

Iranian and Venezuelan Officials Weighed Plans for the Expansion of Cooperation Between the Two Countries in the Scientific, Industrial, Economic and Commercial Fields

# IRAN NEWS

President Masoud Pezeshkian in a Message Expressed His Condolences to the Government and Nation of Pakistan and the Bereaved Families of the Victims of the Terrorist Incident and Strongly Condemned It

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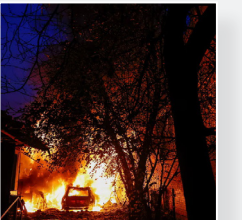


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### Pezeshkian to the West: You Are killing Women, Children



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says the US and certain European states have always adopted hypocritical approaches as bombs manufactured at their factories are killing women and minors worldwide. "You are a party which kills women and children with bombs. Shame on you!" he said in the southeastern city of Zاهدان on Thursday.

His remarks came after the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution tabled by Canada and supported by the West, accusing Iran of a "violation of its international obligations".

The draft resolution, approved by a vote of 77 in favor, 28 against as well as 66 abstentions on Wednesday, claimed that "respect for human rights" had deteriorated in the country.

Iran's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations Zahra Ershadi decried Canada's "selective, biased, and hypocritical" resolution against Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects the unjust and politically motivated resolution concerning the human rights situation in our country. While we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement, it is crucial to underscore the selective, biased, and hypocritical nature of this resolution," she said.

There are no boundaries to the hypocrisy, blatant double standards, and selective application of human rights in the foreign policy of Canada and its allies, Ershadi stated.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights. It will continue its constructive cooperation and engagement with UN human rights mechanisms as well as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)."

The accusations of human rights violations against Iran come as the humanitarian situation is further deteriorating in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's brutal aggression and the failure of the international community to put an end to it.

Meanwhile Pezeshkian emphasized the need for Iran to serve as a model and inspiration in the region, citing the country's Development Vision Plan crafted in alignment with Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's directives.

### Unilateral Sanctions Violate Int'l Law, Harm Ordinary People



LONDON (IRNA) - Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva Ali Bahreini has condemned unilateral sanctions as a blatant violation of international law, and called for greater public awareness, particularly in Western countries, about the harmful impacts of such measures.

In a speech on Thursday, Bahreini said that these sanctions, often imposed under the guise of promoting democracy or human rights, contradict fundamental principles such as sovereignty, non-interference, and peaceful conflict resolution.

Bahreini pointed to sanctions on Iran Air and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) as evidence of Western countries bypassing the United Nations framework in favor of limited, unilateral alliances.

He stressed that such sanctions disproportionately harm vulnerable populations, citing increased child mortality, malnutrition, restricted access to essential medicines, and reduced life expectancy.

Bahreini referred to World Health Organization studies that demonstrate heightened rates of child deaths and malnutrition in sanctioned countries.

The envoy also criticized Western media for neglecting the human toll of sanctions, accusing them of portraying sanctions as legitimate tools to influence governments while ignoring their catastrophic effects on ordinary citizens.



## Iran Activates Advanced Centrifuges in Response to IAEA's Unjust Resolution

TEHRAN - Iran has condemned an "unjustifiable" resolution passed by the UN nuclear agency against the country's peaceful atomic program, ordering the activation of advanced centrifuges in a reciprocal response.

In a joint statement released early on Friday, Iranian Foreign Ministry and the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said directives had been issued to "initiate the operation of a substantial number of advanced centrifuges of various models."

The measure, which is taken to safeguard Iran's national interests and address its growing need for civilian nuclear program, lies within the framework of the country's rights and obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, they said.

The joint statement came after the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s Board of Governors voted 19 to 3, with 12 abstentions, for the resolution that alleged Tehran had a poor cooperation with the agency and requested a "comprehensive" report on its nuclear activities "at the latest" by spring 2025.

The statement said that the "non-consensus" motion was approved under the "pressure and insistence" of Britain, France, Germany and the United States, despite lacking the support of approximately half of the 35-member Board of Governors.

It noted that the aforesaid states had proposed a "politically motivated" resolution against the Islamic Republic, rather than fostering the constructive atmosphere established during the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's recent visit to Tehran.

"In this context, the actions of the three European nations and the United States—countries with a documented history of reneging on their commitments, including under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and resorting to unlawful sanctions and pressures against the Iranian nation—are both confrontational and unjustifiable," read the statement.

"This politicized and destructive measure undermines the positive momentum achieved between Iran and the Agency blatantly contradicts the professed commitment of the three European nations

and the United States to preserving the integrity and impartiality of the IAEA. It lays bare their use of the nuclear issue as a pretext to advance illegitimate objectives."

It also reaffirmed Iran's resolve to continue its cooperation with the IAEA as before, strictly in accordance with the Safeguards Agreement.

"The principled policy of the I.R. of Iran has consistently been to engage constructively with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) within the framework of rights and obligations enshrined in the Treaty on the NPT and the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement," it asserted.

Speaking after the vote to Press TV, Mohsen Naziri Asl, Iran's permanent representative at the United Nations office in Vienna, said the resolution came despite "good promises" made by Grossi during his recent visit to Tehran.

Grossi said on Wednesday that Iran agreed to cap its stockpile of 60%-enriched uranium and to accept new inspectors the agency needs to have in Iran. He said that day that it was "a concrete step in the right direction," suggesting that he felt a resolution could undermine that progress.

"This resolution does not look at those promises as well as the roadmap we have agreed with the DG to move forward," Naziri Asl said, stressing, "Our reaction is of course in accordance with our legitimate rights."

Iran had already warned that any resolution against its peaceful nuclear program would be met with a quick response.

In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing the JCPOA with six world powers.

However, Washington's unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of sanctions against Tehran left the future of the deal in limbo.

In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it had accepted under the JCPOA after the other parties failed to live up to their commitments.

## Iran Condemns U.S. Veto at UN, Calls for an End to Israel's Immunity

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Amir Sa'ed Irvani, has strongly criticized the United States' veto of a Security Council draft resolution seeking an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Labeling the veto "shameful," Irvani called on the UN Security Council to end what he described as Israel's unwarranted immunity.

Speaking at a Security Council meeting on Thursday, Irvani argued that U.S. support for Israel continues to perpetuate the regime's impunity, facilitating ongoing aggression in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria. "The immunity of the Israeli regime is due to the unconditional support of the United States, as demonstrated once again by yesterday's veto," he said. "The inaction of the Security Council persists, failing its Charter-based mandate to uphold international peace and security."

During his address, Irvani highlighted the escalating violence in Syria, where Israeli airstrikes have targeted civilians and critical infrastructure. "Relentless acts of aggression by the Israeli regime flagrantly violate Syria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and international law," he stated. The ambassador linked these actions to broader regional instability, criticizing what he called a "systematic policy" by Israel to weaken Syria.

Irvani underscored the devastating impact of Israeli strikes on humanitarian efforts, particularly in areas bordering Lebanon. He cited figures of over 500,000 refugees crossing into Syria due to the escalating conflict, further straining the country's already fragile resources.

The ambassador also addressed the dire humanitarian situation in Syria, exacerbated by years of conflict, foreign intervention, and sanctions. He condemned unilateral U.S.



sanctions, describing them as tools of "collective punishment" that have crippled Syria's economy and hindered its recovery. "These actions are illegal and morally indefensible," Irvani asserted, calling for their immediate removal.

Despite significant challenges, Irvani praised the Syrian government's resilience, noting its efforts to extend permissions for humanitarian aid delivery through key border crossings like Bab al-Salam and al-Ra'i. He urged the international community to increase support for early recovery projects and infrastructure rebuilding to facilitate the safe return of displaced persons and refugees.

Irvani emphasized the need for the UN Security Council to hold Israel accountable for violations of international law, warning that unchecked aggression could ignite a broader conflict with global repercussions. "The Council must act decisively to end Israel's impunity," he stated.

The ambassador also reaffirmed Iran's commitment to the Astana peace process, which aims to address the Syrian crisis through dialogue and adherence to principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. He welcomed the resumption of the Constitutional Committee meetings in Syria as a step toward a sustainable political resolution.

Concluding his remarks, Irvani reiterated Iran's stance that any lasting solution to the Syrian crisis must be Syrian-led, free from foreign interference, and uphold the nation's sovereignty. He called for an end to the illegal presence of foreign forces and the exploitation of Syria's natural resources.

"The Syrian people deserve peace, dignity, and the opportunity to rebuild their nation," he said. "Through collective efforts, we can restore stability in Syria and the broader region."

### Anti-Iran Rights Resolution at UNGA Politically-Motivated, Unjustified



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has censured as politically-motivated and unjustified the adoption of a resolution against the Islamic Republic in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly over alleged human rights violations.

The draft resolution, approved by a vote of 77 in favor, 28 against as well as 66 abstentions on Wednesday, came after the committee, providing no evidence, accused Iran of "violation of its international obligations," and claimed that "respect for human rights" had deteriorated in the country.

Esmail Baghaei condemned the resolution pushed by Canada and some of its Western allies as a "hypocritical act and a clear example of using human rights as a tool for achieving illegitimate political goals."

Baghaei said the anti-Iran move by Canada, the United States, Germany, England and a number of other Western countries, which themselves violate human rights and are complicit in the Israeli regime's crimes and the genocide of the Palestinian people, is a "complete manifestation of their duplicitous act."

He said the resolution clearly undermines the noble concept of human rights as a tool for exerting political pressure on independent nations, adding, "The Islamic Republic of Iran will spare no action to protect and promote human rights."

Pointing to the Israeli regime's co-sponsorship in drafting and approving the resolution, Baghaei decried the move as a "grave political and moral scandal" for the West which is attempting to "devalue the noble concept of human rights and render international institutions devoid" of it.

Baghaei underscored, "As a democratic system, the Islamic Republic of Iran obliges itself to safeguard and promote human rights and fulfill its international obligations based on the principles enshrined in the [country's] Constitution."

The accusations of human rights violations against Iran come as the humanitarian situation is further deteriorating in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's brutal aggression and the failure of the international community to put an end to it.

### Response to Israeli Aggression Inevitable and Definitive



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's foreign minister says the response to the recent Israeli aggression against the country is inevitable and definitive, but its timing and method depend on suitable conditions.

Speaking on Thursday to Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen channel, Abbas Araqchi said, "Operation True Promise III will proceed as pledged."

He said that the Zionist entity has sought to provoke Iran and drag it into a regional war, but Iran has acted wisely to avoid falling into its trap.

He added that Iran's response to Israel will be neither delayed nor hastened.

However, he said that the response will be neither delayed nor hastened, and the Islamic Republic will respond "legally and in accordance with international law."

Araqchi warned Israel against attacking Iran's nuclear sites, saying the country would respond in kind to such a mistake.

He dismissed allegations about the vulnerability of Iran's nuclear facilities, emphasizing the strength of the country's air defense systems and warning "Israel" against any such attacks.

The top Iranian diplomat also pointed to a growing consensus among regional nations to confront Israel's actions.

Araqchi stressed that the ongoing war on Gaza and broader Israeli policies could destabilize the entire region.

"The region is experiencing unique circumstances, with ongoing aggressions by the Zionist entity," he said, warning of "the possibility of the war expanding and affecting all countries in the region."

He asserted that the Resistance would emerge victorious in its confrontation with Israel.

Araqchi said Israel has become an outcast, and regional countries have begun to acknowledge the mistake of normalizing relations with it.

# IRAN NEWS



## Mining and Mineral Industry Exports Surpass \$7.5b

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) reported a rise in mining and mineral industry exports from the start of the year until the end of October, following a recent decline. Export revenues have exceeded \$7.5 billion.

According to IMIDRO's report, Iran exported 36.6 million tons of mining and mineral industry products worth \$7.537 billion from late March to late October this year. During the same period last year, the country exported 35.9 million tons valued at \$7.43 billion. A comparison of the first seven months of this year with the same period last year shows a 2% increase in export volume and a 1% rise in export value.

## \$200b Capital Flight Amid Rising Migration Concerns in Iran



TEHRAN - Tehran Chamber of Commerce President Mahmoud Najafi Arab has raised alarms over the economic and social consequences of rising migration trends in Iran. Speaking at a seminar on the impact of migration on businesses, he described the phenomenon as a "chronic political, social, and economic illness."

Najafi Arab highlighted that migration, initially driven by aspirations for education and work, has escalated into a broader crisis. According to the Strategic Center of the Presidential Office, an average of 27,000 Iranians annually have sought residency abroad over the past decade. However, in 2022 alone, this figure surged to 65,000, with surveys suggesting 60% of Iranians are considering migration.

He expressed concern over the shifting profile of emigrants, which now includes startup entrepreneurs and skilled laborers. This has left businesses grappling with severe workforce shortages, posing a significant threat to Iran's economy. He also noted that these challenges are compounded by the country's aging population.

In addition to the human capital loss, Najafi Arab pointed to an alarming outflow of financial resources. Over the past decade, at least \$200 billion in capital has left Iran, even as the country struggles to attract much-needed investment. He attributed this capital flight to economic insecurity and uncertainty.

"The country is in dire need of economic development and reforms," Najafi Arab emphasized, warning that failing to address these issues could erode the remaining social capital.

The seminar underscored the urgent need for collective efforts to mitigate the impact of migration and secure Iran's economic future.



## Iran, Kazakhstan Seek Boosting Trade With Implementation of Eurasian FTA

TEHRAN - The Ambassador of Kazakhstan to Iran stated that the Eurasian Free Trade Agreement could significantly enhance trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, particularly in the private sector.

In a meeting with the head of Iran's Trade Development Organization, Ventalap Onalbayev emphasized the importance of improving transit routes for goods between the two countries, particularly through Iranian ports and the establishment of a railway line connecting Kazakhstan to Iran. He noted that the agreement is of great significance and is currently under review in the Kazakh Parliament.

Onalbayev further explained that the agreement would play a pivotal role in expanding trade between Iran and Kazakhstan, especially in agricultural products. He underlined that facilitating private-sector exchanges would be crucial in achieving these goals.

The head of Iran's Trade Development Organization, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, also stressed the importance of establishing a business council between Iran and Kazakhstan. He suggested that such a council would help foster bilateral trade relations, and Iran is eager to collaborate with Kazakhstan's Chamber of Commerce in this effort.

Dehghan Dehnavi highlighted the importance of transit and transportation for Iran and noted that activating the rail route could contribute to the development of international corridors. He added that Iran is fully prepared to expand trade relations with Kazakhstan, both in imports and exports, without any prioritization of one over the other. He pointed out that imports

benefit the public by enhancing welfare, while exports help increase employment and production.

Expressing interest in strengthening trade ties due to the shared cultural and religious history between the two countries, he emphasized that the most crucial step in this process would be easing trade barriers. "We must open the path for trade," he remarked.

The head of the Trade Development Organization also noted the numerous infrastructural projects currently underway in Kazakhstan, adding that Iranian contractors possess strong technical expertise to complete these projects with high quality and at competitive prices.

He further explained that many ongoing projects in the region have been praised as exemplary. By simplifying the banking guarantee process for Iranian contractors, more opportunities could be created for Iranian exporters of technical and engineering services.

Dehghan Dehnavi also mentioned that this year's Eurasian exhibition in Iran presents a great opportunity for Kazakh traders, businessmen, and manufacturers to increase their presence in the Iranian market. Given that the Eurasian Free Trade Agreement is currently being debated in Kazakhstan's Parliament, he expressed hope for a more significant Kazakh participation in this year's exhibition. He believes that this participation could pave the way for further strengthening trade relations between the two nations.

## 55b Euros Needed for Mining Investment



TEHRAN - The President of the Iranian Mining House has emphasized the necessity of financial planning and international cooperation to overcome challenges in the mining sector, including the need for Iran to join the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Speaking at a press conference for the 18th International Mining, Mining Industries, Machinery, Equipment, and Related Industries Exhibition (Iran ConMin), Mohammad Reza Bahraman highlighted the impacts of sanctions on the mining sector. He warned that without FATF membership, Iran's financial transactions in the sector would face persistent difficulties.

Bahraman stated that the mining sector requires a €55 billion investment over the next five years to achieve its development goals. Current investments in the sector stand at only €10 billion, underscoring the necessity for foreign capital.

He added that the mining sector's growth has been pegged at 13% in the country's seventh development plan. To meet this target, the Iranian Mining House has started technical and economic planning for the industry's progress.

The strategic planning also includes a needs assessment for the mining sector extending to 2050, emphasizing the long-term vision required for sustainable growth.

Bahraman described the importance of the Iran ConMin exhibition in fostering industrial and mining development, which has been held for 18 consecutive years. This year's event will take place from November 3-6 at Tehran's International Permanent Fairground. Invitations have been extended to industry professionals and traders, including delegations from countries like Saudi Arabia, which is seeking significant growth in its mining sector. Efforts are underway to enhance cooperation and invite Saudi representatives to next year's event.

The President of the Mining House stressed the need for Iran's mining industry to adopt advanced technologies and participate in international collaborations. Exhibitions like Iran ConMin serve as a platform to showcase Iran's achievements and foster innovative exchanges with global partners.

Bahraman acknowledged the overlap between Iran ConMin and another exhibition, Metafo (focused on metals, foundry, and related industries). This overlap has reduced the number of participants in the mining exhibition due to space and scheduling constraints, causing dissatisfaction among mining companies.

Emphasizing that mining development must align with safety and environmental standards, Bahraman called for adherence to international regulations. Referring to past incidents like the Tabas mining accident, he stressed that such tragedies must not be repeated. With only one out of 200 mines in Iran fully mechanized, significant investment in safety measures and technology is critical.

## Gasoline Consumption to Reach 250m Liters per Day by 1408



TEHRAN - In a press conference, Ali Mahmoudian, the head of the National Union of Alternative Fuels, highlighted a 25-million-liter gap between the country's gasoline production and consumption. Currently, daily gasoline consumption stands at 135 million liters, while production is at 110 million liters. Historical data shows an 8% annual increase in gasoline consumption over the past 50 years, and if this trend continues, consumption could reach 250 million liters per day by 1408 (2029-2030).

Mahmoudian also noted that diesel consumption is 97 million liters per day, mainly in the transportation and power generation sectors. However, due to low efficiency in vehicles and power plants, around 10% of this diesel is wasted.

According to the union head, daily fuel smuggling amounts to 10 million liters of gasoline and 8 million liters of diesel, leading to an annual loss of \$6 billion for the country. He attributed this smuggling to the price gap between local fuel prices and those in neighboring markets, making fuel smuggling an attractive option for various groups.

Mahmoudian criticized the \$60 billion annual subsidy for fuel, saying it drains national resources and has caused significant security and economic challenges over the past decade.

He also pointed out that renewable energy sources currently account for only 3% of the country's energy mix, compared to 26% globally, indicating the need for strategic reforms in renewable energy

development.

Addressing infrastructure issues, Mahmoudian stated that outdated energy infrastructure leads to a 10% energy loss, amounting to an estimated annual cost of \$15 billion. Iran remains one of the 10 most polluted countries in the world, with air pollution leading to health-related losses of \$8 billion annually.

Regarding alternative fuels, Mahmoudian mentioned the underperformance of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the transportation sector, which currently makes up 18% of the fuel mix for light vehicles. With better infrastructure, this share could reach 35%. However, more than three years of unpaid debts to CNG producers and contractors have created challenges in this sector.

Mahmoudian proposed using LPG for motorcycles and as an alternative fuel in power plants, while stressing the need for public-private partnerships to develop infrastructure. He emphasized that 70% of the national budget in 1404 would be spent on current expenditures, limiting the government's ability to invest in infrastructure development.

He also warned that without immediate action, the energy subsidy issue could result in severe problems for the country in the next decade. Mahmoudian urged the government to involve the public in resolving these issues through transparent investment mechanisms, such as issuing bonds for people to invest in profitable energy projects.

## Gov't Committed to Maritime Development



TEHRAN - The Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance emphasized the importance of maritime-based economic development, stating that the country has no choice but to prioritize this approach and will dedicate all efforts to its advancement.

In a ceremony on Thursday marking the appointment of the new CEO of the Kish Free Zone Organization, Abdolnaser Hemmati underlined the need to decentralize from Tehran. He stated that the 14th administration is committed to focusing on developing regions with high growth potential, particularly in the south of the country, through maritime economic development.

Addressing the impact of sanctions on the country, Hemmati noted that managers took office fully aware of the challenging conditions, and using sanctions as an excuse for underperformance is unacceptable.

Regarding the status of the Kish Free Zone, Hemmati acknowledged its gradual decline over time, which has heightened expectations for the current administration to reverse the trend.

He explained that free zones have lost their distinctive investment appeal, as they are now governed by the same regulations as the mainland, undermining their intended role in national development. Hemmati pointed out that attracting investors is currently easier in Tehran than in Kish, calling this a fundamental issue.

Reflecting on the late Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani's significant efforts to develop Kish, Hemmati lamented the current state of free zone regulations. "It is regrettable that we are striving to restore free zone regulations to what they were 20 years ago. However, we are committed to returning Kish to its former glory," he promised.

Hemmati praised the newly appointed CEO of the Kish Free Zone Organization as a young, capable, and motivated individual with academic expertise. He called for the submission of a three-year strategic development plan for Kish to the secretariat within the next three months.

Responding to concerns from Kish Island's business community, Hemmati affirmed the administration's efforts to restore Kish Air's operations on the island. However, he highlighted that the primary challenge is not the airline but the inability to create attractive investment opportunities.

## Global Community Urged to Act Decisively Against Israeli Regime



TEHRAN - At the first-ever Tourism Ministers' Meeting on Climate Action in Tourism, held during the COP29 conference in Baku, Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, called for international action on two critical fronts: addressing climate change within the tourism sector and condemning alleged war crimes by the Israeli regime.

Speaking at the conference, Salehi Amiri highlighted tourism's significant contribution to global carbon emissions, estimated at 8%. He underscored the industry's reliance on energy-intensive infrastructure and services, including transportation and accommodations, which contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.

"The rapid expansion of tourism demands urgent adoption of sustainable development models," he stated, advocating for the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency as immediate solutions to reduce tourism's environmental impact.

Iran has launched a series of initiatives to align its tourism sector with global sustainability goals. Key measures include: Investment in Renewable Energy: Offering loans for small-scale solar power plants at tourist sites; Stricter Environmental Standards: Enforcing green construction practices in tourism-related projects; Resource Conservation: Launching pilot projects to manage wastewater and reduce water consumption in five hotels; Eco-Friendly Accommodations: Establishing 6,000 environmentally friendly lodgings that integrate local materials, cultural heritage, and energy-efficient technologies.

The minister outlined additional steps to further green tourism, including: Over 50 sustainability-focused "quick projects"; Designating Mashhad and Shiraz as model eco-tourist destinations; Introducing environmental education in schools and promoting public awareness through seminars and initiatives like the "Iran Green Tourism Badge."

## Grindavik Volcano in Iceland Erupts Again

REYKJAVIK (Dispatches) - A fishing village and tourist hot spot in southwest Iceland was evacuated on Thursday after a volcano erupted in the region for the seventh time in a year, officials said.

The Icelandic Meteorological Office (IMO) reported an eruption of the Sundhnukagigar volcanic fissure outside the village of Grindavik on the Reykjanes Peninsula at 2314 GMT.

IMO specialist Benedikt Ofeigsson told public radio RAS2 that no infrastructure was currently threatened, but Grindavik—a small fishing town known for its nearby Blue Lagoon hot spa—was evacuated.

Volcanoes on the peninsula had not erupted for eight centuries until March 2021 when a period of heightened seismic activity began. Images broadcast live showed red-orange lava gushing from a long fissure surrounded by thick smoke.



## Former Brazil President Bolsonaro Faces Indictment for 2022 Coup Plot



RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - Brazilian police yesterday called for the indictment of ex-president Jair Bolsonaro over a 2022 "coup" plot to prevent current leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from taking office.

A police statement said its investigators concluded that Bolsonaro and 36 others planned the "violent overthrow of the democratic state."

"Federal police concluded on Thursday the investigation into the existence of a criminal organization that acted in a coordinated way in 2002 in an attempt to maintain the then-president in power," the statement said.

"The final report has been sent to the Supreme Court with the request that 37 individuals be indicted for the crimes of the violent overthrow of the democratic state, coup d'etat and criminal organization," it said.

It is up to Brazil's attorney general to decide whether the allegations are substantiated enough to warrant criminal charges being laid. The charge of attempting a coup carries a sentence of up to 12 years in prison.

Bolsonaro vowed to fight the allegation, and accused the Supreme Court judge overseeing the case of overstepping the law.

"The fight begins at the Attorney General's office," Bolsonaro said on his X social media account.

The judge, Alexandre de Moraes, "leads the entire investigation, adjusts statements, arrests without charges, fishes for evidence and has a very creative advisory team. He does everything that the law does not say," Bolsonaro said.

According to police, the alleged plot was hatched in the final months of Bolsonaro's 2019-2022 presidency.

Lula, a left-winger who was previously president between 2003 and 2010, won October 2022 elections to succeed the far-right Bolsonaro.

Police have not so far drawn a direct link between the alleged plot and an insurrection that took place in Brasilia on January 8, 2023, when thousands of Bolsonaro supporters stormed the capital's presidential palace, the Congress building and the Supreme Court.

## China Willing to Talk With U.S. to Push Forward Bilateral Trade



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China is willing to conduct active dialogue with the United States based on the principles of mutual respect and promote the development of bilateral economic and trade relations, vice commerce minister Wang Shouwen said on Friday.

Wang, also China's International Trade Representative, said China would be able to "resolve and resist" the impact of external shocks, responding to a question about the impact of potential tariffs from U.S. President-elect Donald Trump.

"We believe that China and the U.S. can maintain a stable, healthy, and sustainable development trend in economic and trade relations," Wang said at a press conference in Beijing.

China is also willing to "expand areas of cooperation and manage differences" with the U.S., Wang said.

With Trump's threat to impose tariffs in excess of 60% on all Chinese goods, which has rattled Chinese manufacturers and accelerated factory relocation to Southeast Asia and other regions, Chinese exporters are bracing for any trade disruptions.

Economists polled by Reuters believe the United States could impose nearly 40% tariffs on imports from China early next year, potentially slicing growth in the world's second-biggest economy by up to 1 percentage point.

Chinese authorities on Thursday announced a series of policy measures aimed at boosting foreign trade, including pledging to strengthen financing support to firms and expand exports of agricultural products.

## Russia Escalates Conflict With Missile Test as Putin Threatens Western Nations

DNIPRO (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the conflict in Ukraine had characteristics of a "global" war and did not rule out strikes on Western countries.

The Kremlin strongman spoke out after a day of frayed nerves, with Russia test-firing a new generation intermediate-range missile at Ukraine—which Putin hinted was capable of unleashing a nuclear payload.

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky branded the strike a major ramping up of the "scale and brutality" of the war by a "crazy neighbour", while Kyiv's main backer, the United States, said that Russia was to blame for escalating the conflict "at every turn".

Intermediate-range missiles typically have a reach of up to 5,500 kilometres (3,400 miles) – enough to make good on Putin's threat of striking the West.

In a defiant address to the nation, Russia's president railed at Ukraine's allies granting permission for Kyiv to use Western-supplied weapons to strike targets on Russian territory, warning of retaliation.

In recent days Ukraine has fired US and UK-supplied missiles at Russian territory for the first time, escalating already sky-high tensions in the nearly three-year-long conflict.

"We consider ourselves entitled to use our weapons against the military facilities of those countries that allow their weapons to be used against our facilities," Putin said.

He said the US-sent Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) and British Storm Shadow payloads were shot down by Moscow's air defenses, adding: "The goals that the enemy obviously set were not achieved".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov did however say Moscow informed Washington of the missile's launch half an hour before it was fired through an automatic nuclear de-escalation hotline, in remarks cited in state media.

He earlier said Russia was doing everything to avoid an atomic conflict, having updated its nuclear doctrine this week.

White House spokeswoman Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that Washington saw no need to modify the United States' own nuclear posture in response.

NATO spokesperson Farah Dakhllallah said Russia's use of the missile would "neither change the course of the conflict nor deter" the US-led defense alliance from backing Kyiv.

Ukraine earlier accused Russia of firing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) for the first time in history—a claim later downplayed by Washington.

The Ukrainian air force said Moscow had launched the missile as part of a barrage towards Dnipro, where local authorities said an infrastructure facility was hit and two civilians were wounded.

Putin said that Russia had carried out "testing in combat conditions of one of the newest Russian... missile systems" named "Oreshnik".

Criticising the global response to the strike—"final proof that Russia definitely does not want peace"—Zelensky warned that other countries could become targets for Putin too.

"It is necessary to urge Russia to a true peace, which is possible only through force," the Ukrainian leader said in his evening address.

"Otherwise, there will be relentless Russian strikes, threats and destabilisation, and not only against Ukraine."

The attack on Dnipro comes just days after several foreign embassies shuttered temporarily in the Ukrainian capital, citing the threat of a large-scale strike.

"It is another example of reckless behaviour from Russia," a spokesman for British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told reporters.

The spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Stéphane Dujarric, said the new missile's deployment was "another concerning and worrying development," warning the war was "going in the wrong direction".

Yet a US official played down the threat, saying on condition of anonymity that Russia "likely possesses only a handful of these" experimental missiles.

The head of the Dnipropetrovsk region where the city of Dnipro is located said the Russian aerial bombardment damaged a rehabilitation centre and several homes, as well as an industrial enterprise.

"Two people were wounded—a 57-year-old man was treated on the scene and a 42-year-old woman was hospitalised," said the official, Sergiy Lysak.

Russia and Ukraine have escalated their use of long-range missiles in recent days since Washington gave Kyiv permission to use its ATACMS against military targets inside Russia—a long-standing Ukrainian request.

British media meanwhile reported on Wednesday that Kyiv had launched UK-supplied Storm Shadow missiles at targets in Russia after being given the green light from London.

With ranges of 300 and 250 kilometres respectively, both missile systems' reach is far dwarfed by the experimental intermediate-range system fired by Russia.

Russia's envoy to London on Thursday said that meant Britain was "now directly involved" in the Ukraine war, with Andrei Kelin telling Sky News "this firing cannot happen" without UK and NATO support.

But the White House's Jean-Pierre countered that it was Russia who was behind the rising tensions, pointing to the reported deployment of thousands of North Korean troops to help Moscow fight off a Ukrainian offensive in Russia's border Kursk region.

## ICC Issues Arrest Warrants for Israel's Netanyahu, Gallant and Hamas Leader

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) - The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants on Thursday for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence chief, as well as a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Gaza conflict.

In their decision, the ICC judges said there were reasonable grounds to believe Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

Judges said there were also reasonable grounds to believe the blockade on Gaza and lack of food, water, electricity, fuel and medical supplies "created conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of part of the civilian population in Gaza, which resulted in the death of civilians, including children, due to malnutrition and dehydration".

The decision was met with outrage in Israel, which called it shameful and absurd. Gaza residents expressed hope it would help end the violence and bring those responsible for war crimes to justice. Hamas welcomed the warrants against the Israelis, and a senior official told Reuters it was a first step towards justice.

The warrant for Masri lists charges of mass killings during the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks on Israel that triggered the Gaza war, and also charges of rape and the taking of hostages.

Israel has said it killed Masri, also known as



Mohammed Deif, in an airstrike in July but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this. The prosecution indicated it would continue to gather information with respect to his reported death.

Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.

The United States, Israel's main diplomatic supporter, is also not a member of the ICC. It said it "fundamentally rejects" the move.

"We remain deeply concerned by the prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision," a White House National Security Council spokesperson said, adding that the U.S. is discussing next steps with its partners.

Global powers Russia, China and India have also not signed onto the ICC, the world's permanent war crimes court, which is backed by all of the European Union, Australia, Canada, Britain, Brazil, Japan and dozens of African and Latin American countries.

ICC prosecutor Karim Khan had announced on May 20 that he was seeking arrest warrants for alleged crimes connected to the Hamas-led attacks on Israel and the Israeli military response in Gaza. Israeli and Hamas leaders have dismissed allegations that they committed war crimes.

The court does not have its own police force to carry out arrests and relies on its 124 member states for that, with only limited diplomatic means to force them if they do not want to.

Khan called on signatories of the court's founding treaty "to live up to their commitment to the Rome Statute by respecting and complying with these judicial orders."

## Kim Jong Un Rules Out Diplomacy, Says U.S. Hostility Remains Unchanged

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Pyongyang's past diplomacy with Washington only confirmed its "unchanging" hostility towards his country, state media said Friday, months ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House.

While in office, former U.S. president Trump met with Kim three times, but Washington failed to make much progress on efforts to denuclearise North Korea.

Since Kim's second summit with Trump collapsed in Hanoi in 2019, the North has abandoned diplomacy, doubling down on weapons development and rejecting US offers of talks.

Speaking yesterday at a defence exhibition showcasing some of North Korea's most powerful weapons systems, Kim did not mention Trump by name but the most recent high-level talks with the United States were under his administration.

"We have already gone as far as we can go with the United States as negotiators, and what we became certain of is not the willingness of a great power to coexist," Kim said, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).



Instead, Pyongyang learned of Washington's "thorough stance of power and an unchanging, invasive, and hostile policy toward North Korea", Kim added.

Images released by KCNA showed what appeared to be its intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), hypersonic missiles, multiple rocket launchers and drones displayed at the exhibition.

The event featured Pyongyang's "latest products of the national defence scientific and technological group of the DPRK with the strategic and tactical weapons, which have been updated and developed once again," KCNA said, referring to the country by its official acronym.

Never before has the Korean peninsula faced a situation "that could lead to the most destructive nuclear war", Kim also said in his speech.

In recent months, North Korea has built closer military ties with Moscow, with the United States and South Korea saying Pyongyang has sent thousands of soldiers to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

A few months after Kim and Trump's first landmark summit in Singapore in June 2018, the then-U.S. president famously told a rally that he and the authoritarian leader had fallen "in love".



## Australia Edge Out U.S. to Reach Davis Cup Semis

MALAGA (Dispatches) - Australia set up a Davis Cup semi-final clash with defending champions Italy as doubles pair Matthew Ebden and Jordan Thompson sealed victory against the United States. Olympic champion Ebden and Thompson beat surprise pairing Tommy Paul and Ben Shelton 6-4 6-4 to put Lleyton Hewitt's side into their third successive semi-final of the men's team event. They will now have the opportunity to avenge last year's final defeat by Italy after world number one Jannik Sinner inspired the holders to a 2-1 victory over Argentina. The U.S. were slight favourites going into a battle between the two most successful nations in the competition's history, but Australia's Thanasi Kokkinakis beat debutant Shelton 6-1 4-6 7-6(14) in the opening singles after saving four match points. World number four Taylor Fritz then levelled it up with a 6-3 6-4 defeat of Alex de Minaur to send the tie to the doubles. American captain Bob Bryan sprung a surprise as he opted against sending out Olympic runners-up Rajeev Ram and Austin Krajicek and instead gambled on Shelton and Paul to try and get the 32-times champions to their first semi-final since 2018. But his plan backfired as Ebden and U.S. Open winner Thompson's greater doubles craft proved decisive. "As a captain you have to make tough decisions. This wasn't a black-and-white decision. It was razor-thin edge and we went with it," Bryan said. After Italy's women claimed the Billie Jean King Cup title in Malaga on Wednesday, the country's men will now be favourites to make it a momentous double for the nation.

Sinner, who won two of the year's four Grand Slams and the ATP Finals last week, was under pressure after Francisco Cerundolo gave Argentina the lead with a 6-4 6-1 defeat of Lorenzo Musetti. But he responded with a crushing 6-2 6-1 defeat of Sebastian Baez before returning to court inside the Martin Carpena Arena to join forces with Matteo Berrettini. The classy Italian duo turned up the heat to overpower Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni 6-4 7-5 and spark noisy celebrations from their team mates and fans. Italy will be favourites against Australia in Saturday's semi-final but Hewitt's team, beaten in the last two finals, will be up for the fight. "We have such a rich history in this competition and these boys know it's a great honour to wear the green and gold out there," former world number one Hewitt said. "We've had a very similar team of around six guys who have put their hand up for three or four years now, they have gelled together well, super proud of the whole team." Hewitt said he had been confident that world number 77 Kokkinakis, who often saves his best for Davis Cup ties, would rise to the occasion against 21st-ranked Shelton. And so it proved as he won a thriller. He outplayed Shelton in the first set, but the powerful young American responded impressively to win the second. As serve began to dominate, the match inevitably went to a tiebreak which was the longest in the Davis Cup for five years.

## Raptors Retain Home-Court Mastery Over Wolves



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - RJ Barrett scored 31 points -- 12 in the fourth quarter -- and the Toronto Raptors defeated the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves 110-105. Scottie Barnes returned to the lineup and produced 17 points and six assists for the Raptors, who have won two in a row since a seven-game losing streak. Barnes missed 11 games due to a right orbital fracture. Chris Boucher added 22 points while Jakob Poeltl had 15 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto, which took command with a 13-1 run late in the fourth quarter. Anthony Edwards scored 26 points and Julius Randle had 23 points and nine rebounds for the Timberwolves, who lost on their past 20 visit to Toronto. Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels added 22 points, Rudy Gobert had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Donte DiVincenzo scored 11 points. The Timberwolves have not won at Toronto since Jan. 21, 2004. They did have a road win on Feb. 14, 2021, against the Raptors, who were then playing in Tampa during the COVID-19 pandemic. Barnes scored six straight points to give Toronto a six-point lead with 3:24 to play. Barrett's dunk with 2:33 to play bumped the lead to nine. Edwards cut the deficit to five by sinking a 3-pointer with 1:46 to go, but he missed a 3-point attempt that would have trimmed the gap to one with 18 seconds left. The Raptors led 32-27 after the first quarter, when Toronto had a 24-8 edge on points in the paint.

## Guardiola Extends Man City Contract Until 2027

LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola has extended his contract as manager of Premier League champions Manchester City for a further two seasons, saying yesterday "I could not leave now" with the club facing arguably the toughest period of his time at the Etihad Stadium. There had been speculation the 53-year-old's City career could be coming to an end, with the club facing an uncertain future due to an ongoing hearing over 115 breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations—charges they deny completely. City are also currently on a four-game losing streak in all competitions—the worst of Guardiola's managerial career, excluding penalty shoot-outs—although they are second in the Premier League, five points behind leaders Liverpool. But reports emerged on Tuesday that Guardiola, who took over at City in 2016 and has since won a total of 18 trophies across all competitions, including six Premier League titles, would stay. This was despite City's director of football Txiki Begiristain, a close ally of Guardiola, having already confirmed his exit at the end of the campaign. Begiristain is to be replaced by Sporting Lisbon's Hugo Viana, a former Newcastle player. But with City on an English record-breaking run of four successive



top-flight titles, Guardiola—who led the club to a Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League treble in 2023 – said he had changed his mind about this being his last season at the Etihad. "Now I cannot leave," the Catalan boss said in an interview on the club's website after agreeing to remain at the Etihad until 2027. "Maybe the four defeats were the reason why I felt I cannot leave." Guardiola, who has repeatedly been asked about his future in recent weeks, added: "Since the beginning of the season I was thinking a lot in the moment, I will be honest, I thought (this season) should be the last one.

"But in the same moment the situation comes, the problems we have in the last month, I felt now was not the time to leave. I don't want to let the club down, I would say. "I felt the confidence from the chairman (Khaldoon Al Mubarak) and Txiki and everyone, and I had the feeling I have to do it." Guardiola said the treble, which saw City crowned champions of Europe for the first time in their history, represented a "dream come true", while four Premier League titles in a row was "amazing". He insisted, however, he still had a job to do to help City hit those heights again. "But you have a past, (there have) been lessons and mistakes that we have overcome to arrive in the moment where you are more stable and more consistent," he said. "We have to recover that because right now we don't have it and that's the target we have to do." Guardiola, who previously enjoyed a trophy-laden career as a player and coach at Barcelona before taking charge of German giants Bayern Munich, said in an initial club statement: "Manchester City means so much to me... I have a really special feeling for this football club. That is why I am so happy to be staying for another two more seasons."

## Verstappen Poised for Fourth Successive Title in Las Vegas



LAS VEGAS (Dispatches) - Max Verstappen will be Formula One world champion for the fourth year in a row if he beats Lando Norris in Las Vegas this weekend. McLaren's Norris must score three points more than his Red Bull rival—requiring at least a top eight finish even if Verstappen draws a blank—to delay the inevitable for one more week and continue the title 'battle' to Qatar. Verstappen has a 62-point lead with 60 to be won after Las Vegas, meaning the Dutch driver can lose two points to Norris and still secure the title on wins given he has eight to the Briton's three. The reigning champion won on the gaudy, floodlit Strip last season, despite a five-second penalty and later collision, to complete a U.S. triple, while Norris hit the wall on lap three and retired. "This is the final push for everyone," said Verstappen, who would be only the sixth driver to win at least four titles, going into the season's last run of three races on successive weekends. "We performed well here last year and it is a really fast circuit, with long straights and a lot of opportunities to overtake and go racing." Norris, sixth in Brazil on Nov. 3 despite starting on pole position in a race won by Verstappen from 17th on the grid, also has the constructors' championship to think about with McLaren 36 points clear of Ferrari at the top. That battle, with McLaren chasing a first constructors' championship since 1998 and Ferrari their first since 2008, could go down to the wire in Abu Dhabi with Red Bull not out of the running either. The defending champions are 49 points behind McLaren after ending a 10-race losing streak. Verstappen's Mexican team mate Sergio Perez, who had appeared to be in danger of not seeing out the season after his home race in October, is still searching for form but looks safe for the last three. "It's a track I enjoy, I like the street circuit experience, with the walls in tight," said Perez, who was third in Vegas last season. "While it's a spectacle of a race, for everyone attending and watching back home, it's one where I know I need to perform and maximise this car and my own performance."

## Paolini Leads Italy to Fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title

MALAGA (Dispatches) - Jasmine Paolini put on a tennis masterclass to steer Italy to a fifth Billie Jean King Cup title as she beat Rebecca Sramkova 6-2 6-1 in the second singles rubber to wrap up a 2-0 win over Slovakia in the final. A year after Italy suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Canada in the decider and over a decade since their last title in 2013, the charismatic Paolini demolished Sramkova before celebrating wildly with her teammates and jubilant Italian fans, including men's world number one Jannik Sinner. Underdogs Slovakia, who had stunned Britain on their way to the final, never got going against an imperious Italy who got off the mark with Lucia Bronzetti's dominant 6-2 6-4 win over Viktorija Hruncakova in the opening match. "It's unbelievable, amazing, I don't have words to describe how I feel right now, it's just incredible," an emotional Paolini said on court. "I think we played an unbelievable week and I'm so proud of how we did it in every match. I'm very happy that this year we finally were able to bring the title back to Italy," the world number four added. Paolini fell to a 6-2 6-3 defeat to Canada's Leylah Fernandez in last year's final in Seville. Yet this time around the Wimbledon and Roland Garros



finalist Paolini put in a commanding performance against the 43rd-ranked Sramkova, who tried to gut it out while suffering with cramp throughout the second set. "I think last year Leylah (Fernandez) played really well, she played better than me. That's the way it is sometimes in sports," Paolini said. "Today when I stepped on court I told myself that I was going to give 100%... If you win, you win. But if you lose you have to accept that. We are going to fight for every ball and today it went well for us." Italy's perfect day started with a superb performance from 25-year-old Bronzetti, who was playing only her second BJK Cup singles match, following her debut win in the semi-final against Poland. Bronzetti was firing rockets with her serve and dominated Hruncakova in two quick sets that lasted just one hour and 20 minutes. "I'm very proud to be here, to represent Italy, I'm so happy for this win," Bronzetti said. "It was not as easy as it may have looked. We are in the final so every match is tough. I'm very happy to have earned the point for Italy." Paolini went about her business even quicker, beating her opponent in one hour.