

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Has Issued New Regulations Governing the Supply, Possession, and Carrying of Foreign Cash as Part of Efforts to Crack Down on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing

IRAN NEWS

First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Aref Says That Iran's Nuclear Program Is Entirely Peaceful, Emphasizing That Nuclear Weapons Have No Place in the Country's Defense Strategy

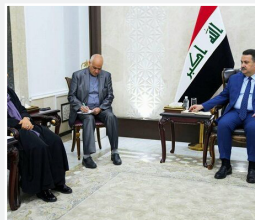
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France Lacks Moral Authority to Lecture Iran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has condemned recent anti-Iranian remarks by his French counterpart, Jean-Noel Barrot.

Araqchi said on Sunday that French officials "have no moral authority" whatsoever to lecture Iranians on human rights.

The top diplomat criticized France's own human rights records, saying Paris has made many violations in this area, which undermine its credibility as a human rights advocate.

He added that no example illustrates this hypocrisy more clearly than France's stance on Israel and its war crimes.

Araqchi's comments came after the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the French envoy in protest at Barrot's remarks earlier on Sunday.

The French chargé d'affaires to Tehran was summoned after an Iranian filmmaker won a prize at the Cannes Film Festival, and Barrot described the movie as a gesture of resistance against oppression.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry has summoned the French chargé d'affaires to Tehran to protest meddlesome remarks by the country's foreign minister after an Iranian film won an award at the Cannes film festival.

FM Araqchi Warns of Iran's Harsh Response If Snapback Mechanism Invoked



TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi warns that invoking the so-called "snapback mechanism" to re-impose the United Nations sanctions will be met with a "harsh" response from Tehran.

Araqchi made the remarks as he was briefing the Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy on Sunday on the fifth round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States, held in the Italian capital of Rome two days earlier.

The foreign minister led the fifth round of negotiations with U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff. The talks were mediated by Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi, as in the previous four rounds.

Speaking to reporters at the end of the talks, Araqchi hailed "one of the most professional" rounds of talks with the U.S., saying Tehran will continue to hold its ground and insist on its "completely clear" positions.

"This round was one of the most professional rounds of negotiations we have ever had. We once again announced the positions and principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the negotiations. Our positions are completely clear, and we stand firm on them," the top Iranian negotiator said.

According to Ebrahim Rezaei, the parliamentary committee's spokesman, the Iranian foreign minister told lawmakers Sunday that Tehran will never hold negotiations under pressure.

The lawmaker quoted Araqchi as saying that Iran will continue to pursue its wise and clear nuclear policy, which he said is not subject to pressure, threats, or enticements.

"The foreign minister also pointed to the Israeli regime's opposition to uranium enrichment inside Iran and said that if a war occurs in the region, all countries will be affected and the entire region will be impacted," he added.

Iran Denies Wasting Time in Talks, Highlights Diplomatic Engagements

TEHRAN - Iran has never sought to waste time in diplomatic negotiations, stated Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei during his weekly press briefing, emphasizing the country's commitment to constructive dialogue.

Baghaei described the recent Tehran Dialogue Forum as a significant event, bringing together representatives from five continents to exchange views on pressing global developments. He also confirmed the fifth round of indirect talks between Iran and the United States had taken place, noting that regional concerns—particularly the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza—remain Iran's top diplomatic priority.

He condemned Israel's continued military actions in Gaza, including the recent bombing of a school, which he labeled part of an ongoing genocide that has killed over 16,000 children. "These crimes will not be forgotten by the region," he warned, criticizing the international community's complicity through arms support and diplomatic shielding.

Addressing the continued detention of Ms. Esfandiari in France, Baghaei called her arrest arbitrary and unjustified, alleging she was detained merely for supporting Palestinians. He criticized France's human rights record as "hypocritical" and demanded her immediate release.

In response to France's consular complaint against Iran, Baghaei expressed surprise and dismissed the move as politically motivated, affirming Iran's adherence to its international legal obligations.

Baghaei rejected media reports claiming Iran was stalling negotiations, stating, "Iran has never aimed to prolong talks unnecessarily. Our approach has always been serious and goal-oriented." He called on European nations to adopt a constructive posture and cautioned against relying on misinformation originating from what he referred to as "Zionist sources."

Regarding talks with Russia, he noted that a strategic partnership agreement had been passed in Iran's Parliament and was awaiting review by the Guardian Council, expressing hope for its implementation in the coming weeks.

Baghaei highlighted the Foreign Ministry's provincial diplomacy strategy, aimed at leveraging the economic and logistical potential of Iran's border provinces. A series of regional forums have been planned for 2025, beginning with one held in Shiraz.

He also condemned Israel's reported use of Palestinians as human shields, calling it a violation of the Geneva Conventions and International Criminal Court statutes. "The Organization of Islamic Cooperation and international bodies must document these war crimes," he urged.

On nuclear oversight, Baghaei confirmed that the deputy of IAEA chief Rafael Grossi would visit Tehran this week to continue cooperation. He reaffirmed that Iran expects the agency to act independently, without succumbing to external pressures.



Regarding speculations about abrupt departures from recent talks in Rome, Baghaei dismissed them as media sensationalism, saying negotiations followed a predefined schedule.

He reiterated that uranium enrichment remains a red line for Iran and cannot be compromised. "Any proposals, including those from Oman, must respect our sovereign right to enrichment," he asserted.

The spokesman denied reports about inspections of 31 Iranian nuclear sites and a three-year suspension of enrichment, calling them fabrications. He also refuted claims of a prisoner exchange involving an Israeli national in Iraq, stating the information was unverified.

Baghaei criticized the arrest of Iranian nationals in the UK, labeling it suspicious and lacking legal justification. Five detainees have since been released without charge.

Baghaei confirmed President Masoud Pezeshkian's upcoming state visit to Oman as a response to a prior invitation by the Sultan, affirming that discussions on regional issues and negotiations would likely take place on the sidelines.

On the situation in Gaza, he said the continued blockade, including the prevention of food truck entries, is "shameful" and constitutes a clear breach of the Genocide Convention.

He also rejected the idea of a temporary deal in nuclear talks, stating it has never been on Iran's agenda. Proposals to create a regional nuclear energy consortium were deemed non-substitutable for Iran's domestic enrichment capabilities.

Baghaei criticized the U.S. for failing to present a concrete proposal in ongoing talks and reiterated that Iran entered negotiations with goodwill and seriousness. He warned that efforts to halt enrichment reveal the other side's lack of seriousness.

On the issue of regional arms trade, he warned that an arms race would only destabilize the region further and advocated for diplomatic over military solutions.

Baghaei reaffirmed Iran's peaceful nuclear intentions and commitment to diplomatic solutions. "We will continue negotiations as long as we believe they can serve the national interest. But escalating sanctions will damage the process," he concluded.

He also commented on reports of Turkey establishing an air base in Syria, emphasizing Iran's stance on respecting national sovereignty.

The press conference concluded with confirmation that Iran's National Security Council Secretary will represent the country at an upcoming security summit in Moscow and that Oman will continue to mediate proposals between Iran and the U.S.

Iran Celebrates Africa Day, Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening Ties with the Continent



TEHRAN - In a formal ceremony held in Tehran to commemorate Africa Day, Iranian officials, diplomats, and foreign dignitaries gathered to celebrate the continent's unity and progress, reaffirming Iran's longstanding solidarity and commitment to enhancing cooperation with African nations.

The event was marked by a keynote address delivered by a senior Iranian official, who extended warm congratulations to African representatives and underscored the historical and cultural significance of the occasion. Africa Day, observed annually on May 25, commemorates the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, now succeeded by the African Union (AU).

This year marks the 62nd anniversary of that pivotal moment in Africa's modern history. In his speech, the Iranian official praised Africa's vibrant and diverse population of 1.4 billion people across 55 countries, highlighting the continent's unity amidst its cultural and linguistic diversity. "Africa is not confined to its past achievements—it is building new honors every day," he said, noting the continent's dynamic efforts toward development, including the landmark creation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)—the largest trade bloc in the world by population.

The 2025 AU theme, "Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations," was also acknowledged as a significant and timely effort to address historical injustices and forge a path toward equity and reconciliation.

Paying tribute to iconic African leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Jomo Kenyatta, and Nelson Mandela, the official also took a moment to honor the recent passing of Sam

Nujoma, the founding father of Namibian independence.

The speech highlighted Iran's strategic interest in expanding economic ties with Africa, particularly through the AfCFTA framework. Citing the success of the third Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Forum held last month, the official emphasized that Iran's advanced technology and Africa's vast natural resources offer complementary opportunities for mutual growth.

"Iran and Africa share a millennia-old relationship that we are eager to deepen through practical cooperation," he stated, pointing to potential partnerships in areas such as small and medium-sized industries, infrastructure, mining, education, scientific exchange, healthcare, agriculture, and water management.

The official also reaffirmed Iran's support for Africa's aspirations on the international stage, including its push for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, describing it as a reflection of the continent's growing global influence.

He concluded by stressing the Islamic Republic's unwavering friendship with Africa and expressed hope that the new Iranian administration under President Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian would further prioritize African partnerships.

"As we have stood with Africa in the past, we will remain steadfast in our support. The prosperity of Africa is the prosperity of Iran," he declared.

The ceremony served as a testament to the strengthening diplomatic and economic bonds between Iran and African nations, rooted in a shared vision of progress, sovereignty, and South-South cooperation.

If We're Sanctioned Instead of Negotiating, We Have Hundreds of Solutions



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian asserted that the country has numerous strategies to overcome international sanctions, emphasizing self-reliance and national potential over dependency on foreign negotiations.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Azad University, Pezeshkian said, "Universities used to be funded primarily through tuition, but as these resources declined, they began to stand on their own. This is one example—if we depend on others, we will fail. We must rely on our own capabilities."

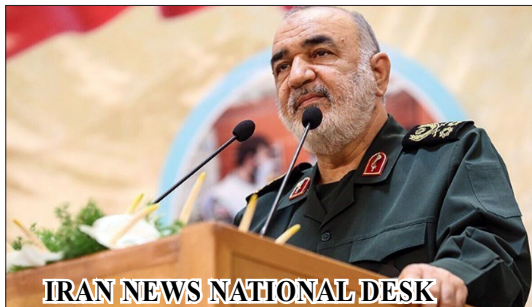
He continued: "If we place our trust in God and seek no other support, we will find solutions to our problems. Students who have faced hardship grow stronger, whereas those raised in comfort tend to give up when facing challenges. We must channel our talents, knowledge, and capacities into transforming behavior across sectors."

Pezeshkian pointed to Iran's vast natural wealth—both underground and in the skies—stating, "We have energy and gold, but our problem lies in not using these resources effectively. Our intellectuals have the power to bring about fundamental change. We are not lacking talent in our universities, and if these capable individuals take action with thought and purpose, we can solve all our dysfunctions."

Challenging the fixation on foreign negotiations, the president declared, "Some are focused on whether the U.S. will reach a deal with us. But if we agree with our own experts and give roles based on merit and fairness, we won't need anyone else. Should our people be left hungry and in poverty? Imagine we have no outside help—just us—and we must solve our own problems."

Reflecting on his own path to leadership, Pezeshkian said, "Eight months ago, perhaps no one believed in me, yet I became president. Any Iranian can rise to this position and achieve greatness. If we recognize our inner potential, we can do anything. We must believe that we can solve our issues. If we're sanctioned and talks fail, it doesn't mean we'll die of hunger—there are hundreds of ways forward, and our elites must step up and act."

Enemies Cannot Find a Formula to Overcome the Faith of the Iranian Nation



TEHRAN - Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Major General Hossein Salami, stated on Sunday that enemies have been unable to find a strategy to overcome the strength of the Iranian people's faith and are therefore forced to constantly shift their positions and retreat.

Speaking at a ceremony in West Azerbaijan Province honoring veterans of war and sacrifice, Salami emphasized that "the enemy hears the weight of our nation's faith through the breaking of its own bones" and acknowledged that no tactic has succeeded against the spiritual resolve of the Iranian people.

"This grandeur comes from deep belief in Islam and the monumental mission we have in confronting the enemy," he said.

Salami asserted that the Iranian nation refuses humiliation, adding, "Today, this great land stands proudly in the heart of a major battle—politically, economically, and militarily—against a global coalition of powerful and malevolent enemies." He declared that Iran is currently engaged in a full-scale conflict, with all fronts active, yet the country remains secure and stable. "This is a rare and extraordinary phenomenon—a nation at war that is still functioning in peace."

The commander also paid tribute to the martyrs who fought for the liberation of Khorramshahr, saying, "It was the martyrs, the freed prisoners of war, and the wounded veterans who brought that severed piece of land back to our nation."

Commenting on current threats, Salami said, "We see the enemy's alignments clearly. We hear their rhetoric, witness their expanding military on the ground, and feel their political pressure. Yet what is this mystery within our people—that the more intense the enemy's pressure, the more resolute and glorious our nation stands under its leader's guidance, battling the enemy on all fronts?"

He emphasized that while the Iranian people remain calm and composed, it is the enemies and Zionists who are in a state of anxiety and unrest.



CBI Governor Travels to Oman for Bilateral Talks

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Mohammad Reza Farzin, departed Tehran for Muscat on Sunday evening at the head of a technical delegation to meet with his Omani counterpart. The visit aims to enhance bilateral monetary and banking cooperation between the two countries.

According to a statement from the Central Bank, Farzin's agenda also includes meetings with other Omani banking and economic officials. Discussions will focus on strengthening financial, monetary, and banking ties, as well as boosting international cooperation and expanding trade and commercial exchanges between Iran and Oman.

Details Announced for the 28th ELECOMP Exhibition



TEHRAN - The 28th edition of ELECOMP (Iran's International Exhibition of Electronics, Computer & E-Commerce) will be held from June 16 to 19, 2025 (27-30 Khordad 1404 in the Persian calendar) under the theme "Smart Investment and Sustainable Development." This year's event will host around 500 companies, including approximately 70 international participants from countries such as China, Germany, Turkey, and Italy.

In a press conference, Ali Hakim Javadi, President of Iran's ICT Guild Organization (Nashr), outlined the key features of the upcoming event. He emphasized the exhibition's critical role in the country's information technology ecosystem.

"ELECOMP plays an influential role in the tech sector, especially in today's information era where timely and accurate data transmission is vital," Javadi stated. "Despite existing challenges, we are entering ELECOMP 28 with significant capacities and resources. The Ministry of Communications continues to strongly support this sector."

15% of Iranians Smoke; Electronic Cigarettes Banned in the Country



TEHRAN - Dr. Mohammad Reza Masjedi, Secretary-General of the Iranian Anti-Tobacco Association, has warned that approximately 15% of Iranians are smokers—a statistic he describes as a serious threat to public health.

Masjedi stated that between 20% and 22% of Iranian men and around 4% to 5% of women use tobacco products. He highlighted the grave consequences of this behavior, revealing that tobacco consumption leads to the deaths of 70,000 Iranians each year.

He further warned that smoking often acts as a gateway to other forms of delinquency, emphasizing that 15% to 16% of young smokers eventually fall into substance addiction. "This poses a significant challenge for families and society," he said.

Masjedi noted a worrying rise in smoking rates among Iranian women and adolescent girls. According to recent studies, tobacco use has increased among middle school students, with a higher rate of increase observed in girls.

He claimed that young people—especially teenage girls—are being targeted by domestic and international tobacco lobbies through deceptive advertising on social media. "Today's smoking girls are tomorrow's weakened mothers," Masjedi warned, urging greater vigilance to protect family health and the future generation.

Masjedi underscored the direct connection between tobacco use and non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, heart attacks, strokes, respiratory diseases, and cancer. Globally, 50% of heart disease cases and 85% of lung cancer cases are attributed to tobacco use. He also stressed that smoking is a leading cause of asthma and chronic respiratory conditions.

Masjedi cautioned against new forms of tobacco products, such as electronic cigarettes and vapes, which he said are falsely marketed as less harmful. "These claims are a major lie pushed by the global tobacco mafia, which is also active in Iran," he said, warning that these companies are solely profit-driven.

He reiterated that the import and sale of electronic cigarettes are prohibited in Iran, yet they are still widely available in shops and tobacco outlets. "When laws are ignored, their importance diminishes, and people become indifferent to the dangers," he said.

He urged citizens to speak up when they encounter smoking in public places. "Eighty-five percent of Iranians do not smoke. They have the right to breathe clean air," he stated. "The health of the majority should not be sacrificed for the habits of a minority."

Iran Urges Iraq to Accelerate Shalamcheh-Basra Railway Construction

TEHRAN - Minister of Roads and Urban Development has called on Iraq to expedite the construction of the long-delayed Shalamcheh-Basra railway project by promptly handing over the demined land along the route.

During the second day of his visit to Iraq, Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, met with his Iraqi counterpart on Sunday, emphasizing the need for deeper transportation cooperation between the two nations. He highlighted the importance of facilitating travel for Arbaceen pilgrims in the coming months and praised the overall progress in bilateral transport collaborations.

Sadegh stressed that expanding transport infrastructure is crucial for enhancing economic and trade relations between the two countries. He explained that improved connectivity would allow Iraq access to the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Russia via Iran through both rail and road, while Iran could gain strategic land and rail links to Arab Gulf nations through Iraq.

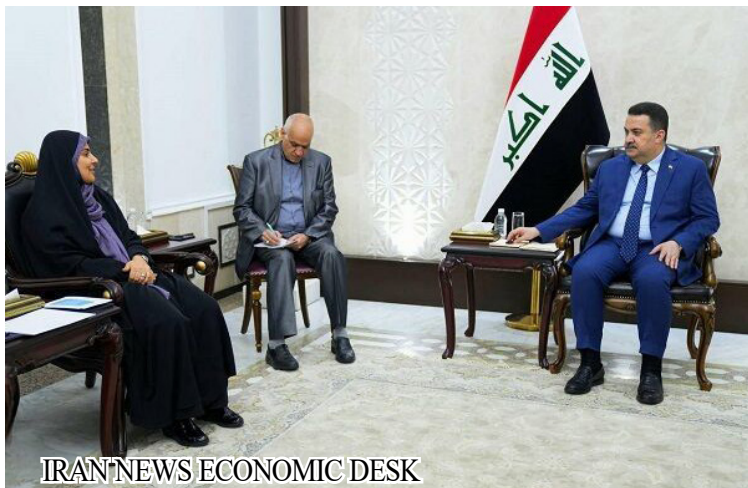
The Iranian minister also pointed to Kazakhstan's interest in transiting cargo through Iran to Iraq and proposed a trilateral meeting between Iran, Iraq, and Kazakhstan to facilitate regional transit cooperation.

He reiterated Iran's proposals, including the establishment of this trilateral mechanism, the completion of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway, and the broader integration of the Iranian and Iraqi rail networks. He noted that the resumption of the Shalamcheh-Basra railway under the administration of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani indicates Baghdad's commitment to the project.

Sadegh announced that demining operations along the Shalamcheh-Basra route have been completed. He urged Iraqi authorities to formally receive the cleared land by appointing a quality control company, stressing that the handover is a key step to accelerating the railway's construction.

The Iranian minister also revealed plans to complete the construction of the movable Arvand technical bridge before next year's Arbaceen pilgrimage. He expressed hope that with Iraq's cooperation, the Shalamcheh-Basra railway could also be completed by then.

Sadegh underscored the strategic importance of building a road and railway link connecting Khorramshahr to Khanaqin and Baghdad. He proposed detailed



discussions between the Iranian and Iraqi rail authorities to finalize the Shalamcheh-Basra project.

He also mentioned that the substructure for the Kermanshah-Islamabad rail line is 82% complete and that track-laying toward Khorramshahr will begin soon. Once completed, this would enable rail connectivity between Iraq, Central Asia, and China.

Sadegh emphasized the necessity of signing a road transport agreement between Iran and Iraq to support seamless transit. He proposed that further demining be carried out along the remaining width of the railway corridor, simultaneously with its transfer to a Spanish company.

Iran, he added, believes Iraq's development lies in improved regional transit coordination. The country is also ready to start pilot cargo transits under the TIR Convention within a month, before the month of Muharram.

Sadegh said a meeting will be held with the International Road Transport Union to support Iraq's implementation of the TIR Convention, adding that Iran is ready to share its experience and knowledge. Iran is also finalizing upgrades at border terminals like Shalamcheh, expected to be completed in the coming months.

Iraqi Minister of Transport Razzaq Muhaibis Al-Saadawi, who also attended the meeting, confirmed the formation of a High Committee for Arbaceen Pilgrimages, responsible for overseeing travel safety, infrastructure readiness, and inter-agency coordination.

He affirmed Iraq's commitment to completing its transportation infrastructure—particularly rail links—citing Iraq's strategic geographic position and the importance of rail connectivity for regional integration.

Al-Saadawi voiced support for Iranian proposals, including the Khorramshahr-Khannaqin-Baghdad railway and a trilateral Iran-Iraq-Kazakhstan transit meeting. He also emphasized that Iraq has no obstacles to cooperating on the TIR Convention.

Calling the Shalamcheh-Basra railway a national priority, he said the project is personally endorsed by the Iraqi Prime Minister and will be pursued seriously. He commended Iran's efforts to revive the project after years of dormancy and vowed that Iraq will work to eliminate any remaining obstacles and accelerate its completion.

Iran, Bangladesh Explore New Avenues for Trade and Investment

TEHRAN - In a recent high-level meeting between the Bangladeshi Ambassador to Tehran and the President of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, both sides emphasized the need to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation, highlighting untapped potential in trade and joint investments.

Younes Zhaeleh, President of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, expressed optimism about the growing ties between the two nations and reiterated the Chamber's full readiness to foster economic relations with Bangladesh. He underscored the importance of defining joint projects to enhance commercial cooperation.

"East Azerbaijan Province boasts diverse and robust industrial capabilities that can play a pivotal role in expanding trade with Bangladesh," Zhaeleh stated. He also pointed to the province's strategic geographical position as Iran's gateway to Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, which he said could serve as a vital link between Bangladesh and regional markets.

Zhaeleh further noted that the Free Trade Agreement between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union presents a significant opportunity for investment and export expansion into member countries.

Bangladeshi Ambassador Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury described the Tabriz Chamber as one of the most active and dynamic in Iran and expressed his honor in visiting Iran's oldest chamber of commerce. He said the main purpose of his trip to Tabriz was to explore undiscovered trade opportunities and promote bilateral cooperation.

"There is a lack of mutual awareness about the economic potentials of each other's markets," said the ambassador. "Many Iranian businesses are unfamiliar with the capabilities of Bangladesh, and likewise, the industrial strengths of East Azerbaijan Province are not widely known in Bangladesh."



During his visit, Ambassador Chowdhury toured the Tabriz Tractor Manufacturing Company, one of the largest tractor producers in the region, and expressed interest in facilitating imports of its products to Bangladesh.

He acknowledged sanctions and financial restrictions as key challenges in Iran-Bangladesh trade relations but emphasized that numerous avenues for collaboration still exist. He highlighted Bangladesh's position as the world's second-largest garment producer and signaled the country's willingness to invest in joint manufacturing ventures with Iran.

Citing the complementary geographic advantages of the two nations, the ambassador noted that East Azerbaijan's access to Central

Asia, the Caucasus, and Russia, alongside Bangladesh's access to the densely populated South Asian market, presents an opportunity for strategic trade cooperation. He proposed that Bangladesh could become a key export hub for Iranian and East Azerbaijani products to South Asia, leveraging its competitive labor costs and market access.

With a population exceeding 165 million, including a growing middle and affluent class of around 30 million, Bangladesh offers a promising market for Iranian products, particularly in consumer goods and imports.

Chowdhury also emphasized Bangladesh's achievements in pharmaceuticals and pointed to Iran's strengths in medical equipment as another potential area for collaboration.

In conclusion, the ambassador highlighted Bangladesh's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO), which allows it to export to many countries without tariffs. Given that Iran and Bangladesh are not economic competitors, he stressed, there is significant room for mutual trade and investment growth.

Energy and Fuel Shortages Challenge Iran's Mining Sector



TEHRAN - Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, announced today that a large portion of the country's mines have become inactive due to current challenges, particularly in securing energy and fuel.

Speaking at the National Mining Day ceremony on Monday, Atabak praised those contributing to the sector and emphasized the crucial role mining plays in the national economy. "Mining is a pillar of our economy," he stated, adding that prioritizing the mining industry over reliance on oil revenues is a wise and strategic move.

He highlighted Iran's unique position within the global mineral and metal belt, noting its potential to significantly boost productivity in the mining sector. However, Atabak acknowledged the mining sector is currently facing difficulties across exploration, extraction, and efficiency.

Referring to exploration efforts, Atabak cited a Geological Survey report indicating that the goals set in Iran's Seventh Development Plan—including a 13% growth in exploration—are unlikely to be achieved.

He further explained that Iran faces several challenges in the extraction phase and has begun negotiations with two foreign manufacturers as well as domestic producers to modernize mining machinery. "We are focusing particularly on supporting small-scale mines in this effort," he said.

The minister also called for a review of mining governance within the ministry, stressing the need for greater transparency and increased involvement of the private sector. "We have transferred authority from the Supreme Mining Council to provincial councils without waiting for a government directive," Atabak noted, adding that this move has already helped reactivate many small and medium-sized inactive mines.

Iran Begins Talks to Expedite FATF Normalization Process at Eurasia Summit



TEHRAN - The Iranian delegation participating in the 42nd plenary meeting of the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) has commenced consultations in Moscow aimed at facilitating and accelerating the normalization of Iran's case with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

According to the Financial Intelligence Center of Iran, Hadi Khani, Secretary of the Supreme Council for the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, and his accompanying delegation held a joint meeting upon arrival in Moscow with Yuri Chikhanchin, Deputy President of Russia and head of the EAG, along with the organization's deputies and directors.

During the session, the two sides discussed strategies for expediting Iran's reintegration into the FATF framework following the recent approval of the Palermo Convention bill by Iran.

Both parties emphasized the importance of leveraging the capacity of EAG member states to build consensus within the FATF, as well as initiating technical and educational cooperation with Iran. These measures are intended to help suspend countermeasures and facilitate Iran's removal from the FATF blacklist.

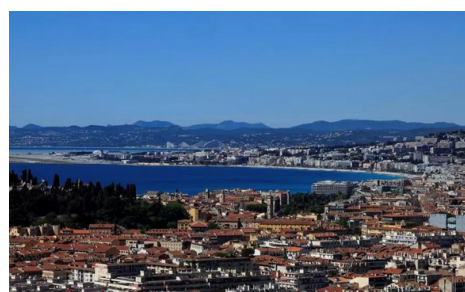
The meeting concluded with plans for the EAG to organize urgent, high-level sessions with select FATF member countries. These efforts aim to prepare the ground for defending Iran's recent measures during future FATF plenary meetings. If necessary, the agenda includes arranging visits by target countries to Iran's permanent exhibition on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing, to further persuade and engage key stakeholders.

France Blames Sabotage for Second Riviera Blackout

PARIS (Dispatches) - French authorities on Sunday blamed sabotage and ordered heightened security after a fire at an electricity sub-station in Nice caused the second major power blackout in two days along the Riviera. The latest fire cut power to about 45,000 homes in western Nice for several hours, authorities said. Nice airport was briefly without electricity, the city's deputy mayor Gael Nofri told AFP.

A similar arson attack on a power substation partially disrupted the final day of the Cannes film festival, forcing organisers to use backup generators to keep the event going.

Prosecutors said they had opened an investigation and were looking into a claim Sunday by two anarchist groups of "responsibility for the attack on electrical installations on the Cote d'Azur". The claim was posted on an alternative website.



Rival Marches Draw Thousands in Warsaw Ahead of Presidential Vote



WARSAW (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people took the streets of Warsaw on Sunday to show support for rival candidates in next week's tightly-contested Polish presidential election that the government views as crucial to its efforts for democratic reform.

Prime Minister Donald Tusk hopes to galvanise support for his candidate, the liberal Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski, to replace the outgoing Andrzej Duda, a nationalist who has vetoed many of his efforts to reform the judiciary.

"All of Poland is looking at us. All of Europe is looking at us. The whole world is looking at us," Trzaskowski told supporters who waved Polish and European Union flags.

Tusk swept to power in 2023 with a broad alliance of leftist and centrist parties, on a promise to undo changes made by the nationalist Law and Justice government that the European Union said had undermined democracy and women's and minority rights.

Trzaskowski beat nationalist Karol Nawrocki by two percentage points in the first round of the election on May 18, but is struggling to sustain his lead, according to opinion polls.

Nawrocki's voters, some wearing hats bearing the words "Poland is the most important", gathered in a different part of the capital to show support for his drive to align Poland more closely with U.S. President Donald Trump's policies.

"I am the voice of all those whose cries do not reach Donald Trump today. The voice of all those who do not want Polish schools to be places of ideology, our Polish agriculture to be destroyed, or our freedom taken away," Nawrocki told the crowd on Sunday.

German Chief of Defense Orders Swift Expansion of Warfare Capabilities



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's Chief of Defence, Carsten Breuer, has ordered the German military to be fully equipped with weapons and other material by 2029, a document seen by Reuters on Sunday shows.

By 2029, Russia may have reconstituted its forces sufficiently to attack NATO territory, according to estimates by Breuer and other senior military officials at NATO.

The latest document, entitled "Directive Priorities for the Bolstering of Readiness", which Breuer signed on May 19, said Germany will meet the goal with the help of funds made available by the loosening of the country's debt brake in March.

The defense ministry in Berlin did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

In the directive, Breuer sets priorities for the weapons that should be acquired or developed most urgently, reflecting in part priorities NATO has previously laid out.

Among them, Breuer lists the strengthening of Germany's depleted air defenses, in particular with a view to intercepting drones.

Last year, sources told Reuters that NATO will request Berlin to at least quadruple its air defenses, ranging from systems with a longer range, such as the Patriot, to short-range systems.

Another priority is a capability to launch deep precision strikes, according to the document, effectively hitting targets at a distance of more than 500 kilometers (310 miles) and far behind enemy lines.

EU Chief Secures Tariffs Delay Until July 9 After Call With Trump

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - EU chief Ursula von der Leyen said Sunday she held a "good call" with President Donald Trump following his threat of 50-percent tariffs on the bloc, vowing to move "swiftly" to reach a trade deal with Washington. "The EU and US share the world's most consequential and close trade relationship," the president of the European Commission, which conducts trade policy for the 27-nation bloc, posted on X.

"Europe is ready to advance talks swiftly and decisively," she wrote, adding: "To reach a good deal, we would need the time until July 9."

Trump said that he would pause his threatened 50 percent tariffs on the European Union until July 9, after a "very nice call" with EU chief Ursula von der Leyen.

Von der Leyen "just called me... and she asked for an extension on the June 1st date, and she said she wants to get down to serious negotiation," Trump told reporters before boarding Air Force One in Morristown, New Jersey.

"And I agreed to do that," he added. Brussels and the United States have been negotiating in a bid to avert an all-out transatlantic trade war, and had agreed to suspend tariff action on both sides until July.

But Trump dramatically upped the stakes on Friday, complaining that talks with the 27-nation EU were "going nowhere" and threatening a 50-percent tariff on all EU imports to the United States starting June 1.

The US leader said Friday he was "not looking for a deal" with the EU, repeating his oft-stated view that the bloc was created to "take advantage" of the United States.



German Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil separately on Sunday called for "serious negotiations" with Washington, saying he had spoken with his US counterpart Scott Bessent about the matter.

"We don't need any further provocations, but serious negotiations," Klingbeil, who is also Germany's vice chancellor, told Bild newspaper.

"The US tariffs endanger the US economy just as much as the German and European economy," Klingbeil warned.

Trump has hit the bloc with three sets of tariffs: 25 percent on steel and aluminium and on automobiles, followed by a 20-percent "reciprocal" levy on all imports -- which has been suspended pending talks, though a baseline 10 percent remains in force.

The EU's trade chief Maros Sefcovic, who held talks with his US counterparts on Friday, responded to Trump's latest outburst by saying the bloc was "committed to securing a deal" but that trade ties should be based on "mutual respect, not threats".

Brussels has announced plans to hit US goods worth nearly 100 billion euros (\$113 billion) with tariffs if negotiations fail to produce a deal.

The US trade deficit in goods with the European Union was \$236 billion in 2024.

But when taking account of services, where American firms are dominant, the European Commission calculates that the US trade deficit stood at 50 billion euros (\$7 billion dollars).

Israeli Strikes Kill 30 in Gaza, Including Rescue Service Official



CAIRO (Dispatches) - Israeli military strikes killed at least 30 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip, including a senior rescue service official and a journalist, local health authorities said.

The latest deaths in the Israeli campaign resulted from separate Israeli strikes in Khan Younis in the south, Jabalia in the north and Nuseirat in the central Gaza Strip, medics said.

In Jabalia, they said local journalist Hassan Majdi Abu Warda and several family members were killed by an airstrike that hit his house earlier on Sunday.

Another airstrike in Nuseirat killed Ashraf Abu Nar, a senior official in the territory's civil emergency service, and his wife in their house, medics added.

The Hamas-run Gaza government media office said that Abu Warda's death raised the number of Palestinian journalists killed in Gaza since October 2023 to 220.

Israel's military said in a statement that chief of staff Eyal Zamir visited

troops in Khan Younis on Sunday, telling them that "this is not an endless war" and that Hamas has lost most of its assets, including its command and control.

"We will deploy every tool at our disposal to bring the hostages home, dismantle Hamas and dismantle its rule," Zamir was cited as saying.

The statement did not address Sunday's strikes.

Later on Sunday, the International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC said in a statement that two of its staff - Ibrahim Eid and Ahmad Abu Hilal - had been killed in a strike on a house in Khan Younis on Saturday.

"Their killing points to the intolerable civilian death toll in Gaza. The ICRC reiterates its urgent call for a ceasefire and for the respect and protection of civilians, including medical, humanitarian relief, and civil defence personnel," the ICRC statement added.

In a separate statement, the Gaza media office said Israeli forces were in control of 77% of the Gaza Strip, either through ground forces or evacuation orders and bombardments that keep residents away from their

homes.

The armed wing of Hamas and the Islamic Jihad said in separate statements on Sunday that fighters carried out several ambushes and attacks using bombs and anti-tank rockets against Israeli forces operating in several areas across Gaza.

On Friday the Israeli military said it had conducted more strikes in Gaza overnight, hitting 75 targets including weapons storage facilities and rocket launchers.

Israel launched an air and ground war in Gaza after Hamas militants' cross-border attack on October 7, 2023, which killed 1,200 people by Israeli tallies with 251 hostages abducted into Gaza.

The conflict has killed more than 53,900 Palestinians, according to Gaza health authorities, and devastated the coastal strip. Aid groups say signs of severe malnutrition are widespread.

Trump Calls Putin Crazy After Massive Russian Drone Attack on Ukraine

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump called his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin "crazy" on Sunday after Moscow launched a deadly barrage of drones against Ukraine, even as the warring countries completed a large-scale prisoner exchange.

At least 13 people were killed when Russia launched a record number of drones against Ukraine overnight to Sunday.

"I've always had a very good relationship with Vladimir Putin of Russia, but something has happened to him. He has gone absolutely CRAZY!" Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

"I've always said that he wants ALL of Ukraine, not just a piece of it, and maybe that's proving to be right, but if he does, it will lead to the downfall of Russia!" he added.

His comments marked a rare rebuke to Putin, who he often speaks of with admiration. The US leader has, however, expressed increasing frustration with Moscow's position in deadlocked truce negotiations with Kyiv.

Earlier Sunday, Trump told reporters he was "not happy" about the latest attack on



Ukraine and that he was "absolutely" considering increasing sanctions on Moscow.

"I've known him a long time, always gotten along with him, but he's sending rockets into cities and killing people, and I don't like it at all," he said.

Ukraine's emergency services described Sunday an atmosphere of "terror" in the country after a second straight night of massive Russian air strikes, including on the capital Kyiv.

Those killed in the latest Russian strikes included victims aged eight, 12 and 17 in the northwestern region of Zhytomyr, officials said.

"Without truly strong pressure on the Russian leadership, this brutality cannot be stopped," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on social media.

"The silence of America, the silence of others around the world only encourages Putin," he said, adding: "Sanctions will certainly help."

In his social media post, Trump also criticised Zelensky, a frequent target of his ire, accusing him of "doing his Country no favors by talking the way he does."

"Everything out of his mouth causes problems, I don't like it, and it better stop," he said.



Norris Slashes Piastri's Lead With Dream Monaco Win

MONACO (Dispatches) - Lando Norris celebrated a dream Monaco Grand Prix win from pole position on Sunday and slashed McLaren team mate Oscar Piastri's Formula One lead to three points in a race without overtaking and more strategy than speed.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished runner-up in the home race he won last year, with Piastri third and Red Bull's Max Verstappen fourth -- all four finishing in the order they started.

"This is what I dreamed of when I was a kid, so I achieved one of my dreams," said Norris of his first win in the principality.

The afternoon featured two mandatory pitstops for the first time but the experiment, while creating some tension as drivers hoped for a safety car or red flag that never came, failed to break the usual procession around the harbourside circuit.

Drivers played a waiting game, with Verstappen holding off his final stop until giving up the lead on the penultimate lap and those behind biding their time while keeping out of trouble.

"Very exciting. I was on the edge of my seat every lap. It was fantastic," said Verstappen, his words dripping with heavy sarcasm.

"Maybe next year four stops. I could have done four stops today and still finished P4."

Norris held his nerve, knowing victory would come to him without any overtaking required if he just stayed in line, and lapped all but four cars.

The win was the Briton's second in eight races -- the other coming in the Australian season-opener in March -- as well as McLaren's first in the sport's blue-riband race since Lewis Hamilton in 2008.

"Monaco baby!," Norris shouted over the radio as the chequered flag finally fell.

"The last quarter was stressful with Leclerc behind and Max ahead but we won in Monaco," said the McLaren driver, who provided a frisson of excitement at the start when he locked up slightly at the first corner in a puff of tyre smoke.

Ferrari's Hamilton was fifth, the seven-times world champion claiming back two of the three places he lost in a post-qualifying demotion, with Racing Bulls' Isack Hadjar sixth and Haas's Esteban Ocon seventh.

Liam Lawson scored his first points of the season for Racing Bulls in eighth place and Williams completed the top 10 with Alex Albon and Carlos Sainz.

McLaren extended their advantage over Mercedes in the constructors' standings to 172 points with Red Bull a further four behind.

Mercedes had a dismal afternoon in the Mediterranean sunshine, after a nightmare in qualifying, with George Russell taking a drive-through penalty and finishing 11th while Italian rookie Kimi Antonelli was 18th and the last car still running.

"Ultimately, qualifying 14th and 15th, there was nothing you could do. You pit on lap one, we'd have finished nowhere. You go long, we finish nowhere," said Russell.

The virtual safety car was deployed on the opening lap when Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto went into the tyre wall at Portier, the turn before the tunnel, as Antonelli went past on the inside. Bortoleto made it back to the pits and continued.

If Antonelli's pass counted as an overtake, then it was the only one of the race -- unless Russell cutting the chicane to get ahead of Albon, a move that triggered the penalty, was also considered.

Sabalenka, Musetti Shine at French Open as Nadal Bids Emotional Farewell

PARIS (Dispatches) - Aryna Sabalenka and Lorenzo Musetti sailed into the second round of the French Open on Sunday with straight-sets wins, as fans at Roland-Garros also paid tribute to Rafael Nadal during a ceremony marking the retired champion's legacy on the court.

Lorenzo Musetti and Aryna Sabalenka eased into the second round of the French Open without dropping a set on Sunday's opening day.

The eighth-seeded Musetti won 7-5, 6-2, 6-0 against qualifier Yannick Hanfmann of Germany, after the top-ranked Sabalenka earlier beat Kamilla Rakhimova 6-1, 6-0.

Musetti has been in strong form on clay, reaching at least the semifinals in the past three Masters tournaments at Rome, Madrid and Monte Carlo, where he lost in the final to four-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz. But he was hampered by a right-leg injury in that match.

Musetti did not look troubled on Sunday, however, and cupped his ear to the crowd after making an improbable forehand winner down the line from Hanfmann's drop shot during the third set.

After winning his match, Musetti got a huge ovation from the



crowd on Court Philippe-Chatrier.

Was it because Musetti won Italy's first Olympic tennis medal in 100 years with the men's singles bronze at the Paris Games last year? Or perhaps because, as a 19-year-old, Musetti was once up by two sets against Novak Djokovic in the fourth round before losing a five-set thriller in 2021.

For in all honesty much of the Chatrier crowd -- dressed in clay-colored jerseys and packing the stands that were half-empty an hour earlier -- were in such an enthusiastic mood because they were waiting for someone else to turn up.

Rafael Nadal.

The recently retired Nadal, who won 14 of his 22 major titles on the same court, was given a special trophy during an emotional ceremony where his old rivals -- Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray -- all turned up to bid the suit-wearing Nadal farewell.

Earlier, Sabalenka hit five aces and saved the two break points she faced against the unseeded Rakhimova.

Sabalenka is a three-time major champion and reached the semifinals at Roland-Garros two years ago.

U.S. Beat Switzerland to Win Ice Hockey World Championship



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Tage Thompson fired a sudden-death winner for Team USA as they claimed a thrilling 1-0 victory over Switzerland in the final of the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) World Championship on Sunday, their first gold medal at the tournament since 1933.

After impressing with their free-flowing attacking play earlier in the tournament, both teams engaged in an enthralling and bruising tactical battle that remained scoreless for the entire 60 minutes, prompting the overtime period that saw the teams reduced from five to three players on the ice, plus their goaltenders.

Swiss net-minder Leonardo Genoni played superbly throughout, but there was little he could do when Thompson broke forward and drove home the winning goal two minutes and two seconds into the overtime period to claim the victory.

"It's huge," Team USA forward Drew O'Connor told Reuters. "Obviously, we know how long it's been. And, you know, we've been looking forward to finally trying to get it done, and I'm so excited that we did it with this group."

After an intense first period, Conor Garland had a chance to put the U.S. into the lead at the 5:38 mark in the second when his side were awarded a penalty shot for a hooking offence by Swiss defenceman Michael Fora.

The American forward did his best to knock Genoni off-balance but the Swiss goaltender did not take the bait, standing firm to prevent him from scoring.

After some scrappy play from both teams, Team USA grabbed control of the game in the middle of the second period, exerting enormous pressure on the Swiss goal, without managing to make a breakthrough.

Late Penalty Sends Juventus to Champions League



MILAN (Dispatches) - Juventus qualified for the Champions League on Sunday, beating relegated Venezia 3-2 to pip Roma, 2-0 winners at Torino, to Serie A's final spot by a single point.

Manuel Locatelli's penalty in the 73rd minute won an exciting contest on the Venice Lagoon and secured Juve fourth place on the final day of an eventful season.

"It wasn't easy with three matches away from home against direct rivals in the final few weeks. It's a good achievement. I'm happy," said Juve coach Igor Tudor, who, Italian media have reported, is to be replaced by Antonio Conte this summer.

Tudor, who took over from sacked Thiago Motta in March, said his fate would be made public before the upcoming Club World Cup which starts next month.

"Before, before. We'll know soon and that's the right way to do it," said Tudor.

"If someone goes there but has no future at the club it's not right that they go there. But not for me, for the club."

Juve looked set for a straightforward win when quickfire goals from Kenan Yildiz and Randal Kolo Muani put them ahead on the half-hour, after they had fallen behind to Daniel Fila's strike in the second minute.

But Ridgeciano Haps gave Venezia, who had to win to have any chance of staying up, hope of survival nine minutes after the break and put Roma briefly fourth.

Claudio Ranieri's Roma were two goals ahead at that point through a Leandro Paredes penalty in the 18th minute and Alexis Saelemaekers' header seven minutes after the break, with fans of the capital club hoping Venezia would hold out.

However, Locatelli calmly stroked Juve back into the lead and into Europe's top club competition after Francisco Conceicao was clumsily brought down in the penalty area by Hans Nicolussi Caviglia.

Ranieri ended his coaching career just missing out on giving Roma their first Champions League qualification since 2018, after dragging his boyhood club up from near the relegation spots following his second return in November.

Man City, Chelsea, Newcastle Secure Champions League Spots

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City and Chelsea both secured their Champions League places with victories on the final day of the Premier League season and Newcastle United joined them despite stumbling to a defeat at home to Everton.

Outgoing champions City, whose season has been one to forget, only really required a draw at Fulham but cruised to a 2-0 victory which meant they finished in third place.

Enzo Maresca's Chelsea, who began the day in fifth place - the last spot for Champions League qualification - won 1-0 at seventh-placed Nottingham Forest to finish fourth.

Newcastle will be breathing a sigh of relief as their 1-0 defeat by Everton could have opened the door for Aston Villa to climb above them. But Villa went down 2-0 at Manchester United to end in sixth place and take a spot in the Europa League.

Villa, who would have nudged out Newcastle with a draw, had



goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez sent off when it was 0-0 and were furious at having a Morgan Rogers goal disallowed shortly before Amad Diallo gave the hosts the lead.

City ended up with 71 points, Chelsea on 69 and Newcastle on 66 points, the same as Villa, but with a better goal difference.

Villa will have to content themselves with a Europa League spot while Forest, who still had hopes of a top-five finish going into the last day, will go into the UEFA Conference League.

Champions Liverpool signed off a memorable campaign with a 1-1 home draw against Crystal Palace in a party atmosphere at Anfield with Mohamed Salah equalising after Ismaila Sarr had given FA Cup winners Palace an early lead.

Salah's 84th-minute effort was his 29th league goal of the season to equal Andy Cole and Alan Shearer's record of 47 goal involvements in a Premier League campaign.