

Calls Have Grown in Iran for the Government to Reduce Its Trade Dealings With Germany and to Restrict Its Cargo Transport Activity in the Persian Gulf After Berlin Offered Unconditional Support for Israel's Recent Aggression Against Iranian Territory

IRAN NEWS

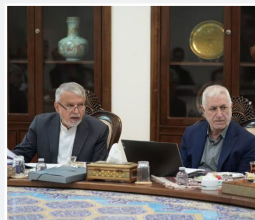
Iran Has Sharply Denounced the Israeli Regime for Trying to “Complete Its Colonial Genocide Project” Against Palestinians Through Ever More Lethal and Devastating Assaults

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Iran Condemns Arrest of Iranian Nationals in the U.S., Calls It Systemic Racism



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Director General for Iranian Expatriates at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs has strongly condemned the recent large-scale arrest of Iranian nationals residing in the United States, describing the move by the U.S. government as unlawful and inhumane.

Alireza Hashemi Raja, the Director General for Iranian Expatriates, reacted to the widespread detentions by saying:

"This action by the United States, which follows its support and involvement in the illegal military aggression of the Zionist regime against Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, clearly violates recognized international legal standards."

Expressing serious concern over the arrests, Hashemi Raja added: "Based on received reports, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as the policy-maker, and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), as the enforcement body, have implemented strict policies and carried out extensive law enforcement and security operations against Iranian nationals living in the United States. This situation has caused growing and serious concern among the families of the detained Iranians."

Referring to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, he highlighted the U.S. government's obligation to facilitate consular access for Iranian nationals by the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Washington, D.C.

"Despite initial consular efforts, we have yet to receive a convincing explanation for the reasons behind these arrests. We find the repressive and inhumane treatment of these Iranians living in America unacceptable and demand respect for their rights, the immediate disclosure of their identities, and the facilitation of consular access so necessary services can be provided," he said.

Global Coalition Charges Israel With Genocide, Defies U.S. Threats to Pursue Justice



BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Defying the United States threats, ministers from more than 30 nations have packed Bogotá's San Carlos Palace to charge the Israeli regime with genocide over its October 2023-present brutal military assault against the Gaza Strip.

The dramatic display of international solidarity saw dozens of high-ranking officials from across the globe convene inside the stately palace on Tuesday, determined to hold the regime accountable for, what they unequivocally called, a "war of genocide."

The two-day emergency summit, organized under the auspices of The Hague Group -- a coalition co-chaired by Colombia and South Africa -- had representatives, ranging from such countries as Algeria and Brazil to Pakistan and Spain, in attendance.

The participants described the drive as a coordinated effort to stop the Israeli atrocities.

Behind closed doors, ministers and envoys, meanwhile, engaged in intensive sessions aimed at drafting collective measures to pressure the regime -- steps expected to be unveiled by Wednesday's closure.

"There is nothing to negotiate about," insisted Francesca Albanese, the United Nations special rapporteur for the occupied territories, who addressed officials during private talks.

Iran Calls on SCO to Take Urgent Action Over Recent Israeli Aggression



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has called on the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to promptly review the situation regarding the recent Israeli aggression against Iran, urging the body to adopt measures offering Tehran essential political backing and related support.

Speaking at the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO held in China on Tuesday, Araqchi submitted several proposals by Iran aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and standing of the organization.

He proposed "establishing a permanent mechanism to monitor, document, and coordinate responses to military aggression, acts of sabotage, state-sponsored terrorism, and violations of member states' national sovereignty."

He also called for creating a "Center for Sanctions Studies and Countermeasures" tasked with developing operational strategies to combat unlawful unilateral sanctions, safeguard supply chains, protect banking systems, and secure trade exchanges among member states.

The top Iranian diplomat also requested forming a "Shanghai Regional Security Forum" with the participation of defense and intelligence institutions from member states to address shared threats such as terrorism, extremism, organized crime, and cyber threats.

Araqchi called on the SCO to strengthen media and cultural integration among member states as a tool to counter perception warfare and one-sided narratives promoted by the media of hegemonic powers.

On the sidelines of the SCO meeting, Araqchi had a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday morning, accompanied by other foreign ministers from the organization.

Before the group gathering, Araqchi and Xi also engaged in a short bilateral discussion.

The Iranian minister also held talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov on regional and international issues.

The Russian side once again reiterated the importance of resolving the issues surrounding Iran's nuclear program solely through political and diplomatic means, and in accordance with

international law.

Araqchi also held talks with his Pakistani, Uzbek and Kyrgyz counterparts, Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Bakhtiyor Saidov and Jeenbek Kulubayev, respectively.

In a post on his X account released on Tuesday, the Pakistani foreign minister hailed the meeting and said, "Good to catch up with Foreign Ministers of Iran, Uzbekistan, and Belarus on the sidelines of the SCO CFM in Beijing, just before our joint call on Chinese President Xi at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing."

He added that it is always good "to exchange views for strengthening regional understanding and cooperation in such a challenging time."

Araqchi also held a phone conversation with Malaysia's Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan.

During the call, the top Iranian diplomat referred to his recent meeting with Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro. He underscored Iran's commitment to follow up on mutual agreements regarding the development and expansion of bilateral relations.

The two sides expressed their desire to continue talks and consultations on bilateral relations and key developments in the West Asia region.

The top Malaysian diplomat highlighted his country's interest in strengthening Tehran-Kuala Lumpur relations.

He also invited his Iranian counterpart to visit Malaysia at an appropriate time, which Araqchi welcomed.

The 25th Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization began on Tuesday in the Chinese port city of Tianjin.

The main objective of this two-day meeting is to review the latest political, security, and economic developments in the region as well as key priorities, including enhancing security cooperation against terrorism, supporting multilateralism, boosting regional trade, and expanding the organization's role in Eurasian geopolitical arrangements.

We Should Not Undermine National Unity with Mismanagement



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice President, Mohammad Reza Aref, said the enemy's recent aggression against the country led to unprecedented national unity and cohesion -- something that, according to him, could not have been achieved with any other resource. He emphasized that this social capital must be carefully safeguarded and should not be squandered through poor management.

According to a statement from the Presidential Office, speaking at a meeting on the "National Information Network" (NIN), Aref offered condolences for the mourning days commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), as well as for the military commanders, scientists, and civilians killed in recent attacks by the Zionist regime.

"We have fought not only against the Zionist regime but also against the U.S. and the West on multiple fronts," Aref stated. "On the military front -- which is truly a battle of technologies -- through careful planning and leveraging our missile industry, we maintained the upper hand."

He added that the enemy had pinned great hopes on the second front -- the popular front -- but suffered a humiliating defeat. "Their aggression unified and consolidated our society to an extent we could not have achieved otherwise. We must protect this unity and not let it be undone by incompetence."

Aref recalled the sacrifices and hospitality shown by the Iranian people during the Iran-Iraq war, noting that citizens cooperated with the government by only purchasing essential goods, which contributed to the country's success during that period.

Thousands of Afghan Migrants Voluntarily Leave Iran via Milk Border in Calm



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The phased and voluntary repatriation of Afghan migrants from Iran through the Milk border crossing in Sistan and Baluchestan province is proceeding smoothly and peacefully, provincial governor Mansour Bijar announced on Tuesday.

Speaking to IRNA, Bijar said the departure operation has been coordinated closely by government institutions, local communities, and religious organizations to ensure it is carried out with dignity and respect for migrants' rights. "At every stage, we made sure the process respected human dignity and preserved social cohesion," he noted.

The return process began as the school year ended for the children of Afghan migrants and as authorities sought to address residency issues and regional security concerns. Migrants were informed in advance about the timetable and left voluntarily.

To support the departing families, authorities gave them time to gather belongings, arrange daily affairs, or sell property before departure. With rising numbers of migrants choosing to return, officials expanded the capacity of reception camps, focusing services in Al-Ghadir camp in Zahedan, Milk, the Sistan region, and Nimrouz.

Essential services were provided, including cool drinking water, hot and cold meals, blankets, carpets, sanitary facilities, new shade structures, and cooling systems. The effort was supported by government agencies, local donors, and religious leaders. Food packs, diapers, baby formula, and hygiene kits were distributed carefully, and two days' worth of rations were given to each family to help them after crossing the border.

Final Nails Driven into the Coffin of "American Human Rights

TEHRAN - Repeated violations of human rights by the West--especially the United States--have rendered American claims of defending human rights meaningless, said Vahid Jalalzadeh, Deputy Minister for Consular, Parliamentary, and Iranian Affairs at Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. "The final nails have been driven into the coffin of American human rights in the war against the Iranian nation," he declared.

Speaking at a roundtable titled "American Human Rights: Through the Eyes of Victims" on Wednesday at the Foreign Ministry's Center for Political and International Studies, Jalalzadeh, who also heads the Central Committee for the Week of Reviewing and Exposing American Human Rights, criticized what he called systematic double standards by the U.S. and its Western allies.

"I doubt there is a single thinker, journalist, or writer today who is unaware of these double standards," he noted. "You would be hard pressed to find a university where this isn't discussed."

Jalalzadeh argued that global awareness of these contradictions does not absolve Iran of the responsibility to highlight them further--through universities, think tanks, and media. "Western governments repeat certain claims so often that lies eventually become accepted truths worldwide, often targeting Iran," he said.

Referring to Palestinians, Jalalzadeh stated: "Groups like Hamas are labeled terrorist organizations merely for defending themselves against an occupying state that is, with U.S. backing, the main violator of human rights."

He also questioned whether any articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or international resolutions have not been violated by the United States or Israel. "Is there truly anything left untouched by their violations?" he asked.

Jalalzadeh emphasized that many nations accused of human rights abuses by the West are actually victims of U.S. and allied policies. "As the Supreme Leader said, the roles of executioner and martyr--or executioner and victim--have been reversed," he remarked.

He cited the suffering of people in Iraq, Afghanistan, Latin America, and the Middle East as evidence, noting issues such as medicine shortages for the elderly and vulnerable in Iran. "Are these



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

issues even acknowledged by international institutions?" he asked.

Meanwhile, he pointed out, the U.S. sanctions individuals simply for criticizing Israeli policies online, while a prime minister convicted in an international court continues to act freely.

Referring to former EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell's comments comparing the world to a jungle outside Europe's "garden," Jalalzadeh said that under such conditions, societies have the right to defend themselves. "Liberal democracy has effectively erased human rights worldwide," he argued. "In my view, the recent war against the Iranian nation drove the final nails into the coffin of American human rights."

He listed repeated attacks on hospitals in Gaza and Qasr-e Shirin and the killing of UN staff in Gaza by Israeli forces using U.S.-supplied bombs as examples. "Is there anything left in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that we can even cite?" he asked.

Jalalzadeh said American human rights violations are evident in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, Palestine, Lebanon, and Iran itself. "For instance, Mr. Hashemi Nejad presented evidence showing that 23,000 Iranians were killed by 25 terrorist groups largely supported by countries claiming to champion human rights--namely the U.S. and European allies," he noted.

Despite this, he argued, Iran and other countries constantly face human rights accusations from Western media while even within the U.S. and Europe, human rights themselves become victims. In conclusion, Jalalzadeh highlighted Western hypocrisy: "European ambassadors come to us requesting special treatment for their citizens convicted of espionage--such as orthopedic mattresses for sciatica or vegan meals--yet our prisoner Ms. Esfandiari in a French prison is denied even her basic rights."

The roundtable, organized by Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, featured Jalalzadeh; Naser Seraj, Deputy for International Affairs at the Judiciary and Secretary of Iran's Human Rights Headquarters; as well as legal experts and diplomats.



Iran to Host Fourth Strategic Forum on Economic and Trade Diplomacy with EAEU

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The fourth edition of the Strategic Forum on Economic and Trade Diplomacy between Iran and the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is scheduled to take place this autumn (October 2025). The event will be organized with the scientific support of the Institute for Business Studies and Research, under the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, in collaboration with joint chambers of commerce.

According to the Iranian Chamber of Commerce Online, the upcoming forum aims to strengthen economic and trade ties between Iran and the five EAEU member states: Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Belarus, and Kyrgyzstan.

Minister Urges a Rational and Unified Approach to Revive Handicrafts

TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, has called on artists, professional associations, and the government to engage in an open dialogue to revitalize the country's handicrafts sector, emphasizing the importance of collective wisdom and consensus.

Speaking at a high-level meeting with representatives from handicrafts associations, provincial directors, and senior officials, Salehi Amiri highlighted the severe impact of recent regional tensions on Iran's cultural, tourism, and handicrafts sectors. "Following the Zionist aggression, all our cultural heritage sites, tourism facilities, and handicrafts markets had to close," he noted. Precious artifacts were moved from museums to secure storage, and international organizations were warned about potential damage to historical sites.



"We must return to normal life quickly," he insisted. "The economy must function, banks must operate, and people should live without constant stress." The minister asked stakeholders to define the path back to normalcy and to prepare proposals for this year's national handicrafts exhibition, urging them to leverage the potential of Iran's 79 nationally recognized cities and 17 globally recognized handicrafts villages.

Salehi Amiri promised direct meetings between government officials and handicrafts professionals: "I see myself as your representative in government," he told attendees. Still, he called for realistic, actionable proposals suited to current "wartime conditions."

There are currently 2,700 tourism projects underway across Iran. To meet the goal of attracting 15 million tourists annually, infrastructure must be completed. "Handicrafts derive meaning within tourism," the minister said, stressing that robust tourist spending will help revive the handicrafts sector.

He also called for this year's handicrafts exhibition in Tehran to be lively, modern, and worthy of Iran's cultural reputation, highlighting the success of cities like Yazd as global brands.

Ali Babaei-Karnami, an MP from Sari and head of Parliament's Social Commission, praised the ministry's alignment with the president's development goals and pledged legislative support. "Handicrafts can help reduce social dissatisfaction and create sustainable jobs," he said, noting that crafts have a much lower cost of job creation than other sectors.

He emphasized the importance of adding social considerations to national planning and commended Salehi Amiri's leadership, pledging Parliament's oversight and support.

Behzad Ahmadi Farsani, acting director for handicrafts production support, announced new one-year and five-year operational plans, guided by the minister's directives. All decisions will now go through a technical expert council.

Highlighting legal benefits for small workshops—like hiring up to five artists without paying insurance or tax shares—he said efforts are underway to expand handicraft insurance coverage dramatically.

Farzad Ojany, head of marketing at the ministry, outlined plans for the upcoming 38th National Handicrafts Exhibition, to be held September 6–10 in Tehran. The event will focus on boosting exports, particularly to Islamic countries, and on fair distribution of support and wealth. Provincial governors will head local organizing committees, while private workshops meeting quality standards will be awarded national brands to facilitate export.

Ojany also urged provinces to collaborate with industry, prisons, cooperatives, and other partners to design and staff exhibition booths, and to use major events like Arbaceen to showcase and market handicrafts.

Major Challenges Facing Iranian-Polish Trade Cooperation



TEHRAN - According to a report by Iran Chamber Online, quoting the public relations office of the Iran-Poland Joint Chamber of Commerce, the annual general assembly of the Iran-Poland Joint Chamber was recently held. The meeting, chaired by Alireza Shams-Fard, was attended by 65% of the chamber's official members and focused on reviewing the chamber's annual performance and discussing the future of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Poland.

Alireza Shams-Fard, President of the Iran-Poland Joint Chamber of Commerce, along with other board members, presented a report detailing last year's activities. These included trade programs, bilateral meetings, and initiatives aimed at facilitating economic relations between the two countries.

During the session, members highlighted key concerns and challenges they face in cooperating with Polish partners. These issues ranged from banking difficulties and visa obstacles to logistical problems and restrictions caused by international sanctions. The concerns were discussed with Dr. Isa Kamali, Assistant to the Iranian Foreign Minister, who was present at the meeting.

Expressing his appreciation for participating in the session, Dr. Kamali pointed to the existing capacities and opportunities in Poland, particularly in sectors such as the food industry, technology, renewable energy, tourism, and transportation. He also announced the embassy's readiness to provide serious and targeted support to private sector actors.

Dr. Kamali further emphasized the critical role of the joint chamber in acting as a bridge between economic stakeholders of both countries.

Most Foreign Cosmetics on the Market Are Counterfeit



TEHRAN - A cosmetics and personal care products manufacturer has stated that the majority of foreign cosmetics available on the domestic market are either smuggled or counterfeit and lack authenticity codes. He emphasized that greater support for domestic production and the removal of restrictive regulations would lower production costs and improve quality.

In an interview with ISNA, Mohammadreza Bahiraei explained that consumers can place no trust in the authenticity of foreign cosmetics currently sold in Iran. "Even if someone manages to purchase genuine products abroad and bring them in for customers, these products are not transported according to standard shipping protocols and may not remain safe," he said.

He further noted that, considering the retail prices of foreign cosmetics in the market, it is unrealistic for them to be genuine. For example, a product that wholesales abroad for \$10 is being sold in Iran for about \$2.

According to Bahiraei, who is also the former head of Iran's Association of Importers of Cosmetic, Hygienic and Fragrance Products, most foreign cosmetics on the market are either smuggled or counterfeit and do not carry authenticity codes.

Bahiraei highlighted that the import of all types of cosmetics into the country remains banned. "Bulk imports are currently permitted, but due to difficulties in currency allocation, the process has become very slow," he said. He added that those facing issues with bulk imports could coordinate with the Association of Importers and Producers of Cosmetics and Personal Care Products to find solutions, as a special task force has been formed within the association to support businesses in this sector.

He concluded by stressing the need to ease domestic production conditions: "The more we support local production and reduce burdensome regulations, the lower the final cost will be and the higher the quality, allowing us to compete with foreign goods."

Iran's Exports to Africa Surge by 85% This Spring



TEHRAN - Iran's exports to African countries saw a significant 85% increase in the first three months of this year compared to the same period last year, according to Mohammad Reza Safari, Acting Head of the Africa Office at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO). He also reported a 113% rise in Iran's trade balance with these countries over the same period.

Speaking on Tuesday, Safari noted that the number of African countries targeted by Iran's export plans has expanded from 27 to 32. He attributed part of the growth in foreign trade to the Iran-Africa Economic Cooperation Summit, suggesting that further implementation of the summit's resolutions by the Africa Headquarters could accelerate this trend.

Safari concluded by recommending that Iran's trade strategy with Africa should adapt to recent global changes, including rising energy and transportation costs, reduced financial support, and new U.S. tariffs affecting African exports. He proposed focusing on exporting higher value-added finished products and investing in overseas production within African countries—a strategy that countries like China have successfully pursued in Africa for years.

Potential for 30–40% Growth in Iran's Mining and Mineral Industries Exports



TEHRAN - The head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that, given Iran's geographic location and existing production capacity in the mining and mineral industries sector, the country could increase its exports by 30–40%.

According to a report from IMIDRO, Mohammad Aghajanolou made the remarks during a meeting focused on "Identifying Barriers to Exports in the Mineral Product Chain." He stated that abundant mineral and energy resources, along with a skilled workforce developed through years of training efforts, constitute the most significant assets of the mining sector and its related industries.

"These capacities have enabled the mining sector and related industries to continue operating without disruption even during the recent 12-day conflict," Aghajanolou said. "Nevertheless, it is currently expected that government bureaucracy will be reduced and decisions will be made more swiftly."

Emphasizing the importance of foreign currency earnings from the mining sector, Aghajanolou noted: "The Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade is currently working to facilitate exports in order to secure more foreign currency. Measures such as special permits or barter trade could help improve export performance and meet the country's needs."

He added that the country enjoys considerable capacity for exports, given its extensive land borders with several neighboring countries and access to maritime trade routes. "Export development is achievable provided the government acts more efficiently in supplying energy and facilitating export procedures," he said.

Discussing the challenges faced by mining and industrial enterprises during the 12-day conflict and strategies to strengthen resilience, Aghajanolou explained: "During this period, demand for mining and mineral industry products fell, and we faced foreign currency challenges. Nevertheless, boosting exports remains the best solution for stability during crises. Exports can help bring in more foreign currency and offset reduced domestic demand. However, tariffs, export duties, and some restrictive regulations hinder sustainable exports. In addition, special economic zones and free zones must operate with greater agility."

He further noted that last year, the mining and mineral industries sector generated around \$14 billion in foreign currency income, which is a significant figure. "Given Iran's strategic location and production capacity, this amount could increase by 30–40%. This would mean higher exports, greater foreign currency earnings, lower prices, and enhanced national resilience," he concluded.

Iran's Auto Parts Industry on Brink of Collapse; 400,000 Jobs at Risk

TEHRAN - Iran's auto parts industry is facing an unprecedented crisis that threatens the jobs of nearly 400,000 workers and could severely strain the country's social security system, warned representatives from the Iranian Auto Parts Manufacturers Association during a press conference held in Tehran.

Mohammadreza Najafi-Manesh, chairman of the association, said that although the sector had already been grappling with challenges, the recent 12-day conflict in the region dealt a devastating blow to the industry. "For the first time in 13 years, production units have been forced into large-scale layoffs," he noted. A recent survey of 60 auto parts companies in Tehran showed that around 80% have either reduced their workforce or are on the verge of doing so.

Industry leaders cited a cascade of issues: returned checks from automakers, delayed payments, declining market trust, a surge in middlemen, and persistent liquidity shortages. Najafi-Manesh urged policymakers to recognize the urgency of the situation and communicate it to decision-makers.

Arash Mohebbi-Nejad, the association's secretary, painted an even grimmer picture. He explained that the industry suffers from chronic underinvestment, outdated technology, and a lack of stable financing. While Iran's automakers are officially capable of producing 1.7 million vehicles annually, parts manufacturers' output is only sufficient for around 200,000 units. Financial statements show Iran's two largest automakers have accumulated losses of about 600 trillion tomans (approximately \$12 billion) due largely to unpaid debts across the supply chain.

Medi Matloubzadeh, another board member, stressed that the crisis is no longer about increasing domestic production but about saving the industry from collapse. He highlighted a stark gap of 600 trillion tomans between factory prices and market prices of vehicles, which he attributed to restrictive government pricing policies. As a result, speculation has flourished, driving up losses for both consumers and



manufacturers.

Matloubzadeh predicted that by late September, up to 400,000 out of roughly 550,000 workers in the auto and parts sectors could lose their jobs. This would force the social security system to pay significant unemployment benefits while its revenues drop due to mass layoffs. He also criticized plans to import second-hand vehicles, warning they lack standardized global pricing and would worsen parts shortages.

Faramarz Tayebi, another association member, described the liquidity crisis as the industry's "biggest threat." Automakers reportedly owe parts makers over 150 trillion tomans, of which 55 trillion tomans in matured receivables remain unpaid. Returned checks have also undermined producers' access to banking credit, paralyzing cash flow throughout the sector.

Babak Karimkhan, the association's vice chairman, emphasized that the industry is battling multiple shocks: regional conflict, reduced purchasing power, and rising consumer sensitivity toward liquid assets. Falling demand and financial uncertainty have pushed many firms to slash production or suspend operations entirely.

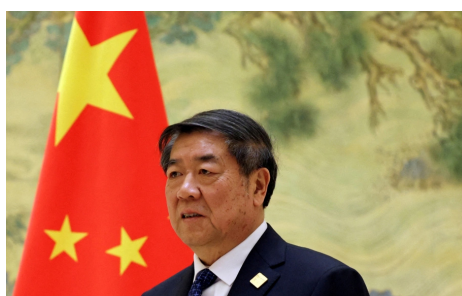
Karimkhan warned that if no immediate measures are taken, the domino effect could extend to dozens of related industries, causing widespread economic damage. "Maintaining liquidity and restoring market confidence are critical for survival," he said.

In response to a journalist's question about why the sector consistently protests rising costs, Najafi-Manesh argued that price hikes stem from broader economic conditions like excessive liquidity and national budget structures. "Our products have become more expensive for a reason, but the cause lies elsewhere—not with manufacturers," he concluded.

The association called on the government to act urgently to prevent a collapse that could deeply impact Iran's economy and society.

China Warns of Global Turbulence

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's vice premier He Lifeng warned that the world was undergoing "turbulence and transformation" as he kicked off an expo in Beijing at which Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang is also expected to speak. Beijing is using this week's China International Supply Chain Expo as a forum to boost its image as the global defender of free trade—in contrast with the tariff chaos sparked by US President Donald Trump. In a thinly veiled swipe at the US leader in his opening remarks, He said: "some countries are interfering in the market under the pretext of reducing risk, using measures such as imposing tariffs". "Global changes of a century are accelerating, with multiple risks intertwining and piling up," he said.



Italy's Fractured Left Fails to Mount Real Challenge to Meloni's Rising Far-Right Popularity



ROME (Dispatches) - Hundreds of thousands of people attended protests in Rome last month hailed as a show of strength against Giorgia Meloni's hard-right government, but Italy's divided opposition is struggling to make an impact.

Almost three years after its historic election victory, Meloni's far-right Brothers of Italy party remains the most popular, polling at 29 percent — above the 26 percent it secured in the September 2022 vote, according to the latest YouTrend survey.

The prime minister herself tops polls of party leaders with an approval rating of 45 percent, according to Ipsos.

The traditional left is struggling across Europe, where populist parties — particularly the far-right — have gained ground in recent years.

And in Italy, which once had Western Europe's largest Communist Party, "there is a crisis in the left", commented Paolo Borioni, professor of political science at Rome's Sapienza University.

He said left-wing parties had "severed their historical class ties", notably with those on lower incomes.

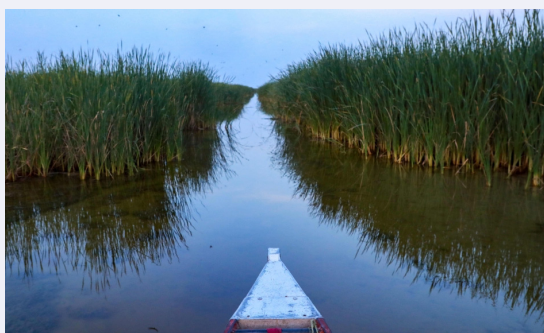
The opposition is dominated by the centre-left Democratic Party (PD), currently polling at around 22 percent, and the Five Star Movement, with around 13 percent.

Marc Lazar, a professor at Sciences Po Paris and Luiss University in Rome, said both are paying the price for their record in government, where they "disappointed, they did not address social issues".

The PD adopted several measures that liberalised the labour market and cut public spending while in power after the 2013 election. Since then, they have lost over three million votes.

For its part, the Five Star triumphed in 2018 elections on an anti-establishment message, only to ally with its declared enemies while in government.

World Risks Up to \$39t in Economic Losses From Vanishing Wetlands



NAIROBI (Dispatches) - The global destruction of wetlands, which support fisheries, agriculture and flood control, may mean the loss of US\$39 trillion in economic benefits by 2050, according to a report by the Convention on Wetlands released.

Some 22 per cent of wetlands, both freshwater systems such as peat lands, rivers and lakes, and coastal marine systems including mangroves and coral reefs, have disappeared since 1970, according to the intergovernmental report, the fastest pace of loss of any ecosystem.

Pressures, including land-use change, pollution, agricultural expansion, invasive species, and the impacts of climate change - such as rising sea levels and drought - are driving the declines.

"The scale of loss and degradation is beyond what we can afford to ignore," said Hugh Robertson, the lead author of the report.

The report called for annual investments of US\$275 billion to US\$550 billion to reverse the threats to the remaining wetlands, and said current spending was a "substantial under-investment" without giving figures.

The world has lost 411 million hectares of wetlands, the equivalent of half a billion football pitches, and a quarter of the remaining wetlands are now classified as in a state of degradation, according to the report.

Wetlands' economic benefits include flood regulation, water purification and carbon storage - key as water levels rise and tropical storms and hurricanes intensify due to climate change.

They also support the fishery and agriculture industries and offer cultural benefits.

The report launches a week before the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, meeting of the parties of the Convention on Wetlands, a global agreement of 172 countries signed in 1971 to spearhead preservation of the ecosystem.

Russia Warns Trump's New Pledge of Aid to Ukraine Could Hinder Any Peace Deal

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The Kremlin warned Tuesday that U.S. President Donald Trump's pledge of more weapons for Kyiv and threat of sanctions targeting Russian trading partners could embolden Ukraine and further delay already stalled peace efforts.

Trump a day earlier gave Russia 50 days to strike a peace deal with Ukraine, voicing fresh frustration with Moscow as he laid out an arrangement with NATO to supply Kyiv with new military aid sponsored by the alliance's members.

The Republican forced Moscow and Kyiv to open peace talks to end the conflict, now in its fourth year, but Russia has rejected calls for a ceasefire and launched a record number of drones and missiles at Ukraine in recent months.

Moscow said it needed more time to respond fully to Trump's statement, but hinted it did not appear conducive to successful negotiations.

"It seems that such a decision made in Washington and in NATO countries and directly in Brussels will be perceived by Kyiv not as a signal for peace but for the continuation of the war," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"President Trump's statement is very serious. We certainly need time to analyse what was said in Washington," he told reporters in Moscow's first reaction to the comments.

Trump warned that if no deal was concluded, he would slap severe tariffs on Russia's remaining trade partners in a bid to impede Moscow's ability to finance its military offensive.

Pumped up by huge state spending on soldiers and weapons, as well as by redirecting vital energy exports to the likes of China and India, Russia's economy has so far defied Western hopes sanctions would push it into a deep recession.

Two rounds of talks between Russia and Ukraine, held in Turkey in recent months, have made no progress towards ending the fighting and yielded only large-scale prisoner exchanges.

Tens of thousands have been killed since Russia launched its offensive, with millions forced to flee their homes in eastern and southern Ukraine, which has been decimated by aerial attacks and ground assaults.

Putin has repeatedly rejected calls for a ceasefire and his negotiators have demanded Ukraine shun all Western military support, and pull out of four regions in its east and south that Moscow claims to have annexed.

Kyiv and the West have rejected them as a call for Ukraine's de-facto capitulation.

Peskov said Russia was open to another round of talks and was "waiting for proposals from the Ukrainian side on the timing".

Kyiv has called it "pointless" to hold further talks with the current Russian delegation.

Denmark and the Netherlands on Tuesday said they were looking to participate in Trump's plan for Europe to buy American weapons for Ukraine.

Under the scheme, some of NATO's European members would pay Washington for the weapons, including vital Patriot air defence systems, which would then be shipped to Ukraine.

The United States has been Kyiv's most important military backer since Russia launched its offensive in 2022, but Trump's erratic policy on whether to support Ukraine and his attempts to engage Putin have spooked Europe and Kyiv.

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In Moscow, residents dismissed Trump's statement as little more than politics.

"It's a game of chess," Svetlana, an aviation engineer said.

"There will still be negotiations... (Trump) gave 50 days, and then there will be more... We are waiting for the next move of our president," the 47-year-old said.

Russia has pummelled Ukrainian cities with regular aerial attacks in recent weeks as its troops advance slowly across the battlefield in the east and south.

Ukrainian soldiers fighting in the east were hopeful but cautious following Trump's promise of air defenses and weapons.

"I don't believe him. There have been too many promises that haven't been kept," said one soldier with the call-sign "Shah."

Trump Pledges \$92b to Power AI Boom in Pennsylvania, Vows to Outpace China



The funding will cover new data centers, power generation, grid infrastructure, AI training, and apprenticeship programs.

Among investments, Google committed US\$25 billion to build AI-ready data centers in Pennsylvania and surrounding regions.

"We support President Trump's clear and urgent direction that our nation invest in AI... so that America can continue to lead in AI," said Ruth Porat, Google's president and chief investment officer.

The search engine giant also announced a partnership with Brookfield Asset Management to modernize two hydropower facilities in Pennsylvania, representing 670 MW of capacity on the regional grid.

Investment group Blackstone pledged more than US\$25 billion to fund new data centers and energy infrastructure.

US Senator David McCormick, from Pennsylvania, said the investments "are of enormous consequence to Pennsylvania, but they are also crucial to the future of the nation." His comments reflect the growing sentiment in Washington that the United States must not lose ground to China in the race to develop AI.

"We are way ahead of China and the plants are starting up, the construction is starting up," Trump said.

The US president launched the "Stargate" project in January, aimed at investing up to US\$500 billion in US AI infrastructure—primarily in response to growing competition with China.

Japanese tech investor SoftBank, ChatGPT-maker

OpenAI, and Oracle are investing US\$100 billion in the initial phase. Trump has also reversed many policies adopted by the previous Biden administration that imposed checks on developing powerful AI algorithms and limits on exports of advanced technology to certain allied countries.

He is expected to outline his own blueprint for AI advancement later this month.

875 Palestinians Have Been Killed Near Gaza Aid Sites

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The UN rights office said today it had recorded at least 875 killings within the past six weeks at aid points in Gaza run by the US- and Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and convoys run by other relief groups, including the United Nations.

The majority of those killed were in the vicinity of Gaza Humanitarian Foundation sites, while the remaining 201 were killed on the routes of other aid convoys.

The GHF uses private US security and logistics companies to get supplies into Gaza, largely bypassing a UN-led system that Israel alleges has let Hamas-led militants loot aid shipments intended for civilians. Hamas denies the allegation.

The GHF, which began distributing food packages in Gaza in late May after Israel lifted an 11-week aid blockade, previously told Reuters that such incidents have not occurred on its sites and accused the UN of misinformation, which it denies.



The GHF did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the latest UN figures.

"The data we have is based on our own information gathering through various reliable sources, including medical human rights and humanitarian organizations," Thameen Al-Kheetan, a spokesperson for the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, told reporters in Geneva.

The United Nations has called the GHF aid model "inherently unsafe" and a violation of humanitarian impartiality standards.

The GHF said on Friday it had delivered more than 70 million meals to Gaza Palestinians in five weeks, and that other humanitarian groups had "nearly all of their aid looted" by Hamas or criminal gangs.



Goffin Returns From Injury and Triumphs in Gstaad

LONDON (Dispatches) - One tennis veteran prevailed, while another succumbed as first-round play continued at the EFG Swiss Open Gstaad in Switzerland on Tuesday.

No. 6 Belgian David Goffin, 34, returned to action after suffering a foot injury two months ago and outlasted 19-year-old Martin Landaluce of Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-3, in windy conditions on the clay. However, three-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka, the Swiss native who turned 40 in March, fell to Kazakhstan's Alexander Shevchenko, 6-3, 6-2.

In a matchup of Argentinians, No. 7 Francisco Comesana took out qualifier Marco Trungelliti, 6-3, 6-4. But another seeded player, No. 8 Arthur Rinderknech of France, fell to Italian qualifier Francesco Passaro, 6-1, 7-5. Rinderknech defeated Alexander Zverev two weeks ago at Wimbledon.

Also advancing were Spaniard Roberto Carballes Baena, Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo and Swiss wild card Jerome Kym, all in three sets.

Meanwhile seventh-seeded Damir Dzumhur and eighth-seeded Vit Kopriva both cruised to straight-set victories in their first-round matches in Bastad, Sweden.

Dzumhur, a 33-year-old veteran from Bosnia and Herzegovina, defeated Sebastian Ofner of Austria, 6-4, 6-4. Trailing 4-1 in the second set, Dzumhur broke Ofner twice, rattling off the final five games of the match. Kopriva, a native of Czechia, overwhelmed Hugo Dellien, 6-1, 3-0, before the Bolivian was forced to retire.

Swede Elias Ymer, who earned a wild card into the tournament, delighted the home crowd by taking out Tristan Boyer, 6-3, 3-6, 6-2. Hugo Gaston of France, Andrea Pellegrino of Italy and Nicolai Budkov Kjaer of Norway also moved on.

German fifth seed Daniel Altmaier fired eight aces and won a whopping 84.6 percent of his first-service points (22 of 26) to ease past American Mitchell Krueger 6-4, 6-3 in opening-round action in Los Cabos, Mexico.

No. 6 seed Yunchaokete Bu of China was also victorious, though he needed more than two hours to eliminate Mexican qualifier Alan Magadan 7-6 (5), 6-2. Australia's Tristan Schoolkate rallied past Chinese qualifier Yibing Wu 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Others to advance to the Round of 16 included Juan Pablo Ficovich of Argentina, Mexican wild card Alex Hernandez, James Duckworth of Australia and Americans Govind Nanda, a qualifier, and Nisesh Basavareddy.

Meanwhile coming off his best result at a major with a run to the fourth round at Wimbledon, Kamil Majchrzak continued his recent success by defeating Frenchman Terence Atmane 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 in the first round of the EFG Swiss Open Gstaad in Switzerland.

The 29-year-old from Poland won 70 percent of his service points in the one hour, 49-minute match at the ATP 250 clay-court event.

Peruvian qualifier Ignacio Buse ousted fifth seed Laslo Djere of Serbia 7-6(4), 1-6, 6-4. Argentine Roman Andres Burruchaga won 74 percent of his first-serve points to beat Czech competitor Dalibor Svrčina 6-3, 6-1, setting up a matchup with No. 3 seed Pedro Martinez.

Frenchman Arthur Cazaux needed nearly three hours to defeat Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia, who couldn't overcome nine double faults in a 4-6, 7-5, 7-6 (5) victory by Cazaux, and hometown favorite Dominic Stricker outlasted France's Pierre-Hugues Herbert, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Man City, Puma Sign £1b Record Long-Term Kit Deal

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City have extended their kit partnership with Puma on a long-term deal, the club announced today, with British media reports saying the deal is worth around £1 billion, making it the largest in the Premier League.

The new contract runs for at least another 10 years, reports said, worth a record £100 million a year to the club. City previously signed a £65 million per year deal with the German kit manufacturer in 2019.

The agreement is expected to set a new benchmark for kit manufacturer deals among English clubs, surpassing Manchester United's £900 million 10-year contract with Adidas, signed in 2023.

City have enjoyed an exceptional run since 2020, winning four consecutive Premier League titles and securing the treble in the 2022-23 season. However, they did not win a major trophy last season.

City will begin their 2025-26 Premier League campaign on August 16 with a trip to Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Meanwhile Spanish football club Atletico Madrid announced yesterday an agreement with Brazilian outfit Botafogo to sign 2022 World Cup



winner Thiago Almada.

"Our club and the Brazilian side have reached an agreement, pending confirmation once the player passes the required medical examination and signs the contract," the La Liga outfit posted on social media.

The 24-year-old Argentinian spent the second half of last season on loan at Lyon, where he scored two goals and laid on five assists in 20 appearances in all competitions for the French club.

Almada has 10 caps for his country and was part of their World Cup-winning squad in Qatar. He also represented Argentina in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The right-footed attacking midfielder came through the ranks at local side Velez Sarsfield, where he made his professional debut in 2018 at the age of 17.

He joined MLS side Atlanta in 2022, being voted best rookie in the league after his first season.

Almada's form earned him a move to Botafogo last summer.

He made 26 appearances for the Rio de Janeiro-based club, winning the Brazilian league and Copa Libertadores, before heading off on loan to Lyon in January.

Liverpool's Approach for Alexander Isak Is the Ultimate Power Move



LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool have made an approach to sign Alexander Isak from Newcastle United.

The Premier League champions would be willing to offer around £120 million but that has prompted the hierarchy at St James' Park to reiterate the message that their star player is not available this summer.

It remains to be seen, however, whether that deters Liverpool. The suspicion is they would not have made an approach if they had not been encouraged to do so.

Liverpool have been looking for a new No 9 for some time and with Darwin Núñez expected to leave this summer, they have made their first move.

Should they force Newcastle's hand it will be the second time this summer Liverpool have broken the British transfer record, having already signed Florian Wirtz from Bayer Leverkusen for a fee that could rise to £116 million.

Liverpool are also understood to hold an interest in Newcastle target Hugo Ekitike and could bid for the France Under-21 international if the champions fail in their pursuit of Isak.

Newcastle have been braced for this moment for months and are preparing to fight off an approach from Liverpool. But there is naturally concern that the player will have his head turned by Liverpool's inquiry.

Senior sources told Telegraph Sport on Tuesday that Newcastle do not want Isak to leave and will do everything in their power to keep him.

As things stand, Isak has not indicated that he wants to leave but Newcastle are well aware that the leaking of Liverpool's interest into the public domain is designed to unsettle the player.

The fact that Liverpool's inquiry mentioned a fee well below Newcastle's valuation of the 25-year-old Sweden international, which is in excess of £150 million, suggests this is just the first play in what could become a protracted transfer saga.

The chase for Ekitike further complicates matters. As revealed by Telegraph Sport, Newcastle have been pushing hard to sign the 23-year-old this week and are making steady progress, despite having an initial bid of around £65 million rejected by Eintracht Frankfurt.

Henderson signs for Brentford, the Club Who Read Football Just Like Liverpool



LONDON (Dispatches) - Jordan Henderson has signed for Brentford, bringing him back to the Premier League after two years in Saudi Arabia and the Netherlands.

The 35-year-old England international is now on a two-year contract with the West London club, having agreed with Ajax that he could end his contract there a year early. Before his stint at Ajax, Henderson spent just six months in Saudi Arabia with Al-Ettifaq, the club he joined after leaving Liverpool in 2023.

Henderson remains in the England fold and is in contention for a place in next year's World Cup squad. Last month he started in midfield as Thomas Tuchel's side defeated Andorra.

Brentford's move for Henderson came after the departure of club captain Christian Norgaard, who joined Arsenal in a deal worth an initial £10 million.

On the surface, Brentford and Liverpool do not appear to have much in common as clubs, but it is increasingly clear that a strong connection exists between the two Premier League sides.

Within the last year, Brentford have signed three players directly from Liverpool: defender Sepp van den Berg (an initial £20 million), midfielder Fabio Carvalho (an initial £22.5 million) and goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher (an initial £12.5 million).

Italy Showcases Medals for 2026 Winter Games

VENICE (Dispatches) - Organizers of the Milano-Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics unveiled on Tuesday the medals that will be awarded to athletes during the Games next year.

The medals have the traditional Olympic five-ring symbol on one side, with an inscription on the reverse that details the event and commemorates the venue. The same format has been used for the Paralympics, which has its own distinct symbol.

They were presented at a ceremony in Venice that featured two celebrated retired Italian athletes, swimmer Federica Pellegrini, and Francesca Porcellato, who has won gold medals at both Winter and Summer Paralympics.

"Each medal, whether Olympic or Paralympic, is a story



etched into metal: it speaks of effort, determination, sacrifice, and the hopes of those who have lived to reach the podium," said Giovanni Malago, president of the Milano-Cortina 2026 Foundation.

The medals have been produced by the IPZS, the state mint, which is owned by the economy ministry.

A total of 245 gold, 245 silver, and 245 bronze medals will be presented during the Winter Games. In the Paralympics, 137 medals will be awarded in each of the three rankings.

Milan and the town of Cortina d'Ampezzo, one of Italy's most famous ski resorts, are the main hosts of the Games, which run from February 6 to 22 next year. The Paralympics will follow the following month.