

Tehran Has Censured the United States for Stepping Up the Arbitrary Arrest of Iranian Citizens in the Past Month, Saying the “Racist” Approach Contravenes Human Rights Principles

IRAN NEWS

A Senior Russian diplomat Says Britain, France, and Germany, Have Repeatedly Violated the Terms of the 2015 Nuclear Deal, and Thus Forfeited Their Right to Trigger the Snapback Mechanism That Would Re-Impose all UNSC Sanctions on Iran

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2 DOMESTIC



Tehran Calls for Global Action Against Israel’s 12-Day Offensive

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

France, UK and 23 Other Countries Issue Joint Plea for War in Gaza to End Now



> SEE PAGE 3

Iran’s Efforts to Exit FATF Blacklist Serve National Interests



TEHRAN - Iran’s senior official in charge of combating money laundering and terrorism financing has emphasized that the country’s push to normalize its status with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is aimed at securing national interests and strengthening international partnerships—not at winning the approval of adversaries such as the United States or Israel.

Hadi Khani, Secretary of the Supreme Council for the Prevention and Combating of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing, said on Tuesday that Iran’s extensive efforts over recent years—especially under the 14th administration—to address FATF-related concerns reflect strategic decisions grounded in the country’s interests.

He noted that these efforts include legislative reforms, decisions by the Supreme National Security Council and his own council, ongoing negotiations, presentations to regional and international forums, and numerous technical discussions within the Expediency Council.

“These efforts have never been intended to placate the hostilities of the United States or Israel. Therefore, new expressions of their enmity should not derail our path,” Khani said.

Khani recalled that Iran has been in conflict with the U.S. and Israel for over 45 years, even during the time when the Expediency Council was debating the ratification of the Palermo and CFT conventions, while the threat of military aggression remained a constant concern.

“The enemies’ objective is to sideline us from international platforms, to silence Iran’s voice and its rightful demands,” he said. “The decision to address our FATF status was made to protect our economic and national interests, facilitate international financial interactions, attract foreign investment, and reassure our allies—particularly those in blocs like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization—not to avoid confrontation with the U.S. or Israel.”

\$1.2b in Annual Economic Benefit from Railways



TEHRAN - According to a senior official from Iran’s national railway company, the country’s rail network provides sufficient capacity for each Iranian citizen to make at least one rail journey per year. The official also noted that the rail industry contributes approximately \$1.2 billion annually in direct economic and social benefits to the national economy.

Speaking at an investment event focused on expanding Iran’s passenger rail fleet, Noorollah Beiranvand, Deputy Director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, cited data from the International Union of Railways (UIC). He said the 2020 UIC indicators show that, based on the number of passengers transported relative to population size, the average Iranian uses rail services once a year. He also highlighted a balanced development trend in railway infrastructure across the country.

Beiranvand emphasized that there is substantial potential to further improve international performance benchmarks. He outlined a railway investment plan that calls for \$3.5 billion in funding for the passenger sector. This would allow the procurement of 2,300 passenger wagons and 820 self-propelled railcars.

He stressed that the primary strategy for financing this expansion relies on private sector investment, supported by a comprehensive incentive package. Approximately 70% of the financial support is expected to come from subsidies provided under Clause 12 of the national budget, which is intended to foster a competitive environment in the railway industry.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



U.S.-Israeli Aggression Against Iran Historic Test UNSC

TEHRAN - Iran’s deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs says the US-Israeli aggression against the country is a blatant crime and a “historic test” for the United Nations Security Council to stand up to such acts.

Kazem Gharibabadi, who is in New York to hold political consultations and participate in two high-level UN Security Council meetings on Monday, made the remarks during a briefing meeting with representatives from more than 110 UN member states.

He detailed the scope of the military aggression by the United States and the Israeli regime against Iran’s territorial sovereignty, highlighting its severe implications for international peace and security.

He identified Israel as the primary source of regional insecurity and instability over the past eight decades, underscoring that the regime has conducted “more than 3,000 terrorist operations, displaced over seven million Palestinians, martyred hundreds of thousands, and detained more than one million Palestinians.”

Highlighting the dangerous nature of Israel’s nuclear arsenal, he emphasized that the regime is “not party to any disarmament or non-proliferation treaties and maintains hundreds of nuclear warheads in its stockpiles.”

He underscored Iran’s peaceful nuclear program—constantly monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)—while exposing the hypocrisy of Israel, which for over 30 years has peddled lies to the world and the US about an Iranian nuclear bomb that has never existed.

“Where is this so-called bomb?” he challenged. “How absurd is it that a regime drenched in aggression, criminality, and brutality—armed to the teeth with every weapon of mass destruction—dares accuse a committed NPT member state?”

He noted widespread global condemnation of the US-Israeli aggression on Iran’s nuclear facilities, while criticizing three European states, the UK, France, and Germany, as well as international bodies for their complicity.

“The Security Council, the IAEA Board of Governors, and others abdicated their duties through either silence or bias toward this blatant violation of international law.”

“Doesn’t this dangerous silence send a message to countries... that if you are not a member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, you will not be held accountable, and you will also enjoy privileges and immunity?”

TEHRAN - In a press conference held Tuesday, Government Spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani announced that during the recent 12-day conflict, 162 civilians were killed, including 34 schoolchildren, 102 women, and 18 healthcare personnel. The remarks were made during a nationally televised briefing at the IRIB International Conference Center.

Mohajerani opened by paying tribute to all who had lost their lives in defense of the country—from early revolution martyrs to those killed in recent attacks. “What we have today is due to the blood of these martyrs,” she said. “They taught us unity, self-reliance, and the value of national sovereignty.”

The spokesperson provided a breakdown of the casualties: in addition to 102 women and 34 students, five teachers and five emergency responders were also killed. Notably, the Tehran province bore the heaviest toll, with 265 civilian deaths out of a reported 276 in total.

Mohajerani stated that emergency services—including the Health Ministry, fire brigade, Red Crescent, and medical responders—mobilized immediately after the attacks began. “Despite early challenges in coordination, efforts progressed rapidly and efficiently,” she said.

The attacks caused significant damage to non-military infrastructure. Seven hospitals and 11 healthcare facilities were struck, alongside numerous residential buildings, schools, and industrial sites. Reconstruction efforts, she assured, had already commenced, with full details to follow in subsequent briefings.

Mohajerani emphasized the government’s logistical coordination during the crisis. Over one million tons of essential goods were offloaded at ports and distributed across cities, along with 200 million liters of gasoline—achieved without disruption to markets. Over 500 people were injured, requiring around 1,000 surgical procedures, according to health officials.

She also praised the resilience and cooperation of citizens, saying that the public’s discipline and solidarity had been vital in weathering the crisis.

Turning attention to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Mohajerani condemned what she described as global inaction in the face of mass casualties. She claimed the death toll in Gaza had reached 60,000, with many dying from starvation. “This is the 21st century—people should not be dying



from hunger,” she said, calling for urgent humanitarian corridors and renewed global conscience.

Iran, she said, is working through international organizations to deliver aid to Gaza, though access remains a significant challenge. Regarding domestic reconstruction, Mohajerani detailed a phased plan. In Tehran, where most residential damage occurred, the city government is handling repairs, while the Housing Foundation is overseeing recovery in other provinces. Damaged homes are categorized based on severity, from minor repairs to full rebuilding.

Efforts also include psychosocial support for those traumatized by the attacks, with provisions for temporary housing and household goods. Schools and small industries affected by the conflict will be rebuilt with the help of the School Renovation Organization and the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade.

Mohajerani stressed the need for greater national dialogue and political engagement, including outreach to political groups of varying ideologies. “We have to listen to different voices in society,” she said, emphasizing that citizens are co-owners of governance.

The spokesperson highlighted the importance of social justice, educational equity, and expanding roles for NGOs and the private sector in national recovery. “Building societal resilience is essential for overcoming future challenges,” she said.

Mohajerani confirmed legal documentation of the attacks had been submitted to international bodies, including the UN. Iran’s foreign minister had embarked on a series of regional visits to rally support and expose the extent of civilian losses.

She praised a recent move by Iranian sociologists to expel their Israeli counterparts from an international academic association as a “symbol of effective civic diplomacy.”

Asked about funding for reconstruction, Mohajerani acknowledged budget constraints but said a targeted plan was under government review. She emphasized that military preparedness remains intact, with full coordination with the armed forces.

She concluded by reaffirming the government’s determination to turn the crisis into an opportunity: “With the people’s trust and participation, we will rebuild—not just what was lost, but build back better.”

Iran Will Not Give Up Its Right to Enrichment



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has emphasized that the country has no intention of abandoning its nuclear program, including uranium enrichment, despite recent military aggression by the United States and its regional ally, Israel.

In an interview with Fox News on Monday, Araqchi stated that it is clear Iran will not “give up enrichment because it is an achievement of our own scientists” and a source of national pride.

When asked whether any enriched uranium had been preserved from the American strikes, Araqchi said he had “no detailed information,” but noted that Iran’s Atomic Energy Organization is “trying to evaluate what has exactly happened to our nuclear material, to our enriched material.”

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly described the strikes as a success, reaffirming on Saturday that all three targeted sites were “completely destroyed.”

Regarding talks with the United States, Araqchi indicated that Tehran is open to discussions but has no plans for direct negotiations with Washington at this time.

He pointed out that Iran is willing to undertake any confidence-building measures necessary to demonstrate that its nuclear program is peaceful, in exchange for the lifting of US sanctions.

“We are ready to do any confidence-building measures needed to prove that Iran’s nuclear program is peaceful” in exchange for lifted US sanctions, he added, while stressing that any future nuclear agreement must include the right to enrichment.

Iran, Turkey FMs Urge Muslim World to Take Action Against Israeli Genocide in Gaza



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran and Turkey’s foreign ministers have called on the world’s Muslim nations to take stern action to help end the Israeli regime’s 21-month-long war of genocide on the Gaza Strip.

The remarks were made during a Monday phone call between Abbas Araqchi and his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan, whose country currently holds the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)’s rotating presidency.

The former strongly condemned the Zionist regime’s escalation of the genocide that has claimed the lives of more than 59,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, since its onset in October 2023.

He singled out the regime’s depriving Gazans of food and water so it could weaponize starvation to further intensify the warfare’s deadly effects.

The top diplomat called for serious mobilization and immediate action on the part of Muslim countries, including by convening an OIC summit and activating regional consultative mechanisms that are aimed at stopping the genocide.

Such collective efforts should also address the regime’s other deadly atrocities throughout the West Asia region, he added, referring to Tel Aviv’s simultaneous deadly escalations against Lebanon and Syria, among other countries.

For his part, Fidan similarly condemned the Israeli assaults on Gaza and Syria, and stressed the need for prompt and coordinated action by the Muslim nations to halt the regime’s acts of deadly aggression.

The call came as the regime retains its tight control over the entry of directly-needed supplies into the coastal sliver that has reduced their inflow to almost zero.

IRAN NEWS



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Iran's Steel Production Drops by 4.8%

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian Steel Producers Association has released data showing a 4.8% decline in the country's steel production during the first quarter of the Iranian year 1404 (spring 2025), compared to the same period last year. According to reports from the association, this drop marks a significant increase in the rate of decline, as steel production fell by only 1.8% during the same period last year. The sharper decrease highlights the intensifying impact of electricity restrictions on steel manufacturers this year. Power limitations were imposed on steel producers starting from April 4, and by early May, the restrictions had reached 90%, leaving only those facilities with their own power plants or access to green electricity able to maintain minimal production levels.

Iran Records \$6.6b in Exports to Neighboring Countries This Spring



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - According to the latest report from Iran's Trade Promotion Organization citing data from the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the country's trade with 15 neighboring countries reached over \$13.4 billion in the spring of 2025. Of this figure, \$6.65 billion came from exports, while \$6.77 billion was attributed to imports.

From April to June 2025, Iran exported goods worth \$6.65 billion to neighboring nations, marking a 22% decrease compared to the same period last year. The top five export destinations were: Iraq - \$1.904 billion; United Arab Emirates (UAE) - \$1.6 billion; Turkey - \$940 million; Afghanistan - over \$510 million; and Oman - \$437 million.

Despite the overall decline, the volume of goods traded amounted to approximately 23 million tons, representing a 17% drop in weight and a 16% decrease in value year-over-year.

Iran's non-oil imports from its neighbors reached \$6.77 billion, reflecting a 9.65% decline compared to the same quarter last year. The five main import partners were: UAE - over \$3.885 billion; Turkey - over \$1.986 billion; Russia - \$353 million; Oman - \$223 million; and Pakistan - \$174 million.

While total trade fell, some countries saw a rise in trade volume with Iran. The highest year-on-year growth in trade was observed with: Qatar - up 69%; Russia - up 19%; Oman - up 11%; and Turkmenistan - up 8.5%.

The data highlights ongoing trade activity between Iran and its regional partners, though overall trade volumes have faced a downturn in both value and quantity this spring.

Iran's Skill Training Rate Below Global Average



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Technical and Vocational Training Organization has revealed that the country's share of skill-based education is lower than the global average. He announced the launch of a national initiative, in cooperation with both public and private institutions, to improve and expand vocational training across Iran.

Speaking at IRNA to mark National Skills Week (July 21-27), Gholamhossein Mohammadi compared Iran's skill training landscape with that of advanced countries, calling for a stronger focus by policymakers and society on the development of vocational education.

"In many leading countries such as those in Europe, India, and China, up to 70% of students enter vocational education centers," Mohammadi said. "In contrast, Iran has yet to reach even 45%. According to our development plans, this figure must be raised to at least 50%."

He stressed that 80% of the job market requires skilled labor, meaning Iran's education policies must be reshaped accordingly, moving away from a university-only pathway.

Mohammadi outlined the current structure of vocational education in Iran: around 700 public training centers and nearly 20,000 private institutes are operational. However, he emphasized the need for more involvement from the private sector, professional unions, and employers to modernize the system.

He noted that public-private collaboration is the foundation of successful skills ecosystems worldwide, and Iran must follow suit. "Since the 1960s, Iran has developed one of the largest vocational education networks in the region. But to compete globally, we need qualitative and quantitative leaps."

He elaborated on the organization's strategic plans, particularly the Skilled Iran initiative launched during National Skills Week. The plan includes seven major projects aimed at modernizing infrastructure, upgrading equipment and buildings, and continuously updating training programs to match cutting-edge global technologies and skills.

Tehran Calls for Global Action Against Israel's 12-Day Offensive

TEHRAN - Iran has issued a formal call for the global condemnation of Israel's recent 12-day military campaign on Iranian territory, labeling the operation a clear act of aggression and a violation of multiple international laws. The appeal, delivered in a letter by Nasser Seraj, Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, was addressed to foreign ambassadors and international representatives based in Tehran.

According to the letter, Israel, with backing from certain Western countries, launched a series of coordinated and targeted attacks on Iranian soil between June 12 and July 3, 2025. The strikes allegedly targeted peaceful nuclear facilities, military compounds, residential neighborhoods, media offices, and humanitarian workers—resulting in significant civilian casualties and infrastructure damage.

Seraj strongly condemned the attacks as violations of key legal frameworks, including Article 2(4) of the UN Charter, which prohibits the use of force, and Resolution 3314, which defines acts of aggression. He rejected Israeli claims of "preemptive self-defense," citing Article 51 of the UN Charter, which only permits force in the event of an actual armed attack—not a perceived future threat.

He further argued that Israel's use of Western intelligence and political cover adds to the severity of the legal breaches. "These are not isolated strikes, but a systematic pattern of violations against an internationally recognized sovereign state," Seraj noted.

Iran's Human Rights Office warned that Israeli strikes on nuclear facilities under IAEA supervision jeopardize international safety and violate treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Seraj emphasized that Iran's nuclear program remains peaceful and monitored, and that Israel's targeting of these sites contravenes IAEA Resolution 533, UNSC Resolution 487, and Article IV of the NPT, which guarantees member states the right to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

"These strikes endanger global nuclear norms and set a dangerous precedent," the letter stated.

The Iranian government accuses Israel of committing multiple war crimes during the conflict. The letter claims that Israel's air and drone strikes resulted in: 1,062 civilian deaths, including 45 children and 102 women; Over 5,800 injuries; Destruction of seven hospitals and several clinics in Tehran and Kermanshah; Deaths of five Red Crescent workers and nine healthcare professionals; Direct hits on residential buildings, schools, and the IRIB media complex; and an attack on Evin Prison, which left 79 people dead, including detainees and staff.

The letter accuses Israel of failing to distinguish between military and civilian targets, violating key humanitarian principles such as distinction, proportionality, and precaution, as codified in the Geneva Conventions.



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

Beyond the battlefield, Seraj's letter also addresses broader human rights violations, including: Right to life: Indiscriminate bombings and civilian deaths are described as "arbitrary deprivations of life" under international law; Health and medical access: Damage to medical facilities and targeting of healthcare personnel undermines civilian access to essential services; Freedom of expression and media: The bombing of IRIB's headquarters is seen as a direct violation of journalist protections under Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions; and prisoner rights: The Evin Prison strike is characterized as a serious breach of international norms concerning the treatment of detainees.

The letter asserts that the psychological trauma from ongoing threats and nighttime attacks has left lasting harm on civilians, particularly children, and poses long-term risks to mental health.

Seraj contextualized the recent escalation as part of a broader trend of Israeli military operations across the region. Citing recent figures, the letter highlighted: Over 57,000 deaths in Gaza since October 2023, with

women and children making up the majority; 135,000 injuries, nearly 14,000 people missing; Over 3,700 violations of ceasefire agreements with Lebanon since December 2024; and 714,000 forced displacements of Palestinians in the past four months alone.

According to Seraj, these figures reflect a consistent pattern of disregard for international norms, bolstered by what he described as "uncritical support" from Western allies.

In closing, the Human Rights Office put forward a series of demands and recommendations to the international community: Explicit condemnation of Israel's actions by all governments and institutions, regardless of political alliances; Rejection of legal justifications based on preemptive self-defense or imminent threats; International cooperation in documenting and prosecuting war crimes committed during the 12-day conflict; Humanitarian support for civilians affected by the attacks; and active defense of international legal norms, particularly in the fields of humanitarian and human rights law.

Seraj warned that continued silence or passive responses from global actors would further erode the rule of law. Citing Article 41 of the Draft Articles on State Responsibility, he stressed that states are obligated not to recognize or assist in maintaining situations created by serious violations of peremptory norms.

"The global legal order cannot survive selective enforcement," the letter concludes. "The international community must act swiftly, not just for Iran, but to preserve the principles that safeguard all nations."

With the situation in the Middle East growing increasingly volatile, Iran has appealed to governments, NGOs, and legal institutions worldwide to reject impunity and defend the integrity of international law.

Iran and Afghanistan Strengthen Economic Ties Through Regional Cooperation

TEHRAN - In a key regional summit held between Iranian and Afghan economic authorities in Mashhad, senior officials underscored the importance of deepening economic collaboration between Iran's Khorasan Razavi province and Afghanistan's Herat province. The shared goal: fostering development, boosting trade, and ensuring long-term regional stability.

Speaking at the joint meeting, Mohammadreza Tavakkolizadeh, President of the Mashhad Chamber of Commerce, emphasized the strategic potential of aligning the economic and political capacities of Khorasan Razavi and Herat. "This partnership offers a promising path to expanding bilateral relations," he stated, urging all parties to capitalize on existing opportunities to build a sustainable framework for cooperation.

A major highlight of the discussions was the Khaf-Herat railway project, which officials described as a vital infrastructure link connecting Afghanistan to Europe via Iran. Tavakkolizadeh stressed that Afghanistan's lack of access to open seas makes such projects critical for integrating the country into global trade routes. "Not only will this railway open new horizons for Afghanistan's economy, but it will also significantly enhance trade flows between our two nations," he said.

He also noted that with carefully planned financial and transactional mechanisms, stronger bilateral financial frameworks could be developed. Tavakkolizadeh underlined the vast economic potential that exists in both countries and hailed the signing of a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Mashhad Chamber and Herat's Chamber of Agriculture as a cornerstone for future cooperation, particularly in agriculture.

Gholamhossein Mozaffari, Governor of Khorasan Razavi, echoed the urgency of smoothing trade processes at key border points. "Delays at the Dogharoun crossing are unacceptable — even a single hour of holdup can affect the private sector," he warned. He announced that the infrastructure is ready for 24/7 operations at the border.

Mozaffari reiterated that enhancing ties with neighboring countries is central to Iran's foreign policy, noting that while Afghanistan already holds a special status among Iran's 15 neighbors, the current trade volume falls short of expectations. He called for coordinated efforts to scale up economic exchanges and advocated for the



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

creation of joint consortia and the development of a shared free trade zone spanning both sides of the border.

The governor also highlighted Afghanistan's water resources as an advantage, proposing that Iran could source part of its agricultural needs from Afghanistan and re-export processed goods to international markets.

Nooruddin Ahmad Islamjar, the Governor of Herat, welcomed the growing economic ties and pointed to recent achievements — including an agreement to allow the daily crossing of 2,000 trucks via Dogharoun and the near-completion (85%) of the Khaf-Herat railway. However, he also raised concerns over the closure of Afghan currency exchange accounts in Iran, which he said posed a serious threat to commerce and transit operations.

Islamjar invited Iranian investors to tap into Herat's secure and resource-rich environment, particularly in agriculture and livestock. "Our natural water reserves enable us to grow Iranian-demanded crops and raise quality livestock for export," he said.

Mahmoud Sayadat, President of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, proposed deeper institutional cooperation. He called for a structured connection between the business organizations of Khorasan Razavi and Herat, especially in mining and agriculture — sectors ripe for bilateral investment. He also noted Afghanistan's interim government's openness to supporting industrial cooperation, which could lead to significant integration of Iranian expertise and investment.

Younes Qazizadeh, head of Herat's Chamber of Commerce and Investment, stressed that balanced trade between the two nations is achievable, provided that relevant authorities offer consistent and practical support. He highlighted the improvements in Afghanistan's infrastructure and the streamlining of bureaucratic procedures, which now make the country more attractive to foreign investors.

Qazizadeh emphasized the importance of the Dogharoun-Islam Qala customs hub and the Khaf-Herat railway as game-changing developments. He invited Iranian investors to participate in projects spanning agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and tourism, and called for expanded academic and cultural partnerships to create job opportunities for Afghanistan's youth.

Iran Ready to Cooperate in Global Food Security and Rural Development



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - On the occasion of World Rural Development Day, Iran's Minister of Agriculture Jihad, Gholamreza Nouri, announced the country's meaningful readiness to contribute to global food security and rural progress. He emphasized that such knowledge exchange and multilateral cooperation not only uplift rural livelihoods within Iran but also offer a replicable model for other nations.

Nouri's remarks were shared in a special publication marking both World Rural Development Day and the 46th anniversary of the establishment of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP). He highlighted that rural development has always held a central position in the ideological and political discourse of the Islamic Republic of Iran, rooted in the principles of the Islamic Revolution and consistently prioritized by both Imam Khomeini and Ayatollah Khamenei.

He described this comprehensive approach as one that encompasses economic self-sufficiency, social justice, cultural preservation, and the empowerment of local rural capacities. Thus, rural development, he said, is not merely an economic initiative but a strategic path to equitable growth, religious and revolutionary value reinforcement, and societal cohesion.

The full message from the agriculture minister recalls the founding of Jihad-e Sazandegi (Construction Jihad) by Imam Khomeini just four months after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. This revolutionary institution was tasked with eradicating deprivation and fostering rural progress. Through direct engagement with local communities, it launched transformative projects in infrastructure, water supply, electricity, healthcare, and education—significantly improving living standards and connectivity in Iran's rural regions.

In 2000, a major institutional reform merged Jihad-e Sazandegi with the Ministry of Agriculture, forming the current Ministry of Agriculture Jihad. This restructuring aimed to boost efficiency and centralize governance to achieve sustainable agricultural and rural development, marking a new chapter in Iran's rural policy framework.

25th Tehran Int'l Industry Exhibition to Be Held by IDRO



TEHRAN - The 25th Tehran International Industry Exhibition will take place from November 1 to 4, 2025, at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground. The event will be organized by the IDRO International Trading Company.

According to Seyed Omid Hashemi, a board member of IDRO International Trading Company, this exhibition is regarded as one of the most prestigious industrial events in the region, fostering collaboration among industry professionals. Hashemi stated that the exhibition aims to showcase the country's industrial capabilities, unveil the latest technologies in tools, lasers, and industrial equipment, promote technical knowledge exchange, attract domestic and foreign investment, and strengthen international cooperation.

He noted that the exhibition will see strong participation from both domestic and international companies, as well as trade delegations from various countries, thereby creating new opportunities for industrial and commercial interaction, market expansion, and support for knowledge-based companies.

Hashemi also announced plans for three more specialized automotive exhibitions to be held in the second half of the year. A dedicated exhibition for auto parts, accessories, and assemblies is set for September at Tehran's Grand Mosalla complex. In addition, two other auto-related exhibitions are planned for Qaemshahr.

It is worth noting that IDRO International Trading Company, a subsidiary of the SAIPA automotive group, has previously organized all 24 editions of the Tehran Industry Exhibition and has once again secured official approval to organize the event for its 25th edition this year.

At Least 27 Dead in Bangladesh Air Force Jet Crash

DHAKA (Dispatches) - At least 25 children were among the 27 dead pulled from scorched buildings after a Bangladesh Air Force jet on a training mission crashed into a college and school campus in Dhaka, officials said on Tuesday, with 88 people being treated in hospital.

The F-7 BGI aircraft crashed soon after it took off at 1:06 p.m. (0706 GMT) on Monday from the airbase in Kurmitola in the capital on a routine training mission. The military said the plane experienced a mechanical failure.

Visuals showed rescue workers scouring the charred buildings for debris as distressed family members surrounded the site. Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser on health, told reporters that 27 people had died and 88 were admitted to hospital with burn injuries. Those dead included 25 children, a teacher and the pilot.



Venezuela Accuses El Salvador of Torturing Migrants Deported by U.S.



CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela Attorney General Tarek Saab said on Monday that his office will investigate El Salvador's President Nayib Bukele and two other officials for the alleged abuse of Venezuelans who were detained in the Central American country.

More than 250 Venezuelans held in El Salvador's notorious CECOT prison returned to Venezuela on Friday, under the terms of a prisoner exchange agreed with the United States.

Detainees suffered human rights abuses ranging from sexual abuse to beatings, were denied medical care or treated without anesthesia and given food and water that made them ill, Saab said at a press conference.

As well as Bukele, Venezuela will investigate El Salvador's Justice Minister Gustavo Villatoro and Head of Prisons Osiris Luna Meza, Saab said, after showing videos of former detainees recounting torture and showing injuries – including a missing molar, bruising and scars – they said were the result of the abuse.

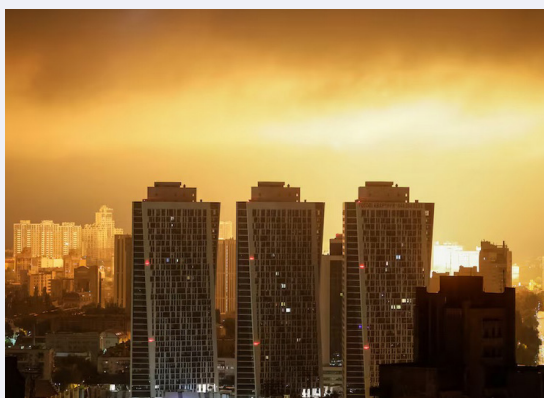
Bukele's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and Reuters was not able to immediately confirm the assertions made in the videos. Two of those shown speaking were identifiable as former detainees in CECOT.

Late on Monday, Bukele posted about the return on social media but did not comment on the abuse allegations.

"The Maduro regime was satisfied with the swap deal; that's why they accepted it," he said on X. "Now they scream their outrage, not because they disagree with the deal but because they just realized they ran out of hostages from the most powerful country in the world."

The Venezuelans were sent to El Salvador from the United States in March after US President Donald Trump invoked the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged members of the Tren de Aragua gang without normal immigration procedures.

Russian Attacks on Ukraine Kill Two, Cause Widespread Damage



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia attacked Ukraine with missiles and hundreds of drones overnight, killing two people, wounding 15 and causing damage and fires in several parts of the country, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Explosions lit up the night sky and the high-pitched whine of drone engines reverberated through Kyiv in an attack that Ukraine's air force said involved the launch of 426 drones and 24 missiles, with 23 drones hitting their target across Ukraine.

"Russia's attacks are always against humanity: a kindergarten, residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure burned in Kyiv," Zelenskyy wrote on Telegram.

Russian media said Ukraine had also carried out drone attacks, causing chaos at airports serving Moscow, where thousands of passengers waited in queues or slept on the ground after flights were cancelled or delayed.

Russia's defense ministry said it had downed 117 Ukrainian drones overnight, including 30 over the Moscow region.

The war in Ukraine shows no sign of abating nearly 3-1/2 years after Russia began its full-scale invasion, and efforts led by U.S. President Donald Trump have failed to secure a ceasefire.

Zelenskyy said on Saturday he wanted to accelerate the ceasefire negotiations and that Kyiv had proposed new talks next week.

France, UK and 23 Other Countries Issue Joint Plea for War in Gaza to End Now



PARIS (Dispatches) - More than two dozen Western countries called for an immediate end to the war in Gaza on Monday, saying that suffering there had "reached new depths" as Israel's military expanded its operations to the central city of Deir el-Balah.

After more than 21 months of fighting that have triggered catastrophic humanitarian conditions for Gaza's more than two million people, Israeli allies Britain, France, Australia, Canada and 21 other countries, plus the EU, said in a joint statement that the war "must end now".

"The suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths," the signatories added, urging a negotiated ceasefire, the release of hostages held by Palestinian militants and the free flow of much-needed aid.

Israel immediately rejected the joint statement "as it is disconnected from reality and sends the wrong message to Hamas", the Israeli foreign ministry said.

The plea came as Deir el-Balah came under intense shelling on Monday, after Israel's military warned of imminent action in an area where it had not previously operated.

The military a day earlier had ordered those in the central Gaza area to leave immediately as it was expanding operations, including "in an area where it has not operated before".

Between 50,000 and 80,000 people were in the area when the evacuation order was issued, according to initial estimates from the UN's humanitarian agency OCHA.

Deir el-Balah resident Abdullah Abu Saleem, 48, told AFP on Monday that "during the night, we heard huge and powerful explosions shaking the area as if it were an earthquake".

He said this was "due to artillery shelling in the south-central part of Deir el-Balah and the southeastern area".

"We are extremely worried and fearful that the army is planning a ground operation in Deir el-Balah and the central camps where hundreds of thousands of displaced people are sheltering," he added.

In their statement, the Western countries also denounced Israel's aid delivery model in Gaza, saying it was "dangerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity".

The UN has recorded 875 people killed in Gaza while trying to get food since late May, when Israel began easing a more than two-month aid blockade.

"We condemn the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food," the statement said.

Since the start of the war, nearly all of Gaza's population has been displaced at least once by repeated Israeli evacuation orders.

According to OCHA, the latest order means that 87.8 percent of the territory is now under evacuation orders or within Israeli militarised zones.

Hamdi Abu Mughseeb, 50, told AFP that he and his family had fled northwards from their tent south of Deir el-Balah at dawn following a night of intense shelling.

"There is no safe place anywhere in the Gaza Strip," he said. "I don't know where we can go."

Mai Elawawda, communications officer in Gaza for the UK-based charity Medical Aid for Palestinians, said the situation was "extremely critical", describing shelling "all around our office, and military vehicles are just 400 metres (1,300 feet) away from our colleagues and their families".

The families of hostages held in Gaza since Hamas's October 2023 attack on Israel triggered the war said they were "shocked and alarmed" by reports of evacuation orders for parts of Deir el-Balah.

The Hostages and Missing Families Forum demanded political and military authorities "to clearly explain why the offensive in the Deir el-Balah area does not put the hostages at serious risk".

Of the 251 hostages taken during Hamas's attack on Israel, 49 are still being held in Gaza, including 27 the Israeli military says are dead.

Civil defense spokesman Bassal reported at least 15 people killed by Israeli forces across Gaza on Monday.

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify tolls and details provided by the agency and other parties.

Zelenskiy Says Ukraine, Russia to Hold Peace Talks in Turkey

KYIV (Dispatches) - Peace talks between Ukraine and Russia - the first in seven weeks - are planned for Wednesday in Turkey, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy quoted a senior Kyiv official as saying on Monday.

Zelenskyy appealed earlier in the day for greater momentum in negotiations.

Russia's state TASS news agency quoted a source in Turkey as saying the talks would take place on Wednesday. The RIA news agency, also quoting a source, said they would take place over two days, Thursday and Friday.

The Kremlin said it was waiting for confirmation of the date of the talks but said the two sides were "diametrically opposed" in their positions on how to end the war.

Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address that he spoke with Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, on Monday in preparation for a prisoner exchange and another meeting with Russia in Turkey.

"Umerov reported that the meeting is planned for Wednesday. More details will follow tomorrow," Zelenskyy said.

Umerov, previously defence minister, was appointed to his current role last week and headed the first two rounds of talks with Russia.

Ukraine has backed U.S. calls for an immediate ceasefire. Moscow says certain arrangements must be put in place before a ceasefire can be introduced.

Russian forces have launched sustained attacks on Ukrainian cities in recent weeks, including missiles and hundreds of drones on Monday night that killed two people and injured 15. Ukraine has also launched long-range drone attacks.

Zelenskyy said: "The agenda from our side is clear: the return of prisoners of war, the return of children abducted by Russia, and the preparation of a leaders'



meeting."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks during a joint press statement with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the first day of the two-day Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC2025), on plans for the reconstruction of Ukraine, in Rome, Italy, July 10, 2025. REUTERS/Remo Casilli/File Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who is under increasing pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump to show progress towards ending the conflict, turned down a previous challenge from Zelenskyy to meet him in person.

Putin has said he does not see Zelenskyy as a legitimate leader because Ukraine, which is under martial law, did not hold new elections when his five-year mandate expired last year.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "There is our draft memorandum, there is a draft memorandum that has been handed over by the Ukrainian side. There is to be an exchange of views and talks on these two drafts, which are diametrically opposed so far."

Ukraine and Russia have held two rounds of talks in Istanbul, on May 16 and June 2, that led to the exchange of thousands of prisoners of war and the remains of dead soldiers.

But the two sides have made no breakthrough towards a ceasefire or a settlement to end almost three and a half years of war. The Kremlin says Ukraine must abandon four regions Moscow says have been incorporated into Russia.

Trump said last week he would impose new sanctions in 50 days on Russia and countries that buy its exports if there is no deal before then to end the conflict.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot, speaking in Kyiv after talks with Zelenskyy, noted Russia's refusal to implement an immediate ceasefire as well as its "maximalist" demands.

"Discussions must begin, but on a basis that respects the interests of both parties, because diplomacy is not submission," he told a news conference. "And diplomacy begins with meetings at the level of heads of state and government, something Volodymyr Zelenskyy has repeatedly called for."

Barrot said he favoured devising an even tougher sanctions package if Putin did not agree to a ceasefire.

EU to Ramp Up Retaliation Plans as U.S. Tariff Deal Prospects Dim

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Union is exploring a broader set of possible counter-measures against the United States as prospects for an acceptable trade agreement with Washington fade, according to EU diplomats.

An increasing number of EU members, including Germany, are now considering using wide-ranging "anti-coercion" measures which would let the bloc target U.S. services or curb access to public tenders in the absence of a deal, diplomats say.

The European Commission, which negotiates trade agreements on behalf of the 27-member bloc, had appeared on course for a agreement in which the EU would still have faced a 10% U.S. tariff on most of its exports, with some concessions.

Such hopes now seem dashed after President Donald Trump's threat to impose a 30% tariff by August 1, and following talks between EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic and U.S. counterparts in Washington last week.

Sefcovic, who has said a 30% tariff would "practically prohibit" transatlantic trade,



delivered a sober report on the current state of play to EU envoys on Friday, diplomats told Reuters.

U.S. counterparts had come up with diverging solutions during his meetings, including a baseline rate that could be well above 10%, the EU diplomats added.

"Each interlocutor seemed to have different ideas. No one can tell (Sefcovic) what would actually fly with Trump," one diplomat said.

Prospects of easing or removing 50% U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminium and 25% on cars and car parts appear limited.

Washington has also rejected the EU's demand for a "standstill" arrangement, whereby no further tariffs would be imposed after a deal is struck. The rationale, according to diplomats, is that Trump's hands cannot be tied on national security, the basis of Section 232 trade investigations into pharmaceuticals, semiconductors and timber.



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Italy's Matteo Arnaldi saved four match points en route to a 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (2) comeback win over Germany's Daniel Altmaier in the opening round of the Mubadala Citi D.C. Open on Monday in Washington.

Arnaldi faced triple match point in the 10th game of the third set but battled back to extend the match. Then, Arnaldi led 6-5 only for Altmaier to save two match points and force the tiebreaker, which was all Arnaldi. The 24-year-old reached the quarterfinals of the Madrid Open but is still searching for his first ATP title.

Reilly Opelka also got off to a fine start by defeating Murphy Cassone 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-3. This one did not see a match point saved, but Opelka served up 23 aces in the two-hour, 21-minute affair and won a whopping 53 of 61 first-service points (86.9 percent).

Americans who joined Opelka as winners on Monday included Mackenzie McDonald, Ethan Quinn and Learner Tien. Hungarian Fabian Marozsan, Frenchman Alexandre Muller and Brits Cameron Norrie and Daniel Evans also advanced.

In the final two matches of the night, Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka clawed past Jenson Brooksby 6-4, 5-7, 6-1, and Australia's Aleksandar Vukic pulled out a 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 win over France's Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard.

Meanwhile no. 6 seed Arthur Rinderknech of France survived a test from Argentina's Facundo Bagnis and prevailed 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3 in a two-hour, 47-minute marathon in the Round of 32 in Kitzbuhel, Austria.

The other seeded players in action also survived: No. 7 seed Francisco Comesana of Argentina beat Tristan Boyer 6-3, 7-6 (1), and No. 8 Marton Fucsovics of Hungary outlasted Austrian wild card Joel Schwaerzler 6-2, 2-6, 6-3.

Slovakian qualifier Norbert Gombos survived Frenchman Hugo Gaston 6-3, 6-4, and Kazakhstan's Alexander Shevchenko rallied past Daniel Elahi Galan of Colombia 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland cruised past Venezuelan qualifier Alvaro Guillen Meza 6-4, 6-1 in his first-round match in Umag, Croatia.

The three-time Grand Slam champ hasn't won an ATP tournament since May 2017. His next opponent will be No. 4 seed Damir Dzumhur of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who had a first-round bye.

No. 5 Mariano Navone of Argentina sped past Chile's Tomas Barrios Vera 6-1, 6-2 in 70 minutes, but other seeded players weren't as lucky. Georgia's Nikoloz Basilashvili toppled No. 6 Roberto Carballes Baena of Spain 6-3, 6-4, and Spanish qualifier Pablo Llamas Ruiz beat No. 7 Kamil Majchrzak of Poland 6-3, 6-4. Also advancing were Frenchmen Terence Atmane and Titouan Droguet, Spaniard Carlos Taberner and Taiwan's Chun-Hsin Tseng.

Meanwhile Poland's Magdalena Frech and Magda Linette, the only two seeded players in action on Monday, earned straight-set wins in the first round of the Mubadala Citi DC Open in Washington.

Frech, the fifth seed, got past Ukrainian qualifier Yuliia Starodubtseva 6-2, 6-4, while eighth-seeded Linette downed Danielle Collins 7-5, 6-4.

Frech picked on Starodubtseva's second serve, winning 13 of 22 points (59.1 percent).

Collins committed 13 double faults while serving just four aces, and she won only 33 percent of her second-serve points.

Greece's Maria Sakkari, the 2023 runner-up in Washington, defeated the United Kingdom's Katie Boulter 6-3, 6-4 in her opener. Two Canadians prevailed, as Leylah Fernandez topped Australia's Maya Joint 6-3, 6-3, and Victoria Mboko beat Russia's Anastasia Potapova 6-2, 6-4.

Man United Clinch £65m Deal for Brentford's Star Forward Bryan Mbeumo



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United have signed forward Bryan Mbeumo from Brentford until 2030, with the option to extend for a further year, United said on Monday.

United paid £65 million pounds to Brentford, with another £6 million potentially due in add-ons, for the 25-year-old Cameroon international, according to a club source.

Mbeumo hit new heights in the 2024-25 league season, finishing with 20 goals to help Brentford to a solid 10th-place finish. Only Mohamed Salah (29), Alexander Isak (23) and Erling Haaland (22) scored more.

"As soon as I knew there was a chance to join Manchester United, I had to take the opportunity to sign for the club of my dreams, the team whose shirt I wore growing up," he said.

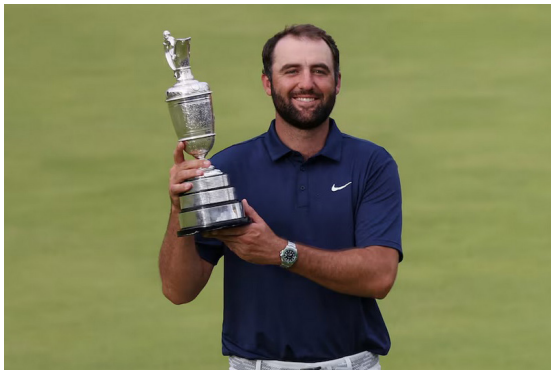
"My mentality is to always be better than I was yesterday, I know that I have the spirit of character to reach another level here, learning from (manager) Ruben Amorim and playing alongside world-class players."

The versatile Mbeumo thrived on the right wing and also impressed as a centre forward, proving indispensable for Brentford by starting every league game last season.

He joined the London club from Ligue 2 side Troyes in 2019 and made 242 appearances, scoring 70 goals and providing 51 assists.

"Bryan's goals and assists record in the Premier League is exceptional, his remarkable consistency has put him amongst the most productive players in England for the last three seasons," said United's director of football Jason Wilcox.

Scheffler Draws Comparisons to Woods After Dominant British Open Win



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Scottie Scheffler had already cemented his place among golf's all-time greats, but his commanding four-shot victory at the British Open reignited comparisons to Tiger Woods.

Sunday's final round of the British Open at Royal Portrush was one of the more anticlimactic finishes to a major in recent memory and left many in the world of golf wondering if Scheffler was the heir to Woods' throne.

"I look everywhere and I try to find some kind of a weakness, somewhere where he can get derailed, and I just can't find it," NBC Sports analyst and former Ryder Cup-winning captain Paul McGinley said. "He might even prove to have more longevity than Tiger Woods."

Making comparisons to 15-times major champion Woods may be premature but world number one Scheffler, a four-time major winner, is playing in a league of his own and showing no signs of slowing down.

"I don't think we thought the golfing world would see someone as dominant as Tiger come through so soon, and here's Scottie sort of taking that throne of dominance," said 2024 British Open champion Xander Schauffele.

"You can't even say he's on a run. He's just been killing it for over two years now. He's a tough man to beat, and when you see his name up on the leaderboard, it sucks for us."

Scheffler won the Masters in 2022 and 2024, earned his first PGA Championship title this year followed by his fourth career major with his British Open triumph.

The 29-year-old Texan joined Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Gary Player as the only players to win a Masters, PGA Championship and British Open before age 30.

"What he's doing is so dominant and so clinical," said NBC Sports analyst Brandel Chamblee. "I can't help but think that we are on an inevitable march towards one of the greatest careers in the history of golf."

Packers Sign OT Zach Tom to \$88m Extension

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The Green Bay Packers signed right tackle Zach Tom to a four-year, \$88 million extension on Monday, according to several reports.

The contract reportedly includes a signing bonus worth \$30.2 million, the largest ever for an offensive lineman in the NFL.

Tom was drafted in the fourth round by the Packers in the 2022 NFL Draft and has started all 17 games in each of the last two seasons for Green Bay.

The 26-year-old Tom finished third in All-Pro voting among right tackles last season, behind Detroit's Penei Sewell and Philadelphia's Lane Johnson.

The Packers were scheduled to report for training camp on Tuesday.

Meanwhile U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to interfere with a deal to build a new football stadium in Washington, D.C., unless the local NFL team, now known as the Commanders, changes its name back to Redskins.

The American football team dropped the name Redskins in 2020 after decades of criticism that it was a racial slur.

Trump had called for a return to the name Redskins - and for the Cleveland Guardians baseball team to once again adopt the name Indians - on other occasions, but on Sunday he added that he may take official action.

"I may put a restriction on them that if they don't change the



name back to the original 'Washington Redskins,' and get rid of the ridiculous moniker, 'Washington Commanders,' I won't make a deal for them to build a Stadium in Washington," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

Item 1 of 2 May 6, 2022; Ashburn, Virginia, USA; Washington Commanders players' helmets rest on the field during Washington Commanders rookie minicamp at Inova Performance Center In Ashburn, VA. Mandatory Credit: Geoff Burke-USA TODAY Sports/File Photo

The team moved from Washington to suburban Landover, Maryland, in 1997, but earlier this year reached an agreement with the local District of Columbia government to return to the city with a new stadium expected to open in 2030.

Trump has limited authority to intervene under the current home-rule law governing federal oversight of the District of Columbia, but he has raised the prospect of taking more control, telling reporters in February, "I think we should take over Washington, D.C."

Representatives of the Commanders did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Some fans have advocated readopting the name Redskins out of tradition, but leading Indigenous rights organizations have opposed the name, including the National Congress of American Indians, the Association on American Indian Affairs, and Cultural Survival.

At least one group, the Native American Guardians Association, has supported the name Redskins and the "respectful use of Native American names and imagery in sports, education and public life."

The treatment of the Indigenous population after the arrival of European settlers to the U.S. remains a matter of fierce debate. Some historians describe it as genocide, while others prefer the term ethnic cleansing.

these climbs."

This year, he has already won at Hautacam, where his Tour hopes vanished in 2022 when he was beaten by chief rival Jonas Vingegaard, who ended up 2:10 behind the Slovenian.

Pogacar is 4:13 ahead of the Dane in the general classification as he marches towards a fourth Tour title.

In his sixth campaign, Pogacar speaks with the assurance of a man determined to make peace with painful memories.

"Col de la Loze, for me, is one of the hardest climbs I've ever done," he conceded. "I'm not looking for revenge. I just want to have better legs than those days in the past."



Pogacar out to Bury Ghosts in Final Tour de France Week

MONTPELLIER (Dispatches) - Tadej Pogacar is riding not just for the yellow jersey on the Tour de France, but also to bury the ghosts of the past.

As the 2025 Tour de France heads into its final and most punishing mountain stages, the defending champion is about to tackle climbs where he cracked or struggled before.

The Mont Ventoux and Col de la Loze await again. But this time, things feel different.

"I'm almost confident to say the route was designed to scare me," Pogacar said with a smile on Monday.

"But I always look at it as a race situation. I actually like all of