

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Arrived in Saudi Arabia to Attend an Extraordinary Meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers

IRAN NEWS

Deputy Foreign Minister of Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi Has Held a Telephone Conversation With His Chinese Counterpart on Sunday

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From Russia to Chabahar: Iran's Smart Strategy for Satellite Launches



TEHRAN - Iran's space chief has highlighted the country's dual-track approach to accelerating satellite deployment by combining international cooperation with the development of its own launch facilities.

Hassan Salarieh, head of the Iranian Space Agency, told Tasnim News that relying on foreign launch vehicles is a standard and widely accepted practice in the global space industry. "Satellite manufacturers around the world use the available capacities in their own countries or abroad," he said. "For example, Russia has carried out numerous launches for other nations and placed many satellites into orbit."

Salarieh explained that in several recent missions, including the launches of Pars-1, Kosar, and Hodhod, Iran used foreign rockets to access sun-synchronous orbits that are currently out of reach from within the country. "Until the Chabahar spaceport becomes fully operational, such orbits are not accessible domestically. This is common practice internationally," he noted.

While emphasizing that Iran already has capable domestic launch systems, Salarieh said combining them with international launch services will accelerate progress. "Using both domestic and foreign launchers helps us put more satellites into orbit, expand mission diversity, and grow the industry faster. This is a technical decision to boost capacity."

Israeli War Crimes in Yemen Reflect Hostility to Regional Nations' Prosperity



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Foreign Ministry robustly condemns the Israeli regime's most recent deadly atrocities against Yemen's civilian targets, saying they clearly reflect Tel Aviv's "hostility" towards the prosperity of the regional nations.

The ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei made the remarks on Sunday after Israel killed two Yemeni civilians and wounded 35 others during airstrikes against the country's capital, Sana'a. The acts of aggression also inflicted damage on an oil company facility and a power station in the city.

The official denounced such repeated assaults, which have been targeting critical civilian infrastructure, including airports, seaports, power stations, and food storage facilities, as "war crimes and crimes against humanity."

The regime and its allies, the United States and the UK, have been conducting countless such assaults on non-combatant targets throughout the Arab Peninsula nation.

The attacks have been seeking to stop Yemen's solidarity strikes in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, who have come under a heavily Western-backed Israeli war of genocide.

Commending the solidarity and support provided by the Yemeni people for the oppressed Palestinians, Baghaei said standing up for Gaza was a duty of all Muslim countries.

By extension, all governments throughout the world had to rush to Gaza's support, besides confronting the regime's atrocities against the occupied West Bank, the spokesman noted.

He described such responsibility as "a legal and moral duty," hoping that the upcoming extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)'s foreign ministers in the Saudi port city of Jeddah attaches special priority to this matter.

Treating People as Brothers Builds Unmatched National Unity

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that genuine fraternity and fairness in governance can lead to extraordinary social cohesion across Iran's diverse communities. Speaking on Monday, August 25, 2025, during a ceremony marking the Government Week pledge of loyalty to the ideals of the late founder of the Islamic Republic, he urged his administration to adopt a spirit of compassion and service toward all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, faith, or political alignment.

Pezeshkian opened his remarks by citing Imam Ali's instructions to Malik al-Ashtar, where he warned that conflicts and disputes stem from human desires and egos. "If we can control our desires, there will be no room left for quarrels," the president said. He stressed that self-restraint must translate into fairness—treating allies and opponents alike with the same sense of justice. According to him, this principle, if applied consistently, can greatly enhance the government's service to society. "Our duty as state officials is to sincerely believe that we are here to serve people with kindness," Pezeshkian continued. "If we dedicate ourselves to solving problems with unity and harmony, obstacles will be removed. Harshness and misconduct toward people should never define our behavior."

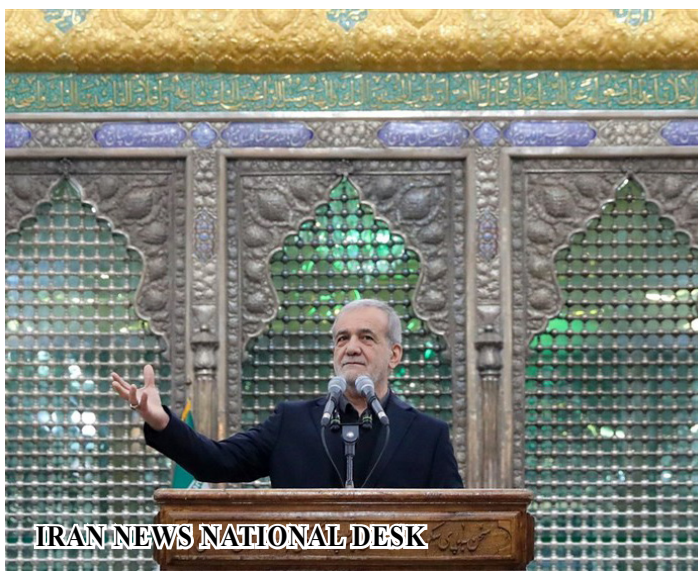
Highlighting the shared humanity of Iran's citizens, the president declared: "People are either our equals in faith or our equals in creation. If we approach every citizen—whether Kurd, Lor, Gilak, Turk, Arab, or others—as brothers, we will achieve an unparalleled level of unity."

Drawing again from Imam Ali's advice, Pezeshkian noted that leaders must forgive people's mistakes, even deliberate ones, and show mercy as they would hope for divine mercy in the hereafter. He framed governance not as an exercise of power but as a responsibility to ease the burdens of ordinary people.

The president candidly admitted that many national problems stem from government shortcomings and internal disputes. "Where success exists, it is due to the people's presence and God's mercy. Where failures exist, they are often because of our incompetence and divisions," he said. Mistreating the public, he warned, is tantamount to waging war against God.

Pezeshkian insisted that all capable individuals should be engaged in addressing national challenges, not sidelined due to factional rivalries. "Anyone who can untie a knot in the people's affairs should be brought forward," he said. "We should not exclude them."

On political pluralism, the president affirmed that parties and diverse viewpoints are



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essential. "Differences in perspective are natural. Perhaps the opposing side's path is better and less costly. Everyone must be allowed to present their approach, and in practice, the best solution will prove itself," he stated. Disputes, he argued, should be about how best to serve—not about power for its own sake.

Turning to urgent issues such as water scarcity, Pezeshkian challenged skeptics who deny the crisis. "This is the field—if someone claims there is no problem, let them step forward with a solution. We will kiss their hands if they can solve it," he said, underscoring the need for practical, knowledge-based policymaking. Without rational planning, he warned, the country risks severe consequences. "God has given us intellect and vision. If we fail to use them, we have only ourselves to blame."

The president underscored that domestic unity is the ultimate defense against foreign threats. "Every word that undermines our unity serves Israel," he declared. "The aim of Israel and the United States is to sow division among us and within the Muslim world. We must not allow it." Stressing regional fraternity, he described Iran's neighbors as brothers bound by shared history and faith, despite borders drawn by imperial powers. "To divide Muslims is to serve Israel. Unity, both internal and among Muslim nations, is our shield."

Pezeshkian expressed strong confidence that Iran can overcome its problems if citizens and officials work hand in hand with wisdom and determination. He cautioned, however, that unity must be demonstrated in practice, not just rhetoric. "We talk a lot about justice, kindness, and compassion, but in practice we fall short. We must strive until these values become second nature, and when we stray, help each other return to the right path."

He also reiterated gratitude to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei for his recent guidance, pledging that his government would bear the heavy responsibility with seriousness. "By solidarity and brotherhood, we can resolve the people's difficulties," he said, adding that reliance on internal strength and overcoming divisions is key, regardless of external pressures.

Concluding his address at the mausoleum of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the president called on his ministers and officials to reaffirm their commitment: "Let us pledge here, in this sacred place, to work harder for the people. Both within the country and with our neighbors, we must strengthen unity day by day. With sincerity, empathy, and cohesion, there is no problem we cannot solve."

Iran Armed Forces Fully Prepared to Repel Enemy Threats



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TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Army Chief Major General Amir Hatami says the Armed Forces are fully prepared to counter the enemies' threats.

Addressing a ceremony at Imam Khomeini Naval University of Noshahrin, Hatami said Iran currently holds a "special" position among the countries of the region and should preserve its independence and territorial integrity.

He warned the enemy that the noble Iranian Army forces are "prepared, as in the past, to give a more crushing response with greater strength and resoluteness to punish any malicious aggressor."

The Iranian Army chief noted that scientific developments in the Armed Forces are taking place at a rapid pace as the nature of threats is evolving.

Hatami emphasized that the Iranian Army must always keep itself updated and utilize the valuable experiences from past wars, especially the 12-day Israeli-US war, to identify enemies and threats.

He also stressed the importance of maintaining the country's readiness in the face of maritime threats.

The top Iranian commander said readiness for the future, focusing on modern warfare, and

strengthening defensive capabilities are the Army's critical responsibilities.

On June 13, Israel launched a blatant and unprovoked aggression against Iran, triggering a 12-day war that killed at least 1,064 people in the country, including military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

The United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of international law.

In response, the Iranian Armed Forces targeted strategic sites across the occupied territories as well as the al-Udeid air base in Qatar, the largest American military base in West Asia.

The Iranian Navy on Thursday held a major naval missile exercise -codenamed Sustainable Power 1404 -- across the northern Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman.

As part of the main stages of the military exercise, various types of naval cruise missiles with different ranges successfully hit their targets after firing from the surface vessels of the Navy.

The missile systems and naval units of the Iranian Navy successfully destroyed their surface targets at sea using the Qadir and Nasir cruise missiles, as well as the Qader medium-range anti-ship cruise missile.

How Do We Become Traitors to the Nation?

Between the years 1996 to 2001 in Iran, a book was translated and published several times by different translators under the title "The English Salarymen" — although the real title of the book was "The English Patient" and its author Michael Ondaatje, one of the most prominent contemporary writers of the world, known both as a novelist and a poet. In his writing style, he blurs the boundaries between poetry and prose, reality and imagination, and history and fiction.

He was born on September 12, 1943, in Colombo, Sri Lanka (formerly known as Ceylon). In 1954 he migrated to England, and then in 1962 moved to Canada, where he became a Canadian citizen.

He began his career with poetry and published his first collection of poems in 1967. Gradually, he moved toward novel writing, though poetry has always remained present in his works. He is one of the main members of the group of writers known as the "Toronto School," which had a major influence on postmodern Canadian literature.

His most famous work is the novel The English Patient, published in 1992, which in the same year won the prestigious Booker Prize. In 1996 it was adapted into a successful film by Anthony Minghella, which won 9 Academy Awards. This book has also been published in Iran under its true title, The English Patient.

The central themes of the novel revolve around four aspects: Love and loss, Identity and national belonging, The impact of war on human beings, and Memories of the past.

The psychological dimensions of the characters in this book are adapted by the author to their environmental circumstances, and the causes of their inclination toward betrayal of their fellow human beings are explained. This same type of psychological-behavioral tendency had always been the basis of M16 operations in Iran even before the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

It should be mentioned that the "manufacturing of traitors" by this intelligence service began throughout the region with Britain's control of the East India Company — and it has continued for almost 200 years.

After World War I, Britain's looting and colonialism across the world became increasingly troubling for the newly rising power of the United States. Perhaps the most sensitive president of the U.S. in this regard was Thomas Woodrow Wilson (Democrat). His sensitivity led to interference in the political affairs of other countries by inciting people to form organizations against British interests, namely "the National Front."

In response, Britain resorted to deception. As Mahmoud Mahmoud points out in The History of Iran-Britain Relations, in order to maintain its influence in various countries, Britain established neocolonialism — replacing the presence of its own blue-eyed officials with locally trained and subservient individuals. This was done solely to deprive the rising United States of any pretext to accuse Britain of colonialism.

Those who join Britain's circle of alliance generally have a few characteristics:

Religious Weakness: Either they have no religious beliefs at all, or they show weakness in this domain.

Lack of National Identity and Patriotism: They do not feel true loyalty to their homeland.

Moral/sexual vulnerability: They are weak in sexual matters and, as the saying goes, provide "leverage" (Leverage or ammo) for the enemy.

Economic Insecurity: They lack financial self-confidence, so either they depend on foreigners and become paid agents, or they fall into corruption — and this corruption becomes another source of leverage for the enemy.

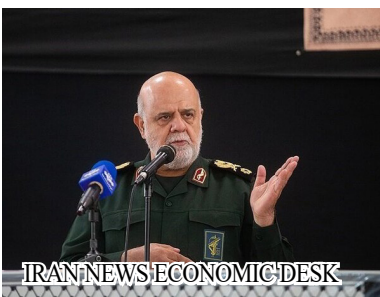
In The English Patient, such individuals are always searching for a "sugar daddy" or some kind of external figure to rely on.

To avoid prolonging this article, let me summarize: The root of treachery lies within the individuals themselves, but foreign intelligence services manage to exploit these weaknesses and successfully turn them into traitors against the interests of their own nation.



Bye Hamid Reza Naghashian

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We Are Prepared to Confront Any Threat

TEHRAN - The Deputy Coordinator of the IRGC Quds Force has emphasized that the capabilities of Iranian forces have increased and that they are ready to respond to any potential threats.

According to ISNA, Brigadier General Iraj Masjedi, Deputy Coordinator of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force, in an interview with Defa Press, described the proposal to disarm Hezbollah in Lebanon as an "American-Zionist plan." He stressed that neither the people of Lebanon nor the Hezbollah resistance movement would ever accept such a proposal, calling its implementation impossible. General Masjedi stated that Hezbollah's weapons are, in fact, the weapons of the Lebanese people for defending their land against Israeli aggression. "The discussion of disarmament is not new," he said, "but it will never be realized."

Severe Water Stress Reported in 50 Cities Across Iran



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TEHRAN - The spokesperson for Iran's water industry has warned of severe water shortages affecting dozens of cities across the country, with Tehran's dams still in a critical state.

Speaking to ILNA, Eisa Bozorgzadeh said that while many cities are facing water supply challenges, nearly 50 cities across 24 provinces are experiencing "very serious" water stress. Authorities are currently working on 169 projects aimed at mitigating the crisis.

Bozorgzadeh explained that Tehran's water reservoirs remain at a critical level, a situation first announced in February of last year. Despite this, consumption management efforts—combined with infrastructure measures—have led to a 14 percent reduction in water use compared to the same period last year.

He stressed that continued cooperation from the public is essential:

"If we maintain this path with the help of citizens and appreciate the value of water, we will certainly succeed in managing the situation."

Bozorgzadeh also highlighted the progress of the Taleqan Dam water transfer project. The transmission line has now reached Hashtgerd, and in the coming days, it will deliver 2.5 cubic meters per second of water to Tehran. The second phase of the project is expected to reach the capital within a month.

Among the cities facing the most critical challenges in drinking water supply are Tehran, Karaj, Qazvin, Tabriz, Mashhad, Arak, Saveh, Baneh, and Bandar Abbas.

The spokesperson underlined the dual approach of infrastructure development and public awareness campaigns: "One of our main priorities is cultural engagement and consumption management by citizens. When people decide to open the tap halfway or a third of the way, it is equivalent to us providing two or three times more water. No measure can replace responsible consumption, even as supply projects continue."

Prolonged Uncertainty of War Can Be More Damaging Than War Itself



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TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister for Entrepreneurship Development and Employment at the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare has warned that prolonged uncertainty over the continuation of war can sometimes have worse effects than the war itself, leading to economic erosion.

Speaking on Monday at a session titled "Economy on the Frontline: Analyzing the Impact of the Imposed War on Businesses and Future Prospects", Seyed Malek Hosseini said the aim of the meeting was to provide a scientific and practical analysis of business conditions since the outbreak of war.

Hosseini stressed that war inevitably impacts the business environment. "Although we are currently in a ceasefire, the economic consequences continue," he noted.

Two weeks after the war began, a comprehensive study was launched in collaboration with the ministry's call center and a research team led by Dr. Mohammad Aghasi. The study covered small, medium, and large businesses across the service, agriculture, and industrial sectors. Hosseini emphasized the need for data-driven assessments, warning that incomplete or anecdotal information could distort reality.

The research specifically examined the damage caused by the 12-day conflict on businesses. "The findings will be published transparently and without censorship," Hosseini said.

Hosseini revealed that during the course of the study, a new challenge emerged—an electricity supply imbalance crisis—that significantly impacted businesses but was not strongly reflected in the initial data.

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Iran Doubles Nanotechnology Exports, Ranks Sixth Globally in Scientific Output

TEHRAN - Iran has recorded major achievements in nanotechnology over the past year, including a more than 100 percent increase in nano-product exports, the indexing of 10,860 nano-related scientific papers in the Web of Science (WoS), and securing sixth place in the world ranking of nanoscience output in 2024. Officials credit these successes to coordinated efforts between government agencies, researchers, and industry players.

Iran's focus on nanotechnology dates back to 2000, when development programs in this emerging field first took shape. In 2003, the government recognized nanotechnology as a national priority and established the Special Headquarters for the Development of Nanotechnology. The goal was to create a long-term roadmap for Iran's advancement in the sector.

In 2005, the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution endorsed the "Future Strategy Document," which set the ambition of placing Iran among the world's top 15 nanotechnology powers. This document emphasized wealth creation, industrial innovation, and improvements in quality of life through nanoscience.

By 2008, the initial framework of the Nanotechnology Headquarters had expanded, inspiring the creation of strategic technology councils under the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology. The headquarters itself later broadened its scope, becoming the "Nanotechnology and Microtechnology Development Headquarters," to reflect growing research in both nano- and micro-scale technologies.

Today, the headquarters provides broad institutional support for students, academics, and companies active in the field. Programs include funding for thesis research, publication assistance in top journals, support for university faculty, and commercialization services for nano-certified products.

It also evaluates industrial products applying for nano-scale certification, backs innovation brokers, and hosts the annual National Nano Student Festival to encourage youth participation.

Between September 2023 and September 2024, the headquarters focused on strengthening industries, managing domestic and international nano markets, sustaining exports, promoting "Made in Iran" nano brands, and boosting innovation with high economic and social impact.

Iran's nanotechnology market has witnessed remarkable growth. According to official data, sales in 2023 reached 618.9 trillion rials (\$1.62 billion), marking a 102 percent increase compared with the previous year. Over the last four years, the sector has consistently grown at an average of 6.55 percent above inflation.

In addition, the headquarters supported 62 in-house R&D projects in large and medium-sized industrial companies, funded 40 value-chain development projects to address national industrial challenges, and facilitated 66 technology-exchange initiatives linking research with market demand.

In 2024, 133 new industrial products received nano-certification, bringing the total to 1,735 products produced by more than 400 companies. Over the past year, the headquarters provided over 1,000 commercialization services to 194 nano companies

and delivered 260 specialized consultations to entrepreneurs at business advisory centers.

Perhaps the most striking achievement has been in exports. Iran's nano exports doubled in 2023 compared to the previous year, reaching \$1.145 million. Products made their way to 50 countries, with Iraq, Syria, and India ranking as the top three destinations by value.

Exports accounted for 2.9 percent of Iran's nanotechnology market, while domestic sales made up nearly 9 percent. To strengthen global market access, more than 50 business delegations from Iranian nano-based companies participated in major international exhibitions in South Korea, Turkey, China, Russia, and Japan.

Iran's innovation ecosystem in nanotechnology continues to expand. In 2024, the country accounted for 19 percent of all its patents in the nano field, with 20 of the nation's 106 patents registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the European Patent Office (EPO).

The headquarters also supported the development of seven globally unique products, including: Granular nano-adsorbents for arsenic removal from water; A radiopharmaceutical compound (99mTc Tilmanocept); Focused ultrasound and nanobubble technologies; Hybrid stabilizers for water-sensitive shale formations; A new high-performance lead-acid "super battery"; Polymer-based solid electrolytes for lithium batteries; An automated continuous micro-needle fabrication device; and additionally, 34 other emerging nano projects received government backing over the past year.

Iran's scientific standing in nanotechnology remains strong. In 2024, Iranian researchers published 10,860 WoS-indexed nano papers, placing the country sixth worldwide. About 32 percent of these papers were co-authored with international partners, demonstrating growing collaboration.

Iran also ranked first globally in the number of nano publications relative to gross domestic product (GDP) at purchasing power parity (PPP) in 2023. Meanwhile, the country registered 10 nano patents in the USPTO in 2024, bringing its total nano patents in U.S. and European offices to 364. This accounts for 25 percent of all Iranian patents, with a notable ratio of 19 nano patents per 100 scientific papers.

In the academic sphere, the headquarters reviewed and supported 1,940 research activities carried out by scholars at 170 universities and research centers nationwide. Fifty-five university professors conducting product-oriented research also received direct institutional support.

Iran's steady climb in nanotechnology underscores its ambitions to combine scientific achievement with economic development. With exports doubling, global rankings improving, and innovative products entering international markets, the country has positioned itself as a significant player in the global nanoscience arena.

Officials emphasize that continued collaboration among government, academia, and industry will be vital for sustaining this momentum and further solidifying Iran's reputation as a leading nanotechnology hub.

Major Shift in Iran's Steel Market: Cold-Rolled Sheet Leads Export Surge

TEHRAN - Iran's steel exports recorded a significant increase in the first four months of 2025 (Persian year 1404), rising 26% year-on-year to surpass 12 million tons. However, industry data shows dramatic changes in the composition of exported products, with cold-rolled sheet registering an unprecedented 804% surge, while rebar exports dropped by 35%.

According to figures released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), total exports in the steel and iron chain grew from 9.8 million tons in the same period last year to 12.3 million tons this year. The export value also rose by 7%, reaching \$2.33 billion compared to \$2.17 billion last year. Cold-rolled sheet was the standout performer, with exports climbing from 12,000 tons worth \$7.4 million last year to 104,000 tons worth \$66 million this year—marking an 804% increase in volume and 792% in value.

In contrast, rebar exports fell sharply by 35%, dropping from 1.017 million tons worth \$486 million to 664,000 tons worth \$288 million, representing a 41% fall in export value.

Long steel products declined 30%, from 1.16 million tons (\$556m) to 810,000 tons (\$358m). I-beams fell 27% in volume and 26% in value, down to 52,000 tons (\$25m).

Other steel products such as structural profiles slipped 14% in



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volume and 19% in value.

Meanwhile, several products recorded strong gains: Hot-rolled sheet surged 172%, from 83,000 tons (\$54m) to 227,000 tons (\$118m).

Coated steel sheet rose 30% in volume and 18% in value, reaching 22,000 tons (\$16m).

Flat steel products overall climbed 172% in weight and 119% in value, totaling 280,000 tons (\$151m).

Billet and bloom exports rose 15% in volume and 2% in value, reaching 1.77m tons worth \$745m.

Sponge iron (DRI) grew 30% in volume and 19% in value, hitting

560,000 tons (\$129m).

Slab exports were among the few categories to fall, plunging 29% in volume and 34% in value, from 2.26m tons (\$1.07bn) to 1.6m tons (\$711m).

Exports of iron ore concentrate almost doubled, climbing 78% in volume and 74% in value to reach 4.09m tons (\$300m). Similarly, pellet exports increased by 9% in volume and 8% in value, reaching 4.1m tons (\$338m).

The export statistics reveal a clear shift in Iran's steel trade, with higher demand for flat steel products, especially cold-rolled and hot-rolled sheets, while traditional long products like rebar face declining markets. Analysts suggest the trend may reflect changing global demand, adjustments in trade policies, or shifts in domestic production strategies.

No Obstacle to Car Imports by Iranians Abroad



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TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Customs Administration announced that there are no barriers to car imports by Iranians living abroad, provided that the government reopens the registration system for import orders.

Faroud Asgari, Deputy Minister of Economy and head of Customs, stated that while the regulations for such imports are already defined, the main hurdle remains the closure of the order registration system. "Imports by Iranians abroad have not been suspended. The government has approved the regulation, and both the law and the executive bylaw authorize these imports," he said.

Under the current regulation, Iranians holding permanent residency overseas are allowed to import one passenger car less than five years old without transferring foreign currency through official banking channels, using instead their own foreign exchange resources.

Asgari stressed that the Central Bank has already given its approval for these imports. "Now it is up to the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade and the Trade Promotion Organization to reopen the order registration system. Once that is done, there will be no obstacles," he noted.

He also clarified that the decision is linked to the 1404 (2025–2026) national budget law, but such approvals are generally extended. "Government decrees on vehicle imports usually do not have strict time limits," Asgari added.

According to the executive bylaw of the 1404 budget, Iranians residing abroad who hold residency permits are permitted to import one car during the year, within the Central Bank's regulations on foreign currency sources.

Population Challenge Cannot Be Solved by Orders and Directives



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Secretary of the National Population Headquarters has emphasized that the population issue cannot be addressed through orders and directives alone, highlighting instead the importance of the role played by scientific, cultural, religious, and public institutions in promoting the country's population policies.

Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi made the remarks at the first session of the executive committee for the National Youth Population Award Festival. She expressed gratitude to the agencies and organizations involved and stressed the need for precise planning to hold the festival in a grand manner. "This meeting marks the beginning of the operational phase of this national event," she said.

Dastjerdi noted the diverse composition of the committee, which includes deputy secretaries and managers of the headquarters as well as representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Plan and Budget Organization, Iran University of Medical Sciences, Imam Hossein Comprehensive University, and the Population Information Council.

She underscored the festival's people-centered and cultural approach: "We aim to make this a true festival, not just a formal gathering. With the cooperation of all institutions, we hope this event will become a driver of cultural and social change."

This year, the execution of the festival has been assigned to Iran University of Medical Sciences to bring greater diversity to its implementation. Last year's event was organized by Imam Hossein Comprehensive University, which Dastjerdi praised for its strong performance. She expressed hope that other universities would be engaged in future years to foster scientific cooperation and constructive dialogue on population issues.

American Nations Warn of Crisis in Haiti

MIAMI (Dispatches) - The Organization of American States has called for more money and international support to alleviate the grinding poverty, chronic instability and rampant gang violence plaguing Haiti.

OAS Secretary General Albert Ramdin spoke to AFP in a video interview about a roadmap released this week by the organization urging assistance for the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.

Given the long history of failed foreign interventions and squandered aid in the Caribbean country, Ramdin said: "We need to rebuild trust."

"Canada and the US have done a lot already, but in Latin America, there is a renewed appetite to see how they can support Haiti," said the former Suriname foreign minister.



Vance Says Russia Has Made Significant Concessions Toward Ukraine Peace Deal



KYIV (Dispatches) - U.S. Vice President JD Vance said Russia has made "significant concessions" toward a negotiated settlement in its war with Ukraine and was confident progress was being made despite the lack of clear signs the conflict is nearing an end.

Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press with Kristen Welker", Vance said Russian President Vladimir Putin has made several concessions, including that Ukraine will receive security guarantees protecting against future Russian aggression.

"I think the Russians have made significant concessions to President Trump for the first time in three and a half years of this conflict," Vance said in comments aired on Sunday.

"They've recognized that they're not going to be able to install a puppet regime in Kyiv. That was, of course, a major demand at the beginning. And importantly, they've acknowledged that there is going to be some security guarantee to the territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Russia's invasion of Ukraine, launched in February 2022, started a conflict that has killed tens of thousands of people. In return for ending Russia's attacks, Putin is demanding that Ukraine give up all of the eastern Donbas region, renounce ambitions to join NATO, remain neutral and keep Western troops out of the country, sources told Reuters last week.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that a group of nations including United Nations Security Council members should be the guarantors of Ukraine's security.

On Friday President Donald Trump renewed a threat to impose sanctions on Russia if there was no progress toward a peaceful settlement in Ukraine in two weeks, showing frustration at Moscow a week after his meeting with Putin in Alaska.

Venezuela's Maduro Rallies Civilian Militia Volunteers, Citing U.S. Invasion Threat



CARACAS (Dispatches) - Thousands of Venezuelans on Saturday queued up across Caracas to enlist in a civilian militia in response to "threats" of a US invasion. The show of force counters earlier accusations by the Trump administration that President Nicolas Maduro is leading a drug cartel. Three days ago, Washington deployed war ships off the coast of Venezuela to curb what it says are drug trafficking activities.

Civil servants, housewives and retirees alike lined up in Venezuela's capital Caracas on Saturday as thousands volunteered to join the country's militia in case there is a US invasion.

President Nicolas Maduro called on citizens to respond to the current US "threat" and sign up over the weekend to the Bolivarian Militia, a civilian corps linked to the South American country's armed forces.

The show of force is also intended to send a message to Washington, which has issued a \$50 million bounty for Maduro - who is accused by the Trump administration of leading a drug cartel - and has stationed three warships off Venezuela's coast for what the US says are anti-drug operations.

Militia registration centres were set up in the capital's squares, military and public buildings and even in the presidential palace Miraflores.

France Summons U.S. Ambassador Kushner Over Unacceptable Anti-Semitism Claims



PARIS (Dispatches) - France summoned the American ambassador to Paris, Charles Kushner, late Sunday over a letter he sent to President Emmanuel Macron, accusing the French government of failing to confront rising anti-Semitism. Paris called Kushner's allegations "unacceptable" and a violation of international law.

France's foreign ministry issued a statement Sunday announcing it had summoned Kushner to appear Monday at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and that his allegations "are unacceptable".

The White House did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment. State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott on Sunday evening said it stood by Kushner's comments, adding: "Ambassador Kushner is our US government representative in France and is doing a great job advancing our national interests in that role."

The summoning of the ambassador is a formal and public notice of displeasure. Kushner, a real-estate developer, is the father of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner.

The French foreign ministry, in its statement, said "France firmly rejects these allegations" from Kushner and that French authorities have "fully mobilised" to combat a rise in anti-Semitic acts since the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on Israel, deeming the acts "intolerable".

The contents of the letter were not released.

Kushner's allegations violate international law and the obligation not to interfere with the internal affairs of another country, the French ministry said, and, "They also fall short of the quality of the transatlantic partnership between France

and the United States and of the trust that must prevail between allies."

The dustup follows Macron's rejection this past week of accusations from Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that France's intention to recognise a Palestinian state is fueling anti-Semitism.

France is home to the largest Jewish population in Western Europe, with an estimated 500,000 Jews. That's approximately 1% of the national population.

The diplomatic discord comes as French-US relations have faced tensions this year amid Trump's trade war and a split over the future of UN peacekeepers in Lebanon. France in particular has objected to the US push to wind down the peacekeeping operation known as UNIFIL, with a vote on the issue set for the end of the month by the UN Security Council.

France and the US have also been divided on support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, but the split has eased with Trump expressing support for security guarantees and a warm meeting with Macron and other European leaders at the White House last week.

Trump at the end of his first term as president pardoned Charles Kushner, who pleaded guilty years earlier to tax evasion and making illegal campaign donations.

His son Jared is a former White House senior adviser to Trump who is married to Trump's eldest daughter, Ivanka.

At Least 42 Killed in Israeli Strikes as Fighting Intensifies in Gaza

GAZA (Dispatches) - Gaza's civil defence agency reported at least 42 people killed in Israeli attacks on Sunday, as the Israeli army prepared for a new assault on the Palestinian territory's largest city.

Civil defense spokesman Mahmud Bassal said there had been several air strikes around Gaza City - which the military is gearing up to capture - including one in the Al-Sabra neighbourhood that killed eight people.

Attacks were also reported elsewhere across the territory, he said, with the "total tally currently rising to 42 dead".

The army did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the figure.

"The situation is extremely dangerous... Each day, each minute, there are bombings, martyrs, death and blood - we can't take it anymore," Al-Sabra resident Ibrahim Al-Shurafa told AFP, explaining strikes and shelling were ongoing.



"We don't know where to go. Death follows us everywhere," he added.

The Israeli military did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the figure, but said on Sunday that its forces have returned to combat in the Jabalia area in recent days, to dismantle militant tunnels and strengthen control of the area.

It added that the operation there "enables the expansion of combat into additional areas and prevents Hamas terrorists from returning to operate in these areas."

Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties in accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify the tolls and details provided by the civil defense agency or the Israeli military.

The October 2023 Hamas attack on Israel that sparked the war resulted in the deaths of 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Ukraine Drone Hits Russian Nuclear Plant

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Ukraine launched a drone attack on Russia, forcing a sharp fall in the capacity of a reactor at one of Russia's biggest nuclear power plants and sparking a huge blaze at the major Ust-Luga fuel export terminal, Russian officials said.

Despite talk of peace by Russia and Ukraine, the deadliest European war since World War Two is continuing along the 2,000 km (1,250 mile) front line accompanied by missile and drone attacks deep into both Russia and Ukraine.

Russia's defense ministry said at least 95 Ukrainian drones had been intercepted across more than a dozen Russian regions on August 24, the day that Ukraine celebrates its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Kursk nuclear power plant, just 60 km (38 miles) from the border with Ukraine, said that air defences shot down a drone that detonated near the plant just after midnight, damaging an auxiliary transformer and forcing a 50% reduction in the operating capacity at reactor No. 3.

Radiation levels were normal and there were no injuries from the fire which the drone sparked, the plant said. Two other reactors are operating without power generation and one is undergoing scheduled repairs.



The United Nations' nuclear agency, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said it was aware of reports that a transformer at the plant caught fire due to military activity and stressed that every nuclear facility should be protected at all times.

A thousand km north, on the Gulf of Finland, at least 10 Ukrainian drones were downed over the port of Ust-Luga in Russia's northern Leningrad region, with debris sparking fire at the Novatek-operated terminal - a huge Baltic Sea fuel export terminal and processing complex, the regional governor said.

Unverified footage on Russian Telegram channels showed a drone flying directly into a fuel terminal, followed by a huge ball of fire rising high into the sky followed by a plume of black smoke billowing into the horizon.

"Firefighters and emergency services are currently working to extinguish the blaze," Alexander Drozdenko, governor of Russia's Leningrad region, said. There were no injuries, he added.



Djokovic Battles Past Tien to Reach U.S. Open Next Round

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic delivered a lesson in Grand Slam tenacity to Learner Tien in the first round of the U.S. Open as he battled past the American teenager 6-1 7-6(3) 6-2 and launched his latest quest for a record 25th major title.

Competing in his first singles match since reaching the Wimbledon semi-finals last month, and swapping the whites for a sleek all-black outfit, the 38-year-old Serb fought through physical issues to secure his 80th win at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Victory also meant Djokovic became the first player since the sport turned professional in 1968 to win 75 straight opening-round matches at the Grand Slams, with 55 of those wins coming in straight sets.

"It was a strange kind of match," said Djokovic, who looked to be struggling with injury midway through the match.

"The first set was 20 minutes and then the second one was one hour and 20, quite the opposite sets we played. It was key for me to hold my nerve in the second set and clinch it in a tiebreak.

"After that I started feeling better. I can always do better but it's a great way to start this year's campaign."

The seventh seed shrugged off a time violation to consolidate an early break at the start of the contest and a heated debate with the chair umpire shortly afterwards spurred him on to wrap up the opening set in double quick time.

The 19-year-old Tien, on a near-impossible mission to hand Djokovic his first opening-round loss at a Grand Slam since the 2006 Australian Open, had his chances to draw level during a draining second set but crumbled in the tiebreak.

After treatment for a right foot blister, Djokovic produced heavy groundstrokes from the baseline to break for a 3-1 lead in the third set and the four-times New York champion never looked back from there, booking a match-up with American Zachary Svajda.

Meanwhile Taylor Fritz and Ben Shelton got their U.S. Open campaigns off to a confident start, cruising into the second round as they bid to end a 22-year title drought for American men in New York.

Fritz, who last year became the first American man since 2006 to reach the Flushing Meadows final, hit his stride after the first set on Louis Armstrong Stadium to subdue wildcard compatriot Emilio Nava 7-5 6-2 6-3, firing off 11 aces.

Runner-up to Jannik Sinner last year, Fritz is hoping he can follow in the footsteps of compatriots Madison Keys and Coco Gauff, who both claimed Grand Slam titles this year.

Since Andy Roddick became the last home male player to lift the U.S. Open trophy in 2003, American women have collected 25 Grand Slam titles - with Venus and Serena Williams accounting for 19 of them.

Nava battled evenly with the fourth seed until the final game of the first set, where he dropped his serve with a pair of unforced errors, before helping Fritz to an early break in the second set with two double faults.

Fritz turned on the gas from there, breaking his opponent from the baseline to close out the second set, before getting the break in the third set with an unreturnable backhand in the fourth game.

Shelton, semi-finalist at the hardcourt major in 2023, was brimming with confidence after earning his biggest title in Toronto this month.

Mbappe Shines, Vinicius Delivers as Madrid Sink Oviedo

OVIEDO (Dispatches) - Kylian Mbappe was again on target for Real Madrid as they overcame Real Oviedo 3-0 in La Liga.

For Oviedo, returning to Spain's top flight after an absence of almost a quarter of a century, the arrival of the 15-time European champions was a gala occasion, and the Asturian fans made their presence heard.

Star turns Mbappe and Vinicius Junior made the difference in the north of Spain. The Frenchman notched a brace before the Brazilian slid in a late third.

Coach Xabi Alonso made a couple of notable changes to his starting line-up from Madrid's opening 1-0 win against Osasuna, dropping Vinicius and Trent Alexander-Arnold for Rodrygo Goes and club captain Dani Carvajal, returning from injury.

The dropped Vinicius responded by producing an assist and a goal in his half-hour cameo.

"It was a very serious, very complete game," said Alonso. "With and without the ball. Playing as a team.

"And Vini came on and had a role in those two goals that gave us peace of mind. There will be games for everyone. "Decisions are made with the team in mind, and that's how it was today."

Argentinian teenage sensation Franco Mastantuono made



his full debut in another change for Los Blancos.

The 18-year-old showed his explosive dribbling ability early on when he burst past two defenders into the Oviedo box before going down and looking appealingly at the uninterested referee.

A rare foray forward by the hosts saw Leander Dendoncker try to catch Thibaut Courtois out with a chipped effort in the 23rd minute, but the Belgian shotstopper easily gathered the ball.

Madrid came close to forcing a breakthrough when Arda Guler's drive from inside the box was excellently saved by goalkeeper Aaron Escandell.

The Turkish international turned provider as he drilled a pass into Mbappe's feet on 37 minutes, which the Frenchman welcomed on the turn before firing across Escandell.

The goal was met by furious protests from the home side. Madrid's Aurelien Tchouameni seemed to follow through strongly on Dendoncker when winning possession back for his side in the build-up.

Rodrygo and the lively Mastantuono made way for Vinicius and Brahim Diaz just after the hour.

Amorim's Scathing Verdict as Man United Blow Lead Again at Fulham

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim believes his side need to show more maturity after blowing the lead to draw 1-1 at Fulham on Sunday and remain without a win this season.

The Red Devils were made to pay for not making more of a dominant first 45 minutes, during which Bruno Fernandes blazed a penalty over the bar.

Amorim, though, was more concerned by what he saw after United took the lead thanks to Rodrigo Muniz's own goal on the hour mark.

Fulham hit back to level through Emile Smith Rowe 17 minutes from time and ended the game on top.

"I think we scored the goal and then we forgot about how we play," said Amorim, who has won just seven of his 29 Premier League games in charge.



"We want to win so badly, and that is a good feeling, that we scored a goal and everyone on the pitch was thinking, 'Let's hold onto the advantage and try to win the game'. For me that is the moment that we have to enjoy more and push the opponent.

"We have to grow up a lot as a team. For me the most important thing is that during the week they were working really hard, today we worked really hard, and we are going to improve. The moment that changed the game was our goal."

United captain Fernandes is normally a clinical penalty taker and Amorim said his Portuguese compatriot let the 38th minute miss affect him for the rest of the game.

"You have to put that in the past during the game," added Amorim.

Head, Marsh, Green Centuries Power Australia to Consolation Win



LONDON (Dispatches) - Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh and Cameron Green smashed blistering hundreds as Australia steamrollered South Africa by 276 runs in the final one-day international in Mackay.

South Africa had already clinched the series, which they won 2-1 after Australia claimed the T20 series between the sides, and the 50-overs world champions were left playing for pride in the last match.

A 250-run opening partnership between player-of-the-match Head (142) and Marsh (100), and an incendiary hundred by Green powered Australia to a mammoth 431-2.

The hosts hit 18 sixes as they posted their second-highest total in ODIs - behind their 434 against the same opposition in 2006.

South Africa were all out for 155 in 24.5 overs with spinner Cooper Connolly completing figures of 5-22.

"A pretty crazy day, wasn't it?," Australia captain Marsh said.

"A full performance from the lads. Shame, it was a little bit too late but full credit to South Africa. They played outstandingly well in the first two games."

Electing to bat, Head and Marsh milked 86 runs from the first 10 overs to signal Australia's intentions.

With Kagiso Rabada missing the series due to injury and Lungi Ngidi rested for the final ODI, South Africa's pace attack lacked its usual firepower.

Australia raced to the 100-mark in the 13th over and Head reached his hundred off 80 balls, taking a single off spinner Senuran Muthusamy to reach the milestone.

Australia got to 250 in the 34th over but immediately lost Head, who was caught off spinner Keshav Maharaj after hitting five sixes and 17 fours.

China Could Host at Least Four Formula E Rounds



LONDON (Dispatches) - Formula E could expand to four rounds in China as the all-electric championship chases growth in the world's biggest market for electric vehicles, according to series founder and chairman Alejandro Agag.

The Spaniard told Reuters that China, compared to the United States where President Donald Trump's administration has scaled back a number of EV incentives, represented a huge opportunity.

"Trump is really giving the space to China and China is only too happy to take it," said Agag, who has recently taken on a role of strategic advisor to the Motorsport Network media group.

"I was in China for the Shanghai Formula E race and every car I saw on the road was electric."

Agag argued Formula E should follow Formula One's successful North American expansion playbook -- with the combustion-engined series now boasting three U.S. rounds -- but with the focus on China.

"Formula One should have a massive focus in China," he said.

"I think Formula E could have four races in China. I think it would be fully sustainable to have four races in China... and I think it will be much closer to the reality of the car market in China."

The Spaniard clarified to Reuters later that he was referring to four separate venues.