasian market with Uzbekistan.

Hamas Blasts World's Silence After Israel Storms Gaza Hospital



GAZA (Dispatches) - The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas says the international community and institutions bear political and moral responsibility for continuation of the Israeli regime's crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

The group made the remarks in a statement on Friday, saying the international society bore the responsibility due to its silence in the face of these crimes.

The silence also stood to lead to "the collapse of the global system of values and laws due to these extensive Zionist violations," it added.

The remarks came after Israeli forces stormed the Kamal Adwan Hospital in the city of Beit Lahia, the last operational hospital close to the besieged Jabalia area in the northern part of the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli military bombed the "oxygen station" at the hospital, killing a number of children.

The atrocity "is a war crime and a blatant violation of international laws," Hamas added.

Dozens of those who were arrested were forced to remove their clothing before being gathered in an open area outside the hospital, Quds News Network, a Palestinian news agency reported, saying the fate of the arrestees is unknown.

Hamas said the raid against the facility came "just hours after imposing a siege on it" that was followed by arrests and abuse of patients, the wounded, medical staff, displaced families, and media activists, who were then taken to an unknown location.

The regime continues its genocide in northern Gaza, indifferent to its consequences, under the full support and protection provided by the US administration, the movement said.

It said what was unfolding in northern Gaza had featured massacres, focused criminal bombing of homes, and destruction of residential blocks on the heads of their inhabitants.

The group called on Muslim countries, including Arab nations, to take responsibility, go beyond statements of condemnation, and act to stop the genocide and ethnic cleansing that was being inflicted on Palestinians.