

Members of Iran's High Council of Economic Coordination on Saturday Earmarked \$1.5b Worth of Foreign Currency Loans to Help Expand Solar Power Deployment in the Country

IRAN NEWS

During a Ceremony for Delivery of 13 Vessels, Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh Said Iran Has Attained Self-Sufficiency in Manufacturing All Types of Naval Watercraft

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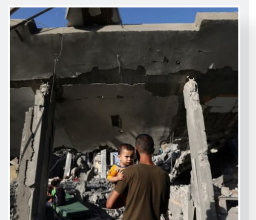
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Iran Chooses Its Own Path, Allows No One to Dictate to It



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami says Tehran chooses its own path based on national goals and interests and will never allow anybody to dictate to it. "We move on according to our goals and national interests," Eslami said on Saturday.

He added that identity and values define the Islamic Republic's path, emphasizing, "Therefore, every step taken [by Iran] is based on our national goals and interests."

Iran's nuclear chief emphasized that one of the most important achievements of the Islamic Revolution is that the country is charting its own path and making decisions based on national interests.

Eslami noted that Iran is currently in a good position in the fields of industrial science and technology, on par with developed countries that have invested millions of dollars.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday called it "utterly wrong" for the United States to insist on Iran's completely stopping its peaceful uranium enrichment activities.

"No one is waiting for permission from anyone. The Islamic Republic has its own policies, its own methods, and it pursues its own agenda," the Leader said.

Tehran, Islamabad United in Promoting Peace in the Region



TEHRAN - The head of the Iran-Pakistan Parliamentary Friendship Group, Fada Hossein Maleki, has reaffirmed that the positions of both Tehran and Islamabad have consistently aligned in support of peace and stability in the region.

Speaking to IRNA on Saturday, Maleki emphasized the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between the two neighboring countries.

Maleki, who represents Zahedan in Iran's Parliament, underlined the significance of the ongoing official visit of Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to Iran. He noted that bilateral relations have always extended beyond cultural and historical dimensions to encompass strong economic, political, and security cooperation.

"Whenever political and military leaders of Iran and Pakistan have engaged in dialogue, it has been with a shared objective of preserving peace and security in the region," Maleki said. He pointed out that the extensive border shared by the two countries provides considerable potential for commercial and economic development.

Referring to a previous Iranian parliamentary visit to Islamabad, Maleki said both sides agreed on the importance of enhancing border security and fostering joint economic zones. "Our Pakistani counterparts, including their ambassador, proposed the establishment of joint industrial-trade towns along the border to boost economic exchanges and security simultaneously," he added.

As a member of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Maleki emphasized the strategic importance of PM Sharif's visit. He said several critical issues are on the agenda, including tensions between Pakistan and India, the status of Iran-U.S. negotiations, Pakistan's relationship with Saudi Arabia, and trilateral cooperation among Iran, Pakistan, and China.

People Still Stand Strong Against the Enemy With Firm Belief

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf stated during a parliamentary session on Sunday that the Iranian people are still willing to stand firmly against enemies with the same strong beliefs they held during the Iran-Iraq War. He emphasized that while God remains the same as during the Sacred Defense and Operation Tariq al-Qods, today's officials must also embody the same spirit and leadership of that era.

Referring to the historical memory of the liberation of Khorramshahr, Qalibaf said: "These days remind us of the time when we were searching for a breakthrough in the east of Khorramshahr to expel the Ba'athist enemy, which had come to separate the city from Iran. Only one force was able to push them back — the power of the Iranian people and youth, who, after the removal of Bani-Sadr from the position of Commander-in-Chief and under the guidance of the Imam, entered the battlefield."

He added, "With unwavering trust in God's promises, they were not afraid of the enemy's dominance and its backers. They stood up to the aggressor and, in a short time, liberated not just Khorramshahr but many other occupied regions of Iran."

Qalibaf stressed that the same faith and resolve exist among people today and that current challenges can be overcome by relying on divine traditions and the strength of the people. "Many of today's issues lack the military and security complexity of wartime challenges and can be solved more easily if approached with unity and faith," he said. The Speaker also commemorated the Day of Resistance and Endurance, marked in honor of the resilient city of Dezful. "This day is adorned with the name of heroic Dezful and its great people, who endured relentless missile strikes from the Ba'athist regime. They gave thousands of martyrs and wounded but never abandoned their revolution or country. God's peace be upon these proud people, the martyrs of Dezful, and the Imam of the martyrs," Qalibaf stated.

In closing, Qalibaf turned to the pressing issues faced by the country's hardworking truck drivers. He recalled their pivotal role during the Iran-Iraq War, specifically on December 17, 1983, when they answered Imam Khomeini's call and rushed to ports to unload goods from ships to ensure supply chains remained intact.

"These drivers, who are a vital part of the production and supply system, are now struggling with numerous problems, including the lack of efficient vehicles, high costs of trucks and spare parts, insurance issues, and unfair cargo distribution," he noted. "Despite these hardships, they have fulfilled their duties under difficult conditions, and their concerns must be addressed urgently and effectively."

He added that the Parliament's Urban Development Commission held a special session today to address these challenges, expressing hope that it would lead to meaningful solutions for this essential sector.



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

In response to a warning from one of the parliament members and a request to enforce the Hijab and Chastity law, Qalibaf said: "The Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council has officially informed the Parliament in writing that this law should not be enforced for the time being."

During the Majlis session on Sunday, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Taqi Naghdali issued a formal warning and requested the Parliament's presidium to forward the Hijab and Chastity bill to the President for enforcement, and to refrain from enforcing the Palermo Convention bill, which has been approved by the Expediency Discernment Council.

In response to this, Majlis Speaker said: "I don't understand this perspective or what part of the law allows such a claim to be made."

The Speaker continued: "Although I never intended to state this so explicitly in this position, based on Article 176 of the Constitution, the Supreme National Security Council has certain responsibilities. The Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council has officially informed the Parliament in writing that this law [Hijab and Chastity] should not be enforced at this time."

He emphasized: "When the Secretariat of the Supreme National Security Council stresses this matter, the Speaker of the Parliament certainly cannot enforce the law. Moreover, what is the relevance of the Palermo bill to the 12th Parliament?"

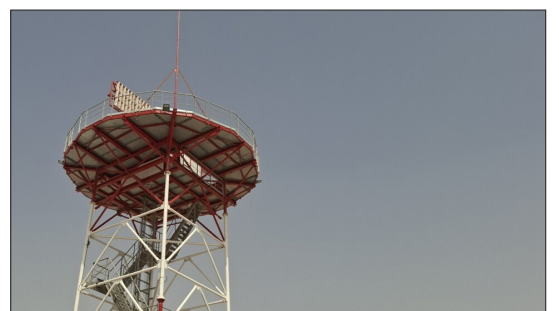
He added: "In the 10th Parliament, the Palermo and CFT bills were approved by Parliament and sent to the Guardian Council. The Council raised objections, and the Parliament insisted on its position, so the matter was referred to the Expediency Discernment Council. The Council then left the bill unresolved until recent months, when the President formally requested the Supreme Leader to allow the Council to reconsider the bills."

Qalibaf stressed: "The Expediency Discernment Council has reviewed these bills with the presence of the Guardian Council and all its members. The Council has voted in favor of the Palermo bill. When the Council votes in favor, it means the bill becomes law. Therefore, the Speaker of Parliament must only enforce what has become law through the Parliament and the Council."

He added: "Now Mr. Naghdali (Representative of Khomeini Shahr) is saying in the session that I should not enforce the Palermo bill just like the Hijab and Chastity bill. While I urge our friends not to present this issue in the media in a way that misleads the public. The law must be implemented."

Mohsen Dehnavi, the spokesperson for the Expediency Discernment Council, announced that after holding three sessions in the Council's general assembly and five in the joint commission, the Council conditionally approved Iran's accession to the Palermo Convention.

Iran Unveils Homegrown Air Traffic Radar



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has unveiled an advanced homegrown air traffic radar amid foreign sanctions targeting the country's civil aviation sector.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian used a video link on Saturday to order the deployment of the MSSR-Mode S radar system at Abadan airport in the southwest of the country.

Authorities from the Iranian transportation ministry said the advanced radar system would strengthen the air traffic control network in the region.

CEO of Iran Airports and Air Navigation Company said that the monopulse secondary surveillance radar system has been entirely designed and built by domestic companies.

Mohammad Amirani said that scientists from Isfahan University of Technology, located in central Iran, had contributed to the project, adding that the system will be capable of monitoring domestic and international flights within a radius of 450 kilometers.

Amirani said that the government had spent some 6.9 million euros (\$7.84 million) on the project, cutting back nearly 1 million euros from its imports bill.

"Launching this radar is viewed as a major step on the path to reach self-sufficiency and progress in the country's aviation industry," he said.

The deployment of the radar is part of Iran's increasing homegrown efforts to maintain and develop its aviation sector.

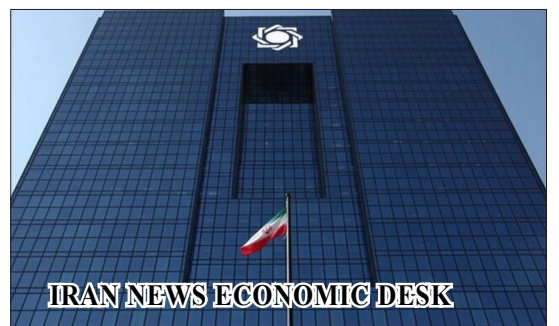
The efforts have intensified in recent years amid US sanctions that have restricted Iran's access to foreign technology and investment.

Reports show domestic firms have repaired more than a dozen planes grounded because of the sanctions.

The same reports show that Iranian companies have been offering overhaul and inspection services to foreign airlines.

Iranian aviation authorities said in late 2024 that the country had mastered the technology needed to manufacture spare parts for the engines of Boeing and Airbus jets.

Central Bank to Take Full Control of Monetary and Banking Policy in Iran



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - In a significant policy shift, Iran's Expediency Council has approved a proposal granting the Central Bank full authority over monetary and banking policy, including the issuance of currency. The move marks a critical development in Iran's efforts to consolidate economic policymaking and enhance financial governance.

Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi, head of the Economic Commission of the Expediency Council's Secretariat, announced the decision following the commission's review of the first clause in a draft framework of general monetary and banking policies. This draft was prepared under directives from the Office of the Supreme Leader and has undergone extensive expert review, including consultations with academic institutions, economic research centers, former Central Bank governors, and university professors.

According to Pour-Ebrahimi, the commission has finalized its assessment of the initial clause of the 12-point policy draft. After making minor amendments, the clause was approved and sets the stage for a broader reform package.

Highlighting the strategic importance of monetary and banking policy as a "mother policy" in Iran's economic structure, Pour-Ebrahimi stated that the Central Bank has now been officially recognized as the primary authority in this domain. The move settles longstanding debates over whether such policymaking should be led by the government or the Central Bank. The approved proposal firmly places this responsibility with the Central Bank.

Additionally, the Central Bank has been granted exclusive authority to issue currency, rejecting alternative proposals that sought to place this power under direct government control. Pour-Ebrahimi emphasized that empowering the Central Bank in this way is aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and the effectiveness of monetary regulation.

Iran Participates in 42nd Eurasian Anti-Money Laundering, Counter-Terrorism Financing Summit



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by the Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and the Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, has departed for Russia to take part in the 42nd meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG).

The summit is being held in Moscow from May 25 to 29, 2025. The event includes key sessions such as the 4th Eurasian Parliamentary Forum, a joint meeting of regulatory authorities and private sector representatives supported by EAG and the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF) under the theme "Risk Management in the Era of New Technologies," a specialized session on "Current Issues in Financial Security in the Eurasia Region," and a working group meeting focused on the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Hadi Khani, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of the Iranian delegation, stated that the visit aims to enhance Iran's regional and international engagement in combating money laundering and terrorism financing, raise the country's standing among EAG members, stay informed on global developments, and advocate Iran's effective actions in the field.

Emphasizing Iran's position and achievements, Khani noted that the main summit and its working groups would present Iran's progress and demonstrate the country's strong commitment to these efforts.

As Secretary of the High Council for Preventing and Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, Khani highlighted the importance of expanding regional and international cooperation. He mentioned Iran's participation in meetings such as the Council of Heads of Financial Intelligence Units of Central Asia and the Caspian Sea Working Group, which will facilitate experience-sharing and strategic dialogue.

Khani also underscored the Iranian delegation's goals of leveraging the EAG platform for educational and technical initiatives and learning about the EAG's evaluation mechanisms for

national anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing systems.

One of the summit's main topics will be the consideration of technical assistance to Iran. Other agenda items include regional coordination against financial crimes, with a focus on virtual assets, digital payment systems, cyber threats, and reviewing the 2025-2026 action plans and observer member policies.

Highlighting the upcoming 4th Parliamentary Forum of EAG member states, Khani stressed the importance of legislative cooperation, experience sharing, and support for regional financial security policies, particularly in relation to money laundering, terrorism financing, and proliferation financing.

The Iranian delegation includes representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Economic Security Police, and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

High-profile international participants in the summit include the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (UN CTC), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the Executive Directorate of the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Delegates from MENAFATF, as well as from West Asian countries such as Palestine, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Bahrain, are also attending.

Other participating organizations include the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Eurasian Development Bank and Economic Commission, Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), INTERPOL's Organized Crime Coordination Office, the Anti-Money Laundering Group in Central Africa (GABAC), the African Export-Import Bank, the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center, and the Prosecutors General Coordination Council of CIS member states.

Founded in 2004, the Eurasian Group (EAG) is a regional body consisting of China, Russia, India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan. Iran has held observer status in the group since 2016.

IRAN NEWS



Iran Supports Any Process for Eradicating Terrorism in the Region

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad-Hassan Habibzadeh says Tehran supports any process that would eradicate terrorism in the region and strengthen security among neighboring countries.

During a meeting with the secretary general of Turkey's National Security Council, Okay Memis, in Ankara on Saturday, Habibzadeh stressed cooperation between the two neighbors, especially on peace and stability in the region.

Both sides believed that increased security cooperation between Tehran and Ankara is key to countering shared threats.

Salehi-Amiri: Sacred Defense Is a Living Discourse of Iranian-Islamic Identity



TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has described the Sacred Defense not merely as a military event, but as a living tableau of history, culture, spirituality, and the nurturing of human values. He emphasized that the late Imam Khomeini nurtured a generation that, through sincerity, faith, and insight, traversed a century's worth of progress in a short span, presenting a model of Iranian-Islamic identity to the world.

Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri made these remarks on Saturday, May 24, 2025, during a joint session between his ministry and the Foundation for Preservation and Publication of Sacred Defense Values, held at the Sacred Defense Garden-Museum in Tehran.

Salehi-Amiri stated that the Sacred Defense was not just an eight-year war, but an epic scene of revitalizing Iranian-Islamic identity in defiance of global hegemony. He noted that this period reflected the highest spiritual, human, and civilizational values of the Iranian nation.

Comprehensive Planning Underway to Replace Gas with Electricity in Heating



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian announced that the government is actively working on detailed plans to transition from gas to electricity for heating purposes, emphasizing that strategic and operational efforts are underway across multiple sectors.

Speaking at the 9th International Conference and 6th National Award on Renewable Energy, President Pezeshkian honored the memory of national service martyrs and the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr. He reaffirmed the government's strong commitment to expanding clean energy, calling it a clear and vital path for the country's future.

Highlighting the government's strategy to boost renewable energy sources—such as solar, wind, and nuclear—Pezeshkian stated that this transition has already begun and is being systematically pursued through daily and weekly cabinet meetings.

He emphasized the urgent need to substitute electricity for gas in heating systems, adding that detailed planning is already in progress. This includes the production and import of solar panels, equipping power plants, upgrading cooling and heating appliance manufacturing lines, and integrating energy-efficient designs into construction engineering.

"Energy plays a vital role in national development," the president remarked. "The more we can reduce reliance on fossil fuels and incorporate clean energy into daily life, the smoother our path toward sustainable development will be."

Pezeshkian noted that achieving success in this area requires broad cooperation from experts, investors, government officials, and members of Parliament. He

reiterated the administration's resolve to address energy imbalances by leveraging domestic capabilities and collective wisdom.

The president also called on the public to assist in managing energy use. "Just as citizens cooperated by saving gas during the winter, we hope they will also help this summer by cutting electricity use," he said. Replacing high-consumption chandeliers with low-energy lighting was cited as an effective measure.

Referring to the significant damages caused by energy blackouts last year, Pezeshkian revealed that over 3,000 trillion rials (approximately \$6 billion) in economic losses were incurred due to gas and electricity outages. "We cannot resolve this issue without the cooperation of experts and industry stakeholders," he added.

Stressing the foundational role of stable electricity in production and development, he concluded, "We must first secure the energy needs of commerce and industry in order to plan for long-term development."

In closing, Pezeshkian thanked the organizers of the event and invited universities, media outlets, cultural institutions, religious leaders, volunteer groups, and other organizations to play an active role in promoting energy conservation and helping to establish a sustainable development model based on renewable energy.

During the event, top investors, industrial producers, public organizations, municipalities, energy service companies, academics, young researchers, and leading regional electricity distribution firms were honored for their achievements in the renewable energy sector.

10-Year Delay on Palermo, CFT Conventions Has Cost the Country Dearly



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Hadi Khani, has warned that the decade-long delay in ratifying two key international anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism conventions has inflicted significant costs on the country.

Speaking with IRNA, Khani emphasized that Iran's failure to finalize its stance on the Palermo and CFT conventions has allowed adversaries to exploit the delay to undermine the nation internationally.

The Palermo Convention, officially known as the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, was recently ratified by Iran's Expediency Council and is now law. However, the second treaty, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), remains pending in the Council for final review and ratification.

Khani, who also serves as Secretary of the Supreme Council for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, underscored the importance of swift approval of the CFT. He pointed out that while technical discussions on both conventions have taken place in detail over several years, only the formal vote on CFT remains.

He explained that although the CFT has faced more scrutiny due to its sensitive nature, Iran has already incorporated much of its provisions into domestic law. "We have joined 7 out of the 8 CFT-related UN conventions and already reflect its definitions of terrorism in our legal framework," Khani said.

He stressed that the CFT, like the Palermo Convention, does not include any enforcement or inspection mechanisms. Instead, it is a broad commitment by nations to prevent terrorist financing. Over 188 countries have joined the CFT, many with specific reservations, which is standard practice in international law. "When a country makes a reservation, it applies only if other states accept it," he noted.

Khani lamented that the prolonged indecision over these conventions has given Iran's adversaries a platform to accuse it of refusing to cooperate in combating terrorism and transnational crime. "If Iran is not involved in such crimes, why wouldn't it join these international efforts?" he asked rhetorically.

HIV Infections Rising Among Young Adults in Iran



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's AIDS Research Center, Dr. Ladan Abbasian, has raised concerns over the increasing rate of HIV infections through high-risk sexual behaviors, especially among young adults, amid the absence of an effective HIV vaccine worldwide.

According to Abbasian, as of the latest data, around 25,000 individuals in Iran have been officially diagnosed with HIV, while the actual number is estimated to be around 45,000—indicating that more than 50% of cases remain undiagnosed. She stressed that the greatest challenge is the gap between estimated and identified cases, particularly among men who engage in risky sexual activities.

In 2024, 73% of newly identified cases were individuals aged 20 to 45, and 65% of infections were linked to unsafe sexual practices, a sharp contrast to previous years when injection drug use was the primary cause. While harm reduction programs targeting drug users have proven successful—such as providing free methadone and sterile syringes—the shift toward sexual transmission is now a growing concern.

Dr. Abbasian highlighted the stigma and fear associated with HIV testing as key reasons why many individuals avoid diagnosis. Many people, she said, believe that lack of symptoms means they are not infected. However, HIV can remain asymptomatic for up to 10 years, underscoring the importance of early testing. Iran operates about 300 behavioral disease counseling centers across the country, where testing is offered confidentially—even anonymously.

Treatment, although lifelong, is straightforward: patients take two oral pills daily, which can suppress the virus to undetectable levels within a month. While injectable treatments exist in advanced countries, they have yet to be introduced in Iran. Most medications are domestically produced, with some foreign imports, and are distributed through counseling centers, not pharmacies.

Efforts to curb the spread of HIV also include preventive medication for those at risk, such as individuals with HIV-positive partners. Educational programs are ongoing, in collaboration with entities such as the Ministries of Health, Education, and Interior, and the police force. Dr. Abbasian stressed the importance of awareness, fidelity in relationships, and use of protection during sexual contact.

On a positive note, Iran has made significant strides in preventing mother-to-child transmission. All pregnant women visiting health centers are offered free HIV testing, and if diagnosed early, can receive treatment to reduce the risk of passing the virus to their child to near zero. Iran is approaching the global target of eliminating mother-to-child HIV transmission.

State-Controlled Economy Is Iran's Biggest Economic Challenge

TEHRAN - Prominent Iranian economist and researcher in the philosophy and epistemology of economic science, Mousa Ghaninejad, stated that the most significant problem plaguing Iran's economy is its centrally controlled, command-style structure. He asserted that both the financial and real sectors of the Iranian economy suffer due to misguided policymaking.

Speaking at the "Market-Oriented" seminar held alongside the first INOX-FINEX exhibition in Mashhad, Ghaninejad said, "In the current climate, Iranian producers are facing major hurdles because prices must be set by regulators. At the same time, they struggle to secure financing from banks due to interest rates and deposit rates being dictated by the government."

He likened the financial sector to the nervous system of the economy, explaining, "If the physiology of Iran's economy is dysfunctional, improving its 'neurology' won't resolve anything."

According to Ghaninejad, economic issues must be addressed within their proper framework. He warned that excessive financialization leads to price bubbles, destabilizing the market.

Reflecting on the early 2000s, he pointed to the relative success of private banks during that period, attributing their performance to a lack of price-setting regulations. However, he noted that with the onset of state-imposed pricing in 2005, the banking system began experiencing persistent problems that continue today.

He also identified credit institutions as a key driver of inflation, adding, "Wherever the government makes poor policy decisions, corruption and resource misallocation inevitably follow."

On the topic of Iran-U.S. nuclear negotiations, Ghaninejad emphasized that even if a deal is reached, without broader economic reforms and liberalization, issues like investment uncertainty and poor economic predictability will remain unresolved.



He concluded by calling for a comprehensive release of the economy from state domination and excessive regulatory control.

In the same seminar, economist Farhad Nili provided a mid-term outlook on Iran's macroeconomic future, cautioning that even domestic economic reforms could fall short if not supported by long-term planning. "Without a strategic vision, the main casualty of reform will be economic growth," he said.

Nili stressed the importance of political capital in carrying out successful reforms. "Reform leaders need enough political backing to implement short-term

measures and stay the course in pursuit of long-term goals," he said.

He acknowledged that any potential agreement between Iran and the United States would come with restrictions. "If we fail to use the external environment as a platform for economic planning and consensus-building, we'll lose the only driver of meaningful reform," he warned.

According to Nili, the potential Iran-U.S. deal would likely allow the sale of only 1.7 million barrels of oil per day, a limit that falls short of providing transformative change. "Domestic reports about these negotiations suggest minimal change in outcomes, even in the event of a deal. Long-term economic gains remain elusive," he added.

He argued that Iran needs more internal coordination than external negotiation. "The Foreign Ministry should be negotiating with the Ministry of Economy—because without domestic agreement and coherent policy, reform efforts may fail. We cannot place the entire future of Iran's economy on foreign relations alone."

Nili concluded, "What will improve our situation is real economic growth—lower interest rates, healthier businesses, less currency shock, and a shift from an unstable to a stable economic environment. Inflation must come down, and investors need to believe in a predictable future."

IME Posts Weekly Trade of 625000 Tons of Commodities



TEHRAN - According to the public relations of the Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), in the past week, the industrial and mining products trading floor witnessed the transaction of 2million 129 thousand 178 tons of products valued at \$444m.

In this trading floor, 1 million 13 thousand 344 tons of cement, 417 thousand tons of iron ore, 583 thousand 69 tons of steel, 89 thousand 250 tons of sponge iron, 26 thousand 605 tons of zinc, 6 thousand 975 tons of aluminum, 6 thousand 60 tons of copper, 190 tons of molybdenum concentrate, and 29 tons of precious metal concentrates were traded.

On the other hand, in the internal and export sections of the oil and petrochemical products trading floor, 459 thousand 952 tons of various goods and products were sold, valued at \$230m.

In the oil and petrochemical products trading floor, 152 thousand 274 tons of bitumen, 113 thousand 500 tons of vacuum bottom, 90 thousand 484 tons of polymer materials, 12 thousand 800 tons of sulfur, 39 thousand 425 tons of petrochemical materials, 2 thousand 550 tons of oil, 1 thousand 14 tons of petroleum products, 265 tons of waterproof insulation, and 640 tons of gases and feedstocks were traded.

The agricultural trading floor hosted the trading of 2.6 tons of saffron valued at \$3.2m.

The side market also recorded the transaction of 23 thousand 793 tons of various goods and products valued at \$6.1m.

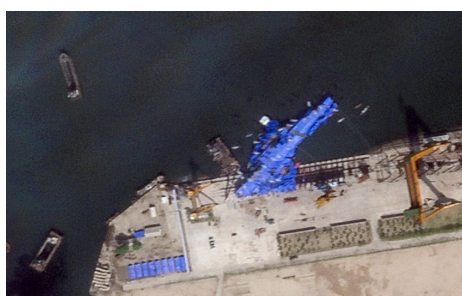
North Korea Detains Officials Over Warship Accident

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea has detained shipyard officials responsible for a recent major accident during the launch of a new warship, state media said.

The failed launch that crippled the 5,000-tonne warship was witnessed by leader Kim Jong Un who said the accident damaged the country's dignity and vowed to punish those found responsible.

The mishap likely occurred in front of a large crowd at the northeastern port of Chongjin, increasing the public humiliation for Kim who tried to show off military might, experts say.

As the investigation into the case intensified, law enforcement authorities arrested the chief engineer of the Chongjin Shipyard among others, state KCNA news agency reported on Sunday.



Deadliest Rohingya Sea Tragedy This Year Tied to Aid Shortfall



GENEVA (Dispatches) - Dire humanitarian conditions in Myanmar and Bangladesh are driving more Rohingya to risk dangerous boat journeys to safety, such as one this month that ended in a sinking and estimates of 427 deaths, the UN refugee agency said.

The minority community's plight might have been worsened by aid funding cuts, the agency added.

The humanitarian sector has been roiled by funding reductions from major donors, led by the US under President Donald Trump, and other Western countries as they prioritise defence spending prompted by growing fears of Russia and China.

Two boats carrying some 514 Rohingya sank on May 9 and 10, carrying refugees who were thought to have left from refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, and Rakhine State in Myanmar. Only 87 survivors were found, UNHCR said. The possible deaths of 427 people would make it the deadliest tragedy at sea involving Rohingya refugees so far this year, according to the agency.

That people chose to board boats during the annual monsoon season, which brings dangers such as strong winds and rough seas, reflected their desperation, the agency added.

"The dire humanitarian situation, exacerbated by funding cuts, is having a devastating impact on the lives of Rohingya, with more and more resorting to dangerous journeys to seek safety, protection and a dignified life for themselves and their families," said Hai Kyung Jun, Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific.

"The latest tragedy is a chilling reminder that access to meaningful protection, especially in countries of first asylum, as well as responsibility sharing and collective efforts along sea routes, are essential to saving lives," Kyung Jun added.

Hungarian Opposition Leader Magyar Walks to Romania



BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Hungarian opposition leader Peter Magyar walked across the border to Romania on Saturday after a week-long journey, in an attempt to win support of the ethnic Hungarians in Romania and appeal to conservative voters in the run-up to the 2026 elections.

Magyar's centre-right Tisza party emerged last year to mount the most serious challenge to nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban since he rose to power in 2010.

Most opinion polls now put Tisza ahead of Orban's Fidesz party with the next parliamentary elections due in early 2026. No date has been set yet.

Carrying Hungary's national flag, Magyar walked across the border on Saturday morning with a group of supporters.

"We are not going (to Romania) to escalate tensions or to cause any harm to our Hungarian brothers and sisters living there. We are going there to express our solidarity," Magyar said on May 14 when he set out on foot in hiking gear.

On his way to the border, Magyar stopped in small towns to talk to rural voters, who have traditionally supported conservative Orban.

Orban's government provides financial support to ethnic Hungarian communities in Romania and in 2014 granted the right to vote to Hungarians living abroad. In the last election in 2022, 94% of these voters supported Fidesz.

Rescuers Say 9 Children of Gaza Doctor Couple Killed in Israeli Strike

GAZA CITY (Dispatches) - Gaza's civil defense agency said that an Israeli strike in the southern city of Khan Yunis killed nine children of a pair of married doctors, with the Israeli army saying it was reviewing the reports.

Israel has stepped up its campaign in Gaza in recent days, drawing international criticism as well as calls to allow in more supplies after it partially eased a total blockade on aid imposed on March 2.

Civil defence spokesman Mahmud Bassal said the agency had retrieved "the bodies of nine child martyrs, some of them charred, from the home of Dr Hamdi al-Najjar and his wife, Dr Alaa al-Najjar, all of whom were their children".

He added that Hamdi al-Najjar and another son, Adam, were also seriously wounded in the strike on Friday.

A medical source at Nasser Hospital, where Alaa al-Najjar works, gave Adam's age as 10 years old.

Footage of the aftermath released by the civil defence agency showed rescuers recovering badly burned remains from the damaged home.

Asked about the incident, the Israeli military said it had "struck a number of suspects who were identified operating from a structure" near its troops.

"The Khan Yunis area is a dangerous warzone," it added.

"The claim regarding harm to uninvolved civilians is under review."

The army had issued an evacuation warning for the city on Monday.

The children's funeral took place at Nasser Hospital, AFP footage showed.

Muneer Alboursh, director general of the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza, said on X that the strike happened shortly after Hamdi Al-Najjar returned home from driving his wife to work.

"This is the reality our medical staff in Gaza endure. Words



fall short in describing the pain," he said, accusing Israel of "wiping out entire families".

Bassal told AFP that Israeli strikes killed at least 15 people on Saturday across Gaza.

He said the dead included a couple who were killed with their two young children in a pre-dawn strike on a house in the Amal quarter of Khan Yunis.

To the west of the city, at least five people were killed by a drone strike on a crowd of people that had gathered to wait for aid trucks, he added.

At Nasser Hospital, tearful mourners gathered Saturday around white-shrouded bodies outside.

"Suddenly, a missile from an F-16 destroyed the entire house, and all of them were civilians -- my sister, her husband and their children," said Wissam Al-Madhoun. "What did this child do to (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu?"

In a statement, the military said that over the past day the air force had struck more than 100 targets across the territory.

Israel resumed operations in Gaza on March 18, ending a two-month ceasefire.

Gaza's health ministry said Saturday that at least 3,747 people had been killed in the territory since then, taking the war's overall toll to 53,901, mostly civilians.

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres said on Friday that Palestinians were enduring "the cruellest phase" of the war in Gaza, where Israel's lengthy blockade has led to widespread shortages of food and medicine.

Limited aid deliveries to the Gaza Strip restarted on Monday for the first time since March 2.

Trump Rips DEI Policies in Rally-Style Speech

WEST POINT (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump ripped U.S. diversity and inclusion policies, knocked NATO, and took credit for building up the military on Saturday in a campaign-style commencement speech at the prestigious West Point Military Academy in New York.

Trump, wearing a suit and his signature red "Make America Great Again" cap, mixed advice to "work hard" with a list of his top grievances about cultural and political issues while speaking to a stadium filled with cadets, family members and a largely supportive crowd.

"The job of the U.S. Armed Forces is not to host drag shows, to transform foreign cultures," Trump said. "The military's job is to dominate any foe and annihilate any threat to America, anywhere, anytime, in any place."

Since coming into office for the second time in January, Trump has rolled back diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs in the military and throughout the government as part of a larger effort to rescind policies enacted by his predecessor Joe Biden.

"We've liberated our troops from divisive and demeaning political trainings," Trump told the 1,002 cadets graduating from the academy. "There will be no more critical race theory or transgender for everybody forced onto our brave men and women in uniform, or on anybody else for that matter in this country."

Trump has been a strong supporter of the military even as he has put his own stamp on it, as he has other branches of government. In February he fired the then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force General C.Q. Brown, and pushed out five other admirals and



generals in an unprecedented shake-up of military leadership.

It was the second time Trump addressed graduates of the academy on the Hudson River following his appearance in 2020 at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when cadets sat further apart and wore masks to prevent spread of the virus.

West Point aims to educate the next generation of Army leaders for a military that is meant to be apolitical and is sworn to defend the U.S. Constitution.

In a speech full of partisan rhetoric on Saturday, Trump took credit for rebuilding the Army and referenced his tariff-fueled trade war while repeating his longstanding criticism of NATO allies for not spending more on defense.

"We've been ripped off by every nation in the world on trade. We've been ripped off at the NATO level," Trump said. "We've been ripped off like no country has ever been ripped off, but they don't rip us off anymore."

The president will preside over the Army's celebration of its 250th anniversary on June 14 with a parade on one of Washington's main thoroughfares. The anniversary coincides with Trump's own birthday.

This week Trump spoke about a signature piece of his military vision, announcing he had selected a design for the \$175-billion Golden Dome missile defense shield and named a Space Force general to head the program aimed at blocking threats from China and Russia. Trump said on Saturday the shield would protect West Point.

Experts have said the Golden Dome could provoke other states to launch similar systems or develop more advanced weapons to evade the missile shield, escalating an arms race in space.

Ecuador's Noboa Vows to Reduce Murders, Boost Economy at Inauguration

QUITO (Dispatches) - Business heir Daniel Noboa was sworn in for a full term as Ecuador's president on Saturday, promising to press the South American country's fight against drug gangs and boost sluggish economic growth.

Noboa, elected in 2023 to finish out his predecessor's term, won an April vote by an unexpectedly wide margin, despite claims of fraud by his leftist rival.

In a ceremony at the National Assembly on Saturday, he was sworn in by the body's president, Niels Olsen Peet. Olsen placed a presidential sash over Noboa's shoulders and they raised their joined hands in a moment of celebration.

"The progressive reduction of homicides will be a non-negotiable goal. We will maintain our fight against drug trafficking, seize illegal weapons, ammunition, and explosives, and exercise greater control at the country's ports," Noboa told the assembly about his new term.

During his 18 months in office, Noboa declared war on criminal groups, using decrees to deploy the military on the streets, beefing up security at ports and lengthening sentences for drug crimes and terrorism.

He also inked a \$4 billion deal with the International Monetary Fund, sought to



reduce a \$4.6 billion fiscal deficit and met with Chinese banks to discuss possible loans. "We are creating a safe, stable, and competitive environment that fosters growth, protects investments, and guarantees real opportunities," Noboa said.

The 37-year-old has said cooperation with the United States, Israel and El Salvador will help the country fight drug trafficking and attract foreign investment.

His administration has hired Blackwater founder and private security executive Erik Prince to advise security forces, drawing criticism from the opposition and some rights advocates.

Though Noboa has touted a 15% reduction in violent deaths during 2024, the first four months of 2025 saw a 58% spike in the figure, to 3,094, compared to the same period last year, according to government figures.

He has said the economy is set to grow 4% this year, though the central bank predicts 2.8% growth.

Noboa will need to seek financing, analysts say, amid a public debt burden of 51.8% of GDP, high country risk that makes bond issues difficult and a fall in oil production, one of the country's top exports.



Djokovic Becomes Third Man to Win 100 ATP Titles

GENEVA (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic became just the third man to win 100 ATP titles with a typically dramatic comeback victory over Hubert Hurkacz in the final of the Geneva Open.

The 38-year-old, playing in Switzerland in a bid to find form ahead of the French Open, recovered from losing the first set to clinch a 5-7, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (7/2) win after three hours and five minutes on court.

Djokovic joins Jimmy Connors and Roger Federer as the only players with a century of tour titles.

"I had to work for it, that's for sure. He was probably closer to the victory the entire match than me," said Djokovic, who is the first man to win titles in 20 consecutive years.

"I was just trying to hang in there... this is what happens at this level. A few points decide it, an incredible match... and I'm delighted to clinch the 100 here."

It was the former world number one's first tournament triumph since clinching his maiden Olympic gold medal against Carlos Alcaraz at the Paris Games last summer.

Djokovic had lost both of his previous matches on clay this season prior to the Geneva tournament, against Alejandro Tabilo and Matteo Arnaldi at the Monte Carlo and Madrid Masters respectively.

But he decided to play at the low-key clay-court event in a bid to find form ahead of the start of the year's second Grand Slam event at Roland Garros, where the Serb will be targeting a record-breaking 25th major singles trophy.

It was Djokovic's first tournament since splitting from coach and old rival Andy Murray, but he showed no ill-effects.

Poland's former world number six Hurkacz, now ranked 31st, is still waiting for his first title since April 2024.

"It's really inspiring how you conduct yourself on and off the court," Hurkacz said to Djokovic.

The three-time Roland Garros champion starts his French Open campaign against American Mackenzie McDonald on either Monday or Tuesday.

After a tight start, Djokovic saw two break points come and go in the fifth game as Hurkacz battled to keep the first set on serve.

The opener appeared to be meandering towards a tie-break until Djokovic cracked in game 12, following a loose forehand at deuce with a double-fault on set point to give Hurkacz a one-set advantage.

Hurkacz dug deep to secure a hard-fought hold to kick off the second set, staving off another break point. The second set followed a similar pattern to the first, but this time Djokovic was able to hold at 6-5 down to force a tie-break with an ace.

The Serb found his groove in the breaker, reeling off four straight points to send the match into a deciding set.

But Djokovic immediately gave up his serve in the first game of the third set, serving a double-fault when 40-30 up and then blasting a backhand long on break point.

Hurkacz then reeled off three successive holds to love to edge towards the title, only to crumble in the eighth game of the decider with two unforced errors and a double-fault to gift Djokovic a way back into the final.

The Pole gathered himself to secure a deciding tie-break in a tense 12th game.

But he crumbled at the crucial moments with back-to-back errors from 3-2 behind in the breaker, leaving Djokovic to reach yet another milestone in his illustrious career with an ace.

Mbappe Double as Real Madrid Wave Goodbye to Ancelotti, Modric

MADRID (Dispatches) - Kylian Mbappe virtually wrapped up the European Golden Shoe award with a brace as Real Madrid beat Real Sociedad 2-0, on an emotional home farewell to Carlo Ancelotti and Luka Modric.

The Italian is leaving to coach the Brazilian national team, drawing a curtain on his second spell at the club where he won a 15 trophies during a total of six years in charge.

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to coach this club, this team," Ancelotti told fans at the end of game. "I want to thank, first of all, my dear president Florentino (Perez). It has been fantastic to coach this group of footballers of extraordinary quality. It has been fantastic to share all these moments with you."

"I also can't forget every day I've spent here," he added. "I love you very much."

Madrid fans displayed banners showing their affection for Ancelotti and Modric and sang both names.

Modric will play at the Club World Cup for Madrid but this was his final game at the Santiago Bernabeu. He was given a guard of honour when he replaced late on.

The Croatian midfielder also returned to the pitch to address



fans after the game.

"The moment I never wanted to come has arrived," he said. "It has been a long journey, but a wonderful one."

"I have won many trophies, but the biggest one is the love and affection you have given me over all these years. There are no words to thank you for everything you've given me over the years. I want to say a phrase that I like a lot: 'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.'"

He then set out with his family on a lap of honour to end an emotional afternoon for Los Blancos.

It was a profitable one for Mbappe, who scored twice to take the lead in the Golden Shoe standings from Sporting Lisbon's Viktor Gyokeres.

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah could yet claim the prize, if he scores four goals against Crystal Palace in the final round of Premier League matches.

Mbappe was denied early on by Unai Marrero and then fired another decent opportunity over.

Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin made a good save from Sergio Gomez, who should have scored as he ran clean through but his effort was tame.

Cobolli Upsets Rublev to Win Hamburg Open



HAMBURG (Dispatches) - Italy's Flavio Cobolli won the biggest title of his career when he upset third seed Andrey Rublev 6-2 6-4 to win the Hamburg Open.

Ranked number 35 in the world, Cobolli had only one ATP 250 title to his name, having won the Romanian Open last month, but the 23-year-old now has two claycourt titles after beating Rublev in the final of the ATP 500 event.

He is just the third player to win multiple titles on the ATP Tour this year after Carlos Alcaraz (three) and Felix Auger-Aliassime (also two), while the victory will see him rise to a career-high 26th in the rankings.

"I think it is the best moment and match of my life for sure. I have to say sorry to Andrey because today I played unbelievable. I am so happy and proud of myself," Cobolli said.

"I can see my family, friends, brother and girlfriend here and it is a surprise. I am really happy. I passed many battles this year and this kind of day is good for your mind. I am so happy, I just want to (lift) the trophy."

After Cobolli convincingly took the opening set, Rublev went 3-2 up in the second but the momentum shifted after a 31-shot rally where the Russian tried to make Cobolli run for most points.

Cobolli turned the tables when he fired a scorching forehand winner to get the point and as the Italian put his hand to his ear to get the crowd roaring, a spent Rublev bent over in exhaustion.

Rublev never recovered and although he had seven break points in the contest, Cobolli saved six of them.

The Italian converted all four of his own break points to wrap up the match in an hour and 28 minutes.

He will have no time to rest, however, as he looks ahead to a match against former Grand Slam champion Marin Cilic in the first round of the French Open.

Stuttgart Beat Third-Tier Arminia Bielefeld 4-2 to Clinch German Cup



BERLIN (Dispatches) - VfB Stuttgart beat third-tier Arminia Bielefeld 4-2 with a double from Enzo Millot to lift the German Cup for the first time in 28 years on Saturday, bringing relief for Sebastian Hoeneß's side after a disappointing Bundesliga campaign.

Goals from Nick Woltemade, Millot and Deniz Undav put Stuttgart 3-0 up at the break before Millot scored again to make it 4-0 after 66 minutes and effectively end the contest.

Bielefeld did pull a goal back through substitute Julian Kania eight minutes from time before Stuttgart's Joshua Vagnoman netted an own goal in the 85th but it was too little, too late.

The win was Stuttgart's fourth German Cup success and earned a place in the Europa League's league phase. They finished the Bundesliga campaign ninth, two points off the European spots.

They delivered a bitter ending to a fairytale run for Bielefeld, who stunned holders Bayer Leverkusen in April to reach the final for the first time. They eliminated three other Bundesliga teams in consecutive rounds in the competition.

Bielefeld, who clinched the third division title last weekend, failed to crown their promotion back to Bundesliga 2 with another trophy. They were the fourth third-tier side to reach the German Cup final and first since Union Berlin in 2001.

Bielefeld got off to a lively start and should have taken an early lead through Noah Sarenren Bazee, who smashed the ball against the bar from close range.

Instead, Woltemade put Stuttgart in front after 15 minutes, beating goalkeeper Jonas Kersken with a low shot from the edge of the area.

The 23-year-old forward received his first Germany call-up on Thursday ahead of the Nations League semi-final against Portugal on June 4.

Millot doubled Stuttgart's lead on the counter-attack seven minutes later, scoring into an empty net after the ball was laid off to the 22-year-old midfielder by Undav, who added the third goal himself in the 28th by firing into the bottom corner.

Millot scored his second after the break when he finished a solo run with a low shot inside the far post.

Norris Conquers Monaco Gremlins With Record-Smashing Lap

MONACO (Dispatches) - Lando Norris shrugged off his gremlins and revived his world championship bid when he became the fastest driver in the history of the Monaco Grand Prix to claim pole position for the classic race.

Driving with impeccable judgment, pace and purpose, the 25-year-old Briton clocked a best lap in one minute and 9.954 seconds to outpace local hero and last year's winner Charles Leclerc of Ferrari by 0.109.

It was the first time any driver had lapped the sinuous barrier-lined Mediterranean street circuit in less than 70 seconds and came only seconds after Leclerc had appeared to have secured his fourth Monaco pole position.

For Norris it was his first Monaco pole, his second this year and the 11th of his career – and a critical advantage for the slowest and shortest circuit of the season where only 10 drivers have won



from lower than third on the grid since 1950.

While a disappointed Leclerc lamented traffic that hampered his first flying run, affecting his overall rhythm, Norris was buoyant after ending a dismal run in qualifying and falling 13 points behind McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri in the drivers' title race.

"The team has done a fantastic job so thank you to everyone here and back at the factory," he said. "These days don't come easy and I am proud to give something back to them."

"It's been a long time coming. I feel good and I don't think you realise how good this feels with quite a few struggles over the last couple of months, especially here in Monaco. It's a beautiful place and the hardest track probably to do it."

"Up against the home-town hero (Leclerc), I'm very proud of the whole team so I am pleased after all the hard work in the last few months."