

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Says Iran Stands With Qatar and Other Muslim Countries in the Face of Actions by the Israeli Regime Which He Described as a “Scourge” in West Asia

# IRAN NEWS

An Iranian Official Said the Aftermath of the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation Has Forced More Zionists to Leave the Occupied Territories, Pointing to the Growing International Support for the Palestinian Cause

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## E3 Snapback of Sanctions Won't Give Legitimacy to U.S. Bans



TEHRAN - The Islamic Parliament Research Center (IPRC) says the re-imposition of UN resolutions on Iran by illegally activating the so-called 'snapback mechanism' will not give a legal legitimacy to US sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The Economic Studies Office of IPRC released a new report on Saturday, following its review of the UN Security Council's snapback mechanism and its potential economic implications for Iran.

Describing the impact as "not very significant and manageable," the report aims to reassure economic stakeholders and the general public regarding the snapback process initiated by Britain, France, and Germany—collectively known as the E3 or European troika—at the UN, with the goal of reinstating international sanctions on Iran.

"Regardless of the lack of legal validity of the E3's snapback move," the report underscores the importance of employing all available legal, political, and security tools to advance diplomatic efforts.

Unlike secondary U.S. sanctions, which target key sectors such as oil and banking, the Security Council's sanctions primarily focus on Iran's nuclear and missile programs. The report notes that the new sanctions regime is unlikely to exert pressures more severe than those already in place.

## Iran Calls for Law Prohibiting Military Attacks on Nuclear Facilities



TEHRAN - Mohammad Eslami, Vice President and head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, emphasized the need for an international law banning military attacks on nuclear facilities, ahead of the 69th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna.

Speaking to IRIB News, Eslami described the IAEA annual meeting as a major international event attended by countries worldwide. He noted that discussions at the General Conference are continuous, with committees undertaking detailed expert analyses and resolutions adopted as part of the agency's ongoing work.

Highlighting recent attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities, Eslami criticized the IAEA for its neutral stance, saying, "We witnessed a lack of professional action from the agency. It neither condemned these attacks nor took a position, effectively applying a double standard."

He contrasted this with the agency's active responses to incidents at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, where the IAEA regularly issues statements and resolutions. "In Iran's case, nuclear facilities under strict safeguards were attacked, yet the agency remained silent. This clearly demonstrates the application of a double standard," Eslami stated.

Eslami said the upcoming IAEA General Conference provides a key opportunity for Iran to present its positions and address these double standards. He confirmed that a draft resolution has been prepared, which calls for the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities. While acknowledging that the proposal may face strong opposition, Eslami stressed that merely presenting it to all member states and registering it with the IAEA Secretariat is itself a significant achievement.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian has urged Islamic nations to strengthen unity and sever ties with Israel, calling for coordinated political, economic, and cultural measures in response to Israel's recent military aggression.

Speaking on Monday, before departing for Qatar to attend an emergency summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League, Pezeshkian emphasized the need for a united front against what he described as Israel's blatant violations of international law. "Islamic countries must maintain cohesion and respond collectively through practical actions in economic, cultural, and social fields by cutting ties with the Zionist regime," he said.

The emergency summit, convened at the invitation of the Emir of Qatar, focuses on Israel's recent military strike on the country. Pezeshkian highlighted that Israel has attacked several Islamic nations, including Qatar, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, and Yemen, acting without regard for international norms. He criticized the United States and European countries for supporting these actions, which he described as enabling Israel's continued aggression.

Pezeshkian further condemned Israel's military operations in Gaza, alleging that they amount to genocide targeting women, children, and the elderly. He called on Islamic countries to bring Israel's actions to international legal forums and ensure accountability. "If Muslims stand as one, Israel will not dare violate our countries or trample international law," he stated.

The tensions escalated on September 8, when Israeli warplanes reportedly violated Qatari airspace and bombed a site in Doha's Katara district, where a high-level Hamas delegation, led by Khalil al-Hayya, was holding a meeting. In response, foreign ministers of the OIC convened in Doha on September 14 to address the military incursion, paving the way for the heads-of-state summit attended by Pezeshkian on Monday.

Iran's leadership has consistently condemned Israel's regional military actions and urged the Islamic world to counter what they describe as provocations. This latest summit reflects broader concerns among Muslim-majority countries about escalating tensions in the Middle East and the perceived need for collective diplomatic, economic, and cultural strategies to counter Israel's influence.

The emergency summit is expected to produce resolutions demanding accountability for Israel's attacks, enhance inter-Islamic cooperation, and promote measures to isolate Israel

## Thirteen Iranian Products Achieve Global Registration at WIPO



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has successfully registered 13 new products with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), bringing the total number of globally recognized Iranian goods to 87, according to Seyed Mehdi Mirsalehi, Advisor on International Affairs and Cooperation with Specialized Organizations at the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade.

Speaking to IRNA, Mirsalehi said that Iran's journey to register its products with WIPO began in 2010 with the international registration of handwoven carpets from different regions of the country. Since then, a total of 31 carpet-producing regions, along with a variety of agricultural, mineral, and stone products, have achieved global recognition. With the latest 13 additions, Iran now has 87 products officially registered with the UN-backed organization.

These new registrations were carried out under the law ratified by the Iranian Parliament in 2004, formalizing Iran's accession to the Lisbon Agreement, which allows for the international registration of products and ensures legal protection of their names and origin worldwide.

The World Intellectual Property Organization, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is one of the 15 specialized agencies of the United Nations. Established in 1967 following an agreement signed in Stockholm, Sweden, WIPO's primary mission is to encourage and protect intellectual property globally. The organization oversees two main areas: industrial property, which includes patents, trademarks, and industrial designs, and copyright, covering literary, musical, artistic, photographic, and audiovisual works.

Mirsalehi emphasized that WIPO registration has become increasingly important due to the growing value of intellectual property rights, patent registration, industrial designs, and trademark protection, which help countries safeguard their innovations and brands on the global stage.

The 13 newly registered Iranian products include a mix of minerals, agricultural goods, and a handwoven carpet. They are: Andalusite stone from Nehbandan, Iran; Bahari agate from Ferdows, Iran; Green granite from South Khorasan; Autumn agate from Se Ghal'eh, Iran;

politically and economically in the international arena.

Meanwhile earlier in a meeting, the President said: "My advice to the owners of all companies is to participate in the process of building worker housing so that our workers can at least be assured of having a home. Only then will they work with greater satisfaction and efficiency."

Pezeshkian, at the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction and development of 94,000 worker housing units in seven provinces, expressed appreciation for the initiative and stated: "Building worker housing is a blessed event, and all parties involved in this project are winners. Workers can become homeowners, and industrialists, company leaders, and the government take a major step toward improving workers' welfare."

The President emphasized the importance of securing the satisfaction of employees and workers in production centers and noted: "If a production unit wants to operate effectively, it must satisfy two groups of customers simultaneously. The first group is its own workers and employees; if they are satisfied, then the satisfaction of external customers and buyers will naturally follow."

Pezeshkian added that in new projects, in addition to housing construction, other related aspects must also be considered: "Keep in mind that wherever housing is built, welfare services such as schools, clinics, stores, and recreational centers should also be established so that residents have easy access. When all these points are taken into account, the people living in these homes will be highly satisfied, which will increase social capital and strengthen community cohesion."

The President, stressing the government's commitment to supporting worker housing projects, stated: "The government will do everything within its power to accelerate and facilitate the implementation of worker housing projects. My advice to the owners of all companies is to participate in the construction of worker housing so that our workers can at least be assured of having a home. Only then will they work with greater satisfaction and efficiency."

Pezeshkian concluded: "The start of these projects is the first and blessed step, and I hope it continues. These measures help increase social cohesion and make the country more resilient in various situations."

## SNSC Has Approved Cooperation Agreement With IAEA



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) says arrangements included in a new agreement signed between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have been approved by the Nuclear Committee of the council.

The secretariat of the SNSC issued a statement Sunday on the agreement signed by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi in Egypt's capital, Cairo, earlier this week.

The agreement signed on September 9 contains arrangements to resume cooperation between Tehran and the IAEA. The Islamic Republic suspended the cooperation in June this year following airstrikes by Israel and the United States on three Iranian nuclear facilities during the 12-day unprovoked war of aggression that Israel had launched on the Islamic Republic on the 13th of that month.

"The text of these arrangements was reviewed by the Nuclear Committee of the Supreme National Security Council, and what has been signed is essentially the same as what was approved by that committee," the statement read.

According to the statement, the Nuclear Committee, which is composed of senior officials from relevant institutions, has always been authorized by the SNSC to make decisions. For the new agreement with the IAEA, the Committee has acted in accordance with the usual procedure, it added.

The statement also provided a brief explanation on how Iran and the IAEA should cooperate on the three nuclear sites of Isfahan, Natanz, and Fordow that were struck by the US and Israel.

## Tunisia Seen as a Gateway for Iran into North African Markets



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Following the recent visit of Iran's Foreign Minister to Tunisia and the agreement to revive economic and tourism cooperation between the two countries, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization has highlighted Tunisia's potential as a key entry point for Iranian goods into North African markets. The revival of trade agreements and the resumption of the Iran-Tunisia Joint Economic Commission could open new pathways for regional trade, officials say.

Seyed Abbas Araqchi, Iran's Foreign Minister, visited Tunisia last week and received an official welcome at the country's airport from Tunisia's Foreign Minister. During the visit, both sides emphasized strengthening bilateral contacts and consultations across various levels of government.

With the recent cancellation of the 15-day visa requirement for Iranian tourists and the introduction of charter flights, nearly 1,000 Iranian visitors have already traveled to Tunisia. The foreign ministers of both countries highlighted the need to establish permanent direct flights and further develop tourism cooperation.

Iran's Ambassador to Tunisia, Mirmasoud Hosseinian, announced that the Iran-Tunisia Joint Economic Commission, which had been inactive for years, will be convened in Tehran under the leadership of both countries' trade ministers. The move is seen as a milestone in strengthening Iran's economic and trade interactions with North Africa.





## Iran’s Minister of Industry to Visit Afghanistan

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, left here for Afghanistan at the invitation of Afghan officials. The visit aims to explore opportunities for cooperation in mineral exploration and extraction, as well as infrastructure development.

According to the Government Information Center, Atabak will meet with Afghan authorities in Herat and review the province’s mining and industrial potential.

In previous meetings, Afghan officials had expressed interest in benefiting from Iran’s expertise and capabilities in the mining sector, particularly in exploration and extraction technologies.

## Iran’s Exports to Eurasian Union Rise by 20 Percent



TEHRAN - Iran’s exports to member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) have grown significantly in recent months, recording a 20 percent increase, according to a senior trade official. Authorities believe this surge could serve as a golden opportunity to strengthen the country’s foreign trade and give a strong push to domestic production.

Mohammadreza Dehghan Dehnavi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, told IRNA in Yazd on Saturday night that the implementation of a comprehensive free trade agreement between Iran and the EAEU countries since May 14 of this year has created a favorable environment for boosting exports.

Dehnavi explained that, with the cooperation of provincial chambers of commerce, a series of promotional and educational sessions have been held for Iranian traders to familiarize them with new export opportunities. “So far, these programs have been carried out in 16 to 17 provinces, and statistics clearly show a noticeable growth in exports to Eurasian markets,” he said.

The head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) noted that this growth is particularly significant given that the country’s overall exports have been on a downward trend. “In the first five months of the current year, the value of Iran’s total exports fell by about six percent. The positive trade performance with Eurasian countries demonstrates the importance of this market,” he emphasized.

While acknowledging that the rate of decline has slowed in recent months, Dehnavi said Iran’s overall export growth remains negative. To address this, the TPO is pursuing a range of supportive and promotional measures, including activating potential capacities, strengthening export incentives, and expanding outreach efforts.

He added that a two-day nationwide conference on foreign trade, currently underway in Yazd, is part of this broader strategy to take more effective steps toward increasing production and exports.

Dehnavi further highlighted the government’s commitment to easing export procedures. “Facilitating exports is one of our main priorities. We continuously identify obstacles and work to remove them. Coordination among different agencies and addressing existing challenges are central to our agenda,” he said.

## Iran Launches Tourism Week Under the Theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation”



TEHRAN - Iran’s annual Tourism Week has opened with a renewed focus on boosting domestic and international travel, even as officials acknowledge the country’s shrinking share of global tourism flows.

The event coincides with World Tourism Day on the United Nations calendar. However, it comes at a challenging moment: officials, including former minister Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, have voiced concern that Iran is receiving only 100,000 of the 160 million Chinese travelers heading abroad each year. Regional instability has further depressed inbound tourism numbers compared with previous years.

Moslem Shojaei, Director General of Marketing and Advertising at Iran’s Tourism Ministry, announced that this year’s Tourism Week carries the slogan “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation.” A series of meetings with tourism associations and friendship societies, including those fostering ties between Iran and China as well as Iran and Iraq, will be held to promote new partnerships. Shojaei emphasized that such networks, while informal, are crucial engines for tourism growth beyond traditional diplomacy.

As part of the week’s agenda, Iran will also host a joint session with ambassadors from Persian Gulf Cooperation Council states in Ardabil Province. Iraq and other Persian Gulf nations have been invited, with multiple memorandums of understanding expected to be signed to encourage regional tourism.

Highlighting the role of digital engagement, Shojaei invited students and citizens to submit multilingual tourism content for the upcoming National Festival of International Tourism Content, scheduled during the Tehran Tourism Fair.



TEHRAN - Alborz Province hosted a one-day visit by Zahidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, Tajikistan’s Ambassador to Iran, opening new opportunities to showcase the province’s industrial and agricultural strengths and paving the way for deeper bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

According to the Karaj Chamber of Commerce, the ambassador’s visit included a joint meeting with local business leaders, talks with the governor of Alborz, and tours of key production facilities. The trip highlighted promising prospects for strengthening Iran-Tajikistan economic ties.

Parham Rezaei, head of the Alborz Chamber of Commerce, noted that with more than 4,000 industrial units and close proximity to Tehran, the province is a major center for production and exports. He said Alborz generated over \$1 billion in exports last year, much of it to neighboring countries. Agricultural products, particularly vegetables, meet a large share of demand in Persian Gulf states.

He added that Alborz also hosts major confectionery and biscuit industries, with several companies setting up secondary plants to benefit from the region’s distribution networks. Rezaei emphasized that the visit was a valuable opportunity to present Alborz’s capacities in textiles, food, and pharmaceuticals, and to facilitate future business-to-business (B2B) negotiations.

Ambassador Shamsiddinzoda welcomed the visit, noting Alborz’s strategic location near Tehran. He praised the province’s industrial showcase, saying it reflected strong potential for expanded cooperation with Tajikistan.

He highlighted the rapid growth in bilateral trade, which rose from \$57 million five years ago to over \$300 million last year. Projections estimate trade could reach \$500 million by the end of this year, with the long-term goal of \$1 billion. The ambassador identified textiles, pharmaceuticals, food industries, and petrochemicals as priority areas for collaboration.

At a joint session with Alborz business leaders, both sides explored cooperation in

textiles, agriculture, tourism, pharmaceuticals, and joint investments. Rezaei underlined that Alborz’s food, pharmaceutical, automotive parts, cosmetics, and textile sectors offer major opportunities for trade with Tajikistan.

Yadollah Malmir, vice president of the Alborz Chamber and head of the province’s Textile Association, noted that Alborz consumes three million tons of yarn annually across 200 active units. He proposed imports of cotton and yarn from Tajikistan in exchange for Alborz’s pharmaceutical and industrial exports.

Abdolreza Bazdar, head of Alborz’s Agriculture Department, said the province produces 24 million tons of crops annually, along with 600,000 tons of milk and 90,000 tons of eggs. With 550 hectares of greenhouse cultivation, he pointed to new export opportunities.

Nader Zeinali, provincial director of cultural heritage and tourism, emphasized potential cooperation in medical tourism and industrial tours.

Hossein Fallah-Nejad, director of labor and social affairs, suggested employing Tajik workers to fill shortages in Alborz industries, while also promoting the exchange of skilled professionals.

During his meeting with Governor Mojtaba Abdollahi, the ambassador invited Iranian businesses to take part in Tajikistan’s international exhibitions and stressed the importance of joint projects in agriculture, livestock, and food industries. Abdollahi highlighted the historic and linguistic ties between Iran and Tajikistan as a foundation for deeper economic and cultural cooperation.

The ambassador also toured food production and packaging machinery plants in Alborz, gaining a closer look at the province’s industrial capabilities.

The visit by Tajikistan’s ambassador to Alborz marked a significant step in advancing economic relations between the two countries. Beyond promoting the province’s strengths in industry and agriculture, the trip fostered direct dialogue and set the stage for new avenues of cooperation.

## Iran’s PMI Slips to 45.3, Signaling Recession

TEHRAN – Iran’s economy remained in recessionary territory in August 2025 (Mordad 1404), with the Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), or Shamkh, falling to 45.3. This was the 17th straight month below the neutral 50 threshold, pointing to ongoing weakness across both demand and supply. While industrial contraction slowed slightly, the broader outlook remains bleak.

The Iran Chamber of Commerce reported that August’s PMI reflected the weakest output in nearly five years, dating back to November 2020. Business expectations for September also hit their lowest point in over three years. Analysts warn that persistent energy shortages, high inflation, currency instability, and geopolitical tensions continue to weigh heavily on the economy.



Economists stress the PMI’s value as a forward-looking gauge, especially given the lack of timely official data. Its close correlation with GDP and industrial output underlines the severity of the downturn.

The industry-specific PMI registered 48.8 in August, below neutral for the seventh month. Although contraction persisted, the pace slowed compared to earlier in the year. Industrial output was measured at 49.5, still weak but showing a modest easing in losses.

Factories continued to struggle with power cuts, higher input costs, and exchange-rate volatility. Domestic demand remained subdued, while exports stayed in

decline. The sales sub-index stayed below 50 for the seventh month in a row.

New industrial orders slipped further, extending a 14-month contraction. Managers warned that unless demand recovers, unsold inventories may rise, as limited production growth is unlikely to translate into sales. High inflation has already pushed many households to delay or cancel non-essential purchases.

Exports fell for the tenth consecutive month, though the pace of decline was milder than in July. Business leaders cited political risks and currency volatility as ongoing obstacles to export planning.

Employment in industry mirrored the wider economy’s trend. The hiring index remained below 50 for the tenth straight month, though contraction slowed slightly. Firms cited weak demand, liquidity shortages, and wage pressures as reasons to hold off on expanding staff.

Meanwhile, raw material inventories continued their 18-month decline, with companies pointing to currency shortages, customs delays, and unreliable supply channels.

Production costs climbed again in August, driven by pricier raw materials and the rial’s depreciation. Official data recorded a 2.9 percent rise in monthly inflation compared to July. Despite higher costs, many producers hesitated to fully pass on increases to consumers, fearing weaker demand. To maintain market share, companies limited price hikes, adding further strain to already thin margins.

The August PMI highlights the persistence of recessionary forces weighing on Iran’s economy. While industry showed some signs of slower contraction, structural challenges remain severe. Energy shortages, inflationary pressures, currency volatility, and weak consumer confidence continue to block recovery.

Business leaders caution that without concrete steps toward macroeconomic stabilization and better trade conditions, both growth and employment will remain under pressure. With demand still fragile and supply bottlenecks unresolved, the outlook for the remainder of 2025 is expected to stay difficult, offering little relief for businesses or households.

## Iran and Pakistan Set \$10b Trade Target



TEHRAN - Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade announced that Tehran and Islamabad have set a target of \$10 billion in bilateral trade exchanges during talks with Pakistan’s Minister of Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan.

According to the ministry’s statement early Monday, Minister Seyed Mohammad Atabak expressed appreciation for Pakistan’s support of Iran during the recent 12-day conflict. He emphasized the historical and brotherly ties between the two nations, noting that such relations have consistently had a positive impact on their governments’ neighborhood policies.

Atabak also offered condolences for the loss of lives in Pakistan’s recent floods, stressing that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always stood by its neighbors in difficult times.

Referring to the recent visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan, Atabak underlined that the leaders of both countries are determined to expand relations across economic, political, and cultural spheres. He said the goal of reaching \$10 billion in trade is realistic given the economic and human capacities of both nations.

The minister outlined upcoming meetings between officials of the two countries within the framework of the Iran-Pakistan Joint Cooperation Commission, noting that discussions will cover a range of technical issues. Agreements on essential goods, he said, would be of particular importance.

Atabak added that resolving issues surrounding barter trade could significantly advance Tehran and Islamabad’s economic relations and help achieve the set trade target. He highlighted the planned establishment of a joint Iran-Pakistan company, with investment from both central banks, as a major step toward implementing decisions made in recent high-level talks. This mechanism, he explained, would facilitate barter transactions and mark an influential beginning for a brighter future in bilateral ties.

## Pursuing Joint Insurance with ECO and BRICS



TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister of Health for Treatment Affairs has described efforts to establish joint insurance mechanisms with ECO and BRICS as a key step toward resolving insurance-related challenges faced by foreign patients seeking medical care in Iran. He emphasized that insurance coverage for health tourists remains one of the most important and pressing issues in this sector.

Speaking to IRNA, Seyed Sajjad Razavi addressed the subject of international health insurance and coverage of medical centers for health tourists in Iran. He noted that insurance options for foreign patients have long been a challenge, as Iran currently has no direct connections with international insurers.

“Neither Iranian-issued insurance policies are accepted abroad, nor are international insurances recognized in our medical centers,” Razavi explained. “The main reason lies in financial and banking restrictions influenced by economic issues and sanctions.”

He added that Iran strongly wishes to allow patients to pay with international bank cards or benefit from insurance policies valid in regional countries. “For this reason, we are pursuing the creation of joint insurance with neighboring countries and members of organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, and the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). The subject was raised at the ECO summit in Hamedan to define a workable framework,” he said.

Acknowledging that sanctions and banking limitations have slowed progress, Razavi stressed that the Ministry continues to pursue this path.

He pointed out that if health insurance is implemented for travelers coming to Iran, it could significantly ease their ability to cover medical expenses. However, building such a system is not simple.



## North Korea's Nuclear Weapons State Is Irreversible

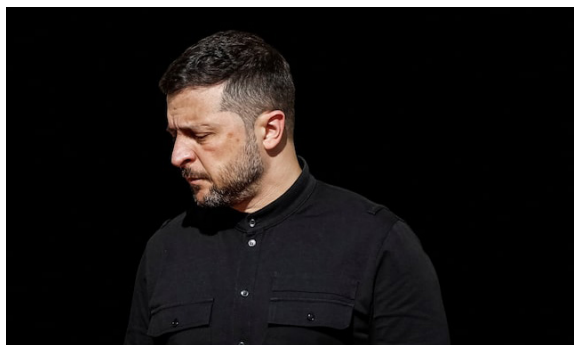
SEOUL (Dispatches) - The permanent mission of North Korea to the United Nations said the country's position as a nuclear weapons state was irreversible, denouncing U.S. "anachronistic" claims for denuclearisation, state media KCNA reported on Monday. "The position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a nuclear weapons state which has been permanently specified in the supreme and basic law of the state has become irreversible," the DPRK permanent mission to the UN Office and international organizations in Vienna was quoted as saying.

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

While criticising the U.S. push for denuclearisation as a "provocative act" of interfering in its internal affairs, Pyongyang defended its nuclear weapons as an "inevitable option" of defending the country from U.S. nuclear threats.



## Zelenskiy Says Ukrainian Forces Make Progress in Sumy Border Areas



KYIV (Dispatches) - President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Sunday that Ukrainian forces had advanced in border districts of northern Sumy region, an area where Russian troops have tried for months to establish a foothold.

Zelenskiy, speaking in his nightly video address, also quoted Ukraine's top commander as saying Moscow's forces had suffered significant losses in Donetsk and Kharkiv regions along the 1,000-km (620-mile) frontline.

Zelenskiy was speaking after a week of Russian statements underscoring what Moscow described as gains in central Dnipropetrovsk region.

Russian troops are engaged in a slow push across eastern Ukraine, with nearly daily announcements of captured villages.

Moscow has annexed four regions it has partially occupied -- Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson -- but not Dnipropetrovsk where it has so far said it has taken a string of villages along the edge of its administrative border.

"There are good results in border areas of Sumy region," Zelenskiy said, citing top commander Oleksandr Syrskyi. "Our units are continuing to advance in the direction of Ukraine's state border."

Since evicting Ukrainian forces from Russia's Kursk region earlier this year, Russian troops have tried to set up what the Kremlin calls a buffer zone in Sumy region. Russia regularly shells larger towns, including the city of Sumy.

Zelenskiy said Russian forces had suffered notable losses near Kupiansk, an area in northeast Kharkiv region under sustained Russian pressure for months.

"We continue to operate in the Dobropillia direction," he said, referring to a town near Pokrovsk, one of the focal points of Russia's long-running drive through Donetsk region. "It is important that Russian assaults are being repelled by our boys."

## Support for Far-Right Triples in Western German Vote



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Support for Germany's far right surged in local elections in the country's most populous state on Sunday, sending a warning to conservative Chancellor Friedrich Merz's four-month-old national coalition with the Social Democrats, early projections showed.

Initial forecasts from pollster infratest dimap for broadcaster ARD after voting ended for councils, districts and mayors in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia showed support for the Alternative for Germany (AfD) party had more than tripled to 16.5% from 2020.

Merz's conservatives remained the strongest party, scoring 34% of the vote, roughly the same level as five years ago. The Social Democrats (SPD) slipped to 22.5% from 24.3%, according to infratest dimap.

"I am looking at the AfD's results with great concern. This should give us pause for thought because this is a path that is emerging, and we democrats must counter it," Olaf Lies, SPD premier of the state of Lower Saxony told ARD television.

North Rhine-Westphalia is home to nearly a quarter of Germany's population. It covers a wide area from the Ruhr, Germany's declining industrial heartland which is seeking to shift away from coal mining and steel production, to cities such as Cologne and Duesseldorf and large rural regions.

# Qatar PM Calls on Global Community to Hold Israel Accountable

DOHA (Dispatches) - Qatar's prime minister urged the international community yesterday to reject "double standards" and hold Israel accountable, speaking on the eve of an emergency summit called in response to an unprecedented Israeli strike on Hamas members in Doha.

The deadly attack—carried out by one U.S. ally on the territory of another—sparked a wave of criticism, including a rebuke from President Donald Trump, who nonetheless dispatched Secretary of State Marco Rubio to Israel in a show of support.

Monday's emergency gathering of Arab and Islamic leaders will serve as a pointed show of unity among Persian Gulf countries and seek to pile more pressure on Israel, which is already facing mounting calls to bring an end to the war and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

"The time has come for the international community to stop using double standards and to punish Israel for all the crimes it has committed," Qatari premier Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told a preparatory meeting on Sunday, adding Israel's "war of extermination" in Gaza would not succeed.

"What is encouraging Israel to continue... is the silence, the inability of the international community to hold it accountable."

Among the leaders expected at the summit were Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas arrived in Doha on Sunday.

It remains to be seen whether Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, will attend the gathering, though he visited Qatar earlier this week in a show of neighbourly solidarity.

Meanwhile Iraqi Prime Minister al-Sudani on Sunday called for the establishment of an Islamic military alliance, saying recent Israeli actions in Gaza and Qatar demand a collective response, Anadolu Ajansi (AA) reported.

Sudani said Tuesday's airstrike on Doha, which killed five Hamas members and a Qatari security officer, was "a shocking breach of international law" and a reminder that Israel's actions threaten the security of the entire region.

"There is no reason Muslim nations cannot form a joint security force to defend themselves," he told Qatar's Al Jazeera channel, urging Arab and Islamic countries to build a comprehensive political, security and economic partnership.



His remarks came as preparations were underway for an emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Doha to discuss the fallout from Israel's strike on Qatar. The gathering was also expected to see the activation of a long-proposed joint Arab military force, an initiative first advanced by Egypt nearly a decade ago.

The Iraqi premier stressed that the Islamic world holds "numerous levers" that could be used to deter Israel, warning that the Israeli "aggression will not stop at Qatar." He pointed to what he described as systematic killings in Gaza for nearly two years.

According to Qatar's foreign ministry spokesman, Majed al-Ansari, Monday's meeting was to consider "a draft resolution on the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar".

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told Al Jazeera on Sunday that the question of Israel's behaviour "is no longer just a Palestine-Israel issue".

"The biggest problem right now is Israeli expansionism in the region," he said.

"Arab and Islamic countries must come together and find a solution based on this newly defined problem."

Elham Fakhro, a fellow of Harvard's Middle East Initiative, said she expected Persian Gulf states to "use the summit to call on Washington to rein in Israel".

"They will also seek stronger U.S. security guarantees, on the basis that Israel's actions expose the inadequacy of current assurances and have undermined US credibility as a security partner," she added.

Middle East lecturer Karim Bitar, of Paris's Sciences Po University, called the gathering a "litmus test" for Arab and Muslim leaders, saying many of their constituents were "sick and tired of the old-style communiques".

"What they are expecting today is that these countries... send a very important signal not only to Israel but also to the United States that time has come for the international community to stop giving this blank check to Israel," he said.

Hamas politburo member Bassem Naim said the militant movement, whose October 2023 attack on Israel sparked the Gaza war, hoped the summit would produce "a decisive and unified Arab-Islamic position".

# Israel Intensifies Gaza City Bombing as Rubio Arrives

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Israeli forces destroyed at least 30 residential buildings in Gaza City and forced thousands of people from their homes, Palestinian officials said, as U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived on Sunday to discuss the future of the conflict.

Israel has said it plans to seize the city, where about a million Palestinians have been sheltering, as part of its declared aim of eliminating the militant group Hamas, and has intensified attacks on what it has called the last bastion of the militant Palestinian group.

Hamas' political leadership, which has engaged in on-and-off negotiations on a possible ceasefire and hostage release deal, was targeted by Israel in an airstrike in Doha on Tuesday in an attack that drew widespread condemnation.

Qatar was to host an emergency Arab-Islamic summit on Monday to discuss the next moves. Rubio said Washington wanted to talk about how to free the 48 hostages still held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip and rebuild the coastal strip. Only 20 are believed to be alive.

"What's happened has happened," he said. "We're gonna meet with them (the Israeli leadership). We're gonna talk about what the future holds," Rubio said before heading to Israel where he will stay until Tuesday.

Once there, Rubio visited the Western Wall Jewish prayer site in Jerusalem. He was expected to hold talks with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The Western Wall visit was "reaffirming America's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's eternal capital," according to a statement from the State Department.

In late 2017, during his first term as president, Donald Trump formally



recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and subsequently moved the U.S. embassy there from Tel Aviv.

Philippe Lazzarini, commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), said in a post on X on Sunday that the agency had stopped services at the Beach camp clinic, which he said is the only health care available in the enclave north of Wadi Gaza.

Water and sanitation services are now at half capacity, Lazzarini said, adding that 10 UNRWA buildings have been struck in Gaza City in the past

four days.

U.S. officials described Tuesday's strike against Hamas members in Qatar, a close U.S. ally, as a unilateral escalation that did not serve U.S. or Israeli interests. Rubio and U.S. President Trump both met Qatar's Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani on Friday.

Netanyahu signed an agreement on Thursday to push ahead with a settlement expansion plan that would cut across West Bank land that the Palestinians seek for a state, a move the United Arab Emirates warned would undermine the U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords that normalised the UAE's relations with Israel.

Aid agencies say an Israeli takeover of Gaza City would be catastrophic for a population already facing widespread malnutrition.

Two more Palestinians have died of malnutrition and starvation in Gaza in the past 24 hours, the territory's health ministry said on Sunday, raising the death toll from such causes to at least 422 people, including 145 children.

Israel, which blocked all food from entering Gaza for 11 weeks earlier this year, has been allowing more aid into the enclave since late July to prevent further food shortages, though the U.N. says far more is needed.

Israel says it wants civilians to leave Gaza City before it sends more ground forces in. Tens of thousands of people are estimated to have left but hundreds of thousands remain in the area. Hamas has urged people to stay.

Local officials, who do not distinguish between militant and civilian casualties, say at least 45 people were killed by Israeli fire across the enclave on Sunday, most of them in Gaza City.

Hamas said Israeli forces have destroyed at least 1,600 residential buildings and 13,000 tents since August 11.

# Tens of Thousands Protest Against Crackdown on Turkey's Main Opposition Party

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people protested in the capital Ankara on Sunday against a court case that could oust the head of the main opposition on Monday after a year-long legal crackdown on hundreds of its members.

Live footage showed crowds chanting for President Tayyip Erdogan's resignation while waving Turkish flags and party banners.

The court decision on Monday whether to invalidate the 2023 congress of the Republican People's Party (CHP) over alleged procedural irregularities could reshape the party, rattle financial markets and influence the timing of a general election set for 2028. The court could also delay the ruling.

Speaking at Sunday's rally, CHP leader Ozgur Ozel said the government was trying to cling to power by undermining democratic norms and suppressing dissent following opposition victories in local elections over the past year.

Ozel also called for a snap general election.

"This case is political. The accusations are slander. Our comrades are innocent.



What's being done is a coup — a coup against the future president, against the future government. We will resist, we will resist, we will resist," Ozel said in his address to the crowd.

The government says the judiciary is independent and denies any political motives.

Turkey has detained more than 500 people, including 17 mayors over the last year in Istanbul and other CHP-run municipalities around the country as part of corruption investigations, according to a Reuters review.

Hundreds of members of the CHP have been jailed pending trial in a sprawling probe into alleged corruption and terrorism links, among them President Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival - Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu.

The arrest of Imamoglu in March sparked the country's largest protests in a decade where hundreds of thousands took to the streets, prompting a brief but sharp selloff in the lira and other Turkish assets.





## India Defeat Pakistan in Politically-charged Asia Cup Clash

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Captain Suryakumar Yadav led India to a comprehensive seven-wicket victory against Pakistan in a politically-charged Asia Cup match on Sunday before dedicating the win to their armed forces.

India's three-pronged spin attack laid the foundation of their second successive victory in the tournament when they restricted Pakistan for a below-par 127-9.

Opener Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma contributed 31 each before Suryakumar, who made 47 not out, sealed India's victory with a six with 4.1 overs still left in their innings.

The Group A fixture was the first match between the sides since the nuclear-armed neighbours engaged in a four-day military conflict in May this year.

There were demands in India for the team to boycott the match, which went ahead with the Indian board sticking to its stance of playing Pakistan in multi-team events.

At the presentation ceremony, Suryakumar mentioned the April 22 attack in the resort town of Pahalgam in Indian Kashmir, which triggered the military conflict between the neighbours.

"We stand by the victims and their families of the Pahalgam terror attack and we express our solidarity," Suryakumar said.

"Also, we want to dedicate today's win to all our armed forces, who showed a lot of bravery."

The batter, who turned 35, called the win "a perfect return gift to India".

Earlier, Pakistan captain Salman Agha opted to bat but they crawled to 49-4 at the halfway stage of their stuttering innings.

Hardik Pandya began with a wide ball in a dramatic first couple of overs when Pakistan lost two wickets and used the review system to prevent the loss of a third batter.

Pandya redeemed himself immediately by dismissing opener Saim Ayub for a duck with the first legitimate delivery of the ball with Jasprit Bumrah taking the catch.

When Bumrah came to bowl the next over, Pandya returned the compliment and took a catch to dismiss Mohammad Haris.

Sahibzada Farhan (40) hit a couple of sixes off Bumrah but left-arm spinner Axar Patel dismissed Fakhar Zaman and Salman in successive overs to put Pakistan under the pump.

Kuldeep Yadav further twisted the knife dismissing Hasan Nawaz and Mohammed Nawaz in successive deliveries and ending Farhan's gutsy knock.

Shaheen Afridi hit four sixes in his unbeaten 33 to lend some respectability to Pakistan's total.

India began their chase in the right earnest but Shubman Gill (10) hit Ayub for back-to-back fours before falling to the spinner in the second over.

## Man City and Haaland Clobber United 3-0 in Manchester Derby

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City's goal-scoring machine Erling Haaland struck twice in a 3-0 Premier League thrashing of Manchester United on Sunday, giving Pep Guardiola's side bragging rights in the latest edition of the derby.

Phil Foden also scored for City in his first start of the season, heading in Jeremy Doku's cross in the 18th minute. Doku squeezed brilliantly through United's defence and had his first cross blocked but dug out a second that Foden leapt to guide in.

Haaland, who has a remarkable seven goals this week for club and country, scored his first of the afternoon in the 53rd minute when Doku muscled past Lenny Yoro before sliding a pass to the big Norwegian who chipped the ball over goalkeeper Altay Bayindir.

The 25-year-old, who ran at United's defence like a bulldozer all day, completed his double in the 68th when the visitors lost the ball. Haaland, lining up at the centre circle, easily outprinted Harry Maguire to Bernardo Silva's ball forward for another one-on-one with Bayindir.

"You could feel it from the fans, we needed



this," Haaland said. "You always want to win the derby but you could feel it extra today. I'm so relieved, so happy we managed to do it all together. We have to keep going. Today we're super happy."

The match lacked the intrigue of derbies past with both teams going into the game mid-table after sputtering starts.

City climbed to eighth with their second win from four, while United are 14th with just one victory.

Haaland almost had a hat-trick, thanks to United's shambles at the back. He had Bayindir beaten but missed a sitter to hit the post. Guardiola was already celebrating, but then held his head in disbelief.

The victory capped quite a week for Haaland, who had five goals on Tuesday when Norway pummelled Moldova 11-1 to maintain their perfect record in men's World Cup qualifying.

He also scored his 50th goal in his 50th home Premier League game for City. In the competition's history, only Alan Shearer required fewer home appearances, 47, to hit 50 goals.

## Seville Delivers in Style for World 100 Meters Gold

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Oblique Seville scorched to the world 100 meters gold in a personal best 9.77 seconds on Sunday, leading a Jamaican 1-2 ahead of Olympic silver medallist Kishane Thompson, second again in 9.82.

Defending champion Noah Lyles took bronze in a season's best 9.89 as the United States failed to take the title for the first time since 2015 when Usain Bolt won the last of his titles.

The sport's biggest superstar was in the stands in Tokyo - the first time since he retired in 2017 - to roar home his compatriots, though he had predicted a Thompson victory earlier in the day.

Seville had looked the man to beat through the rounds in last year's Olympics but finished last in the final. This year he almost had a disaster in the heats, recovering from a dire start, but was back to full sharpness in the semis on a humid Sunday evening.

He got another flier in the final and had clear air around him when he crossed the line.

Thompson, beaten by five thousandths of a second by Lyles in the Olympic final, had to settle for silver again, having come to



Tokyo with the fastest time by anyone for 10 years - 9.75.

Seville's 9.77 takes him into a share of 10th on the all-time list.

"It's an excellent feeling," he said. "The last time a Jamaican got a world gold was in 2016 (Rio Olympics) and that was Usain Bolt so I am really happy knowing that I actually got the gold medal and I have proved myself that I am a true competitor and I showed my resilience and my fight and determination."

"It is a tremendous feeling. I know my talent and trust in myself. Last year I was injured for the final so this time I've proved myself."

"Everyone was saying in the first round that I am panicking, but I know what I am going through in that moment and I just brushed it aside and proved to myself that I am the champion. I think I have mastered the mental part."

"Finishing strong in the last 30 metres had been a problem during the season but now I have perfected it and I was confident that if I could do it in the final, I would win. Doing it in front of Usain is a tremendous feeling."

## Spain Reach Davis Cup Final 8 With Dramatic Fightback



MADRID (Dispatches) - Spain fought back from a 2-0 deficit to qualify for the Davis Cup Final 8 with a 3-2 win over Denmark in their qualifying tie, while Australia's comeback attempt fell short as Belgium took victory in the decisive match on Sunday.

Spain and Belgium joined Argentina, Austria, France, Germany, Czech Republic and defending champions Italy in the Final 8, which will take place in Bologna in November.

Denmark, who won both the matches on Saturday in Marbella, were one win away from winning the tie, but the pair of Pedro Martinez and Jaume Munar won the doubles tie to keep the hosts in contention.

Martinez then saved a match point and forced a tiebreak in the third set to beat world number 11 Holger Rune 6-1 4-6 7-6(3) to level the tie for Spain in front of a loud home crowd.

"The feeling (at Davis Cup) is totally different. Maybe I get more nervous but, this adrenaline... gives me an extra motivation to play full. I feel the nerves but I can handle them and I think this motivation plays in my favor," Martinez said.

Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta dominated Elmer Moller in the decisive match, winning 6-2 6-3.

It was the first time Spain won a Davis Cup tie from 2-0 down.

Australia, however, failed to complete a comeback after losing their first two matches the previous day, with Belgium's Raphael Collignon beating Aleksandar Vukic in the decisive fifth match to win the tie in Sydney.

U.S. Open quarter-finalist Alex de Minaur, who had hoped for a "comeback story" despite Saturday's losses, beat Zizou Bergs in straight sets to level the tie after Australia's Jordan Thompson and Rinky Hijikata had won the doubles match.

But Collignon, who fought through cramps, beat world number eight De Minaur on Saturday, shook off a first-set stumble against Vukic to win 6-7(5) 6-2 6-3.

"With adrenaline and the energy from the bench it was crazy, I didn't feel the legs at all. It was a crazy atmosphere and a crazy match," Collignon said.

## Undefeated Crawford Becomes First Ever Three-Weight Undisputed Champion



LAS VEGAS (Dispatches) - Terence Crawford stunned Mexican superstar Saul "Canelo" Alvarez to claim the undisputed super middleweight world boxing crown, becoming the first man to win undisputed titles in three weight divisions.

In a fight of razor-thin margins, Crawford poured it on in the closing rounds to earn a unanimous decision victory, improving his unblemished record to 42-0 with 31 knockouts.

Crawford, 37, had jumped up two weight categories to vie for history, having already counted undisputed titles at super lightweight and welterweight among his titles in four - now five - weight classes.

He silenced critics who claimed his sparkling resume was packed with sub-standard opponents and quieted a raucously pro-Alvarez crowd of 70,482 at Allegiant Stadium, home of the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders.

Judge Steve Weisfeld scored the bout 116-112 for Crawford, while Tim Cheatham and Max DeLuca scored it 115-113 for the American, who had nothing but praise for his opponent.

"Canelo is a great champion," Crawford said. "I've got nothing but respect for Canelo. I'm a big fan of Canelo and he fought like a champion today."

Alvarez, 35 and a world champion in four divisions, fell to 63-3-2.