

Iran's Transportation Minister Says the Country Is Working With Neighboring Turkey to Reach a Permanent Solution to the Issue of Trucks Stranded at the Border Between the Two Countries Because of Fuel Tax Disputes

IRAN NEWS

Over 110,000 Members of the Basij Force Paraded, Held by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Tehran, Demonstrating Their Readiness to Confront Threats and Participate in Relief and Rescue Operations

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2 DOMESTIC

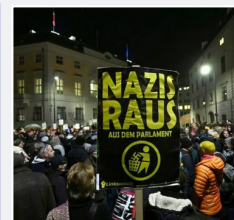


Efforts to Resolve Turkey's Customs Issues

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Protests Against Rising Far Right Party Draw Tens of thousands in Austria



> SEE PAGE 3

Iran Will Greatly Benefit From a More Secure Iraq



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the more secure Iraq is, the more it will benefit the Islamic Republic of Iran, warning against the illegal presence of U.S. occupation forces in the Arab country.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani in the capital Tehran.

"The more prosperous and secure Iraq becomes, the greater the benefit for the Islamic Republic of Iran," Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

The Leader expressed gratitude for Sudani's moves toward prosperity and security in Iraq.

The Leader also described the presence of American occupying forces in Iraq as illegal and against the interests of the Iraqi people and government, emphasizing that there are signs and evidence indicating the Americans' efforts to expand their presence in the Arab country. He said the occupation must be firmly resisted.

The United States invaded Iraq in 2003 under the pretext that former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction, an allegation later proven wrong. In 2014, it led scores of its allies in a so-called mission to defeat the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group without a mandate from the United Nations.

However, the US-led coalition proved to be largely ineffective against Daesh, which was ultimately defeated by Iraqi armed forces backed by the country's Popular Mobilization Units, better known as Hashd al-Sha'bi.

The terror group was forced out of Mosul, its headquarters in the country's north, back in late 2017.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei placed a premium on unity and cohesion among the various sects and ethnicities of Iraq, underscoring the strong relationship between the Iraqi government and people.

"As you have pointed out, the Popular Mobilization Forces (Hashd al-Sha'bi) are a key component of power in Iraq, and efforts must be made to preserve and further strengthen them," the Leader told Sudani.

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the role of foreign governments in the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria was evident.

Iran Protests to France Over French City's Insulting Poster



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry has strongly protested a recent "insulting" move by the mayor of a French city vis-à-vis the Islamic Republic's sanctities and personalities, urging respect for all countries' cultural and religious values.

"The use of offensive content against officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran is a flagrant violation of internationally accepted principles and rules regarding respect for cultural values of other nations," Director General for Western Europe at the Iranian Foreign Ministry Majid Nili said on Thursday.

This is a clear example of hatred-mongering, he added.

In a recent move, the city of Beziers in southern France ran a campaign on buses, using insulting portraits of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

Nili said Iran has officially protested to France through diplomatic channels and called on the country's government to take an appropriate measure to prevent the repetition of such "provocative" actions.

On Monday, French President Emmanuel Macron accused Iran of posing the main strategic and security challenge for France, the Europeans, the entire region, and beyond, citing the acceleration of the country's nuclear program and its alleged support for Russia's war against Ukraine.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei on Tuesday strongly rejected the French president's allegations as "baseless and contradictory."

It is regrettable that instead of the apartheid regime of Israel, whose leaders are wanted by the International Criminal Court, the French president incriminates Iran, which has always respected international law, Baqaei said.



Iran Set to Reveal New Missile and Drone Cities

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - In a powerful statement delivered in Abadan during the national "Rahyaran Noor" gathering, General Hossein Salami, Commander-in-Chief of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), declared that Iran has achieved an unprecedented level of military strength, particularly in missile, drone, and naval capabilities. He announced that soon, Iran will unveil new "missile and drone cities" that will demonstrate the nation's extraordinary and concealed power.

Salami emphasized that Iran is in a phase of exceptional military readiness, with no deficiencies in its defense capabilities. "We have reached an extraordinary level of power in missile, drone, and naval technologies, and we are prepared to reveal our missile and drone cities soon. You will witness the vastness and depth of Iran's power," Salami said.

Addressing the nation's resolve, Salami explained that Iranians continuously ask for more promises of strength, particularly referring to the anticipated "Wade-e-Sadeq 3" (Honest Promise 3) project. He suggested that the public's insistence stems from their desire to see Iran act with authority in all fields, as they view strength and power as visible, measurable elements of Iran's global standing.

Salami firmly rejected the notion that Iran had weakened in recent years, especially in light of allegations by enemies claiming that Iran had lost its regional deterrence capabilities. "If our regional deterrents had truly faded, then when General Qassem Soleimani and others were martyred, we would have been forced to rely on those deterrents," he stated, underscoring that Iran's strength comes not from external alliances but from its own capacity to respond to threats.

He also referenced Iran's resilience in the face of the Israeli aggressions, particularly noting that even in the face of Israel's provocations, Iran has managed to act independently. Salami emphasized, "We are so powerful that we can strike back from within our own borders, without needing to rely on regional forces. For instance, in response to Israeli assaults, we acted directly from Iran, not through proxies."

The IRGC commander pointed out that Iran is now capable of carrying out sophisticated military operations without depending on external military alliances. This was demonstrated during the operation "Storm of Al-Aqsa," which was carried out by Iran directly from its own territory, with live coverage broadcast to the world. "When Martyr General Soleimani was martyred, we retaliated directly, targeting American bases, and we publicly claimed responsibility," Salami stated.

Salami also addressed the ongoing claims by the U.S. and its allies that Iran is weakening. He

questioned, "Are we weaker today in terms of controlling key strategic chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz than we were in the past?" He emphasized that Iran has mastered long-range strike capabilities, utilizing cutting-edge technologies like artificial intelligence for targeting at distances of thousands of kilometers.

The announcement of the missile and drone cities marks a significant milestone in Iran's military development. "We have reached an unparalleled level of power in our missile, drone, and naval systems," Salami proclaimed. "Our missile, drone, and naval capabilities, which are a critical part of our deterrent force, are stronger than ever. Iran is prepared for any challenge."

These cities are designed to strengthen Iran's defense infrastructure and ensure that the country remains independent and sovereign. The new facilities are expected to further bolster Iran's deterrence capabilities, both regionally and globally.

Salami further emphasized that Iran's strength is not solely military but stems from a deeply ingrained national resolve. "The people of Iran are not afraid. When we strike an enemy base, the streets light up with celebrations in the middle of the night. When we launch missiles, oil and dollar prices fall, and the world watches. This is not weakness; this is the true power of Iran," he declared.

In addressing the challenges posed by global sanctions, Salami proudly stated that Iran's resilience has only strengthened. "Sanctions were a serious threat, but Iran, under the leadership of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, stood firm and built its own power," he affirmed. "We are not weak, and we have never retreated from our political positions. We have the ability to destroy enemy bases across the region."

Salami also called for greater awareness among Muslim nations in the region. He warned that imperialism powers, particularly in the Middle East, are out to destroy Islamic communities and disrupt the region's stability. "The destruction in Syria is a clear example of what these powers are capable of," he said. "Muslims in the region must remain vigilant and aware of these threats."

In conclusion, Salami reaffirmed Iran's commitment to its values and independence. "No enemy can claim to have a presence in Iran," he concluded. "Our sovereignty, security, and defense capabilities are entirely ours, and we will not back down from defending our nation and our principles."

As Iran prepares to showcase its technological advancements and military might with the upcoming missile and drone cities, Salami's speech highlights the nation's growing confidence and commitment to its strategic objectives in the face of regional and global pressures.

President Vows to Eradicate Poverty, Discrimination

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says his government is striving to eradicate poverty and discrimination in the country.

President Pezeshkian arrived at Chabahar Konarak Airport in the southern part of Sistan and Baluchestan province on Thursday afternoon for a two-day visit marking his third provincial trip.

Upon his arrival at Konarak Airport, the president stated, "We have come here to closely familiarize ourselves with the issues, facilities, and work processes. Our goal is to eradicate poverty, deprivation, injustice, and discrimination in the country."

Pezeshkian further emphasized, "Sistan and Baluchestan province is where we should have started. We are committed to putting the country on the path toward growth and development."

The president and his entourage have several scheduled activities in Chabahar, including attending and speaking to the local community, participating in a meeting of the school construction movement, discussing investment opportunities in Sistan and Baluchestan, and touring the coastal corridor of the Chabahar-Zahedan railway.

They will also hold a meeting to address issues in the southern province and visit the Negin Makran petrochemical complex, and the city of Tist. Following these engagements, the president will depart for Zabol on January 10, 2025.

While addressing people from various strata in the southern region of the province at Shahid Rigi Stadium, the president remarked, "Our presence in this province for the second time shows the government's serious commitment to tackling the region's problems."



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

"We have a plan to develop a project focused on the construction and advancement of Sistan and Baluchestan province, as well as all of Iran, with the assistance of both international and domestic experts," he said.

President Pezeshkian further argued that striving for development without a roadmap is unwise. "We are working to establish this roadmap through a comprehensive development plan," he added.

He also emphasized that national unity, the cornerstone of his administration's policy, is essential for the country's development.

During a ceremony titled "National Dialogue for National Unity" on Thursday, Pezeshkian called for efforts "to implement justice and fairness in society." "When we act unjustly, we fail to uphold justice in

our society," the president added.

Pezeshkian reiterated that his government is responsible for serving the people and must avoid any actions perceived as confrontational or oppressive toward the public.

The president stressed the need for consensus to foster national unity and solidarity, noting that excessive demands will lead to an infringement upon the rights of others.

Discord arises when egotism and totalitarianism prevail, he warned.

He emphasized that the current state of affairs in the country does not match the dignity of the Iranian people. "We are no less than our neighboring countries. I believe we should move forward as much as possible."

"We need to instill this mindset in our people and youth," the president said. "Our people can be the vanguard; we must provide a platform for them."

IRGC Ground Force Unveils Rezvan Suicide Drone With 20 km Range



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Ground Force has unveiled a new type of suicide drone with a range of 20 kilometers as the military unit continues to upgrade its cutting-edge warfare technology.

The loitering drone named "Rezvan" was introduced and operationalized on Thursday, the final day of Great Prophet 19 military drills by the IRGC Ground Force in western Iran.

The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has a range of 20 kilometers and a 20-minute flight endurance.

The suicide drone is equipped with a camera mounted on the front that sends images after being launched from its cylindrical launcher, allowing the operator to select, lock on and attack a target.

Owing to their versatility and rapid deployment, the loitering UAVs provide the IRGC Ground Force's rapid response units with new capabilities to combat terrorist groups, not least in complex mountainous geography.

Loitering munitions refers to a group of weapons that, after being launched, are guided towards the target by optical and thermal systems, and detect and destroy the target by crashing into it.

The aerial weapons are used in ground combat, especially anti-ambush operations, and due to their small size and man-portability, they have become a suitable weapon for ground forces.

The unveiling came amid ongoing military maneuvers in Iran's western and central areas, which have enlisted the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces.

Iran Slams New U.S., UK Aggression on Yemen



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran strongly condemned the new US and UK aggression in Yemen's three provinces as the Arab country continues its retaliatory operations against the Israeli regime.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei made the remarks on Thursday after the United States and Britain carried out aerial assaults on Yemen.

Yemen's al-Masirah television channel reported that the strikes targeted the districts of Jarban, al-Luhayyah, and Harf Sufyan, situated in Sana'a, Hudaydah, and Amran provinces, respectively.

Baqaei said that these criminal acts cannot weaken the determination of the heroic people of Yemen in their support for the oppressed people of Palestine.

"The repeated aggressions by the US and UK against Yemeni infrastructures are committed with the aim of supporting the criminal Zionist regime and in line with the continued genocide committed by the fake regime against the oppressed Palestinians," he added.

He called the attacks a flagrant violation of the international law and principles of the United Nations Charter.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman added that the attacks are a clear example of the "crime of aggression" according to the statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Baqaei censured the UN Security Council for failing to act regarding the continued genocide in Gaza and the military aggressions of the US, UK and the Zionist regime against the vital infrastructures of Yemen.

He called on the international community, especially Islamic and regional countries, to stop genocide and aggression of the Zionist regime and its allies against different nations in the region.

The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that its warplanes had targeted two underground weapons caches belonging to Yemen's Ansarallah resistance movement, without specifying the location of the attacks.

The US and its allies have been bombing Yemen over the past months in violation of the country's sovereignty and international law.

The illegal attacks came in response to Yemen's campaign in solidarity with the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid a genocidal Israeli war.

IRAN NEWS



President Expresses Iran “Sincere Sympathy” With China Over Tibet Quake

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Masoud Pezeshkian has sympathized with the people and government of China over a strong earthquake that left at least 126 people dead in the western region of Tibet.

The Iranian president expressed the Islamic Republic’s “sincere sympathy” with the people and government of “the friendly country, China” in a post he shared on his official account on X (formerly Twitter) on Wednesday, a day after the 6.8 magnitude earthquake struck Tibet.

In his post, which was shared in both Persian and Chinese languages, President Pezeshkian also announced Iran’s readiness to dispatch humanitarian aid to the quake-stricken areas.

Chinese media said that at least 188 people were injured in the strong tremor that struck near Shigatse, the second-largest city in Tibet.

Knowledge and Experience: Key Principles of National Unity



TEHRAN - A national dialogue seminar on “National Unity” was held at the National Library of Iran, with the participation of President Masoud Pezeshkian and Strategic Vice President Mohammad Javad Zarif.

According to the report, in addition to the President and the Strategic Vice President, several intellectuals and experts from the country discussed their solutions in various panels on how to expand and enhance “national unity” across political, social, international, domestic, justice, and development sectors.

Dr. Ahmad Mohammadi Sohravardi, an economist with a post-doctoral degree and an intellectual expert, remarked on the sidelines of the event: “Unity is a broad and ambiguous concept, similar to ‘rights’ and ‘justice’, with a history spanning over 5,000 years. Even Habil and Qabil preferred ‘discord’ over ‘unity’ when competing for minimal resources.”

He added, “What can create unity is the utilization of ‘knowledge’ and ‘experience’ of humanity. We must follow the path of development to ensure that people do not face problems in fulfilling their basic needs (social security in its broad sense) and that their dignity is preserved.”

Dr. Sohravardi emphasized, “In this way, achieving unity, like other higher human needs, will be realized.”

Sohravardi, born on April 9, 1972, in Sohravard, Zanjan Province, is a distinguished professor at the University of Tehran, legal scholar, linguist, poet, author, translator, and a senior attorney at the Central Bar Association. He holds the first post-doctorate in Economic Law and the first post-doctorate in International Trade, Finance, and Investment Law from the University of Tehran. Additionally, he earned top honors in his PhD in Private Law and holds doctorates in Arabic and Persian Language and Literature. He serves as a board member of the Iranian Civil Procedure Association, CEO of the Farous Global Trade Economic Development Group, and the International Economic Law Negotiation Institute. He also advises Iran’s Chamber of Commerce on energy and macroeconomic policies, covering industries such as oil, gas, petrochemicals, steel, automotive, banking, insurance, and international trade. He chairs the Appeals Committee for licensing in the Iranian Football Federation and serves in leadership roles in Iran’s Energy Export and Transportation Federations.

Fluent in English, Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and legal French, Dr. Sohravardi has published numerous books and articles in prestigious journals. He is also the Asian President of the World Martial Arts Federation (WMMF) for Karate and actively engages in calligraphy and Quranic interpretation.

Efforts to Resolve Turkey’s Customs Issues



TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture Jihad emphasized the government’s strong commitment to supporting the private sector, stating that obstacles hindering private sector development, production growth, and export expansion—particularly in agriculture and food industries—must be eliminated.

Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleleh, who was leading an economic delegation to Turkey, highlighted in a meeting with Iranian agricultural and food industry entrepreneurs that the government, Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, and diplomatic channels are focused on strengthening relations with neighboring countries, especially Turkey. The participation of over 180 economic stakeholders in this visit demonstrates the Iranian private sector’s readiness to engage more robustly in this endeavor.

Nouri Ghezleleh reaffirmed the ministry’s support for agricultural product exports, noting that Iran’s nomadic products are a significant export potential. However, advancing this sector requires transformative changes in food and agricultural product packaging industries and streamlined licensing for export terminals. He also welcomed and supported the private sector’s participation in international agricultural and food exhibitions abroad.

Addressing efforts to resolve customs issues with Turkey for Iranian exporters, Nouri Ghezleleh stressed that the 14th government’s guiding principle is adherence to legal frameworks. He emphasized the need to prevent arbitrary directives that could damage exporters’ credibility, promising that the government’s export policies would be announced transparently.

Nouri Ghezleleh stated that private and cooperative sector activities are key to revitalizing Iran’s economy, adding that the government and the president firmly believe in supporting private sector initiatives.

He remarked that traditional governmental approaches lack efficiency awareness, whereas the private sector values capital efficiency and actively implements it. He pointed out that the 32% growth in agricultural

exports over the past nine months reflects the private sector’s hard work and reaffirmed the need to eliminate barriers impeding private sector activities, production growth, and exports. The government remains steadfast in supporting the private sector.

Highlighting the determination of Iranian and Turkish officials for effective bilateral cooperation, Nouri Ghezleleh noted the numerous agricultural commonalities between the two countries. He mentioned coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to involve experts from the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad in economic consultations with countries with significant agricultural exchanges.

Mohammad Hassan Habibollahzadeh, Iran’s ambassador to Ankara, praised the presence of economic stakeholders in Turkey, calling it one of the largest economic gatherings between the two nations. He noted that over 20% of Iran-Turkey trade volume is dedicated to agriculture, with bilateral trade exceeding \$14 billion in the first nine months of 1403 (March to December 2024).

During the meeting, several agricultural and food industry entrepreneurs discussed challenges and barriers to agricultural production and export.

According to IRNA, on Thursday, Nouri Ghezleleh led a commercial delegation of 180 Iranian economic stakeholders, traders, producers, and exporters from the agricultural sector to Turkey.

During the visit, Nouri Ghezleleh toured Turkey’s largest gene seed bank and Ankara’s food control laboratory, engaging with officials to discuss the latest genetic technologies and initiatives related to food security.

Additionally, during this two-day visit, Nouri Ghezleleh was scheduled to meet with Turkey’s Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, Ibrahim Yumakli. He will also deliver a speech at the Iran-Turkey Agricultural Development Conference, attended by traders and private sector stakeholders from both countries’ agricultural industries, focusing on expanding international cooperation through agricultural diplomacy and regional food security.

Iran’s Health Network Requires Modernization and Reconstruction



TEHRAN - Mohammad Reza Zafarghandi, during the opening ceremony of the Educational and Empowerment Event for Public and Jihadi Health Groups attended by the President of the Foundation of the Oppressed, emphasized the need for modernization and reconstruction of the country’s health network.

Zafarghandi highlighted the importance of collaboration across all sectors to prevent population aging and the future loss of the country’s productive and young workforce. He stressed that the Ministry of Health alone cannot fulfill population policies and that all sectors, including national broadcasting and various ministries, must engage scientifically in this matter.

The Minister of Health pointed out that even the most advanced countries, such as Japan and South Korea, struggle with declining birth rates despite offering incentives. He noted that Iran’s extensive healthcare network, initially established in 1976 in Urmia, has become somewhat outdated and requires urgent renovation.

Zafarghandi acknowledged that past population control efforts were successful due to the health network’s capabilities. He proposed that revitalizing the population could be achieved by leveraging this network, suggesting specialized health literacy training and incentives for community health workers, potentially funded by the Foundation of the Oppressed.

Commending the country’s health sector achievements, he noted that Iran ranks among the world’s top countries in maternal and infant mortality rates due to the efforts of the health network and medical staff.

Referring to Dr. Dehghan, President of the Foundation of the Oppressed, Zafarghandi praised his scientific approach to problem-solving and emphasized their shared goal of serving the public, particularly the underprivileged. He stated that combining the resources and manpower of both organizations could yield exponential

synergy.

The Health Minister described service to the public and the underprivileged as a sacred goal, echoing the Supreme Leader’s guidance that jihadi work not only benefits society but also enriches the spirit and character of those who serve.

Zafarghandi stressed that the country’s healthcare infrastructure, along with the Foundation’s resources, must be used efficiently through joint committees and well-defined operational plans to best serve deprived communities.

He further stated that universities across the country are ready to contribute to serving the public and the impoverished, welcoming support from all organizations, including the Foundation of the Oppressed.

As a significant initiative to honor Imam Khomeini’s legacy, Zafarghandi suggested providing ambulances to deprived regions, noting that universities could help identify areas most in need of these donations.

He praised the Alavi Health Institute’s comprehensive maternal care program for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, calling for its expansion. He encouraged attracting passionate jihadi volunteers through proper outreach to support this initiative.

Zafarghandi emphasized the critical importance of improving health literacy, particularly in disadvantaged and underserved regions.

He referenced the Health Deputy’s visit to Chabahar, where dengue fever cases have risen, noting that access to clean piped drinking water could cut disease incidence by 50%. Currently, locals rely on stagnant pond water, which fosters Aedes mosquito larvae, unlike malaria, which can be treated with drugs and insecticides. Increasing health literacy and implementing targeted jihadi initiatives in such areas would be a significant public service.

\$4m in Exports from Chabahar Free Zone



TEHRAN - The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones announced that investment in free zones is being driven by an export-oriented approach. Currently, Chabahar Free Zone has recorded \$4 million in exports, while its production value stands at 30 trillion rials.

During the “Review of Issues in Southern Sistan and Baluchestan” meeting held in Chabahar with the presence of the President, Reza Masroor highlighted the strategic importance of the Chabahar Free Zone. He emphasized that despite being established for 30 years, the zone has not achieved proportional growth and requires major policy reforms and stronger local engagement.

Masroor pointed out that despite its vast potential, Chabahar Free Zone has not reached its full capacity in production and exports. He stressed that greater collaboration with local authorities is crucial for regional development. Notably, the city of Chabahar, which falls within the Free Zone, has yet to benefit from legal advantages such as tax exemptions.

He added that while the zone currently generates \$4 million in exports, its production value is significantly higher, indicating that many investors are directing their products to domestic markets. This trend, he argued, calls for a revision of export-driven policies.

According to Masroor, by law, any business with an economic license from the Free Zone Organization should benefit from tax exemptions—a policy gap that will be immediately addressed. Starting next week, necessary licenses for local businesses will be issued.

Masroor also underscored the need for critical infrastructure development in the Chabahar Free Zone. He stated that Chabahar’s growth must be anchored in trade and transit, urging the Ministry of Roads to expedite the development of Shahid Beheshti Port. He also called for the establishment of logistics terminals and hinterlands by the Free Zone authority, stressing that financial resources must be allocated to infrastructure rather than non-essential expenses.

Appeal of Iranian Knowledge-Based Products in the Canadian Market



TEHRAN - The Director General of the Europe and America Office at the Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Ahmad Firoozi, highlighted Iran’s export capabilities, emphasizing the attractiveness of Iranian knowledge-based and IT products for the Canadian market.

According to the TPO’s Public Relations Department, a specialized meeting on market opportunities and the exchange of experiences in initiating and expanding trade with Canada was held at the Pearl Hall of the Persian Gulf International Permanent Fairgrounds. The event was attended by Ahmad Firoozi and a group of merchants and businesspeople.

Firoozi described Canada’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as reaching the trillion-dollar mark, noting that despite restrictive sanctions imposed on Iran, the country’s official trade has not entirely halted.

He pointed out that Iran holds a relatively small share in the Canadian market. Iran mainly exports agricultural and food industry products to Canada, while importing wood, pharmaceutical raw materials, and medical equipment from the country.

According to Firoozi, Canada’s top ten trading partners include the United States, China, Japan, the United Kingdom, Mexico, the Netherlands, Germany, South Korea, India, and Hong Kong. Although Iran is not among Canada’s key trading partners, Firoozi suggested that Iran could engage in trade with Canada indirectly through these countries.

Firoozi outlined the TPO’s core missions, which include strengthening trade diplomacy with target countries, expanding and diversifying export markets for goods and services, enhancing foreign trade knowledge and capabilities, developing commercial infrastructure, and improving foreign trade regulations. He also noted that the organization is actively implementing measures such as holding joint economic commission meetings, organizing trade, industrial, and mining committees, dispatching commercial attachés, signing trade agreements, sending and receiving trade delegations, and hosting market introduction conferences.

53% Growth in Iran-Qatar Trade in the First Nine Months of 2024



TEHRAN - Iran’s Commercial Attaché in Qatar has announced a 53% increase in trade between Iran and Qatar during the first nine months of 2024, highlighting the growing economic cooperation between the two nations.

According to the Public Relations Office of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization, Abbas Abdolkhani cited Iran Customs reports, stating that the trade volume between Iran and Qatar reached approximately \$265 million during this period, reflecting a 53% growth compared to the same timeframe last year.

He emphasized that this growth signals a strengthening of economic relations between the two countries.

Abdolkhani identified Iran’s key exports to Qatar, including fruits and vegetables, agricultural products, food items, eggs, shrimp, saffron, carpets, construction materials, and minerals, showcasing the diversity of Iran’s non-oil export portfolio.

He further explained that Iran’s exports play a crucial role in meeting Qatar’s market demands, while Iran primarily imports intermediate goods from Qatar, which are utilized in domestic production. This trend indicates the development of supply chains and the enhancement of industrial and production cooperation between the two nations.

Highlighting the transportation route, Abdolkhani stated that trade exchanges are mainly conducted via the maritime route from Iran’s Dayyer Port to Qatar’s Al Ruwais Port. This channel is a key link in facilitating the transport of goods between the two countries.

In conclusion, Abdolkhani noted that the significant growth in Iran-Qatar trade reflects the economic potential of both countries. He emphasized that expanding infrastructure and removing trade barriers could further boost bilateral economic interactions.

South Korea Presidential Security Chief Warns Against Violent Attempt

Seoul (Dispatches) - South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's security chief said on Friday the impeached leader, who faces arrest over a criminal probe into his Dec. 3 martial law bid, has been unfairly treated for a sitting leader and warned bloodshed must be avoided.

Park Chong-jun, head of the Presidential Security Service (PSS), is himself under investigation for obstructing official duty related to a six-hour standoff last week between PSS agents and investigators trying to execute an arrest warrant for Yoon. Arriving at police headquarters for questioning, Park, who is a former senior police official, said the current attempt to arrest a sitting president is wrong and Yoon deserved treatment "becoming of" the country's status.



Lebanon's Army Chief Elected President



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's parliament elected army chief Joseph Aoun head of state on Thursday, filling the vacant presidency with a general who has U.S. support and showing the weakened sway of the Hezbollah group after its devastating war with Israel.

In a speech to the chamber, Aoun, 60, vowed to work to ensure the state has the exclusive right to carry arms, drawing loud applause as lawmakers from Hezbollah -- which runs its own military forces -- sat still.

He promised to rebuild south Lebanon and other parts of the country he said had been destroyed by Israel, and also to prevent Israeli attacks on Lebanon, which was mired in deep economic and political crises even before the latest conflict. "Today, a new phase in the history of Lebanon begins," he said.

It also indicated a revival of Saudi influence in a country where Riyadh's role was eclipsed by Iran and Hezbollah long ago.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar congratulated Lebanon, saying on X he hoped Aoun's election would contribute towards stability and good neighbourly relations.

U.S. ambassador Lisa Johnson, attending the session, told Reuters she was "very happy" with Aoun's election.

The presidency, reserved for a Maronite Christian in Lebanon's sectarian power-sharing system, has been vacant since Michel Aoun's term ended in October 2022, with deeply divided factions unable to agree on a candidate able to win enough votes in the 128-seat parliament.

Joseph Aoun fell short of the 86 votes needed in a first round vote, but crossed the threshold with 99 votes in a second round, after lawmakers from Hezbollah and its Shi'ite ally the Amal Movement backed him.

Hezbollah lawmaker Mohammed Raad said that by delaying their vote for Aoun, the group had "sent a message that we are the guardians of national consensus".

Momentum built behind Aoun on Wednesday as Hezbollah's long preferred candidate, Suleiman Frangieh, withdrew and declared support for the army commander, and as French and Saudi envoys shuttled around Beirut, urging his election in meetings with politicians, three Lebanese political sources said.

Protests Against Rising Far Right Party Draw Tens of thousands in Austria



VIENNA (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people protested across Austria on Thursday against the far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ)'s possible return to power after it was tasked with trying to form a government.

While the far-right party has previously been a member of the country's government several times, it is the first time that it is leading coalition talks.

The FPÖ topped the September national election for the first time ever, winning almost 29 percent of the vote, but initially all other parties refused to enter into a cabinet with it.

But after talks between other parties collapsed, the FPÖ was tasked earlier this week with trying to form a government with the conservative People's Party (ÖVP), which in a U-turn said it was open to the idea.

Demonstrators gathered in Austria's capital Vienna late on Thursday to urge the conservatives not to join a government with the FPÖ, holding up signs reading "Fight fascism" and "Nazis out".

Some also formed a human chain around the chancellery, with organisers estimating the crowd at 50,000 people.

"I am afraid for our country and for Europe and actually for the whole world, because crazy autocrats are coming to power, who are elected by the people," Elisabeth Helming, 59, told AFP.

"I am really worried that people who do not follow the FPÖ's mainstream, like people of colour, that they will simply be thrown out of Austria," said Helming, adding that she was anxious about her care allowance being cut.

"If we just let certain parties govern our country without curtailing them, things will look bad for Austria," said Sarah Benedicter, 19, adding that it was "important to express one's political opinion publicly".

Similar rallies took place in Innsbruck, Salzburg and Graz, where turnout was estimated at hundreds of people.

The rallies were called by more than 30 organisations including anti-racism group SOS Mitmensch and Volkshilfe non-governmental organisation as well as the Greenpeace environmental group.

"I fear that things are heading in the direction of Hungary, where there is no more freedom of the press and voters are practically being manipulated," Peter Mayer, 51, told AFP.

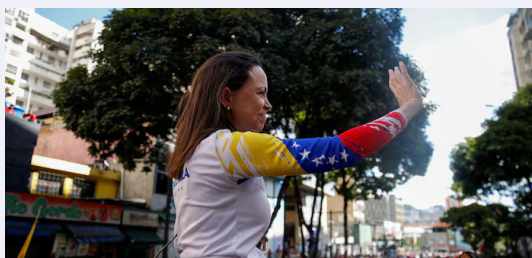
"A far-right chancellor would be a threat to human rights, democracy, a free judiciary, women's rights, human dignity of people living here -- regardless of origin, skin colour or religion. And we want to avert this threat," Alexander Pollack, spokesman for SOS Mitmensch told AFP.

Austria has had a strong far-right political presence since the 1980s.

In 2000, the FPÖ under Joerg Haider entered into a coalition government, a first in the European Union, triggering protests that drew up to 250,000 people.

The FPÖ has never governed the EU country of nine million at a national level, but it leads one regional government in Austria and is part of regional governments in four other provinces.

Venezuelan Opposition Leader Machado Briefly Arrested After Anti-Gov't Protests



CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela opposition leader Maria Corina Machado's aides said she was detained on Thursday, followed moments later by official denials of her arrest, in a confusing episode that capped a day of protests seeking to block President Nicolás Maduro from clinging to power.

It remained unclear what exactly happened after Machado bid farewell to hundreds of supporters, hopped on a motorcycle and raced with her security convoy down a main Caracas avenue.

At 3:21 p.m. local time, Machado's press team said in a social media post that security forces "violently intercepted" her convoy. Her aides later told The Associated Press that she had been detained, and international condemnation poured in from leaders in Latin America and beyond, demanding her release.

But about an hour later, a proof-of-life, 20-second video of Machado emerged online in which she says she was followed after leaving the "wonderful" rally and had dropped her purse.

"I'm good, I'm safe," Machado said in a raspy voice, adding "Venezuela will be free."

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said on Thursday a meeting was being set up between him and Russian President Vladimir Putin, but the Republican offered no timeline for talks between the two leaders.

Trump's return to the White House on Jan. 20 has sparked hope of a diplomatic resolution to end Moscow's invasion of Ukraine that began in Feb. 2022, but it has also led to fears in Kyiv that a quick peace deal could come at a high price for Ukraine.

Advisers to Trump have floated proposals to end the war that would effectively cede large parts of the country to Russia for the foreseeable future.

"He wants to meet, and we are setting it up," Trump said in remarks before a meeting with Republican governors at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Florida.

"President Putin wants to meet. He has said that even publicly and we have to get that war over with. That's a bloody mess," Trump said about the Russia-Ukraine war.

Since the Russian invasion began, the United States under Democratic President Joe Biden has committed over \$175 billion in aid for Ukraine, including over \$60 billion in security assistance.

However, it is uncertain if the aid will continue at that pace under Trump, who has said he wants to bring the war to a swift end.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said earlier on Thursday that Putin would welcome Trump's desire for contact, but so far there have been no formal requests. It would be more appropriate to wait for Trump to take office first, Peskov said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said Trump could be decisive in the outcome of the 34-month-old war with Russia and help stop Putin.

Meanwhile Trump is scheduled to be sentenced on Friday for his criminal conviction stemming from hush money paid to a porn star, a case that for a time overshadowed his bid to retake the White House.

The U.S. Supreme Court paved the way on Thursday for the 9:30 a.m. ET (1430 GMT) sentencing in New York state court in Manhattan, rejecting a last-minute request by Trump to halt it 10 days before his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Justice Juan Merchan, who oversaw the six-week trial last year, has signaled he does not plan to send Trump to jail or to fine him. But by granting an unconditional discharge, he would place a judgment of guilt on Trump's permanent record.

Trump, 78, who pleaded not guilty, was expected to appear virtually at the hearing.

He fought tooth and nail to avoid the spectacle of being compelled to appear before a state-level judge days before returning to the public office he lost four years ago.

"He doesn't want to be sentenced because that is the official judgment of him being a convicted felon," said Cheryl Bader, a law professor at Fordham University in New York.

The trial played out against the extraordinary backdrop of Trump's successful campaign to retake the White House. The sentencing marks the culmination of the first-ever criminal case brought against a U.S. president, past or present.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, a Democrat, charged Trump, a Republican, in March 2023 with 34 counts of falsifying business records to cover up his former lawyer Michael Cohen's \$130,000 payment to adult film

star Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she said she had with Trump, who denied it.

Trump defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton in that election.

The Manhattan jury found Trump guilty of all 34 counts on May 30. Prosecutors argued that despite the tawdry nature of the allegations, the case was an attempt to corrupt the 2016 election.

Massive Wildfires Engulf Worst-Hit Los Angeles Areas as Death Toll Rises to 10

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Massive wildfires that engulfed whole neighborhoods and displaced thousands in Los Angeles have killed at least 10 people, authorities said, as California's National Guard soldiers readied to hit the streets to help quell disorder.

News of the growing toll, announced late Thursday by the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner, came as swaths of the United States' second-largest city lay in ruins.

A vast firefighting operation continued into the night, bolstered by water-dropping helicopters thanks to a temporary lull in winds, even as new fires continued to spring up.

With reports of looting, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said a nighttime curfew was planned, and the state's National Guard was on hand to patrol affected areas.

Governor Gavin Newsom said the service members were part of a thousands-strong deployment of state personnel.

"We're throwing everything at our disposal—including our National Guard service members—to protect communities in the days to come," he said.

"And to those who would seek to take advantage of evacuated communities, let me be clear: looting will not be tolerated."

Luna said his officers were patrolling evacuation zones and would arrest anyone who was not supposed to be there.

But with such a huge area scorched by the fires, evacuees feared not enough was being done and some were taking matters into their own hands.

Nicholas Norman mounted an armed vigil at his home after seeing suspicious characters in the middle of the night.

"I did the classic American thing: I went and got my shotgun and I sat out there, and put a light on so they knew people were there," he told AFP.

The biggest of the multiple blazes has ripped through almost 20,000 acres (8,800



hectares) of the upscale Pacific Palisades neighborhood, while another fire around Altadena has torched 13,700 acres.

Firefighters said they were starting to get a handle on the Pacific Palisades blaze, with six percent of its perimeter contained—meaning it can't spread any further in that direction.

But after a lull, winds were returning and new fires continued to erupt.

One flared near Calabasas and the wealthy Hidden Hills enclave, home to celebrities like Kim Kardashian, late Thursday.

The Kenneth Fire exploded to almost 1,000 acres within hours, forcing more people from their homes, with over 180,000 now displaced.

US President Joe Biden told a White House briefing he had pledged extra federal funds and resources to help the state cope with "the most... devastating fire in California's history."

Unlike Tuesday when the multi-pronged disaster roared to life and 100-mile (160-kilometer)-an-hour winds grounded all aircraft, firefighters were able to keep up a steady stream of sorties.

But one Super Scooper—an amphibious aircraft that dumps hundreds of gallons of water at a time—was grounded after colliding with a drone.

Although no one was hurt, the Federal Aviation Authority said it was probing the incident, and warned anyone flying drones in fire areas could be jailed for a year.

Some of those forced out of their homes began to return Thursday to find scenes of devastation.

Kalen Astoor, a 36-year-old paralegal, said her mother's home had been spared by the inferno's seemingly random and chaotic destruction. But many other homes had not.



Herro Scores 23 to Carry Heat Past Jazz

NEW YORK (Dispatches)- Tyler Herro scored 23 and Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 20 points in a 97-92 win over the Utah Jazz on Thursday in Salt Lake City. Herro and Jaquez each drained key free throws in the waning moments as Miami improved to 2-1 on its six-game trip. Bam Adebayo contributed 15 points, seven rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocked shots in the victory. Adebayo hit two buckets in a row with under three minutes left to break an 86-86 tie. Lauri Markkanen and Collin Sexton each scored 23 points for the Jazz, who lost their second straight outing. Utah overcame an 11-point third-quarter deficit but ended up losing for the ninth consecutive time at the Delta Center. Neither team shot well, with the Jazz making 39.8 percent of their shots and the Heat shooting 39.6 percent. Walker Kessler hauled in 15 rebounds with nine points, while Kyle Filipowski had 11 boards, two steals and a block with four points in the loss. The Jazz started strong, taking a 20-10 lead when Markkanen dropped in a 3-pointer. Miami surged back and held a 46-41 halftime lead by holding Utah to 14 points in the second quarter. The Heat went up by 11 points after opening the third quarter on a 10-4 spurt. Markkanen hit back-to-back 3-pointers in an 8-0 Utah run to tighten things up, and the Jazz took a 70-68 lead at the end of the quarter with a late Isaiah Collier layup. The Heat scored six straight midway through the fourth to go ahead by four, but the Jazz caught up with 3:31 to go after buckets by Sexton and Kessler. Adebayo then hit two shots in a row, Jaquez nailed a 3 and Herro sank two free throws as the Heat used a 9-2 run to snag a 95-88 lead with 20.9 seconds remaining. Jaquez put Miami up by five by sinking two foul shots with 11.8 left to clinch the win. Meanwhile Bradley Beal scored a game-high 25 points off the bench, leading the Phoenix Suns to a 123-115 win over the visiting Atlanta Hawks on Thursday.

Grayson Allen and Kevin Durant added 23 points apiece for the Suns, who won their second game in three tries. Phoenix's Devin Booker collected 20 points and 12 assists. Tyus Jones chipped in 16 points, and Mason Plumlee recorded a team-high 10 rebounds. Trae Young led Atlanta with 21 points and seven assists, Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 17 points and Dyson Daniels had 13 as the Hawks finished their road trip with a 2-4 record. Vit Krejci and De'Andre Hunter scored 12 apiece, David Roddy added 11 and Clint Capela recorded 10 points and 11 rebounds. Trailing 72-68 at halftime, Phoenix began the third quarter on a 7-0 run, with Jones' 3-pointer giving the Suns a 75-72 advantage. After Krejci tied the game with a trey at the 9:40 mark, neither team took a lead larger than two points until layups from Durant and Oso Ighodaro gave the Suns an 89-86 edge with 3:08 left in the third. Beal scored Phoenix's final seven points of the third quarter, including a buzzer-beating layup that gave the Suns a 98-92 lead. Mid-range jumpers from Beal and Booker gave Phoenix a 10-point advantage with 7:42 left. Hunter's 3-pointer trimmed Atlanta's deficit to 111-105, but the Suns' lead then ballooned to 15 after Durant, Jones and Allen knocked down consecutive 3-pointers. Atlanta answered with an 10-0 run that cut the deficit to five with 1:22 left, but Allen's layup with 35.6 seconds remaining iced the Suns' victory. Phoenix made 13 of its first 18 shots and took a 33-22 lead after Durant drained a pair of free throws with 1:46 left in the first quarter. Roddy made 3-pointers on the Hawks' final two possessions of the opening period, trimming Atlanta's deficit to 38-31 entering the second. After Durant's dunk put Phoenix ahead 59-53, Onyeka Okongwu began and ended Atlanta's 8-0 run with dunks, putting the Hawks ahead 62-59 with 2:58 left in the second quarter. Josh Okogie's jumper pulled the Suns within one point, but Young's layup and Daniels' 3-pointer gave Atlanta a 72-66 advantage. Jones' layup with three seconds left cut the Suns' halftime deficit to four.

Sinner Declares Innocence in Doping Case



MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - World number one Jannik Sinner said he had done nothing wrong as ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi stressed the Italian's doping case was "run by the book" with no preferential treatment. Defending Australian Open champion Sinner twice tested positive for traces of the steroid clostebol in March. He was exonerated by the International Tennis Integrity Agency, which accepted his explanation that the drug entered his system when his physio used a spray containing it to treat a cut, then provided massage and sports therapy to the player. But the World Anti-Doping Agency appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and Sinner is awaiting the verdict with a suspension possible. The 23-year-old said he had always been "very, very careful on every single medicine I take, even what I eat". "When the bottle is open, I throw it away, I take a new one," he said in Melbourne on the eve of the Australian Open. "In my mind I know exactly what happened, and that's how I block it (out). "I haven't done anything wrong, that's why I'm still here. That's why I'm still playing." Sinner, who faces a stern first-round test at Melbourne Park against big-hitting Chilean Nicolas Jarry, admitted the scandal continued to play on his mind. "You think about this, of course," he said. "I would lie if I would tell you I forget. "It's something what I have with me now already for quite a long time. But it is what it is. I'm here trying to prepare the Grand Slam. Let's see how it goes."

Djokovic Claims He Was Poisoned Before 2022 Australian Open Deportation

PARIS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic has claimed that he was "poisoned" by lead and mercury in his food while he was briefly held in Melbourne in 2022 before being deported on the eve of the Australian Open. The former world number one had his visa cancelled and was eventually kicked out of the country over his refusal to be vaccinated against Covid. He was held in a detention hotel as he fought a fruitless legal battle to remain. "I had some health issues. And I realised that in that hotel in Melbourne I was fed some food that poisoned me," the 37-year-old Djokovic told GQ magazine in a lengthy interview published Thursday. "I had some discoveries when I came back to Serbia. I never told this to anybody publicly, but discoveries that I had a really high level of heavy metal. I had lead, a very high level of lead and mercury." When asked if he believed his food was contaminated, the Serb replied: "That's the only way." A spokesperson for Australia's Department of Home Affairs said it could not comment on individual cases "for privacy reasons". But the government says a lease agreement with the Park Hotel where he was held provides for freshly cooked, individually portioned lunches and dinners for detainees.



All catering staff have undertaken food safety certifications, it says. And, as of December 31, 2021, the hotel had been providing samples of the food provided to detainees at each meal to the contractor responsible for detention services. Australia says detainees had access to a variety of food and drink that was nutritious, culturally appropriate and satisfied specific medical or dietary requirements.

They were also offered breakfast items such as bread, cereal, noodles, tea and coffee at any time of the day or night. Djokovic will be bidding for an 11th Australian Open title and a record-setting 25th major when the season's first Grand Slam event gets underway on Sunday. He insists that he does not hold "any grudge over the Australian people" despite the 2022 controversy. A year later, he returned to Melbourne where he swept to the title. "A lot of Australian people that I meet in Australia the last few years or elsewhere in the world, have come up to me, apologising to me for the treatment I received because they were embarrassed by their own government at that point," he said. "And I think the government's changed, and they reinstated my visa, and I was very grateful for that. "I actually love being there, and I think my results are a testament to my sensation of playing tennis and just being in that country." However, he added: "Never met the people that deported me from that country a few years ago. I don't have a desire to meet with them. If I do one day, that's fine as well. I'm happy to shake hands and move on."

Bergvall Gives Tottenham First-Leg Win Over Liverpool in League Cup Semis



LONDON (Dispatches) - Lucas Bergvall scored his first goal for Tottenham Hotspur to give his side a surprise 1-0 victory over holders Liverpool in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final. The 18-year-old Swede rifled a superb finish past Liverpool keeper Alisson in the 86th minute to reward the injury-hit hosts who shortly before had seen a Dominic Solanke goal ruled out. Liverpool, who beat Chelsea to win the competition for a record 10th time last season, were nowhere near their best as their 24-match unbeaten run in all competitions came to an end. They did have a legitimate cause for complaint though as Bergvall, who had already been booked, was fortunate to escape a second yellow card for a foul on Kostas Tsimikas moments before he netted the winning goal. "He should have been off, it was a big moment," Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk said. While Arne Slot's side suffered only their second loss of the season they will still feel confident of turning around the tie in the second leg at Anfield next month. Newcastle United beat Arsenal 2-0 away in the first leg of the other semi-final on Tuesday. Tottenham had managed only three wins in their past 14 games in all competitions with injuries decimating Ange Postecoglou's squad and when midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur was taken off on a stretcher after a worrying fall early on, the omens looked poor for the hosts who gave a debut to new keeper Antonin Kinsky. Liverpool won 6-3 at Tottenham in the Premier League before Christmas, but they looked lethargic for long periods on Wednesday despite dominating possession. It was sweet revenge for Tottenham for whom Bergvall showed why he is rated so highly -- becoming the team's youngest scorer in the League Cup since Gareth Bale in 2007. Postecoglou claimed earlier this season that he always wins a trophy in his second season at a club but recent results have heaped pressure on the Australian. The fans were singing his name at the end though as a first trophy since the 2008 League Cup moved a little closer, even if there is still much work to be done. Tottenham had the better chances in the first half with Radu Dragusin having an early effort saved by Alisson and Solanke bundling a Son Heung-min cross wide either side of the lengthy stoppage for Bentancur's injury.

Real Outclass Majorca to Set Up Clasico Super Cup Final

JEDDAH (Dispatches) - Real Madrid will chase a record-equalling 14th Spanish Super Cup title in the final against Barcelona after second-half goals by Jude Bellingham and Rodrygo helped them to a 3-0 win over Mallorca in the semi-finals on Thursday. England midfielder Bellingham broke the deadlock after the hour mark with a low shot into the middle of the goal before Mallorca defender Martin Valjent's own goal doubled the lead in stoppage time followed by a Rodrygo strike from close range. Spanish champions Real will play Barcelona for the trophy on Sunday after goals by Gavi and Lamine Yamal earned Barca a 2-0 win over Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday. Barcelona and Real will meet in the competition's final for third consecutive time, with Carlo Ancelotti's side prevailing last year while Barca last lifted the trophy in 2023. Barcelona hold the record of 14 titles with Real on 13. Last year's Copa del Rey finalists Mallorca defended well against Real and the game was goalless at the break after early attempts by



Lucas Vazquez and Bellingham forced Mallorca keeper Dominik Greif into saves. Bellingham found a way past the Slovakian keeper in the 63rd minute, however, following an excellent team move. Rodrygo hit the post with a header and Kylian Mbappe's follow up shot was brilliantly denied by Greif before Bellingham opened the scoring. Real continued pushing to increase their lead but did not find the net again until Valjent sent the ball into his own net two minutes into stoppage time, attempting to block a shot by Real substitute Brahim Diaz. Rodrygo made it 3-0 three minutes later, converting a stunning cross into the box by Vazquez to celebrate his 24th birthday in style. The Spanish Super Cup has been a four-team competition since 2020, featuring the winners and runners-up of LaLiga and the Copa del Rey.