

The Hague Court of Appeal Has Upheld a Verdict Issued by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) Ordering the Kingdom of Bahrain to Pay More Than 214m Euros in Damages to Two Iranian Banks

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Iran's Minister of Information Communication Technology Sattar Hashemi and CEO of Telecommunication Infrastructure Company Behzad Akbari Signed a Strategic ICT Agreement With Azerbaijan's Leading Telecom Operator

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Tour Operators Urged to Showcase the Real Iran to the World



TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Tourism has called on international tour operators to present an authentic image of Iran to the world, highlighting the country's beauty, safety, and renowned hospitality. Anoushirvan Mohseni Bandpey made the remarks on Tuesday during a Business-to-Business (B2B) tourism event held at the Daryaye Noor Hall of the Esteghlal Hotel in Tehran.

Bandpey extended a warm welcome to visiting tour operators and expressed his condolences to the families affected by the recent tragedy at Bandar Imam in Hormozgan Province. He praised the role of tourism in fostering global peace and understanding, stating that travel facilitates direct and meaningful connections between nations. "Tourism is a tool for peace and dialogue," he said. "It promotes mutual understanding and empathy between people."

Emphasizing Iran's global standing as a top-10 destination for natural and cultural attractions, Bandpey noted that the country currently boasts 28 tangible and 26 intangible cultural heritages registered by UNESCO. These, he said, make Iran a compelling and diverse travel destination.

The Deputy Minister reported that Iran hosted 7.4 million international tourists last year, reflecting the country's commitment to growing the sector through peaceful engagement and high security standards. He emphasized the government's ambition, under the Seventh Development Plan, to double that number to 15 million over the next four years.

To support this goal, he revealed that 2,500 tourism projects are underway, including 500 new hotel constructions. Bandpey expressed confidence that public-private partnerships would be key in achieving the country's tourism development targets.

He also highlighted the role of infrastructure in supporting tourism, noting the presence of over 30 international airlines operating in Iran and 3,000 eco-lodges established in picturesque and rural regions across the country.

Tuesday's event brought together experienced Iranian tour operators and their international counterparts. Bandpey expressed hope that these meetings would result in bilateral agreements to enhance cooperation and tourist flows between nations.

Death Toll From Shahid Rajaei Port Blast Rises to 70



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The death toll from a massive explosion that ripped through Shahid Rajaei Port in the Iran's southwestern city of Bandar Abbas rises to 70, while more than 1,000 people have sustained injuries.

Director general of the crisis management organization at Hormozgan province, Mehrdad Hassanzadeh, announced on Monday that the catastrophic blast has claimed the lives of 70 individuals so far.

Out of those injured, a total of 1,072 people have been discharged, while 138 remain hospitalized.

Hassanzadeh noted that all activities at Shahid Rajaei Port are going on normally, noting that services are being provided as of 10 a.m. local time (1830 GMT) on Sunday to prevent any disruption to the freight missions or loading and unloading operations.

Minister of Interior Eskandar Momeni, appointed by President Masoud Pezeshkian to oversee the site and the ongoing relief efforts, said on Sunday night that the cause of the tragic incident is under investigation, and that a committee is collecting evidence related to the explosion.

He assured the Iranian public that those responsible would be held accountable. Momeni also said that rescue and firefighting teams responded promptly to extinguish the fire and mitigate its spread.

During a cabinet meeting on Sunday, First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref stated that the investigation into causes of the blast is being carried out very seriously.

Tehran, Baku Can Establish Peace and Security in the Region

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian, in a joint press conference with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on Tuesday, emphasized the potential of Iran and Azerbaijan to work together to establish peace and security in the region and resolve regional challenges through cooperation.

President Pezeshkian thanked Aliyev for his warm hospitality and expressed appreciation for the Azerbaijani leader's commitment to strengthening regional ties. "We can cooperate across all possible sectors," he said.

Describing Iran-Azerbaijan relations as historic, Pezeshkian highlighted the religious, cultural, and political commonalities between the two neighboring countries. He emphasized that these shared values form the foundation for further deepening bilateral relations.

The Iranian President called the agreements signed between the two countries "strategic and significant," and noted that President Aliyev has instructed Azerbaijani officials to implement a joint strategic plan. Iran, in turn, has tasked its Foreign Minister to pursue this agenda more actively to facilitate collaboration in scientific, political, economic, and security fields.

Pezeshkian underlined the necessity for unity among Muslim nations and neighbors, advocating mutual respect for territorial integrity and a shared vision for cooperation. "By improving trade, modernizing transportation links, and working together in production and culture, we can resist efforts to sow discord between our nations," he said.

Expressing confidence in the strong political will on both sides, he added, "With the determination I see in my brother President Aliyev and the Islamic Republic's commitment to expanding ties with our friendly neighbor, we will fully implement all agreements by the grace of God."

Pezeshkian concluded by expressing gratitude for the hospitality of the Azerbaijani side and said, "We are committed to fully executing our agreements with Azerbaijan and building a new, brighter future for Iran, Azerbaijan, and the Middle East."

He added, "When I'm in Azerbaijan, I don't feel like I'm in a foreign land. I hope we will deepen our ties in economic, cultural, scientific, security, and military fields for the benefit of future generations."

At the beginning of the joint press conference, Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev welcomed President Pezeshkian and the accompanying Iranian delegation, noting the long-standing brotherly relations between the two peoples and governments. He expressed confidence that this visit would further strengthen bilateral ties.



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Aliyev said the two sides emphasized the importance of strategic cooperation during both private and joint meetings. "Our main goal is to expand activities and relations in all sectors," he said.

He noted that several significant cooperation documents were signed in the presence of the two presidents, demonstrating the shared commitment to closer collaboration.

Aliyev highlighted mutual support in international organizations, including discussions on future cooperation in bodies such as the UN, ECO, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

He reiterated that bilateral and regional cooperation is rooted in ensuring regional security and noted ongoing diverse economic collaboration. Aliyev added that both high-level private meetings and official delegations had underscored the importance of expanding joint efforts.

He recalled extensive prior coordination efforts before this visit, including inspections and reviews of joint projects by senior Iranian and Azerbaijani officials. "The cooperation agreements we have finalized will serve as a foundation for advancing our relations," Aliyev stated.

On the North-South Corridor, Aliyev emphasized its strategic value for all participating countries. "We have taken all necessary steps to activate and benefit from this project," he said, noting continued development of infrastructure such as ports, roads, and railways to handle future trade volumes.

Aliyev also announced the resumption of cultural consultations that had been suspended for eight years, stating, "We have issued directives to hold these sessions more regularly."

Pointing to deep cultural ties and familial bonds between the two nations, he said the shared political will ensures that this visit will play a special role in enhancing cooperation.

Aliyev offered condolences to Iran over the recent explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port in Bandar Abbas, which resulted in casualties. He expressed prayers for the victims and wished a swift recovery for the injured.

He praised President Pezeshkian's decision to proceed with the visit despite the tragedy, calling it a positive and meaningful gesture. "May God keep our nations safe from such tragedies and may peace and stability prevail in the region," he said.

In closing, Aliyev reaffirmed Azerbaijan's commitment to regional stability, national sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs.

Zionist Rhetoric Stems from Delusion

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf dismissed recent statements by Israeli officials as delusional and insignificant, aimed at disrupting indirect negotiations between Iran and the United States. He warned that even a minimal act of aggression against Iran would be tantamount to igniting a powder keg, potentially engulfing the region in conflict.

Speaking during a parliamentary session on Tuesday, Qalibaf responded to threats made by Israel's Prime Minister, labeling him a "criminal" trying to distract from his own political downfall. "This miserable man changes his flight paths daily out of fear of arrest and is among the most reviled war criminals in modern history," he said.

Qalibaf stated that the true nature of Israel, which he referred to as a "butcher regime," has been exposed to the global public, particularly to the younger generations in the U.S. and Europe. He added, "This regime prides itself on bombing schools and hospitals, but has failed to achieve any of its declared goals since the beginning of the current conflict, leaving it in its most insecure state ever."

He argued that Israel's deep political, economic, social, and international crises have left it so weakened that it now relies on fabricated victories and empty bravado. "Each time this corrupt criminal boasts more loudly, he faces even greater defeat on the battlefield," Qalibaf asserted. "Haunted by the resistance of Hamas, he now makes absurd threats beyond his capacity."

Referring to the Israeli Prime Minister as a modern-day "naked king" whom no one takes seriously, Qalibaf accused him of sacrificing others for his own political survival. He suggested that Israel seeks to derail ongoing international talks, but claimed that the international community, including Israel's allies, no longer buys into its tactics.

Qalibaf emphasized that the Israeli regime's very existence is rooted in bloodshed and that peace drives it to desperation. "We see these statements as mere low-value rhetoric aimed at influencing negotiations between Iran and the U.S. We don't take them seriously, but we are clear on one point," he said.

He warned that if any of the threats were to materialize, Israel would not act without U.S. consent. "To avoid miscalculations by the enemy, we declare: The Iranian people will not



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be fooled by the old good-cop, bad-cop routine."

"Any aggression against Iran is like setting fire to a barrel of gunpowder," he warned. "It would engulf the whole region and put all American bases in neighboring countries at risk. Those countries would also pay the price for Israel's adventurism."

Qalibaf reiterated Iran's military readiness to respond to any attack. "We are fully capable of launching a wide-scale counteroffensive if necessary. The knowledge and willpower to do so are at our disposal," he stated.

He also noted that the best way to support Iran's negotiation stance is through strong domestic governance, utilizing internal resources and enhancing international relations. "This will dissuade the enemy from trying to extort concessions from us and push them toward respecting Iran's

interests," he said.

Qalibaf called on the government to prioritize full implementation of the electronic ration card program and launch energy-saving initiatives to address structural imbalances and improve public satisfaction.

At the beginning of his speech, Qalibaf offered condolences to the victims of the tragic explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port and congratulated the nation on the birth anniversary of Hazrat Fatima Masoumeh and the start of the ten-day Karamat festival.

He praised the unity of the Iranian people in the wake of the incident, noting the heroic efforts of emergency responders, medical personnel, and military firefighters. "Iranian youth once again showed that their hearts beat for the nation's peace and prosperity," he said.

Qalibaf assured the public that a thorough investigation into the port disaster is underway. "Top government officials were present at the scene from the earliest moments, and, as instructed by the Supreme Leader, parliamentary and judicial bodies are conducting a comprehensive probe to determine if negligence or deliberate action was involved. The findings will be shared with the public," he concluded.

He closed by commending the Iranian people's resilience: "No words can truly express our gratitude to this noble nation. Their bond with each other and with their country is deep and enduring. Our enemies will take to their graves the dream of breaking this unity and undermining Iran's security."

Iran Fully Ready to Help Zimbabwe in its fight against terrorism: Defense minister



TEHRAN (pressTV) - Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh says the Islamic Republic is fully ready to provide strategic assistance to Zimbabwe in its fight against terrorism.

"Terrorism and its spillover from various regions to the south of the African continent are among the most important threats and concerns of the governments in this region," Nasirzadeh said in a meeting with Zimbabwe's Minister of Defense and War Veterans Affairs Oppah Muchinguri in Tehran on Monday.

He added that Africa has always had a special status in Iran's foreign policy after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution given Tehran's support for independent and revolutionary states and the African countries' efforts to achieve independence from the arrogant system.

He noted that historical ties between Iran and Zimbabwe have always been based on friendship and mutual respect, saying the two countries have expanded relations in the past years.

The Iranian defense chief expressed confidence that a planned visit by Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa to Tehran would lead to further consolidation of mutual relations.

He welcomed the expansion of defense cooperation and exchange of technical delegations between the two countries which would increase Zimbabwe's deterrent power in the face of security threats.

Pointing to very important political-security developments in Africa, particularly in its southern parts, Nasirzadeh expressed Iran's readiness to cooperate and support independent countries to secure national interests in accordance with their identity and culture.

Iran can also help African countries achieve common benefits that will be beneficial to for independent nations, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian defense minister said nearly 50,000 people of Palestine, particularly children, have been brutally killed by the Israeli regime, backed by the US and Western countries amid silence of international forums.

Iran Condemns Deadly U.S. Attacks on Yemen as War Crime



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei has strongly condemned deadly strikes by the United States on areas in Yemen, including a detention center designated for African migrants.

Nearly 70 inmates were killed and more than 50 others wounded, most of them critically, in an U.S. airstrike that targeted one of the detention centers designated for African migrants in Sa'ada province on Monday.

In a statement on Monday, Baghaei said the continued U.S. military attacks on civilian targets, key infrastructures and homes of people in various parts of Yemen, which have killed hundreds of innocent people, are amount to a "war crime".

He lashed out at the United Nations and human rights bodies for remaining silent and indifferent to the US attacks in clear breach of law and repeated violation of Yemen's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Iranian spokesperson added that the Israeli regime continues its genocidal war in Palestine and its acts of aggression against Lebanon.

Baghaei said the U.S. military aggression against Yemen is in line with the Israeli regime's wicked plan to "destroy and weaken Muslim countries and to spread insecurity the entire West Asia region."

He emphasized that all Muslim countries bear a historical responsibility to take effective strategies to stop the killing of the Muslim people of Yemen and to prevent the continuation of genocide in Gaza and the West Bank.

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Iran, Azerbaijan Sign Cooperation Agreement in Transportation Sector

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have signed a cooperation agreement in the field of transportation. The memorandum of understanding was signed by Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, and her Azerbaijani counterpart during a ceremony attended by the presidents of both countries.

Minister Farzaneh Sadegh traveled to Baku alongside Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. During the visit, the two sides formalized their collaboration in transportation by signing the new agreement.

Iran, Bolivia Emphasize Strengthening Cooperation in the Oil Industry



TEHRAN – Oil Minister reaffirmed the country's readiness to expand and strengthen bilateral cooperation with Bolivia in the fields of oil, gas, refining, and petrochemicals during a meeting with Bolivia's Minister of Energy and Hydrocarbons.

During talks on Monday, Minister Mohsen Paknejad highlighted Iran's capabilities in the exploration sector and proposed sharing the successful experiences of Iranian companies currently engaged in exploration activities in Bolivia to foster effective collaboration.

Paknejad also pointed to Bolivia's achievements in solar power generation and related technologies, expressing Iran's keen interest in benefiting from Bolivia's technical expertise and experiences in the renewable energy sector.

In the meeting, Alejandro Gallardo Baldivieso, Bolivia's Minister of Energy and Hydrocarbons, expressed condolences and solidarity with the Iranian people following the recent explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port in Hormozgan Province.

Gallardo emphasized that with the strong presence of Iranian companies at the Iran Expo 1404 (Export Capabilities Exhibition), a valuable opportunity has emerged to enhance bilateral cooperation, particularly in the areas of oil, gas, refining, and petrochemicals.

He added that Bolivia is particularly interested in leveraging the capabilities of Iranian knowledge-based companies in the design, construction, and commissioning of oil refineries.

Referring to Bolivia's achievements in renewable energy, Gallardo proposed that technical delegations from both countries should be established swiftly to advance cooperation in this sector.

Ethiopia Requests Iran's Support to Build Urea Production Complex



TEHRAN - Ethiopia has requested Iran's assistance in utilizing its engineering expertise, equipment, and technical knowledge from the petrochemical sector to build a urea production complex in Ethiopia.

Hassan Abbaszadeh, Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemical Affairs, met with Hassan Mohamed Maalin, Ethiopia's Minister of State for Industry, on the sidelines of the 7th Iran Expo on Monday (April 28). During the meeting, Abbaszadeh responded to Ethiopia's request for cooperation, stating that if Ethiopia could supply the required natural gas feedstock, a fully integrated ammonia and urea production complex, along with necessary utility units, could be established. Otherwise, Iran could supply the needed ammonia for the urea production plant.

Abbaszadeh further noted that the National Petrochemical Company could also design a comprehensive roadmap for developing Ethiopia's petrochemical industry, enabling the African nation to achieve significant growth in this sector in the future.

Ethiopia's Minister of State for Industry, Hassan Mohamed Maalin, expressed gratitude to the Iranian government and people for their warm hospitality during the Iran-Africa Summit and Iran Expo. He emphasized that until Ethiopia can establish its own production facilities, the country is eager to not only continue but also expand its imports of urea from Iran.

Highlighting Ethiopia's plan to achieve self-sufficiency in urea production by building a domestic plant, Maalin stressed the country's interest in leveraging the engineering capabilities and equipment of Iranian companies. "Ethiopia's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, and we urgently need urea and various chemical fertilizers to support this sector," he said.

Maalin explained that Ethiopia currently imports urea from Morocco, the United Arab Emirates, and Iran but faces high costs due to intermediaries. He added that, while Ethiopia is in talks with other countries about the petrochemical project, it warmly welcomes Iranian participation in engineering, equipment supply, and investment.

Iran and Azerbaijan Set Sights on Expanding Trade to Multi-Billion-Dollar Levels

TEHRAN - Iran and Azerbaijan are aiming to elevate their bilateral trade to multi-billion-dollar levels in the coming years, tapping into the significant economic potential between the two neighboring countries.

Speaking at the Iran-Azerbaijan Business Forum in Baku — an event attended by the presidents of both nations — Samad Hassanzadeh, President of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, expressed confidence in the future of the partnership.

Hassanzadeh noted that while bilateral trade stood at around \$900 million in 2024, efforts are underway to substantially increase this figure. Leading a senior Iranian trade delegation composed of private sector leaders and top executives from multiple industries, he emphasized that the forum represents a pivotal step toward deepening fraternal relations and expanding economic cooperation.

"With our strong historical, cultural, and religious bonds — and a 765-kilometer shared border — Iran and Azerbaijan have immense capacity to enhance their economic ties," Hassanzadeh said.

Hassanzadeh highlighted the strategic role of completing the Rasht-Astara railway, the missing link in the International North-South Transport Corridor. The project is expected to reduce transit times between Asia and Europe and strengthen both countries' positions in global logistics networks. Development of the Astara and Anzali ports was also emphasized as crucial for improving regional connectivity.

Recent trilateral gas swap agreements between Iran, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan have created new opportunities in the energy sector. Both sides are exploring joint investments in energy transmission infrastructure and power generation projects along their border regions, he added.

He also proposed partnerships in smart agriculture technologies, including greenhouse farming, advanced irrigation systems, and the export of processed agricultural goods to satisfy Azerbaijan's increasing demand.

With reconstruction efforts underway in Azerbaijani territories, Iranian firms are positioned to contribute expertise in infrastructure development — including road construction, dam building, electrification, and the establishment of schools and hospitals, Hassanzadeh noted.

Construction and Engineering Services:

Iran's longstanding experience in engineering and construction offers valuable support for Azerbaijan's infrastructure expansion plans. Hassanzadeh proposed organizing technical meetings between private sector representatives from both countries to explore joint ventures.

Both nations' emphasis on digital transformation opens avenues for collaboration in IT services, e-commerce, cybersecurity, and digital infrastructure development.

He went on to say shared cultural heritage, simplified visa regulations, and health tourism initiatives present promising areas for cooperation. Plans for joint Iran-Azerbaijan tour packages aimed at attracting tourists from third countries are also under discussion.

To facilitate the envisioned growth, Hassanzadeh stressed the importance of:



Streamlining visa procedures for business professionals; Expanding economic representative offices; Removing banking and financial obstacles; Enhancing logistics and customs processes; and Negotiating a free trade or preferential trade agreement to lower tariffs.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce, alongside the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Chamber, stands ready to support these initiatives by organizing trade missions and hosting specialized exhibitions.

In closing, Hassanzadeh expressed optimism that the forum would usher in a new era of industrial, economic, and investment cooperation — ultimately driving a major expansion in trade between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile Yusif Aliyev, Executive Director of Azerbaijan's Trade and Investment Development Office, said trade relations between Iran and Azerbaijan have witnessed significant growth, with a reported 18% increase in the first three months of 2025 compared to the same period last year.

Speaking at a business forum during an Iranian trade delegation's visit to Azerbaijan, Aliyev highlighted the dynamic role Iranian businesses play in Azerbaijan's economy. "Over 1,739 Iranian companies have invested in Azerbaijan, totaling approximately \$5.2 million," he said. He added that numerous joint projects are currently under review and implementation.

Aliyev emphasized the importance of high-level political engagement, stating that the presence of the two countries' presidents at recent meetings has been a turning point in strengthening bilateral ties. "Islamic unity serves as a solid foundation for achieving shared goals and enhancing economic cooperation," he noted. Increased government-level contacts have also played a key role in advancing relations.

Reflecting on the 16th meeting of the Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Commission, Aliyev said discussions covered investment across various sectors. He expressed optimism that with the positive investment experiences already established, conditions for broader cooperation would continue to improve.

In the first quarter of 2025, trade between the two nations reached approximately \$157 million. Aliyev pointed out that the Azerbaijani Investment Promotion Agency has streamlined business operations by introducing a one-stop-shop model, offering incentives and tax exemptions to encourage investment and trade.

Welcoming the signing of preferential and free trade agreements between Iran and Azerbaijan, Aliyev revealed that Iranian businesses have identified and entered 91 new projects in Azerbaijan.

He also stressed the cultural dimension of economic relations, citing carpet weaving as an important symbol of unity between the two nations. An international carpet festival is scheduled to take place in Baku at the end of this week, further showcasing the deep-rooted cultural ties.

Aliyev concluded by noting that today's business forum serves as a vital platform for deepening economic partnerships and paving the way for stronger bilateral relations.

Iran Signals Readiness to Boost Economic Cooperation Within ECO Bloc

TEHRAN - Iran has expressed its readiness to enhance cooperation and trade exchanges among member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), emphasizing the organization's shared historical and cultural foundations as key drivers for regional integration.

Speaking at the inaugural ECO Sustainable Development Forum held in Arkadag, Turkmenistan, Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Vice President of Iran and Head of the Plan and Budget Organization, highlighted Iran's commitment to collaborative development across ECO countries.

Pourmohammadi pointed to Iran's long-standing policies supporting family structures, women's employment, and access to education as vital elements for sustainable growth. He emphasized that promoting strong family units can provide the social stability needed for resilient economies.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has implemented various budgetary and policy measures to empower educated workforces and ensure sustainable employment for women," he said. "Such efforts are essential to prevent demographic challenges and strengthen economic stability."

He also advocated for sustainable development strategies that are aligned with the specific conditions and needs of ECO member nations. "By working within the South-South cooperation framework, we can achieve human dignity, sustainable economic growth, and greater resilience," Pourmohammadi stated.

Despite efforts by ECO nations to foster regional cooperation, Pourmohammadi acknowledged a significant gap between actual achievements and the region's vast potential. He urged member countries to prioritize joint planning for economic development, removal of trade barriers, and enhancement of transportation and communication infrastructure.

In 2023, ECO member countries exported goods worth approximately \$455 billion globally, but only 10.3% of this—around \$56.3 billion—was traded within the region. "This underlines the need for a Free Trade Agreement, which is clearly emphasized in the ECO Vision 2025 document," he said. "It's time to move decisively toward establishing an ECO Free Trade Zone."



Iran called for greater utilization of the region's agricultural and industrial capacities and promoted the use of modern technologies and digital tools to fuel economic progress. "The region must increase intra-regional trade, share educational and scientific resources, and digitalize economies for shared prosperity," Pourmohammadi stated.

He proposed the creation of a regional development fund, jointly financed by member states, to support projects that have been stalled due to lack of national funding. Such a fund could also help integrate regional value chains and accelerate shared growth.

Iran also reiterated its strength in engineering and technical services and offered to expand exchanges and cooperation in these areas.

Pourmohammadi emphasized the necessity for national and regional resilience in the face of future economic shocks. He outlined the key pillars for this resilience: sustainable growth, clean energy, skilled human capital, responsible natural resource management, robust private sectors, and strategic use of emerging technologies.

He recommended that ECO initiate formal mechanisms for cooperation in advanced technologies, particularly artificial intelligence. "ECO must take proactive steps to regulate and coordinate joint efforts in these emerging fields," he said.

The Iranian official concluded by highlighting development as the most effective way to ensure lasting peace. "For humanity to prosper, enhanced regional collaboration is essential," he said. "Iran considers the launch of the ECO Sustainable Development Forum a valuable initiative and stands ready to support all efforts that lead to greater regional integration and progress."

The ECO Sustainable Development Forum, which brings together ministers and senior officials from member countries, is being held on April 27–28, 2025, in Arkadag, Turkmenistan. Iran's delegation is led by Vice President Pourmohammadi, who represents the host country of ECO's permanent secretariat.

Iran Expresses Readiness to Export Technical and Engineering Services to Kazakhstan



TEHRAN - The Vice President of Iran and Head of the Plan and Budget Organization announced the readiness of capable Iranian companies to export technical and engineering services to Kazakhstan during a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan.

Seyed Hamid Pourmohammadi, Vice President and Head of the Plan and Budget Organization, met with Koysly Bau, Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan, on the sidelines of the First ECO Sustainable Development Forum held today (Monday, April 28) in the city of Arkadag, Turkmenistan.

During the meeting, Pourmohammadi stated, "Given the role and mission of the Plan and Budget Organization in planning the country's development, I have been tasked by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to identify and resolve obstacles to the expansion of relations between Iran and Kazakhstan."

Highlighting that capable Iranian companies are prepared to export technical and engineering services to Kazakhstan, he also expressed interest in importing grain, livestock products, and related goods from Kazakhstan.

Pourmohammadi proposed the establishment of a barter system for the exchange of goods and services between the two countries and urged the Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan to assign the Kazakh ambassador in Tehran to focus on developing bilateral relations. "We at the Plan and Budget Organization are ready to organize meetings to facilitate this cooperation," he added.

He further suggested appointing two companies, one Iranian and one Kazakh, to spearhead initiatives aimed at opening new avenues for the development of bilateral ties.

Koysly Bau, Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister, emphasized that strengthening relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran is a priority of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. He stated that Kazakhstan is keen to import dates, fruits, and vegetables from Iran.

He added that Kazakhstan's plans for enhancing cooperation with Iran include developing transportation links, reviving trade corridors and ports, and strengthening railway connections between the two countries.

Prospects for Iran-U.S. Joint Chamber Rise Amid Negotiation Hopes



TEHRAN - In a press conference held by the Iran Chamber of Commerce's Expo Committee, officials emphasized the crucial need for successful negotiations to pave the way for expanded exports. They underlined that traders require political facilitation and access to international financial and commercial networks to meet export goals.

The first press meeting of the Iran Expo Committee featured heads of the Non-Oil Exports Development, Tourism, Carpet, Arts, and Handicrafts Commissions. Mohammad Lahouti, head of the Export Commission, highlighted Expo as an important platform to showcase Iran's export capabilities, foster foreign partnerships, and promote Iranian products globally. He mentioned the target of reaching \$10 billion in trade with African countries this year, stressing the need to address transportation barriers and enhance banking relations to achieve this.

Lahouti noted that while Iran's exports surpassed \$58 billion last year, this figure does not fully reflect the country's potential, suggesting it could triple with the right strategies. Africa, he emphasized, remains a vital emerging market, and success in negotiations with the U.S. could significantly expand Iran's reach into African markets.

Shahab Ali Arab, Vice President of the Tourism Commission, discussed efforts to revitalize Iran's tourism sector through the Iran Expo 2025. He stated that various international tour operators have been invited, in coordination with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, to explore Iran's attractions and participate in B2B meetings with local businesses.

ICJ to Hear UN Case on Israel's Duty to Allow Gaza Aid

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) - The UN's top court will open a week of hearings on Israel's humanitarian obligations towards Palestinians, more than 50 days into its total blockade on aid entering war-ravaged Gaza.

United Nations representatives will start the five days of sittings at the International Court of Justice in The Hague, followed by a Palestinian submission.

Another 38 countries will then address the 15-judge panel, including the United States, China, France, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The League of Arab States, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the African Union will also make submissions. The UN's General Assembly approved a resolution in December asking the ICJ for an advisory opinion on the matter "on a priority basis and with the utmost urgency".



Gaza Ceasefire Talks in Cairo Near Significant Breakthrough



CAIRO (Dispatches) - Negotiations held in Cairo to reach a ceasefire in Gaza were on the verge of a "significant breakthrough," two Egyptian security sources told Reuters on Monday.

There was no immediate comment from Israel and Hamas. Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a brief post on X that an Israeli official denied the reported breakthrough, without giving further details.

The Egyptian sources said there was a consensus on a long-term ceasefire in the besieged enclave, yet some sticking points remain, including Hamas arms.

Hamas repeatedly said it was not willing to lay down its arms, a key demand by Israel.

Earlier, Egyptian state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV reported that Egyptian intelligence chief General Hassan Mahmoud Rashad was set to meet an Israeli delegation headed by strategic affairs minister Ron Dermer on Monday in Cairo.

The sources said the ongoing talks included Egyptian and Israeli delegations. Mediators Egypt and Qatar did not report developments on the latest talks.

Qatar Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said on Sunday that a recent meeting in Doha on efforts to reach a ceasefire made some progress, but noted there was no agreement yet on how to end the war.

He said the militant group is willing to return all remaining Israeli hostages if Israel ends the war in Gaza. But Israel wants Hamas to release the remaining hostages without offering a clear vision on ending the war, he added.

The media adviser for the Hamas leadership, Taher Al-Nono, told Reuters on Saturday that the group was open to a years-long truce with Israel in Gaza, adding that the group hoped to build support among mediators for its offer.

India, Pakistan Trade Fire Again in Kashmir as Diplomatic Rift Widens



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Indian and Pakistani soldiers exchanged gunfire in disputed Kashmir for a fifth straight night, New Delhi's army said Tuesday, one week since an attack targeting tourists sent relations into a tailspin.

The Indian army said its soldiers and Pakistani forces fired at each other overnight along the Line of Control, the de facto border in contested Kashmir, a heavily-fortified zone of high-altitude Himalayan outposts.

There was no immediate confirmation from Pakistan.

Relations between the nuclear-armed neighbours have plummeted after India accused Pakistan of backing the deadliest attack in years on civilians in Indian-administered Kashmir on April 22, in which 26 men were killed.

Islamabad has rejected the charge, and both countries have since exchanged gunfire in Kashmir, diplomatic barbs, expelled citizens and ordered the border shut.

India said that overnight Monday to Tuesday, the "Pakistan Army resorted to unprovoked small arms firing across the Line of Control", saying the gunfire took place in areas opposite Kupwara and Baramulla districts, as well as in the Akhnoor sector.

The Indian army said its troops had "responded in a measured and effective manner to the provocation". There were no reports of casualties.

Mark Carney's Liberals Win Canadian Election Marked by Growing U.S. Tensions

OTTAWA (Dispatches) - Prime Minister Mark Carney won Canada's election Monday, local media projected, leading his Liberal Party to a new term in power after convincing voters that his experience managing economic crises prepared him to confront U.S. President Donald Trump.

The public broadcaster CBC and CTV News both projected the Liberals would form Canada's next government, but it was not yet clear if they would hold a majority in parliament.

Trump's trade war and threats to annex Canada, which he renewed in an election day social media post, outraged Canadians and made dealing with the United States a top campaign issue.

Carney, who had never held elected office and only replaced Justin Trudeau as prime minister last month, anchored his campaign on an anti-Trump message.

He previously served as central bank governor in both Britain and Canada and persuaded voters his global financial experience has prepared him to guide Canada through a trade war.

He promised to expand overseas trading relations to curb Canada's reliance on the United States.

Carney's descriptions of the Trump threat have been stark.

"Donald Trump wants to break us so America can own us," he said during the campaign.

"They want our resources, they want our water, they want our land, they want our country. They can't have it."

But the departure of former prime minister Justin Trudeau was also crucial to the Liberal win, which capped one of the most dramatic turnarounds in Canadian political history.

On January 6, the day Trudeau announced he would resign, the Conservatives led the Liberals by more than 20 points in most polls, as voter anger over soaring costs mounted after Trudeau's decade in power.

But Carney replacing Trudeau, combined with nationwide unease about Trump, transformed the race.

Carney, 60, distanced himself from Trudeau throughout the campaign.

He said the former prime minister did not focus enough on growing Canada's economy and scrapped a controversial Trudeau tax on carbon emissions that left many voters seething.

Nearly 29 million of Canada's 41 million people were eligible to vote in the massive G7 country that spans six time zones. A record 7.3 million people cast advanced ballots.

Results were still pending on the shape of Canada's 343 members of parliament, with 172 seats needed for a majority. The Liberals won a majority in 2015 but have governed with a minority since 2019.

Putin Announces May 8-10 Ceasefire, Ukraine Wants Truce Now

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin declared a three-day ceasefire in May in the war with Ukraine to mark the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Soviet Union and its allies in World War Two.

Putin's move appeared aimed at signalling that Russia is still interested in peace - something that Ukraine and its European allies dispute - as President Donald Trump's administration in Washington grows impatient with stuttering efforts toward peace.

The Kremlin said the 72-hour ceasefire would run on May 8, May 9 - when Putin will host international leaders including Chinese President Xi Jinping for lavish celebrations to commemorate victory over Nazi Germany - and May 10.

Kyiv questioned why Putin would not agree to its call for an immediate ceasefire lasting at least 30 days to pave the way for diplomacy.

"For some reason, everyone is supposed to wait for May 8 and only then have a ceasefire to ensure calm for Putin during the parade," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. "We value people's lives and not parades."

Russia has said it wants a full settlement, not a pause.

Putin's announcement came after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke on Sunday. The White House said Trump wanted a permanent ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

"While President Trump welcomes Vladimir Putin's willingness to pause the conflict, the president has been very clear he wants a permanent ceasefire and to bring this conflict to a peaceful resolution," said National Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes.

"All military actions are suspended for this period. Russia believes that the Ukrainian side should follow this example," the Kremlin said in a statement on the May 8-10 ceasefire.



"In the event of violations by the Ukrainian side, Russia's armed forces will give an adequate and effective response."

It was the second unilateral truce announcement that Putin has made in quick succession, following a 30-hour Easter ceasefire that each side accused the other of violating countless times.

It came after Trump criticized Putin for a deadly Russian attack on Kyiv last week and voiced concern at the weekend that Putin was "just tapping me along". Washington has repeatedly threatened to abandon its peace efforts unless there is real progress.

Rubio in a call with Lavrov on Sunday "underscored to his Russian counterpart the next steps in Russia-Ukraine peace talks and the need to end the war now," State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce said in a

statement on Monday, without offering more details.

Russia's foreign ministry said Lavrov "highlighted the importance of reinforcing the emerging conditions necessary to launch negotiations aimed at establishing a reliable framework for long-term, sustainable peace."

The Kremlin said Moscow wants direct talks with Ukraine "without preconditions."

Lavrov, in a written interview with Brazil's O Globo newspaper on Monday, said that as well as ruling out Ukraine's membership of NATO, a settlement should include "demilitarizing and de-Nazifying Ukraine" and international recognition of four regions of Ukraine that Russia has partially occupied since 2022 and claimed as its own.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday that the signal for direct talks should come from Ukraine, as it currently had a "legal ban" on negotiating with Putin.

He was referring to a 2022 decree in which Zelenskyy ruled out such negotiations, after Russia had claimed four Ukrainian regions as its own in an action condemned as illegal by most countries at the United Nations.

Ukraine accuses Russia of playing for time in order to try to seize more of its territory, and has urged greater international pressure to get Moscow to stop fighting.

Russia accuses Ukraine of being unwilling to make any concessions and of seeking a ceasefire only on its own terms.

Trump on Sunday urged Russia to stop its attacks in Ukraine and suggested Zelenskyy was ready to give up Crimea, which Russia seized from it in 2014.

Zelenskyy said earlier this month that doing so would violate Ukraine's constitution. Kyiv has not commented on Trump's comments on Sunday regarding Crimea.

Power Gradually Returns to Spain, Portugal

MADRID (Dispatches) - About 60 percent of Spain's power has been restored, the country's electricity operator said Monday, after a massive blackout hit Spain and Portugal, leading the Spanish PM to declare a state of emergency. Portugal has also restored power to 750,000 users. The cause of the outage is unknown.

Spain's interior ministry on Monday declared a state of emergency after a nationwide power blackout hit most of the Iberian Peninsula. The ministry added the emergency status will be applied in the regions that request it.

So far, Madrid, Andalusia and Extremadura have asked for the central government to take over public order and other functions.

Almost 60 percent of Spain's power capacity has been restored, the country's REE electricity operator said late Monday as it battled to overcome a major outage that has hit Spain and Portugal.

The company said earlier that power was being "progressively" restored across the country.

In Portugal earlier, the REN power operator said 750,000 customers were back online after the shock mass outage for which no firm cause has been given.



The blackout brought much of Spain and Portugal to a standstill Monday, halting subway and railway trains, cutting phone service and shutting down traffic lights and ATMs for millions of people across the Iberian Peninsula.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said that a problem in the European grid that he described as a "strong oscillation" was behind the outage, but that the cause was still being determined.

"All potential causes are being analysed, I insist, without ruling out any hypothesis, any possibility," Sanchez told a press conference, 11 hours after Spain and Portugal were plunged into darkness for reasons that had yet to be determined.

Spanish power distributor Red Eléctrica said that restoring power fully to the country and neighboring Portugal could take 6-10 hours. By mid-afternoon, voltage was progressively being restored in the north, south and west of the peninsula, the company said. The company declined to speculate on the causes of the huge blackout.

Sánchez thanked the governments of France and Morocco, where energy was being pulled from to restore power to north and southern Spain.

Cavaliers Sweep Heat With Record-Setting Blowout



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Donovan Mitchell scored 22 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers clinched a 4-0 first-round series sweep with a 138-83 rout of the host Miami Heat on Monday night, the fourth-largest winning margin in an NBA playoff game.

De'Andre Hunter (19 points), Ty Jerome (18) and Evan Mobley (17) all played their part, while Jarrett Allen finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds along with six first-half steals.

Nikola Jovic sat out the first quarter before finishing with a career playoff-high 24 points for Miami, while Bam Adebayo posted 13 points and 12 boards.

The emphatic Game 4 victory earned the No. 1 seed Cavaliers a berth in the Eastern Conference semifinals, while ending the eighth-seeded Heat's season in humiliating fashion.

The 55-point margin was Miami's biggest postseason defeat, surpassing the previous record of 37 points set two days ago in Game 3.

"We were humbled, but they (Cavaliers) had so much to do with how we looked," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "None of us would have guessed this series would have gone this way coming out of our two play-ins. They just took it to another level. They left us behind these last two games."

Cleveland set up the blowout by trouncing the Heat 43-17 in the first period.

After Miami briefly led 3-2 early, the Cavs went on a 13-0 tear to pull ahead 15-3. They were never threatened again, another 15-0 spree taking the score to 35-8.

"Great leadership that first five minutes, led by our starters, then when our bench comes in we don't skip a beat - we get stronger," Cleveland coach Kenny Atkinson said. "We came here with the right mentality. ... We don't seem to have letdowns, and that's rare."

Davion Mitchell buried a last-second prayer from almost halfway to close an otherwise horrific quarter from the Heat, outrebounded 14-8 and coughing up six turnovers for 11 points.

Donovan Mitchell had 13 first-quarter points, including three 3-pointers, Hunter added 11, and Allen had 10 points and four steals.

The Cavaliers shot 15 of 24 for the period, which included 6 of 11 from downtown, while the Heat

misfired at 7 of 21 from the floor and 2 of 12 from deep.

Jovic played all 12 minutes in the second and scored 12 of Miami's 16 points, while Cleveland added 29 to motor ahead 72-33 at the main break.

The 39-point halftime deficit was the Heat's largest in any game in franchise history, regular season or playoff.

Miami showed some fight in the third, but couldn't prevent the Cavs from winning the frame 39-30.

Cleveland marched ahead 111-63 when Ty Jerome sank a 37-footer on the buzzer to end the quarter, before the margin topped out at 60 points (138-78) in the fourth.

Meanwhile Myles Turner scored 23 points as one of eight players in double digits and the Indiana Pacers took a 3-1 first-round series lead with a convincing 129-103 road victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Andrew Nembhard scored 20 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 17 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds for Indiana. T.J. McConnell scored 15 points, Aaron Nesmith had 14 points, Obi Toppin scored 13 and Pascal Siakam and Jarace Walker added 12 apiece for the fourth-seeded Pacers.

Indiana never trailed while shooting a scorching 60.2 percent from the field -- including 18 of 39 from 3-point range -- and had 36 assists on 50 baskets.

"We just made shots," Haliburton said. "I thought what we did on the defensive edge changed everything ... when we get out in transition, we feel we are the best in the world at that."

Milwaukee star Damian Lillard exited midway through the first quarter with a potentially serious lower left leg injury. He will undergo an MRI on Monday. This was Lillard's third game since returning from having a blood clot in his right leg.

"This is a tough one," Bucks coach Doc Rivers said. "Blood clot followed by this. It's just tough. ... He's such a great freaking dude. No one deserves this. That's why I feel bad. I've seen injuries that are deflating. This one hurt.

"They're going to do imaging tomorrow. ... Just being honest, it's not very promising."

Casper Makes It 2-0 to Ruud Family

MADRID (Dispatches) - Casper Ruud said gaining revenge for his family was on his mind during his win over Sebastian Korda at the Madrid Open but the Norwegian could only grin sheepishly after learning his father Christian had actually beaten Petr Korda 26 years ago.

Christian Ruud defeated former world number two Petr Korda in their only meeting on the ATP Tour at the Miami Open in 1999, a stat which surprised world number 15.

"Honestly I thought he had lost to Petr before, so I was out here seeking revenge for the family, but this is an even better statistic for us," he said after his 6-3 6-3 win on Sunday.

"We'll try to keep it alive for as long as possible. It's fun that you see certain situations like this where father and son have played and are doing well.

"I'm sure Sebi and I will play many more times in our career and I'll try my best to keep him behind me but at some point I'm sure he'll catch up or get a win over the Ruud family."

Victory was Ruud's 150th win on clay and the twice French Open runner-up will continue his preparations for the May 25-June 8 Grand Slam when he meets third-seeded American Taylor Fritz in the Madrid round of 16.

Meanwhile Alexander Zverev is convinced there was a defect in the electronic line calling system during his Madrid Open win after



the German risked a hefty fine by pulling out his phone to take a photograph of a contested call.

The top seed overcame Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 2-6 7-6(3) 7-6(0) to reach the last 16 of the claycourt tournament but was frustrated by an incident in the second set when a backhand from his opponent was called in by the tracking technology.

Zverev appealed to chair umpire Mohamed Lahyani to take a look but was rebuffed, and the world number two was then warned for unsportsmanlike conduct after pulling his phone out of his bag and taking a picture of the spot.

"I honestly think there was a defect in the system. There was a mistake in the system in that moment," said Zverev, who later posted the photo on Instagram.

"It's not like one millimetre in, one millimetre out, it was like four-five centimetres. That's why I went to the umpire and said 'Please, come down to have a look at this, I'm not crazy'."

Reuters has contacted the ATP for comment.

Earlier this month, women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka also took a photo of a disputed ball mark during a match in Stuttgart and was warned for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The ATP has adopted the line calling system for all of its tournaments from this year, and while Zverev said he was a fan of the technology he was shocked by the incident in Madrid.

"It's going to be interesting to see what happens now, what kind of fine I'll get, even though I'm right," he said.

"I hope I don't get a fine, because obviously, in my opinion, I'm completely in the right and I should not get fined for this."

LB/S Isaiah Simmons Signs With Packers



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - With the NFL draft in the rearview mirror, the Green Bay Packers signed free agent linebacker/safety Isaiah Simmons to a one-year contract on Monday, according to multiple reports.

Simmons reportedly visited the Packers two weeks ago. On Sunday, Simmons posted a mouse trap with a piece of cheese on social media.

A first-round pick (No. 8 overall) of the Arizona Cardinals in 2020, Simmons spent the previous two seasons with the New York Giants.

Simmons, who has never missed a game in his five NFL seasons, started just once in 2024 and played in only 17 percent of the Giants' defensive snaps, recording 21 tackles with one forced fumble.

In 2023, New York moved Simmons from linebacker, where he played in Arizona, to safety. He started four games and appeared in one-third of the defensive snaps.

He started 37 games in three years with the Cardinals but was dealt to the Giants for a seventh-round draft pick in August 2023.

In 84 career games, Simmons has 329 tackles with 8.5 sacks, 15 tackles for loss, nine forced fumbles and five interceptions.

Meanwhile former Pro Bowl wide receiver Diontae Johnson is set to play for his third AFC North team, agreeing to a one-year deal with the Cleveland Browns, ESPN reported on Monday.

Johnson, 28, had an official visit with the Browns earlier on Monday. The six-year veteran split the 2024 season with the Carolina Panthers, Baltimore Ravens and Houston Texans.

Traded from the Pittsburgh Steelers to Carolina in March, Johnson got off to a strong start with 30 catches for 357 yards and three touchdowns in seven games. However, he was traded to the Ravens along with a 2025 sixth-round selection in exchange for Baltimore's fifth-round pick in this year's draft.

Johnson didn't make an impact with the Ravens, catching one pass for six yards in four games. He also was suspended for one game for refusing to play against the Philadelphia Eagles on Dec. 1.

FIA President Considering Improvements to Swearing Rules



LONDON (Dispatches) - FIA President Mohammed Ben Sulayem said he was considering "improvements" to rules that impose heavy sanctions for misconduct, including swearing, in Formula One and other series.

Competitors in rallying and Formula One have been at loggerheads with the Emirati, who will be up for re-election at the end of the year, over a crackdown on bad language during events.

World championship rally drivers, who had openly condemned the fines, made a breakthrough last week when they reached a compromise to divide events into a controlled zone and an uncontrolled one.

"Following constructive feedback from drivers across our seven FIA world championships, I am considering making improvements to Appendix B," Ben Sulayem said on his Instagram account.

"As a former rally driver, I understand the demands they face better than most."

Ben Sulayem said Appendix B, which was amended in January with tougher penalties, was a key part of the International Sporting Code but "humans make the rules and humans can improve the rules."

Further details were expected later in the week, with Formula One racing in Miami.

Appendix B covers stewards' penalty guidelines, setting out punishments for misconduct including words, deeds or writings that might have caused moral injury to the FIA or motorsport in general.

A first offence in Formula One incurs a 40,000 euro (\$46,000) fine, rising to 80,000 for the second and 120,000 with a one-month suspension and deduction of championship points for a third breach.

Ancelotti Agrees Brazil Deal, According to Reports

MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti has agreed to take over the Brazilian national team, several Spanish media outlets reported Monday.

The veteran Italian has one more year on his contract with the Spanish giants but after quarter-final Champions League elimination by Arsenal and Copa del Rey defeat by rivals Barcelona, is poised to depart the Santiago Bernabeu.

Ancelotti has not hidden that a potential exit was on the cards and said his future was "a topic for the next weeks" after defeat by Barca on Saturday.

Spanish media report Ancelotti would take over ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June, leaving Madrid before the Club World Cup starts in the United States this summer.

Brazil sacked Dorival Junior after a 4-1 thrashing by Argentina in March and are fourth in the South American qualifying table for the



tournament in the US, Mexico and Canada.

Ancelotti led Real Madrid to a Champions League and La Liga double last season, with Brazil stars Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes vital parts of the team, and is one of the most successful coaches in the club's history.

In his first spell at Real Madrid he led them to La Decima — their 10th Champions League triumph.

He has won the competition three times with Los Blancos over two stints, sacked in 2015 but returning in 2021 after Zinedine Zidane resigned.

This season Madrid have been defensively fragile and trail La Liga leaders Barcelona by four points, with a title defence their only remaining hope of major silverware.

Ancelotti has also coached AC Milan, Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain among other teams.