

Members of a Committee of the Majlis Have Voted in Favor of a Plan to Reform the Country's National Currency by Removing Four Zeros From It and Restoring an Old Currency Subdivision Named Qiran

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Has Approved the Establishment of a Defense Council as Part of Major Structural Changes to the Nation's Strategic Defense Policies

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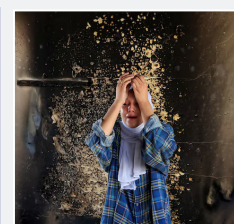


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E3 Failed to Fulfill Nuclear Obligations, Has No Right to Trigger Snapback



TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian negotiator says the European troika – Britain, France, and Germany – has failed to fulfill its obligations as per the 2015 nuclear agreement and therefore has no right to trigger the so-called snapback mechanism against Iran.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks at a meeting of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy commission on Sunday, where he briefed the lawmakers on the latest developments pertaining to Iran-E3 talks in Istanbul and the trio's intention to invoke the so-called snapback mechanism.

Snapback would bring into force six previous Iran-related Security Council resolutions adopted between 2006 and 2010. It would reinstate the expired UN arms embargo that barred countries from supplying, selling, or transferring most military equipment to Iran and prohibited Tehran from exporting any weapons.

It would also impose export controls, travel bans, asset freezes, and other restrictions on individuals, entities, and banks.

Ebrahim Rezaei, the committee's spokesman, said Gharibabadi attended the session to outline the measures taken by Iran's Foreign Ministry regarding the snapback.

Gharibabadi told the lawmakers that in a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said the E3 lacks the legal, political, and moral authority to invoke the snapback mechanism of the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Rezaei added.

Iran Denounces Israeli Settlers' Raid on al-Aqsa Mosque Led by Ben-Gvir



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has vehemently condemned the settlers' desecration of Al-Aqsa Mosque, led by hawkish Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

"This violation, which is a clear breach of the sanctity and religious status of this holy site and a blatant violation of United Nations resolutions, is yet another sign of the malicious intent of the Zionist regime to perpetuate tension and crisis in occupied Palestine and the region," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Sunday.

Ben-Gvir led hundreds of settlers in a provocative march and mass incursion into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in occupied East al-Quds on Sunday morning.

According to the Islamic Waqf Department in al-Quds, at least 1,251 Israeli settlers stormed the sacred site.

They performed Talmudic rituals, singing, and dancing under heavy police protection, coinciding with the Jewish commemoration of Tisha B'Av.

Baghaei added that Al-Aqsa Mosque, as the first qibla of Muslims, holds special reverence among Muslims and the people of Palestine.

He noted that by disrespecting this holy site, settlers seek to alter the Islamic and historical identity of Al-Quds, provoke the sentiments of Muslims worldwide, and escalate tensions in occupied Palestine.

The Iranian diplomat underlined that "a unified Al-Quds is the eternal capital of Palestine, and the international community has a duty to compel the occupying regime to halt its racist and criminal policies against the land and people of Palestine."

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Iran Warns Against Misuse of Snapback Mechanism Amid IAEA Tensions

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Esmail Baghaei confirmed in his weekly press briefing that no inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are currently in Iran. He emphasized that any future cooperation with the agency must align with legislation passed by the Iranian parliament, noting the Foreign Ministry is fully bound by this mandate.

Baghaei issued a firm warning to three European signatories of the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), stating they lack legal grounds to trigger the deal's "snapback" mechanism—a provision that could reimpose UN sanctions on Iran. He cautioned that any such move would damage the international non-proliferation regime and carry diplomatic consequences for those countries.

Turning to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, Baghaei described the situation as "the most severe genocide in human history," citing both continuous bombardment and deliberate starvation. He criticized the UN Security Council for failing to act, attributing the stalemate to U.S. obstruction, despite widespread international legal obligations to assist civilians.

Baghaei called President Raisi's recent visit to Pakistan "highly significant," stating it marked a new phase in bilateral relations. During the visit, 12 agreements were signed, including a renewed cultural cooperation pact and plans to implement a free trade agreement. Baghaei highlighted Iran's historical role as the first country to recognize Pakistan's independence.

He also noted that First Vice President Mohammad Mokher will soon travel to Turkmenistan to attend a summit of landlocked developing countries, underscoring Iran's strategic role as a regional transport and trade hub.

Baghaei clarified that Iran's cooperation with the IAEA is currently suspended—not due to restrictions on inspector access, but because of broader political and security concerns. He cited recent attacks on Iran's nuclear sites and alleged bias in the agency's reports. However, he confirmed that a technical IAEA delegation is expected in Tehran within the next 10 days.

In response to recent remarks by the British Foreign Secretary, Baghaei dismissed the comments as baseless and outside the UK's authority. He stressed that the IAEA has never found Iran in violation of its peaceful nuclear commitments.

Baghaei also condemned the latest U.S. sanctions on Iran's shipping sector, labeling them a clear breach of international law. He asserted that such unilateral actions not only target Iran but disrupt

global trade norms.

Commenting on Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi's trip to Tajikistan, Baghaei described Iran-Tajikistan relations as "exemplary," rooted in shared cultural and historical ties. The visit focused on deepening regional cooperation.

Baghaei reiterated that any future negotiations with the United States will differ significantly from those before June 2024. He confirmed that compensation and accountability for past actions will be on Iran's agenda. He criticized dismissive remarks from U.S. officials and cited legal precedents such as the oil platforms case, where international courts found in Iran's favor.

Regarding the non-broadcast of Araghchi's recent interview on Iranian state television, Baghaei said there was no dispute between the Foreign Ministry and the broadcaster. He explained that the interview was intended for a different program, and the issue was logistical.

Baghaei revealed that Iran has formally protested to Azerbaijan over reports of mistreatment of Iranian prisoners. He urged Baku to uphold international human rights obligations and honor existing prisoner transfer agreements.

Responding to a proposed nuclear initiative known as the "Minaret Plan," Baghaei stressed that uranium enrichment in Iran is a non-negotiable national right. He said Iran is open to reviewing any proposal that acknowledges this principle.

Baghaei said Iran has received no official information about reported nuclear mediation efforts by Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, and therefore cannot confirm such initiatives.

Regarding talks with the E3 (UK, France, Germany), Baghaei noted that the recent Istanbul discussions laid groundwork for further dialogue. However, no date or venue for the next round has been finalized. He emphasized that Iran remains committed to serious and results-oriented negotiations.

Addressing developments in Afghanistan, Baghaei affirmed that recognition of foreign governments is a sovereign decision based on national interests. He said both Iran and Pakistan are deeply concerned about instability in their neighboring country and continue to consult on ways to support peace and security in the region.

Pezeshkian Hails Pakistan's Heartening Support During Israeli-U.S. War Against Iran



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - President Masoud Pezeshkian appreciated Pakistan's firm support for the Islamic Republic during the recent 12-day Israeli-American war on the country, saying it reflected the deep bond between the two nations.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Sunday, Pezeshkian said the positions adopted by Pakistan's government, parliament, political groups, scholars, and people were "very heartening."

Elsewhere in the presser, Pezeshkian said that regional security is "deeply interdependent," and that peace, stability, and calm are essential to achieving economic and commercial development across the region.

"The principle of neighborliness and prioritizing relations with neighboring countries is central to Iran's foreign policy," he said. "And our view of Pakistan is not just as a neighbor, but as a brother."

On his meetings in Islamabad, the president said both sides condemned the inhumane crimes committed by Israel in Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, as well as its ongoing genocide in Gaza and its destabilizing actions in the broader region.

He said Tehran and Islamabad agreed that stronger, more effective, and action-oriented cooperation among regional countries, especially Muslim nations, was needed to confront the aggressive and expansionist policies of the Israeli regime.

Pezeshkian urged international organizations, especially the UN Security Council, to take a firm stance against violations of sovereignty, the spread of war, and civilian massacres, and to refrain from applying double standards.

He also thanked the Pakistani side for their hospitality and brotherhood, and invited Prime Minister Sharif to visit Tehran at the earliest opportunity to continue their discussions.

President Pezeshkian arrived in Islamabad on Saturday for a two-day visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Sharif. On Sunday, the two sides signed 12 agreements covering a wide range of

areas, including science and technology, transportation and transit, trade and economy, tourism, and agriculture.

Meanwhile Iran and Pakistan signed 12 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in various sectors during the official two-day visit of Pezeshkian to the neighboring country.

After holding a joint meeting in Islamabad on Sunday, high-ranking Iranian and Pakistani officials put their signatures on the cooperation documents aimed at facilitating the development of bilateral cooperation.

The agreements cover a wide range of areas, including tourism, agriculture, judicial and legal cooperation, industry, science and technology, and commercial and economic cooperation.

The documents also provide a framework to facilitate knowledge exchange, expand commercial capacities, strengthen people-to-people interactions, and enhance regional synergy between the two countries.

Heading a high-level delegation, President Pezeshkian travelled to Pakistan on Saturday at the invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Pezeshkian's trip is his first to Pakistan since assuming office as the Iranian president.

The visit commenced in Lahore, where Pezeshkian paid tribute to Pakistan's revered national poet, Allama Muhammad Iqbal, before moving to Islamabad for key meetings with President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Sharif.

Mehdi Sanai, the Iranian president's political advisor, said in a post on X that Tehran-Islamabad relations encompass political, economic, religious, and cultural dimensions.

He further noted that developing provincial and border cooperation and increasing trade exchanges from the current level of \$3 billion are among the goals of the visit.

What Is the Cause of U.S.'s Debt?

The U.S. National Debt is one of the most complex and controversial economic issues in the world.

In its simplest definition, this debt is the total amount the U.S. federal government has borrowed through the issuance of Treasury Securities. In other words, it is the borrowing done to cover the annual budget deficits.

As of August 2024, the current volume of the debt exceeds \$35 trillion (i.e., more than \$35,000,000,000,000).

Importantly, this figure is greater than the United States' annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

To put it more clearly: Debt-to-GDP Ratio ≈ 125%.

So, I have to explain why huge amount of debt has been accumulated U.S. governments spend more each year than they collect in revenues (mainly taxes).

Therefore, to fill the gap between spending and income, they issue bonds (i.e., borrow from the public, banks, or countries like China and Japan, etc.).

The factors contributing to the increase in this debt can be identified as follows:

Reduction in tax revenues and legal tax exemptions or cuts (like the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act); Increased spending on the military, healthcare programs (Medicare, Medicaid), and Social Security; Unexpected crises, such as wars or the COVID-19 pandemic, which came with multi-trillion-dollar relief packages; and high interest payments.

In 2024 alone, the government is paying over \$1 trillion just in interest on the debt — the largest budget item after defense and healthcare!

Vulnerability during crises caused by unexpected events therefore the government's ability to respond to recessions or wars is reduced.

It should be noted that today's youth and future generations will bear the burden of repaying or managing this debt.

Since the debt is denominated in U.S. dollars (the world's reserve currency), the U.S. can issue more dollars to manage its debt. However, this inevitably carries the risk of inflation.

The global overconfidence in U.S. Treasury securities allows the government to borrow money at low interest rates.

Public Debt:

This is the part of the debt held by foreign investors, banks, or ordinary citizens.

If U.S. hegemonic power collapses, this debt becomes payable, and more importantly:

Intragovernmental Debt:

This is the debt the government owes to its own institutions (such as the Social Security Trust Fund).

Failure to update or replenish these internal funds can lead to bankruptcy.

A figure that has always remained hidden from the global public eye is the amount of currency printed by the Federal Reserve that is circulating outside of the U.S..

If political crises escalate, or the value and credibility of BRICS increase, this could pose a serious challenge.

In summary, the U.S.'s debt is a structural result of: Tax cuts, Rising social and military spending, Recurring crises, and the unchecked printing of unbacked currency.

While some economists view this debt as a "tool for growth," its unchecked accumulation can lead to financial instability and potentially trigger a domino effect — causing institution-by-institution collapse within the United States.

Iran's 2026 Local Elections to Be Fully Electronic



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Interior Minister for Political Affairs and head of the Election Headquarters, Ali Zeinyvand, announced that the country is firmly committed to conducting the upcoming 2026 Islamic City and Village Council elections entirely electronically, regardless of external conditions.

Speaking during a meeting with the governor of Tehran Province and the county governors on Monday, Zeinyvand stated that the decision to digitize the entire election process has been finalized at the highest levels of government. "We have held regular meetings with top officials including the Speaker of Parliament, the Minister of Defense, the head of the Budget and Planning Organization, the Interior Minister, and members of the Guardian Council," he said.

IRAN NEWS



Iran and Pakistan to Establish Joint Border Customs Gate

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - During the official visit of the President of Iran to Pakistan, a bilateral agreement was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to establish a joint border customs gate. According to Faroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance—who accompanied the Iranian President on this trip—the agreement aims to implement joint customs controls and facilitate the exchange of electronic declaration data between the two countries. “This initiative will significantly ease trade flow and reduce cargo clearance delays at the Mirjaveh and Taftan border customs posts,” Asgari stated.

Iran-Pakistan Trade Conference Held in Islamabad

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - The Iran-Pakistan Business Conference officially opened in Islamabad with the participation of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and his accompanying delegation. The event was hosted by Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

President Pezeshkian was warmly welcomed upon arrival by Senator Ishaq Dar.

A large number of Pakistani business leaders, officials from chambers of commerce, and representatives from major investment firms attended the event.

Pakistan's Minister of Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, opened the session by welcoming the finalization of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two nations. He noted that both countries are committed to resolving tariff-related issues and strengthening cross-border infrastructure.

Kamal Khan also expressed his appreciation for President Pezeshkian's significant visit and announced that the next meeting of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission will be held in Tehran next month.

He added that the activation of the Pishin-Mand border market is another joint commitment to boosting bilateral trade. Additionally, Pakistan is planning to open a new border crossing at the Chadgi-Kuhak point.

Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, Mohammad Atabak, also spoke at the event. He emphasized Iran's appreciation for Pakistan's support during the recent 12-day war involving the Zionist regime, describing it as a source of encouragement for the Iranian people.

Digital Economy Key to Reviving Iran's Economy

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - In a pivotal meeting with digital economy stakeholders, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, Seyed Ali Madanizadeh, emphasized that the digital economy holds the key to overcoming the limitations of Iran's traditional economic structure and revitalizing the country's overall economy.

Speaking during a joint session with Seyed Sattar Hashemi, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Madanizadeh outlined the government's serious commitment to supporting the digital economy as the vanguard of Iran's modern economic transition.

“The digital economy is not just another sector—it's a strategic solution to many of Iran's long-standing economic challenges,” Madanizadeh stated. “With its dynamic and flexible nature, it stands in stark contrast to the outdated traditional structures that continue to hamper productivity and growth.”

Highlighting the sector's impressive productivity rates, Madanizadeh said it is his duty, as finance minister, to support and enable the growth of this industry, which he referred to as one of the fastest-growing in the nation.

He stressed that digital technologies can significantly increase economic efficiency and unlock new opportunities for growth, ultimately contributing more substantially to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Madanizadeh acknowledged the existing hurdles faced by private sector players in the digital economy but affirmed that the government is determined to resolve these issues through collaboration.

“There are no easy solutions, but with joint effort and dialogue between government and industry, effective pathways can be found,” he added.

He also outlined four key initiatives designed to support the development of the digital economy:

The recently approved “Law on Production Financing and Infrastructure” recognizes intangible assets—such as intellectual property and digital products—as legitimate for financial backing. Madanizadeh announced that the corresponding executive regulations were ratified last week and are now under the responsibility of the Securities and Exchange High Council to implement.

A newly established collateral platform will allow for a broader range of assets to be used as security, thereby unlocking new financing mechanisms and enhancing credit access for digital businesses.

The National Deregulation Committee, in cooperation with the private sector, will work to eliminate unnecessary regulatory burdens, streamline business processes, and foster a more agile startup environment.

Competition council will address anti-competitive practices and ensure fair market access, particularly for digital firms attempting to disrupt traditional monopolies.

Madanizadeh announced the creation of a Digital Economy Task Force, with a mandate to address financing, infrastructure, and digital services. Subcommittees will be formed under this task force to work closely with private enterprises and resolve practical challenges on the ground.

He underlined that the digital economy must be deeply integrated into Iran's broader economic system to help solve fundamental structural issues. “These meetings must continue, not just as symbolic gestures, but as real opportunities to advance both your efforts and the nation's economy,” he said.

Calling for deeper cooperation with the private sector, the finance minister pledged to use the full capabilities of his ministry to empower digital businesses.

During the same meeting, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Seyed Sattar Hashemi praised digital economy players for their resilience during the recent 12-day conflict, during which service disruptions were feared but largely avoided.

“Despite extreme hardships and constraints that worsened during wartime, you never let the country down,” Hashemi said. “You continued serving the public with dedication, and for that, I am truly grateful.”

Hashemi remarked that Madanizadeh's appointment as Finance Minister has given the government renewed confidence in pushing forward digital transformation goals. “With him in office, we in the cabinet feel much more supported and optimistic about achieving real progress.”

He also revealed that the Ministry of Communications has already designed a comprehensive national digital transformation program, which will soon be shared with private sector partners.

Addressing the industry representatives directly, Hashemi emphasized that government-led initiatives can only succeed with active private sector involvement. “Only through genuine partnership with you can we ensure meaningful and sustainable digital reforms in Iran.”

The meeting marked a significant moment of alignment between Iran's economic and technological leadership, signaling a renewed focus on the digital economy as a cornerstone of national recovery and future resilience. With new legal frameworks, structural reforms, and task forces underway, Iran appears poised to accelerate its transition into the digital age—provided cooperation between the state and the private sector continues to deepen.

Iran-Pakistan Trade Could Surge with Joint Bank, Infrastructure Boost



TEHRAN - A leading member of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce has called for the creation of a joint bank or financial fund to streamline and modernize trade transactions between the two countries, highlighting the untapped potential of their growing economic relationship.

Mohammad Tohid-Dast told ILNA News Agency that current financial exchanges rely on outdated practices, with Pakistani buyers purchasing Iranian goods in rials and selling them in rupees. He emphasized that a formal joint banking mechanism is essential to facilitate smoother and larger-scale trade.

“We must establish a joint bank or fund to properly handle financial transactions,” Tohid-Dast said. “At present, these exchanges occur through traditional, informal channels.”

The remarks come amid optimism following the signing of 12 cooperation agreements during the Iranian president's recent visit to Pakistan. While the official trade target is \$10 billion, Tohid-Dast believes that with the right infrastructure and financial support, bilateral trade could reach as high as \$20 billion.

He identified the Sistan and Baluchestan Province in Iran and adjacent Pakistani provinces as strategic hubs to activate this increased trade volume.

Tohid-Dast proposed allowing exporters to use the foreign currency earned from Pakistan directly within Pakistan to buy goods for import back to Iran, eliminating the need to repatriate earnings. This, he argued, would significantly encourage trade growth.

With Pakistan's market of over 200 million people and strong familial and ethnic ties across the border, there are natural advantages for boosting commerce, Tohid-Dast added.

Currently, most trade relies on road transport via border customs, local marketplaces, and informal carriers. He stressed that enhancing freight rail capacity could dramatically accelerate goods movement between the two neighbors.

Rainfall in Iran Drops by 41% Compared to Last Year



TEHRAN - With less than two months remaining until the end of the current water year, recent data reveals a 41% decrease in rainfall across Iran compared to the same period last year.

Iran is currently experiencing its fifth consecutive year of drought. The latest figures released by the Iran Water Resources Management Company show that from the beginning of the current water year (starting late September 2024) through August 1st, the total national rainfall reached 147.4 millimeters. This marks a 39% drop compared to the long-term average of 241.4 millimeters.

Furthermore, the current rainfall level represents a 41% decline compared to last year's 246.8 millimeters—despite last year already being classified as a dry year.

Out of Iran's 31 provinces, 30 have experienced reduced rainfall during the current water year. Sistan and Baluchestan tops the list with an 85% drop, followed by Hormozgan (72%), Yazd (63%), Khuzestan (57%), and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad (53%).

Since the beginning of the water year, Sistan and Baluchestan has received only 24.3 millimeters of rain. In contrast, Gilan Province leads in precipitation, recording 902.1 millimeters so far.

Meanwhile, the head of the National Center for Weather Forecasting and Crisis Management at Iran's Meteorological Organization stated that due to the monsoon phenomenon, parts of southern Iran—including southern Fars, southern Kerman, northern Hormozgan, and southern Sistan and Baluchestan—can expect heavy rain showers and potential flooding in the coming days.

22% Increase in Exports to Eurasia This Spring



TEHRAN - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced a 22% rise in exports to Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) member states during the spring of this year. In response to recent speculation regarding the import of pets such as cats and dogs from Eurasia, the organization clarified that non-essential goods do not appear among Iran's primary imports from these countries.

According to a statement published by the TPO, trade agreements between countries are governed by international trade laws and are intended to facilitate and expand commerce between the parties. Therefore, banning imports—except in specific cases such as religious prohibitions—from other signatories of such agreements would constitute a significant breach of the deal.

The statement further emphasized that all goods, including pets, are assigned individual codes under the international goods classification system. However, this categorization should not be used as a pretext to undermine the positive impact of trade agreements in streamlining trade flows.

The TPO highlighted that free trade agreements are a modern tool widely adopted globally in recent years to facilitate commerce. For example, Turkey has signed 24 such agreements with its trade partners. Iran's free trade agreement with the EAEU—its first of this kind—can play a key role in boosting trade with the five member states: Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, and Belarus.

The statement reiterated that these trade deals are also strategic tools to counter economic sanctions, which aim to restrict Iran's commercial activities. Free trade agreements, on the other hand, ease these constraints, making them a vital part of Iran's economic strategy.

Despite an overall decline in Iran's global exports during the first quarter of the current year, exports to EAEU countries rose by 22% in value. This growth is attributed to the trade agreement with the Eurasian bloc, which initially came into effect on October 27, 2019, and was upgraded to a full free trade agreement on May 14, 2025. Since the deal's implementation, Iran's exports to EAEU countries have grown from \$600 million to \$2 billion annually.

Deepened Iran-FAO Cooperation Key to Sustainable Food Security

TEHRAN - Strengthening bilateral cooperation between Iran and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations is essential for ensuring sustainable food security in the country, according to senior Iranian agricultural officials.

During a meeting on Sunday with Farukh Toirov, the newly appointed FAO representative to Iran, Gholamreza Golmohammadi, Head of Iran's Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), emphasized the need for expanding joint initiatives in education, research, and technology transfer.

“Iran's AREEO stands among the largest research institutions in Asia, both in terms of structure and human resources, as well as the breadth of its research areas,” said Golmohammadi. “Our work spans from human and veterinary vaccine production to seed improvement, plant protection, modern technologies, biotechnology, water and soil management, climate, natural resources, forestry, rangelands, and fisheries.”

Highlighting Iran's vaccine production capabilities, he noted that 70% of veterinary and 30% of poultry vaccines in the country are produced by the Razi Institute, a key subsidiary of AREEO.

Golmohammadi explained that AREEO operates through 19 national research institutes, 34 provincial centers, and 314 research stations across the country, supported by approximately 6,500 specialists. “Our researchers effectively cover all regions of Iran,” he added.

Stressing the importance of international collaboration, Golmohammadi said, “Iranian scientists maintain extensive ties with global research bodies including FAO. We are ready to share our research expertise with other member states, while also expecting FAO to support us in achieving food security through its resources and capabilities.”

Addressing Iran's environmental challenges—such as water scarcity, climate change, and drought—he referred to recent joint projects with FAO, including combating palm pests. “We hope such cooperation will continue. We need FAO's support in funding,



technology transfer, and resource mobilization to achieve sustainable food security,” he stated.

Golmohammadi expressed Iran's readiness to transfer its scientific and educational experiences to farmers and agricultural experts in other developing countries. “We urge FAO to facilitate the deployment of international experts to Iran for specialized training programs,” he said.

Commenting on international sanctions, he noted: “Although agriculture and food are not officially sanctioned sectors, in practice, many collaborations face restrictions. Fortunately, FAO has maintained its cooperation with Iran. The appointment of a new representative here is a clear sign of that commitment, and we hope this cooperation will only grow stronger.”

FAO's new representative in Iran, Farukh Toirov, emphasized Iran's potential as a regional hub for agricultural innovation and knowledge sharing. “Iran's scientific and technological achievements in agriculture not only benefit its domestic sector but can be highly valuable to other FAO member countries, particularly those lacking in research and financial infrastructure,” he said.

Toirov reaffirmed FAO's commitment to facilitating the exchange of knowledge among its members. “Scientific achievements should be shared to enhance resilience and sustainability of agriculture globally,” he stressed.

Referring to Iran's significant research capacity, Toirov added, “Our office in Tehran provides a vital platform to strengthen collaboration with Iranian researchers and agricultural officials. Meetings like today's can pave the way for more systematic and extensive cooperation across the region.”

He also invited Iranian experts to actively participate in FAO programs and expressed readiness to coordinate support in areas where Iran requires scientific or technical assistance.

“As a neutral international body, FAO seeks to foster scientific synergy among nations. The presence of our office in Iran offers a valuable opportunity to build more effective and practical links between scientists and farmers,” he concluded.

At Least 68 African Migrants Dead After Ship Capsizes Off Yemen Coast

ABYAN (Dispatches) - At least 68 African migrants died and 74 others were missing after their boat capsized Sunday in the waters off Yemen, the UN's migration agency said.

Abdusattor Esoev, head of the International Organization for Migration in Yemen, told the Associated Press that the boat, with 154 Ethiopian migrants, capsized off Yemen's province of Abyan.

Twelve migrants survived the shipwreck, he said, adding that the bodies of 54 migrants washed ashore in the district of Khanfar and 14 others were found dead at a different location and taken to a hospital morgue.

Two medics said rescuers were still looking for survivors.



Bolsonaro Supporters Protest Against Supreme Court, President Lula



RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - Supporters of Brazil's former President Jair Bolsonaro, accused of plotting a coup after he lost the 2022 general election, gathered on the streets of several Brazilian cities on Sunday to protest against Supreme Federal Court (STF) Justice Alexandre de Moraes and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The protesters called for "amnesty" for those involved in the alleged coup attempt days after Lula's inauguration in January 2023.

Far-right leader Bolsonaro did not personally attend the demonstrations, but was put on the telephone by his son, Senator Flávio Bolsonaro, during the protest in Rio de Janeiro. The former president, who is on house arrest, wears an electronic ankle bracelet and cannot leave his home on weekends and holidays, as per an order from Justice Moraes.

In March, a five-judge STF panel decided unanimously to put Bolsonaro on trial for allegedly conspiring to overthrow Lula. If found guilty in the court proceedings expected later this year, Bolsonaro could face a long prison sentence.

Last month, Moraes imposed precautionary measures against Bolsonaro because he believed he and his son, Eduardo, an elected lawmaker who is now living in the U.S., had collaborated with U.S. authorities to try to interfere in Brazilian affairs.

Last week, the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a 50% tariff on most Brazilian goods, citing a "witch hunt" against Bolsonaro.

It also imposed financial sanctions against Moraes under the Magnitsky Act, which allows the U.S. to impose economic penalties against foreigners it considers to have a record of corruption or human rights abuses.

Gunmen Kidnap More Than 50 people in Nigeria's Northwest



KANO (Dispatches) - Gunmen kidnapped more than 50 people in northwest Nigeria in a mass abduction, according to a private conflict monitoring report created for the United Nations and seen by AFP on Sunday.

"Armed bandits" targeted the village of Sabon Garin Damri in Zamfara state Friday, the report said, the latest attack in a region where residents in rural hinterlands have long suffered from gangs who kidnap for ransom, loot villages and demand taxes.

The report said this was the first "mass capture" incident in the Bakura local government area this year, "the recent trend of mass captures in Zamfara has been concerning", noting "a shift in bandit strategy towards more large-scale attacks in northern Zamfara".

A Zamfara police spokesman did not respond to a request for comment.

Nigeria's "banditry" crisis originated in conflict over land and water rights between herders and farmers but has morphed into organised crime, with gangs preying on rural communities that have long had little or no government presence.

The conflict is worsening a malnutrition crisis in the northwest as attacks drive people away from their farms, in a situation that has been complicated by climate change and western aid cuts.

Last month, bandits in Zamfara killed 33 people they had kidnapped in February despite receiving a \$33,700 ransom, while three babies died in captivity, officials and residents told AFP.

Since 2011, as arms trafficking increased and the wider Sahel fell into turmoil, organised armed gangs formed in northwest Nigeria, with cattle rustling and kidnapping becoming huge moneymakers in the largely impoverished countryside.

Groups also levy taxes on farmers and artisanal miners.

Hamas to Allow Aid for Hostages If Israel Halts Airstrikes, Opens Permanent Humanitarian Corridors

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Hamas said it was prepared to coordinate with the Red Cross to deliver aid to hostages it holds in Gaza, if Israel meets certain conditions, after a video it released showing an emaciated captive drew sharp criticism from Western powers.

Hamas said any coordination with the Red Cross is contingent upon Israel permanently opening humanitarian corridors and halting airstrikes during the distribution of aid.

According to Israeli officials, 50 hostages now remain in Gaza, only 20 of whom are believed to be alive. Hamas, thus far, has barred humanitarian organizations from having any kind of access to the hostages and families have little or no details of their conditions.

On Saturday, Hamas released its second video in two days of Israeli hostage Evyatar David. In it, David, skeletally thin, is shown digging a hole that, he says in the video, is for his own grave. The arm of the individual holding the camera, which can be seen in the frame, is a regular width.

The video of David drew criticism from Western powers and horrified Israelis. France, Germany, the UK and the U.S. were among countries to express outrage and Israel's foreign ministry announced that the UN Security Council will hold a special session on Tuesday morning on the issue of the situation of the hostages in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he had asked the Red Cross to give humanitarian assistance to the hostages during a conversation with the head of the Swiss-based ICRC's local delegation.

A statement from The Hostages Families Forum, which represents relatives of those being held in Gaza, said Hamas' comments about the hostages cannot hide that it "has been holding innocent people in impossible conditions for over 660 days," and demanded their immediate release.

"Until their release," said the statement, "Hamas has the obligation to provide them with everything they need. Hamas kidnapped them and they must care for them. Every hostage who dies will be on Hamas's hands."

Six more people died of starvation or malnutrition in Gaza over the past 24 hours, its health ministry said on Sunday as Israel said it allowed a delivery of fuel to the enclave, in the throes of a humanitarian disaster after almost two years of war.

The new deaths raised the toll of those dying from what international humanitarian agencies say may be an unfolding famine to 175, including 93 children, since the war began, the ministry said.

Egypt's state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV said two trucks carrying 107 tons of diesel were set to enter Gaza, months after Israel severely restricted aid access to the enclave before easing it somewhat as starvation began to spread.

COGAT, the Israeli military agency that coordinates aid, said later in the day that four tankers of U.N. fuel had entered to help in operations of hospitals, bakeries, public kitchens and other essential services.

There was no immediate confirmation whether the two diesel fuel trucks had entered Gaza from Egypt.

Gaza's health ministry has said fuel shortages have severely impaired hospital services, forcing doctors to focus on treating only critically ill or injured patients.

Fuel shipments have been rare since March, when Israel restricted the flow of aid into the enclave in what it said was pressure on Hamas militants to free the remaining hostages they took in their October 2023 attack on Israel.

U.N. agencies say airdrops are insufficient and that Israel must let in far more aid by land and open up access to the territory to prevent starvation among its 2.2 million people, most of whom are displaced amidst vast swathes of rubble.

Renewed Clashes in Syria's Druze-Majority Sweida Kill Four People

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - Renewed sectarian clashes in southern Syria's Druze-majority Sweida province killed at least four people on Sunday, a war monitor said, as Damascus accused local groups of violating last month's ceasefire.

The province witnessed deadly clashes between Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouins in July that drew the intervention of government forces and tribal fighters who came to support the Bedouins.

A ceasefire put an end to the week of bloodshed - which killed 1,400 people, according to the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights - but the situation remained tense, flaring into violence again on Sunday.

The Syrian government under interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa has been struggling to consolidate control since he led a shock insurgency that ousted former president Bashar al-Assad in December, ending the Assad family's decades-long autocratic rule. Political opponents and ethnic and religious minorities have been suspicious of Sharaa's de facto Islamist rule and cooperation with affiliated fighters that come from militant groups.

State television said clashes between government forces and Druze militias rocked the southern province of Sweida on Saturday after Druze factions attacked Syrian security forces, killing at least one member. The state-run Alikhabaria channel cited an anonymous security official who said the ceasefire has been broken. The Defense Ministry has not issued any



formal statement.

The Observatory said three Syrian security forces personnel were killed "as clashes erupted with local factions around Tal Hadid in the western Sweida countryside".

The Observatory also reported the death of a "local fighter".

Tal Hadid, controlled by government security forces, is a "key control point" at a relatively high altitude, according to the monitor, allowing

whoever holds it to overlook neighbouring areas.

Fighting also erupted around the city of Thaala, the Observatory said, "following bombardment of the area with shells and heavy weapons launched from areas under the control of government forces, while the sound of explosions and gunfire was heard in various parts of Sweida city".

Syrian state-run news agency SANA accused Druze groups loyal to influential spiritual leader Hikmat al-Hijri of breaching the ceasefire by attacking government troops in Tal Hadid, killing one security forces officer and injuring others.

In a statement, the Syrian interior ministry accused local groups of "launching treacherous attacks against internal security forces in several locations and striking some villages with rockets and mortars, resulting in the killing and wounding of a number of security personnel".

A security source told Syrian state television that government forces regained control of Tal Hadid and other areas that were attacked on Sunday.

According to the monitor and Sweida locals, Damascus has been imposing a siege on the province, with the Observatory saying the government wants to "force inhabitants to comply".

On Friday, Sweida residents held protests across the province to demand the withdrawal of government forces and the opening of an aid corridor from neighbouring Jordan.

Tens of Thousands Join Pro-Palestinian March Over Sydney Harbour Bridge

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of demonstrators braved pouring rain to march across Sydney's iconic Harbour Bridge on Sunday calling for peace and aid deliveries in the war-torn Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian crisis has been worsening.

Nearly two years into a war that Palestinian authorities say has killed more than 60,000 people in Gaza, governments and humanitarian organizations say a shortage of food is leading to widespread starvation.

Some of those attending the march, called by its organizers the 'March for Humanity', carried pots and pans as symbols of the hunger.

"Enough is enough," said Doug, a man in his 60s with a shock of white hair. "When people from all over the world gather together and speak up, then evil can be overcome."

Marchers ranged from the elderly to families with young children. Among them was Wikileaks founder Julian Assange. Many carried umbrellas. Some waved



Palestinian flags and chanted "We are all Palestinians."

New South Wales police said up to 90,000 people had attended, far more than expected. The protest organizer, Palestine Action Group Sydney, said in a Facebook post as many as 300,000 people may have marched.

New South Wales police and the state's premier last week tried to block the march from taking place on the bridge, a city landmark and transport thoroughfare, saying the route could cause safety hazards and transport disruption. The state's Supreme Court ruled on Saturday that it could go ahead.

Acting Deputy Police Commissioner Peter McKenna said more than a thousand police were deployed and the size of the crowd had led to fears of a crush.

"No one was hurt," he told a press conference. "But gee whiz, I wouldn't like try and do this every Sunday at that short notice."



Norris Holds Off Piastri for Hungarian GP Win

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Lando Norris held off McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on a one-stop strategy and slash the Australian's Formula One lead to nine points going into the August break.

Norris completed 39 of the 70 laps on a single set of hard tyres while Piastri stopped twice and closed a 12-second gap to just 0.6 at the finish, with a nail-biting chase to the chequered flag and a near-collision on the penultimate lap.

George Russell was a distant third, 20 seconds down the road, to complete Sunday's Hungaroring podium for Mercedes.

"I'm dead. I'm dead. It was tough," gasped Norris, who started in third place -- with Piastri second -- and then dropped to fifth after being squeezed at the start.

"We weren't really planning on the one-stop but after the first lap it was kind of our only option to get back into things.

"I didn't think it would get us the win, I thought it would get us maybe into second."

The win was Norris's fifth of the season, and third in the last four, as well as a career ninth and McLaren's seventh one-two in 14 races.

"Going into the race we thought a two-stop was the best thing to do, and in clean air potentially it still was," said Piastri, who has won six times this year.

"Having a two-stop race in clean air versus dirty air is a different story. It's very easy now to say a one-stop was the way to go but one second different and the answer would be very different."

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was a frustrated fourth, after starting on an unexpected pole position but losing out massively on the final stint of a two-stop strategy.

The Monegasque, who looked in command for 40 laps until his second stop allowed Piastri to pass, was also handed a meaningless five-second penalty for erratic driving in defending against Russell.

"It was a problem on the chassis. There was an issue on that side so we will look into it for it to not

happen again," said Leclerc.

Fernando Alonso finished fifth in Aston Martin's best result yet this year, and ahead of Sauber's sixth-placed Brazilian rookie Gabriel Bortoleto -- a driver the double world champion manages.

That was also Bortoleto's best result so far and Sauber's sixth successive scoring race.

Lance Stroll was seventh for Aston Martin, who moved up to sixth overall in the constructors' standings and one point ahead of Sauber.

Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson was eighth, with Red Bull's reigning champion Max Verstappen ninth and Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli completing the top 10 to end a scoring drought.

McLaren's lead in the constructors' championship grew to a mighty 299 points over closest rivals Ferrari with 10 races remaining.

Verstappen remained third overall but 97 points adrift of Piastri, with Russell only 15 behind.

Norris started quickly but was boxed in as Alonso and Russell went past and Piastri chased Leclerc.

The Briton recovered fourth place from Alonso on lap three but needed something more.

Piastri pitted on lap 18, with Leclerc coming in a lap later and staying ahead. At that point Norris was offered the chance of a one-stopper, which he accepted as his best chance of beating his teammate.

Norris pitted on lap 31, reducing the gap to the point where he led after rivals made their second stops. Piastri had the last 14 laps on fresher tyres but could not find a way past.

Seven-times world champion Lewis Hamilton, an eight-times winner in Hungary, started in 12th place for Ferrari and finished there.

The Briton, who had told reporters after qualifying that he was 'useless' and needed replacing, was lapped by the leaders six laps from the chequered flag and was also forced off track by Verstappen.

Hamilton was terse post-race, indicating little had changed from Saturday.

De Minaur Survives Tiafoe to Reach Toronto Quarters

TORONTO (Dispatches) - The Australian won the Washington title before plunging into the chaotic schedule in Toronto, where play began on the weekend and will continue through Thursday.

The ninth seed will play the winner of Sunday night's match between Italian Flavio Cobolli and US fourth seed Ben Shelton for a place in the semi-finals.

De Minaur added his voice to the growing chorus of player complaints about the new 12-day Masters calendar, which will see play start in Cincinnati this week before Canada completes its unorthodox Thursday night final.

The Australian said he wasn't helped by a third-round walkover -- which gave him three straight days off in the middle of the tournament.

"I didn't enjoy having so much time. The body is used to going and going (during tournaments)," he said after outlasting Tiafoe in just under two and a half hours.

"It was almost like it switched off. I had to focus to switch it back on. I had to tell myself I was still playing a tournament - still competing.



"I'm proud of the effort today."

De Minaur has now beaten Tiafoe in three of four meetings. He profited from nearly 50 unforced errors off the American's racquet while overcoming a serving slump in the second set and early into

the third.

"It was never gonna be easy, he's got the ability to switch it on whenever he wants. It was tricky to put him away," De Minaur said, adding that the hot, windy conditions made it even trickier.

"I was just happy to sneak away with this win," he said after booking a seventh quarter-final of the season.

Sixth seed Andrey Rublev, runner-up last year when the tournament was held in Montreal, reached his 14th Masters quarter-final 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/2), 3-0 when Spaniard Alejandro Davidovich Fokina was forced to retire with possible cramping.

Both men ended the battle with 37 unforced errors, with Rublev to play either Jiri Lehecka or second seed Taylor Fritz for a semi-final spot.

Davidovich Fokina was coming off a runner-up finish in Washington, where he failed to convert three match points in the final.

The sixth seed admitted to frustration after dropping the opening set.

Pauline Ferrand-Prévo Wins Women's Tour de France

PARIS (Dispatches) - Olympic champion Pauline Ferrand-Prévo won the women's Tour de France on Sunday, pushing through three punishing climbs to win the final stage ahead of 2023 champion Demi Vollering, who finished second overall.

The 33-year-old of team Visma-Lease a Bike held steady through the 124.1km ride from Praz-sur-Arly to Chatel, before launching a decisive attack in the last seven kilometres.

Vollering (FDJ-Suez) stayed in a group with Ferrand-Prévo for the majority of the ninth stage, but could not break away to make up her deficit of more than three minutes coming into the last day.

Ferrand-Prévo said she had achieved "the goal of (her) life as an athlete" after sealing victory in the mountains on the border with Switzerland.



She adds to her 15 world titles in several cycling disciplines including mountain biking, cyclo-cross and road racing.

She becomes the first French rider to win the modern women's Tour de France in its fourth edition. Jeannie Longo won the title 36 years ago in the former race, the Tour de France Feminin.

Ferrand-Prévo, who won gold in women's cross-country mountain biking at last year's Paris Games, had taken the yellow jersey from Kimberley Le Court on Saturday.

Lorena Wiebes (Team SD Worx-Protime), who has led the points classification since stage three, did not chase the leading group and was on track to win the green jersey to deny Dutch compatriot Marianne Vos (Visma-Lease a Bike) a third Tour title in the category.

Fernandes Stars as Man United Draw Everton



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Bruno Fernandes scored one goal and set up another as Manchester United drew Everton 2-2 to capture the Premier League Summer Series title.

The Red Devils earned a final point in Atlanta to top the table with seven in the pre-season friendly tournament, having previously beaten West Ham 2-1 and Bournemouth 4-1 in the round-robin US tour.

"It's improving," Fernandes told Sky Sports after the match. "I think the club is doing the best that they can.

"We needed more competition for the players that were here. We needed more quality to get everyone to step up a little bit more, to have more to do to get into the first 11. I think that's what the club is trying to do, the manager, and hopefully we can get one or two players more to help with that."

Manchester United finished last season 15th in the Premier League, their worst showing since relegation in 1973-74, managing only 11 wins and nine drawn from 38 matches.

"I think a lot of people have suffered from this," Fernandes said. "The fans pay more for the tickets and we really appreciate all the efforts they do for us.

"So it's up to us now players to repay it on the pitch."

Fernandes said the club is working to improve from team and staff to facilities.

"It's every detail. Every small thing matters," Fernandes said. "At this football club, you can't do anything wrong on the pitch and off the pitch because it's too big worldwide.

"The culture of this club was winning. It was there. And we need to bring back that."

Spurs Captain Son Bids Emotional Goodbye in Front of 65,000 Fans in Seoul



SEOUL (Dispatches) - Departing Tottenham captain Son Heung-min was in tears and his teammates threw him in the air on an emotional evening in his native South Korea.

Spurs drew 1-1 with Newcastle in a pre-season friendly in Seoul but that was secondary to the farewell for the 33-year-old attacker.

There was also the sorry sight of James Maddison being stretchered off with what manager Thomas Frank said "was most likely a bad injury" to his knee.

In what could have been his final game for the north Londoners, Son played 65 minutes but did not score at Seoul World Cup Stadium, a day after announcing his decision to leave Tottenham this summer after a decade.

He left the pitch to a thunderous ovation from nearly 65,000 fans, hugging his teammates and even his opponents.

The South Korea captain was caught offside twice in the early going, as his teammates tried to create opportunities for him, but he did not really assert himself on the match otherwise.

Son was replaced in the 65th minute by Mohammed Kudus and he walked off in tears as thousands of fans chanted his name.

"I didn't think I was going to cry at first," Son said.

"But after hearing a few words from my teammates, leaving the club I've spent so much time with felt really tough.

"I felt really, really happy playing this match. Thanks to my fans, my teammates and also my opponents, I've had an unforgettable day."

Son, who has been linked with LAFC in Major League Soccer, declined to reveal his next destination, saying: "Nothing has been finalised."