

In a Message to Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq, President Masoud Pezeshkian Congratulated the Omani People and Government on the Arab Country's National Day and Reiterated His Gov't Determined to Strengthen Ties With Muscat

IRAN NEWS

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U.S. Maximum Pressure Will Fail Again



TEHRAN - A deputy Iranian foreign minister says any attempts by the upcoming administration of US President Donald Trump to re-impose Washington's "maximum pressure" policy against Iran will be met with "maximum resistance" on the part of the Islamic Republic.

Majid Takht Ravanchi, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi's deputy for political affairs, made the remarks to The Financial Times.

Trump undertook the strategy during his first presidency, unilaterally and illegally leaving a historic nuclear agreement between Iran and world powers and returning and even intensifying the sanctions that the deal had lifted.

If Trump adopted such an approach again, "maximum pressure will be met with maximum resistance," Takht Ravanchi said.

In response to the United States and others' non-commitment to and violation of the nuclear deal, the Islamic Republic markedly expanded its nuclear energy activities and further invigorated its trade ties with its international and regional partners.

The Western pressure, meanwhile, failed to force Iran into returning to the negotiation table under duress, while the Western parties remained in contravention of the agreement.

"We will continue to work around sanctions, diversify our trade partners, and strengthen regional relations to maintain calm," Takht Ravanchi added.

The ranking diplomat said re-imposition of the American policy would not "lead to significant changes," including in the oil sector.

"If the Trump administration decides to pursue the maximum pressure policy in the oil market again, it will surely fail. In today's world, no single country can dictate terms to the entire international community."

The official, however, said, "We do favor negotiations, as we proved [with that deal]," but reminded that it was Trump and his officials, who "sabotaged the negotiations previously" and were "unwilling to negotiate."

"It is up to them to practice the same approach for another four years and fail again. But that is an irrational thing to do," Takht Ravanchi said.

The official reiterated that Iran had kept the door open to negotiation, saying the nuclear deal could be used as a frame of reference for potential further agreement.

"If the other parties return to their commitments, we have repeatedly said that we are willing to do the same."

He added, though, that it was "premature" to speculate about the courses of action that the upcoming American administration would take concerning Iran.

"As for negotiations, we need to observe US policy and decide how to respond accordingly," Takht Ravanchi said.

Eradicating Terrorism Regional, Int'l Responsibility



DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has said regional countries and the international community are required to bring an end to terrorism gripping West Asia.

He made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, in the Syrian capital of Damascus on Sunday.

Assad said that eradicating terrorism is a regional and international responsibility, warning that the threats posed by the scourge endanger all people across the world.

The Syrian president and the Iranian defense chief also discussed defense and security issues in the region, as well as ways to strengthen Tehran-Damascus cooperation aimed at countering terrorism and enhancing regional stability and security.

Earlier in the day, Nasirzadeh, who is on a two-day visit to Damascus, held talks with his Syrian counterpart, Lieutenant General Ali Mahmoud Abbas.

Iran was the first country to rush to Syria's aid following the 2011 outbreak of foreign-backed violence there.

In 2017, military advisory assistance provided by the Islamic Republic helped the Arab nation score a monumental victory over the Daesh terrorist group.



Zionist Regime Not Deserve to Be Represented at Int'l Bodies

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman emphasized that the Israeli regime does not deserve to be represented at international organizations.

Speaking in his weekly presser and in response to a question regarding the presence of an Israeli delegation in Baku, the Republic of Azerbaijan, for the COP29 summit, Esmail Baghaei stated on Monday that a regime that does not believe in the principles and goals of the United Nations and whose existence is an affront to a nation (the Palestinians) fundamentally lacks the qualifications to participate in international organizations.

Baghaei pointed out the nuclear threats posed by the Tel Aviv regime against Iran, adding, "The UN special rapporteur on human rights has also requested that countries collectively prevent the Zionist regime from being a member of the United Nations and based on this logic, there is no necessity for this regime's presence in international organizations where issues and problems are to be discussed. We welcome other countries joining this campaign."

The spokesman argued that regarding United Nations Security Council Resolution 533, which prohibits any threats or use of force against Iran's nuclear facilities, this resolution explicitly states that the UNSC is obligated to intervene.

"In these matters, the UNSC must take a firm stance, and this is a legal aspect," he urged, adding, "Politically, our region is well aware of the law-breaking approach of the Zionist regime."

As to Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani's recent visit to Syria and Lebanon, he said, "Larijani's visit signifies the utilization of all Iran's capacities to advance diplomatic goals. The message was that Iran continues to provide strong support for Syria and Lebanon against the ongoing aggressions of the Zionist regime."

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the development of relations with other countries based on preservation of dignity, expediency, national security, and also defense of regional interests, the spokesman underlined.

"We also said previously that the channel of communications between Iran and the United States is the Swiss Embassy, which represents the US interests in Tehran."

From a few years ago, Iran has been holding talks with the five member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which has good capacities for cooperation, Baghaei noted. He further referred to the document on cooperation between the two sides as the latest development in Tehran-EAEU ties.

If the document is approved by the Iranian parliament and the EAEU, considerable capacities will be created for bilateral relations, he added.

In his remarks, Baghaei reiterated that the Islamic Republic will properly respond to the anti-Iran measure taken by European countries to impose sanctions against Tehran.

The European countries insist on their false claim that Iran has transferred missiles to Russia for the Ukraine war, while Ukrainian officials have rejected the claim, the spokesman underlined, expressing that it seems those certain states should review their previous claims.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said, "Iran has never been part of the issue of Ukraine."

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The issues between Iran and the United States are narrowed to an individual (US president-elect Donald Trump) and a specific administration is not a right approach, Baghaei announced.

The dark record of relations between the two sides goes back to the past seven decades, he said adding that the US administration has not have any goodwill or made any effort to compensate for its mistakes.

Iran regards US administrations' deeds as the base of its approach, he said.

In another part of his remarks, Baghaei said that the Zionist regime's threats against Iran are against international law and Iran will respond in its own way and appropriately.

Continuing Iran's consultations as a member of the NPT, Iran discussed the questions and ambiguities regarding its nuclear program, despite the fact that its basis is not technical and precise. In the meeting between Grossi and Iran's Foreign Minister, Iran's positive approach in dealing with the issues raised between Iran and the Agency was emphasized.

One of the things emboldening Tel Aviv to continue and expand the scope of its crimes is the regime's certitude that it would not be punished, he said. He added that in the past year, the Zionist regime has continued on its own path by the United States' obstructing the implementation of justice in the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

On the Iranian Foreign Ministry's plans to enhance trade interactions with other countries, the spokesman noted, "Utilizing diplomatic capacity to promote Iran's trade relations with various countries has been a consistent topic in our diplomatic discussions with regional and non-regional countries. The BRICS group and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are examples of this attempt."

Responding to a question regarding the increase of Iranian advisors in Syria, which was raised to senior Advisor to the Iranian Foreign Minister for Special Political Affairs and Iran's chief negotiator Ali Asghar Khaji, the spokesman explained, "That question was about the doubts on the continuation of the strong and strategic relations between Iran and Syria, and Khaji's answer was that the positive trend between the two sides and Iran's support for Syria will continue."

Baghaei also referred to the behavior of the Western states in dealing with pro-Palestine demonstrators, saying, "The treatment of supporters of Palestine in Western countries is inappropriate and aligns with the declared and practical policies of European countries towards the Zionist regime."

"One reason for this issue, in our view, is that suppressing supporters of Palestine instead of tackling the root causes contradicts the human rights slogans that the West promotes," the spokesman stated.

As to the relations between Tehran and Beijing, he clarified, "The relationship between Iran and China is strong, and both sides remain determined to utilize all capacities to deepen and expand relations and cooperation. A roadmap for long-term cooperation is also being followed up on seriously by both sides, with efforts being made to utilize all its potential."

Trump's Re-Election Will Not Affect Iran-China Strategic Ties

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the election of Donald Trump as US president for a second term will have no impact on Iran's foreign policy, particularly its ties with China.

Ali Akbar Velayati, who advises the Leader on international affairs, made the remarks during a meeting with China's Ambassador to Tehran Cong Peiwu on Sunday.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed the latest regional and international developments.

Velayati stressed the importance of promoting "strategic" relations between Tehran and Beijing, saying, "Iran and China have long, close and sincere cultural and historical relations and have had many positive effects on each other."

He added that the two countries are determined to further boost cooperation.

"Undoubtedly, the development of relations between Iran, China, and Russia in various fields, including in the Shanghai and BRICS formats, will have lasting and important effects," the top Iranian official emphasized.

During its 23rd virtual summit in July 2023, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) officially approved Iran's full-fledged membership in the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population.

Iran officially became a member of the BRICS at the beginning of 2024, five months after



it announced its acceptance as a full member of the group along with Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

BRICS was formed by and initially consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, which collectively represent around 40% of the global population and a quarter of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

The Chinese ambassador, for his part, said his country attaches great significance to the expansion of relations with Iran and called for strengthening bilateral cooperation.

He added that Iran and China should not allow anything to affect their relations, which are based on mutual respect.

Iran and China signed a landmark 25-year partnership agreement in March 2021 in an attempt to strengthen their long-standing economic and political alliance.

The deal was announced during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Tehran back in 2016. It sets the outlines of China-Iran cooperation in political, cultural, security, defense, regional, and international domains for the next 25 years.

China is Iran's first economic partner, with a distant 30% share of the country's foreign trade compared to other countries.

China is the most important source for Iran's technological and industrial needs, the most important buyer of Iranian oil and the only country that has chosen the policy of keeping its economy open to Iran at a time of mounting sanctions pressure.

FM Slams Reported EU Plans to Impose Sanctions on Iran's Shipping Lines



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that reports that the European Union (EU) is planning to impose sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) are another sign the bloc's behavior toward Iran has no legal, logical, or moral basis.

Araqchi said in a post on the X on Sunday that the planned EU move would again be based on unfounded claims that Iran has been delivering missiles to Russia for use in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

He said that the EU had used the same pretexts to announce sanctions on Iran Air last month, a decision he described as an "indiscriminate targeting of air travelers".

"Now, the EU is using the same non-existent missile pretext to also target our shipping lines," said the minister, adding, "If anything, it will only compel what it ostensibly seeks to prevent."

A reporter of the US-based newspaper the Wall Street Journal claimed in a Saturday report that the EU is set to announce sanctions on the IRISL.

"More EU Iran sanctions coming Monday over missile deliveries to Russia as previewed previously. Will include a few sectoral sanctions, including shipping," Laurence Norman wrote on his X account.

Araqchi said that the sanctions on Iranian shipping lines would backfire, adding that they would be against freedom of navigation as a basic principle of the law of the sea.

Iran has repeatedly rejected accusations it has been supplying weapons to Russia for use in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

The EU accused Iran Air and two other Iranian airlines in its sanctions announcement in mid-October that they have had a role in the alleged supply of drones and missiles from Iran to Russia.

The decision led to Iran Air canceling its regular weekly flights to seven destinations in EU countries.

UK's Outrageous Denial of Gaza Genocide Makes London Complicit in Israel Crimes



LONDON (Dispatches) - Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei has taken a swipe at the United Kingdom for its denial of the ongoing genocide in Gaza, saying such an "outrageous" stance makes London complicit in the Israeli regime's crimes.

Baghaei made the remarks in a post published on his official X account on Sunday, days after a United Nations committee said Israel's warfare in the Gaza Strip features the characteristics of genocide.

In a report published on November 14, the UN Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices also lashed out at the Tel Aviv regime for "using starvation as a method of war," which has resulted in "mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions" for Palestinians.

Baghaei noted that the UN Special Committee's finding that the Israeli war on Gaza is consistent with genocide is no less than reconfirmation of what has already been repeatedly said by other UN officials, such as Francesca Albanese, the special rapporteur on Palestine, and warned by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

"What is new though is UK's outrageous denial of an ongoing ostentatious genocide," the spokesman wrote, stating that the death toll from Israeli airstrikes on Gaza since the beginning of the war on October 7, 2023, has reached 43,846, with injuries up to 103,740.

Baghaei stressed that UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy's remarks denying Palestinians were facing genocide in Gaza are "simply in line with his government's policy of persistent provision of lethal weapons and political support to the genocidal apartheid regime, which makes the UK complicit and accountable in the carnage due to violation of international obligations enshrined in the Genocide Convention."

IRAN NEWS



Arab Gov'ts Show Interest in Investing in Iran's Oil Industry

TEHRAN (ILNA) - According to a report by the Fuel Optimization Company, Head of the company Mr. Hossein Hosseinzadeh discussed his meeting with Mohammad Abdelbaset, the economic and investment representative of Arab governments. In this meeting, they explored bilateral and multilateral cooperation between Iran and Arab countries, expressing mutual interest in expanding collaboration in various energy sectors, particularly investment in oil and gas. Mohammad Abdelbaset attended the event as a special guest at the opening ceremony of the 37th Handicrafts Exhibition in Iran. These discussions highlight a strong commitment to broadening partnerships and creating new opportunities in energy and handicrafts sectors between Iran and Arab nations.

Tehran-Moscow Gas Swap Talks Progressing



TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Russia, Kazem Jalali, addressed Russia's preference for using the Red Sea route over Iran for transit to India. He emphasized that the current competition among transit corridors underscores the strategic importance of the Rasht-Astara railway, a crucial link in the North-South Corridor. Jalali noted that the U.S. reaction to the project demonstrates its significance, as it challenges other global transit routes.

Jalali stressed the need for Iran to secure its share in regional transit and accelerate its efforts. "The world will not wait for us," he said, urging swift action to enhance Iran's presence in global corridors.

He highlighted agreements reached between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Russian President Vladimir Putin during a meeting in Kazan. Jalali mentioned that his recent visit to Iran was connected to ongoing discussions about transit and corridor cooperation between the two nations.

Jalali revealed that discussions with Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development have been held to expedite the implementation of the Rasht-Astara railway. He confirmed Russia's strong interest in participating in the project, as it is vital for strengthening the North-South Corridor.

He explained that delays in finalizing the railway contract were partly due to a six-month transition period during Iran's 2021 government change. However, with the new administration in place, the project has gained momentum. The railway's final route and costs have now been determined, and the contract is expected to be signed soon.

Jalali also highlighted Russia's intention to invest in Iran's energy projects, including gas swap agreements. Ongoing negotiations on gas swaps between the two countries are nearing completion, with only minor issues left to resolve.

He noted that discussions in Kazan between Iranian officials and President Putin included plans to extend a gas pipeline from Russia through Azerbaijan to Iran. While precise figures on Russia's energy investments are not yet available, Jalali stated that the scope of cooperation is extensive.

North-South Corridor Should Be Pursued More Seriously



TEHRAN - The CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, during a meeting with Oleg Belozyorov, CEO of Russian Railways, emphasized strengthening cooperation and developing the North-South Corridor.

Jabarali Zakeri, who met with Belozyorov on the sidelines of the 81st meeting of the Council for Rail Transport of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries, stressed the importance of further collaboration and advancing the North-South Corridor project.

In the meeting, the Iranian Railways CEO highlighted the robust relations between the two nations, stating, "Iran and Russia enjoy excellent political ties, and Iran Railways welcomes the expansion of relations with Russian Railways."

Zakeri noted that currently, about 10% of the country's cargo is transported via rail and underscored the need for improvements in areas such as electrification and railway expansion.

He emphasized the need for greater attention to the North-South Corridor project, saying, "We must pursue this project more seriously. While leveraging the existing capacity, we should also work on increasing it."

The Iranian Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development elaborated on the rail connections between the two countries, stating that the Iranian rail network connects with the Russian rail system at two points on the Caspian Sea and three rail border crossings: Amirabad and Caspian ports, as well as Incheh Borun and Sarakhs borders.

Zakeri expressed optimism, saying, "With more meetings between railway experts from both countries and decisive actions by managers, we can achieve significant progress in this area."

Oleg Belozyorov, CEO of Russian Railways, highlighted the importance of the North-South Corridor, mentioning that 36 container trains have been dispatched towards the Persian Gulf, and monthly train operations along this route were achieved in 2022 by reducing transit times.

Belozyorov added that a memorandum of understanding on container transportation was signed in 2024, resulting in the operation of four trains per month.

He also addressed removing barriers for transporting oil and coal via the North-South Corridor and establishing suitable tariffs. Regarding the Rasht-Astara railway project, Belozyorov stated, "This project holds particular importance for Russia, and we are ready to collaborate to achieve shared goals."

The 81st meeting of the Council for Rail Transport of CIS countries was held on November 6-7 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

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ICCIMA President Calls for Greater Focus on National Cooperation and Global Engagement

TEHRAN - In a recent session discussing Iran's 2024 fiscal budget bill, the President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Samad Hasanzadeh, expressed concerns over the lack of specific incentives or support measures for enhancing the country's industrial production capacity.

Speaking during the 18th meeting of the Chamber's 10th term board of representatives, Hasanzadeh highlighted several pressing issues facing the economy, including global challenges, national policy shortcomings, and private sector struggles.

Hasanzadeh noted that while the proposed budget reflects transparency and consolidation efforts, fundamental reforms are absent. He criticized the heavy reliance on taxation and the issuance of government bonds, which could exacerbate pressures on the productive sectors of the economy. Additionally, he pointed out the limited scope of tax exemptions and support measures in the current fiscal framework.

"The government's financial policies appear primarily designed to reduce tax benefits rather than encourage growth in productive sectors," he remarked. With the anticipated return of Donald Trump to the White House in the U.S., Hasanzadeh warned of increased economic uncertainties for Iran and called for proactive measures to mitigate potential impacts.

Hasanzadeh urged the government to prioritize effective global engagement, de-escalation of international tensions, and stronger collaboration with the private sector and citizens in governance. He argued that these measures are

critical to navigating the economic challenges ahead.

"It is imperative for the government to work more closely with the private sector to ensure economic stability and growth, especially given the challenging international and regional dynamics," he said.

Citing reports on Iran's business environment, Hasanzadeh lamented the lack of progress in improving economic conditions. He revealed that the average capacity utilization rate of businesses had dropped to 41% in the spring, signaling a severe underutilization of resources. Moreover, economic optimism among business owners had reached its lowest level in 20 months.

On the topic of privatization, Hasanzadeh criticized the mismanagement and accumulated losses of state and semi-state entities. He called on the government to adopt a more strategic approach to privatization, ensuring that the process aligns with constitutional guidelines and empowers capable private-sector leaders.

"It is regrettable that state-run entities, which have long relied on public funds, continue to operate at a loss, burdening the national budget. Effective privatization can prevent further financial damage and foster growth," he emphasized.

The Chamber's recommendations, compiled in collaboration with research centers and regional offices, have been submitted to parliament. Hasanzadeh expressed hope that lawmakers would incorporate these insights into finalizing the budget, steering the economy toward stability and growth.

ASEAN Ambassadors Showcase Unity Through Culinary Diplomacy in Tehran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - In a blend of flavors and diplomacy, ambassadors from ASEAN nations swapped their formal roles for aprons at the "ASEAN Crab Event" hosted at the Malaysian Embassy in Tehran. The event celebrated Malaysia's upcoming chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025 and spotlighted the diverse culinary heritage of Southeast Asia.

Four ambassadors from the ASEAN region showcased their unique cultural identities by preparing crab dishes emblematic of their home countries. Guests, including Iranian officials, diplomats, and food enthusiasts, were taken on a culinary journey as the ambassadors shared stories about the cultural roots and significance of each recipe.

"This event epitomizes ASEAN's core value: unity in diversity," said Ambassador Khairi bin Omar of Malaysia. "Through food, we share our stories, foster understanding, and strengthen bonds with our Iranian hosts."



The lively gathering transformed the embassy into a culinary and cultural hub, filled with the aroma of freshly cooked crab and the buzz of conversation. Attendees were not just passive spectators but active participants, tasting the vibrant flavors and engaging with the narratives behind the dishes.

The ASEAN Crab Event aimed to go beyond a mere display of culinary skills. It was a testament to how cultural diplomacy can serve as a bridge between nations, fostering deeper connections through shared experiences. With Malaysia set to lead ASEAN next year, the event also underscored the bloc's ongoing efforts to promote regional cooperation and cultural exchange.

One attendee captured the essence of the event, remarking, "Today, we didn't just enjoy delicious food; we experienced the spirit of ASEAN."

As the evening concluded, the event left a lasting impression, highlighting how the universal language of food can strengthen international ties and bring cultures closer together.

Iran's Exports to Iraq Surpass \$7 Billion



TEHRAN - Yahya Al-Eshaq, head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, described Iraq's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a significant opportunity for Iran. In an interview with ILNA, he stated that this development could boost trade between the two countries. Iraq's WTO membership would compel it to adhere to international regulations that it currently does not enforce, including transit laws. For instance, under WTO rules, countries along transit routes should not charge fees for goods passing through their territories. However, Iraq, which has not yet committed to these regulations, imposes transit fees on goods, treating all transit goods as imports. This has effectively closed Iraq's transit route for Iranian traders.

Al-Eshaq noted that while the Iraqi parliament has approved a transit law, the accompanying regulations are yet to be finalized. Once implemented, Iraq could become a favorable transit route for Iran, potentially resolving trade imbalances with export destinations. However, until these fees are abolished, the transit route through Iraq remains economically unfeasible for Iran and its neighboring countries.

He also commented on the double tariffs imposed on goods transported from Iraq's Kurdistan region to central Iraq. Al-Eshaq explained that these tariffs should not be charged, but the central Iraqi government justifies them as a means to collect revenue from goods passing through Kurdistan to other parts of the country.

Discussing the 43% increase in Iran's ceramic and tile exports to Iraq this year compared to last, Al-Eshaq highlighted that Iran's production in this sector is twice the domestic demand. Meanwhile, Iraq's booming construction sector drives high demand for these products. Consequently, Iraq has become the largest foreign market for Iranian ceramics and tiles. Overall, Iran's exports to Iraq, in both value and volume, have been on a steady upward trajectory, reaching over \$7 billion in the first half of this year.

Iranian Civil Aviation Organization's Support Program for the Drone Industry



TEHRAN - The acting head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization (CAO), Hossein Pourfarzaneh, has announced the organization's commitment to supporting the drone industry, emphasizing the need for updated regulations to ensure flight safety and security for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Pourfarzaneh made these remarks on Sunday, November 17, 2024, during a consultative meeting with representatives from over 100 companies active in Iran's drone sector. He highlighted the significant role of drones as a key player in the aviation industry, noting their applications in various fields such as imaging, mapping, agriculture, design and manufacturing, repair, and maintenance. These activities have generated substantial financial turnover in the industry.

"Remote-controlled aerial vehicles represent a new economic frontier in aviation," said Pourfarzaneh, adding that the CAO plans to streamline processes and support companies operating in this sector. He stressed the necessity of updating and expanding regulations in line with the needs of this emerging industry.

Pourfarzaneh underscored the importance of continuous interaction and addressing operational challenges as key priorities for the CAO. He expressed optimism about witnessing significant growth and development in the drone industry in the near future, provided the right measures and policies are implemented.

As the regulatory authority, the CAO is firmly committed to the principles of flight safety and security. "Just as these principles are mandatory for commercial passenger aircraft, they are equally essential for unmanned aerial vehicles," Pourfarzaneh stated, underscoring the urgency of drafting and applying appropriate regulations for UAV operations.

He explained that the purpose of these consultative meetings, which involve stakeholders in the drone industry, is to incorporate their feedback into the regulatory framework. By revising and aligning regulations with the needs of producers and service providers, obstacles to quality production and service delivery can be effectively removed.

Peru, Japan Strengthen Ties With Defense and Mining Agreements

LIMA (Dispatches) - Peru's president signed defense and mining cooperation deals with her Japanese counterpart, following an official visit between the two leaders just after the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit hosted by Lima. The agreements were signed by Peru's President Dina Boluarte and Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, who in remarks touted what he described as a 10-year cooperation roadmap.

Part of the deal involves assistance to boost mining supply chains. Peru is one of the world's top copper producers, while Japan is a major consumer of the key industrial metal.



Ukraine Announces Power Restrictions After Massive Russian Missile, Drone Attack



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine said it introduced nationwide emergency power restrictions Monday after a "massive" Russian attack further damaged its already fragile energy grid ahead of a much-feared winter, with nine civilians also killed across the country on Sunday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow launched 120 missiles and almost 100 drones, targeting Kyiv as well as southern, central and far-western corners of the country.

Civilians were killed in the Mykolaiv, Lviv, Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Odesa regions in what officials in the capital called one of the biggest barrages in the almost three-year Russian invasion.

The devastation comes at a time when Moscow has been steadily advancing in Ukraine's east and with the imminent return of Donald Trump to the White House, raising fears over the future of US support for Kyiv.

"A hellish night," the spokesman for Ukraine's air force, Yuriy Ignat, said on social media, adding that Kyiv had downed "144 targets".

The country's grid operator Ukrenergo said it would apply emergency measures in all regions on Monday.

"Tomorrow, November 18, all regions will be forced to apply consumption restriction measures," Ukrenergo posted on social media. "The reason for the temporary return of restrictions is the damage to power facilities during today's massive missile and drone attack."

Almost three years of war with Russia has already destroyed half of Ukraine's energy production capacity, Zelensky has warned.

With the harsh Ukrainian winter fast approaching, the country is already suffering from major energy shortfalls, while its outmanned and outgunned forces have been ceding ground to the Kremlin's troops for weeks.

The giant attack followed two days after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz called Russian leader Vladimir Putin for the first time in almost two years, urging the Kremlin chief to end Moscow's devastating offensive.

Scholz Defends Call to Putin Ahead of Snap Elections



BERLIN (Dispatches) - German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his conversation with Vladimir Putin on Friday had given no indication of a shift in the Russian President's thinking on the war in Ukraine, but defended his much-criticised decision to phone the Kremlin.

Scholz's hour-long call with Putin, their first direct communication in almost two years, comes three months before snap elections in which the wildly unpopular chancellor faces a stiff challenge from populists of left and right who are demanding a resumption of diplomacy.

Critics, including Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said the call was a breach of Western solidarity for the sake of domestic political advantage.

"It was important to tell him (Putin) that he cannot count on support from Germany, Europe and many others in the world waning," Scholz told reporters.

"The conversation was very detailed but contributed to a recognition that little has changed in the Russian President's views of the war - and that's not good news."

The call comes amid signs of growing contact between Western-aligned leaders and the Kremlin, even as Russia makes small but steady battlefield gains in Ukraine's east.

U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres, previously Prime Minister of NATO member Portugal, attended a BRICS summit in Russia, while Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is expected to attend a security summit in EU member Malta in December.

Donald Trump, now re-elected to the U.S. Presidency, has said he can deliver a quick end to the war and has appointed to his cabinet some security figures seen as being better disposed towards Moscow than their predecessors.



Biden Allows Ukraine to Use U.S. Arms to Strike Inside Russia

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Joe Biden's administration has allowed Ukraine to use U.S.-made weapons to strike deep into Russia, two U.S. officials and a source familiar with the decision said on Sunday, in a significant reversal of Washington's policy in the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

Ukraine plans to conduct its first long-range attacks in the coming days, the sources said, without revealing details due to operational security concerns.

The move comes two months before President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Jan. 20 and follows months of pleas by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to allow Ukraine's military to use U.S. weapons to hit Russian military targets far from its border.

The change comes largely in response to Russia's deployment of North Korean ground troops to supplement its own forces, a development that has caused alarm in Washington and Kyiv, a U.S. official and a source familiar with the decision said. Zelenskiy said in his evening address that the missiles would "speak for themselves."

"Today, many in the media are saying that we have received permission to take appropriate actions," he said. "But strikes are not made with words. Such things are not announced."

The White House and U.S. State Department declined to comment. There was no immediate response from the Kremlin, which has warned that it would see a move to loosen the limits on Ukraine's use of U.S. weapons as a major escalation.

Vladimir Dzhabarov, first deputy head of the Russian upper house's international affairs committee, said Washington's decision to let Kyiv strike deep into Russia could lead to "World War Three".

"The West has decided on such a level of escalation that it could end with the Ukrainian statehood in complete ruins by morning," Andrei Klishas, a senior member of the Federation Council, Russia's upper chamber of parliament, said on the Telegram messaging app.

Ukraine's first deep strikes are likely to be carried out using ATACMS rockets, which have a range of up to 190 miles (306 km), according to the sources.

While some U.S. officials have expressed skepticism that allowing long-range strikes will change the war's overall trajectory, the decision could help Ukraine at a moment when Russian forces are making gains and possibly put Kyiv in a better negotiating

position when and if ceasefire talks happen.

It is not clear if Trump will reverse Biden's decision when he takes office. Trump has long criticized the scale of U.S. financial and military aid to Ukraine and has vowed to end the war quickly, without explaining how.

A Trump spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. But one of Trump's closest foreign policy advisers, Richard Grenell, criticized the decision.

"Escalating the wars before he leaves office," Grenell said, in an X post responding to the news.

Some congressional Republicans had urged Biden to loosen the rules on how Ukraine can use U.S.-provided weapons.

Since Trump's Nov. 5 victory, senior Biden administration officials have repeatedly said they would use the remaining time to ensure Ukraine can fight effectively next year or negotiate peace with Russia from a "position of strength".

The U.S. believes more than 10,000 North Korean soldiers have been sent to eastern Russia and that most of them have moved to the Kursk region and have begun to engage in combat operations. Russia is advancing at its fastest rate since 2022 despite taking heavy losses, and Ukraine said it had clashed with some of those North Korean troops deployed to Kursk.

Stretched by personnel shortages, Ukrainian forces have lost some of the ground they captured in an August incursion into Kursk that Zelenskiy said could serve as a bargaining chip.

"Removing targeting restrictions will allow the Ukrainians to stop fighting with one hand tied behind their back," Alex Plitsas, senior non-resident fellow at the Atlantic Council, said.

"However, like everything else, I believe history will say the decision came way too late. Just like the ATACMS, HIMARS, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Abrams tanks and F-16. They were all needed much sooner," he added.

Despite Zelenskiy's pleas, the White House had been reluctant to allow U.S.-supplied weapons to be used to strike targets deep inside Russia for fear this could ratchet up the conflict.

Republican U.S. Representative Mike Turner, who chairs the House Intelligence Committee, said in a statement that Biden's decision was long overdue and that there were still too many restrictions on Ukraine.

But he added: "This first step will put pressure on Vladimir Putin as President-elect Trump returns to the White House and works to end this war."

UN Chief Urges G20 Leadership to Rescue Stalled COP29 Climate Talks

RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Sunday called on G20 leaders gathering in Rio de Janeiro to rescue stalled concurrent UN climate talks in Azerbaijan by showing "leadership" on cutting emissions.

"A successful outcome at COP29 is still within reach, but it will require leadership and compromise, namely from the G20 countries," Guterres, who will attend the summit of the world's biggest economies starting Monday, told a press conference in Rio.

The annual UN talks in Baku are deadlocked at the midway point, with nations no closer to agreeing a \$1 trillion deal for climate investments in developing nations after a week of negotiations.

The talks are stuck over the final figure, the type of financing, and who should pay, with Western countries wanting China and wealthy Gulf states to join the list of donors.

All eyes have turned to Rio in the hope of a breakthrough.

"The spotlight is naturally on the G20. They account for 80 percent of global emissions," Guterres said, calling on the group to "lead by example."

Climate was an issue advanced by several of the leaders as they converged on Rio.

US President Joe Biden, making a stopover in the Amazon, talked up \$11 billion in bilateral climate financing his administration has allocated this year.

He also -- in a reference to President-elect Donald Trump taking over from him in two months -- declared that "nobody" could reverse the "clean energy revolution" directed by his government.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen and South African President



Cyril Ramaphosa in Rio jointly launched a campaign to boost renewable energies in Africa.

"Tripling renewables globally until 2030 would mean a cut of 10 billion tonnes of CO2 emissions," von der Leyen said at an event put on by the advocacy group Global Citizen.

She said the EU was increasing investment around the world for the building of infrastructure of renewables, "specifically in Africa" through the bloc's Global Gateway program -- designed to rival China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The European Union is the world's biggest contributor for climate financing, most of which goes through multilateral funds.

Chinese President Xi Jinping -- whose country is the planet's biggest polluter -- made his own plea for the G20 to step up international cooperation against climate change.

The leaders of the world's biggest economies should coordinate efforts in areas such as "green and low-carbon development, environmental protection, energy transition and climate change response," he said in a tribune published in Brazil's Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

The G20 should "provide more funding, technology and capacity-building support to Global South countries," he said.

Brazil is hoping to channel the focus on climate in the two-day G20 summit for it to feature prominently in the meeting's final declaration.

Marina Silva, Brazil's environment minister, said it was "fundamental" that the G20 participants "do their homework" and see to it that the COP29 negotiations move forward.

Dozens Killed and Wounded in Israeli Strikes Across Gaza

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Dozens of Palestinians were killed or injured in an Israeli strike on a multi-storey residential building housing at least six families in northern Gaza's Beit Lahiya town on Sunday, medics and residents said.

The Palestinian Civil Emergency said around 70 people were living in the property but the Gaza government media office put the number of those killed at 72.

The Israeli military, which has been fighting Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza since October 2023, said several strikes were conducted overnight on "terrorist targets" in Beit Lahiya with everything possible done to avoid civilian harm.

"All information released by the Hamas-run Ministry of Health should be treated with caution, as it has been repeatedly proven unreliable in previous incidents," it said.

Video footage of the strike site obtained by Reuters showed locals pulling bodies from a huge pile of rubble, with surrounding houses also damaged, some heavily.

The Israeli army sent tanks into Beit Lahiya and the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Jabalia, the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, last month in what it said was a campaign to fight Hamas militants waging attacks and prevent them from regrouping.

It said it has killed hundreds of militants in those three areas, which residents said



Israeli forces had isolated from Gaza City.

A statement by the armed wing of Islamic Jihad, an ally of Hamas, on Sunday said fighters blew up an Israeli army vehicle during fighting in Beit Lahiya. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the claim.

Later on Sunday, an Israeli strike killed five Palestinians, tasked with escorting aid trucks that entered the enclave, according to residents in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

Another strike in Gaza City killed two men, they added.

Earlier in the day, an Israeli air strike killed at least 10 people in the Bureij camp in the central Gaza Strip, when a missile hit a house, medics said. Four other people were killed in the nearby Nuseirat camp, they added.

Qatar has told Hamas and Israel it will stall efforts to mediate a Gaza ceasefire and hostage release deal until they show "willingness and seriousness" to resume talks.

The two warring sides continue to trade blame. Hamas wants a deal that ends the war, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the war can only end once Hamas is eradicated.



Bills Send Once-Perfect Chiefs to Loss Column

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - November 18 - Josh Allen's 26-yard touchdown run on fourth-and-2 with just over two minutes left sealed the Bills' 30-21 win in Orchard Park, N.Y., on Sunday as Buffalo dealt the Kansas City Chiefs their first loss of the season.

Facing the choice of attempting a short field goal or handing the two-time defending Super Bowl champions and quarterback Patrick Mahomes the ball with time to drive downfield for a win, Bills coach Sean McDermott turned the game over to Allen, who first looked to pass, then diced through a Chiefs defense that is among the league's best against the run.

Allen completed 27 of 40 passes for 262 yards and led the Bills (9-2) with 55 rushing yards.

With Buffalo's defense containing Mahomes, Allen bloomed in the fourth quarter. His 12-yard scoring pass to Curtis Samuel with 12:51 left punctuated a 10-play, 83-yard drive that took just over six minutes off the clock and gave the Bills a 23-14 lead.

But Mahomes led the Chiefs 70 yards in 4:58 to trim Buffalo's lead to 23-21 on his second touchdown pass of the day -- a 1-yarder -- to tight end Noah Gray. Mahomes finished with 196 yards, three TDs and two interceptions on 23-of-33 passing for Kansas City (9-1).

Chris Boswell kicked six field goals in a game for the third time in his career and Pittsburgh Steelers remained in first place in the AFC North with a 18-16 victory over visiting Baltimore Ravens.

Russell Wilson completed 23 of 36 passes for 205 yards and one interception for the Steelers (8-2), who won their fifth straight game. Payton Wilson made a key interception as Pittsburgh increased its division lead to 1 1/2 games over the Ravens (7-4).

Baltimore's Lamar Jackson was just 16-of-33 passing for 207 yards, one touchdown and an interception while dropping to 1-4 all-time as a starter against the Steelers. Derrick Henry rushed for 65 yards and a score on 13 carries and Odafe Oweh had 2 1/2 sacks for the Ravens, who committed three turnovers and lost for just the second time in their past nine games.

Quarterback Jordan Love passed and ran for a touchdown, Karl Brooks blocked a field goal as time expired and visiting Green Bay Packers edged skidding Chicago Bears 20-19.

Love scored the go-ahead TD on a 1-yard run with 2:59 to go. Rookie counterpart Caleb Williams drove the Bears downfield on the next possession, positioning them for a would-be game-winning 46-yard field goal. But Brooks blocked Cairo Santos' kick to help Green Bay (7-3) preserve the victory.

Love went 13-for-17 passing for 261 yards with a touchdown and an interception. Josh Jacobs had 134 yards of total offense and a rushing touchdown, and Christian Watson had a career-high 150 yards on four catches. Williams was 23-for-31 passing for 231 yards and added 70 yards on nine carries as Chicago (4-6) lost its 11th straight game in the all-time series with the Packers.

Jared Goff passed for a season-high 412 yards and four touchdowns as host Detroit Lions stretched its winning streak to eight games -- its longest in the Super Bowl era -- by pounding Jacksonville Jaguars 52-6.

Detroit's Amon-Ra St. Brown caught 11 passes for 161 yards and scored two touchdowns, while David Montgomery rushed for 75 yards and two scores. Goff bounced back from a five-interception outing against the Houston Texans as the Lions (9-1) scored touchdowns on their first seven possessions en route to their most lopsided win in franchise history.

Mac Jones passed for 138 yards and was intercepted once as the Jaguars (2-9) lost their fourth straight game. Jones got the start again after No. 1 quarterback Trevor Lawrence missed his second straight game with a shoulder injury.

Jonnu Smith caught six passes for a career-high 101 yards and two touchdowns and Tua Tagovailoa threw three touchdown passes to lead Miami Dolphins 34-19 over Las Vegas Raiders in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Dutch Plan Nice Adios for Nadal at Davis Cup Retirement Party



MÁLAGA (Dispatches) - Netherlands' Davis Cup team plan to gatecrash Rafael Nadal's retirement party by giving him "a nice adios".

Spanish superstar Nadal will call time on his iconic career at the Davis Cup Finals on homeground in Malaga this week, hoping to sign off with a fifth title in the competition to add to his 22 Grand Slam triumphs.

However, the Dutch will not be swayed by sentiment or the huge support and goodwill which will accompany 38-year-old Nadal into retirement when the two teams meet in the quarter-finals tomorrow.

"It's amazing that it might be the last match that Nadal plays and we hope to give him a nice adios," Dutch team captain Paul Haarhuis told a news conference on Sunday.

"It's the Davis Cup, anything can happen. We want more than being in the quarter-finals so we are going to have to play well and that's what we focus on."

The Dutch have had plenty of experience facing Spanish players this year.

Tallon Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof lost to Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz in doubles at the Paris Olympics.

Botic van de Zandschulp then sent Alcaraz crashing to a shock second round loss at the US Open.

"Rafa retiring here of course brings something special to the occasion," said van de Zandschulp.

"I'm really looking forward to the tie. It will be something special. Let's see how the madness is going to be."

Sinner Crowns Outstanding Season With ATP Finals Win Over Fritz

TURIN (Dispatches) - Home favourite and world number one Jannik Sinner became the first Italian to win the ATP Finals title following a dominant 6-4 6-4 victory over American Taylor Fritz.

Sinner, who lost last year's final to Novak Djokovic, did not put a foot wrong this time round as he finished undefeated and without dropping a set to earn \$4,881,500 in prize money.

In a rematch of this year's U.S. Open final, the 23-year-old Sinner broke Fritz's serve with a fine drop shot to take a 4-3 lead before notching the opener with his 10th ace in the match.

Fritz, the first American to reach the final since James Blake in 2006, also dropped serve in the second set by hitting a forehand long which allowed the Italian to seal the contest in 85 minutes.

"It's amazing. Just an amazing week. For me, it's a first title in Italy, so it means so much to me. I'm very happy



about that, it's very special," Sinner, who also beat Fritz in the group stage in Turin, said on court.

"I just try to understand what works best for each opponent, try to play the best tennis possible. That was the key, I played a high-level tournament from my side. At times I couldn't play better, so I'm very happy."

Sinner's stupendous year may have been clouded by an anti-doping controversy but on the court he has proved to be almost unstoppable, winning 26 of his last 27 matches and a tour-leading eight titles.

With his 70th win of the season, Sinner also became the first player to win the ATP Finals without dropping a set since Ivan Lendl in 1986.

Despite the loss, Fritz will reach a career-high fourth in the rankings when the new list is released on Monday.

"I just want to say congrats to Jannik and his team. Insane year, honestly. It's really impressive," the 27-year-old Fritz said.

Knicks Pull Away for Another Win Over Nets



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Karl-Anthony Towns had 26 points and 15 rebounds for the host New York Knicks, who pulled away in the second half for a 114-104 win over the Brooklyn Nets.

Towns scored 14 points during a decisive third-quarter run to help the Knicks sweep a two-game home set against the Nets. New York earned a 124-122 win in NBA Cup action on Friday.

Jalen Brunson, who hit the game-winning shot on Friday, posted a double-double on Sunday (12 points, 10 assists). OG Anunoby scored 24 points, while Josh Hart (20 points, eight rebounds, eight assists) flirted with a triple-double. Mikal Bridges added 21 points.

Cameron Johnson had 22 points for the Nets, who have lost three straight games and five of their past six. Dorian Finney-Smith and Cam Thomas had 16 points apiece while Jalen Wilson (15 points) and Noah Clowney (13) each scored in double figures off the bench.

Both teams held six-point leads in the first quarter before the Knicks scored the final seven points of the frame to take a 30-29 lead. Wilson opened the second quarter with a pair of free throws to give the Nets their final lead before Towns' putback gave the Knicks the lead for good and sparked an 11-0 run.

The Nets inched back and got within four points twice before Wilson's 3-pointer pulled Brooklyn within 60-57 at the half.

Finney-Smith began the third quarter with a layup, and Dennis Schroder's 3-pointer cut the Brooklyn deficit to 64-62 before New York scored the next six points to start a quarter-ending 31-19 run. The Knicks opened up a trio of 14-point leads, the last when Towns ended the period with a three-point play to extend the New York lead to 95-81.

The Nets got within eight points three times during a sludgy fourth quarter in which the teams shot a combined 35.9 percent (14 of 39). A pair of free throws by Ziaire Williams cut the Knicks' lead to 102-94 with 5:47 left, but New York responded with an 11-4 run and was never threatened thereafter.

England Secure Nations League Promotion, France Beat Italy

PARIS (Dispatches) - England blew away 10-man Republic of Ireland 5-0 to wrap up promotion to the Nations League top flight as four players netted their first international goals yesterday, while Adrien Rabiot scored twice as France beat Italy.

Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick to help Norway also top their group in League B.

Euro 2024 runners-up England secured top spot in Group B2 in interim boss Lee Carsley's final game in charge before the arrival of Thomas Tuchel as manager.

"I wanted the England team to be exciting to watch and be attacking," Carsley told ITV.

"I can only do what I was in control of. It's not a gamble with some of these players, they are excellent players."

Greece finished second despite a 2-0 win over Finland in the other game in the group and will head into the playoffs in March.

England struggled to break down a resolute Ireland in the first half at Wembley, with Noni Madueke twice having efforts blocked after threatening bursts into the box.

The game changed shortly after the interval when Liam Scates brought down Jude Bellingham after a fine pass from Harry Kane, conceding a penalty and being sent off for a second bookable offence.

Kane stepped up to slot his spot-kick past Ireland goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

England doubled their lead in the 56th minute, as Tino Livramento's



deflected cross found its way to his Newcastle teammate Anthony Gordon who volleyed home his first international goal.

Carsley's side scored their third goal in the space of five minutes when Conor Gallagher stabbed in a Marc Guehi flick-on from a corner to also net for the first time for his country.

Jarrod Bowen joined the party, sweeping home his first England goal with his first touch just seconds after coming on as a substitute.

Taylor Harwood-Bellis, on as a sub for his England debut, headed in Bellingham's cross in the 79th minute to round off the scoring.

France snatched top spot in Group A2 from Italy with a 3-1 success at the San Siro.

Les Bleus knew a two-goal win would see them finish first ahead of Italy in an otherwise dead rubber with both teams already through to the quarter-finals in March.

Rabiot headed in a second-minute opener from Lucas Digne's corner.

Left-back Digne played a big part in France's second goal in the 33rd minute as his excellent free-kick from long range struck the woodwork before hitting the back of Italy goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario and bouncing in for an own goal.