

Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI)
Denied Speculations That the Country's
Oil Export Revenues Fell in the Calendar
Month to Late August Because of a War in
June With the Israeli Regime

IRAN NEWS

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov
Has Said That the West Uses the Dollar to
Suppress Rivals and Maintain Its
Dominance in the World, Claiming the
West Is Trying by Any Means to Prevent
the Emergence of a Multipolar World

VOL. XXIX, No. 8352 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 03, 2025 SHAHRIVAR 12, 1404

2

DOMESTIC



Economic Imbalance at the Core of Iran's Water and Power Crisis

> SEE PAGE 2

3

INTERNATIONAL

Israel Is Committing Genocide in Gaza, Scholars' Association Says

> SEE PAGE 3



Iran, Russia Presidents Call for Full Implementation of Strategic Partnership Treaty



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin met on Monday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China, and agreed to step up efforts to fully implement a comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between the two allies.

Both leaders emphasized that the treaty lays the groundwork for deeper cooperation between Tehran and Moscow in various fields.

"Cooperation within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) would further accelerate and facilitate substantial interactions between the two nations," the Iranian president stated.

Pezeshkian underscored the importance of working closely with Russia, saying he is personally committed to accelerating joint agreements and clearing any hurdles that might stand in the way.

"Exchange of experience, together with scientific and academic cooperation, between the two countries will synergize the capacities of Iran and Russia. It will shape a platform for the expansion of comprehensive interactions between the two nations," the Iranian president pointed out.

Pezeshkian also stated that all efforts by the United States and its allies are aimed at consolidating and strengthening unilateralism, emphasizing that international institutions like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) serve as a suitable platform for the promotion of multilateralism.

For his part, Putin conveyed his best wishes and greetings to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

"I would like to emphasize that relations between the two countries, particularly in light of the conclusion and implementation of the long-term comprehensive treaty, are truly friendly and expanding," the Russian leader said.

UN Inaction on Israeli Crimes Poses Unprecedented Threat to Global Peace



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian foreign minister has censured the United Nations for its inaction on Israel's crimes in the West Asian region, saying the situation poses an "unprecedented threat" to international security and an "existential danger" to humanity.

Abbas Araqchi made the remarks in a message he issued on Monday to condemn the Israeli assassination of Yemeni government officials in a terrorist airstrike.

He denounced the "cowardly" assassination, which was a blatant violation of Yemen's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, as a "heinous and unprecedented crime" against the Yemeni people, who have truly supported the oppressed Palestinians over the past two years.

"The UN's continued inaction in the face of blatant violations of international law by the Zionist regime, along with the expansion of its acts of aggression and crimes across West Asia ... in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon under military and political support of the US, the UK, and several other Western countries, has severely undermined the credibility of the fundamental norms and principles of international law," he added.

"This situation constitutes an unprecedented threat to international peace and security and an existential danger to humanity."

Iran to Announce Response to Europe's "Illegal" Triggering of Snapback Mechanism

TEHRAN - Iran will soon announce and implement a unified response to what it views as Europe's unlawful attempt to reimpose United Nations sanctions under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the opening of a parliamentary session, Qalibaf sharply criticized the decision by the European "E3" — Britain, France, and Germany — to activate the so-called "snapback mechanism" under the 2015 nuclear agreement. He stressed that Tehran considers the move a violation of international commitments and warned that Iran will take countermeasures aimed at increasing the costs of such actions for the European side.

"The unified decision of the Islamic Republic of Iran regarding this illegal step will be announced and enforced soon," Qalibaf told lawmakers.

In his address, the speaker began by marking a religious occasion and condemning what he described as atrocities in Gaza. He also congratulated Iran's national youth volleyball team for their victory at the world championships, praising the resilience of Iranian youth as a symbol of the country's bright future.

Turning to regional developments, Qalibaf offered condolences to Yemen following the assassination of the country's prime minister and several ministers, blaming Israel for a "terrorist and aggressive" strike on Sana'a. He accused Israel of pursuing "genocide and mass killings," predicting that the state would ultimately be consumed by the violence it has instigated.

The speaker also highlighted Iran's growing cooperation with China, noting President Masoud Pezeshkian's participation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Beijing. He emphasized that Iran and China, as two ancient Asian civilizations, share deep historical and cultural ties that position them to play a stabilizing role in global affairs.

"Iran and China are historically and geopolitically linked," he said, calling the Belt and Road Initiative a framework for expanding strategic projects. Qalibaf insisted that cooperation should move beyond words into practical implementation, particularly in security, economic, and infrastructure domains.

At the center of his remarks, however, was the issue of the European move to trigger the JCPOA's dispute resolution mechanism, commonly referred to as the "snapback." This process could theoretically restore UN sanctions on Iran that were lifted under the nuclear deal.

Qalibaf argued that the European powers have no legal right to initiate this measure, since they themselves failed to uphold their obligations under the accord. He pointed out that both Russia and China, permanent members of the UN Security Council, have formally rejected



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

the legitimacy of the European approach.

"The three European countries, due to their non-compliance with the JCPOA, have no right to invoke Paragraph 37," Qalibaf said. "They have illegally started the process of reinstating resolutions. Therefore, Iran must take preventive measures to make this action costly for them."

Limited Economic Impact

Seeking to calm domestic concerns, the speaker downplayed the potential economic consequences of any restored UN sanctions. He argued that such measures would be less damaging than the sweeping unilateral sanctions already imposed by the United States.

"The sanctions under these resolutions are linked to nuclear activities and are far less extensive than the wide-ranging American sanctions already in force," Qalibaf explained. He added that even with Washington's maximum-pressure campaign, Iran has continued to sell oil and maintain foreign trade despite difficulties.

He further emphasized that UN sanctions, unlike U.S. sanctions, lack broad enforcement mechanisms. "These resolutions are not new sanctions to be added to the current ones," he said, asserting that their practical impact on Iran's economy would be minimal if the government managed the psychological dimension effectively.

Some analysts, he acknowledged, believe that restoring UN resolutions could provide a legal basis for strengthening U.S. sanctions. But he countered that the firm opposition of Russia and China undermines such a scenario, depriving the move of legitimacy in the international community.

Qalibaf also dismissed claims that reactivating the snapback mechanism would automatically place Iran under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, paving the way for military action. He argued that past conflicts, including Israel's recent 12-day war, demonstrated that adversaries did not require UN resolutions to justify military operations.

Moreover, he noted that the current resolutions do not authorize the use of force under Article 42 of the UN Charter, and any such attempt would face a veto from Moscow and Beijing.

"What prevents the enemy from attacking Iran is not the snapback mechanism but our national unity and military strength," he said, highlighting what he described as Iran's strong deterrent capabilities.

Qalibaf urged Iranian institutions — including the Supreme National Security Council, government ministries, and international affairs experts — to clearly explain to the public the limited impact of any potential UN sanctions. Managing public perception, he argued, is key to neutralizing the "psychological warfare" of adversaries.

"By clarifying the low impact of these resolutions, we can prevent the enemy from creating a false media narrative and mitigate any negative psychological effects," he concluded.

Tehran Reaffirms Sovereignty Over Three Islands, Rights in Arash Gas Field



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry has issued a statement rejecting what it called "false claims" made in the final communiqué of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting, stressing once again the country's sovereignty over the three Persian Gulf islands, its rights in the Arash gas field, and the peaceful nature of its nuclear program.

The statement—released on Tuesday, September 2—responded to positions taken by the GCC in its 165th ministerial session held in Kuwait.

The Foreign Ministry declared that Iran "completely rejects the repetitive and legally baseless claims" made by the GCC regarding the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb, reaffirming them as "inseparable parts of Iranian territory." The statement emphasized that "repeating unfounded allegations in similar declarations does not alter the geographic, historical, or legal facts concerning these islands."

On this basis, the ministry underscored that the Islamic Republic will take "all necessary measures to ensure security and safeguard national interests in these Iranian islands."

Addressing the Arash gas field dispute, the Foreign Ministry reiterated Iran's historical rights and record of negotiations, rejecting unilateral claims by Kuwait as invalid. It stressed that "issuing repetitive statements and making unilateral assertions does not create any legal right for Kuwait," adding that a "fair and lasting agreement" requires bilateral dialogue, joint efforts, and a constructive atmosphere.

65% of Iran's Agricultural Machinery Is Imported



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The head of Tehran's Union of Agricultural, Industrial, Construction, and Gardening Machinery has warned that 65% of the country's agricultural machinery is imported and stressed that the sector is closely linked to Iran's ongoing water crisis.

In an interview with ILNA, Mehdi Azarnia, president of the union, said, "If irrigation equipment and pumps were not imported, the country's water crisis would have been many times worse. At the same time, we must support domestic manufacturers, but high consumption prevents local production from fully meeting market demand."

Azarnia noted that the union was established in 1973 and currently has around 2,000 official members. However, approximately 4,000 active industry participants have been identified across Tehran, many of whom have yet to obtain business licenses. "One of our serious challenges is ensuring these units obtain proper licensing, and our inspectors are actively working to enforce this," he said.

"The work of our colleagues is sacred," Azarnia continued. "During periods of water shortage, Iran's agricultural sector survives thanks to the machinery provided by our union members. Every summer, we face severe water shortages and high demand for pumps, and our members operate like soldiers on an economic battlefield."

According to Azarnia, about 65% of irrigation equipment and pumps are imported, while 35% are produced domestically. "Without imports, the water crisis would have been several times worse. Supporting local production is crucial, but domestic output alone cannot meet the high consumption levels."

China, Russia Join Iran in Rejecting E3's Legally Baseless Snapback Move

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says he, together with his Russian and Chinese counterparts, has sent a letter to the United Nations rejecting as "legally baseless" and "politically destructive" a recent move by Britain, France, and Germany to reinstate international sanctions against Iran.

Abbas Araqchi made the announcement in a post on X on Monday, four days after the European signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal notified the UN Security Council that they had invoked the so-called snapback mechanism to restore all UN sanctions against Iran.

He said, in their joint letter addressed to the UN chief and the Security Council president, Iran, Russia, and China declared the Europeans' activation of snapback sanctions "null and void."

He also noted that the letter highlighted the US's violation of the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and Europe's subsequent alignment with unlawful sanctions against Iran instead of honoring its own commitments.

"The primary function of the Security Council is to act on behalf of the international community to maintain peace and security," he added. "What the E3 proposes betrays this mission, turning the Council into an instrument of coercion rather than a guardian of global



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

stability."

The top Iranian diplomat also attached to his post the letter, which says the snapback activation by the three European countries contravenes Resolution 2231 and is "legally and procedurally flawed".

"The E3's course abuses the authority and functions of the UN Security Council while misleading its members and the international community concerning the root causes of breakdown in the implementation of the JCPOA and UNSCR 2231," it read, calling on the European trio to change their "destructive course".

The JCPOA required Iran to scale back some of its nuclear activities in return for sanctions relief.

However, the US ditched the deal in 2018 before returning the illegal sanctions that it had lifted against Iran and launching the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign.

Following the US withdrawal, the European signatories to the JCPOA failed to uphold their commitments and made no efforts to save the agreement.

Now, the Europeans have given the Security Council 30 days to decide whether it would continue sanctions relief against Iran or allow it to lapse.



Pezeshkian-Putin Meeting Was Fruitful

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Mehdi Tabatabaei, Vice President for Communications and Information Affairs, has emphasized the importance of maintaining Iran's distinguished position amid shifting global power dynamics, saying that a fruitful meeting was held between President Masoud Pezeshkian and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tianjin, China, on Monday.

In a post on his X account, Tabatabaei described the two-hour meeting as very productive and important, highlighting the constructive nature of bilateral discussions.

Tabatabaei noted that the contemporary world is witnessing a rejection of unilateralism and coercion, underscoring the necessity for Iran to safeguard its prominent role during this pivotal period of power redistribution.

Iran Participates in “Chandi 2025” Summit in Bali



TEHRAN - The head of the International Affairs Department at Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts arrived in Bali on Tuesday to attend the international “Chandi 2025” summit, highlighting the ministry's commitment to strengthening international cultural cooperation and developing joint artistic and cultural programs to boost cultural diplomacy.

According to the ministry's Public Relations and Information Center, Hojatollah Ayoubi was welcomed by officials from Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Culture upon his arrival on September 2, 2025. He will take part in the Bali summit, which focuses on cultural heritage, storytelling, cultural diplomacy, and innovation.

The Chandi 2025 summit, an initiative of Indonesia's Ministry of Culture, will be held from September 3 to 5 in Bali. The event brings together global leaders, ministers, policymakers, and professionals from the cultural and creative industries. Its aim is to foster international dialogue, expand cultural cooperation, and explore innovative approaches to advancing culture and the arts—underscoring the vital role of culture as a foundation for peace, resilience, and sustainable development in the face of global challenges.

The summit will officially open with remarks by Indonesian officials. Ministerial and cultural sessions are expected to provide a strategic platform for discussing cultural policy directions and enhancing international collaboration. Discussions will center on leveraging innovation and technology to preserve cultural heritage, strengthen creative industries, and promote intercultural dialogue and global partnerships.

Ayoubi emphasized that Iran's cultural policy prioritizes expanding international cultural cooperation, drawing on the country's rich historical resources, and creating joint artistic and cultural initiatives to deepen friendly relations with other nations.

Afghan Prisoners to Be Transferred Back to Their Country



TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister of Justice for Human Rights and International Affairs met with the chargé d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Tehran to discuss the transfer of Afghan nationals convicted in Iran back to Afghanistan.

Askar Jalalian, Deputy for Human Rights and International Affairs, highlighted the deep historical and cultural ties between Iran and Afghanistan, emphasizing the importance of strengthening relations based on good neighborliness, upholding the dignity of Afghan migrants, and countering hostile plots.

During the meeting, the Afghan chargé d'affaires praised Iran's defense during the recent 12-day conflict against the Zionist regime, declaring that Afghanistan stands alongside the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added that Afghanistan views Iran's security as integral to its own and stressed the need to safeguard it.

Fazl Mohammad Haqqani expressed appreciation for the steps taken so far in transferring Afghan prisoners serving sentences in Iranian correctional facilities. He called for the resumption of these transfers, describing it as a crucial step in implementing the prisoner transfer agreement signed between the two countries more than a decade ago.

According to the report, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to pursue technical cooperation to facilitate the transfer of prisoners and ensure the continuation of this process.



TEHRAN - Energy Minister, Abbas Aliabadi, told parliament that the country's most pressing challenge in the water and electricity sectors is fundamentally economic. Addressing lawmakers during an open session of the Majles, he said structural financial imbalances have prevented timely payments to contractors and investors, discouraged new capital formation, and fueled inefficient growth in consumption.

Aliabadi described the situation as a “mother problem” that has persisted for years, culminating in a record 20,000-megawatt supply-demand gap during the summer of 2024. This imbalance, he noted, both undermined investor confidence and spurred uncontrolled rises in power and water use, with electricity consumption alone growing by more than 8.5 percent last year.

The minister stressed that while financial strain first became apparent in 2018, it reached a crisis point in 2024. He urged parliament's research center to cooperate closely with his ministry to verify data and clarify discrepancies in official reports.

Aliabadi pointed to the accelerating demand for electricity as Iran and the world enter what he called the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions, characterized by digitalization and artificial intelligence. “If we attempt to meet these needs with traditional methods, we will face enormous global and local challenges,” he warned. Instead, he highlighted efficiency improvements, combined-cycle plant upgrades, and investment in renewable energy as the most viable strategies, already pursued by advanced economies.

The minister acknowledged that fuel shortages last year disrupted power plant operations, delaying overhauls and damaging equipment. This, in turn, lowered efficiency, reduced generation capacity, and intensified pressure on the grid.

Environmental pressures compounded the problem. Prolonged droughts over the past five years slashed hydropower output by 40 percent in 2024, and some hydropower units were forced entirely offline. Aliabadi said these conditions directly threatened grid stability and triggered localized blackouts.

Adding to the strain, 2024 also saw unprecedented heat, with national average temperatures rising 1.5 degrees above long-term norms. This spike sharply drove up demand for cooling in Iran's hottest regions. Meanwhile, more than 15,000 megawatts of Iran's installed capacity comes from aging plants that have effectively outlived their productive lifespan.

Iran's electricity transmission and distribution network—one of the largest in the region—is also suffering from wear and obsolescence. Aliabadi emphasized the

urgent need for modernization to ensure reliable delivery.

On water, he outlined chronic challenges rooted in decades of underinvestment and incomplete projects. Currently, each province has an average of 10 unfinished water projects, totaling 67 nationwide. With current budget allocations, completing these projects would take two decades, he said.

Aliabadi also underscored Iran's worsening water balance: renewable water resources per capita have dropped from 6,800 cubic meters in 1956 to about 1,300 cubic meters today, and are projected to fall below 1,000 cubic meters by 2041. “We face a structural mismatch between demand and renewable supply,” he cautioned.

Key weaknesses include limited use of unconventional water sources such as treated wastewater and desalinated seawater, as well as fragmented governance and insufficient adoption of new technologies. The ministry, he added, is pursuing reforms to strengthen integrated water management and expand pilot-based innovation.

Looking ahead, Aliabadi presented a strategic program to manage water up to 2041, coinciding with the close of Iran's Seventh Development Plan. The initiative emphasizes equitable allocation of resources, institutional reforms, separating executive from regulatory duties, reducing conflicts of interest, and empowering local water governance through participatory management.

One of the plan's highlights is a target to eliminate 15 billion cubic meters of water imbalance, outlined in Article 37 of the Seventh Development Plan. The government has already held eight technical committee meetings and two high-level sessions of the Supreme Water Council to finalize an operational roadmap, he said.

For the power sector, Aliabadi said a four-year plan has been launched under the same development framework. It includes 14 major projects and 36 management packages designed to improve consumption efficiency, expand generation, and strengthen sustainability.

Drawing on his three decades of experience in Iran's water and power sectors, Aliabadi expressed confidence that with proper reforms, the country can overcome its current crisis. He urged lawmakers to support the ministry's agenda, emphasizing that Iran's ancient civilization should not be undermined by what he described as solvable technical and economic challenges.

“Rest assured,” he concluded, “I will use every capacity to prevent our shortcomings from becoming a source of satisfaction for our adversaries. The path forward requires persistence, innovation, and collective responsibility.”

CBI Governor Rules Out Removal of Preferential Exchange Rate

TEHRAN – Iran's Central Bank Governor Mohammadreza Farzin announced that Iran will maintain the preferential exchange rate of 28,500 toman per dollar, stressing that its removal would trigger severe inflation in essential goods. Speaking at the 115th session of the Government-Private Sector Dialogue Council in Tabriz, Farzin also unveiled new plans to expand the authority of Central Bank branches across the provinces.

“The current economic conditions and rising prices of basic commodities make it impossible to eliminate the 28,500-toman rate,” Farzin said. “Removing it would place enormous inflationary pressure on essential goods.” He added that fluctuations in the unofficial exchange rate are largely driven by expectations, which could stabilize if market sentiment improves.

Farzin revealed that for the first time, a portion of the Central Bank's decision-making authority will be delegated regionally. “We have identified certain provinces where Central Bank units will be granted broader authority,” he stated, emphasizing that the measure is in line with President Ebrahim Raisi's policy of decentralization.

The governor also highlighted allocation of \$249 million in foreign currency to import industrial machinery for East Azerbaijan factories, while acknowledging that the Central Bank itself does not determine which goods should be prioritized for foreign currency allocation.

Despite assurances, local business leaders voiced concerns over currency policy. Jamsheed Barzegar, vice president of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, said the multiple exchange rate system was a key driver of corruption and economic instability. He called for a unified exchange rate, implemented either gradually or in stages.

His counterpart, Masoud Benabian, warned that restrictive currency regulations discourage exports. “When importers benefit from guaranteed profits, there is little incentive for businesses to



pursue exports,” he said. Benabian criticized long delays in foreign currency allocations and proposed allowing businesses to import raw materials and machinery using open-market currency when official allocations are unavailable.

Other chamber representatives echoed similar concerns, calling for the activation of temporary import schemes, clearer channels for repatriating export earnings, and greater flexibility in banking procedures.

Farzin promised that the Central Bank will consider expanding the authority of provincial bank branches to speed up services and decision-making. He also supported examining the inclusion of chamber of commerce representatives in the High Banking Council.

However, representatives of the private sector argued that current monetary policies and liquidity shortages are major barriers to business growth. Reza Jafari, a board member of the Tabriz Chamber, criticized the concentration of 60 percent of banking resources in Tehran, leaving provincial industries underfunded. He called for an increase in provincial lending ceilings and the participation of private banks in national decision-making bodies.

Agriculture representatives also voiced grievances. Bashir Jafari stressed that although the sector accounts for 13 percent of GDP and 18 percent of employment, it has historically received only about 3 percent of national investment. He urged the allocation of 100 trillion toman for greenhouse projects in East Azerbaijan to promote rural employment and curb migration.

Meanwhile, Saber Parnian, head of the provincial Industry, Mining and Trade Organization, reported that 734 local economic identifiers, worth \$470 million, remain in the queue for currency allocation. Of this, \$249 million has been approved for machinery imports and another \$188 million awaits rial confirmation.

Iran Reports 54% Drop in Gold Imports, 30% Decline in German Goods



TEHRAN - Iran's Customs Administration has reported a significant decrease in imports, including a sharp fall in gold shipments and goods from Germany.

Faroud Asgari, head of Iran's Customs Administration, announced that imports from several major trade partners — including the UAE, China, Turkey, Germany, Russia, and the Netherlands — saw notable declines in the first five months of the year. Imports from Germany dropped by around 30%, while gold imports fell by nearly 54%.

Imports from the UAE decreased by 13.5%, China by 12.78%, Turkey by 20%, Russia by 10%, and the Netherlands by 3.5%. By contrast, imports from India rose by 12%.

Asgari reported that Iran's non-oil exports in the five-month period totaled 61.3 million tons, worth \$20.9 billion. This represented a slight 0.07% increase in weight but a 6.01% decline in value compared with the same period last year.

The average export value per ton fell to \$341, down from \$363 a year earlier. On the import side, Iran recorded 15.2 million tons of goods worth \$23 billion, marking a 5.42% decrease in weight and a 16.31% decline in value compared to last year. The average import value per ton dropped by 11.52%, from \$1,711 to \$1,514.

Key export commodities included natural gas, liquefied propane, petroleum bitumen, liquefied butane, methanol, and steel. While exports of natural gas, propane, bitumen, and methanol all declined, steel exports rose more than 30% in volume and nearly 16% in value.

Major export destinations were China (\$5.48 billion), Iraq (\$3.75 billion), UAE (\$2.63 billion), Turkey (\$2.33 billion), Afghanistan (\$921 million), and Oman (\$780 million). Exports to the top three markets — China, Iraq, and the UAE — saw value declines.

Iran Reduces Electricity Exports Amid Domestic Demand



TEHRAN - The Managing Director of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir) announced that electricity exports have significantly declined in recent months, as meeting domestic demand has become the government's top priority.

Mostafa Rajabi-Mashhadi told ILNA that electricity exports to Iraq have been completely halted, while exports to Afghanistan have dropped sharply—down 70 percent compared to two months ago. He attributed the reduction to the need to secure sufficient electricity for domestic consumption during peak demand.

On the synchronization of Iran's power grid with Russia, Rajabi-Mashhadi described the project as a major initiative aimed at linking the two countries' electricity networks. He said the plan is designed to enhance energy cooperation, improve grid stability, increase reliability, and facilitate electricity trade between Iran and Russia.

“This connection can help reduce power generation costs and increase export revenues,” he noted. The project has already undergone a trial phase in previous years. Since Iran and Russia do not share a land border, the connection would run through Azerbaijan, which he said poses no technical obstacles.

Addressing concerns about potential disruptions due to the war in Ukraine, Rajabi-Mashhadi stressed that the conflict has no impact on the project. “We do not share a border with Russia, and there has been no joint activity that could be disrupted,” he said.

He added that although Iran and Russia have the technical capacity for power exchange, no electricity was traded this year because Russia directed its production toward domestic consumption.

Afghanistan Quake Kills Over 800

NURGAL (Dispatches) - Survivors of an earthquake that flattened villages in eastern Afghanistan, killing more than 800 people, spent the night in the open as rescuers worked Tuesday to pull victims from the rubble.

The 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck just before midnight Sunday, with the worst of the destruction in Kunar province, which borders Pakistan.

Rescuers searched into the night to pull to safety those trapped under the debris of simple mud and stone homes built into steep valleys.

The dead, some of them children, were wrapped in white shrouds by villagers who prayed over their bodies before burying them, while helicopters ferried the wounded to hospitals.



In Chicago, Thousands Protest Against Threat of ICE, National Guard Deployment



CHICAGO (Dispatches) - Thousands of protesters packed the streets near downtown Chicago on Monday, singing, chanting and waving signs protesting U.S. President Donald Trump's threats to flood the city with National Guard troops and federal immigration agents.

The march was one of roughly 1,000 "Workers over Billionaires" protests across the country on the U.S. Labor Day holiday. But Chicago's demonstration had a decidedly more pointed tone as residents bristled against Trump's promise to target Chicago next in a deployment similar to those under way in Los Angeles and Washington D.C., two other Democrat-run cities.

Mayor Brandon Johnson, speaking to the crowd, vowed that Chicago would resist federal encroachment.

"This is the city that will defend the country," he said, receiving loud cheers from protesters waving blue-striped Chicago flags.

As the crowd wove through the city, some walking dogs and carrying children on their shoulders, diners sitting outside at local restaurants and cafes pumped their fists and cars honked in support. Organizers estimated 5,000 to 10,000 people were in attendance, though Reuters was not immediately able to verify the size with city officials.

Protesters said they were concerned by Trump's threat to send out the National Guard and additional ICE agents.

Filiberto Ramirez, 72, feared violence if additional ICE agents come to the city. "Do we feel there's gonna be trouble? Yes," Ramirez said. "I hope nobody gets hurt."

Trump has singled out Chicago in recent weeks over violent crime, calling the city "a mess," "a hellhole" and a "killing field." But on Monday, Chicagoans at the protest said they did not feel the National Guard was a solution to crime in the city.

Taiwan President Says Aggression Will Fail



TAIPEI (Dispatches) - Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Tuesday that aggression will inevitably fail, pointing - on the day before a mass military parade in Beijing - to the lessons from World War Two and key victories Taiwan claims against Chinese forces in 1958.

Democratically governed Taiwan has over the past five years repeatedly complained about heightened Chinese military activity including war games around the island as Beijing steps up pressure to enforce territorial claims the government in Taipei rejects.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, flanked by Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, will oversee a large-scale military parade in Beijing on Wednesday to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War Two.

Speaking to officers at the defence ministry, Lai noted that Tuesday marked the 67th anniversary of a 1958 naval battle Taiwan celebrates as a victory that was part of the August 23 Chinese attack on the Taiwan-controlled Kinmen Islands, better known internationally as the Second Taiwan Strait Crisis.

Taiwan's victories then show that true peace stems from a resolve to unite against aggression, he added.

"We all know that the current security environment is more severe than ever before. In recent years, the Chinese communists have persistently conducted high-intensity activities with military aircraft and vessels around the Taiwan Strait," Lai said.



Israel Is Committing Genocide in Gaza, Scholars' Association Says

THE HAGUE (Dispatches) - The world's biggest academic association of genocide scholars has passed a resolution saying the legal criteria have been met to establish Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, its president said on Monday.

Eighty-six percent of those who voted among the 500-member International Association of Genocide Scholars backed the resolution declaring Israel's "policies and actions in Gaza" had met the legal definition set out in Article II of the 1948 UN convention on genocide.

Israel's Foreign Ministry called the statement disgraceful and "entirely based on Hamas' campaign of lies". Israel has in the past strongly denied that its actions in Gaza amount to genocide and says they are justified as self defence. It is fighting a case at the International Court of Justice in the Hague that accuses it of genocide.

Israel launched its assault on the Gaza Strip in October 2023, after fighters from Hamas, the Palestinian militant group in control of the territory, attacked Israeli communities, killing 1,200 people and capturing more than 250 hostages.

Since then, Israel's military action has killed 63,000 people, damaged or destroyed most buildings in the territory and forced nearly all its residents to flee their homes at least once. A global hunger monitor relied on by the United Nations says parts of the territory are now suffering a man-made famine, which Israel also denies.

The three-page resolution calls on Israel to "immediately cease all acts that constitute genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in Gaza, including deliberate attacks against and killing of civilians including children; starvation; deprivation of humanitarian aid, water, fuel, and other items essential to the survival of the population; sexual and reproductive violence; and forced displacement of the population."

It also states that the Hamas attack on Israel which precipitated the war constituted international crimes.

"This is a definitive statement from experts in the field of genocide studies that what is going on on the ground in Gaza is genocide," the association's president, Melanie O'Brien, a professor of international law at the University of Western Australia who specialises in genocide, told Reuters.

A boy mourns during the funeral of Palestinians killed in overnight Israeli strikes, according to medics, at Al-Shifa Hospital

in Gaza City, September 1, 2025. REUTERS/Mahmoud Issa Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

"There is no justification for the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide, not even self defence," she added.

The 1948 U.N. Genocide Convention, adopted in the wake of the mass murder of Jews by Nazi Germany, defines genocide as crimes committed "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such". It requires all countries to act to prevent and stop genocide.

Since the genocide scholars' association was founded in 1994, it has passed nine resolutions recognising historic or ongoing episodes as genocides.

The IAGS publishes a journal and holds regular international conferences of scholars studying genocide, and is considered the largest academic group in the field. Another group, the International Network of Genocide Scholars, also holds conferences and publishes a journal but does not issue similar resolutions.

Ismail Al-Thawabta, head of the Hamas-run Gaza government media office, welcomed the resolution's "prestigious scholarly stance", which he said "places a legal and moral obligation on the international community to take urgent action to stop the crime, protect civilians, and hold the leaders of the occupation accountable".

Sergey Vasiliev, a professor of international law at the Open University in the Netherlands who is not a member of the association, told Reuters the resolution showed that "this legal assessment has become mainstream within academia, particularly in the field of genocide studies".

Several international rights groups and some Israeli NGOs have already accused Israel of committing genocide. Last week hundreds of UN staff at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk wrote to ask him to explicitly describe the Gaza war as an unfolding genocide, according to a letter reviewed by Reuters.

Indonesia Police Use Tear Gas Near Campuses

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesian police have fired tear gas into crowds of protesters near two universities in a major regional city, student bodies and authorities said on Tuesday, adding new tensions to deadly protests that have rocked the country since last week.

Student bodies of the Islamic University of Bandung, known locally as UNISBA, and nearby Pasundan University, over 140 kilometres west of Jakarta, said on Instagram that authorities fired tear gas canisters into crowds near the campuses on Monday evening.

Local police official Hendra Rochmawan said authorities did not enter the campuses but were trying to break up non-student protesters who were seeking protection inside university grounds, because the crowds were blocking roads in the area.

UNISBA Dean Harits Nu'man echoed the police statement, adding the campus was a medical hub for protesters.

The UNISBA student body said security forces "brutally attacked" the campus, saying the tear gas caused breathing problems for some students and accusing



security forces of seeking to silence dissent.

University students have long been regarded as vanguards of Indonesia's democracy, including playing a leading role in the protests that helped topple authoritarian leader President Suharto in 1998. The current president, Prabowo Subianto, was a military leader under Suharto.

The protests started in Jakarta a week ago targeting government spending such as enhanced perks for lawmakers, and have since escalated nationwide, with some rioting and looting, after a police vehicle hit and killed a motorcycle taxi driver.

At least eight people have died in the protests, a senior minister said on Monday. Prabowo has warned the police and the military would stand firm against violent escalations.

International rights groups have criticized the security response to the protests.

"The Indonesian authorities acted irresponsibly by treating the protests as acts of treason or terrorism," said Meenakshi Ganguly, deputy Asia director at the Human Rights Watch, calling for investigations into alleged rights violations by security forces.

Non-profit legal aid group Lokataru Foundation said on Tuesday their director, Delpedro Marhaen, had been arrested by police. The Jakarta police did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Tens of Thousands March in Serbia's Capital, Demand Snap Vote

BELGRADE (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of protesters silently marched in Belgrade on Monday to commemorate the deaths of 16 people killed when a roof on a renovated railway station collapsed, demanding snap elections they hope would oust President Aleksandar Vucic and his ruling SNS party.

The protesters, invited by high school pupils, gathered around 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) in front of the old railway station in Belgrade. Sixteen high school pupils walked down the Savski Trg square holding one white rose while names of the victims were read.

Protests were held in several other towns including Novi Sad, Kragujevac and Aleksinac.

"Corruption is the root of all problems in our society. Elections can be the only solution for this situation," said Srdjan, a 35-year-old scientists who attended the



protest.

Months of protests across Serbia sparked by the deaths of 16 people last November have rattled Vucic and his SNS party.

Protests have been mainly peaceful until August 13 when dozens of police officers and civilians were injured in clashes.

Protesters have blamed corruption for the Novi Sad railway station disaster and are demanding early elections in hopes of ousting Vucic and his party.

Students, opposition groups, and anti-corruption watchdogs have accused Vucic and his allies of ties to organized crime, using violence against political rivals, and suppressing media freedoms - allegations they deny.



Sinner Routs Bublik to Make U.S. Open Quarters

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Defending champion Jannik Sinner said he enjoyed the vibe of playing under the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights after he continued his hardcourt Grand Slam run by hammering 23rd seed Alexander Bublik to make the U.S. Open quarter-finals.

The Italian came into the match on Labour Day seeking his 25th straight major match win on his preferred surface and never looked in danger against a tricky rival, bolting out of the blocks to win 6-1 6-1 6-1 on his night session debut this year.

"It's always special to go on Ashe to play," Sinner said.

"Night matches, they're a bit different because there's a bit more attention, I feel. It's a different vibe, also around the court. It's very loud. It's also different to play.

"It was the first time for me this year. It was nice. You have the good and the bad if you play in the evening. It's very special and you feel very privileged to step onto court in the night on the biggest court we have."

A mere 81 minutes after the clash began, Sinner was back in the locker room after gaining revenge for a shock defeat by Bublik in the Halle final, his only loss to a player not named Carlos Alcaraz this year.

"We know each other well. We've had some tough battles this year so we know each other a bit better," top seed Sinner said.

"He had a tough match last time (against Tommy Paul), finishing late. He didn't serve as well as he does. I broke him in every set and it gave me the confidence to play well."

A double break helped Sinner build a 4-0 lead before Bublik could even get on the board, and the dominant 24-year-old chased down a drop shot to fire home a deep backhand winner that wrapped up the opening set with another break.

Bublik's attempts to disrupt Sinner's rhythm with more drop shots proved futile but it was his service errors that left him trailing by two sets, before Sinner wheeled away to his eighth straight major quarter-final.

Up next is a meeting with compatriot Lorenzo Musetti and Sinner said it would be a great occasion for

Italian tennis.

Meanwhile the U.S. Open's Labour Day Monday largely belonged to the underdogs, as Naomi Osaka and Felix Auger-Aliassime delivered commanding performances that carried them back to Grand Slam quarter-finals after years in the wilderness.

Osaka looked every bit the four-time major champion while dismantling third seed Coco Gauff 6-3 6-2 in 64 minutes, making her first Flushing Meadows quarter-final in five years with a display that mixed power with poise at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

For Gauff, defeat marked another chapter in a challenging post-French Open period. Despite serving better than she had all tournament, the American made crucial errors from the baseline in areas where she typically excels.

Auger-Aliassime delivered his own statement with a cool 7-5 6-3 6-4 victory over 15th seed Andrey Rublev, reaching his first major quarter-final since the 2022 Australian Open after battling through injuries and confidence struggles.

Iga Swiatek continued her incredible season with a 6-3 6-1 thumping of 13th seed Ekaterina Alexandrova in 64 minutes, the 24-year-old becoming the youngest woman to reach the quarter-finals of all four majors in a single season since Maria Sharapova in 2005.

Both underdogs credited their improved mental approaches for their breakthrough moments with Osaka emphasising wanting to "be grateful" and have fun against top rivals while Auger-Aliassime stressed staying "calm-headed in those big pressure moments".

Canadian Auger-Aliassime next takes on eighth seed Alex de Minaur after the Australian outclassed Leandro Riedi 6-3 6-2 6-1, while Japan's Osaka will meet 11th seed Karolina Muchova after the Czech beat Marta Kostyuk 6-3 6-7(0) 6-3.

There was little drama in the evening session as defending champion Jannik Sinner reached his eighth consecutive Grand Slam quarter-final with a 6-1 6-1 6-1 win over 23rd seed Alexander Bublik of Kazakhstan.

Isak Vows to Make History With Liverpool After British Record Move

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool striker Alexander Isak vowed to make history with the Premier League champions after finally completing his British-record £125 million move from Newcastle on Monday.

Isak agreed a reported six-year contract with the Reds after they convinced Newcastle to accept an improved bid ahead of the Premier League's transfer deadline.

The 25-year-old's arrival at Anfield will increase the expectation that Liverpool are set for a dominant period and Isak is happy to shoulder the burden.

"I think it's a mixture of what the club is building, but what they're building on top of what the club already is. The history of the club. Me getting the chance to be a part of this, I want to create history," Isak said.

"I want to win trophies. That's ultimately the biggest motivation for me.

"I feel like this is the perfect place for me to grow even further and to take my game to the next level and help the team as well."



Arne Slot's side had a £110 million offer rejected by Newcastle in August, but Isak's determination to force through the move paid off after the transfer saga grew increasingly tetchy.

Isak told Newcastle he wanted to leave and spent part of pre-season training alone at his former club Real Sociedad rather than linking up with Eddie Howe's team.

He was left out of Newcastle's pre-season tour of Asia with what was said to be a thigh injury and accused the Magpies hierarchy of breaking a commitment that he could leave if a suitable offer came in from a top club.

Howe had repeatedly stated his desire to keep Isak, who scored 27 times in 42 appearances in all competitions last season.

Isak's goals helped secure Champions League qualification and ended Newcastle's 56-year trophy drought with a League Cup final win over Liverpool.

Nissanka Ton Leads Sri Lanka to ODI Series Win in Zimbabwe



LONDON (Dispatches) - Pathum Nissanka scored his seventh one-day international century with 122 from 136 balls as Sri Lanka defeated hosts Zimbabwe by five wickets to clinch the two-game series at the Harare Sports Club.

Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bowl first, restricting Zimbabwe to 277 for seven in their 50 overs. Opener Ben Curran top scored for the hosts with 79 from 95 balls.

Sri Lanka chased down their target thanks to Nissanka's ton and 71 from 61 balls by captain Charith Asalanka as they completed the win with three deliveries remaining in the innings.

Sri Lanka won the first ODI by seven runs on Friday. A three-game Twenty20 International series between the sides will be played in Harare starting on Wednesday.

Meanwhile Australia's white-ball pace spearhead Mitchell Starc has retired from Twenty20 internationals six months out from the World Cup in India and Sri Lanka to focus on extending his career in test and one-day cricket.

The 35-year-old left-arm retires as the nation's most prolific fast bowler in the format, with 79 wickets from 65 T20Is, second on the all-time Australia list to spin bowling teammate Adam Zampa.

"Test cricket is and has always been my highest priority," he said in a Cricket Australia statement on Tuesday.

"I have loved every minute of every T20 game I have played for Australia, particularly the 2021 World Cup, not just because we won but the incredible group and the fun along the way.

"Looking ahead to an away Indian test tour, the Ashes and an ODI World Cup in 2027, I feel this is my best way forward to remain fresh, fit and at my best for those campaigns.

"It also gives the bowling group time to prepare for the T20 World Cup in the matches leading into that tournament."

Starc was not included in Australia's T20I squad released on Tuesday for the upcoming series against New Zealand.

Mercedes Have 100% Belief in Antonelli



ZANDVOORT (Dispatches) - Mercedes have expressed full support for Kimi Antonelli after the teenaged Italian Formula One rookie sent Ferrari's Charles Leclerc crashing out of Sunday's Dutch Grand Prix.

Team boss Toto Wolff said it was always going to be a learning year, a rollercoaster of brilliance and hair-tearing frustration, and the Zandvoort weekend provided a good example.

Antonelli, who has just turned 19, collided with Leclerc after both pitted and the Italian tried to overtake.

Race stewards handed out a 10 second penalty for causing the collision, and another five seconds for speeding in the pitlane, dropping Antonelli to 16th.

"We want to have a driver that has speed, that is fast, that learns, that scores the points," Wolff told reporters. "But all the big ones make mistakes.

"Kimi, an 18-year-old thrown in this mammoth of a team representing Mercedes, he's going to make mistakes -- hopefully fewer mistakes next year and score bigger points. But my 100% belief is in him on the long-term."

Wolff said he had spoken to Antonelli after the race and "you just want to hug him, cuddle him, because he has that talent, the raw speed that is in him, and he copes well."

Antonelli was announced as a Mercedes race driver at Monza last year, when he was just 18, and returns to the circuit near Milan this weekend as Italy's sole F1 driver but also under something of a cloud.

Colliding with a Ferrari is never a good feeling for any Italian but Wolff felt the team's ardent fans would be understanding.

Ten Hag Says His Sacking After Two League Games a Complete Surprise

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Erik ten Hag said Bayer Leverkusen's decision to dismiss him after just two Bundesliga matches in charge came as a complete surprise and that the club's hierarchy had not shown enough trust in him.

Leverkusen lost their opening league fixture 2-1 at home to TSG Hoffenheim before drawing 3-3 against 10-man Werder Bremen on Saturday, leading to the 55-year-old Dutchman's abrupt departure on Monday.

Ten Hag, who had been out of management since his sacking by Manchester United in October last year, replaced Xabi Alonso in May on a two-year contract after the Spaniard left to take over at Real Madrid.

"The decision by Bayer Leverkusen's management this morning to put me on a leave of absence came as a complete surprise. To part ways with a coach after just two league matches is



unprecedented," Ten Hag said in a statement posted by his agency on social media on Monday.

Under Alonso, Leverkusen secured the double in the 2023-24 season as they lifted their first Bundesliga title without losing a game, won the German Cup and reached the Europa League final.

But Leverkusen's summer exodus of key players Florian Wirtz, Jeremie Frimpong, Jonathan Tah, Granit Xhaka and Amine Adli made Ten Hag's task of building on Alonso's success an uphill battle.

"Building a new, cohesive team is a careful process that requires both time and trust ...," Ten Hag said.

"I started this job with full conviction and energy, but unfortunately the management was not willing to grant me the time and trust I needed, which I deeply regret. I feel this was never a relationship based on mutual trust."