

The CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport (IKA), Saeed Chalandari, Says Tehran Has Operated 366 Flights to and From Istanbul After the European Union (EU) Imposed Sanctions on Iran Air

# IRAN NEWS

Interior Minister Announced That the First Phase of the Border Closure Project Spans Approximately 90 Kilometers and The Project Is Expected to Be Completed in the First Half of Next Year

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### Iran Has Not Yet Revealed Its Capabilities Against Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior IRGC commander says Iran has not yet demonstrated its capabilities to the Israeli enemy, noting that the "irreparable" defeat of the regime has led to a turning point for liberating Palestine.

"The Iranian nation has not yet revealed its full capabilities to the Zionist enemy," stressed Head of the Basij Organization Brigadier General Gholamreza Soleimani on Friday while addressing thousands of Basij forces in Sari, Mazandaran Province.

"As the Islamic Revolution Leader highlighted, the regime has made a miscalculation, and soon these errors will lead to a devastating blow to the regime," he added.

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm inflicted an "irreparable" defeat on the Israeli regime, challenging this "cancerous tumor," he said, referring to the surprise operation carried out by Palestinian resistance forces in Gaza last October.

The operation came in response to the Israeli regime's intensified aggression against Palestinians. It saw the fighters storming the occupied territories, taking control of Israeli military bases and illegal settlements around Gaza, and taking Israelis captive.

Soleimani added that the Muslim world entered a "new phase" after the operation which proved that the regime can be defeated.

"These events are a crucial historical turning point for the Islamic world, and we must use this historical opportunity to save the Holy Quds," he said.

Pointing to Iran's retaliatory operations against Israel, dubbed Operation True Promise I and II, the Basij head said the Israeli regime's military equipment and shields lack the necessary efficiency.

Israel is on the verge of a historical collapse, he said, adding, "The current situation has become very difficult for this regime, and it is resorting to crime and violence to maintain its existence."

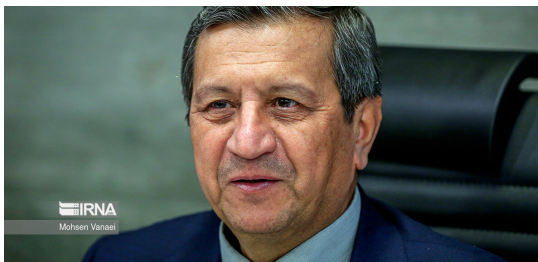
"Today, the Eastern and Western world is standing by the resistance front and soon this fake regime (Israel) will be eliminated," he pointed out.

The remarks come as Tehran has vowed to respond to an Israeli aggression against its soil last Saturday which was largely repelled, yet claimed the lives of four servicemen.

The Islamic Republic launched some 200 missiles towards the Israeli entity's military, and espionage and intelligence bases all over the occupied territories on October 1 as part of Operation True Promise II.

The operation came in response to the regime's assassinations of senior leaders of the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance front and a commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC).

### Inflation Over 40% in the Past 3 Years



TEHRAN - During ceremony marking the appointment of a new CEO for Iran Insurance, Minister of Economy Abdolnasser Hemmati addressed the current state of the Iranian insurance industry, emphasizing the need for significant reforms. Hemmati, expressing concern over Iran Insurance's declining market share and finances, stated, "Iran Insurance is crucial for our industry and needs to return to its peak performance."

He noted that the economic situation, including the effects of sanctions, has impacted the insurance sector. However, Hemmati was optimistic, saying that many motivated and capable employees at Iran Insurance could help revive the company.

The Minister of Economy stressed that customers should never feel indebted when insurance companies compensate them for losses. "Insurance companies should be indebted to the people, not the other way around," he said, attributing this sentiment to delays in payouts. According to him, this shows a lack of professionalism, with companies failing to properly fulfill their obligations.

Hemmati also highlighted Iran Insurance's narrow portfolio, dominated by car and health insurance—both of which often result in financial losses. He pointed out that the company's focus on these areas could be restructured, suggesting the need to diversify offerings and reintroduce a strong life insurance sector.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



## U.S., Israel Will Definitely Receive "Teeth-Breaking Response"

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has warned the United States and Israel that they will definitely receive a crushing response for their atrocities.

"The enemies, both the U.S. and the Zionist regime, should know that they will definitely receive a teeth-breaking response for what they are doing against Iran and the resistance front," he said in a meeting with students on Saturday.

Iranian officials have pledged to avenge Israel's act of aggression targeting two Iranian border cities, Ilam and Khuzestan, as well as central Tehran in the early hours of October 26.

"This is not merely a matter of revenge but a logical action—an approach aligned with religion, ethics, and the Sharia, in accordance with international regulations," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader made the statements during the occasion to mark the U.S. embassy takeover by Iranian students on November 4, 1979, known as the National Day of the Fight against Global Arrogance.

"We are certainly doing everything necessary to prepare the Iranian nation to stand against arrogance, whether in terms of military readiness, armaments, or political actions, and thank God, our officials are currently engaged in this," the Leader said.

The overall movement of the Iranian people and the country's officials, he said, is "definitely and justly aimed at confronting global arrogance and the criminal apparatus that rules today's world order. Rest assured, there will be no negligence in this regard."

"The Iranian people and the country's officials will not hesitate or neglect this course. Rest assured."

He also referenced the U.S. embassy takeover, saying it was not merely a site for diplomatic and intelligence activity, but rather the headquarters of plotting to destroy the Islamic Revolution.

Iranian students took over the embassy in Tehran, also known in Iran as the "Den of Espionage," less than a year after the Islamic Revolution toppled the U.S.-backed Pahlavi dictatorship in 1979.

The Leader noted: "The ongoing struggle of the Iranian nation against American imperialism stems from what is seen as the brazenly oppressive ambitions of the U.S. government to dominate the people and nation of Iran. Some revisionist historians attempt to frame the Iran-U.S. tensions as beginning on November 4, 1979, with the U.S. Embassy takeover. However, this narrative is disputed, with assertions that the United States' adversarial stance toward Iran dates back to the pre-revolutionary era."

Ayatollah Khamenei added: Before the 1953 coup, U.S. interference in Iran was already

significant. However, the events of August 19, 1953, when the U.S. orchestrated a coup to overthrow a popular, nationalist government in Iran, remain central to the historical grievances. This coup toppled a democratically elected government that had naively trusted the United States. The U.S. then reinstalled the Shah's regime, initiating a period of authoritarian rule that deeply impacted Iranian society, as many Iranians experienced firsthand the repercussions of American involvement."

He further said: the 1950s also saw the creation of SAVAK, Iran's notorious intelligence and security organization, which became a tool of repression against activists and freedom-seekers. Many young Iranians, devout individuals, and freedom fighters endured brutal torture or lifelong injuries, some even losing their lives under the hands of SAVAK, which had been set up and trained by American agents."

The Leader reiterated: Beyond political repression, the United States' influence in Iran extended to economic and cultural spheres. Tens of thousands of American advisors arrived in Iran to oversee various sectors, including the military, intelligence, and government functions, all while reportedly engaging in intelligence-gathering and cultural influence operations. These efforts were seen as an attempt to increase American dominance over Iranian society and shape it according to Western values."

He went on to say that this historical perspective emphasizes that the resentment toward the U.S. in Iran is deeply rooted, tied to a legacy of political interference and cultural imposition long before the events of 1979.

Every year on the 13th day of the Iranian month of Aban, the Iranian nation, particularly the students, commemorate the event by staging rallies across the country, calling on all Muslims and freedom-seeking nations to resist against arrogant powers and not to succumb to their bullying.

"For the Iranian nation, inspired by Islamic teachings, standing up against oppression is a duty. Confronting arrogance is a duty. Arrogance means comprehensive economic, military, and cultural domination and the humiliation of nations," Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

He added that the Iranian people had been humiliated for years and, therefore, will certainly continue their struggle against global arrogance.

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the Iranian nation's rational, wise, and logical movement, aligned with human, Islamic, and international principles in confronting arrogance, must continue.

"The continuation of the Iranian nation's path in confronting arrogance requires knowledge, thought, technology, and a roadmap," the Leader said.

## At Least 19 Israelis Injured in Hezbollah's Fresh Missile, Drone Operations

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - At least 19 Israelis have been injured in a missile attack by the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah on the central occupied territories, amid the regime's daily aggression on southern Lebanon.

The Israeli police said 19 people in the town of Tira in the Sharon region were injured after the military reported the launch of "three projectiles from Lebanon" early on Saturday.

Israeli media cited the occupation army as saying that around 15 rockets were fired from Lebanon and triggered sirens across northern Israel.

Some five rockets fired at the Upper Galilee were mostly intercepted, reports said, adding that some 10 rockets were also fired at the Haifa Bay area and Galilee, with the military claiming that some were intercepted while others fell in open areas.

Separately, two rockets fired from Lebanon at the northern Golan Heights struck open areas, according to the Israeli military.

Hezbollah also announced that it had launched rockets at an Israeli intelligence base near Tel Aviv in the early hours of the day.



The Lebanese resistance group said in a statement that its fighters "fired at 2:30 a.m. (0030 GMT) a salvo of rockets at the Gilot base of the 8200 military intelligence unit in the suburbs of Tel Aviv."

Hezbollah also said it had launched several drones on Lebanon at northern Israel, setting off sirens in the Haifa area for about half an hour.

The Israeli military said one of the drones was shot down and another drone impacted a factory building in an industrial zone near Nahariya, providing no further details on the extent of damage

and possible casualties.

The resistance media reported that Hezbollah's drones had penetrated large areas in the north and the sirens were activated in the Ramat David area, southeast of Haifa.

The Lebanese resistance movement on Friday carried out fresh retaliatory operations against Israel, targeting several settlements and military positions of the regime.

Israel has been carrying out bloody acts of terror and aggression across Lebanon after the occupying regime unleashed its genocidal war on the Gaza Strip.

### Iran Likely to Extend Missile Range; Response to Israel Certain



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations says the Islamic Republic will likely increase the range of its missiles, warning that the country can change its entire military doctrine, if it faces an existential threat.

"If the Islamic Republic of Iran faces an existential threat, we will inevitably change the policy of our military doctrine," Kamal Kharrazi said in an interview with Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television.

He stressed that Iran is capable of producing nuclear weapons, but what prevents it is the fatwa (religious decree) issued by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei against weapons of mass destruction.

"We now have the necessary capability to produce [nuclear] weapons, and the only obstacle is the Leader's fatwa that prohibits the production of nuclear weapons."

Regarding the range of Iran's missiles, Kharrazi said, "We have so far considered the Westerners' sensitivity, particularly the Europeans. But when they don't consider our sensitivities, especially regarding the issue of the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran, there is no reason for us to continue to consider their sensitivities."

"Therefore, there is a possibility that the range of Iran's missiles will increase."

Commenting on Israel's recent deadly strikes on military sites in Iran, Kharrazi said the country "will definitely respond at the right time and in the right way."

He reiterated that Iran is not interested in the expansion of the war into the entire region, but stressed that, "We are ready for a war."

Noting that Israel has made "miscalculations" since it waged aggressions on Gaza and Lebanon, Kharrazi said, "They thought they could destroy Hamas and Hezbollah by attacking Gaza and Lebanon. They thought that with the martyrdom of the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah, these popular movements would collapse. These were their miscalculations. In Israel itself, many admit these miscalculations."

Since early October 2023, Israel has been waging brutal two-front aggression that has killed more than 43,259 people in the Gaza Strip and at least 2,867 others in Lebanon so far.

### FM Blasts Germany's Support for Terror



TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi slammed Berlin for closing three Iranian consulates, stating that this action, taken in support of a terrorist, amounts to sanctions against thousands of Iranians.

"In support of a terrorist who took 14 innocent lives and injured more than 200 others, the German government is sanctioning tens of thousands of other Iranians holding German passport. Anyone can see the wisdom in this decision," Araqchi said in a post on his X account.

In an announcement on Thursday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that the Iranian consulates in the cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich are to be closed over the execution of convicted terrorist Jamshid Sharmahd.

Iran's Foreign Ministry on Thursday summoned German charge d'affaires in Tehran in protest against the European country's "irrational" decision to shut the missions of the Islamic Republic and deprive Iranians of consular services.

In his post, Araqchi pledged that his ministry would do the "utmost" for Iranian compatriots living in Germany to compensate for such an "inconvenience" by strengthening the consular sections of the Islamic Republic's embassy in Berlin and other nearby diplomatic missions.

"Behold the terrorist criminal that German authorities sought to protect," the top Iranian diplomat wrote, linking back to a post published by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on X two days earlier which shows parts of the trial and confessions of Sharmahd.

On Monday, Iran's Judiciary executed Sharmahd, the ringleader of a US-based terror group behind a series of deadly attacks against the Iranian nation.

Germany protested to Iran by recalling its ambassador to Tehran and summoning the Iranian charge d'affaires in Berlin.

Iran on Tuesday summoned German Ambassador to Tehran Markus Potzel over Berlin officials meddling in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic.



# IRAN NEWS



## IRGC Busts Terrorist Teams Amid War Game in SE Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force units smashed four teams of terrorists in the course of a military exercise in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, killing four.

The IRGC Ground Force has staged a war game, codenamed "Martyrs of Security", in Sistan and Baluchestan.

The spokesperson for the drill, General Shafaei, said the IRGC servicemen have detected eight members of four teams of terrorists and outlaws in the course of the exercise.

He said the operational units of the IRGC Ground Force, in cooperation with the Intelligence Ministry's provincial office and the Police forces, have "dealt lethal blows" to the "terrorist teams acting as proxies for the enemy" in the southeastern province on Thursday night.

## No Need for Jet Fuel Imports



TEHRAN - Keramat Veis-Karami, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company, announced that Iran's domestic production of jet fuel averaged about 4 million liters per day in 2022 and 2023. According to Veis-Karami, in 2022, over 1.467 billion liters of jet fuel were supplied to 198,000 flights, while in 2023, more than 1.463 billion liters were provided to 201,000 flights.

Veis-Karami noted that fuel consumption in the country's aviation sector increases annually. He stated that fuel for domestic airlines is subsidized and priced at 600 toman per liter, as per a 2015 Cabinet resolution. For foreign airlines and cargo flights, fuel is sold at market rates.

In 2022, over 1.467 billion liters of jet fuel were supplied at the subsidized rate to domestic airlines, with an additional 107 million liters sold to foreign airlines and cargo planes at market rates.

He added that 86% of the country's jet fuel production was allocated to domestic airlines, with the remaining 14% supplied to foreign and cargo flights. In 2023, these figures changed slightly, with 91% going to domestic flights and 9% to foreign and cargo flights.

Regarding fuel supply sources, Veis-Karami confirmed that Iran's needs are fully met by domestic refineries, eliminating any need for imports. He even noted that Iran has occasionally exported jet fuel to neighboring countries. So far, there have been no reports of jet fuel smuggling, as the production and distribution processes are strictly regulated.

## Tehran and Caracas Sign Two Telecommunication Cooperation Agreements

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - The governments of Iran and Venezuela have signed telecommunication and technology cooperation agreements in a joint meeting between Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Seyyed Sattar Hashemi, and Venezuelan Minister of Electricity and President of Venezuela's National Telecommunications Company (Conatel), Jorge Márquez.

According to Iran's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Seyyed Sattar Hashemi, currently visiting Venezuela, expressed his gratitude to Minister Jorge Márquez for his role in fostering closer ties with Iranian companies. Hashemi highlighted that the Iranian companies involved in this cooperation are among the top-performing firms in Iran.

Hashemi noted that, unlike other countries, Iran is not only prepared to provide products but is also open to transferring technology to Venezuela. He added that Iran is ready to engage in joint production initiatives abroad, aiming to capture regional telecommunications markets.

He further emphasized that establishing an Innovation House, hosted by Venezuela, could significantly boost product development and human resource training in shared sectors, potentially opening up avenues on the international stage.

Expressing optimism about future collaborative efforts, Hashemi said, "Our focus is on practical and operational work, and we are optimistic about the future." He also acknowledged Venezuela's interest in extending cooperation in the energy sector, as well.

Recalling the recent meeting between the Iranian and Venezuelan presidents at the BRICS summit, Hashemi stressed that Iran's current administration is committed to supporting private-sector involvement and enhancing joint ventures with Venezuela.

Jorge Márquez, Venezuela's Minister of Electricity and Conatel president, welcomed Hashemi and the Iranian delegation on behalf of the Venezuelan President and reaffirmed his commitment to advancing existing agreements. Márquez stated that, under the guidance of both presidents, Iran-Venezuela relations continue to grow, adding that there are many areas in telecommunications and energy for collaboration.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the two ministers signed agreements to supply telecommunications equipment and components, as well as to produce fiber-optic cables, solidifying their commitment to strengthening cooperation in communication and technology sectors.

Earlier in the day Ministers of Communication and Information Technology of Iran and Venezuela discussed potential areas for joint cooperation in communication networks and strategies to counter misinformation worldwide.

Hashemi, met with Freddy Núñez, the Venezuelan Minister of Communications. Hashemi expressed his pleasure at the meeting and appreciation for the warm hospitality of his Venezuelan counterpart. He also referenced the ongoing crimes of the Israeli regime in Gaza and Lebanon, emphasizing the importance of presenting the world with an accurate image of these events.

He thanked the Venezuelan government and people for condemning the actions of the Israeli regime, aligning with the Supreme Leader's emphasis on cultural resistance and collaboration among independent countries. Hashemi highlighted the enemies' efforts to strip young people and independent nations of their identities in a bid to dominate their resources, noting that the digital space now permeates all aspects of life—personal, social, cultural, and economic. In today's world, he asserted, countries with a well-structured plan for digital governance will emerge stronger.

Minister Hashemi pointed out that social networks and communication platforms could serve as a foundation for collaboration between the two countries. He stressed that the media should leverage both countries' capacities to convey the truth to global audiences, enabling cooperation to manage misinformation and promote the dissemination of accurate and reality-based information.

Hashemi further noted Iran's achievements in developing domestic platforms, which currently have around 40 million active users. He expressed Iran's willingness to share knowledge and infrastructure related to creating and expanding communication networks with Venezuela. He also highlighted Iran's capabilities in effectively countering cyberattacks on its communication infrastructure.

Venezuela's Minister of Communications, Freddy Núñez, affirmed that both countries share deep cultural roots and a commitment to independence and freedom, making their fates intertwined. He emphasized their shared challenges, enemies, and aspirations to create a free world that celebrates cultural diversity with mutual respect.

Núñez also commended Iran's culture and civilization, as appreciated by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and praised Iran's role in supporting Palestine and other freedom-seeking nations worldwide.

## 90% of Iran's Coal Mines Located in Tabas



TEHRAN - Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade announced that 90% of the country's coal mines are located in the Tabas region, which is also among the most accident-prone mining areas worldwide.

In a Thursday meeting with government officials and families affected by the recent Tabas mining accident, held on the 40th day after the incident, Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak highlighted the unique geological structure of Tabas. "The region's geological formation has deep layers with minimal thickness, which presents significant challenges. Due to these conditions, some mining operations still rely on traditional extraction methods, which increase risk factors," he explained.

Minister Atabak stressed the need to modernize these operations to minimize hazards. "We must move toward mechanizing mines that cannot safely operate with traditional methods," he said, noting that currently, there is no mechanized coal mining in Iran apart from the Tabas site. The depth of coal seams must be suitable for mechanization to improve safety and efficiency.

Reflecting on his visit to a recent mine accident site in Kerman, Atabak expressed appreciation for the rescue teams who responded quickly and worked with dedication, calling those early hours "intensely difficult."

He emphasized the importance of fair pricing for coal to support mining safety upgrades, including necessary equipment investments. He pointed out that under current conditions, some mining operations have become economically unviable. Measures are underway to ensure that mines unable to meet safety standards will be consolidated or upgraded to meet modern safety requirements.

Finally, Atabak assured miners that their wages will be safeguarded as mines transition to improved safety standards, with oversight from the Ministry of Industry, Mines, and Trade, as well as the Ministry of Labor. This effort aims to prevent similar accidents in the future by ensuring compliance with updated safety regulations.

## 221 Tons of Saffron Exported in 2023



TEHRAN - Mohammad Reza Talai, the head of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran, announced that the Minister of Agriculture has emphasized collaboration with organizations and associations since the beginning of the fourteenth government. He stated that all guaranteed purchases have been conducted directly with cooperatives, following a similar approach to the purchases of raisins, onions, and potatoes. The aim is to buy directly from farmers rather than intermediaries, increasing farmers' share of income.

Speaking in a presser, Talai highlighted that significant progress has been made in the saffron sector, with saffron being offered on the commodity exchange at a price of 90,500,000 toman per kilogram.

He emphasized the importance of saffron for employment and foreign currency earnings, noting that Iran produces 90% of the world's saffron. He expressed hope that this year's saffron production will exceed 350 tons.

Talai stressed that their role in the saffron market is supportive, as reiterated by the Minister of Agriculture. He mentioned that a memorandum of understanding was signed today with the Rural and Nomadic Development Support Fund to purchase saffron from farmers at the stated price, ensuring that farmers can sell their saffron at a reasonable price and redirecting the country's investments toward valuable export goods. Currently, Iranian saffron is marketed alongside brands from other countries.

He pointed out that the capacity established for saffron in the stock market is expected to attract investors, making this the best approach for small-scale participation in the saffron business. He also noted that standards must be maintained to facilitate exports.

Talai indicated that saffron is exported in bulk, and its stock market listing will encourage investors to enter the field, potentially leading to the branding of Iranian products. He stated that Iranian saffron should be exported under the "Iran" brand.

Regarding the export and guaranteed purchase of saffron, he explained that last year's market conditions were favorable, negating the need for government intervention and guaranteed purchases. In previous years, the government had made purchases of up to 70 tons. Saffron exports reached 221 tons last year, and they hope to increase this figure to over 250 tons this year.

Talai concluded that trading in the stock market will enhance market transparency for saffron. The priority is trade, and cooperatives must take control of saffron commerce. However, he acknowledged that cooperatives cannot operate using methods from two decades ago and must focus on branding. Their efforts aim to increase prices for farmers, as the financial turnover for saffron is substantial, and stock market listings will lead to transparent transactions.

## One-Third of Iran's Pistachio Production Ready for Export



TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh, announced that pistachios are a valuable economic asset for the country, with one-third of Iran's pistachio crop fit for export.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 11th National Pistachio Festival in Damghan, Ghezleh stated that Iran's annual dry pistachio harvest could reach 300,000 tons, with one-third available for international markets.

He highlighted that pistachios, which thrive in Iran's climate, are not only globally marketable but also bring significant foreign revenue. With a strategic focus on advanced irrigation, crop improvement, and increased efficiency, Ghezleh noted that exports could potentially yield \$1 billion annually.

The minister emphasized that the government's focus on food security includes leveraging the latest scientific and technological methods to enhance agricultural productivity across Iran. He assured that farmers' interests would be upheld, particularly in addressing the nation's water challenges. The ministry is prioritizing efficient irrigation practices for pistachio orchards to ensure water conservation and enhanced crop quality.

The minister also stressed the importance of branding Damghan pistachios, with efforts supported by private sector partnerships. He

noted that recent power outages have posed significant challenges for pistachio farmers in Semnan and Damghan, and assured that the ministry is committed to reducing these disruptions.

Ghezleh added that Damghan pistachio farming is a longstanding cultural tradition, and the farmers are considered "artists" in their field. He reported a 33% increase in pistachio yields from Damghan orchards this year, underscoring Iran's broader agricultural achievements, including self-sufficiency in wheat.

Addressing the nation's energy challenges, Ghezleh called for joint efforts in energy conservation. He mentioned ongoing meetings with related ministries to resolve power issues impacting agriculture, promising reduced power cuts for farmers next year with improved planning and local coordination.

Additionally, Ghezleh noted that government-subsidized fertilizers would be available to orchard owners starting this year to support the rehabilitation and expansion of pistachio orchards.

The 11th National Pistachio Festival, held from October 30 to November 1, included exhibitions and educational workshops, where the minister toured displays showcasing the skills of Damghan's pistachio farmers.

## Decline in Iron and Steel Chain Exports Amid Rising Imports



TEHRAN - The latest data on Iran's iron and steel export and import activity for the first half of this year reveals a decrease in export volume and value compared to the same period last year. While exports experienced a 2% decline in weight and a 16% drop in value, import costs have surged despite a slight reduction in import volume.

According to a report by ISNA, data from the Iranian Steel Producers Association shows that between the beginning of this year and the end of September, Iran exported a total of 13,897 million tons of iron and steel products, a 2% decrease from last year's 14,122 million tons. In monetary terms, the export value fell from \$3.676 billion to \$3.091 billion, reflecting a 16% drop in revenue.

In the long steel products segment, 1,729 million tons were exported, marking a 32% increase from the previous year's 1,307 million tons. This segment's export value also rose by 22%, with a total of \$830 million earned compared to last year's \$680 million.

Imports of long steel products fell by 7% from 56,000 tons to 52,000 tons. However, the cost of these imports increased by 10% to \$49 million compared to last year's \$44 million.

Exports of flat steel products also saw a decline. From January to June, flat steel exports fell by 26% in volume (from 230,000 tons to 170,000 tons) and by 25% in value (from \$151 million to \$113 million). Meanwhile, imports of flat steel products dropped by 2% in weight but saw a 13% increase in cost, rising from \$639 million to \$721 million.

Steel products, overall, saw an export increase of 24% in volume and 13% in value, totaling 1,899 million tons worth \$943 million, compared to last year's 1,537 million tons valued at \$831 million.

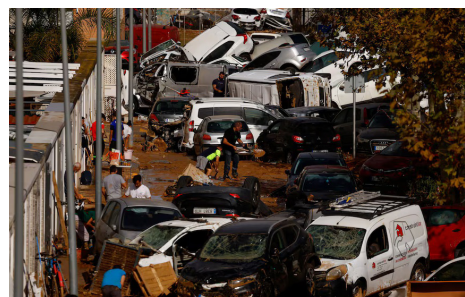
Midstream steel products exports dropped by 25% in volume and 29% in value, with a total of 2,774 million tons valued at \$1,307 billion, down from last year's 3,690 million tons valued at \$1,852 billion. Import volume of midstream steel products rose significantly by 95%, reaching 3,200 tons, with a 35% increase in cost from last year.



## Death Toll From Spain Flash Floods Reaches 205

MADRID (Dispatches) - The death toll from historic flash floods in Spain climbed to least 205 people Friday, with many more believed to be missing, as the initial shock gave way to anger, frustration and a wave of solidarity. Spanish emergency authorities said 202 of the victims were in the Valencia region alone, and officials warned that more rains were expected in the next days.

The damage from the storm Tuesday and Wednesday recalled the aftermath of a tsunami, with survivors left to pick up the pieces as they mourn loved ones lost in Spain's deadliest natural disaster in living memory. Many streets were still blocked by piled-up vehicles and debris, in some cases trapping residents in their homes. Some places still don't have electricity, running water, or stable telephone connections.



## North Korea Says Record Test Was New Hwasong-19 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea flexed its military muscle with the test of a huge new solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile dubbed Hwasong-19, state media said on Friday, amid international uproar over its troops deployed to aid Russia in Ukraine.

The launch on Thursday flew higher than any previous North Korean missile, according to the North as well as militaries in South Korea and Japan that tracked its flight deep into space before it splashed down in the ocean between Japan and Russia. State news agency KCNA lauded it as "the world's strongest strategic missile".

While questions remain over North Korea's ability to guide such a missile and protect a nuclear warhead as it reenters the atmosphere, the Hwasong-19, like North Korea's other latest ICBMs, demonstrated the range to strike nearly anywhere in the United States.

"The new-type ICBM proved before the world that the hegemonic position we have secured in the development and manufacture of nuclear delivery means of the same kind is absolutely irreversible," North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said while overseeing the launch, KCNA reported.

Most of the long range missiles were test fired on steep vertical trajectories, known as lofted trajectories.

The launch, days before Tuesday's U.S. presidential election, drew swift condemnation from Washington and its allies in South Korea, Japan and Europe, as well as the United Nations secretary-general.

"The missile continues to underwrite the growing credibility of North Korea's strategic deterrent capabilities," said Ankit Panda, a senior fellow at the U.S.-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, adding that Kim appeared specifically interested in communicating that message to the United States.

The South Korean and U.S. air forces conducted first-ever joint live-fire attack drills on Friday with unmanned aerial vehicles, flying the Global Hawk and the Reaper drones, dropping GPS-guided munitions in simulated strikes against enemy target, South Korea's air force said.

On Friday, South Korea imposed new sanctions on 11 North Korean individuals and four entities over the ICBM test, naming officials for contributing to missile and nuclear development and channelling illegal foreign funds back to the country.



## Ceasefire Hopes Fade as Israel Bombards Gaza, Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Prospects of a ceasefire between Israel and its foes Hamas and Hezbollah ran aground as Israeli airstrikes killed at least 68 people in the Gaza Strip, according to medics in the Palestinian enclave, and bombed Beirut's southern suburbs.

The Israeli military said it killed senior Hamas official Izz al-Din Kassab in an airstrike in the southern Gaza town of Khan Younis and described him as one of the last surviving high-ranking members of Hamas responsible for coordinating with other groups in Gaza.

U.S. envoys had been working to secure ceasefires on both fronts ahead of the U.S. presidential election next Tuesday. But Hamas does not favour a temporary truce, its Al-Aqsa Hamas television reported on Friday. The ceasefire proposals failed to meet its conditions that any deal must end the year-long war in Gaza and include a withdrawal of Israeli forces from the devastated Palestinian enclave, it said.

Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said his priority was to enforce security "despite any pressure or constraints".

His office said he relayed this message to U.S. envoys Amos Hochstein and Brett McGurk in Israel on Thursday. Israel meanwhile pressed on with its military offensives against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon on Friday.

Medics in Gaza said about 68 people were killed and dozens injured overnight and into Friday morning in Israeli strikes on the city of Deir Al-Balah, the Nuseirat camp and the town of Al-Zawayda, all in Gaza's central area, as well as in its south.

Fourteen people were killed by an Israeli strike at the gate of a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Nuseirat, according to medics at the camp's Al-Awda Hospital. Another 10 were killed in a car in Khan Younis, medics said.

Hours later, residents said Israeli tanks advanced on the northern and eastern sides of Nuseirat, and medics said an Israeli airstrike killed four people, including three children.

The Israeli military said its troops killed what it called armed terrorists in central Gaza and the northern Jabalia area. It had no immediate comment on the reported school strike, although it habitually denies deliberately attacking civilians.

The heads of U.N. humanitarian agencies said on Friday the situation in north Gaza was "apocalyptic" with the entire Palestinian population there at "imminent risk of dying from disease, famine and violence" as Israel pursues its offensive against regrouping Hamas militants in the area.

Israel also pummeled Beirut's southern suburbs on Friday morning with at least 10 strikes, Reuters journalists said. It was

the first bombardment of the area - once a densely packed district and Hezbollah stronghold - in nearly a week. The strikes came after Israel issued evacuation orders for 10 separate neighbourhoods of the Lebanese capital.

Hassan Saad, speaking on a Beirut street, told Reuters: "This is a brutal war and Israel does not have the right to do this... There must be a limit put for Israel because it does not abide by any of the laws or human morality."

Another Beirut man, Ali Ramadan, said he believed the Israeli airstrikes were a way to put pressure on Lebanon in the ceasefire negotiations.

The hostilities have undermined hope a truce could be reached before the U.S. presidential election on Tuesday.

Hamas television, quoting a leading source in the group, said the ceasefire proposals did not meet its conditions for a permanent end to hostilities, withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and the return of displaced people.

Nor did they address Palestinians' need for security, relief and reconstruction and the full reopening of border crossings, the source said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer on Friday discussed a diplomatic solution to the conflict in Lebanon as well as ending the war and addressing dire humanitarian conditions in Gaza, the State Department said in a statement.

Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati on Friday accused Israel of blocking any progress in the negotiations.

"Israeli statements and diplomatic signals received by Lebanon confirm the Israeli stubbornness in rejecting the proposed solutions and insisting on the approach of killing and destruction," he said.

Lebanon's health ministry said 52 people were killed on Friday in Israeli strikes on more than a dozen towns in the Baalbek region, which has UNESCO-listed Roman ruins.

An Israeli strike on Friday in Syria near northeast Lebanon forced a border crossing to shut, Lebanon Transport Minister Ali Hamieh told Reuters. Israeli bombing closed the crossing last month and it had partly reopened before the latest strike.

Hezbollah began firing rockets at Israel in solidarity with Palestinians a day after Hamas-led militants attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages back to Gaza, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's retaliatory offensives have killed more than 43,000 Palestinians and reduced most of Gaza to rubble, as well as killed at least 2,897 people in Lebanon, its health ministry said in an update on Friday.

## Botswana Voters Kick Out Ruling Party of Nearly Six Decades



GABORONE (Dispatches) - Botswana's voters delivered a shock defeat to the party that has ruled them for nearly six decades, registering their anger over economic stagnation linked to a decline in the diamond trade by handing victory to opposition presidential candidate Duma Boko.

The 54-year-old, of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) coalition, will replace President Mokgweetsi Masisi, who on Friday conceded defeat after his Botswana Democratic Party (BDP) lost by a landslide for the first time in 58 years.

"From tomorrow... I will start the process of handover," Masisi said in an audio clip posted on social media of his phone call to Boko, signalling a smooth power transition.

In his first public remarks after being sworn-in as the new president, Boko said he was humbled by the election outcome.

"I pledge with every fibre of my being that I will do everything I can, not to fail, not to disappoint, appreciating always the enormity of the responsibility bestowed upon me by the people of this republic. It is their government," he said.

Analysts blamed mounting economic grievances, particularly among young people, for the downfall of the BDP, which has governed the southern African state of around 2.5 million people since independence from Britain in 1966.

KYIV (Dispatches) - President Volodymyr Zelenskiy called on Ukraine's allies to stop "watching" and take action to tackle the presence of North Korean troops in Russia before they start confronting his country in combat.

Zelenskiy, in a video posted on Telegram, said North Korea had made progress in its military capability, missile deployment and weapons production and "now unfortunately they will learn modern warfare".

"The first thousands of soldiers from North Korea are near the Ukrainian border. Ukrainians will be forced to defend themselves against them," he said. "And the world will watch again."

Zelenskiy said Ukraine had pinpointed every location where North Korean soldiers were posted in Russia. But Kyiv's Western allies, he said, had not supplied the long-range weapons needed to strike them.

"But instead of such necessary

## Zelenskiy Urges Allies to Stop Watching, Start Acting on North Korea



long-range capability, America watches, Britain watches, Germany watches..." he said.

"Everyone in the world who truly wants the Russian war against Ukraine not to expand... must not just watch. They must act. Words about the inadmissibility of escalation and expansion of war must be matched with actions."

The slick three-minute video interspersed his comments with images of North Korea's soldiers in Russia, including as many as 8,000 in the southern Kursk region where Ukrainian forces launched an incursion in August.

The video follows an interview with South Korea's KBS television on Thursday in which Zelenskiy blasted what he described as his allies' "zero" response to Russia's deployment of North Korean troops.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Thursday there were 10,000 North Korean soldiers in Russia, including as many as 8,000 in the southern Kursk region where Ukrainian forces launched an incursion in August.

North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui told his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on Friday that his country would back Russia until it achieved victory in the Ukraine war.

## Japan, EU Announce Sweeping Defense and Security Pact

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan and the European Union announced a sweeping new security and defence partnership in Tokyo on Friday, which EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell hailed as a historic and "very timely" step.

Borrell and his Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya unveiled the pact to develop cooperation on joint military drills, the exchange of information related to the defence industry, and space security among other matters.

"I am extremely pleased to be here with Minister Iwaya to announce the conclusion of this security and defence partnership between the European Union and Japan," Borrell said.

He called it the "the first agreement of this nature" the EU has made with an Asia-Pacific country, describing it as "historical and very timely".

"We live in a very dangerous world" and "given the situation in both of our regions, this political framework deepens our ability to tackle emerging threats together", Borrell told reporters.

He did not mention China, but Japan has previously called its neighbour its greatest security challenge as Beijing builds up military capacity in the region.

After the Tokyo talks, Borrell heads to South Korea, where concerns about North Korea will top the agenda.

The United States has said thousands of North Korean troops are in Russia readying to fight in Ukraine.

Pyongyang also test-fired one of its newest and most powerful missiles on Thursday, demonstrating its threat to the US mainland days ahead of elections.



The text of the EU-Japan Security and Defence Partnership, seen by AFP, said they would promote "concrete naval cooperation" including through activities such as joint exercises and port calls, which could also include "mutually designated third countries".

It also said the EU and Japan would discuss "the development of respective defence initiatives including exchange of information on defence industry-related matters".

Japan, which for decades has relied on the United States for military hardware, is also developing a new fighter jet with EU member Italy and Britain set to be airborne by 2035.

The agreement on industrial cooperation could "turbo-charge collaboration, such that joint defence projects between Japanese and European firms funded through EU mechanisms may be on the cards", analyst Yee Kuang Heng of the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy told AFP.

Japan is ramping up defense spending to the NATO standard of two percent of GDP by 2027, partly to counter China, which is increasing military pressure on Taiwan.

Beijing claims the self-ruled island as part of its territory and has not ruled out using force to bring it under its control.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who could head a minority government after a disastrous general election last week, has said that "today's Ukraine could be tomorrow's East Asia".





## Thunder Pull Away From Blazers to Remain Unbeaten

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander recorded 30 points, seven rebounds and six assists as the unbeaten Oklahoma City delivered a 137-114 victory over the host Portland Trail Blazers on Friday night.

Jalen Williams added 22 points, five rebounds, four assists and four steals as Oklahoma City won its fifth straight game to open the season. Aaron Wiggins and Cason Wallace scored 13 points apiece off the bench, Isaiah Joe added 12 and Ousmane Dieng had 11 for the Thunder.

Oklahoma City has won 13 consecutive games against the Trail Blazers. One of last season's victories was by a 139-77 score, with the 62-point margin tying for fifth-largest in NBA history.

Jerami Grant had 17 points and Deandre Ayton and Rayan Rupert added 14 apiece for Portland. Toumani Camara had 13 points and Deni Avdija and Dalano Banton had 11 apiece for the Trail Blazers, who have started the season with four losses in six games.

Oklahoma City shot 53.7 percent from the field, including 19 of 49 (38.8 percent) from 3-point range. Gilgeous-Alexander made 12 of 18 shots and Williams hit 8 of 12, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

Chet Holmgren blocked five shots for the Thunder.

The Trail Blazers shot 47 percent from the field and made 15 of 35 (42.9 percent) from behind the arc.

The Thunder dominated the third quarter, outscoring Portland 38-17 to turn a tie game at halftime into a 21-point lead for the visitors.

Alex Caruso's basket capped a 9-0 spurt as Oklahoma City led 89-78 with 3:56 remaining in the quarter.

Later, Wallace knocked down a 3-pointer and Gilgeous-Alexander followed with four straight points to end a 23-5 surge as the Thunder held a 103-83 lead with 24.1 seconds to go.

A buzzer-beating 3-pointer by Dieng gave Oklahoma City a 106-85 edge entering the final stanza.

The Thunder scored nine of the first 11 points of the fourth quarter with Ajay Mitchell's trey making it 115-87 with 9:17 left in the game and Oklahoma City cruised to the finish.

The Thunder led by as many as 17 in the first quarter before the score was knotted at 68 at the break.

Gilgeous-Alexander scored 18 in the half and Williams added 17 for the Thunder. Grant had 14 first-half

points for Portland.

The Thunder led 35-18 after a trey by Gilgeous-Alexander with 1:16 left in the first quarter. The score was 37-24 entering the second.

Oklahoma City led by 15 four minutes into the quarter before Portland began trimming the deficit.

Later, a 13-2 burst was capped by Ayton's basket for a 66-65 Trail Blazers' lead with 37.1 seconds left in the half. It ended up tied when Williams drained a 32-foot 3-pointer with 1.5 seconds remaining.

Meanwhile Anthony Edwards scored 29 points and shot 7-for-14 from 3-point range as the Minnesota Timberwolves escaped with a 119-116 win over the Denver Nuggets in Minneapolis.

Julius Randle added 23 points, seven assists and six rebounds for Minnesota. Rudy Gobert notched 17 points and 14 rebounds, Naz Reid scored 16 off the bench, and Jaden McDaniels contributed 10 points.

Aaron Gordon scored a game-high 31 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Denver. Nikola Jokic had 26 points, nine rebounds and 13 assists, and Michael Porter Jr. also logged 26 points. Christian Braun added 14 points.

The Timberwolves trailed by 10 points in the fourth quarter before closing the game on a 17-4 run to secure the victory.

Edwards scored the go-ahead basket with a floating jump shot that put Minnesota on top 117-116 with 25.7 seconds to go. Gobert added a pair of free throws with 10.1 seconds left to increase the lead to three.

Jokic fired a 3-point attempt from the right corner that missed in the waning seconds.

Denver played down the stretch without guard Jamal Murray, who left in the third quarter after colliding with Randle. Murray was placed in the concussion protocol, the Nuggets said.

Despite Murray's absence, Denver stormed to a 25-3 run to grab a 112-102 lead with 4:17 remaining. The run included a highlight-reel play by Braun, who leaped for a dunk over Gobert, the Timberwolves' 7-foot-1 center.

After the play, Braun screamed in celebration and drove his shoulder into Gobert. The Timberwolves' big man took offense, grabbing Braun and shoving him away.

## Tsitsipas' Hopes of Making ATP Finals Over After Loss to Zverev in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) - German third seed Alexander Zverev knocked Stefanos Tsitsipas out of the Paris Masters with a 7-5 6-4 win in the quarter-finals, ending the Greek's hopes of qualifying for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin, Italy.

While the opening set was a tight affair, the second was one-way traffic as world number three Zverev built a 5-3 lead before wrapping up the victory in one hour and 40 minutes.

Zverev served well against the 10th seed, especially in the second set, firing down nine aces and winning 71% of his first serves in the contest.

"I thought the whole match was a very good level from him," Zverev said. "I got into the match and I found my rhythm and felt more and more comfortable and am happy with the win."

The 27-year-old, who improved his head-to-head record with



Tsitsipas to 6-10, joins Novak Djokovic and Rafa Nadal as the only active players to reach 20 or more Masters semi-finals.

However, the defeat means former world number three Tsitsipas' run of five straight ATP Finals appearances is over.

Zverev will face 2022 champion Holger Rune in the semi-finals after the Dane overcame Alex de Minaur 6-4 4-6 7-5.

With the win, 13th seed Rune kept alive his slim hopes of qualifying for the ATP finals.

Local favourite Ugo Humbert continued his fine form after knocking out Carlos Alcaraz in the previous round, securing a 6-2 7-6(4) win over Jordan Thompson.

Humbert will face Russia's Karen Khachanov for a place in the final after the 2018 champion made light work of eighth seed Grigor Dimitrov, winning 6-2 6-3 in just over an hour.

## Amorim Needs Quick Start at United as Latest Coach Hired to Revive Fortunes



MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United's new head coach Ruben Amorim will be welcomed as a breath of fresh air for a much-needed reset when he arrives at Old Trafford later this month to sort out a team mired in mediocrity and struggling in the Premier and Europa League.

Amorim must hit the ground running in one of the most scrutinized jobs in football that saw Erik ten Hag fired on Monday - the latest of five permanent managers who have wilted in the shadow of United's most successful boss Alex Ferguson.

But those who know the 39-year-old Sporting coach, considered one of Europe's brightest young managers, insist he will be a big improvement as he has the charisma and ability to connect with players that is a pre-requisite for success.

"I spoke to (former United and Sporting player) Nani a few days ago and he said to me: 'Rio, the players play for him, they love him and respect him,'" former United and England defender turned pundit Rio Ferdinand said.

"United need someone with the character and charisma to go 'You know what? I don't care what has happened here, I see a player in you.' You need someone who is going to be like that."

Amorim, whose appointment was announced on Friday, will join United on Nov. 11, with his first match slated for Nov. 24 at promoted Ipswich Town in the Premier League.

The two fixtures that follow are Norwegian team Bodo/Glimt in the Europa League and a home Premier League game against Everton, which should provide a positive start.

But then he faces two big away tests, at Arsenal on Dec. 4 and champions Manchester City in a Dec. 15 derby.

All five permanent managers at United since Ferguson retired in 2013 arrived to plenty of optimism and solid starts before fortunes turned in a cycle of rinse and repeat, Old Trafford's Theatre of Dreams becoming the stuff of nightmares.

Amorim is considered a hero at Sporting, pulling the club out of the doldrums by winning two Primeira Liga titles, the first of which, at 36, was the club's first title in 19 years.

He already has fans at United in the shape of two Portugal players Diogo Dalot and club captain Bruno Fernandes.

## Leclerc Fined 10,000 Euros for Swearing



SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Formula One stewards fined Ferrari's Charles Leclerc 10,000 euros, with half the sum suspended, for swearing in a post-race press conference at the Mexico City Grand Prix last Sunday.

The punishment comes after Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen was ordered in September to carry out "work of public interest" for swearing during a Singapore Grand Prix press conference.

Stewards said in a statement at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix on Friday that the Monegasque's breach was not as bad as Verstappen's.

Verstappen had alluded, somewhat sorely, to Leclerc's language when he appeared in an FIA Prix press conference on Thursday.

"Apparently it only counts for me anyway because, you know, after the race in Mexico someone was swearing," the Dutch driver told reporters then, without naming names.

Stewards at the Brazilian race summoned Leclerc on Friday, acting on a report from the governing FIA's media delegate and after reviewing a written transcript.

They said the Ferrari driver had answered "a somewhat leading question" about what he said to himself when he momentarily lost control towards the end of the race and was passed by McLaren's Lando Norris.

"In response Leclerc used coarse language being the accurate recollection of what he thought to himself at the time. Leclerc immediately realised his error and apologised," the stewards said in a statement.

"The Stewards noted that the language was not directed at anyone or any group and that Leclerc immediately apologised."

They said Leclerc had expressed his regret at the hearing for "a momentary lack of judgment" and understood his responsibility as a role model.

"The Stewards do not consider that this breach reached the same level as the most recent case and as such chose to levy a fine of 10,000 euros with 5,000 suspended pending no repeat within 12 months."

Verstappen's punishment, in which he used a profanity to describe the state of his car, came after FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem had urged drivers to watch their language, comparing them to rappers.

## Man City in Emergency Mode Amid Injury Crisis

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola says Manchester City face an "emergency" in certain positions as he grapples with a punishing injury list ahead of today's trip to Bournemouth.

City went into Wednesday's League Cup tie at Tottenham without six first-team players, with Rodri, Oscar Bobb, Kevin De Bruyne, Kyle Walker, Jeremy Doku and Jack Grealish all sidelined.

They lost defender Manuel Akanji with a calf issue in the warm-up and forward Savinho was taken off on a stretcher midway through the second half with what appeared to be a swollen ankle.

City manager Guardiola said after the 2-1 defeat that he had just 13 senior players available—the team ended the match in London with a clutch of academy graduates on the pitch.

Speaking at his pre-match press conference on Friday Guardiola, whose team are one point clear of Liverpool at the top of the Premier League, said he had "many doubts" ahead of the Bournemouth game.

"We have a lot (of injuries) in certain departments and certain positions, but it is what it is," he said. "I am pretty sure, like I have



said many times to the team, 'Guys, try not to feel sorry for ourselves.'"

Guardiola said he was being forced to use academy players during the crisis.

"We are using them because we are in an emergency in certain positions," he said. "But yes, some of them we trust them, like in the past, to help us."

"That is why the academy is there. Not ideal, but when the situation demands. Yes, we don't have another option."

Guardiola said the lengthy injury list did not make it more likely that the club would dip into the transfer market in January as he could have a fit squad by then, with the exception of long-term absentee Rodri.

"When we are all together, the squad is enough," he said. "It is complete. It is nice. It is top. But then everybody is completely focused and fit."