

The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi Will Travel to Tehran on Wednesday Evening at the Official Invitation of Iran Republic of Iran to Meet With Senior Officials

IRAN NEWS

The Chief of Staff of the Saudi Arabian Armed Forces, General Fayyadh bin Hamed Al-Ruwaili, Was Set to Arrive in Tehran Yesterday at the Head of a High-Ranking Military Delegation to Meet Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces

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2 DOMESTIC



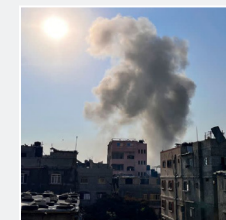
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Iran's Proposal for Remote Ship Inspection Approved at IOMOU Meeting



TEHRAN - The Director General of Maritime Affairs at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has announced the approval of Iran's proposal on conducting remote inspections of ships in hard-to-access locations during the recent meeting of the Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) committee.

According to a report from Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization, Alah Morad Afifpour stated that the proposal put forth by the Islamic Republic of Iran to inspect ships in remote locations was approved at the 27th meeting of IOMOU member states, hosted by Tanzania. The Iranian delegation presented an operational approach to inspect ships in locations that are challenging to access. The method received support from other member countries and is set to be implemented over the next 12 months. After this period, any necessary revisions will be reported back to the committee.

Afifpour emphasized that this proposed method allows member states to perform ship inspections without delay in situations where physical access to vessels is not feasible, for instance, due to pandemics, security threats, or the presence of unmanned ships. This ensures that ship safety inspections can proceed without compromising safety protocols.

As of its approval, the proposed operational method is considered a recognized document within IOMOU member countries and has been added to the list of mandatory guidelines for ship control and inspection in the Indian Ocean region.

The Indian Ocean Memorandum of Understanding (IOMOU) is an agreement among various maritime nations in the Indian Ocean region to cooperate on enforcing ship safety and pollution prevention standards. The IOMOU is part of a global network of regional port state control (PSC) agreements, which include similar MoUs in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. It was established in 1998 and is headquartered in Goa, India.

The IOMOU aims to: Enhance maritime safety: By ensuring that ships visiting ports in member countries comply with international safety standards; Prevent pollution: By enforcing environmental regulations to minimize pollution from ships; and Uphold crew welfare and working conditions: By ensuring compliance with international labor standards on board ships.

Iran Tells U.S. That Path Forward Begins With Respect



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has denounced "a fabricated scenario" of an assassination attempt against U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, saying that the path forward begins with respect.

Araqchi made the remarks in a post on X on Saturday, a day after the US Justice Department claimed that Iran backed a plot to kill Trump just weeks before the November 5 election.

"The American people have made their choice and Iran respects their right to elect the president of their choice. The path forward is also a choice. It begins with respect," Araqchi said.

Pointing to the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran just hours after he attended the inauguration of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Araqchi suggested that the accusation against Iran of plotting to assassinate Trump right before he is elected has been made to serve the same purpose.

"Remember the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran right after our President's inauguration? Everyone knows who did it and why," he said. "Now, with another election, a new scenario is fabricated with the same goal."

"As a killer does not exist in reality, scriptwriters are brought in to manufacture a third-rate comedy. Who can in their right mind believe that a supposed assassin sits in Iran and talks online to the FBI!?" Araqchi said.

Remember the assassination of Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran right after our President's inauguration? Everyone knows who did it and why.

Now, with another election, a new scenario is fabricated with the same goal: as a killer does not exist in reality, scriptwriters are brought in...

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



National Strength Unaffected by Foreign Leaders' Visits

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf emphasized that the strength of the Islamic Republic in securing its national interests remains unaffected by the visits of other countries' presidents. Speaking in a parliamentary session on Sunday, November 10, Qalibaf highlighted Iran's powerful, strategic approach, guided by revolutionary pragmatism, as central to the country's success in navigating global pressures.

Reflecting on recent U.S. elections, Qalibaf noted that while presidents may differ in their approaches, the core of U.S. antagonism toward Iran is constant. He argued that Iran's responses to these challenges rely on its "national power" and "resolute, strategic actions," based on a vision of pragmatic independence and self-reliance.

The speaker also praised the role of the Iranian people as the foundation of the country's national strength. He stressed that the population's faith in Islamic traditions enables the country to harness its internal resources, building a solid foundation in military, economic, political, and social domains. This strength has allowed Iran to resist foreign pressures and develop resilience in line with its principles of independence and self-sufficiency.

Reaffirming Iran's commitment to avoid dependency on foreign powers, Qalibaf pointed out that the nation's achievements have been built upon this core principle of autonomy. He underscored that as long as Iran continues to leverage its own capacities and resources, the arrival and departure

of foreign leaders, including U.S. presidents, will not impact its ability to advance its national interests.

Qalibaf also commented on the shifting global power dynamics, suggesting that emerging independent powers like Iran are poised to play more influential roles in the future world order. He hinted at Iran's intention to foster strategic alliances aimed at mutual benefit, asserting that the previous global system would be reshaped by these collaborations.

In addition to strengthening Iran's defense capabilities, Qalibaf emphasized that addressing domestic issues, particularly economic challenges, remains a priority for Iranian officials. He argued that resolving these issues provides a form of deterrence against external threats and enhances Iran's standing in the international arena. This focus on internal economic resilience, he claimed, is a critical strategy for Iran's security and progress.

Qalibaf concluded by expressing gratitude to the Iranian military, especially the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), for recent counter-terrorism operations. These actions, he noted, had struck significant blows to terrorist groups in eastern Iran, demonstrating Iran's continued commitment to securing its borders and protecting its people. Qalibaf conveyed his heartfelt appreciation to the forces involved, commending their dedication and effectiveness in maintaining national security.

Foreign Platforms Can Operate Freely in Iran by Adhering to Local Laws

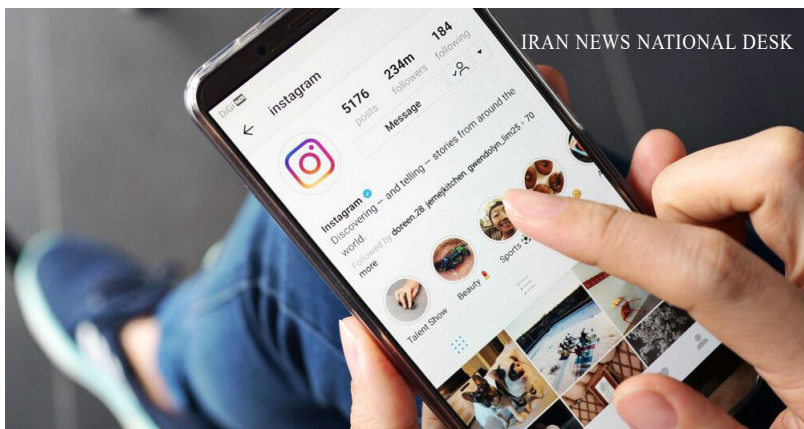
TEHRAN - A member of Iran's Supreme Council of Cyberspace stated that foreign digital platforms can operate without restrictions in Iran, provided they comply with the country's laws, similar to practices in other countries worldwide.

According to Iran's National Cyberspace Center, Reza Taghipour emphasized that foreign platforms should respect Iranian regulations to operate freely, just as thousands of other international applications do within Iran. His comments come amid calls by Iran's Supreme Leader to ensure the country's mental health and security in the digital realm.

Taghipour highlighted the ongoing global phenomenon of "social media warfare," a battle that impacts all segments of society—from governments and organizations to individuals and even educational institutions. He explained that the ease of access to social media, without requiring advanced technical skills, makes it a powerful tool in this information war.

This shift has decentralized power from traditional institutions like governments, allowing networks of individuals to create and disseminate information widely. Taghipour warned that this information warfare targets the public's mindset by spreading fake news, rumors, and misinformation, thus underscoring the need to protect society's mental well-being.

Taghipour noted that countries worldwide, including the U.S., have strict governance



as only a few foreign platforms have been restricted due to their misuse for criminal activities. These platforms have allegedly facilitated illegal transactions, drug trafficking, unauthorized arms sales, and other crimes.

Taghipour stressed that foreign platforms must respect Iran's laws to maintain public order, similar to the approach taken globally. Thousands of other foreign applications operate freely in Iran without restrictions.

He warned against reducing the significant issue of digital governance to mere content filtering, as all nations enforce laws and frameworks for online activities. According to Taghipour, Iran's approach aligns with other countries' standards for maintaining societal mental health online.

Armenia Interested in Participating in Chabahar Port



TEHRAN - Narek Babayan, head of the Iran-Armenia Friendship Group in the Armenian Parliament, highlighted Armenia's interest in participating in Iran's Chabahar Port to enable direct trade with India and China. Babayan, who has held this position since entering parliament, has actively advocated for strengthening economic ties between Iran and Armenia, arguing that trade volume should ideally be tripled to match the two countries' robust political relations.

Babayan also discussed Armenia's desire for a peaceful resolution in its relations with Azerbaijan and Turkey, acknowledging that while progress has been made, some issues remain unresolved. He expressed dissatisfaction with Turkey's preconditions for normalizing relations, suggesting that negotiations with Azerbaijan should proceed bilaterally, without third-party involvement.

In the context of the regional "Peace Crossroad" initiative proposed by Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan, Babayan emphasized Armenia's central role in promoting peace and trade over conflict. He noted that Iran, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Turkey are involved in this initiative, aiming to foster open borders and economic cooperation across the region.

Babayan expressed gratitude toward Iran for its support of Armenia's territorial integrity, particularly in opposing the concept of a corridor that might bypass Armenia's sovereignty. He reiterated Armenia's position in favor of opening borders rather than creating exclusive corridors, seeing this approach as aligned with the North-South Corridor project that could significantly benefit both nations.

Further economic ambitions include targeting \$3 billion in trade between Armenia and Iran, an increase from the current \$700 million. Babayan emphasized that reducing road tolls in Iran and completing the South-North Road in Armenia, where Iranian companies are involved in building critical tunnels and bridges, would significantly boost trade volumes.

Iraq Strongly Opposes Use of Its Airspace for Attacks on Iran



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iraq's National Security Advisor Qasim al-Araji has reiterated Baghdad's strong opposition to the use of Iraqi airspace for launching attacks against Iran or any other country in the region.

Araji confirmed the Iraqi stance in a meeting with Iran's military attaché to Baghdad Major General Majid Qalipour on Saturday.

According to a statement by the media office of the National Security Advisor, Araji and Qalipour discussed "ways to enhance the security and stability of the two countries and activate the memoranda of understanding to control the borders."

It added that the two sides also exchanged views about the continuation of bilateral cooperation in the battle against terrorism and smuggling, according to PressTV.

Late last month, Iran said Israel carried out its latest act of aggression against the country using US-controlled airspace over Iraq as well as the airspace of other regional countries.

"The presence of the US military in the region is a reality and the Zionist fighter jets carried out the recent attack against Iran through the airspace opened up by the United States in the region," Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said at the time.

The Iranian foreign minister's remarks came after Iraqi government spokesman Basim al-Awadi said his country had submitted a letter of protest to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Security Council, condemning Israel's use of Iraqi airspace to launch an airstrike on several military sites in neighboring Iran.

On October 26, Israeli warplanes used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to fire projectiles at military installations in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces in a flagrant breach of Iran's national sovereignty.

In the Israeli aggression, which caused some limited damage in some areas, four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian were killed.

IRAN NEWS



FM Spokesman Congratulates Iranian, Pakistani Nations on Iqbal Birth Anniversary

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei has congratulated Iranian and Pakistan nations on the birth anniversary of great poet, politician and Islamic philosopher Muhammad Iqbal.

Baghaei issued his congratulatory message on X on November 9 that marks the birthday of Iqbal, a great Pakistani poet who also has literary works in the Persian language, making him well-known in Iran where he is recognized as Allama Iqbal Lahori. Allama is a title used for a profound scholar.

The spokesman began his X post with a piece of poem from Iqbal.

Iran, Sudan Explore Ways to Broaden Economic Ties



TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Ebrahim Atabak met with Fajr Ibrahim Mohamed Fadil, Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, and proposed establishing a joint economic and trade commission to enhance trade and economic activities between the two nations.

Minister Fadil, leading an economic delegation to Tehran, met with Atabak. During the meeting, Atabak expressed optimism, describing the visit as a promising start for the friendly countries of Iran and Sudan. He emphasized that both nations have significant potential for economic and trade cooperation. With increased information exchange and collaboration, Atabak is hopeful this visit will lead to positive developments in bilateral trade.

Atabak announced plans to establish an Iran-Sudan Trade Center in Khartoum in the coming months. He suggested forming a joint delegation with representatives from both countries to oversee the initiative until completion.

The Iranian minister further recommended setting up an economic and trade commission as an initial step in cooperation, adding that Iran is keen to pursue technical and engineering projects and has already overcome many sanctions in these fields.

Highlighting Iran's self-reliance, Atabak mentioned that Iranian engineers, drawing on domestic capabilities, have led projects in technical, engineering, and mining sectors without dependence on foreign technology. Iran has relied on its own expertise for resource extraction, including copper and iron ore mining.

Sudan's Minister of Finance praised Iran's resilience under years of sanctions, calling it a "civilized nation" with valuable experience in self-reliance. He noted that Sudan, facing its own sanctions, looks forward to benefiting from Iran's expertise to overcome similar challenges.

He added that Iran's rich human and natural resources could provide mutual benefits for both Sudan and Iran, generating added value through collaboration.

Minister Fadil also acknowledged Iran's strides in industrial and economic development, which Sudan seeks to learn from.

Iran Ready to Supply Kyrgyzstan With Veterinary Medicines and Vaccines



TEHRAN - The Iranian Minister of Agriculture, Jihad Gholamreza Nouri, highlighted the 14th Joint Commission meeting as an excellent opportunity to enhance Iran-Kyrgyzstan relations, emphasizing the need to finalize previous agreements and establish grounds for new collaborations.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Nouri met with the Kyrgyz Ambassador, noting the two countries' coordination in international forums and mutual support for national interests as indicators of their cooperation level.

Nouri also highlighted the cooperation between Tehran and Bishkek within the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), underscoring their shared goals and international views.

Responding to the Kyrgyz Ambassador's request for veterinary medicines and vaccines, Nouri stated that the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute is prepared to meet much of Kyrgyzstan's demand for veterinary drugs.

He further stressed the importance of deepening economic and trade relations, leveraging the substantial capacities available in both nations, and affirmed that the 14th Joint Commission would serve as a valuable platform to activate these potentials.

Nouri highlighted Iran's agricultural expertise as a promising area for collaboration and confirmed Iran's readiness to support Kyrgyzstan with machinery, livestock breeding, advanced irrigation systems, and technical services.

During the meeting, Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador S. Dikuf emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral trade relations and announced plans to use expert views at the upcoming Joint Commission.

He also expressed Kyrgyzstan's intent to export organic products to Iran and to establish a logistics center in Iran's Shahid Rajaei port, enabling Kyrgyzstan to access international markets through Iran.

The ambassador noted Kyrgyzstan's interest in benefiting from Iran's veterinary expertise, adding that Kyrgyzstan seeks to import veterinary medicines and vaccines from Iran.

Both sides agreed on implementing the previous meeting's provisions and preparing for the 14th Joint Commission in Tehran.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Trump's Return Unlikely to Impact Iran's Economy

TEHRAN - Governor of Iran's Central Bank, Mohammad Reza Farzin, in a TV program addressed the economic impacts of former U.S. President Donald Trump's potential return, indicating that it would not have a significant direct effect on Iran's economy. He also expressed optimism that Iran's inflation rate would fall to 30% by the end of this Persian year and could further decline to around 20% in the following year.

Farzin reassured that Trump's presence would not directly affect Iran's economy, as Iran currently has limited financial and commercial interactions with the United States and Europe. However, he noted the potential for indirect global repercussions stemming from Trump's policies on U.S. economic activities, which could indirectly influence global markets and financial conditions worldwide.

Pointing out a recent reaction in cryptocurrency markets, Farzin highlighted how Bitcoin saw a 20% rise following Trump-related news, whereas Iran's currency market only experienced a slight 1% change. This restrained response, he explained, is largely because Iran has reduced economic dependency on the West and has strengthened regional partnerships. Iran's participation in the BRICS alliance, he added, has increased resilience, providing a level of insulation from global market fluctuations driven by U.S. policies.

The Central Bank governor emphasized Iran's growing economic partnerships within the BRICS nations. Through operational collaboration with member countries, Iran has already eliminated the U.S. dollar in certain trade agreements. Farzin explained that although the U.S.'s future approach to Iran and its neighboring countries remains uncertain, Iran has increased its foreign exchange reserves and taken measures to ensure economic stability.

Farzin also suggested that Trump's return could potentially foster stronger cooperation among BRICS countries. He noted that while there were initial concerns over psychological impacts on markets from U.S. election results, Iranian economic players had tempered their expectations to align with current realities.

According to Farzin, economic stabilization continues to be the central policy of the Iranian Central Bank, with a focus on meeting the country's foreign currency needs through formal channels. To regulate the gold and currency markets, the Central Bank has introduced measures like the Iranian Exchange Center, which handles transactions involving gold bars, coins, and foreign currencies.

Farzin detailed that essential goods and medicines are currently funded at an exchange rate of 28,500 toman per dollar, with a budget that reached \$10 billion since the start of the year. For other trade, currency is supplied at around 50,000 toman per dollar through the NIMA system, covering roughly half of the nation's currency needs.

In addition, he discussed the recently launched Commercial Currency Market,

which aims to centralize import and export currency demands, allowing for market-determined rates that could replace unofficial rate signals. Farzin mentioned that the influence of the unofficial currency market on Iranian commodities is limited, as it mainly impacts specific items like real estate and durable goods, with smuggling and capital flight playing significant roles in shaping this market.

Due to ongoing sanctions, Iran has diversified its asset holdings, investing in gold reserves as a security measure. Farzin assured that Iran's current gold reserves are both accessible and reliable. Additionally, he said that Iran has recently gained access to previously blocked assets held in foreign countries through successful diplomatic efforts.

As a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and a leader in a coalition of six countries, Farzin noted that Iran holds approximately \$5.5 billion in capital, with a 50% increase in capital within the IMF largely denominated in Iran's national currency. This shift, he emphasized, is strategically aimed at protecting Iran's national interests.

Reflecting on inflation trends, Farzin explained that after intensified sanctions were imposed in 2018, Iran experienced inflation rates of 40% to 50%. Since adopting a stabilization policy, monthly inflation rates have steadily decreased. By October, the point-to-point inflation rate had dropped to 34.5%, with the annual rate falling to 38%. Farzin projected inflation to decrease further, aiming for a 30% rate by year-end and eventually entering the 20% range.

Iran's producer inflation has also seen significant reduction, now at 24.5% compared to near 100% in prior years, which Farzin attributed to a stabilized and predictable currency rate.

Farzin emphasized that controlling liquidity growth is a priority for the Central Bank, with a 25% target set for this year. He highlighted steps taken to manage bank balance sheets, aiming to ease liquidity constraints and prevent inflationary pressures. In a bid to support non-inflationary financing, the Central Bank introduced new financing instruments such as the "GAM Bonds" aimed at supporting production chains, with over 100 trillion toman allocated to various industries. The Central Bank is also preparing special deposit certificates with interest rates around 25% to further aid businesses and projects.

In line with Iran's commitment to enhancing BRICS collaboration, Farzin shared that Iran is working with BRICS countries to eliminate the dollar in mutual transactions. He outlined a three-step plan, starting with monetary agreements to facilitate direct currency exchanges, followed by the integration of bank card networks, and finally bypassing the SWIFT system for mutual transactions.

Minister Promises Global Recognition for Zand Dynasty Heritage

IRAN NEWS CULTURAL DESK



TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, announced plans to expand the Karim Khan Zand Citadel complex in Shiraz, paving the way for its addition to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The goal is to create a landmark even larger than Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan Square.

At the closing ceremony of the third International Multimedia Cultural Heritage Festival, Salehi Amiri highlighted the historical richness of Fars Province. "Fars is the land of mysteries and history, where the essence of Iranian civilization is vividly reflected," he stated.

Salehi Amiri pointed out that with over 3,700 nationally and internationally registered sites, Fars Province and Shiraz shine like a beacon of cultural significance both in Iran and around the world. He stressed that it is impossible to discuss Iran's cultural heritage without acknowledging Fars' integral role.

"Fars holds hidden stories in every corner. In Firuzabad alone, 119 sites have been nationally recognized," he noted. The minister expressed a desire for media to showcase these treasures daily to

inspire joy and pride among the people.

Emphasizing the importance of integrating cultural heritage into educational curricula, Salehi Amiri believes future generations should understand and take pride in Iran's legacy as the "land of the sun."

According to Salehi Amiri, it can be challenging to decide which aspects of Fars' vast cultural identity to highlight first. He described Fars and Shiraz as a "flowing spring," capable of nourishing the world.

Recognizing a cultural gap in understanding and appreciating Iranian identity, he sees the festival as a step towards reconnecting young and old alike with Iran's rich heritage. "We need to share the wisdom of Iran's literature and arts with the world," he said.

Highlighting Iran's cultural diversity, Salehi Amiri stressed that every Iranian, regardless of race, color, or gender, is connected to the nation's legacy. He called on cultural leaders to bridge generational divides by embracing fresh perspectives and engaging with younger generations.

Iraq's Abu Flous Port Ready to Boost Trade Relations with Iran



TEHRAN - The Director of Abu Flous Port in Iraq's Basra Province highlighted Iran as a key economic partner, expressing readiness to collaborate on expanding trade and reducing the impact of sanctions.

Speaking on Saturday at a meeting with representatives from the Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce, Captain Nazer Jabbar Al-Waisi led a commercial delegation from Iraq's Abu Flous Port. He noted that Iraq has five ports, three of which are currently active, and emphasized the recent infrastructure developments at Iraq's Faw Port, where five terminals were inaugurated just days ago.

Captain Al-Waisi explained that five major economic and infrastructural projects are underway at Faw Port, designed to further develop the Silk Road trade route. This expansion will allow goods to be transported from around the world through Faw and will simplify trade routes to Turkey as well. He stated that Faw Port could reduce trade times by a month and acknowledged the beneficial collaboration from Khuzestan's private sector, which he believes will foster trade growth between Iraq and Iran.

Al-Waisi underscored the necessity of strengthening Iraq-Iran trade relations based on cultural, religious, and national ties, noting that enhanced cooperation will yield positive outcomes for the region.

In reference to sanctions, Al-Waisi voiced Iraq's willingness to cooperate with Iran to help alleviate the impact of these measures, while also acknowledging Iran's role in stabilizing Iraq. Security, he said, is essential for trade, and Iraq's stability is due in part to Iran's support. He welcomed all commercial interactions with Iran as beneficial to both countries.

The meeting focused on fostering Iraq-Iran commercial ties, with Al-Waisi suggesting that Iranian traders could take advantage of Iraq's ports to increase exports, with incentives available for businesses operating in these areas. He highlighted Iraq's strong demand for imported goods, positioning this as an advantage for Iranian producers.

He noted that a friendly rivalry exists between Iraq's Abu Flous Port in Basra and the Shalamchah border market in terms of imported goods. The Director invited officials from Khuzestan's ports, exporters, and producers to also consider trade routes through Iraqi ports.

Steel exports are particularly robust at Abu Flous, he said, encouraging Iranian traders to capitalize on these facilities for swift and secure shipments to Iraq.

Al-Waisi suggested that formal cooperation should be established between Khuzestan and Iraq for the export of steel and clinker (a raw material for cement production) through Abu Flous Port. He proposed that a memorandum of understanding for further maritime trade cooperation be signed between Khuzestan and Iraq.

Over the past month, two Iraqi trade delegations have visited Khuzestan to explore investment opportunities, invited by the Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce.

Tehran Showcases Technological Capabilities in Beijing



TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to China emphasized Tehran's technological capabilities and called for stronger bilateral cooperation in technology and increased exports of Iranian-made goods and services to the Chinese market.

The opening ceremony of Iran's national pavilion at the China International Import Expo (CIIE) was attended by key figures including Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Head of the Iran Trade Development Organization; Mohsen Bakhtiar, Iranian Ambassador to China; Saeed Sarkar, Head of the Strategic Technology Development Center in the Vice Presidency of Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy; Mohammad Reza Kashfi Neyshabouri, Deputy for Management Development and Investment; Mahmoud Najafi Arab, Head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture; Wang Liping, Director of the Asia Department of China's Ministry of Commerce; and representatives from the Shanghai Council for the Promotion of International Trade, along with other Chinese government officials.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Bakhtiar highlighted Iran's focus on showcasing its technological and scientific achievements. He mentioned that the responsibility of organizing Iran's national pavilion was entrusted to the Vice Presidency of Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, in collaboration with the Transformation and Advancement Cooperation Center, aiming to present Iran as a modern, advanced nation and foster closer relations between Iran and China in these sectors.

Putin Signs Into Law Mutual Defense Treaty With North Korea

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a treaty on the country's strategic partnership with North Korea which includes a mutual defence provision, according to a decree published on Saturday.

The accord, signed by Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in June after a summit in Pyongyang, calls on each side to come to the other's aid in case of an armed attack.

Russia's upper house ratified the treaty this week, while the lower house endorsed it last month. Putin signed a decree on that ratification that appeared on Saturday on a government website outlining legislative procedures.

The treaty galvanises closer ties between Moscow and Pyongyang since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.



U.S. to Speed Up Interceptor Missiles Delivery to Ukraine



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The United States will ship more than 500 interceptor missiles to Ukraine in the weeks ahead, speeding up Washington's military aid delivery to the war-ravaged country, the Wall Street Journal reported on Saturday.

Citing an unnamed Pentagon official, the WSJ reported that before the U.S. presidential election, in which former Republican President Donald Trump defeated his Democratic rival Vice President Kamala Harris, the U.S. administration had been aiming to deliver the remainder of its aid to Ukraine by April.

The delivery of the interceptors for the Patriot missile defense system and the National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System, or NASAMS, should meet Ukraine's air defense needs for the rest of this year, the newspaper reported, citing an unnamed U.S. official.

Reuters could not independently verify the Wall Street Journal report.

The office of Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, the Ukrainian defense ministry, the Pentagon and the U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment.

Zelenskiy has been pleading for months for more weaponry and for NATO allies to help Ukraine to strike deep into Russia with long-range Western missiles.

The 2-1/2-year-old Russian war in Ukraine has triggered the biggest confrontation between Russia and the West since the depths of the Cold War, and Russian officials say the war is now entering its most dangerous phase.

On Friday, President Joe Biden's administration said it would allow U.S. defence contractors to work in Ukraine to maintain and repair Pentagon-provided weaponry, in a significant policy shift that aims to aid Kyiv's fight against Russia.

EU Moves to Reassure Ukraine of Unwavering Support After Trump Win



KYIV (Dispatches) - EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell sought to reassure Ukraine of Europe's unwavering support, days after Donald Trump's election win cast uncertainty over its war effort.

Borrell, the first top EU official to visit Kyiv since Trump's win, said that the purpose of his visit was to stress EU support for Ukraine, as its war with Russia nears 1,000 days.

The European Union has already provided 122 billion euros (\$131 billion) in military and financial support to Ukraine and trained about 60,000 Ukrainian soldiers, said Borrell, adding that the bloc aimed to reach 75,000 by the end of the winter.

"This support remains unwavering. This support is absolutely needed for you to continue defending yourself against Russia's aggression," Borrell said during a joint news conference with the Ukrainian Foreign Minister in Kyiv.

"We need faster deliveries and fewer self-imposed red lines," he said, reaffirming his support for Ukraine's plea to allow long-range strikes on military targets inside Russia.

Support from Western allies has been key to Ukraine's ability to defend itself against Russia's much larger and better-equipped enemy.

High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba visit to an exhibition displaying destroyed Russian military vehicles, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kyiv, Ukraine November 9, 2024. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

Although the United States is a key ally, Trump has criticised the scale of its military and financial support for Kyiv and has pledged to end the war quickly, without saying how.

Qatar Stalls its Gaza Ceasefire Mediation



DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar has told Palestinian militant group Hamas and Israel it will stall its efforts to mediate a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal until they show "willingness and seriousness" to resume talks, its foreign ministry said on Saturday.

The Persian Gulf country has been working alongside the United States and Egypt for months on fruitless talks between the warring sides in Gaza and any disengagement from that process could further complicate efforts to reach a deal.

The Qatari ministry also said press reports on the future of the Hamas political office in Doha were inaccurate without specifying how. Reuters had on Friday quoted a U.S. official saying Washington had asked Qatar to expel the group and that Doha had passed this message on to Hamas.

An official briefed on the matter also said on Saturday that Qatar had concluded that with its mediation efforts paused, Hamas' political office there "no longer serves its purpose."

But three Hamas officials speaking off the record said the group had not been informed by Qatar that its leaders were no longer welcome in the country.

Qatar has hosted Hamas political leaders since 2012 as part of a deal with the U.S., and the group's presence there has facilitated the progress of talks.

The war erupted when Hamas gunmen attacked Israeli communities on Oct. 7 2023, killing around 1,200 people and seizing another 253 as hostages. Israel's military campaign has levelled much of Gaza and killed around 43,500 Palestinians.

"Qatar notified the parties 10 days ago during the last attempts to reach an agreement that it would stall its efforts to mediate between Hamas and Israel if an agreement was not reached in the round," Qatar's foreign ministry said.

"Qatar will resume those efforts with its partners when the parties show their willingness and seriousness to end the brutal war."

There was no official response from Hamas or Israel.

The latest round of talks in mid-October failed to produce a deal, with Hamas rejecting a short-term ceasefire proposal. Israel

has previously rejected some proposals for longer truces. Disagreements have centred on the long-term future of Hamas and Israel's presence in Gaza.

Washington had told Qatar that Hamas' presence in Doha was no longer acceptable in the weeks since the group rejected the October proposal, a U.S. official said on Friday.

Qatar has not set a deadline for Hamas' political office to close or for Hamas leaders to leave Qatar, the official briefed on the matter said.

Qatar's foreign ministry said the Hamas office had been a channel of communication between the parties in Gaza and said it had contributed to a brief ceasefire and exchange of some hostages a year ago.

The official briefed on the matter pointed to a previous episode in April when Qatar had reconsidered Hamas' presence in the country, leading some Hamas officials to leave for Turkey.

"After two weeks, the Biden administration and the Israeli government asked Qatar to request their return," the official said, adding that Washington has said negotiations were ineffective when the Hamas leaders were in Turkey.

Qatar, designated as a major non-NATO ally by Washington, has long sought a role as a link between Western powers and their adversaries in the region.

The country hosts the largest U.S. airbase in the Middle East but also allows Hamas and Afghanistan's Taliban to operate offices in Doha. It also helped negotiate a prisoner exchange between the U.S. and Iran last year.

It is unclear how many Hamas officials live in Doha, but they include several possible replacements for leader Yahya Sinwar, whom Israeli forces killed in Gaza last month.

They include Sinwar's deputy Khalil al-Hayya, who has led ceasefire negotiations for the group, and Khaled Meshaal, widely seen as Hamas' diplomatic face.

The group's previous leader Ismail Haniyeh, who was assassinated in Iran in July almost certainly by Israel, was also based in Doha. His body was flown to Qatar for burial in early August.

Trump Completes Swing State Sweep by Taking Arizona

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Donald Trump won the state of Arizona in this week's US presidential election, US TV networks projected on Saturday, completing the Republican's sweep of all seven swing states.

After four days of counting in the southwest state with a large Hispanic population, CNN and NBC projected Trump had obtained its 11 electoral votes as he defeated Vice President Kamala Harris.

Outgoing President Joe Biden scored a narrow but crucial victory in Arizona in 2020 that condemned Trump to defeat after his first term in office.

The scale and strength of Trump's comeback, which also saw the real estate tycoon win the popular vote by a margin of around four million votes, has sent shockwaves through the defeated Democratic Party.

The Republicans have already regained control of the Senate and look well set to retain a majority in the House of Representatives thanks to support from white working class voters and a large share of Hispanics.

CNN has called Republican victories for 213 seats in the House, with 218 needed for a majority in the lower chamber.

The networks' figures show Democrats on 205 seats, although senior party figures are still hoping they can pull off a slim victory that would significantly curtail Trump's powers.

NBC sees the Republicans with 212 seats so far, and 204 for the Democrats. The other six swing states won by Trump in the presidential race are Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Nevada and Georgia.

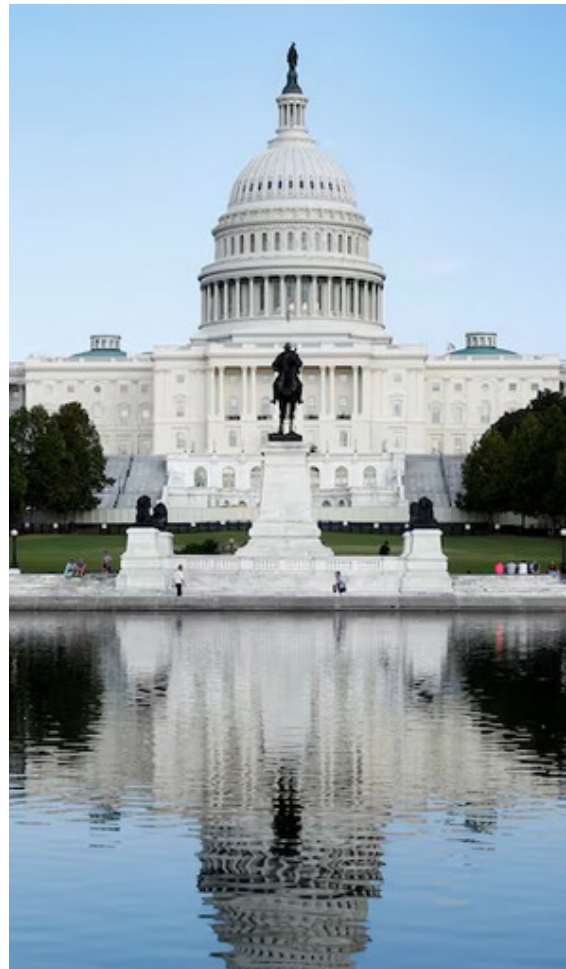
The latest good news for Trump came as the White House said Biden would meet with the president-elect at the White House on Wednesday.

Trump - who never conceded his 2020 loss - sealed a remarkable comeback to the presidency in the November 5 vote, cementing what is set to be more than a decade of US politics dominated by his hardline right-wing stance.

This type of meeting between the outgoing and incoming presidents was considered customary, but Trump did not invite Biden for one after making unsubstantiated election fraud claims that culminated in the January 6, 2021 Capitol riot.

Trump also broke with precedent by skipping Biden's inauguration, but the White House has said the Democratic president will attend the upcoming ceremony.

Biden's meeting with Trump will take place in the Oval Office, the White House said Saturday, with the clock ticking down to the ex-president's return to



power.

Trump, the 78-year-old ex-reality TV star, won wider margins than before, despite a criminal conviction, two impeachments while in office and warnings from his former chief of staff that he is a fascist.

Exit polls showed that voters' top concerns remained the economy and inflation that spiked under Biden in the wake of the Covid pandemic.

The 81-year-old president, who dropped out of the White House race in July over concerns about his age, health and mental acuity, called Trump on Wednesday to congratulate him on the election win.

Democrats have been pointing fingers over who is to blame for Harris' decisive loss after she replaced Biden at the top of the ticket roughly 100 days before the election.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi took aim at Biden, telling The New York Times that "had the president gotten out sooner, there may have been other candidates in the race."

As the Democrats weigh what went wrong, Trump has begun to assemble his second administration by naming campaign manager Susie Wiles to serve as his White House chief of staff.

She is the first woman to be named to the high-profile role and the Republican's first appointment to his incoming administration.

Trump on Saturday ruled out re-appointing two senior figures from his first administration, secretary of state Mike Pompeo and UN ambassador Nikki Haley.

Abrasive former ambassador to Germany Ric Grenell is seen as a frontrunner for the secretary of state position, as is Florida Senator Marco Rubio who called Trump a "con artist" and the "most vulgar person to ever aspire to the presidency" in 2016.

The other frontrunners for a place in the Trump 2.0 administration reflect the significant changes it is likely to implement.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a leading figure in the anti-vaccine movement for whom Trump has pledged a "big role" in health care, told NBC News on Wednesday that "I'm not going to take away anybody's vaccines."

The world's richest man, Elon Musk, could also be in line for a job auditing government waste after the right-wing SpaceX, Tesla and X boss enthusiastically backed Trump.

Thousands Protest Over Handling of Spanish Flood Disaster

VALENCIA (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people demonstrated in the eastern Spanish city of Valencia on Saturday over regional authorities' handling of devastating floods that killed more than 220 people in one of Europe's worst natural disasters for decades.

In the latest demonstration over the floods, protesters filled the centre of Valencia demanding the resignation of regional government leader Carlos Mazon and chanting "Killers!".

"Our hands are stained with mud, yours with blood," read one banner. Some demonstrators dumped dirty boots outside the government building while others plastered it with mud.

Residents in stricken areas accuse Mazon of issuing an alert too late, at 8 p.m. on Oct. 29, well after water was already pouring into many nearby towns and villages.

The Valencian leader has said he would have issued an earlier alarm earlier if authorities had been notified of the seriousness of the situation by an official water monitoring body. Mazon did not respond to Reuters' requests for comment.



"We want to show our indignation and anger over the poor management of this disaster which has affected so many people," said Anna Oliver, president of Accio Cultural del Pais Valencianno, one of about 30 groups that organised the protest.

Though the demonstration was largely peaceful, police charged stone-throwing protesters at one point and objects hurled at the city council building caused minor damage.

Following days of storm warnings from the national weather service from Oct. 25 onward, some municipalities and local bodies raised the alarm much earlier than the regional government.

For example, Valencia University told its staff on Oct. 28 not to come to work. Several town halls suspended activities, shut down public facilities and told people to stay home.

Weather service AEMET raised its threat level for heavy rains in the area to a red alert at 7:36 a.m. on Oct. 29.

Nearly 80 people are still missing in what is the most deadly deluge in a single European country since floods in Portugal in 1967 killed around 500.



Liverpool Sink Villa; City Suffer Another Defeat

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Liverpool opened up a five-point lead at the top of the Premier League as Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah struck in a 2-0 win over Aston Villa. The Reds took full advantage of Manchester City's latest defeat at Brighton earlier on Saturday to surge further clear of the champions. Liverpool failed to hit the heights of their second-half humiliation of German champions Bayer Leverkusen in a 4-0 Champions League win in midweek. But Arne Slot's men were again defensively solid to protect a sixth clean sheet in 11 league games and take a firm grip on the title race. "We have a margin but it is small. Many challenges to come for us," said Slot. Liverpool's stunning start to life under Slot has made light of Jurgen Klopp's departure and midfielder Alexis Mac Allister conceded even he was not sure if the Reds could challenge for the title. "If we are top of the league by five points then it means something," said the Argentine international. "If you asked me before the season started I would not say we were candidates but now it looks like we are." Villa's fourth consecutive defeat in all competitions sees Unai Emery's men slip to eighth, but only one point off third-placed Nottingham Forest. "When they scored the second goal the match more or less was finished, but until that second goal we had chances to score," said Emery. "It was not enough to get points here but I am positive that we are moving forward."

The Anfield crowd was fired up by news of City's 2-1 defeat at Brighton and inspired a fast start from the home side, but it was from two Villa corners that Liverpool's best chances of the first half materialised. Meanwhile Pep Guardiola suffered four consecutive defeats for the first time in his managerial career as Manchester City's dismal spell hit a new low with a late collapse in their 2-1 loss at Brighton. With just 12 minutes left, Guardiola's troubled side were clinging onto the lead given to them by Erling Haaland in the first half. But they collapsed in the closing stages as Joao Pedro equalised before Matt O'Riley bagged Brighton's winner seven minutes from full-time. For the first time in his glittering career as a manager with City, Bayern Munich and Barcelona, Guardiola has been beaten four times in a row. It was also the first time City had lost four successive games since a run between April and August 2006 under Stuart Pearce. After exiting the League Cup to Tottenham and suffering a first league loss since December at Bournemouth, City were thrashed 4-1 by Sporting Lisbon in the Champions League in midweek. The slump continued as they failed to kill off Brighton before the second half implosion that threatens to derail their bid for a fifth successive Premier League title. Second-placed City were two points behind leaders Liverpool, who extended that gap to five points after they beat Aston Villa at Anfield.

Vinicius Hat-Trick Fires Real Madrid to 4-0 Rout of Osasuna



MADRID (Dispatches) - Vinicius Junior scored a hat-trick to help Real Madrid bounce back from two consecutive home defeats with a 4-0 win over Osasuna in La Liga, but defender Eder Militao suffered a severe knee injury. Later Villarreal rose provisionally third with a 3-0 win at home against Alaves. Hammered by Barcelona in a league Clasico and then outplayed by AC Milan in the Champions League, Carlo Ancelotti's Madrid side badly needed this confidence-boosting victory at the Santiago Bernabeu. The Spanish and European champions thrashed Osasuna thanks to Vinicius' treble, while Jude Bellingham scored his first goal of the season for Los Blancos. However, Madrid's superstar striker Kylian Mbappe failed to find the net again and has scored one goal in his last seven matches. Brazilian centre-back Militao ruptured his cruciate ligament in his right knee and is set to miss the rest of the season, while Rodrygo and Lucas Vazquez were also brought off hurt. "It's horrible to see these injuries, especially Militao's," said Bellingham, of his team-mate who missed most of last season with a similar injury in his left knee. "He has fought so hard to come back and be here with us... it breaks your heart." Second-placed Madrid reined in Barcelona's lead at the top of La Liga to six points before the Catalans visit Real Sociedad. "Vinicius made the difference again today, as he has done on many occasions," Madrid coach Ancelotti told reporters.

Qualifiers Take Titles as Gauff Wins WTA Finals

LONDON (Dispatches) - Denis Shapovalov won his second ATP Tour title -- and first in five years -- by defeating home-country favorite Hamad Medjedovic 6-4, 6-4 at the Belgrade Open in Serbia. The only other championship trophy for Shapovalov, of Canada, came in Stockholm in 2019. This trophy, however, was presented by Serbian legend Novak Djokovic. Shapovalov, a tournament qualifier, won in 77 minutes on the strength of 13 aces and a winning percentage of 82 on first-serve points. The 25-year-old missed the second half of 2023 because of injury and spent this season working back into form. For Medjedovic, 21, it was his first ATP Tour final. French qualifier Benjamin Bonzi defeated Great Britain's Cameron Norrie 7-6 (6), 6-4 to win his first-ever ATP Tour-level final in Metz, France. The 28-year-old entered the tournament with an 0-6 mark on the season. He beat a pair of seeded opponents -- No. 2 Casper Ruud of Norway and No. 8 Alex Michelsen -- along his way to the final. Against Norrie, Bonzi recorded 10 aces and saved 13 of 14 break points. The match was remarkably close, with Bonzi winning 81 and Norrie 76 of the total 157 points. Bonzi had 37 winners against 27 unforced errors, with Norrie registering 33 and 22,



respectively. Meanwhile Coco Gauff became the youngest player to win the WTA Finals title in 20 years with a gruelling 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2) victory over Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen in Riyadh. The 20-year-old Gauff rallied back from 3-6, 1-3 down, and erased a one-break deficit twice in the decider, to overcome Zheng in three hours and four minutes -- the second-longest WTA final in 2024. "This means a lot to me," said Gauff. "This is the first professional women's tennis event here in Saudi Arabia and I'll forever be etched in history in that standard. "It's the second biggest title in our sport, so it means a lot. And just to be etched in history forever, it's pretty cool and hopefully there's more events here." By clinching the trophy, Gauff pocketed a record US\$4,805,000 -- which is the largest ever payout at a professional, sanctioned tour event. Gauff had knocked out the world's top two players, Aryna Sabalenka and Iga Swiatek, en route to the final and picked up her fourth top-eight win of the week with an impressive physical performance against Zheng.

Juventus Triumph in Derby to Surge Into Top Three



MILAN (Dispatches) - Juventus edged a tense derby against city rivals Torino 2-0 to move within one point of the summit of Serie A, while AC Milan dropped points in an entertaining draw at Cagliari. Strikes in both halves from Timothy Weah and Kenan Yildiz were enough to give Juventus victory over their fellow side from Turin and send the Old Lady up to third in the table with 24 points. The victory, provisionally, leaves Juventus level on points with champions Inter Milan in second and one behind league leaders Napoli. "It was another good performance where we brought the three points home," Juventus coach Thiago Motta told Sky Sport Italia. "I am happy both with the result and the performance, in a derby on home turf, and thank our fans for their support." With the pair in action against each other on Sunday, Juventus are ensured to have cut the gap to at least one of them this weekend.

However, Juve could nonetheless exit the Champions League places this week as Atalanta, Fiorentina and Lazio are all still to play, and trail Motta's side by just two points. Torino's form has fallen off drastically in recent weeks after they had sat top of the table in September. With one win in their last seven league outings, Torino now sit 11th in the league and 10 points adrift of their city rivals. The deadlock was broken on 18 minutes when Weah tapped into an open net after Vanja Milinkovic-Savic had failed to hold onto Andrea Cambiaso's driven effort from wide on the left. Both sides struggled to create chances in a match that will likely not live long in the memory of either set of fans. Yildiz then ended Torino hopes of a draw six minutes from time with a stooping back-post header. AC Milan fell further behind the title race after twice throwing away the lead in a thrilling 3-3 draw with Cagliari. The Rossoneri remain seventh but are now four points off the Champions League places and seven behind pacesetters Napoli. Rafael Leao scored twice in the first half to give Milan the lead after Nadir Zortea's early opener. Cagliari struck back soon after the break through Gabriele Zappa before Tammy Abraham restored the visitors' lead, only for Zappa to score a sensational equaliser in the final stages. "This draw is clearly a step backwards," AC Milan coach Paulo Fonseca said to DAZN, referencing his side's midweek 3-1 victory in the Champions League against Real Madrid.

"Our problem today was our defence, we lacked aggression, we let them cross too much, we lost too many aerial duels, it's not possible to win a match in those conditions." For the home side, the draw takes them to 16th place on 10 points, one clear of the drop zone.

Mobley Helps Cavaliers Rally Past Nets 105-100

CLEVELAND (Dispatches) - Evan Mobley had 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Donovan Mitchell scored 22 as the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied for a 105-100 win over the Brooklyn Nets, becoming the 12th team in NBA history to start a season 11-0. Darius Garland scored eight of his 20 points in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which trailed 82-68 with 35 seconds left in the third. Garland put the Cavaliers ahead for good at 97-96 with two free throws. The 2015-16 Golden State Warriors hold the league record after winning their first 24 games. They lost to the Cavaliers in the NBA Finals. Cam Johnson scored 23 points and Dennis Schroder and Cam Thomas had 22 apiece for the Nets. Brooklyn trailed by 15 in the second quarter, but held Cleveland to a season-low 13 points in the third with Johnson and Thomas combining for 19. The Cavaliers failed to score 110 points for the first time, ending their NBA-record streak of doing so in 10 consecutive wins to open a season. Hall of Fame center Wilt Chamberlain and



the 1960-61 Philadelphia Warriors had held the mark with nine. Coming off a 108-104 overtime loss in Boston one night earlier, Brooklyn couldn't stop the Cavaliers' league-leading offense in the fourth quarter. Cleveland made 14 of 18 shots in the final period. New coach Kenny Atkinson admitted "there was a little extra" at stake for him facing Brooklyn for the first time since being fired by the Nets in 2020. Mobley took the message to heart, making 10 of 11 field goal attempts. After Johnson buried a 3-pointer with 4:23 left to extend Brooklyn's lead to 96-89, the Cavaliers answered with 10 straight points. Garland scored four in a row, then fed Mobley for a dunk to complete the game-changing run. The Cavaliers are two victories from matching the longest streak in franchise history. Cleveland has won 13 in a row three times, all with franchise icon LeBron James on the roster, last doing so from Nov. 11 to Dec. 6, 2017.