

Iran and Uzbekistan Have Decided to Make a Joint Investment in Producing Petrochemical Products as Both Countries Established a Petrochemical Company for Implementing a Petrochemical Project With a \$274m Investment

IRAN NEWS

Iran Is Seeking to Obtain the Approval of the Council for Rail Transport of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for Its Wagons to Operate in the CIS Rail Network, Islamic Republic of Iran Railways Announced on Wednesday

2 DOMESTIC



Iranian Satellites “Kowsar” and “Hodhod” Successfully Transmit First Signals

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Trump Claims Powerful Mandate After Fox News Projects His Victory



> SEE PAGE 3

Envoy Reiterates Iran’s Support for Lebanon, Urges Int’l Action to Stop Israel



TEHRAN - Iran’s permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva has warned about the destruction of Lebanon’s economic infrastructure as a result of Israeli strikes on financial associations across the country.

Addressing a meeting of the Board of Directors of the International Labor Organization (ILO) on Tuesday, Ali Bahraini expressed his apprehension over the degrading humanitarian situation in Lebanon due to the Israeli regime’s brutal aggression and inhumane acts.

Presenting statistics on the destruction of Lebanon’s economic infrastructure, Bahraini called for the international community’s immediate action to help protect civilian facilities in the country, end Israeli brutalities, allow activities of the ILO office in Lebanon to continue.

He urged a detailed assessment of the fallout of the Israeli onslaught on Lebanese laborers, employers and job market.

The Iranian diplomat also voiced the Islamic Republic’s unwavering solidarity with the Lebanese nation, demanding that the international community support the sovereignty of Lebanon and assist its people at this difficult juncture.

Last month, a UN special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights said multiple Israeli bombings of a Lebanese financial institution linked to Hezbollah were illegal attacks on civilian objects under international humanitarian law.

“International humanitarian law does not permit attacks on the economic or financial infrastructure of an adversary, even if they indirectly sustain its military activities,” Ben Saul said in a statement.

Lebanon and the Lebanese people are already suffering a debilitating economic crisis that has gripped the country since 2019. Savings have disappeared both in terms of exchange rates and actual deposits as banks announce they have no cash to release, and more and more people worry about simply staying alive.

About 80 percent of the population is below the poverty line, and 36 percent is below the “extreme poverty line,” living on less than \$2.15 a day.

This comes as a fresh Israeli strike on south of Beirut killed at least 20 people, the Lebanese Health Ministry reported.

According to the ministry, the strike hit the coastal town of Barja, located about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of the capital on Tuesday.

Israeli Strike on Lebanon Kills at Least 15 People



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese health ministry has said that an Israeli strike on the town of Barja in the Mount Lebanon governorate has killed at least 15 people.

“Rescue and rubble removal operations are still ongoing,” it said in a post on X on Tuesday.

The health ministry said one person was killed and 20 others were wounded following another Israeli strike on the coastal town of Jiyeh, south of Beirut.

A security source said the raid targeted an apartment used by Hezbollah in Jiyeh.

The strike destroyed the top floor of a four-story complex, said AFP reported.

The Lebanese official National News Agency (NNA) said Israeli raids also hit southern Lebanon and the eastern Bekaa Valley on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Syria’s official SANA news agency said an Israeli strike hit a Syrian town near the border with Lebanon on Tuesday.

“An Israeli aggression targeted the industrial zone in al-Qusayr” in Homs province, SANA said.

Israeli attacks in Lebanon have killed at least 3,013 people and wounded 13,553 since October 2023, the Lebanese government said on Tuesday.



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

No Change Without Consensus, Says President

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasizes the slow pace of societal and cultural changes, noting that real transformation cannot occur without consensus. In a meeting with sociologists and experts on Tuesday afternoon, the President discussed the challenges of social change in Iran, highlighting the importance of unity and cooperation among all segments of society to address national problems.

Pezeshkian acknowledged that the process of social and cultural change is inherently slow, stating, “The time frame for significant changes in these areas is at least a decade. Therefore, expecting immediate, substantial transformations during my tenure would be unrealistic, especially given the variety and complexity of the problems our country faces.” He urged scholars and experts to offer their guidance on how the government could best address the issues facing the country.

“We need your input, your insights can help guide us through the nation’s difficulties,” Pezeshkian added, stressing the importance of consensus in the nation’s progress. He reaffirmed his belief that without achieving consensus, real change cannot be achieved. “We seek change not for its own sake but to foster unity, participation, and justice,” he stated. “When we give the people their rights, they will stand with us.”

The President also touched on the importance of unity within organizations, noting that modern businesses and institutions emphasize concepts like organizational cohesion, teamwork, and fairness. “Change is necessary for unity, but it is not easy,” he remarked. “At the outset, we must communicate any changes clearly to the public. If there is inequality in a certain issue, the government must clearly explain the necessity for change to the people.”

Regarding the condition of universities, Pezeshkian acknowledged criticisms from experts and highlighted the need for reforms. “We also seek change within our universities, and ideas are emerging, but these ideas need to be examined with experts like yourselves.” He emphasized that universities must equip students with skills that can help solve the problems of society, stating that

academic disciplines should align with societal needs.

To implement these changes, the President suggested that there must be a shared language of dialogue between all parties. “This approach has guided us in selecting governors and ministers, though it is a difficult path,” he explained. “We need to engage in discussions with those who oppose us, as they, too, seek justice and fairness. Dialogue, not confrontation, is the key to resolving many of the country’s challenges.”

Pezeshkian reiterated his commitment to the idea of “consensus” as the foundation of his administration’s philosophy, emphasizing that it is rooted in his ideological beliefs. “I believe that if we uphold justice and give each group their due, we can reach consensus with any generation, faction, or party,” he asserted. “If we focus on the collective good and take steps to ensure justice for all groups, I believe the differences between us—be they ethnic, political, or otherwise—will no longer be an issue.”

The President also addressed the country’s educational system, noting that discussions on the state of education are held regularly at the highest levels. “We are aware of the challenges in the educational system, particularly the inequities in resources between provinces. Why should students in a province with minimal educational resources be expected to compete equally with those in, for example, Tehran, where there are abundant resources?” he asked. “We are committed to providing opportunities for all students to thrive, regardless of where they live, and discussions have been ongoing within the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution to address these issues.”

On the topic of employment and income equality, Pezeshkian criticized inefficiencies within some government agencies, pointing out the unfair distribution of wages. “It is unjust that some individuals, despite minimal effort, receive the same wages as those who work hard in society. The government cannot tolerate such disparities, and we must ensure that salaries are based on effort and contribution.”

FM Meets Pakistani PM, Discusses Bilateral Ties, Israeli Atrocities

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s foreign minister has met with Pakistan’s prime minister in Islamabad and held talks on several issues.

Abbas Araqchi and Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday discussed efforts to boost relations and also to end Israel’s genocidal war in Gaza and prevent the regime from igniting a regional war.

Upon arrival in Islamabad, Araqchi told reporters that Iran and Pakistan share a special bond rooted in geographical proximity, historical ties, extensive people-to-people connections, and broad political, economic, and cultural interactions.

Araqchi said ties between the two countries have always been brotherly and friendly, noting that during this visit, efforts will be made to review a wide range of bilateral relations and comprehensive cooperation.

According to a statement by the Pakistani government, Sharif put a premium on the country’s resolve to bolster brotherly ties with Iran through maintaining regular high-level exchanges and enhancing mutually advantageous cooperation across all spheres of shared interest.

The prime minister also reiterated Pakistan’s unequivocal support to the Palestinian people in their just struggle for self-determination and statehood.

He strongly condemned and expressed grave concern over Israel’s ongoing genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people.

The prime minister also emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, provision of unhindered humanitarian assistance and, above all, grant of the inalienable right to self-determination to the Palestinian people, as guaranteed to them by the relevant resolutions of the UN.

The prime minister also reiterated strong condemnation of Israel’s October 26 attack against Iran, while reaffirming support for Iran’s sovereignty and territorial integrity.



Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the visit “provides an important opportunity to advance cooperation and dialogue between Pakistan and Iran on a wide range of areas including trade, energy, and security.”

The Iranian Foreign Ministry’s spokesman said in a message on X that Araqchi had held “comprehensive, useful, and in-depth discussions” with Pakistan’s high-ranking political and military officials.

“We are very pleased and proud that Iran and Pakistan, as two key members of the Islamic Ummah, share deep-rooted historical, cultural, religious, and civilizational ties, and have common or very similar views on existing opportunities and challenges,” Esmail Baghaei said.

“More importantly, they possess a genuine and serious determination to coordinate and collaborate closely to capitalize on these opportunities and overcome challenges.”

He said both sides emphasize strengthening relations in the areas of economy, trade, and energy, enhancing border security, and combating terrorism.

“We appreciate Pakistan’s principled and longstanding positions regarding the Palestinian cause and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people to be free from the yoke of occupation and apartheid, as well as its firm condemnation of the recent aggression by the Zionist regime against Iran.”

Iran’s foreign minister arrived in Pakistan’s capital for a two-day official visit on Monday night.

Earlier on Tuesday, he sat down for talks with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The two sides focused on the necessity of addressing the genocide committed by the Zionist regime.

Self-Sufficiency Achieved in Laser Industry Production



TEHRAN - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran said: “With the unveiling of achievements at the Laser Exhibition, we have essentially reached self-sufficiency in the production of laser technology products.”

Mohammad Eslami stated, on the sidelines of the Cabinet meeting, when speaking with reporters: “The unveilings at the laser exhibition show that we have reached the capacity for self-sufficient production in laser products. Laser technology is gradually introducing itself to the public and gaining a foothold, contributing to industries through synergy with other technologies.”

He added: “The production line for cutting colored metals with lasers was unveiled at this exhibition, and last year we had the deep welding line with lasers. The systems presented can be used for cutting delicate parts and doing so at a lower cost.”

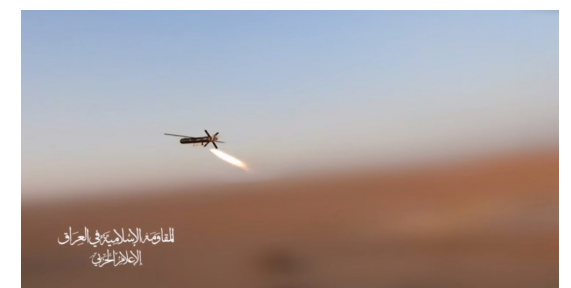
The head of the Atomic Energy Organization emphasized: “At this exhibition, we also signed contracts with industrial companies to equip our industries with laser technology.”

The fifth Laser and Photonics Exhibition of Iran, organized by the Laser Science and Technology Center of Iran, which is affiliated with the Atomic Energy Organization, opened on the morning of Sunday, November 4. It was attended by Eslami, Vice President and Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, his deputies, senior officials from the nuclear industry, and representatives from the Iranian Parliament.

During this event, several laser technologies were unveiled, including a 3.5-kilowatt disk laser for cutting colored metals, a 2.5-kilowatt fiber laser production line, and a semiconductor laser production line.

The fifth specialized exhibition on laser, photonics, and quantum technologies, which is being held alongside the 24th International Industry Exhibition, features around 35 active companies in the laser sector, including 16 knowledge-based companies.

Iraqi Resistance Launches Drone Strikes on Israeli Targets in Occupied Territories



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi resistance fighters have carried out separate operations against strategic installations within the Israeli-occupied territories in reprisal for the Tel Aviv regime’s atrocious military campaigns in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, said in a statement that its fighters used bomb-laden unmanned aerial vehicles to strike a vital target in Haifa on Wednesday morning.

“In continuation of our approach to resisting the occupation and supporting our people in Palestine and Lebanon, and in response to the massacres committed by the usurping entity against civilians, including children, women, fighters of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq attacked today, Wednesday, 6-11-2024, a vital target in occupied Haifa using drones,” the statement read.

The Iraqi resistance also vowed to continue its operations against Israeli targets with increasing intensity.

Later in the day, the Iraqi resistance alliance claimed responsibility for a drone strike on another key Israeli position in the southern side of the occupied territories.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has been engaged in such operations since Israel began its military campaign in Gaza in early October 2023. The Iraqi resistance group has also targeted US military bases in Iraq and Syria, condemning Washington’s support for Israel during its genocidal war.

Since October last year, Israel has intensified its bombardment of Gaza, targeting civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, residential buildings, and places of worship.

The ongoing Israeli war has resulted in the deaths of at least 43,391 Palestinians, the majority of whom are women and children, with another 102,347 people injured.

IRAN NEWS



Armenia Assures No Decisions Harmful to Iran's Interests

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that his country would never make political, economic, or security decisions that would harm Iran's interests.

Mher Grigoryan, Armenia's Deputy Prime Minister, met with an Iranian media and academic delegation in Yerevan on Tuesday. During the meeting, he highlighted the strong relations between the two countries, noting that Armenians consider Iran a home, and Iranians see Armenia the same way. This, he said, reflects the firm bond between the two nations.

He further stated, "The implementation of the 'Crossroads of Peace' project provides an excellent opportunity for Iran to quickly access Eurasian markets. Armenia is working to ensure that Iran's interests are included in Eurasia, which is a fundamental principle for us."

Iran, Cuba Talk on Cooperating on Cybersecurity, AI Uran



TEHRAN - Cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and human resources training were the primary topics discussed during the Iranian Minister of Communications and Information Technology's participation in the "Iran National Day" ceremony at the 40th Havana International Technology Fair.

Seyed Sattar Hashemi, on his second day in Cuba, expressed gratitude to the Cuban government for its collaboration in providing a large and well-designed exhibition space for companies from the Islamic Republic of Iran at the technology fair.

The minister pointed to the severe sanctions imposed on both Iran and Cuba, highlighting that both countries have made commendable efforts to develop various technologies in defiance of these restrictions.

Hashemi emphasized the need for synergy and collaboration between the two nations, noting that various topics, including cybersecurity, were discussed during his meetings in Cuba. Both countries face similar challenges in terms of cybersecurity threats.

He also highlighted Iran's program to train half a million specialized professionals, adding that practical applications of artificial intelligence and robotics were among the topics covered in the discussions.

The minister announced Iran's readiness to train Cuban personnel in robotics and artificial intelligence, expressing optimism for promising developments in Iran-Cuba cooperation.

Upon his return to Iran, Hashemi confirmed plans to pursue the discussed agendas through the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic Commission, aiming to operationalize the agreements made during the meetings.

IRANNEWSNATIONALDESK

Iranian Satellites "Kowsar" and "Hodhod" Successfully Transmit First Signals

TEHRAN - The Iranian satellites "Kowsar" and "Hodhod," which were successfully launched into a 500-kilometer orbit early Tuesday, November 5, 2024, have sent their first signals back to Earth, confirming their operational health.

According to IRNA's economic correspondent, the reconnaissance satellite "Kowsar" and the "Hodhod" satellite were launched by a Soyuz rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia. Following the launch, both satellites reached orbit successfully and have begun transmitting signals, indicating that they are in good working condition.

The "Hodhod" satellite transmitted its signal first, followed shortly by "Kowsar."

Hossein Shahabi, CEO of Omid Space Company, confirmed on Tuesday evening that they received the initial signals from "Hodhod," which verified both the success of the launch and the functioning of the satellite's components, including the deployment of its antennas. He emphasized the role of advanced and innovative technologies used in the satellite's design, which are indicative of the private sector's achievements in Iran's space industry.

Shahabi also announced that signals from the "Kowsar" satellite have been received, indicating that its antennas deployed successfully and that it exited its launch container without any issues. He noted that "Kowsar," being eight times heavier and larger than "Hodhod," posed unique challenges, including its solar array deployment, which was critical to its functioning.

The "Kowsar" satellite, which weighs 30 kilograms and has an estimated

operational life of over three years, is Iran's most advanced medium-resolution satellite to date. Equipped with NIR and RGB cameras, it offers a ground sampling distance (GSD) of 3.45 meters, suitable for applications in agriculture, cartography, and surveying. The average age of the satellite's development team was reported to be 26.

The "Hodhod" satellite, adhering to the CubeSat standard, weighs 4 kilograms and has an orbital altitude of 500 kilometers with an estimated operational life of four years. Its primary mission is to provide a platform for narrowband international IoT services, with applications in agriculture, transportation, logistics, and environmental monitoring.

Last September, Iran successfully launched a satellite into orbit with a carrier built by Iranian scientists. The deployment of the Chamran-1 satellite into a 550-kilometer orbit aboard Qaem-100 rocket was the second successful launch in the year.

The satellite and space industry is expanding rapidly in new directions, driven by the global demand for more connectivity, data and services. It is averaging a growth rate of 9% per annum – a figure significantly above the growth rate of global GDP. This has attracted the attention of both developing and developed countries in recent years.

According to strategy and management consulting firm McKinsey & Company, the global space economy will be worth \$1.8 trillion by 2035, up from \$630 billion in 2023.

Foreign Investment Requires Policy Reform and New Perspective



TEHRAN - The recent Kish Invex 2024 exhibition spotlighted a critical issue for Iran's economic future: the need for major policy reforms to attract foreign investment. During a panel discussion titled "Foreign Investment Development from the Private Sector's Perspective," members of the Iranian Chamber of Commerce highlighted the significant impact of government policies on foreign capital flow, urging for transparency, stability, and economic freedom. The panel underscored that a reformed, business-friendly environment is essential if Iran hopes to draw in foreign investment crucial for sustainable growth.

Farsheed Shakerkhodai, Chair of the Chamber's Investment and Finance Committee, outlined the challenges Iran faces with its prevailing anti-capitalist tendencies and reliance on outdated business models. He pointed out that Iran's economy still heavily depends on family-run businesses that often lack modern corporate governance and transparency. While family-owned enterprises can be economic assets, Shakerkhodai noted that Iran's are stagnating, unlike those in countries where these businesses have adapted, evolved, and contributed significantly to economic growth.

According to Shakerkhodai, for Iran to progress, family businesses must adopt more transparent practices and open themselves to collaborative growth. The formation of a Family Business Association in Iran is a step toward addressing this, helping family-owned businesses modernize and contribute more robustly to the economy. However, Shakerkhodai stressed that Iran's economy cannot rely solely on small businesses to fuel substantial development; a thriving economy needs scalable enterprises. He emphasized that foreign

investment is essential to provide this scalability, stating, "Without foreign investment, we will not see development in our economy."

Mahmoud Olyaei, Chair of the Chamber's Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance Committee, highlighted that foreign investment is more than an economic boon; it is vital to a country's stability. Olyaei cited the United Arab Emirates as an example, illustrating how foreign investments have not only strengthened the economy but have also helped stabilize the nation by linking it to strong, stable economic allies. In contrast, Iran's low foreign investment levels result in job losses, increased poverty, and a declining workforce.

Olyaei provided data revealing that Iran's labor force participation is around 42%, signaling a lack of confidence in job availability and economic stability. He argued that foreign investments could revitalize job creation, drive innovation, and foster sustainable growth through the introduction of advanced technologies. Iran, he pointed out, needs to recognize that foreign investment brings not only capital but the knowledge and technical expertise necessary to modernize industries and protect the environment.

Behram Shakouri, Chair of the Chamber's Mining and Minerals Committee, focused on the role of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), particularly in the mining sector. He stressed that SMEs are fundamental to employment and GDP but that they require a supportive environment to thrive. Shakouri noted that Iran holds the fifth-largest mineral reserves globally, yet these resources are only partially exploited due to policy barriers and lack of investment.

Trade Law to Be Updated After a Century



TEHRAN - Mohammad Hosseini commented on discussions around the new trade law draft. He noted that the original law, passed in 1932, had broad regulations, but only minor revisions have been made over the years. He explained that, with the evolution of business structures and technological advancements, it became necessary to update the law.

To address this, in 2005, the government drafted a bill to reform trade law, which was eventually sent to Parliament. Hosseini, an expert on economic issues, highlighted that this bill contains over 1,000 articles, requiring extensive legislative and expert effort. Parliament reviewed various sections over multiple sessions.

Hosseini stated that while technical feedback was gathered from other commissions, the bill faced significant objections in the Guardian Council and was repeatedly returned to Parliament. Ultimately, after a thorough process, the law was approved in April 2024. However, the Guardian Council found it impractical to review over 1,000 articles within a ten-day timeframe.

A working group has now been formed within the Expediency Discernment Council and the Guardian Council to address remaining issues. Hosseini expressed hope that this law would serve the nation's trade and documentation needs for the next 50 years.

Despite comprehensive efforts, some modern issues have not been incorporated due to the prolonged approval process, and certain oversights remain. Additionally, Hosseini mentioned the limited involvement of the private sector in drafting the law. Although specialized commissions invited private sector representatives, their contributions were only partially included.

In conclusion, Hosseini emphasized that after a century, Iran is on the brink of implementing a modern trade law, providing the country's commercial sector with an essential tool to address economic challenges. He noted that input from various research centers, the Supreme Audit Court, government, and private sector experts had been considered, though some argue the private sector's input was underutilized.

Iran Increases Oil Prices for China Amid Middle East Tensions



TEHRAN - According to Reuters, the price of Iranian crude oil sold to China has reached its highest level in five years. This rise is attributed to reduced exports amid concerns about potential supply disruptions due to escalating tensions in the Middle East.

Iran's oil prices surged after China's independent refineries, known as "teapots," began purchasing Iranian oil in late 2019. Unlike state-owned Chinese refineries, these smaller refineries are less concerned with U.S. sanctions on Iranian oil.

The increase in Iranian oil prices—or any reduction in its supply, which currently accounts for about 10% of China's crude imports—has led to lower production and slimmer profit margins for these independent refineries. This impact comes as China is experiencing a dip in fuel demand.

The price difference between Iranian light crude and Brent has narrowed to less than \$4 per barrel, with a \$7 gap for heavier Iranian crude. Sources familiar with Iran's oil transactions report that a contract in early October priced Iranian crude at \$3.80 below Brent, and December shipments are expected to be \$3 lower than Brent. Earlier this year, the price difference was between \$5 and \$6 per barrel, reaching double digits in late 2023.

Data from Kepler and Vortexa shows that Iranian oil exports from key terminals, including Kharg Island, declined significantly in October compared to September. Shippers have reportedly expressed concerns over a potential attack by Israel on Iranian oil facilities.

To bypass U.S. sanctions, Iran often sells its oil under the label of other origins, such as Malaysia or Oman. China has repeatedly defended its oil trade with Iran, asserting that it complies with international law.

Daily Gasoline Production Increased by 8m Liters in 76 Days



TEHRAN - The National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), through early planning and rapid gasoline production measures over the past 76 days, has successfully increased the nation's daily gasoline production by more than 8 million liters.

According to the Ministry of Petroleum, Iran's energy consumption rate is more than double the global average, meaning that producing one unit of economic growth in Iran requires more than twice the energy used in other countries.

Despite high energy consumption, the Ministry of Petroleum, as the primary authority for fuel supply, has consistently worked to ensure the steady provision of fuel for various sectors, including industry, household, and transportation.

Certain oil products, like gasoline and diesel, hold strategic importance. To address this, Iranian refineries have focused on adjusting their processing units and implementing quality enhancement projects to boost production.

The current administration took office when Iran, previously a gasoline exporter, had shifted to importing gasoline, with a growing disparity between production and consumption levels.

To address this imbalance and reduce reliance on imports, the administration implemented a rapid gasoline production increase plan. This initiative was launched as a short- and mid-term solution to bridge the supply gap in response to the nation's gasoline challenges.

Over the past 76 days, from early September to mid-November, the nation's refineries have significantly ramped up gasoline production. Recent assessments show that daily production at the Persian Gulf Star Refinery has increased by 4 million liters to reach 44 million liters; Tehran Refinery has added 2 million liters, reaching 9 million liters; Isfahan Refinery has also increased by 2 million liters to produce 14 million liters per day; and Tabriz Refinery boosted its output by 500,000 liters to reach 4 million liters daily.

As per the latest reports, the administration's seventh development plan includes executing 24 high-priority projects aimed at increasing gasoline and diesel production by about 30 million liters, while maintaining quality standards. Additionally, strategies to increase the share of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the national fuel mix through incentives are in place to stabilize the distribution network and diversify the country's fuel portfolio.

Germany Arrests Suspected Members of Neo-Nazi Group Plotting Revolt

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German police have arrested eight suspected members of a neo-Nazi militant group driven by racist ideology and conspiracy theories who had been training in warfare for the downfall of the modern German state, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

News of the arrests came amid a 450-strong police operation to dismantle the group, named by prosecutors as "Saechsische Separatisten", or Saxony Separatists, which has the abbreviation SS, the same as the Nazi party's elite militia.

"Our security authorities have thus thwarted at an early stage militant coup plans by right-wing terrorists, who were longing for a Day X to attack people and our state with armed force," Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said in a statement.

Media reports linked one of the suspects to the nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD) - which commands as much as 18% support in national polls, behind only the centre-right opposition - although the party itself insisted it had nothing to do with such a group.



IRAN NEWS

Netanyahu Fires Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant in Surprise Announcement



TEL AVIV (Dispatches) - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday dismissed his popular defense minister, Yoav Gallant, in a surprise announcement that came as the country is embroiled in wars on multiple fronts across the region. The move sparked protests across the country, including a mass gathering that paralyzed central Tel Aviv.

Netanyahu and Gallant have repeatedly been at odds over the war in Gaza. But Netanyahu had avoided firing his rival before taking the step as the world's attention was focused on the U.S. presidential election. Netanyahu cited "significant gaps" and a "crisis of trust" in his Tuesday evening announcement as he replaced Gallant with a longtime loyalist.

"In the midst of a war, more than ever, full trust is required between the prime minister and defense minister," Netanyahu said. "Unfortunately, although in the first months of the campaign there was such trust and there was very fruitful work, during the last months this trust cracked between me and the defense minister."

In the early days of the war, Israel's leadership presented a unified front as it responded to Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack. But as the war has dragged on and spread to Lebanon, key policy differences have emerged.

While Netanyahu has called for continued military pressure on Hamas, Gallant had taken a more pragmatic approach, saying that military force has created the necessary conditions for at least a temporary diplomatic deal that could bring home hostages held by the militant group.

In a late-night news conference broadcast on national TV, Gallant said that he had disagreed with Netanyahu over three main issues: the need to end controversial exemptions from the military draft for ultra-Orthodox men, the urgent need for a hostage deal and the need to establish an official commission of inquiry into the political and security failures of Oct. 7, when Hamas militants stormed into Israel and killed 1,200 people and took 250 others hostage. Israel estimates that about 100 hostages remain in captivity, only about 65 of them still alive.

Serbian Protesters Clash With Police Over Train Station Disaster



NOVI SAD (Dispatches) - Thousands of Serbian opposition backers rallied on Tuesday in the northwestern city of Novi Sad in a violent protest over a deadly accident at a local railway station, for which they blame negligence and corruption by the government.

The disaster happened on Friday when roofing along the entrance to the station suddenly collapsed, killing 14 people and severely injuring three.

Police used pepper spray to disperse the crowd, after protesters broke windows at the entrance of the 19th-century city hall in the city center, threw flares and firecrackers inside and spilled liquid manure from a cistern.

Earlier, masked demonstrators hurled eggs, bottles and bricks at an office of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party (SNS).

"People are very angry ... this is a great sorrow," said Radomir Lazovic, an opposition parliamentary deputy who joined the protest.

Rally organizers later said rioters belonged to groups of provocateurs. "Rioters have been infiltrated, they are attacking the police and they don't arrest them," Marinika Tepic, an opposition parliamentary deputy told private N1 TV station.

Protesters carried banners reading "The blood is on your hands," and "You will answer for this," and chanted "Thieves," and "Arrest (President Aleksandar) Vucic".



PALM BEACH (Dispatches) - Republican Donald Trump claimed victory in the 2024 presidential contest after Fox News projected that he had defeated Democrat Kamala Harris, which would cap a stunning political comeback four years after he left the White House.

"America has given us an unprecedented and powerful mandate," he said early on Wednesday to a roaring crowd of supporters at the Palm Beach County Convention Center, flanked by his vice presidential running mate, Senator JD Vance, Republican leaders and members of Trump's family.

He also spent several minutes praising Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, who pumped some \$120 million into backing Trump's campaign. Trump has said he will appoint Musk to lead a government efficiency commission.

Other news outlets had yet to call the race for Trump, but he appeared on the verge of winning after capturing the battleground states of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Georgia and holding leads in the other four, according to Edison Research.

Harris did not speak to her supporters, who had gathered at her alma mater Howard University. Her campaign co-chair, Cedric Richmond, briefly addressed the crowd after midnight, saying Harris would speak publicly on Wednesday.

"We still have votes to count," he said.

The former president was showing strength across broad swaths of the country, improving on his 2020 performance everywhere from rural areas to urban centers.

Republicans won a U.S. Senate majority after flipping Democratic seats in West Virginia and Ohio. Neither party appeared to have an edge in the fight for control of the House of Representatives where Republicans currently hold a narrow majority.

Trump went into Election Day with a 50-50 chance of reclaiming the White House, a remarkable turnaround from Jan. 6, 2021, when many pundits pronounced his political career to be over. That day, a mob of his supporters stormed Congress in a violent attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Trump picked up more support from Hispanics, traditionally Democratic voters, and among lower-income households that have keenly felt the sting of price rises since the last presidential election in 2020, according to exit polls from Edison.

Trump won 45% of Hispanic voters nationwide, trailing Harris with 53% but up 13 percentage points from 2020. About 31% of voters said the economy was their top issue, and they voted for Trump by a 79%-to-20% margin, according to

exit polls. Some 45% of voters across the country said their family's financial situation was worse off today than four years ago, and they favored Trump 80% to 17%.

Global investors were increasingly pricing in a Trump win late on Tuesday. U.S. stock futures and the dollar pushed higher, while Treasury yields climbed and bitcoin rose - all flagged by analysts and investors as trades that favor a Trump victory.

No matter who won the election, history was in the making. Trump, 78, the only president to be impeached twice and the first former president to be criminally convicted, would also become the first president to win non-consecutive terms in more than a century and would be the oldest presidential candidate ever elected.

If elected, Harris, 60, the first female vice president, would become the first woman, Black woman and South Asian American to win the presidency.

Trump was earning a bigger share of the vote than he did four years ago in nearly every corner of the country. By 12:30 a.m. ET, officials had nearly completed their count of ballots in more than 1,600 counties - about half the country - and Trump's share was up about 2 percentage points compared to 2020, reflecting a broad if not especially deep shift in Americans' support for the president they ousted four years ago.

He improved his numbers in suburban counties, rural regions and even some large cities that are historically bastions of Democratic support; in high-income counties and low-income ones; and in places where unemployment was comparatively high and in places where it is now at record lows.

Harris had banked on big margins among urban and suburban voters, but her support in those places was running well behind President Joe Biden's in the 2020 election.

Nearly three-quarters of voters said American democracy is under threat, according to the exit polls, underscoring the depth of polarization in a nation where divisions have only grown starker during a fiercely competitive race.

Trump employed increasingly apocalyptic rhetoric while stoking unfounded fears that the election system cannot be trusted. Harris warned that a second Trump term would threaten the underpinnings of American democracy.

Ukrainian Troops Clash With N. Korean Units for First Time in Russia

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian troops have for the first time engaged with North Korean units that were recently deployed to help Russia in the war with its neighbor, Ukraine's defense minister said Tuesday.

Another Kyiv official said Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region.

The comments were the first official reports that Ukrainian and North Korean forces have engaged in combat, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

Neither claim could be independently confirmed.

The Ukrainian and North Korean troops engaged in "small-scale" fighting that amounted to the start of Pyongyang's direct involvement in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov told South Korea's public broadcaster KBS in an interview.

North Korean soldiers are mixed with Russian troops and are misidentified on their uniforms, Umerov was quoted as saying by KBS. That makes it hard to say whether there were any North Korean casualties, he said.

Umerov reportedly said he expects that five North Korean units, each consisting of about 3,000 soldiers, will be deployed to the Kursk area.

Meanwhile, Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of Ukraine's Security Council, said "the first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region."

He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.



The Pentagon said Monday that at least 10,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border.

More troops from North Korea's 1.3-million-strong army may be slated for deployment in Russia, according to an analysis published Tuesday by the European Council on Foreign Relations, an international think tank.

The ramifications extend far beyond Europe, it said.

"Despite integration challenges - including communication barriers and differing military doctrines - the deployment of North Korean troops to Russia represents a significant shift in European and Asian security relations," the analysis said. "For the first time in generations, troops from East Asia are actively engaging in a European conflict."

The North Korean troops, whose fighting quality and battle experience is unknown, are adding to Ukraine's worsening situation on the battlefield.

Ukrainian defenses, especially in the eastern Donetsk region, are buckling under the strain of Russia's costly but relentless monthlong onslaught.

Russian advances have recently accelerated, with battlefield gains of up to 9 kilometers (more than 5 miles) in some parts of Donetsk, the U.K. Defense Ministry said Tuesday on the social platform X.

It said Russia has superior troop numbers, and despite heavy casualties the Kremlin's recruitment drive is providing enough new troops to keep up the pressure.

Russia has held the battlefield initiative in Ukraine for the past year. Ukrainian officials have long complained that Western military support takes too long to arrive in the country.

In early October, Russian forces drove Ukrainian troops out of Vuhledar, a town perched atop a tactically significant hill in eastern Ukraine.

It was part of a key belt of Ukrainian defenses in the east. Russia's next targets likely are the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk and the strategically important city of Chasiv Yar.

Pakistan Shooting Wounds Two Chinese Nationals

KARACHI (Dispatches) - Two Chinese nationals were wounded on Tuesday by a private security guard who opened fire at a garment factory in Pakistan's commercial hub Karachi, the latest in a string of attacks that have spurred Beijing to pressure Islamabad to improve security for its citizens.

Large contingents of police were deployed at the site of the factory in Karachi's industrial area, and forensic teams could be seen entering the premises, which were cordoned off.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Police official Faizan Ali told Reuters the Chinese nationals had been shot at, but gave no further details.

One police official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that the shooting had been carried out by a security guard. The guard had not yet been arrested and it was difficult to ascertain the motive for the shooting, the official said.

Pakistan's foreign office said the shooting occurred following a dispute with the private guard, adding that the incident was under investigation.

The ministry said it was in close contact with the Chinese Embassy in Islamabad.

A spokesperson for Liaquat National Hospital in the southern port city said it was treating the two victims, one of whom was in serious condition.



The attack follows a string of recent incidents, including a bombing near Karachi's international airport that killed two Chinese engineers last month, which was claimed by separatist militant group the Baloch Liberation Army.

China has stepped up longstanding demands for better security for its citizens in Pakistan. Ambassador Jiang Zaidong told a gathering in Islamabad last month that the rising number of deadly attacks was unacceptable.

The Pakistan foreign office said Islamabad was fully committed to providing security for Chinese nationals, projects and institutions. It said in a statement on Oct. 31 that the commitment had been conveyed at the highest levels of the Chinese government.

Pakistan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the safety and security of Chinese nationals, Tuesday's statement said, adding: "We extend our sympathies to the families of the injured and offer prayers for their swift recovery."

A decades-long insurgency in the southwestern province of Balochistan has led to frequent attacks against the government, army and Chinese interests. The militants say they want a greater share of regional resources.

The region is home to the deep-water Gwadar port built by Beijing as part of \$65 billion in investments for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor under Chinese President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative.



Real Madrid, Manchester City Both Humiliated in Champions League

LONDON (Dispatches) - European heavyweights Real Madrid and Manchester City both suffered big defeats in the Champions League on Tuesday.

Defending champion Madrid was humbled 3-1 at home by AC Milan, while Erling Haaland missed a penalty and City squandered a fourth-minute lead as it lost 4-1 at Sporting Lisbon, whose coach will soon take charge of its crosstown rival.

It was a much better evening for Liverpool, as Luis Diaz scored a hat trick and Cody Gakpo grabbed another goal in a 4-0 win over German champion Bayer Leverkusen at Anfield that marred Xabi Alonso's return to his old home.

The Leverkusen coach was given a warm welcome on his return to the club where he became a fan favorite as a player over five seasons between 2004-09. Alonso won the Champions League with Liverpool in 2005.

Liverpool moved top of the league phase table with four wins from four games, followed by Sporting and Monaco, both on 10 points after three wins and a draw. Under the new 36-team format introduced by UEFA this season, the top eight teams advance directly to the next round, and those from ninth to 24th enter playoffs to reach it, while the bottom 12 are eliminated.

Before their game, Sporting fans displayed a huge tifo thanking Rúben Amorim in his last home game before he takes over Manchester United.

Phil Foden then got City off to a flying start in the fourth minute, only the second goal Sporting has

conceded in four games of the competition.

But Swedish forward Viktor Gyökeres scored a hat trick as Sporting came roaring back. Gyökeres first equalized in the 38th after a perfect through ball from Geovany Quenda, before Maximiliano Araújo made it 2-1 right after the break. Gyökeres then made it 3-1 from the penalty spot after Joško Gvardiol was penalized for a shove on Francisco Trincão in the area.

Haaland's penalty hit the crossbar, before Gyökeres showed the Norwegian how it's done with another spot kick at the other end to complete the scoring.

It is the first time since 2018 that City has lost three straight games, coming off a defeat to Tottenham in the English League Cup and a loss to Bournemouth in the Premier League.

"In my seven and a half years at the club, I don't remember losing three games in a row," City midfielder Bernardo Silva said.

In Spain, Christian Pulisic sent in a corner for Malick Thiaw to head Milan into a 12th-minute lead, ensuring Madrid trailed in a third straight game in the Champions League this season. The 15-time champion had already lost to surprise team Lille in their second game.

Vinicius Júnior equalized from the penalty spot in the 23rd after he'd been tripped, but Álvaro Morata pounced on the rebound after Andriy Lunin saved Rafael Leão's shot to restore the visitors' lead against his former club.

Ronaldo on Target as Al-Nassr Hammer Al-Ain 5-1 in Asian Champions League



RIYADH (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo was on target as Saudi Arabia's Al-Nassr inflicted a crushing 5-1 defeat on Al-Ain in the Asian Champions League Elite in Riyadh yesterday that leaves the title-holders' hopes of advancing to the last 16 in jeopardy.

The win was Al-Nassr's third in four matches in the league phase of the continental championship and moves Stefano Pioli's side up to third and within two points of compatriots Al-Hilal and Al-Ahli, who lead the standings at the halfway point.

The top eight in the 12-team groups in both west and east Asia advance to the last 16 in March and Al-Ain, who defeated Al-Nassr last season on the way to the title, are in danger of missing out on a place in the knockout rounds.

Hernan Crespo's side have picked up a solitary point in their four games so far and will need a significant turnaround if they are to climb off the bottom of the table in the second half of the league phase.

The side from the United Arab Emirates were comprehensively outplayed throughout with Anderson Talisca putting the home team in front in the fifth minute with a low drive from distance that slid past Khalid Eisa.

Ronaldo doubled that advantage 26 minutes later when Eisa split Sadio Mane's shot from outside the area and the Portuguese striker pounced on the loose ball.

Six minutes later Brazilian winger Angelo Gabriel cut in from the left to hit a shot towards goal that beat Eisa via a deflection off Fabio Cardoso, giving the keeper little chance.

Djokovic Withdraws From ATP Finals Due to Injury

LONDON (Dispatches) - Defending ATP Finals champion Novak Djokovic has pulled out of the season-ending event in Turin through injury, the Serbian said on Tuesday.

The record 24-times Grand Slam champion's absence means that Norway's Casper Ruud, Australian Alex de Minaur and Russian Andrey Rublev are all guaranteed to qualify for the eight-man event regardless of their results in tournaments this week.

"I was really looking forward to being there, but due to ongoing injury I won't be playing next week," the 37-year-old Djokovic posted on Instagram.

"Apologies to those who were planning to see me. Wishing all the players a great tournament. See you soon!" De Minaur, who had been sweating on making the cut after losing to Holger Rune in the quarter-finals of the Paris Masters last week, will be making his debut in the prestigious event which is regarded as the jewel in the ATP's crown.

He will join world number one Jannik Sinner, twice former winner Alexander Zverev, four-times Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz, former U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev and American Taylor Fritz.

The ATP Finals are being staged at the Inalpi Arena in Turin and boast a total prize pool of \$15.25 million including \$4.88 million for an undefeated singles



champion.

The eight best doubles pairings of the season will also be battling it out in Turin.

Djokovic, the world number five, won a record seventh title at the season-ending tournament last year, dashing the hopes of home favourite Sinner in the final.

He has not added to his Grand Slam collection this year and failed to win an ATP title, although he did claim his first Olympic gold medal by beating Spain's Alcaraz in Paris.

Meanwhile Bianca Andreescu will not be part of Canada's bid to defend their Billie Jean King Cup title as the former U.S. Open champion has withdrawn from the event, Tennis Canada said on Tuesday.

Andreescu, who has battled injuries throughout the season, returned to action for the first time since the 2024 U.S. Open when she played two October events in Japan, including a run to the quarter-finals of a WTA-500 event in Tokyo.

Tennis Canada said that while Andreescu's recent results are a step in the right direction, rest and recovery are crucial in order for the 2019 U.S. Open winner to return to the circuit in top form.

As reigning champions, Canada received an automatic berth into the quarter-finals of the Billie Jean King Cup Finals and will play the winner of a round one tie between Britain and Germany on Nov. 17 in Malaga.

Davis Cup Aiming for Special Nadal Retirement Celebration

LONDON (Dispatches) - The Davis Cup will provide a special farewell to retiring tennis great Rafael Nadal at the November final eight, tournament director Feliciano Lopez said on Tuesday.

The 22-time Grand Slam winner is part of David Ferrer's Spain squad for the finals in Malaga which begin on November 19.

Lopez said the Davis Cup was "lucky" to host Nadal's final tournament and wants to offer the departing superstar a farewell that lives up to his glittering career.

"It's confidential of course, but we're planning to do something very special for him, we have to celebrate his career and his legacy," Lopez told reporters.

"There's a lot of things that we're planning but for now I cannot share any more details with you, but we're planning something very special.

"We are going to try and live up to his legacy and his enormous career and I hope we're going to do something very special for him."

Lopez said many stars of tennis and other sports wanted to come to Malaga to witness the denouement of Nadal's career.

"I know that almost everyone in the world wants to be present for his farewell... Novak Djokovic posted on Instagram that he wants to be there, also Andy Murray wants to be there," continued Lopez.



"I don't know if we're going to have seats for everyone, but as you can imagine all the tennis players that played in his time, they want to be there.

"Other athletes from different sports, of course from Spain and everywhere in the world, they want to be there as well, so it's going to be very special for Rafa."

Lopez did not think the "World Cup of Tennis" will be overshadowed by Nadal's retirement.

The tournament director said Nadal himself was keen to make sure that was not the case in Malaga.

"The Davis Cup itself is so important and I don't think this celebration is going to overshadow the competition, especially as Rafa doesn't want any of that," he explained.

Lopez said there was "no doubt" Nadal is the best Spanish athlete of all-time and considered it a "nice coincidence" he will finish his career at the Davis Cup, after a vital win in the competition back in 2004 helped launch his career.

Nadal, 18 at the time, defeated Andy Roddick in a thrilling singles battle to help Spain claim the competition against the United States in Seville.

Tottenham to Trigger Son Heung-min Extension



LONDON (Dispatches) - Tottenham Hotspur are to trigger a one-year option on Son Heung-min's contract to commit his future to the club beyond the current season.

The Spurs and South Korea captain signed his latest deal in 2021 which expires in seven months' time and it is understood that his club holds the power to extend for a further year.

Spurs only need to inform Son they have triggered their option and Telegraph Sport understands they fully intend to do so.

It means Son will head into a second decade at the club after joining from Bayer Leverkusen in 2015 in a deal worth £22 million, which has been rated as one of Spurs' finest achievements in the transfer market in the modern era.

Ange Postecoglou appointed the 32-year-old captain at Spurs after Hugo Lloris' departure, having played a huge part in the club emerging as Champions League regulars during his nine-and-a-half years at the club.

The forward has reached double figures for goals in all but his first season at the club, with his haul of 123 in the Premier League making him the joint-third top scorer currently playing in the competition. Only Mohamed Salah (164) and Jamie Vardy (140) have scored more.

Son was asked about his contract earlier this season and insisted he was focused on ending Spurs' trophy drought, which dates back to 2008, rather than looking at a new deal.

Tottenham Hotspur's South Korean striker Son Heung-min crosses the ball during the English Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspur and Aston Villa at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, on November 3, 2024.

While at the club, Son has reached the final of the Champions League and EFL Cup but has yet to win a trophy.

"I am fully focused on this year and just want to win something that everybody at the club - the players, all around - deserves," he said. "That's what I'm working for."

"In the future you never know what will happen, but I will give everything for this club because it's been almost 10 years and I give everything."

"I still have a contract with the club which is the very important thing and I just want to give everything until my contract [expires]."

Spurs are lying in seventh place in the Premier League, with 16 points, nine behind leaders Liverpool, but just two points off fourth place.