

In a Post on His X Account on Saturday, Mahdi Sanaei, an Advisor to the President, said President Masoud Pezeshkian Will Leave Tehran for Armenia on Monday and Then Travel to Belarus.

IRAN NEWS

President Masoud Pezeshkian Has Expressed Condolences to the Prime Minister and the People of Pakistan Following the Tragic Loss of Life and Injuries Caused by the Devastating Floods

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Nation Prepared to Smash Any Enemy Front



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has asserted the Iranian nation's readiness to decisively stand up to the Islamic Republic's adversaries and force them into submission as it has in previous confrontations.

The Corps delivered the remarks in a statement on Sunday, marking the anniversary of the return of liberated prisoners of the war that was imposed by Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein on the country in the 1980s.

"Today, the Iranian nation, standing at the height of experience, faith, and multiplied strength, is prepared to crush any enemy front and any malicious plan against the security and future of its land," it stated.

The Corps hailed the former POWs as "the true symbols of active resistance and strategic hope."

The IRGC underlined that the triumph of the former servicemen over their adversary at the time was also reflected in the nation's broader victory during the eight-year war and in its repelling the Israeli-American aggression in June.

It was referring to the Iranian Armed Forces' compelling the Iraqi aggressors to retreat amid overwhelming popular support as well as their prompting the Israeli regime to request a ceasefire on June 24, despite its having received unprecedented American support throughout the 12-day aggression.

The Corps added that this same spirit of triumph was evident in the strength of the Palestinian resistance and in the repeated defeats suffered by the Zionist regime and its American backers across the West Asia region.

The Corps further commended the former servicemen over their resilience that proved that "the power of faith, national unity, and revolutionary steadfastness can bring the biggest war machines and imperialist policies to their knees."

Any New Aggression Would Be Met With Crushing Response



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces has sternly warned the United States and the Zionist regime against any renewed aggression against the Islamic Republic, stressing that such folly will be met with a crushing response much stronger than that of the 12-day imposed war in June.

The top Iranian military body released a statement on Saturday, as it commemorated the release anniversary of the prisoners of war from Iraq.

On August 17, 1990, the Iraqi Ba'athist regime released over 40,000 Iranian prisoners of war in a reciprocal exchange for a similar number of Iraqi prisoners held by Iran.

This blessed anniversary marks a reminder of the epic deeds and selfless sacrifices of the brilliant and matchless children of the heroic, sovereign, and farsighted Iranian nation, the statement read.

It noted that freedom-loving Iranian people, through their unparalleled perseverance and steadfastness in the face of aggressors, turned the chains of captivity into burning flames of rage and steely willpower, and taught an unforgettable lesson to enemies.

The General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces highlighted that the Islamic Republic has recorded many golden pages of firm faith and unparalleled zeal ever since its inception in 1979, and notched up epics and glorious victories in various spheres.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Iran's Missile Barrage Left Israel Helpless; Infiltration a Serious Concern

TEHRAN - Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Israel's defenses were overwhelmed during the recent conflict, claiming that Iran's missile strikes left the country "completely helpless by mid-war."

Speaking in an interview about his first official trip to Iraq in his current role, Larijani stressed that regional issues remain central to Iran's national security strategy. "The Islamic Republic's approach to national security has always been tied to regional dynamics," he said.

Larijani explained that two key security doctrines are at play in the region. "The first is the American and Israeli view that peace comes only through power—meaning others must either surrender or fight, which destabilizes the region. The second, which Iran pursues, is achieving sustainable security through cooperation among regional states, where all are empowered. Our recent security agreement with Iraq reflects this vision."

Larijani emphasized that the new agreement with Baghdad is designed to prevent third parties from undermining stability. "The essence of this pact is mutual commitment—neither side should allow individuals, groups, or other states to disrupt bilateral security or use one's territory against the other," he said.

Asked whether the deal addressed the use of neighboring airspace against Iran during the recent U.S.-Israel conflict, Larijani responded: "Yes, this principle is embedded in the agreement. Of course, some countries face challenges in fully preventing such breaches, but they must work to address them."

Reflecting on recent clashes, Larijani argued they fit into a broader pattern of destabilization. He cited former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's admission that Washington had played a role in the rise of ISIS, which he said was aimed at creating division between Iran and Iraq, particularly

among Shia and Sunni communities.

"This confrontation was different," he said. "For the first time, the Americans openly entered the battlefield. Their defense secretary directly ordered bombings, and the Pentagon admitted they had prepared for this assault for a decade."

Larijani described widespread unity among Iranians during the conflict as a "remarkable cultural, political, and social asset." He recounted encounters with ordinary citizens, including some critical of the government, who nevertheless rallied behind the state once Israel launched attacks. "One regional leader even told me that people across the world recognized Iran's national solidarity," Larijani noted.

According to Larijani, Israel's military was pushed to its limits. "They had the most advanced defense systems, yet Iran's missile barrage left them completely paralyzed by mid-war," he said. He claimed one regional official told him that while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu initially predicted Iran's defeat, within days he privately admitted to facing "serious problems."

Larijani described Iran's military response as a strategic success, but cautioned against complacency. "We also had weaknesses—particularly enemy infiltration inside Iran, which remains a serious concern," he said. "We must continue adapting, as our adversaries will also develop new methods."

He added that despite heavy losses, Iran's resilience and show of force boosted its regional standing. "Some people I met during this trip told me: Iran's power is our pride."

In closing, Larijani highlighted that his Iraq visit also covered cultural and economic cooperation, citing the annual Arbreen pilgrimage as a key example of strong bilateral ties.

Iran Closely Monitoring Developments in the South Caucasus

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry has underlined its vigilance toward recent geopolitical changes in the South Caucasus, stressing that Tehran neither underestimates nor oversimplifies the unfolding events in this strategically sensitive region.

Speaking in a radio interview with the program On the Wave of Dialogue, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei laid out Iran's official stance regarding the latest developments. He emphasized that the South Caucasus carries significant political, economic, and geopolitical weight not only for Iran but also for neighboring states, particularly Russia.

"The South Caucasus is of immense importance to us," Baghaei explained. "We are watching developments with our eyes wide open. We do not downplay any issue, nor do we view matters through a simplistic lens."

The spokesperson highlighted Iran's special sensitivity toward developments in its northwestern neighborhood. He said Iran pays careful attention to any potential misinterpretations or dissemination of misleading information, warning that some external analyses are based on inaccurate data and could be designed to disrupt Iran's relations with regional countries.

Baghaei urged media outlets and officials to avoid using terms and concepts that might trigger misunderstandings or fuel tensions. "We recommend restraint in employing phrases that could give rise to misperceptions. Such carelessness could harm regional diplomacy," he stated.

Turning to a key issue of concern, Baghaei referred to the question of Armenia's border connectivity and transport routes. He noted that the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan had interrupted the southern railway line in Armenia. This disruption, he said, continues to have consequences for regional trade and connectivity.

Baghaei explained that Armenian officials had assured Tehran of their plans to reconstruct this vital rail corridor with the participation of Armenian companies and one U.S.-registered company operating within Armenian law. He stressed that Yerevan had guaranteed no foreign military presence would be stationed along the border.

"This is an important assurance for us," Baghaei added. "Iran has repeatedly stated that the presence of foreign forces in the South Caucasus is a red line. We do not consider external military involvement or extra-regional presence beneficial. On the contrary, it complicates the geopolitical environment."

Baghaei reiterated that Iran firmly opposes any foreign intervention in the Caucasus. He warned that extra-regional powers only contribute to instability, saying, "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that foreign military deployments in the South Caucasus will not ease tensions; rather, they will exacerbate complexities in the region."

Citing Article 12 of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agreement, Baghaei reminded listeners that the deal explicitly rules out the deployment of

foreign military forces along the borders of the two countries. He stressed that Iran remains highly alert to any deviation from this clause, while also pointing out that Armenia itself recognizes the risks associated with allowing foreign troops on its soil.

In conclusion, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson reaffirmed Tehran's commitment to maintaining constructive ties with the South Caucasus nations. He underscored that Iran views the stability and security of the region as directly tied to its own national interests.

"We enjoy good relations with the countries of the South Caucasus," Baghaei said. "We believe that the peace and security of this region are of vital importance to us. The Islamic Republic of Iran stands ready to enhance bilateral cooperation with regional partners and will support any effort that strengthens stability and peace."

Baghaei's remarks come against the backdrop of ongoing uncertainty following years of tension and intermittent conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. His statement reaffirms Iran's longstanding position: to safeguard its borders, prevent foreign interference, and encourage regional solutions to regional problems.

As the South Caucasus remains a focal point of international attention, Tehran appears determined to present itself as a cautious yet proactive stakeholder, keeping "its eyes wide open" to developments that may shape the future of its immediate neighborhood.

Iran's Status Under Review at Upcoming FATF Meeting in Madrid



TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official has outlined the country's position ahead of the upcoming meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in Madrid, while rejecting claims that Hezbollah has been placed on the body's blacklist.

Hadi Khani, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of Iran's Financial Intelligence Unit, said the FATF has invited an Iranian delegation for consultations on future steps. He explained that Iran, along with Myanmar and North Korea, remains under "high-risk jurisdiction" status and on the FATF blacklist, while around 28 other countries are on the "grey list" with action plans.

Khani noted that Myanmar currently enjoys a less restrictive status compared to Iran, adding that Iran's ratification of the Palermo Convention could help reduce countermeasures imposed on Tehran.

"The FATF evaluates countries based on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing regulations. Deficiencies usually result in placement on the grey list, with a timeframe for reforms. Failure to act can lead to blacklisting," Khani explained.

He emphasized that while Iranian citizens and companies still have access to international banking, transactions are subject to strict scrutiny, including tight limits, rigorous identity checks, and verification of fund origins. This, he said, contrasts with Myanmar, where only identity verification measures are currently applied.

Comparing Iran's situation with North Korea, Khani said Pyongyang faces far harsher restrictions, with its banks and brokers largely cut off from the global financial system. He added that some FATF member states already enforce stronger countermeasures against Iran.

Looking ahead to the Madrid meeting, expected in late September or early October, Khani stressed that Iran has shown goodwill through legislative reforms and adoption of the Palermo Convention. He said the gathering could open the way for dialogue and possibly Iran's removal from the blacklist to the grey list.

Iran-Armenia Interests Intertwined Amid Global Uncertainty, Regional Issues



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says the interests of Iran and Armenia are intertwined amid the ongoing uncertain conditions in the world and developments in the region.

Araqchi wrote an article in Armenian Armenpress News Agency as Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian plans to begin a two-day key visit to Armenia and Belarus on Monday.

He pointed to shared historical ties between Iran and Armenia in the past and future horizons and expressed Tehran's readiness to open a new chapter of ancient friendship which "will undoubtedly bring greater prosperity and security for both nations, the region, and beyond."

"The future of relations between Iran and Armenia is very bright, and no one can divert this path," he said.

He added that Iran-Armenia partnership in the economic sphere expose a mutually beneficial reality.

"The fact that Iran, even under unfair unilateral sanctions, has remained one of Armenia's most important trading partners indicates mutual confidence between the two countries," the top Iranian diplomat said.

Araqchi noted that Iran-Armenia complementary economies provide countless opportunities for growth and development, which can bring prosperity to both nations.

Referring to the strategic importance of Tehran-Yerevan ties given the geopolitical perspective of the region, he said, "As natural allies, our common border is not only a geographical reality, but also a bridge for cooperation in the areas of energy, transportation, human ties, and regional security."



Iran’s Exports to Eurasia Rise 22% Despite 12-Day War

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce announced a 22% increase in Iran’s exports to the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) compared with the same period last year, reaching \$532 million in the first quarter of 2025. Hadi Tizhoush Taban said the growth is a positive sign despite the impact of a 12-day conflict that disrupted the country’s economy. He noted that Iranian businesses are still in the early stages of benefiting from the free trade agreement with Eurasia, and greater gains are expected as exporters gain experience.

However, he warned that several obstacles continue to hinder trade, including unstable regulations, multiple exchange rates, and restrictive currency return policies. Such challenges, combined with international sanctions, weaken exporters’ ability to compete globally and risk the loss of valuable markets.

Iran’s Exports to Armenia Increase in Past Three Months



TEHRAN - The head of the Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce announced a rise in Tehran’s exports to Yerevan over the past three months, while assessing the outcomes of the Iran-Eurasia free trade agreement.

According to the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture on Saturday, Herovik Yarianjan said that, although the full potential of the agreement has not yet been realized due to the recent war imposed by the Zionist regime against Iran, the mechanism of the deal is moving in a positive direction. “With stability and calm restored, we will certainly achieve favorable results,” he added.

Yarianjan emphasized that greater familiarity among Iranian traders with the Eurasian market and its trade mechanisms is vital for maximizing the benefits of the free trade agreement. He suggested that the government, in cooperation with the Iran Chamber of Commerce and the joint chambers with Armenia, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Uzbekistan, should hold a series of regular and well-planned seminars to accelerate the agreement’s outcomes.

The head of the Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce also recommended sending and receiving business delegations between Iran and Eurasian member states to strengthen relations more rapidly.

Highlighting Armenia as Iran’s main channel to the Russian market, Yarianjan underscored the need to deepen trade and economic ties. He noted that despite the short time since the Eurasia agreement came into effect, Iran’s exports to Armenia have already recorded a modest increase in recent months.

Iran’s Steel Industry Records Growth Despite Surprise Energy Restrictions



ISFAHAN - Iran’s steel industry managed to post slight production growth in the first four months of the current year, overcoming unexpected and severe energy restrictions that cut available working hours by up to 90 percent in May. According to the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), production rose by 0.7 percent compared with the same period last year, a result of improved crisis management and strategic planning that allowed Iran to maintain its position as the world’s tenth-largest steel producer.

Fresh ISPA data show that steel output had fallen 4.8 percent in the first quarter, but rebounded in July, signaling resilience in the face of mounting challenges. Industry experts attribute this turnaround to steelmakers’ ability to secure electricity through the domestic energy exchange and the use of their own power plants. While the industry had prepared for energy limits in 2025, the extent of restrictions in May took many by surprise.

Within the steel production chain, iron ore concentrate registered the strongest growth at 5.1 percent, largely because its production consumes less electricity. Sponge iron output also rose by 2 percent to 14.8 million tons, over 65 percent of which was produced in Isfahan. However, this was offset by a 5.6 percent drop in iron pellet production, reflecting the impact of electricity shortages.

On the downside, rebar and structural steel segments were hit hardest. Beam production saw the steepest decline, caused by reconfiguration of production lines at Isfahan Steel Company, the country’s largest beam manufacturer. In recent years, part of its capacity has been diverted toward rail production, reducing supplies of building steel. Output of angles and channels also fell 5.4 percent, reaching just 297,000 tons—the lowest in five years.

Rebar output climbed 2.7 percent to 3.5 million tons, but persistent shortages in the first quarter kept supply tight. Prices of standard rebar grades (sizes 12–20) reached 343,940 rials per kilogram in recent commodity exchange trades, about 1.5 percent higher than earlier this month. This rise, combined with currency fluctuations, has pushed prices toward the 350,000 rial threshold, raising construction costs.

Production of flat steel products contracted significantly. Cold-rolled sheet output dropped 6.8 percent to 861,000 tons, while hot-rolled sheet fell 6.1 percent to 3.1 million tons. Coated sheet production also declined 3.1 percent to 572,000 tons. Altogether, flat steel output was down 8.2 percent in the first four months.

Sanctions Take More Lives Than Wars



TEHRAN - Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammadreza Zafarghandi, has warned that international sanctions are taking a heavier toll on global public health than armed conflicts, particularly harming vulnerable groups such as children. Citing international studies, he said sanctions have been responsible for more than 1.56 million deaths annually worldwide—surpassing war casualties.

Speaking Saturday at a gathering of the Ministry’s specialized and subspecialized boards, Zafarghandi praised the boards as key institutions in shaping national health policy. He described them as one of the largest scientific assemblies in Iran, playing a decisive role in scientific and educational policymaking alongside the Ministries of Science and Health.

“Board members are the elite of Iran’s medical community, bearing the heavy responsibility of advancing specialized medical education,” he said, adding that for over 30 years he himself had been part of this body.

The minister highlighted the courage of healthcare workers during Iran’s 12-day conflict, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Iran-Iraq war, noting that the medical profession has repeatedly stood on the front lines in service to the people.

“I personally visited hospitals such as Imam Hossein, Taleghani, Modarres, and Shohada, and witnessed the sacrifices of physicians and nurses firsthand,” he said. “Their flexibility, speed, and commitment in managing crises were truly admirable.”

He recalled offering to perform surgery in the immediate aftermath of the Tajrish incident, but colleagues assured him that all casualties had already been treated—something he described as a great source of pride.

Zafarghandi also stressed the independence and authority of medical boards, opposing proposals to establish an external supervisory body for evaluating medical education. “Board members themselves are the best professional reference for academic assessment,” he said.

The minister urged realistic policymaking in medical education, warning that while some specialties produce too few graduates, other regions of the country face dire shortages of surgeons and gynecologists. “Decisions cannot be made solely from behind a desk,” he said. “We must see the realities on the ground and shape policies based on people’s needs.”

Zafarghandi reported progress in improving living conditions for residents and nurses. Over the past year, medical residents’ salaries have nearly tripled—from 11–12 million toman to around 30 million. Meanwhile, nurses’ overtime pay rose from 25,000 toman per hour at the start of his tenure to 85,000–90,000, at an additional cost of 150 trillion toman. “This shows that supporting residents and nurses remains a priority for the Health Ministry,” he said.

The minister pointed to a recent study in The Lancet, which examined the health

effects of sanctions in 152 countries from 1971 to 2025. According to the findings, sanctions are responsible for more than 1.56 million deaths each year—more than wars. Children under five and adults aged 60–80 are the hardest hit, with 71 percent of deaths among children aged 0–15 linked to sanctions.

“These figures show the direct impact of sanctions on health, access to medicine, and economic conditions,” he said, stressing that the medical community carries not only professional but also social responsibility.

“Doctors must not only treat patients but also speak out about wider health threats,” he added, likening the role of physicians to treating car crash victims at the bottom of a valley while also calling for the road above to be fixed.

Turning to environmental health, Zafarghandi warned that air pollution causes around 50,000 deaths annually in Iran and 700,000 child deaths globally. “This is preventable,” he said, proposing the adoption of solar energy to reduce the country’s energy imbalance. “We have more than 300 sunny days a year, while other countries with only 100 days of sunshine have already drawn up ambitious solar energy plans.”

He added that the medical community must raise its voice on national challenges such as air pollution, demographic decline, and the impact of sanctions. He noted that medical associations had recently sent three separate letters on an important health issue directly to the president, proving that the voice of healthcare professionals is heard.

Zafarghandi also underlined the deadly toll of road accidents, calling them one of the leading causes of mortality in the country. Citing recent tragedies, he said: “In Kerman, a bus carrying 57 passengers crashed, killing 22 people instantly. The bus, dating back to 2004, had recurring technical failures yet remained in service. In another case, a bus carrying 67 people on the Basra–Shalamchek route overturned, leaving dozens injured. These accidents highlight the urgent need for stricter standards and supervision in transport safety.”

The minister stressed the need to enhance public health literacy, explaining that a study of more than 1,000 cancer pathology samples found over 70 percent of patients sought medical help only in advanced stages of the disease. “With simple education and self-care tools, this situation could have been dramatically improved,” he said, urging greater use of digital tools such as mobile applications to encourage early medical consultation.

Zafarghandi concluded that Iran’s medical community carries a dual responsibility: maintaining high professional standards in treatment and education, while also addressing broader social challenges. “Just as doctors stood united during the 12-day war, today we must give our all to advance the health and wellbeing of the Iranian people,” he said.

300,000 Egyptian Tourists Could Bring \$240m Annually to Iran



TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Tourism announced that the planned exchange of tourists between Egypt and Iran was set to begin with 300,000 visitors annually, a flow that could generate \$240 million in foreign currency for the country.

Anooshirvan Mohseni Bandpey told IRNA that both Iran and Egypt, with their rich civilizations and abundant cultural and historical heritage, are highly attractive destinations for travelers. Following the visit of Iran’s Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to Egypt, Cairo officials expressed their interest in strengthening ties with Iran. Negotiations led to agreements with Egyptian investors to enter the Iranian market, but these plans were disrupted by the recent 12-day conflict in the region.

“Now, in a situation of neither war nor peace, our strategy is to build trust and activate tourism diplomacy at the international level,” Mohseni Bandpey said. He emphasized that instead of focusing mainly on European tourists, Iran should prioritize attracting visitors from Muslim-majority countries and the broader Nowruz cultural sphere, who are already familiar with Iran’s capacities and attractions.

According to official estimates, each foreign tourist brings in around \$2,200. Based on this calculation, 300,000 annual arrivals from Egypt alone would result in \$240 million in revenue.

The deputy minister stressed that investors only commit where they see capacity and security. Egyptian stakeholders, after studying Iran’s attractions and tourism potential, had shown optimism about investing in the sector. Such investments, he noted, could help open the door for Egyptian travelers to Iran and facilitate the planned tourism exchange.

On the issue of visa facilitation, Mohseni Bandpey explained that re-establishing direct relations would be the first step, with visa waivers to follow. He also noted that tensions over the naming of a Tehran street after Khaled Islambouli, the assassin of former

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, had been resolved. Following negotiations, the street was renamed after Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, easing a long-standing grievance of Egyptian officials.

He pointed to past successes, noting that in 2019, despite the outbreak of COVID-19, 1.8 million Azerbaijani tourists visited Iran. This, he said, reflected the government’s broader strategy of elevating tourism within national governance and international diplomacy.

Asked about long-term strategies for cultural diplomacy with Egypt and neighboring countries, Mohseni Bandpey emphasized the need for innovation and crisis management in difficult times. He said the ministry has identified 14 key areas for boosting tourism, including religious tourism and engagement with countries in the Nowruz cultural community, which are less affected by war or negative propaganda against Iran.

Flights have recently been resumed to destinations including Oman, Tajikistan, Iraq, and Turkey, supporting regional tourism growth.

The ministry is also focusing on international engagement by attending major global tourism events and hosting international gatherings in Iran. He cited Tehran’s successful bid to host the World Urban Tourism Forum and a Southeast Asian tourism summit in 2026. Iran had also planned to host an ECO Health Tourism Conference in June, just one day before the 12-day conflict began.

To strengthen cultural tourism, Iran is also planning to erect monuments honoring international figures with Iranian roots in their hometowns abroad. The aim, Mohseni Bandpey explained, is to encourage fans and admirers of these personalities to visit Iran, where they can experience firsthand the homes, traditions, and culture associated with them.

Iran-Qatar Trade Volume Rises 66% in First Four Months of Year



TEHRAN - The commercial attaché of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Qatar announced a 66 percent increase in trade volume between Iran and Qatar during the first four months of the current year compared to the same period last year.

According to the Iranian Trade Promotion Organization, Abbas Abdolkhani highlighted the upward trend in economic relations between the two countries, noting that the growth reflects significant opportunities to expand Iranian exports to Qatar and to use Qatar as a gateway to wider regional markets.

Abdolkhani emphasized that Iranian provinces hold considerable capacity in exporting food products, agricultural goods, construction materials, and minerals. He explained that Qatar’s National Vision 2030 development plan aims to establish the country as a hub for re-exports to the region. This, he said, provides a valuable opportunity for high-quality and competitive Iranian products to reach markets such as Saudi Arabia via Qatar.

Referring to transport infrastructure, the Iranian trade attaché pointed out that the shipping route between Iran’s Dayyer Port and Qatar’s Al-Ruwais Port is operational, with an average of 60 containers of Iranian goods arriving in Qatar daily. He added that with proper planning, this capacity could be expanded further.

Iran to Participate in Five Int’l Exhibitions to Counter “Iranophobia”



TEHRAN - The head of Iran’s Touring and Automobile Club announced that the country will actively participate in at least five international exhibitions this year as part of efforts to counter negative perceptions and “Iranophobia.”

Mohammad Hossein Soufi, CEO of the Touring and Automobile Club of Iran, emphasized that addressing Iranophobia is one of the organization’s key priorities. Speaking to ILNA, he explained that while the club does not have access to statistics on tourists entering Iran with cars or motorcycles — information held by the Customs Administration and the Tourism Ministry — its responsibilities focus on issuing transit plates, international driving licenses, and vehicle ownership documents.

Soufi noted that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has tasked the club with organizing tourism and handicraft exhibitions abroad. “The purpose of these exhibitions is to present Iran’s culture, history, and civilization to the world and to counter Iranophobia,” he said.

Another major goal, he added, is to attract foreign tourists who are eager to experience Iran firsthand. “By visiting Iran and seeing its ancient history, cultural richness, and modern development, travelers will gain a better understanding of the country’s progress and national cohesion,” Soufi stated.

He stressed that international participation is the most effective way to introduce Iran globally: “The path to presenting Iran to the world is through active engagement in global events and, in particular, international exhibitions.”

According to Soufi, Iran attended several international exhibitions last year, and in 2025 it will participate in at least five more, spanning Asia, Europe, neighboring states, and Arab countries. “These events will allow us to showcase Iran’s heritage and tourism potential to the world and directly challenge Iranophobia,” he said.

The Touring and Automobile Club of Iran, established under its charter, handles a wide range of activities including: converting national driving licenses into international permits, issuing customs transit documents (Carnet de Passage), providing international identity cards, representing Iran in international tourism and automobile organizations, establishing tourism information centers, and supporting cultural, artistic, and sporting initiatives.

South Korea Criticizes Japanese Officials' Visit to Tokyo War Shrine

SEOUL (Dispatches) - The South Korean government expressed "deep disappointment and regret" over Japanese officials visiting a Tokyo war shrine and said future relations must be built on Japan showing remorse for past wrongs, its foreign ministry said.

Japan marked the 80th anniversary of its World War Two defeat on Friday, with at least one cabinet minister joining thousands of visitors at Yasukuni Shrine, which South Korea said in a statement "glorifies Japan's war of aggression and enshrines war criminals."

The South Korean government urged the leaders of Japan to face history and demonstrate "humble reflection and sincere remorse" for Japan's past history, the ministry statement said.



Canadian Gov't Moves to End Air Canada Strike



OTTAWA (Dispatches) - The Canadian government moved to end a strike by Air Canada's cabin crews and require binding arbitration to break their contract impasse, an action that the country's largest carrier had sought but unionized flight attendants fiercely opposed.

Thousands of Air Canada flight attendants walked off the job for the first time since 1985, just before 1am EDT, after months of negotiations over a new contract. In anticipation of the stoppage, the airline canceled nearly all of its 700 daily flights, forcing more than 100,000 travelers to scramble for alternatives or stay put.

The most contentious issue in the contract negotiations has been the union's demand for compensation for time spent on the ground between flights and when helping passengers board. Attendants are now largely paid when their plane is moving. Jobs Minister Patty Hajdu said at a news conference she had asked the Canada Industrial Relations Board to impose binding arbitration on both sides and order an immediate end to the strike. Still, she told reporters it may take 24 to 48 hours for the board to complete that work, while Air Canada has said restarting operations after a strike would take a week to complete.

"This is not a decision that I've taken lightly, but the potential for immediate negative impact on Canadians and our economy is simply too great," Hajdu said. Air Canada had asked Prime Minister Mark Carney's minority Liberal government to make the request, but the Canadian Union of Public Employees said it wanted a negotiated solution, as binding arbitration would take pressure off the airline.

The union said it has asked the CIRB's chairperson to recuse herself from hearing the case in a virtual session on Saturday afternoon because she has worked in the past as a senior counsel at Air Canada. The carrier declined comment on Hajdu's decision and hearing as the process is underway.

Bolivians Go to Polls



LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Nearly 8 million Bolivians voted on Sunday to elect a new president, vice president and all 156 members of Congress. Former President Evo Morales, the country's dominant political figure in recent decades, is barred from running and has urged voters to boycott the election.

In their efforts to draw votes, all eight candidates — two right-wing front-runners, a conservative centrist and splintered factions of Bolivia's long-dominant left-wing — are vowing drastic change, launching searing attacks on the status quo and selling a message of hope.

But for many Bolivians, hope has already hardened into cynicism. Promises of quick fixes — like right-wing candidate Samuel Doria Medina's pledge to stabilize the upside-down economy within "100 days, dammit!" — fall flat. Vandals add extra zeroes to his campaign posters, suggesting a million days might be a more realistic goal.

Tuto, the nickname of Jorge Quiroga, the other right-wing favorite, turns up on city walls with its first letter swapped to form a Spanish insult.

Some signs for left-wing candidate Andrónico Rodríguez, pledging "unity above all" have been defaced to read "unity in the face of lines". And few know what to do with the acronym of the governing party candidate, Eduardo del Castillo: "We Are a National Option with Authentic Ideas." (No, it's not any catchier in Spanish).

Yet for all their disenchantment with politicians, Bolivians are counting down the days until elections, united in their relief that, no matter what happens, leftist President Luis Arce will leave office after five difficult years.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump said that Ukraine should make a deal to end the war with Russia because "Russia is a very big power, and they're not", after a summit where Vladimir Putin was reported to have demanded more Ukrainian land.

After the two leaders met in Alaska on Friday, Trump told Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that Putin had offered to freeze most front lines if Kyiv ceded all of Donetsk, the industrial region that is one of Moscow's main targets, a source familiar with the matter said. Zelenskyy rejected the demand, the source said.

Russia already controls a fifth of Ukraine, including about three-quarters of Donetsk province, which it first entered in 2014.

Trump also said he agreed with Putin that a peace deal should be sought without the prior ceasefire that Ukraine and its European allies had demanded.

That was a change from his position before the summit, when he said he would not be happy unless a ceasefire was agreed on. "It was determined by all that the best way to end the horrific war between Russia and Ukraine is to go directly to a Peace Agreement, which would end the war, and not a mere Ceasefire Agreement, which often times do not hold up," Trump posted on Truth Social.

Zelenskyy said Russia's unwillingness to pause the fighting would complicate efforts to forge a lasting peace.

"Stopping the killing is a key element of stopping the war," he said on X. Nevertheless, Zelenskyy said he would meet Trump in Washington tomorrow.

That will evoke memories of a meeting in the White House Oval Office in February, where Trump and Vice President JD Vance gave Zelenskyy a brutal public dressing-down.

Trump said a three-way meeting with Putin and Zelenskyy could follow.

Kyiv's European allies welcomed Trump's efforts but vowed to back Ukraine and tighten sanctions on Russia.

European leaders might join tomorrow's White House meeting as well, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul said.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and has been gradually advancing for months.

Israeli Military Prepares to Relocate Residents to Southern Gaza

JERUSALEM (Dispatches) - Gaza residents will be provided with tents and other shelter equipment starting from today ahead of relocating them from combat zones to the south of the enclave "to ensure their safety," the Israeli military said.

This comes days after Israel said it intended to launch a new offensive to seize control of northern Gaza City, the enclave's largest urban center, in a plan that raised international alarm over the fate of the demolished strip, home to about 2.2 million people.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last Sunday said that before launching the offensive, the civilian population will be evacuated to what he described as "safe zones" from Gaza City, which he called Hamas' last stronghold.

The shelter equipment will be transferred via the Kerem Shalom crossing in southern Gaza by the United Nations and other international relief organizations after being inspected by defense ministry personnel, the military said.

A spokesperson for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs expressed concern over Israel's plans to relocate people to southern Gaza saying it would only increase suffering.

But the UN body welcomed Israel's recognition that shelter is a desperate need and that tents and other shelter equipment will be allowed again into Gaza. "The UN and its partners will seize the opportunity this opens," the



Kramatorsk as a bulwark against further Russian advances.

Zelenskyy has also insisted on security guarantees to deter Russia from invading again. He said he and Trump had discussed "positive signals" on the US taking part, and that Ukraine needed a lasting peace, not "just another pause" between Russian invasions.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed what he described as Trump's openness to providing security guarantees to Ukraine under a peace deal.

He said security guarantees were "essential to any just and lasting peace."



spokesperson said.

The UN warned on Thursday that thousands of families already enduring appalling humanitarian conditions could be pushed over the edge if the Gaza City plan moves ahead.

Palestinian and United Nations officials have said no place in the enclave is

safe, including areas in southern Gaza where Israel has been ordering residents to move to.

The military declined to comment when asked whether the shelter equipment was intended for Gaza City's population estimated at around one million people presently, and whether the site to which they will be relocated in southern Gaza would be the area of Rafah, which borders Egypt.

Israel's Defense Minister Israel Katz said yesterday that the plans for the new offensive were still being formulated.

The Palestinian militant faction Islamic Jihad, an ally of Hamas, said that the military's announcement "as part of its brutal attack to occupy Gaza City, is a blatant and brazen mockery of international conventions."

However, Israeli forces have already increased operations on the outskirts of Gaza City over the past week. Residents in the neighbourhoods of Zeitoun and Shejaia have reported heavy Israeli aerial and tank fire.

Residents there have also reported explosions throughout the day, resulting from Israeli tank shelling against homes in the eastern parts of the neighbourhood.

The Israeli military on Friday said that it had begun a new operation in Zeitoun to locate explosives, destroy tunnels and kill militants in the area.

Pakistan Independence Day Celebrated in Tehran

TEHRAN - A special ceremony to mark the 79th anniversary of Independence of Pakistan and the victory of Marka e Haq and Bunyan un Marsoos was organized at Pakistan House Tehran, on Sunday, (Independence Day Celebration were postponed due to observance of Arbacen in Iran). Members of Pakistani community in Iran and officials of the Embassy, attended the ceremony.

The ceremony commenced with hoisting of the national flag by H.E. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, Ambassador of Pakistan in Tehran on the tune of national anthem.

While paying tribute to the exemplary courage of the Armed Forces of Pakistan, Ambassador Mudassir said, our Forces are always ready to defend our frontiers against all enemies. The Marka e Haq became successful due to their unparalleled defense capabilities in May 2025.

Ambassador Mudassir also paid tribute to the sacrifices of our forefathers in the establishment of Pakistan under leadership of Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

While congratulating the Pakistani diaspora on Pakistan's Independence Day, Ambassador, Mudassir, thanked the community members for participating in the



celebrations. He also thanked them for their contributions and efforts in socio economic spheres of Iran and promotion of bilateral relations. Referring to the successful visit of President Pezeshkian he said, Pakistan and Iran are determined to enhance their trade volume up to 10 billion dollars and to achieve this target the contribution of Pakistani diaspora in Iran is very significant.

Pakistan has faced multiple challenges, since Independence but by the grace of Almighty Allah and with the dedication and hard work of Pakistanis, the nation has continued forwarding as a modern and progressive state and has a distinguished position among comity of nations, he added.

On the occasion the messages of President and Prime Minister of Pakistan were also read out. A collective prayer was also offered for all those who laid their lives to get this home land and all those who sacrificed their lives to defend our mother land and a special prayer for our brothers in Kashmir and Palestine was also offered.

In the end a cake was also cut to celebrate Independence Day and to commemorate the victory of Marka e Haq and Bunyan un Marsoos.



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Top seed and defending champion Jannik Sinner, playing on his 24th birthday, ended French qualifier Terence Atmane's dream run at the Cincinnati Open with a 7-6(4) 6-2 win to reach the final of the U.S. Open tune-up event.

In the other semi-final, Carlos Alcaraz advanced with a 6-4 6-3 win over German third seed Alexander Zverev, who struggled physically during the match, to set up a rematch of this year's French Open and Wimbledon finals.

Sinner won a remarkable 91% of his first-serve points, did not face a single break point during the 86-minute match and converted two of five break points in his first career meeting with world number 136 Atmane.

"Very, very tough challenge," Sinner said on court after being serenaded with "Happy Birthday" by the crowd. "Every time when you play against someone completely new it's very difficult."

The Italian world number one had his hands full throughout a tightly contested first set which featured an imperious serving display from both men and not a single break point opportunity for either player.

Sinner, who lost just three points on serve in the opening set, held to love for a third consecutive game to force the tiebreak where Atmane gifted his opponent the opening point with a double fault. From there the Italian never looked back.

The reigning U.S. Open, Australian Open and Wimbledon champion opened the second set with a nine-minute hold of serve, then held to love before finally breaking for a 3-1 lead that gave him the

cushion he needed.

Sinner followed that with another hold to love to go 4-1 up and all but end any hope for Atmane, who beat top-10 players Taylor Fritz and Holger Rune en route to his maiden ATP Masters 1000 semi-final.

With Atmane serving to stay in the match, Sinner quickly jumped ahead 0-40 before sealing the win on his third match point when the Frenchman sent a forehand into the net.

The Alcaraz-Zverev encounter was interrupted for 11 minutes early in the first set while paramedics tended to a spectator as the two players stood and watched together from the net.

Shortly after play resumed, Alcaraz saved three consecutive break points to reach 2-2. Three games later the Spaniard sent a brilliant low backhand volley to the open court for a break and 4-3 lead before closing out the frame on his serve.

Alcaraz broke to open the second set but gave it right back in a game during which he gifted four double-faults to Zverev, who was suddenly struggling to move around the court and after the game sat against the back wall grimacing in pain.

Zverev did well to finish the match but was barely going through the motions in the latter stages as Alcaraz had a love hold to go 5-3 up and then sealed the match with a break at love.

"Happy for the final but feeling bad for Sasha," Alcaraz wrote on the camera lens after his win. "Wish you all the best."

Haaland Gets Double as Man City Start With Statement Win Over Wolves

WOLVERHAMPTON (Dispatches) - Erling Haaland struck twice as Manchester City kicked off their Premier League campaign with a crushing 4-0 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers.

New signings Tijjani Reijnders and Rayan Cherki netted debut goals for Pep Guardiola's revamped team in what they hope will be the first step towards improving on last season's disappointing third-place finish.

Haaland, who has scored in all four season-opening games during his spell in England's top flight, struck in the 34th minute when Reijnders chipped a ball through to Rico Lewis who sent in a low cross for the Norwegian to tap home.

Reijnders scored three minutes later when Oscar Bobb, who missed most of last season with a broken leg, pounced on a loose pass before setting up the Dutch midfielder who fired the ball into the far corner.

Haaland, the Premier League's top scorer in his first two seasons at City, completed his brace in the 61st minute when Bobb pulled the ball back for him to fire a low drive past Jose Sa.



"Erling is in a good tone, we felt it in the training sessions, the rhythm," Guardiola told Sky Sports. "Really satisfied with that."

Haaland was replaced midway through the second half by Cherki, ending the Norwegian's hopes of a third hat-trick against Wolves.

Cherki completed the rout after 81 minutes to ice an emphatic start to the season for City, who won the title four years in a row from 2021-24.

A summer of change followed City's season without a trophy, as they acquired Reijnders, Cherki, Rayan Ait-Nouri and James Trafford, with Jack Grealish, Kyle Walker and Kevin De Bruyne among stalwarts to leave.

The debuts of Reijnders and Cherki hinted at a promising campaign, and goalkeeper Trafford looked assured after replacing Ederson who missed the game due to illness.

"It's a really nice start, of course, to start with a goal and an assist," Reijnders told Sky. "And especially in the Premier League, it's a thing you always dreamed about, starting like this."

Australia Win T20 Series Against South Africa



LONDON (Dispatches) - Australia's Glenn Maxwell produced an unbeaten half-century in a tense chase to help the hosts edge out South Africa by two wickets in the third and final Twenty20 International and complete a 2-1 series victory in Cairns.

Maxwell's unbeaten 62 off 36 balls helped Australia chase down a 173-run target with one ball to spare in a thrilling decider at the Cazalys Stadium.

After 18 overs of their innings, it was a run-a-ball target for Australia with Maxwell away from the strike.

South African Corbin Bosch (3-26) claimed two wickets in the penultimate over and kept Maxwell away from the strike.

Needing 10 off the last over from Lungi Ngidi, Maxwell took six from the first four balls before reverse sweeping the bowler for a four to seal Australia's dramatic victory.

"It was a little bit nerve-wracking," Maxwell said after being adjudged player of the match. "I probably had to do the majority of the striking but, yeah, it was nice to get a couple out of the middle right near the end."

Earlier, put in to bat, South Africa overcame a top order wobble to post a competitive 172-7 with Dewald Brevis (53) top-scoring for them.

The tourists were 49-3 inside seven overs but Brevis looked unfazed and hit Aaron Hardie for four sixes in an over, throwing the pacer out of the attack.

Brevis raced to a 22-ball fifty but Maxwell took a brilliant running catch near the rope to dismiss him off the bowling of Nathan Ellis (3-31).

Marquez Wins Austrian Grand Prix Sprint From Second Row



SPIELBERG (Dispatches) - Ducati's Marc Marquez conquered his Austrian Grand Prix jinx in style by charging from fourth on the grid to claim victory in the sprint race at the Red Bull Ring, with his brother and closest championship contender Alex finishing second.

The Ducati rider executed a flawless performance to secure his first-ever race win in Austria, extending his remarkable sprint dominance with a 12th victory in 13 rounds this season.

The victory moves Marc Marquez 123 points clear of Gresini Racing's Alex Marquez at the top of the championship and 180 above Ducati teammate Francesco Bagnaia, who was forced to retire due to problems with his bike.

KTM's Pedro Acosta completed an all-Spanish podium by finishing third at his team's home circuit, while Aprilia's Marco Bezzecchi, who had claimed pole position, could only manage fourth place in the sprint.

"I was super confident in the start and then I was able to be second but I saw immediately that it was quite difficult to be close to Alex," said Marc Marquez, who is unbeaten since the British Grand Prix in May.

"I decided to wait a bit and when the tyres start to drop is when I feel better and I started to push."

He dedicated the victory to Pau Alsina, a 17-year-old JuniorGP Spanish rider who died due to injuries sustained in a training accident last month.

"Super special sprint victory because I want to say that it's for Pau Alsina. We miss him," he added, while pointing to Alsina's number 26 on the back of his helmet.

"I don't know what will happen tomorrow but the race is for him."

Bezzecchi had claimed his first pole with Aprilia earlier on Saturday but was beaten to turn one by Alex and Marc as the Marquez brothers dropped the Italian down to third while a wheelspin for Bagnaia dropped him 11 places to 14th.

Quinn Ewers, Dolphins Dump Lions

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Rookie Quinn Ewers threw two touchdown passes to fuel the visiting Miami Dolphins to a 24-17 preseason victory over the Detroit Lions.

Ewers, a seventh-round pick out of Texas, completed 11 of 17 passes for 116 yards and tossed 15- and 8-yard scoring strikes to Theo Wease Jr. in the third and fourth quarter, respectively. Wease finished with six catches for 80 yards for the Dolphins (1-0-1).

Zach Wilson went 15 for 23 yards for 151 yards, including an 11-yard touchdown pass to Dee Eskridge.

Kyle Allen completed 14 of 17 passes for 124 yards and two touchdowns for the Lions (1-2).

KJ Henry had a 45-yard interception return for a touchdown early in the third quarter to pace the visiting Browns to a 22-13 victory over the Eagles.



Rookie Dillon Gabriel completed 13 of 18 passes for 143 yards. He also threw an interception early in the second quarter that was returned 75 yards for a touchdown by Andrew Mukuba.

Tyler Huntley went 10-for-13 for 71 yards in the second half and Pierre Strong finished with 89 yards rushing for the Browns (2-0).

Kyle McCord completed 8 of 16 attempts for 47 yards -- including a 9-yard touchdown pass to Ainiyas Smith -- for the Eagles (1-1).

Quarterback Sean Clifford scored on an 11-yard touchdown carry with 1:31 remaining as Green Bay Packers(1-1) rallied to defeat Indianapolis Colts (0-2) 23-19 in the second preseason contest for both squads.