

Iranian Foreign Ministry Vehemently
Denounced the Israeli Regime's Renewed
Attacks Against Yemen's Civilian
Infrastructure and Tel Aviv's Continued
Impunity for the Atrocities That Have Been
Enabled Through Unwavering American
Support

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Praises
the “Strong and Unequivocal”
Condemnation Expressed by the BRICS
Group of Emerging Economies of the
Recent Israeli and U.S. Acts of Aggression
Against the Islamic Republic

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2 DOMESTIC



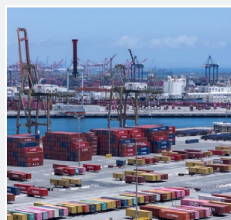
Why Iran's Gas Export Plans Keep Hitting Dead Ends

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Japan, South Korea Face 25% Tariffs as Trump Ramps Up Trade War

> SEE PAGE 3



FM Condemns U.S.-Israeli Aggression as Violation of Int'l Law



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi has strongly condemned recent U.S.-Israeli aggression against Iran, describing it as a violation of international law, the UN Charter, and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Speaking on the sidelines of the 17th BRICS Summit in Brazil during a meeting with UN Secretary-General António Guterres on Monday, Araqchi denounced the attacks on residential areas, which resulted in the deaths of civilians, including university professors and other prominent figures.

He further criticized the targeted assassinations of military officials and strikes on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities.

Araqchi highlighted that these actions, carried out by Israel with U.S. support, violate international law, the UN Charter, and the Statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"It is deeply concerning that two nuclear-armed states would target a non-nuclear weapon state that is a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, whose nuclear activities are under comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency," he remarked.

"These reckless and aggressive actions not only pose severe human and environmental risks but also result in irreparable ecological damage," he added.

Araqchi strongly criticized the UN Security Council's inaction in the face of these blatant aggressions.

Iran Remains OPEC's Second- Largest Refiner Despite Sanctions



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has maintained its position as the second-largest oil refiner in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), a sign that the country is using the best of its petroleum industry resources despite US sanctions targeting the sector.

Data released by OPEC in its recent Annual Statistical Bulletin showed that Iran had a refining capacity of 2.237 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2024, accounting for 16% of the organization's total capacity.

OPEC itself is responsible for 13.5% of the global oil refinery capacity, as it mostly includes oil-rich countries that rely on crude sales to customers in the developed world.

However, Iran has been a major exception in the group as it converts nearly 70% of its daily output to valuable products, earning more revenues in domestic and international markets.

OPEC data showed that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter with up to 12 million bpd of exports, had a refinery capacity of 3.291 million bpd last year.

The figures are another sign of resilience in the Iranian petroleum industry, as it has faced an unprecedented regime of US sanctions in recent years.

Iran has reported consistent rises in its oil production and exports since 2021, just two years after US President Donald Trump toughened its so-called maximum pressure campaign on Tehran during his first term in office and imposed heavy penalties on buyers of Iranian oil.

President Calls for Trust-Building Before Return to Nuclear Talks

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has declared that Iran remains open to resuming negotiations with the United States, but only under the condition that there is genuine trust in the dialogue process and an end to Israeli attacks during talks.

In an extensive interview broadcast on Monday with American commentator Tucker Carlson, Pezeshkian argued that it is not Iran but the Israeli government that is seeking to escalate tensions in the Middle East. The Iranian leader insisted that any meaningful diplomatic engagement requires preventing Israel, a key U.S. ally, from "igniting the region."

"We do not seek war," Pezeshkian said. "Our condition for returning to negotiations is trust in the process. The Zionist regime must not be allowed to attack again in the middle of talks."

Responding to questions about Iran's nuclear program, President Pezeshkian dismissed long-standing accusations that Tehran is seeking nuclear weapons. "Since 1992, Netanyahu has tried to sell the lie that Iran is pursuing a nuclear bomb," he said, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We have never pursued nuclear weapons, and there is a religious decree prohibiting it."

He acknowledged recent setbacks in cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), attributing them to Israeli attacks that destroyed parts of Iran's nuclear infrastructure. "We were at the negotiating table, and during the talks, Israel attacked our facilities, destroying equipment essential for verification," he said. "We are prepared to resume verification, but trust must be rebuilt."

The president also expressed frustration with the IAEA, accusing it of failing to condemn Israeli attacks on Iran's nuclear sites and thereby deepening distrust among Iranians. Pezeshkian reiterated that Iran is ready to engage in dialogue under the framework of international law, but emphasized that it was Israel's actions that have derailed diplomacy. "During previous talks, we were told Israel would not attack without U.S. permission. But just before the sixth round, they bombed us, sabotaging negotiations," he said.

Asked whether Iran has specific plans to restart talks, Pezeshkian replied, "We hope that after overcoming this crisis, we can return to the negotiating table. But this is possible only if we can be sure that Israel won't launch new attacks in the middle of negotiations."



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

The president confirmed there had been attempts on his life, allegedly carried out by Israel. "We were in a meeting when they bombed our building," he said. Pezeshkian added that despite these threats, Iran's leadership remains committed to defending the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the face of external attacks, he argued, Iranians become more united: "Iran is a civilization. We may have internal disagreements, but all Iranians value the integrity of our homeland."

Carlson questioned whether Americans should fear Iran, citing chants of "Death to America." Pezeshkian dismissed this as a misunderstanding: "That slogan is not directed at the American people. It's against crime, injustice, and policies that destabilize the region," he explained. "Have you ever seen an Iranian commit a terrorist act in the U.S.? We have no history of such violence."

He also rejected speculation that Iranians living in the United States act as undercover agents waiting to attack. "What have you seen from Iranians in America except science, knowledge, and civility?" he asked.

Pezeshkian voiced hope for a future where American businesses could invest in Iran, if sanctions are lifted. "Even the Supreme Leader has indicated that American investors can operate here," he said. "But it is U.S. sanctions, driven by Israeli pressure, that have prevented this."

He added, "President Trump can choose to rein in Israel and move toward peace or risk being dragged into endless wars."

Asked if Iran expects military or economic support from Russia or China in the event of a broader war, Pezeshkian stressed that Iran relies first on its own capabilities and faith. "We will defend our country to our last breath," he said. But he warned that a new war would destabilize the entire Middle East, urging the U.S. to act to prevent further escalation.

"The U.S. President can stop war and bloodshed by containing Netanyahu," he concluded. Pezeshkian ended the interview with a direct appeal to the American people and government: "We hope the U.S. will choose a path of peace and tranquility for both its people and the region," he said.

If you'd like, I can also shorten this to a 500-word summary or expand it into a more detail

Over 700,000 Undocumented Afghan Migrants Voluntarily Leaving Iran Since March

TEHRAN - More than 717,000 undocumented Afghan nationals have left Iran voluntarily since the beginning of the Iranian year (March 20) up to June 26, according to Nader Yarahmadi, Director General of Foreign Nationals and Immigrants Affairs at Iran's Ministry of Interior. Speaking on a national television program Monday night, Yarahmadi emphasized that over 80% of those leaving were "self-identified" — meaning they voluntarily presented themselves to authorities to return home.

Yarahmadi highlighted that the departure of Afghan migrants has become a top public demand in Iran. "According to surveys conducted in four districts of Tehran, people identified the exit of undocumented migrants as their primary concern," he said.

The migrants have mainly departed through three border crossings: Dogharoun in Razavi Khorasan, Milak in Sistan and Baluchestan, and the border in South Khorasan. The highest volume of exits occurred at Dogharoun.

To handle the large numbers, temporary camps and facilities have been reinforced with the help of local authorities. "At the peak last week, over 29,000 people crossed through Dogharoun in a single day," Yarahmadi noted, acknowledging initial overcrowding issues. He credited quick mobilization of resources, including shelters and food, as well as assistance from volunteer groups who set up service points similar to those seen during the annual Arbaceen pilgrimage.

Undocumented migrants holding census registration slips were given until July 5 to leave Iran, a deadline chosen to accommodate the school calendar so children could complete exams and receive report cards. Yarahmadi stated that migrants who miss this deadline for valid reasons — such as illness or religious holidays — can still seek help from any of the 191 provincial offices to arrange their departure.

He also acknowledged concerns about unpaid wages or deposits by landlords and employers. "Documents lacking legal standing have gradually lost validity since last year. However, any migrant who hasn't received what they're owed can contact our consular or legal offices, or appoint a lawyer to pursue claims — at no cost," he said.

To protect migrants' rights, Iran has activated legal aid offices and even proposed joint committees with the Taliban administration to resolve disputes. "We consider it our duty to help every single person if necessary," he stressed.

Yarahmadi criticized Afghanistan's delay in issuing identity documents for migrants who entered Iran after 2021. But he noted that this year, Afghan authorities have started issuing new IDs and opened additional passport renewal centers within Iran. Afghan representatives are also being sent to repatriation centers to oversee departures and assist with legal matters.



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

Yarahmadi said Iran remains committed to human dignity, offering medical reviews for those unable to depart on time and showing leniency on fines for late departure. "There is no systematic violation of migrants' rights," he affirmed.

In addition, surveillance cameras monitor camp activities, and migrants can file complaints against any mistreatment. "Since over 80% leave voluntarily, there's no motivation for harsh treatment," he added, criticizing foreign media outlets that he said ignore other human tragedies yet show "crocodile tears" for migrants.

Iran's long-term migration strategy is shifting: instead of emergency accommodation, the focus will be on allowing only migrants with valid passports to stay. "The war in Afghanistan ended years ago; there's no justification for exceptional measures anymore," Yarahmadi said.

Registered migrants will live in designated areas and receive services accordingly, as authorities improve data systems and technological

monitoring. The presence of undocumented migrants affects security, the economy, and the fair distribution of government subsidies, Yarahmadi warned. He reiterated the government's resolve, under President Raisi's administration, to regulate migration.

Those caught without documentation may face deportation and long-term bans on re-entry. In contrast, migrants who leave voluntarily can later apply for visas.

Yarahmadi rejected claims that migrants aren't visibly departing. "People see buses and vans carrying migrants daily, and we receive increasing public thanks," he said. In past years, over a million migrants left annually, but the process wasn't widely publicized.

He criticized foreign media, including Persian-language outlets funded by Saudi and U.S. interests, for framing Iran's migration policy as discriminatory. "Iran has hosted millions of Afghan migrants for four decades, providing free healthcare, education, and jobs," he said. "If Iran were racist, this history wouldn't exist."

Emphasizing shared language, religion, and history, Yarahmadi urged both nations not to let divisive rhetoric damage ties. "We are neighbors and must live alongside each other for years to come," he concluded.

Iran aims to gradually reduce the foreign migrant population to international standards — about 3% of its population — which would mean around 3 million migrants by next year. "So far, over 717,000 Afghans have departed, and our efforts to regulate the remaining undocumented migrants will continue without pause," Yarahmadi said.

Iran Stashing Thousands of Missiles and Drones in Secure Places



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior military advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran has stockpiled several thousand missiles and drones in secure locations ready to defend the country against any act of aggression.

Major General Yahya Rahim-Safavi said on Monday that the Armed Forces are fully prepared for any scenario, amid reports that Israel could launch another attack on Iran despite a ceasefire that ended 12 days of military aggression last month.

He noted that key military branches—such as the Navy and the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)—were not mobilized and the Army did not deploy its full capabilities as the Armed Forces fended off Israeli attacks.

"We have produced several thousand missiles and drones so far, and their place is secure," he added.

"Peaceful nuclear energy and the manufacturing of missiles are the results of indigenous knowledge, intellect, and science," and thus they cannot be destroyed, he said.

Rahim-Safavi also described Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu as a "wicked and criminal" person who has killed 60,000 people in Gaza and virtually 1,000 in Iran in pursuit of his own objectives.

However, he noted that Netanyahu "failed to achieve all his goals because the Islamic Republic was neither overthrown nor divided, and the people did not disperse. Although we suffered damage, we also inflicted damage on them (the Israelis)."

U.S. Bears Primary Responsibility for Aggression Against Iran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A senior Iranian commander has said that the United States is primarily responsible for the recent aggression against Iran. "We hold America primarily responsible for aggression against Iran," said Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, the spokesman for the Iranian Armed Forces, in an interview with Al-Mayadeen Network on Monday.

General Shekarchi declared, "The enemies and this barbaric regime should understand that they are confronting one and a half billion Muslims who will never surrender."

He reiterated that Iran does not initiate hostilities but will deliver decisive and devastating responses to its adversaries. "We have consistently emphasized that we will not initiate aggression; however, we have responded to our enemies with overwhelming force," he stated.

General Shekarchi stated that the ceasefire was established only after the Israeli enemy had suffered significant losses at the hands of Iranian forces.

He revealed that Iranian forces have successfully inflicted considerable damage on American military assets at Al-Udeid Air Base.

He further remarked, "If the enemies are truly as honest and democratic as they claim, let the world see the extent of the damage and destruction they have caused."

Brigadier General Shekarchi issued a stark warning: "Our armed forces possess the capability to deliver an even more devastating response, and we are prepared to demonstrate this both practically and in the field."

In a separate interview with Defapress Shekarchi emphasized the high level of preparedness within Iran's armed forces, issuing a stark warning: "Should the Zionist regime initiate any further actions, they will face a powerful response."

On Friday, the spokesman for the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Brigadier General Ali Mohammad Naeini said Iran will no longer observe any red line if the Israeli regime carries out another act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

IRAN NEWS



IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK

We Stand Firm to Safeguard Production and Industry Stability

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to boosting domestic production and sustaining the country’s industrial sector.

Speaking late Monday at a meeting with senior executives of major IMIDRO industries, Atabak stressed that Iran is fully mobilized to protect its production capacity and ensure industrial resilience.

“The enemy attacked our homeland, deluded that a sudden blow could collapse our national structure,” Atabak said. “But they were forced to retreat in disgrace, eventually pleading for a ceasefire.”

Tourism, a Tool for Rebuilding Global Trust



IRANNEWS/NATIONAL/DESK

TEHRAN - In a speech at the meeting of tourism ministers of member countries of the Tourism Cooperation Organization, the Senior Advisor to the Minister and Head of the International Affairs Center of Iran’s Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts described tourism as a civilizational bridge for dialogue among nations, restoring global trust, and breaking the monopoly of narratives. He also stressed the spiritual crisis of Western modernity and the saving potential of the East.

Hojatollah Ayoubi, Senior Advisor to the Minister and Head of the International Affairs Center of the Ministry, delivered Iran’s message of peace, friendship, and spirituality to the member nations of this regional cultural organization. This took place on Monday, July 8, 2025, at the gathering of tourism ministers of member countries of the Tourism Cooperation Organization in China, representing Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, the Minister.

At the beginning of his speech, Ayoubi referred to the special place of the East in the civilizational memory of humanity, saying:

“We, the members of this organization, are not merely geopolitical partners; we are children of a shared spiritual geography — the cradle of the sun, the land of mysticism, poetry, traditional medicine, art, and books.”

He added that today’s world needs, more than ever, to return to meaning and rebuild human connections. In an age when people are exhausted by the dominance of machines and seek to bring human relationships back to the heart of life, tourism can play a vital and multifaceted role.

Criticizing the internal crisis of Western modernity, Ayoubi noted that the Western world has sunk into racism and meaninglessness, while the East has managed to reconcile tradition and modernity. Renewal in this geography, he emphasized, does not mean copying the West but rather reinterpreting historical wisdom and cultural identity.

“Today, humanity is searching for the warmth of mysticism, the clarity of the Eastern spirit, and the welcoming embrace of meaning-oriented nations — a symbolic capital that, unlike the West, the East still possesses,” he said.

FIU Issues Statement on Counterterrorism Efforts and Sacrifices



IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK

TEHRAN - In a statement released on Monday, Iran’s Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, reaffirmed the country’s unwavering commitment to combating terrorism and protecting national interests against hostile forces. The statement underlined Iran’s leading role in the fight against internationally recognized terrorist organizations such as ISIS, as listed by the United Nations.

According to the Financial Intelligence Unit, Iran has not only taken a proactive stance in confronting these groups but has also played a significant part in safeguarding other nations that have suffered from terrorist violence. This commitment has come at a high cost, with Iran making considerable financial sacrifices and mourning the loss of numerous martyrs in the course of these efforts.

The statement emphasized that for many years, both the Iranian government and its people have themselves been victims of terrorism and malicious acts carried out by terrorist organizations. Despite this, Iran’s response has been characterized by determination and a spirit of self-sacrifice deeply rooted in the nation’s cultural and religious values.

The statement described this dedication as stemming from Iran’s longstanding traditions of compassion, moral integrity, and a culture shaped by deep-seated beliefs in defending innocent lives. “This culture of sacrifice and refusing to remain indifferent to the suffering of innocent people is based on our faith, authentic Iranian upbringing, ethics, and the inherently kind nature of the Iranian people,” the statement noted.

Highlighting the nation’s resilience, the unit added, “Our people are known for standing firmly against oppression and offering support to the oppressed. They courageously and wholeheartedly defend the country and its national interests, without resorting to theatrical displays or superficial gestures.”

IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK



Why Iran’s Gas Export Plans Keep Hitting Dead Ends

TEHRAN - Iran’s ambitions to become a major player in regional gas exports have repeatedly stalled due to a mix of geopolitical challenges, pricing disputes, and strategic missteps, according to a former senior official at the Iranian Ministry of Petroleum.

Seyed Mehdi Hosseini, former Director of International Affairs at the Ministry, told ILNA that Iran should focus on becoming a gas hub itself rather than allowing competitors to dominate markets in South Asia.

Hosseini recalled that even before Iran’s South Pars gas field came online, there had been proposals to transit Qatari gas overland through Iran to supply Pakistan and India, earning Iran transit fees. Another idea was to build an offshore pipeline in shallower coastal waters to deliver Qatari gas directly to India. At the time, Hosseini advised the proposing company to conduct seabed surveys and share the data before Iran could give its opinion. Despite studies suggesting the pipeline could be routed through Iran’s gentle coastal slopes, the idea was ultimately rejected.

Later, as Iran developed its own substantial gas reserves, the “Peace Pipeline” project was launched, aiming to export Iranian gas directly to Pakistan, which would then supply India. However, Hosseini said, the plan faltered under political pressure, particularly from Pakistan’s military leadership, and neither country ultimately received Iranian gas—missing an opportunity to establish southeastern Iran as a key gas hub.

“We spent billions of dollars building a pipeline to Pakistan’s border, but pricing disputes persisted,” Hosseini noted. Unlike oil, whose price is set on international exchanges, natural gas pricing is regional and highly localized, varying widely between markets. For instance, gas might cost \$4 per cubic meter in the U.S., \$8 in Europe, and \$14 in Japan. In the Gulf region, India, and Pakistan, however, no standard regional price has been established. As a result, Iranian gas export projects often default to referencing the price set in the gas export contract to Turkey.

Hosseini recounted that when Turkey’s then-Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan visited Iran to finalize a gas deal, neither side knew how to set the price, and Iran ended up selling gas to Turkey at a relatively favorable rate—albeit without full awareness of its market impact. Ever since, attempts to export gas to India and Pakistan have faced accusations of “selling too cheaply” whenever prices undercut the Turkey contract. A similar dispute overshadowed Iran’s controversial gas deal with Crescent Petroleum.

According to Hosseini, Pakistani negotiators reasonably demanded that the price of Iranian gas match that of fuel oil, reflecting market realities. Yet despite completing the pipeline to Pakistan’s border, Iran has not been able to finalize pricing terms, leaving the pipeline idle.

Beyond the current gas supply imbalance—something Hosseini described as largely “artificial” and driven by sanctions and mismanagement—Iran still holds the world’s largest gas reserves. He argued Iran must base its export strategy on its own gas, rather than becoming a conduit for Russian or other foreign gas. “Russia is our competitor, and we should remember that,” Hosseini said. To address domestic imbalances, Iran could import Russian gas—similar to imports from Turkmenistan—to supply its northern regions, freeing up southern gas for export to key markets.

“We shouldn’t lose markets like India and Pakistan just to sell Russian gas, effectively helping Russia become the regional hub,” Hosseini warned. Instead, he suggested Iran buy part of Russia’s gas at rates similar to Turkmen gas, use it domestically in the north, and export its own southern gas—using the profits to invest in production and electricity generation.

In conclusion, Hosseini stressed the need for a clear, long-term policy: “Rather than handing our gas markets to others, we must pave the way to become a gas hub ourselves.”

Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber Office to Resume Activities in Kerman

TEHRAN - After several years of inactivity due to political changes in Afghanistan, the representative office of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce in Kerman is set to reopen. The decision was confirmed during a meeting attended by the president of the Kerman Chamber of Commerce, members of its executive board, and representatives of the joint chamber.

During the session, Seyed Mehdi Tabibzadeh, President of the Kerman Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture, highlighted the untapped potential for trade with Afghanistan. He noted that despite Iran’s total exports to Afghanistan amounting to \$2.5 billion, Kerman’s share stands at just \$45 million, or 1.8 percent.

“Given Kerman’s proximity to the Afghan border, the significant Afghan migrant community here, the presence of major traders, and the availability of products suitable for the Afghan market, we should have achieved much more,” Tabibzadeh said. “We had launched several initiatives before the Taliban came to power, including trade conferences, investment meetings, visits from Afghan business leaders, and agreements to streamline logistics like deploying 100 trucks from Jiroft directly to Afghanistan.”

Tabibzadeh stressed the need to deepen trade ties not only with Afghanistan but also with neighboring countries such as Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Tajikistan, as well as with Gulf nations like the UAE and Oman. He also noted growing interest from local businesspeople to establish similar joint chamber offices with Pakistan and India.

Seyed Mohammadreza Torabi Mousavi, head of the executive board of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber’s Kerman office, acknowledged the difficulties faced over the past two years due to the Taliban’s rise to power, which disrupted prior commercial engagements. “Despite these challenges, we had plans last year to send a trade delegation to the Herat Exhibition. Unfortunately, just three days before the event, Iranian participation was canceled for unforeseen reasons,” he said.

Torabi Mousavi outlined a plan to restart the Kerman office’s activities, which includes identifying active traders in the Afghan market, recruiting new members, and organizing meetings with the heads and members of the joint chamber offices in Tehran and



IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK

Mashhad.

During the meeting, Mohammad Ali Mohammad Mirzaeian, head of the Kerman Chamber’s Export Development Commission, pointed out that Kerman hosts a larger Afghan trading community compared to Mashhad, mainly due to its higher Afghan migrant population. “This offers an opportunity to increase membership in the joint chamber office,” he said. Mirzaeian also suggested planning for a permanent exhibition of Kerman’s export products in Afghanistan to boost trade visibility.

Amin Abdollahi Nejad, Director of Market Development and Business

Climate Improvement at the Kerman Chamber, highlighted that seven Afghan provinces with a combined population of around 7.6 million are located near Kerman. He noted a 16 percent increase in Afghanistan’s imports over the past two years, mainly comprising mineral fuels, grains, medicines, machinery, and confectionery.

According to Abdollahi Nejad, Iranian exports make up \$2.5 billion—or about 39 percent—of Afghanistan’s total imports. Products exported from Kerman include grains, vegetables, sugar, sweets, and clothing, though part of this trade is routed through national border customs.

He added that, based on International Trade Centre (ITC) data, Iran could significantly increase its market share in Afghanistan by focusing on products like apples, dates, and tomatoes. Furthermore, while Iran and Afghanistan already share a trade agreement under the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), signing a preferential tariff agreement could further facilitate trade.

Abdollahi Nejad proposed several measures to revitalize the joint chamber’s Kerman office, such as identifying reputable Afghan traders across Kerman province, organizing a dedicated meeting with them, hosting a conference on trade opportunities, launching a membership growth campaign, and pursuing a preferential trade agreement via the joint chamber.

The meeting also mentioned plans to establish a pavilion for the Kerman office at a joint exhibition organized by South Khorasan Chamber and Afghanistan, scheduled for September this year in Birjand.

NIDC to Invest \$800m in 15 New Drilling Rigs



IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK

TEHRAN - In a major move to modernize Iran’s oil and gas sector, the National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) has announced plans to purchase 15 new onshore drilling rigs worth over \$800 million, according to the company’s CEO, Mehran Makvandi.

Speaking on Monday, Makvandi stated that this initiative, backed by the Oil Ministry and the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), aims to strengthen exploration and development activities. The new rigs will be equipped with advanced technology, and the purchase list also includes specialized technical service equipment such as high-pressure pumps, well testing systems, mobile workover units, and logging tools.

Makvandi highlighted that last year, NIDC successfully drilled, repaired, and completed 100 oil and gas wells using 62 active rigs, along with two rigs that were reactivated and returned to service. Out of these, 24 wells were development and appraisal wells, while the remaining 76 were related to repair and completion operations.

He attributed this achievement to meticulous planning, cross-departmental coordination, operational efficiency improvements, and integrated technical services—especially impressive considering the economic challenges and international sanctions affecting Iran.

Key to this progress, Makvandi noted, was the reactivation of previously idle rigs, such as the domestically built “Hefreh 73” and the “Hefreh 48” operating in Khark Island. This reflects the company’s focus on increasing productivity, reducing non-productive time, and relying more on domestic capabilities.

In line with its strategy to localize production, NIDC has expanded cooperation with local companies like Fajr Shiraz Complex, which specializes in manufacturing key drilling rig components. Makvandi revealed that Iran has already built its third drilling rig domestically, saving around \$7 million in the process.

Streamlining Foreign Trade Processes



IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK

TEHRAN - The Director General of the Logistics and Support Office at Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced that a proposal has been submitted to the Cabinet to minimize commercial processes, while highlighting a reduction in the dwell time of goods at customs.

According to ILNA, quoting the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Seyed Ali Emami referred to the economic consequences of the recent 12-day imposed war, stating:

“During this period, we were able to properly assess the capacity of our economic infrastructure. Fortunately, there were no significant disruptions in the import and export of goods, and trade continued as usual through border terminals and ports. Truck stoppages were reduced to a minimum, and shipments reached the ports and were unloaded quickly.”

Emami emphasized that during this period, the clearance process for essential goods was accelerated, adding that the capacity of road, rail, and sea transportation remained satisfactory in line with demand. He also announced that the TPO has submitted a plan to the Cabinet aimed at further minimizing stoppages and processes in road and maritime transport.

“The goal is to enable direct unloading and immediate delivery to consumption centers to reduce dwell and storage time of goods in ports,” Emami explained. “We have also presented proposals for the road sector that are currently under review. The main objective of the Trade Promotion Organization is to simplify and minimize trade processes.”

He continued: “If our aim is to connect sea transport to road and rail, part of this goal is achievable—for instance, transferring cargo arriving by sea via rail, such as shipments from China, or by road through Turkey to Iran.”

In conclusion, Emami described the resilience of Iran’s trade infrastructure under wartime conditions as acceptable and stressed the importance of creating and utilizing alternative trade routes.

Texas Flood Death Toll Tops 100

TEXAS (Dispatches) - The death toll from catastrophic flooding in Texas rose to more than 100, as rescuers continued their grim search for people swept away by torrents of water.

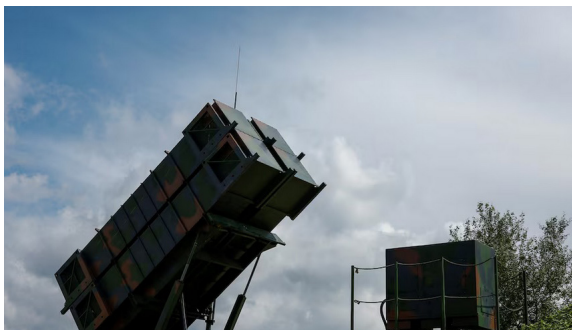
Among the dead were at least 27 girls and counselors who were staying at a youth summer camp on a river when disaster struck over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

Forecasters have warned of more flooding as rain falls on saturated ground, complicating recovery efforts involving helicopters, boats and dogs, as the number of victims is expected to rise still.

President Donald Trump is planning to visit Texas on Friday, the White House said, as it slammed critics claiming his cuts to weather agencies had weakened warning systems.



U.S. Will Send More Weapons to Ukraine



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Monday the United States would send more weapons to Ukraine, primarily defensive ones, to help the war-torn country defend itself against intensifying Russian advances.

Washington's decision to halt some weapons shipments to Kyiv prompted it to warn the move would crimp its ability to fend off Russia's air strikes and battlefield advances, while drawing criticism from Democrats and some of Trump's fellow Republicans.

"We're going to send some more weapons. We have to. They have to be able to defend themselves," Trump told reporters at the White House at the start of a dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"They're getting hit very hard now," he added. "We're going to have to send more weapons, defensive weapons, primarily."

In a statement the U.S. Defense Department later said it would send additional defensive weapons to Ukraine at Trump's direction, to ensure the Ukrainians can defend themselves while efforts continue to secure a lasting peace.

The Pentagon said its initiative to evaluate military shipments around the world stayed in effect.

On Friday, Trump had told reporters Ukraine would need Patriot missiles to defend itself, but he did not mention them again specifically on Monday. The Pentagon statement gave no details on the weapons to be shipped to Ukraine.

After a telephone call with Trump on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he had agreed to work on increasing Kyiv's capability to "defend the sky" as Russian attacks escalated.

The leaders had discussed joint defense production, purchases and investments, he added.

Poland Imposes Checks on German and Lithuanian Borders



SLUBICE (Dispatches) - Poland introduced temporary controls on its borders with Germany and Lithuania on Monday, in what the government said was a step to check migrants more thoroughly amid public concerns over immigration.

The move followed similar border measures over the past year and a half by The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany that have strained the fabric of Europe's passport-free Schengen zone.

In Poland, the debate over migration has become increasingly heated in recent weeks, with groups of far-right activists launching "citizens' patrols" on the western border.

Germany has had checks on its border with Poland since 2023, but this year shifted to a tougher approach that has seen it reject undocumented migrants, as well as returning them to Poland under EU rules and a bilateral agreement.

Warsaw says that has left it facing an unfair extra burden.

It also says that migrants in Belarus are trying to enter the EU through Latvia and Lithuania because their border defences are relatively weaker.

"That is why we have introduced controls on the border with Lithuania," Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Monday. "To redirect this stream of people, which is deflected by our barrier, but which wants to cross Poland again through the border with Latvia and Lithuania, and further into Europe."

Knut Abraham, Berlin's coordinator for German-Polish relations, said the checks could lead to congestion and hold up goods, while having little actual impact on migration.

Japan, South Korea Face 25% Tariffs as Trump Ramps Up Trade War



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday began telling trade partners - from powerhouse suppliers like Japan and South Korea to minor players - that sharply higher U.S. tariffs will start August 1, marking a new phase in the trade war he launched earlier this year.

The imposition of the 25% levy on U.S. importers of all goods from key allies Japan and South Korea rattled Wall Street, with the S&P 500 Index knocked back sharply, though markets in Asia were taking the latest news in stride.

The 14 countries sent letters so far, which included smaller U.S. exporters like Serbia, Thailand and Tunisia, hinted at opportunities for additional negotiations while at the same time warning that any reprisal steps would be met with a like-for-like response.

"If for any reason you decide to raise your Tariffs, then, whatever the number you choose to raise them by, will be added onto the 25% that we charge," Trump said in letters, released on his Truth Social platform, to Japan and South Korea.

The higher tariffs take effect August 1, and notably will not combine with previously announced sector tariffs such as those on automobiles and steel and aluminum.

That means, for instance, that Japanese vehicle tariffs will remain at 25%, rather than the existing 25% auto sector tariff climbing to 50% with the new reciprocal rate as has occurred with some of Trump's tariffs.

The clock has been ticking for countries to conclude deals with the U.S. after Trump unleashed a global trade war in April that has roiled financial markets and sent policymakers scrambling to protect their economies.

Trading partners got another reprieve as Trump signed an executive order on Monday extending the Wednesday deadline for negotiations to August 1.

Asked if the deadline was firm, Trump said: "I would say firm, but not 100% firm. If they call up and they say we'd like to do something a different way, we're going to be open to that."

Trump has kept much of the world guessing on the outcome of months of talks with countries hoping to avoid the hefty tariff hikes he has threatened.

The rate for South Korea is the same as Trump initially announced, while the rate for Japan is 1 point higher than the one announced on April 2. A week later, he capped all of the so-called reciprocal tariffs at 10% until Wednesday. Only two agreements have so far been reached, with Britain and Vietnam, while Washington and Beijing in June agreed on a framework covering tariff rates.

Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, said it was unfortunate that Trump was hiking tariffs on imports from two of the closest U.S. allies, but there was still time for a breakthrough in negotiations.

"While the news is disappointing, it does not mean the game is over," Cutler said.

Trump said that the United States would impose 25% tariffs on goods from Tunisia, Malaysia and Kazakhstan; 30% on South Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina; 32% on Indonesia; 35% on Serbia and Bangladesh; 36% on Cambodia and Thailand and 40% on Laos and Myanmar.

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said on Tuesday that some progress had been made on avoiding higher tariffs of up to 35% that Trump had suggested recently.

"We have received a proposal from the United States to swiftly proceed with negotiations towards the newly set August 1 deadline, and that depending on Japan's response, the content of the letter could be revised," Ishiba told a meeting with cabinet ministers to discuss Japan's strategy on the tariffs.

South Korea said it planned to intensify U.S. trade talks and considers Trump's latest plan as effectively extending a grace period on implementing reciprocal tariffs.

"We will step up negotiations during the remaining period to reach a mutually beneficial result to quickly resolve the uncertainties from tariffs," the country's Industry Ministry said.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the 30% U.S. tariff rate was unjustified given that 77% of U.S. goods enter South Africa with no tariffs. Ramaphosa's spokesperson said his government would continue to engage with the U.S.

U.S. stocks fell in response, the latest market turmoil as Trump's trade moves have whipsawed financial markets and sent policymakers scrambling to protect their economies.

U.S. stocks were driven to near bear-market territory by his cascade of tariff announcements through the early spring but quickly rebounded to record highs after he put the stiffest levies on hold on April 9.

The S&P 500 closed down about 0.8%. U.S.-listed shares of Japanese automotive companies fell, with Toyota Motor closing down 4% and Honda Motor off by 3.9%. The dollar surged against both the Japanese yen and the South Korean won.

"Tariff talk has sucked the wind out of the sails of the market," said Brian Jacobsen, chief economist at Annex Wealth Management. Most of the announced tariff rates have been rounded down, he added, and the letters come across as "take it or leave it" offers.

Sacked Russian Transport Minister Found Dead in His Car

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's sacked transport minister has been found dead in his car outside Moscow with a gunshot wound and the principal hypothesis is that he took his own life, state investigators said on Monday, hours after President Vladimir Putin fired him.

A presidential decree published earlier on Monday gave no reason for the dismissal of Roman Starovoi, 53, after barely a year in the job, though political analysts were quick to raise the possibility that he may have been dismissed in connection with an investigation into corruption in the region he once ran.

Reuters could not independently confirm these suggestions, though a transport industry source, who declined to be named due to the sensitivity of the matter, said Starovoi's position had been in question for months due to questions about the same corruption scandal.

That investigation centres on whether 19.4 billion roubles (\$246 million) earmarked in 2022 for fortifying Russia's border with Ukraine in the Kursk region was properly spent or whether some of that money was embezzled.

Russia's Investigative Committee, which probes major crimes, said in a statement it was working to establish the precise circumstances of Starovoi's death.

A pistol belonging to Starovoi, who was divorced with two daughters, had been found near his body, various Russian media outlets cited law enforcement sources as saying.

Some Russian media, citing law enforcement sources, also said his body had been found with a gunshot wound to the head in bushes near his car, a Tesla, rather than in the car itself.



The vehicle was left near a park not far from his home in the Moscow region. Before being appointed transport minister in May 2024, Starovoi had been governor of the Kursk region for nearly five years.

Three months after he became transport minister, Ukrainian troops crossed the border into Kursk in the biggest foreign incursion into Russian territory

since World War Two and were only pushed out earlier this year after fierce fighting and widespread destruction.

In April this year, Starovoi's successor as governor and his former deputy, Alexei Smirnov, was charged with embezzling money earmarked for defence purposes amid accusations that funds intended for border defences had been stolen, leaving Kursk more vulnerable to Ukrainian attack.

Various Russian media outlets reported on Monday that Smirnov had told state investigators that Starovoi had also been in on the fraud.

Reuters could not confirm that, and a lawyer for Smirnov - who has pleaded not guilty to embezzlement - told the state RIA news agency that he couldn't comment.

Starovoi's dismissal comes at a time of significant challenges for Russia's transport sector as the war in Ukraine drags on for a fourth year.

Russia's aviation sector is short of spare parts and Russian Railways, the country's largest employer, is grappling with soaring interest costs as high rates - needed to curb higher inflation exacerbated by the war - take their toll.

The Kremlin said Andrei Nikitin, a former governor of the Novgorod region, had been appointed acting transport minister, and it published photographs of him shaking hands with Putin in the Kremlin.

Asked about Nikitin's swift appointment, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin thought Nikitin had the right professional qualities and experience for the job.

The transport ministry declined to comment.

Kenya Anti-Gov't Protests Leave 10 Dead and Dozens Injured

NAIROBI (Dispatches) - Kenyan police fired to disperse demonstrators in Nairobi marking the 35th anniversary of pro-democracy rallies, and police said 11 people were killed nationwide in the latest anti-government protests to end in bloodshed.

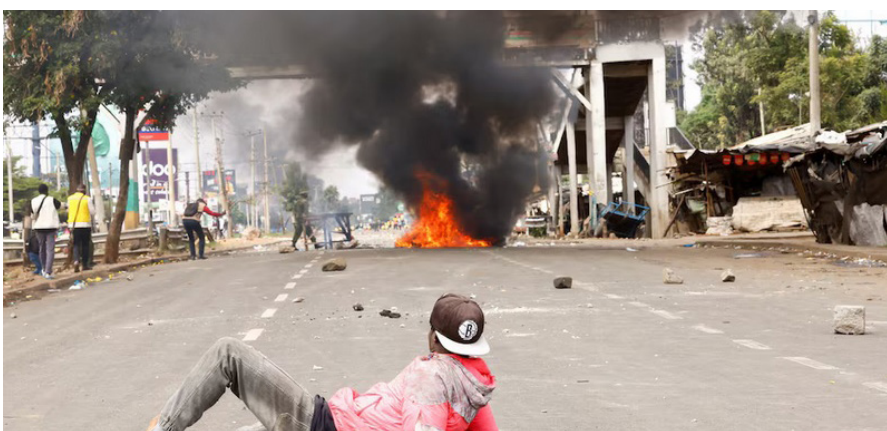
The death of blogger Albert Ojwang in police custody last month has given the protests fresh impetus, fuelling anger against the authorities and bringing hundreds onto the streets.

A Reuters reporter saw police fire at advancing protesters in the Nairobi suburb of Kangemi, with one man later lying motionless on the road with a bleeding wound.

The suburb's Eagle Nursing Home said six people had been admitted with injuries, and that two had died from gunshot wounds. A source at Kenyatta National Hospital said it was treating 24 injured people, but did not elaborate on their injuries.

Kenya's police said 11 people had died, while 52 officers had been injured. It did not say who was responsible for the killings.

"Preliminary reports indicate fatalities, injuries, damage to motor vehicles, and



several incidents of looting," police said in a statement.

Law enforcers have been deploying heavily in Nairobi since youth-led protests in June 2024 that initially focused on tax hikes but expanded to cover issues such as corruption, police brutality and unexplained disappearances of government critics.

Police used tear gas and water cannons on Monday to disperse hundreds of demonstrators advancing along a road connecting Kangemi to downtown Nairobi.

Hours later, protesters and police scuffled, and a Reuters reporter saw police opening fire as the crowd charged at them.

The government-funded Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) said it saw "numerous hooded officers, not in uniform, travelling in unmarked vehicles".

A court order requires police to be easily identifiable following allegations that plain clothes police fired live rounds at demonstrators last year.



Sinner Advances, Djokovic Battles Into Wimbledon Quarters

LONDON (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner progressed to the Wimbledon quarter-finals after a tearful Grigor Dimitrov pulled out injured while in total control of the match while Novak Djokovic survived a scare.

World number one Sinner and seven-time champion Djokovic remain on course for a mouthwatering semi-final clash but the top seed's match on Centre Court was overshadowed by Dimitrov's heartbreak.

The Italian was staring at the exit door trailing 3-6, 5-7, 2-2 before the Bulgarian 19th seed pulled up holding his right pectoral muscle and was unable to continue.

Sinner rushed to his aid but his 34-year-old opponent was barely able to wave to acknowledge the crowd's warm ovation.

"Honestly I don't know what to say," said Sinner. "He is an incredible player, I think we all saw this today.

"He's been so unlucky in the past couple of years. An incredible player, a good friend of mine also. We understand each other very well off the court too.

"Seeing him in this position, honestly, if there would be a chance that he could play the next round, he would deserve it."

The injury-prone Dimitrov has now been forced to retire in each of his past five Grand Slam appearances.

Sinner himself suffered a nasty fall in the opening game of the fourth-round clash and appeared to be suffering discomfort in his right elbow.

The three-time Grand Slam champion had been in regal form in the first three rounds at the All England Club, dropping just 17 games.

Sinner, who is due to face American 10th seed Ben Shelton in the quarter-finals, said he would be having an MRI scan on Tuesday to assess the extent of the damage to his elbow.

Shelton beat Italy's Lorenzo Sonego in four sets.

Earlier, sixth seed Djokovic endured a nightmare start to his match against Australian 11th seed Alex de Minaur but battled back to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Fresh from his 100th win at Wimbledon on Saturday, making him the third player to achieve that feat after Martina Navratilova and Roger Federer, Djokovic reached his 16th quarter-final at the tournament.

Aged 38, the Serb is aiming to win a record 25th major title, breaking a tie with the long-retired Margaret Court, and to equal Federer's record of eight men's crowns at the All England Club.

That would make him the oldest Grand Slam singles champion in the Open era.

Djokovic's 101st victory at Wimbledon came under the gaze of the Swiss great, who was sitting in the front row of the royal box alongside his wife Mirka.

"It's probably the first time he's watching me and I've won the match," he said. "The last couple I lost, so good to break the curse.

"No, it's great, obviously, great to have Roger, a huge champion and someone that I admired and respected a lot.

"We shared the stage for so many years, and it's great to have him back."

In the last eight, Djokovic faces Italian 22nd seed Flavio Cobolli, who beat former Wimbledon runner-up Marin Cilic 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3).

In the women's draw, Iga Swiatek continued her serene progress with a 6-4, 6-1 rout of Danish 23rd seed Clara Tauson.

Swiatek, fourth in the rankings, is a five-time Grand Slam winner but has never made a Wimbledon semi-final.

The 24-year-old is in a strong position in the second week of the tournament after the exit of so many of the top seeds.

"Honestly it's pretty amazing. It's the first time I really enjoyed London, sorry guys," Swiatek said, referring to her previous Wimbledon woes.

"We are tennis players, so we feel well off the court when we feel well on the court."

The Polish player next faces Russian 19th seed Liudmila Samsonova, who beat Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 7-5, 7-5.

Merlier Wins Tumultuous Tour de France Stage Three



PARIS (Dispatches) - Belgian Tim Merlier pipped Italian Jonathan Milan right at the line to win stage three of the Tour de France at Dunkirk, as Mathieu van der Poel retained the race lead.

The stage was marred by a series of falls, but the two favourites for the title Tadej Pogacar and Jonas Vingegaard finished safely in the main pack and remain in second and third place overall behind Van der Poel.

The flat 179km run from Valenciennes along the Belgian border was marked above all by a nasty fall that caused Jasper Philipsen to quit with severe grazing and a suspected fracture.

There were three more falls, including two nasty-looking ones in the finale with Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel involved.

Another Belgian national champion Tim Wellens gave cross-border fans more to cheer about as he won the day's only climb, the 2.3km ascent of Mont Cassel at 31km from the finish line.

The 34-year-old will now hold the king of the mountains polka dot jersey overnight.

Regional police said one million spectators had lined the roadsides on the opening day, while rain dissuaded that kind of turnout for stage two, huge crowds turned out again for the run to Dunkirk.

The eleven bikes stolen from outside the Cofidis team hotel early Sunday were all found before the stage's end - five of them were recovered abandoned in a forest early Monday with the others being tracked down by the police later in the day.

The fourth stage is a 174km run from Amiens, as the Tour leaves the North region, to Rouen in Normandy, with five hills in the final 25km designed to spark a series of race-splitting attacks.

The first section of the Tour is raced through the north and west of France.

The volcanic landscape of the Puy de Dome presents the first mountains as late as stage 10, with two more colossal climb days in the Pyrenees before the blockbuster final week in the Alps.

Mulder Hits Fifth Highest Test Score



LONDON (Dispatches) - South Africa's stand-in captain Wiaan Mulder passed up on the opportunity to chase down a record score as he played a pivotal part in putting his side into a commanding position in the second test against Zimbabwe.

Mulder was 34 runs shy of a record for the most runs in a test innings when he declared South Africa's first innings on 626-5 at lunch on the second day of the clash at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo, stranding himself on 367 not out.

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It was a surprise decision with the 27-year-old all-rounder close to a unique cricketing milestone, but he did achieve the fifth-highest test innings, after being 264 not out overnight.

Mulder then took two wickets as South Africa dismissed Zimbabwe for 170 in their reply and forced the follow-on to see their hosts 51-1 in their second innings at the close, still trailing by 405 runs.

Mulder, leading the side for the first time as a depleted team take on their neighbours in a two-match series, hit 53 boundaries (49 fours and four sixes) in his knock.

With plenty of time still left in the test, he was expected to bat into the second session to chase down Brian Lara's 21-year-old record of 400 not out for the West Indies against England in Antigua.

But Mulder turned down the chance and declared at lunch. There was no immediate explanation, but he was expected to address a press conference later on Monday.

He had brought up 300 runs in Monday's morning session, scoring them off 297 balls for the second fastest triple century in test cricket, and then passed Hashim Amla's record score for a South African of 311 not out against England at the Oval in 2012 and got to 350 in 324 balls.

Mulder returned figures of 2-20 in six overs as Zimbabwe were bowled out for 170 in their reply, although spinner Prenelan Subrayen was the best of bowlers with 4-42 on his debut.

Banchero, Magic Agree to \$239m Max Rookie Deal

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The Orlando Magic are locking up cornerstone player Paolo Banchero, agreeing to a five-year, \$239 million maximum rookie extension with the star forward on Monday, his agent told ESPN.

If Banchero is either named to an All-NBA team or wins NBA MVP or Defensive Player of the Year next season, the extension could reach \$287 million, per Miller.

Banchero's deal includes a player option in 2030-31, which has not happened since Luka Doncic (then with the Dallas Mavericks) and the Atlanta Hawks' Trae Young finished out their rookie max contracts in 2021.

The Magic appear poised to be serious contenders in the Eastern Conference for the foreseeable future, with Franz Wagner and Jalen Suggs also under contract for the next five seasons, newcomer Desmond Bane signed through the 2028-29 season and Tyus Jones joining on a one-year deal.

Banchero, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2022 draft, has guided the franchise to two consecutive postseason appearances, despite missing 34 games last season with an



early oblique injury. After the All-Star break, he carried the Magic with averages of 29.0 points, 7.8 rebounds and 4.5 assists.

He is also coming off a campaign in which he averaged career-high 25.9 points and 7.5 rebounds per game along with 4.8 assists, becoming just the third Magic player to average more than 25 ppg (Shaquille O'Neal, Tracy McGrady).

Over his three seasons, the 2022-23 NBA Rookie of the Year and 2023-24 All-Star has averaged 22.4 points, 7.1 rebounds and 4.6 assists in 198 games (all starts).

Meanwhile veteran guard Kyle Lowry, who spent parts of the last two seasons playing in his hometown of Philadelphia, signed a one-year deal on Monday to play his 20th NBA campaign with the 76ers.

Terms were not disclosed in the deal for the six-time All-Star, who debuted with the Memphis Grizzlies after they made him their first-round pick (No. 24) in the 2006 draft.

Modric Move to Milan Confirmed by New Coach Allegri

MILAN (Dispatches) - Real Madrid's Croatia captain Luka Modric will join AC Milan after the Club World Cup, the Serie A club's newly-appointed manager Massimiliano Allegri confirmed on Monday.

The move means the 39-year-old midfielder, who announced in May that he would be leaving Madrid after the Club World Cup, will bring his 13-year spell at the Spanish giants to a close.

"Modric will arrive in August. He is an extraordinary player," Allegri told reporters in his first press conference as Milan manager.

Real face Paris St Germain in the Club World cup semi-finals on Wednesday, with the final scheduled for Sunday.

Modric, the 2018 Ballon d'Or winner, will join a Milan side looking to bounce back from a disappointing campaign that saw



them finish eighth and miss out on European competition.

"To the fans, I say the most important thing is to work well every day," Allegri said. "The only way to regain respect is through responsibility and by achieving results. We will absolutely need their support."

The Italian, who has joined Milan for a second time after replacing the sacked Sergio Conceicao at the end of May, also outlined some key changes to the squad ahead of the new season.

Netherlands midfielder Tijjani Reijnders was sold to Manchester City in June while France left back Theo Hernandez could be on his way to Saudi Pro League side Al-Hilal.

"While Reijnders and Hernandez won't be part of the team next season, (goalkeeper) Mike Maignan and (forward) Rafael Leao seem willing to stay," Allegri said.