

Minister of Justice, Amin Hossein Rahimi Has Called for the Prosecution of Israel for the Mass Killings of Children in Gaza and Lebanon, Describing the Actions as a "Gross Violation" of International Law and the Most Severe Form of Violence

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi in an Interview With German Newspaper Der Spiegel Has Said That the German Authorities and Society Should Accept the Fact That Jamshid Sharmahd Was a German Terrorist

2 DOMESTIC

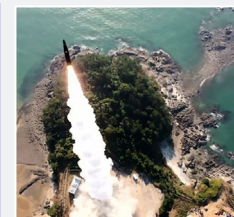


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Despite Numerous Challenges, Gov't Continues to Advance Its Plans



TEHRAN - In a meeting with the Executive Board of the Reformist Front, President Masoud Pezeshkian expressed that despite a myriad of internal and external challenges, the government has made significant progress in fulfilling its promises and implementing its programs.

According to the President's website, during the meeting which Pezeshkian listened to the opinions, viewpoints, and criticisms of the Reformist Front's leadership. He also outlined the government's actions and progress over the last two and a half months, explaining the challenges and obstacles that have hindered the smooth implementation of government initiatives.

He emphasized that he has strived to follow through on his electoral promises, despite facing significant difficulties from the outset. These challenges began with the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh on the day of his inauguration, followed by various external and internal pressures. Additionally, the government faced an array of economic challenges from the start of its tenure.

Regarding the selection of ministers and officials, Pezeshkian highlighted the extensive efforts made to achieve consensus and unity. He noted that while some opposition groups initially tried to prevent progress, the government was successful in securing approval from the parliament. The average vote received by the ministers was unprecedented in parliamentary history.

The President also spoke about the process of selecting provincial governors, a process still ongoing and characterized by numerous meetings. He stressed the importance of reaching agreements with various institutions involved in appointments, and how this effort enabled the government to appoint Sunni governors in regions like Sistan and Baluchestan and Kurdistan, as well as to appoint local figures in these provinces. This, according to Pezeshkian, was a major achievement.

He further discussed the country's pension funds and banking sector imbalances. He stressed the government's focus on restructuring pension funds, banks, and related economic enterprises, with the goal of placing these institutions under the management of capable individuals. "There is no reason why the economic enterprises under pension funds should be running at a loss," he said.

On the foreign policy front, the President noted the importance of strengthening relations with neighboring countries. He pointed to his successful visit to Iraq, where he met with people in the Kurdish region, speaking to them in Kurdish, which helped ease social tensions. He also mentioned efforts to establish rail connections between Basra and Khorramshahr, a key economic initiative.

Iran, Pakistan Resolute on Boosting Defense, Military Cooperation



TEHRAN - Iran and Pakistan have reiterated their determination to strengthen military and defense cooperation amid mounting terrorist attacks on common border areas.

Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Brigadier General Hojjatollah Qoreishi, who is on an official visit to Pakistan at the head of a delegation, met with the country's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Islamabad on Friday.

The sides expressed satisfaction over existing collaboration between Iran and Pakistan and urged extensive cooperation in areas of common interest, IRNA reported.

The Pakistani defense minister said both countries enjoy cordial and fraternal ties, nourished by centuries-old religious and cultural affinities.

He added that Pakistan is grateful for Iran's Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's firm and unwavering support for the oppressed nations.

Qoreishi and his entourage also held a meeting with Pakistani Secretary Defense Lt Gen Muhammad Ali HI in the city of Rawalpindi.

The sides discussed issues of common interest and stressed the importance of improving cooperation in the fields of defense, border management and the fight against terrorism.



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Iran Warns of Escalating Regional Conflict, Calls for Resistance and Diplomacy

TEHRAN - In a speech delivered at the international conference on the legacy of Martyr Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi highlighted the ongoing impact of Nasrallah's life and principles.

Speaking at the Summit Conference Hall in Tehran, Araqchi called Nasrallah a "symbol of resistance and courage for the Islamic world and all freedom-seeking people." He stressed that while Nasrallah's martyrdom was a tragic loss, his values of justice, resistance, and unity would endure, continuing to inspire others around the world.

He noted that Nasrallah's leadership reshaped the dynamics of resistance in the region, allowing it to stand independently of global powers. "Nasrallah taught us that resistance does not require reliance on major powers to move forward and influence," Araqchi stated, underscoring Nasrallah's unique role in redefining resistance based on his unyielding commitment to justice.

The Iranian minister further criticized Israel for what he described as "aggressive policies and repeated violations of international law." Araqchi argued that Israel's actions, including attacks on civilians, the destruction of infrastructure, and economic blockades, pose a threat not only to regional stability but to global security. He emphasized that the persistence of these aggressive acts undermines international norms, calling for these actions to be recognized as war crimes.

He urged international bodies, including the United Nations, to take "impartial and just actions" to maintain peace and security. He noted that Nasrallah was a strong advocate for multilateralism and diplomacy, believing that international collaboration is essential to address crises in the region. Nasrallah's approach to diplomacy, Araqchi explained, demonstrated that genuine resistance also involves a commitment to diplomatic engagement for sustainable peace and security.

Moreover, Araqchi remarked on Nasrallah's efforts to foster unity across religious and ethnic divides, emphasizing that solidarity among Muslim nations and within Lebanon's diverse communities could help them withstand foreign intervention and division. With Lebanon's rich

cultural and religious diversity, Araqchi said, "only national unity can enable resilience against challenges." He added that Nasrallah's leadership embodied both strength in resistance and dedication to diplomatic engagement, balancing these strategies in both regional and domestic affairs.

He also highlighted the importance of media in the "soft warfare" that Nasrallah identified. According to Araqchi, independent media outlets can counter misinformation and false narratives used to destabilize the region. He stressed that resistance media should "raise public awareness and promote a culture of peace and justice," ensuring that people receive accurate and unbiased information. He emphasized that the manipulation of narratives is as harmful as military aggression, and media plays a critical role in defending against this threat.

Reflecting on the current situation in Lebanon, Araqchi said that the country faces a multi-faceted conflict involving military, intelligence, and media elements. He stated that disinformation campaigns and incitement attempts aim to divide Lebanon's people along religious and ethnic lines. However, he praised Lebanese leaders for recognizing the gravity of the situation and urged unity to overcome the current crisis.

He also called for a "just ceasefire" and international support for those displaced or affected by the conflict. Iran, he noted, remains steadfast in its support for Lebanon and Gaza, advocating for the legitimate right to resist occupation and aggression. He pointed out that Iran has long supported oppressed nations in the region, emphasizing that Lebanon and Gaza remain a priority.

The Iranian foreign minister condemned Israel's alleged rejection of ceasefire proposals, accusing the country of pursuing actions that "fuel instability across the region." He warned that the detrimental effects of conflict in the Middle East could spread beyond West Asia if the situation escalates. "Insecurity and instability can spread far beyond the region, potentially reaching distant parts of the world," he cautioned.

70% of Victims of Israeli Genocide in Gaza Are Children and Women

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR) says women and children comprise nearly 70 percent of those killed in the Gaza Strip during Israel's campaign of genocide in the besieged Palestinian territory. The office published the figures in a 32-page report that covers the six months from November 2023 to April 2024.

About 80 percent of the victims were killed in residential buildings, out of which 44 percent were children and 26 percent women, the report said. Most of the verified deaths in Gaza were children between the ages of five and nine.

The youngest victim whose death was verified by UN monitors was a one-day-old boy, and the oldest was a 97-year-old woman, the report said.

A UN statement said Israel's continuation of these attacks "demonstrates an apparent indifference to the death of civilians and the impact of the means and methods of warfare selected."

"The International Court of Justice, in its series of orders on provisional measures, underscored the international obligations of Israel to prevent, protect against and punish acts of genocide and associated prohibited conduct," said the report.

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Turk stressed the imperative for Israel to fully and immediately comply with those obligations.

Volker Turk, the UN human rights chief called it "a systematic violation of the fundamental



principles of international humanitarian law".

"It is essential that there is due reckoning with respect to the allegations of serious violations of international law through credible and impartial judicial bodies and that, in the meantime, all relevant information and evidence are collected and preserved," Turk said.

On May 24, the ICJ ordered Israel to halt its aggression on Rafah, establish humanitarian corridors and allow the world body to investigate

genocide. Israel continues its genocidal onslaught on Gaza, killing more Palestinians in its indiscriminate air and artillery strikes.

The latest air raids targeted Gaza City and Nuseirat refugee camp, leaving six people dead. According to Gaza officials, about two dozen people have been killed in Israeli attacks on Friday alone.

This brings the Palestinian death toll in Gaza to about 43,500 since early October last year. Most of the casualties are women and children.

Meanwhile, the United Nations has warned about the deteriorating situation in northern Gaza.

It says Israel's military is preventing food and water from the besieged area where thousands of Palestinians are trapped and require supplies for their survival.

Iran Roundly Dismisses Claims of Assassination Plot Targeting Trump



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has categorically denied "baseless" claims of an assassination attempt on American soil targeting Republican president-elect Donald Trump just weeks before the November 5 election.

In a statement on Saturday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei rejected the allegations as "completely baseless and unsubstantiated," a day after the US Justice Department unsealed criminal charges that include details of a plot allegedly backed by Iran to kill Trump before Tuesday's election.

A criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City alleges that an unnamed official in Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) instructed a contact to develop a plan to surveil and ultimately kill the businessman-turned-politician.

Baghaei said the repetition of such claims at this juncture is "a malicious conspiracy by Zionist and anti-Iranian circles aimed at further complicating the issues between the United States and Iran."

It came after Trump was declared the winner of the presidential election on Wednesday. On July 13, Trump survived an assassination attempt, suffering only minor injury to his ear.

In August, Iran dismissed having any connection with a Pakistani individual allegedly arrested in the United States and charged with being behind a foiled plot to assassinate US politicians.

The US, under then-president Trump, unilaterally withdrew in 2018 from a nuclear accord signed in 2015 with Iran and imposed a series of draconian sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Trump also admitted having ordered the assassination of Iran's legendary anti-terror commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani in a US drone strike near Baghdad airport on January 3, 2020.

Baghaei underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran will utilize "all legitimate and legal means at domestic and international levels to restore the rights of the Iranian nation."

Martyrdom of Nasrallah Exposes Futility of Collaborating With Zionist Criminals



TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf emphasized that the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah revealed the futility of engaging in peace talks with the criminal Zionist regime. Qalibaf stated that Nasrallah's martyrdom does not represent a defeat for him or the resistance front, but rather exposes the absurdity of any attempts to compromise with this criminal band.

Speaking at the international conference "The School of Nasrallah", Qalibaf noted, "It has been forty days since we lost our dear brother, Sayyed Nasrallah, and we mourn his absence. To transform this grief into strength for the future, we must recognize the precious gem we have lost."

He further explained that this awareness would help the resistance continue Nasrallah's work and accomplish the goals he dedicated his life to. He emphasized that Nasrallah's martyrdom only strips away the façade of the "hellish killers" who perpetuate a war of oppression and exposes the emptiness of any efforts to make peace with them.

The Speaker highlighted that Nasrallah stood alongside Hamas fighters from the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, firmly believing that no struggle was as legitimate as the fight against the Zionists. Referring to Iran's Supreme Leader, Qalibaf quoted, "Every blow to the regime, from whoever and wherever it comes, is a service to the entire region and to humanity."

He praised Nasrallah as a wise statesman, who, even in the midst of revolutionary activism, remained grounded in religious values and rationality. "Nasrallah's leadership brought together the Shiite community in Lebanon, fostering internal cooperation while coexisting peacefully with other religious groups."



Energy Consumption Optimization a Must

TEHRAN (shana) - Mustafa Nakhai, a member of Iran's Parliament says that energy consumption optimization must be pursued seriously.

In an interview with Shana, he also added that a significant portion of the natural gas imbalance could be managed through storage. According to Nakhai, the 7th National Development Plan has good energy sector programs to address imbalances and improve infrastructure. He noted that one of the provisions of the 7th National Development Plan relates to gas storage. He further said that the global average for natural gas storage is 11% of its total consumption, and in European and advanced countries, the storage rate exceeds 20% of the average consumption, while the storage rate in Iran is not considerable.

European Sanctions Disrupt Medicine Supply for Iranian Patients



TEHRAN - The Deputy of Development and Resource Management at Iran's Food and Drug Administration has reported that recent European Union sanctions have directly affected air transport and the importation of medicines and medical equipment. The Iranian government is actively exploring alternative routes to ensure continued supply of these essential items.

On October 15, the EU imposed sanctions on three Iranian airlines – Iran Air, Mahan Air, and Saha – citing unsubstantiated claims of Iranian involvement in the Ukraine conflict by allegedly supplying ballistic missiles to Russia. According to EU officials, these sanctions are meant to target specific policies and activities of Iran rather than disrupting overall air traffic or public communication between Iran and the EU.

However, the sanctions have already disrupted the delivery of critical medications, particularly those needed for patients with special medical conditions. Health Minister Mohammad Reza Zafarhandi confirmed these challenges on October 24, highlighting issues in medicine supply and transport resulting from the EU's actions.

In a statement, the Food and Drug Administration's Deputy of Development and Resource Management acknowledged the impact of the air industry sanctions on medicine supply for patients. Despite these challenges, the government is collaborating both domestically and internationally to address the situation.

During a recent visit to a nursing equipment exhibition at the Olympic Hotel, Deputy Fereshteh Mirzazadeh explained that while sanctions have affected air transport and medicine imports, the organization is working on various approaches to ensure the country's medical and pharmaceutical needs are met. Strategies include using special air corridors, partnerships with international companies, and supporting domestic production.

BRICS: A Gateway for Iran's Non-Oil Economy and Added Value Creation



TEHRAN - The Director General for Europe and America at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has highlighted BRICS as an opportunity to bolster Iran's non-oil economy and foster value-added initiatives. This was disclosed by Ahmed Firoozi in an exclusive interview today (Thursday), where he discussed the significance of BRICS and Iran's membership in the organization, emphasizing Iran's goal to enhance exports and economic development through the TPO.

According to Firoozi, BRICS aims to reduce trade restrictions among member nations, which can help counter Western hegemony and sanctions. He noted that the ongoing tariff war between the United States and China reflects how countries, despite broad cooperation, negotiate fiercely over trade advantages to protect national interests.

Firoozi explained that Iran is pursuing trade expansion by signing free trade and preferential agreements with other nations to enhance export infrastructure and promote Iranian products in target markets.

BRICS, he continued, plays a pivotal role in the global economy by uniting emerging economic powers with shared goals. Countries like India, China, Russia, Iran, and Brazil work together to enact decisions that can positively impact their economies.

Firoozi emphasized that BRICS members comprise roughly 45% of the world's population, making it a valuable platform for Iran to access global markets. He stated that Iran's objectives with BRICS are long-term, spanning the next 10 to 50 years, as it aims to secure economic gains through expanded

market opportunities.

He also mentioned that many countries are eager to join BRICS, with 30 other nations waiting for membership. This interest signifies BRICS's appeal as a robust economic platform for cooperation.

Iran views BRICS membership as a means to alleviate sanctions, allowing the country to navigate international challenges and foster economic growth. With BRICS members already comprising nearly 30% of the world's GDP and representing close to half of the global population, Firoozi believes that BRICS will soon capture a larger share of the world economy. The group also produces 43% of the world's oil, and, while its current share of global exports is around 25%, there is significant potential for growth.

Firoozi remarked that Iran's BRICS membership is a strategic step toward circumventing sanctions and advancing its economic interests, even as other BRICS countries maintain connections with Western markets and continue balanced growth through investments.

BRICS prioritizes non-discriminatory trade and investment, fostering a transparent and predictable trading environment. According to Firoozi, the BRICS framework can drive members toward establishing regional and global value chains, advancing economic integration.

Firoozi stressed that Iran's BRICS membership would help counter punitive sanctions, strengthen economic ties, improve access to development banks, and unlock new investment and trade opportunities.

FTZs Should Become Centers for Export and Investment



TEHRAN - Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Abdolnaser Hemmati, stated that the advantages of free trade zones in the country have diminished, as their primary revenue now comes from land sales. These zones, however, should be focused on exports and attracting investors, a goal that the government is committed to pursuing.

At a meeting with economic leaders in Sistan and Baluchestan on Friday, Hemmati emphasized the priority of developing the province's free trade zones, aiming for the benefits of this development to extend across the region. He promised to address the issues affecting the Sistan Free Trade Zone and expressed hope for its swift activation. Hemmati noted that with the active involvement of the province's governor, who has a strong focus on economic and infrastructural development, progress in Sistan and Baluchestan is more feasible.

Hemmati highlighted two major concerns for the region: high unemployment and income inequality. He noted that the unemployment rate in Sistan and Baluchestan is reportedly twice the national average. Additionally, the province has a high Gini coefficient, reflecting income imbalance and unfair distribution of wealth within the region. Hemmati stressed the need for targeted employment, growth, and investment to address these issues.

He suggested that bank-affiliated investment companies could expand their operations in Sistan and Baluchestan and that local managers have been given more authority to facilitate these efforts. Hemmati emphasized the need to close the development gap between Sistan and Baluchestan and other provinces, noting that addressing this disparity is a priority for the government.

Hemmati also commented on banking policies in the region, mentioning that 50 percent of banking resources in Sistan and Baluchestan are allocated to Qard al-Hasanah (interest-free loans). He argued that residents of this province deserve lower interest rates on loans intended for investment purposes.

The Minister pointed out that the President has placed a special emphasis on the development of Sistan and Baluchestan, underlining the government's commitment to addressing the region's lag in development, which he described as both a duty and the rightful claim of the people.

All economic challenges faced by Sistan and Baluchestan will be categorized and systematically addressed, Hemmati assured, promising that the banking system and other available resources will be mobilized to compensate for the region's developmental setbacks.

Building a Sustainable Future for Iran's Cities with Enhanced Urban Planning



TEHRAN - The Minister of Roads and Urban Development sent a message on World Town Planning Day, expressing hope that urban planning, a field shaped by a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, would secure its rightful place in Iran's urban development.

In her statement reported by the Ministry, Farzaneh Sadegh outlined key approaches of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in urban planning. She conveyed her gratitude to the "Creator of existence" for the opportunity to celebrate World Town Planning Day, extending congratulations to all specialists, professionals, academics, and activists in Iran's urban planning sector. She highlighted the day as a moment to appreciate the academic and professional community whose knowledge and dedication improve citizens' lives.

Sadegh emphasized the hope that urban planning, enriched by contributions from diverse fields, would find its significant role in Iran's urban development and become a pillar in building a sustainable future for cities across the country.

She further noted that the theme of this year's World Town Planning Day, "Homes Begin with Planning," underscores the importance of proper planning in creating housing and communities that not only meet the diverse needs of citizens but also respect their dignity. Housing, she stressed, involves more than constructing residential

units; it's about creating spaces where social and cultural life can thrive, economic needs are met, and cities of quality suitable for all residents are built.

Sadegh asserted that housing must be closely integrated with comprehensive and unified urban planning to ensure it aligns with essential services and infrastructure, fostering a vibrant, equitable, and livable society for all.

She reiterated that the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development remains committed to aligning housing provision with the principles of the Housing Leap Law and the seventh development plan. The ministry aims to deliver housing that is safe, beautiful, well-served, and worthy of the Iranian people, supported by comprehensive and effective planning to establish sustainable, inclusive, and equitable communities.

Expressing hope for progress, Sadegh encouraged collaboration among urban planning experts and emphasized the importance of utilizing national and international experiences to create cities and communities rich in security, fairness, and tranquility for everyone. She affirmed that achieving such a future is only possible through unity, cooperation, and purposeful planning, aiming for brighter, more hopeful cities for all Iranian citizens.

14.15% of Population Diagnosed with Diabetes



TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education announced that 14.15% of Iran's population is affected by diabetes, equating to 7.5 million people, of whom 31% have their condition under control. Additionally, 4.8 million people are receiving diabetes treatment.

Alireza Raisi made these remarks during the Diabetes Update Conference held at the Olympic Hotel on Saturday. He highlighted that another 13.64 million people are pre-diabetic, emphasizing the need for greater awareness of non-communicable diseases, particularly diabetes, to reduce vulnerability to infectious diseases.

Raisi referenced 2021 studies indicating that one in ten people worldwide suffers from diabetes, warning that this represents a serious concern for public health.

Raisi stressed that early diagnosis and awareness are key to preventing diabetes. He described diabetes as a complex, rising condition that requires serious attention, noting that its increasing prevalence makes it difficult to predict future trends.

Raisi added that since 2004, a national diabetes prevention and control program has been integrated into the health system, with screening and detection for those over 30 conducted every three years. Identified patients are monitored monthly by health workers and quarterly by physicians.

He also discussed the creation of a National Document on Non-Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, which aims to reduce mortality by 25% by 2025. Other goals include stabilizing diabetes prevalence, decreasing risk factors, expanding treatment coverage, creating electronic health records, and ensuring access to necessary medications and supplies such as insulin, syringes, and other consumables.

Raisi noted that over 1,000 diabetes-trained personnel are now in the workforce, with 65% of diabetic patients having their blood sugar monitored by health workers and caregivers within the health and treatment network, which he described as an encouraging statistic.

British Sanctions Against Anzali Free Zone are Unfounded



TEHRAN - Mohammad Sajjad Siahkarzadeh, Managing Director of the Anzali Free Zone, spoke about the UK's recent sanctions on the Anzali Free Zone and the potential impacts on its trade activities. According to Siahkarzadeh, the sanctions imposed by the UK are based on allegations that the Anzali Free Zone has been involved in arms exports—a claim he firmly denied.

Siahkarzadeh emphasized that neither the Caspian Port nor the Anzali Free Zone has been involved in arms export activities. He clarified that the Anzali Free Zone Organization, which is primarily focused on economic activities, has no involvement in defense exports or similar operations.

Following the UK's sanctions, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has initiated diplomatic actions, dismissing the UK's claims as baseless. Siahkarzadeh added that the sanctions would have minimal impact on Anzali Free Zone's activities due to existing strong trade relations. While the sanctions might affect the branding of the region, he noted that recent successful developments in the transit and cargo sectors via Anzali and the Caspian Port have overshadowed the issue.

Siahkarzadeh reassured that the sanctions would not disrupt the ongoing missions of the Anzali Free Zone, as the region has no significant trade or investment ties with the UK. However, he mentioned that steps are being taken to prevent similar incidents from affecting the zone's image.

He further highlighted that Russian investors are interested in the port, with substantial involvement from Chinese investors focused on export-oriented operations. While the China-Kazakhstan-Iran-Turkey-Europe transit corridor has weakened recently, efforts are underway to revive it, which could attract more Chinese investment to the region.

Indonesia Volcano Erupts Again

EAS FLORES (Dispatches) - A volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted again today, sending a giant ash tower nine kilometres into the sky, days after it killed nine people and forced thousands of locals to evacuate.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a 1,703-metre twin-peaked volcano on the tourist island of Flores, has erupted more than a dozen times this week, killing nine people after its initial burst on Monday.

"The ash column was observed at approximately 9,000 metres above the summit. The ash column appeared grey with thick intensity," the country's volcanology agency said in a statement about the eruption that began at 4.47am local time.

There were no immediate reports of damage to nearby villages from Saturday's fresh eruption.

But the agency warned residents to "remain alert to the potential for cold lava floods" due to heavy rainfall.



ICC to Investigate Alleged Misconduct by War Crimes Prosecutor



GENEVA (Dispatches) - The International Criminal Court's governing body will launch an external investigation into its chief prosecutor Karim Khan over alleged sexual misconduct, two sources familiar with the matter said.

Khan is called on in an internal document circulated to member states to temporarily step down from his role at the world's permanent war crimes court, based in The Hague, while an inquiry is ongoing.

The undated and unsigned document, seen by Reuters, was circulated to member states by ICC staff.

Khan's office referred questions to his attorney and phone calls and repeated requests for comment sent to his lawyers went unanswered.

Khan has denied allegations of misconduct that were reported to the court's governing body last month. At that time he asked the court's own internal oversight body to investigate them.

A source with knowledge of the matter said an external probe was agreed at a meeting on Thursday of a core group of the court's governing body, the Assembly of States Parties.

Reuters couldn't determine who would conduct the investigation.

ICC judges are currently reviewing a request Khan made in May for arrest warrants against Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his defence chief and Hamas leaders. Khan has said the misconduct allegations coincided with a campaign of misinformation against his office.

The internal document, circulated for discussion, argued that the court's independent, internal body for assessing matters of conduct should have launched a formal inquiry into the allegations when they were first reported.

A source familiar with the matter said the alleged victim in the Khan case does not have confidence in the independence of the court's internal body, whose incoming head is a former member of Khan's staff, because details of reports to it about the alleged misconduct were leaked.

The current and future head of the independent body did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

North Korea Jams GPS Signals, Affecting Ships, Aircraft in South



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea staged GPS jamming attacks yesterday and today, an operation that was affecting several ships and dozens of civilian aircraft in South Korea, Seoul's military said on Saturday.

The jamming allegations come about a week after the North test-fired what it said was its most advanced and powerful solid-fuel ICBM missile, its first such launch since being accused of sending soldiers to help Russia fight Ukraine.

The South fired its own ballistic missile into the sea yesterday in a show of force aimed at demonstrating its resolve to respond to "any North Korean provocations".

"North Korea conducted GPS jamming provocations in Haeju and Kaesong yesterday and today," Seoul's joint chiefs of staff said in a statement Saturday, adding several vessels and dozens of civilian aircraft were experiencing "some operational disruptions".

The military warned ships and aircraft operating in the Yellow Sea to beware of such attacks.

"We strongly urge North Korea to immediately cease its GPS provocations and warn that it will be held responsible for any subsequent issues arising from this," they said in the statement.

Relations between the two Koreas are at one of their lowest points in years, with the North launching a flurry of ballistic missiles in violation of UN sanctions.

It also has been bombarding the South with trash-carrying balloons since May, in what it says is retaliation for anti-Pyongyang propaganda missives sent North by activists.

The South Korean military said Pyongyang also attempted to jam GPS signals in May, but added at the time that it did not hinder any military operations in the South.

In Friday's drill, South Korea fired a Hyunmoo surface-to-surface short-range missile into the West Sea, which the military said was to show Seoul's "strong resolve to firmly respond" to any North Korean threats.

The Hyunmoo missiles are key to the country's so-called 'Kill Chain' preemptive strike system, which allows Seoul to launch an attack if there are signs of an imminent North Korean attack.

Experts say such jamming attacks can lead to other incidents that could escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"It remains unclear whether there is an intention to divert the world's attention from troop deployments, instil psychological insecurity among residents in the South, or respond to yesterday's drills," Yang Moo-jin, president of the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, told AFP.

"However, GPS jamming attacks pose a real risk of serious incidents, including potential aircraft accidents in the worst-case scenario."

Ahn Chan-il, a defector-turned-researcher who runs the World Institute for North Korea Studies, told AFP the North's jamming could be "to shield their own communications and intelligence exchanges during critical military operations" both at home and abroad.

North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's offensive in Ukraine.

Seoul and the West have long accused Pyongyang of supplying artillery shells and missiles to Moscow for use in Ukraine.

The latest accusations, based on intelligence reports, indicate the North has deployed around 10,000 troops to Russia, suggesting even deeper involvement in the conflict and triggering outcry in Seoul, Kyiv and Western capitals.

Seoul, a security ally of Washington, said last month the presence of North Korean troops in Europe would be a major escalation.

South Korea, a major arms exporter, has a long-standing policy of not providing weapons to countries in conflict.

But President Yoon Suk Yeol said this week that Seoul is now not ruling out the possibility of providing weapons directly to Ukraine, given Pyongyang's military support of Moscow.

Seoul's presidential office said cyber attacks by pro-Russian hacking groups against South Korea have increased following North Korea's troop dispatch for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Trump's Republicans Hold Narrow Edge in Fight for U.S. House Majority



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Donald Trump's Republicans held on to a narrow edge as election officials tallied the final votes that will determine control of the U.S. House of Representatives, though Democrats succeeded in flipping a pair of New York state seats.

Republicans have secured at least 211 seats, seven short of the majority in the 435-member chamber, with 24 races left to be called, according to projections by Edison Research. Republicans are set to hold a majority of at least 53 seats in the Senate.

Full congressional control by Republicans would give Trump great leeway to pursue policies including sweeping tax cuts, energy deregulation and border security controls. Should Democrats succeed in capturing a majority, which would require them to win 18 of the 24 as-yet uncalled seats, it would give them a bulwark to push back against him.

Pentagon Lifts Ban on Contractors Fixing U.S.-Supplied Weapons in Ukraine

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - In its final months, President Joe Biden's administration has decided to allow U.S. defense contractors to work in Ukraine to maintain and repair Pentagon-provided weaponry, U.S. officials told Reuters on Friday, in a significant policy shift that aims to aid Kyiv's fight against Russia.

A U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the contractors would be small in number and located far from the front lines. They will not be engaged in combat.

They will help ensure U.S.-provided equipment "can be rapidly repaired when damaged and be provided maintenance as needed," the official said.

Since Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the United States has given Kyiv tens of billions of dollars in weaponry. But Kyiv either had to move U.S.-provided weaponry out of the country for heavy repair or rely on video-conferencing and other creative solutions to fix those systems inside the country.

The restrictions in the past have sometimes slowed down repairs and proven increasingly difficult as the U.S. has provided Kyiv with more complicated systems, like F-16 fighter jets and Patriot air defenses, officials say.

A lot of equipment in the country is not being used because it is damaged, a second U.S. official told Reuters.

The move is the latest easing of restrictions by Biden's administration, which has sought to help Ukraine defend itself against Moscow's 2 1/2 year-old invasion without becoming directly engaged against nuclear-armed Russia.

A third U.S. official said the decision would move the Pentagon in line with the U.S. State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development, which already have U.S. contractors in Ukraine.

The official added that no U.S. troops would be required to defend contractors



in Ukraine, and that issues like safety and risk mitigation would be the responsibility of those companies entering into contracts with the Pentagon.

Some U.S. defense contractors have already gone to Ukraine in small numbers in the past, servicing weapons that weren't being provided by the Pentagon, the official said.

Given there are already a "wide array of American companies" who have personnel in Ukraine fulfilling contracts for the Ukrainian government, there would not be a substantial increase in U.S. company employees working on the ground, the first official said.

The decision comes at a critical time for the conflict. Russian forces are advancing at their fastest rate since Ukraine first repulsed their invasion at the outskirts of Kyiv in early 2022. Ukraine, for its part, has launched its first major incursion into Russian territory.

Still, it's unclear how sustainable the policy shift will be with so little time left in Biden's administration. President-elect Donald Trump has criticized the scale of U.S. military and financial support for Kyiv and vowed to end the war with Russia quickly, without saying how. Trump takes office on Jan. 20.

As the biggest contributor by far to Kyiv's war effort, U.S. support has been essential to Ukraine's survival against a much larger and better equipped Russian enemy.

Moscow's forces occupy around a fifth of Ukraine, and it is increasing pressure on Kyiv, which is facing problems fielding a strong enough fighting force to stand up to Russia's steady onslaught - bolstered recently by the addition of North Korean troops.

Ukraine has called on the West to lift restrictions on using missiles to attack deep into Russia, which Kyiv says is necessary to disrupt long-range Russian attacks.

Scholz Calls for Cool Heads to Pull Germany out of Political Crisis

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Chancellor Olaf Scholz demanded a calm debate from Germany's squabbling factions on setting the date for a snap election to pull the country out of a political crisis.

Speaking to reporters in Budapest, Scholz called on parties to first agree on what legislation could be passed in what remained of the current parliament but denied trying to ram through his own policy agenda by delaying holding an election.

Scholz has suggested holding a confidence vote in his government in January, paving the way for a snap election in March, but the conservative opposition led by Friedrich Merz wants an election in January.

Europe's largest economy was thrown into disarray this week with the collapse of Scholz's three-way coalition and disagreements over how much money the government should spend to spur growth and support Ukraine.

The collapse comes at a tough time for Germany as its economy faces a second year of contraction, its companies fear a loss of competitiveness, while foreign policy challenges mount, from the re-election of Donald Trump to a tariff war with China.

Popularity of government parties over time.

As parties positioned themselves, Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck of the Greens party fired the starting pistol on his own bid to become chancellor. Meanwhile, Merz criticised Scholz as "irresponsible" for delaying a vote.

"We should discuss the date as calmly as possible. It would be good if the democratic factions in the Bundestag could now reach an agreement on which laws can still be passed this year," Scholz said on the sidelines of an EU summit.

"This agreement could then also answer the question of when the right time is to hold



the confidence vote in the Bundestag, also with regard to the possible date of new elections."

A confidence vote is a necessary precursor to an election.

Scholz was meeting leaders in Budapest to discuss Europe's response to a raft of issues including Trump's return to power.

Asked how his coalition's collapse was being viewed by other leaders, Scholz said they had shown solidarity, giving their own experiences of forming coalitions.

He also brushed aside a jibe by Trump ally and X owner Elon Musk, who had referred to him on the platform this week, in German, as a "fool" over the collapse of the coalition. Scholz said he had taken no notice because "the world we live in is not one where Internet companies are state organs".

Scholz's coalition collapsed on Wednesday as he announced the firing of his Finance Minister Christian Lindner from the Free Democrats (FDP) party, which together with the Greens and Scholz's Social Democrats (SPD) have been in power since 2021.

According to one opinion poll, the ZDF Politbarometer, a majority of Germans want an election as soon as possible. Some 84% think an earlier election is a good idea, while 13% do not, it said on Friday.

Scholz himself could face calls to step aside as his party's candidate to remain as chancellor.

Another voter poll by Forsa for RTL/ntv suggested that a majority of voters, 57%, wanted Defence Minister Boris Pistorius to run instead, whereas only 13% preferred Scholz. A majority of SPD voters also did not want him to run again.

Shapovalov Ends Drought by Reaching Belgrade Final



BELGRADE (Dispatches) - Canadian qualifier Denis Shapovalov blew past Czech fourth seed Jiri Lehecka 6-2, 6-1 in 56 minutes to advance to the final of the Belgrade Open in the Serbian capital. Shapovalov, once ranked as high as No. 10 in the world, had not reached an ATP Tour final since October 2022. His only career title came at the Stockholm Open in October 2019. Shapovalov blitzed Lehecka, winning a whopping 25 of 26 first-service points (96.2 percent) and 15 of 18 points on second return (83.3 percent). His opponent in the final will be Serbian home favorite Hamad Medjedovic. In a battle of two wild cards from Serbia, Medjedovic -- ranked No. 156 in the world -- staved off Laslo Djere 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (2). Great Britain's Cameron Norrie will face French qualifier Benjamin Bonzi in the final in Metz, France, after each man won in the semifinals. Norrie earned a 6-2, 7-6 (5) victory over Frenchman Corentin Moutet. He doubled up Moutet in winners (28-14) and converted 4 of 5 break-point opportunities, but he had to rally from down 5-2 in the second-set tiebreaker and won five straight points to put away the match. This will be Norrie's first final appearance of 2024. Bonzi, seeking his first tour-level trophy in front of a home crowd, rallied past Alex Michelsen 4-6, 6-0, 7-5. Bonzi smashed nine aces and saved 7 of 10 break points, but Michelsen saved four match points before Bonzi finally made good on his fifth opportunity. Meanwhile American Coco Gauff defeated world number one Aryna Sabalenka 7-6(4) 6-3 in the semi-

finals of the WTA Finals and will take on China's Zheng Qinwen in the showpiece match. Sabalenka will end the year at the top of the world rankings but her bid for a maiden WTA Finals title was ended by Gauff who reached her first final at the end-of-season event. Earlier, seventh seed Zheng overcame battling Czech Barbora Krejckova 6-3 7-5 to reach Saturday's showpiece on her debut. It had promised to be a close affair between Sabalenka and world number three Gauff, with the head-to-head record standing at 4-4, and the opening set lived up to expectations. After trading early breaks, Sabalenka broke again to take a 6-5 lead to serve for the set but Gauff responded, forcing a tiebreak which saw eight breaks of serve over the 11 points. The American cruised to a 6-1 lead, breaking Sabalenka four times, before the Belarusian broke twice to save the first two set points but Gauff held her nerve to win the first set. Sabalenka cut a frustrated figure throughout the match and Gauff raced into a 4-1 lead in the second set before the sixth game turned into a marathon affair. Gauff saved seven break points and at one stage Sabalenka threw her racket into the air but eventually won the game to keep the contest alive. However, the American then broke to love to serve for the match. Sabalenka rallied and broke again but Gauff kept her cool and, just when it seemed Sabalenka would claw her way back into the tie, the American broke for a fourth time in the second set.

Sinner Keen to Show His Best at Special ATP Finals



LONDON (Dispatches) - World number one Jannik Sinner said the ATP Finals will be more special for him this time around as it gives him the chance to play on home soil in Italy, months after missing this year's Italian Open in Rome due to a hip injury. The ATP Finals, which feature the world's best eight singles players and doubles teams, are being staged at the Inalpi Arena in Turin from Nov. 10-17. "Many things make (this tournament) special," Sinner told ATP Media on Thursday. "First of all, being an Italian and playing in Italy. I haven't played in Italy this year, because I missed Rome. That was a really tough one, but I am even more excited and happy to be here. "The atmosphere is just amazing... I'm just happy to be back here and hopefully I can show some good tennis." Sinner will begin his ATP finals campaign on Sunday evening, taking on tournament debutant Alex de Minaur, before facing former U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev and American Taylor Fritz. "De Minaur is a very solid, very fast mover (with) a great mentality. You have to win every point somehow. He is not going to give it to you, so you have to go for it," said Sinner. "(Medvedev) is changing his game style a little bit so he's even more dangerous to play. He has been one of my key points in evolving myself as a player, because I struggled a lot to beat him. Now, every match is quite open, you never know what's going to happen. "Taylor Fritz, I might know slightly less, because we haven't had so many encounters yet. But he is an amazing server, hitting the ball very strong. He has improved a lot in the last two years, starting with the serve and returning very well." Sinner could face rival and four-times Grand Slam winner Carlos Alcaraz in the knockout stage of the tournament if both players make it through the group matches.

Nuggets Get Triple-Double From Jokic in Outscoring Heat

DENVER (Dispatches) - Nikola Jokic had 30 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds for his fifth triple-double of the season, Jamal Murray returned to the lineup with a season-high 28 points, and the host Denver Nuggets beat the Miami Heat 135-122. Jokic notched his 135th career triple-double midway through the third quarter. Murray missed the previous three games while in concussion protocol but showed no rust, going 9-for-17 from the field and 4-for-10 behind the arc. Michael Porter Jr. and Christian Braun contributed 19 points each, Peyton Watson had 16 points and Russell Westbrook finished with 10 assists for the Nuggets, who have won four in a row. Miami has two losses to start its six-game road trip, and forward Jimmy Butler left with a right ankle injury midway through the first quarter. Seven Heat players scored double figures, led by Tyler Herro, who had 24 points



and 11 assists. Duncan Robinson and Bam Adebayo scored 20 points apiece, with Adebayo adding rebounds and two steals. Terry Rozier and Haywood Highsmith scored 15 points each, Nikola Jovic contributed 11 and Josh Richardson 10. Denver took a 16-point lead late in the first quarter, but the Heat scored the next 13 points during a 21-6 run that made it 46-45 approaching the midpoint of the second period. Braun's corner 3-pointer with 3.2 seconds left in the period stretched the Nuggets' lead to 71-60 at half. Denver came out strong in the third quarter to extend the lead. Porter opened with a 3-pointer, Murray and Watson also hit from deep and Jokic had five points and three assists during a 20-5 run that gave the Nuggets a 91-65 lead, their biggest of the night.

Samson Century Lifts India to T20 Victory Over South Africa



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India opener Sanju Samson scored a sparkling century as the tourists beat South Africa by 61 runs in the first match of a four-game Twenty20 series in Durban. South Africa asked India to bat and the visitors posted 202 for eight in their 20 overs, before restricting their hosts to 141 all out in 17.5 overs for a comprehensive victory. India's total was boosted by a brilliant 107 from 50 balls by Samson but the innings did stall towards the end. Samson smashed 10 sixes and seven fours as he tore into the bowling at the small Kingsmead ground. He rattled along at a strike rate of 214, providing more than half his team's total. "The amount of hard work he (Samson) has put in over the last few years, doing those boring things again and again, he is reaping the fruits (now)," India captain Suryakumar Yadav said. "He is putting the team first, even when he was in the 90s he was looking to hit fours and sixes. That's what separates him." At 167-2 in the 15th over, India looked on course for a score well in excess of 200, but managed only another 35 runs in 32 balls for the loss of six wickets after Tilak Varma was dismissed for 33. Seamers Marco Jansen (1-24 in four overs) and Gerald Coetzee (3-37) were the pick of the home attack. India's legbreak bowlers stifled the South African reply as their innings never managed to gain momentum. Varun Chakravarthy took 3-25 as he picked up the key wickets of Heinrich Klaassen (25) and David Miller (18), while Ravi Bishnoi recorded figures of 3-28. "We wanted to get off to a better start (with the bat) and that's where we lost the game," South Africa captain Aiden Markram said. "Sanju played incredibly well, put our bowlers under pressure. When a guy is striking like that, it is pretty hard to stop him and you have to take your hat off." The second match of the series will be played in Gqeberha on Sunday.

Verstappen's Title Bid Supported by Eight Billion Laps of Las Vegas

LONDON (Dispatches) - When Max Verstappen goes to Las Vegas chasing a fourth successive Formula One title, he will be racing around a floodlit track his Red Bull team have simulated some eight billion times already. The Saturday night race on a street circuit that runs along the Nevada City's famed Strip is on Nov. 23, and a win would clinch the championship for Verstappen with two rounds remaining. "We run four billion simulations before we arrive at the track," Jack Harington, Red Bull's partnerships group lead who works with software giant and title sponsor Oracle, told Reuters. "And then we take the data from FP1 and FP2 (first and second practice) and introduce those into the simulations and run those four billion again." Billion, he emphasised, not million -- although not many guesses are needed on who will win the title this year, given Verstappen is 62 points clear of McLaren's Lando Norris. "There's always that saying that you have to sometimes just stick your hand out to see if it's raining in the pitlane but there's always variables that are going to catch you by surprise," said Harington. "The more simulations you run, the more things you see and the more chance you will have of being able to react to them efficiently." Red Bull use Oracle's cloud infrastructure to run the simulations to hone strategy and be prepared for every eventuality. Red Bull are also building their own engine for 2026 and Oracle's senior director of product management Taylor Newill said high-performance computing was playing a big role in development simulation there too. Race simulations are run through the year but particularly when there is a major decision coming up, such as when might be the best



to take an engine penalty -- as Verstappen did last weekend in Brazil when he raced from 17th to first. That wet race was further complicated by crashes, red flags and safety cars. Red Bull's strategy was risky, Verstappen staying out during a safety car period after McLaren title rival Lando Norris had pitted, but paid off when worsening conditions led to the race being halted. "For the more detailed planning of the in-event strategy, we will start around two weeks in advance," said Red Bull's senior race strategy engineer Stephen Knowles. "The preliminary simulations sweep a wide range of possible outcomes in terms of tyre and car performance, plus a wide range of potential incidents and timing thereof. "This allows us to plan our weekend, and particularly tyre usage ahead of time, with the goal of scoring the highest number of points possible but with enough contingency in place to cope with the unexpected." Harington said using Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) also had cost and sustainability benefits with teams operating under a strict cost cap. "We can switch on the cloud ahead of a race weekend... run these huge amounts of simulations, turn off the cloud and then switch it on again when we need to do it again," he explained. "Whereas before we had to invest in physical stuff to be able to run these, so it's much more cost efficient for us as well. Every race-winning strategy call we've made since 2021 has been made on OCI."