

The Iranian Embassy in Denmark Officially Expressed Its Outrage Over a Recent Editorial by the Danish Newspaper Kristeligt Dagblad, Which Described an Illegal Military Attack on Iran's Nuclear Facilities as a Great Achievement

IRAN NEWS

Behrouz Kamalvandi, Spokesperson for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Has Said That the United States Opposes an Iranian Proposed Resolution Aimed at Prohibiting Attacks on Nuclear Facilities

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DOMESTIC



Iran, Pakistan to Draft \$10b Trade Roadmap Within Three Months

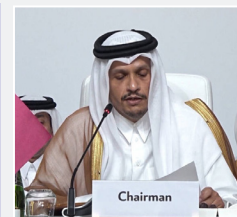
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INTERNATIONAL

(P)GCC to Activate Defense Mechanism; Doha Summit Slams Israel's Qatar Attack

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Israeli-U.S. Strikes on Iran Nuclear Facilities Eroded IAEA Safeguards



TEHRAN - The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says the June strikes by the Israeli regime and the United States on Iran's civilian nuclear facilities seriously harmed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Safeguards.

Addressing the 69th regular session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna on Monday, Mohammad Eslami said the illegal strikes also threatened the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime.

Iran will not yield to pressure and will not renounce its inherent and legitimate rights under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and international law, he said.

Iran's nuclear chief noted that the IAEA is currently at a critical juncture, and the "criminal and cowardly attacks" against Iran seriously eroded the credibility of the IAEA, and struck at the very heart of its Safeguards system.

"Enemies should realize that Iran's nuclear science and technology are entirely indigenous, and cannot be obliterated by means of military strikes, aggression, and assassinations.

"The Zionist regime's goal is not only to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities. It has rather long sought to sabotage the path of diplomacy and peace," Eslami said.

He called on the UN nuclear watchdog to condemn the attacks on Iran's safeguarded nuclear facilities and restore respect for international law.

The World Is Struggling to Establish a New Order



TEHRAN - The Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics stated that following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1990, the bipolar world order disintegrated, and the global community is now in a struggle to establish a new system.

Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh made the remarks on Monday, at the opening ceremony of the 7th International "Peace and Defense" Book Exhibition. Referring to various theories about forming a new world order, he said: "Theories of multipolarity, unipolarity, and hybrid multipolar-unipolar systems have all been proposed. However, over the past 30 years, the conflicts we have witnessed globally largely stem from the unipolar world model, which imposes pressure on some countries while others resist."

He added that the collapse of the Soviet Union ended the bipolar global framework, leaving the world in a struggle to establish a new order.

The defense minister pointed to wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, and conflicts in West Asia, including Syria, as well as attacks by the Israeli regime, stating: "These wars not only serve as political tools influencing U.S. foreign policy but are also instruments used by the West to pursue a unipolar world order."

Brig. Gen. Nasirzadeh described the unipolar system as a global conspiracy: "It is not a system designed to establish order but to plot dominance. The world will not accept it, even from countries that present themselves as allies or champions of global peace."

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



CBI Governor Says Economy Is Recovering

TEHRAN - The Governor of the Central Bank, referring to the country's current economic situation and developments following the 12-day imposed war, stated: "Unfortunately, the country's economy faced recession and numerous challenges after the war. However, we have tried to manage the situation, and according to statistics, the economy is now showing signs of recovery."

Mohammad Reza Farzin made the remarks on Tuesday at the 35th Islamic Banking Conference. He noted: "Liquidity demand surged after the war, and its growth rate sharply increased in June and July. However, signs of recovery appeared in August, and production statistics began to show a rebound."

He added that, based on data from 500 companies, production has been revived, with even double-digit growth observed in the automotive, steel, and food sectors.

The Central Bank governor said that from 2020 until last month, the economy experienced roughly four to five years of solid growth. "We recorded 20 consecutive months of positive economic growth, which was notable even compared to regional countries. Recent policies have maintained this stability, and conditions were relatively favorable in April and May. The services sector performed even better, with higher growth rates."

Referring to the 12-day war imposed by the Israeli regime, Farzin highlighted that key economic indicators declined during the conflict, which continued into July, causing a slowdown in both production and other sectors.

He explained that although the Central Bank typically does not release growth statistics during this period, estimates show government revenues declined, budgets were challenged, and support packages for industries were delayed. "These factors exacerbated economic conditions," he said.

Discussing government financing during and after the war, Farzin stated: "Despite reconstruction challenges and reduced revenues, the government needed to maintain its financial resources. Good decisions were made, and the situation was managed relatively steadily. However, two major macroeconomic developments occurred: a sharp rise in liquidity and a slowdown in growth during June and July due to wartime conditions, which diverted us from our growth targets."

He emphasized that signs of production recovery have been observed in recent months. "Fortunately, in August, economic statistics showed recovery. Despite war-related disruptions, industrial data indicate that production has revived. After two months of negative growth, the rate

turned positive in August, reaching 1.9%. Some sectors, including automotive, food, steel, and metals, even recorded double-digit growth. Inventory levels in firms increased by 4.9%, indicating higher production and lower demand. These are clear signs of economic recovery following the downturn in June and July."

Farzin said that statistics indicate improving conditions and forecasts suggest further recovery. "The current situation has helped steer us away from a state of neither peace nor war, which could have harmed the economy," he remarked.

He also warned that prevailing distrust may cause investors to delay decisions. "If this largely psychological environment is corrected, a significant portion of investment will return, and we hope the country's economic future will be on a path of growth and stability."

Regarding Central Bank monetary policies, Farzin said: "In 2024, we managed to reduce liquidity growth from over 40% to about 25% through appropriate measures, approaching the 50-year average growth rate of liquidity in Iran. This created relative stability in the liquidity situation."

However, he noted that in 2025, especially after the outbreak of war, liquidity demand surged due to government budget deficits, reconstruction needs, and delays in collecting key revenues. "The Central Bank faced the challenge of whether to maintain current liquidity levels or respond to the growing demand."

He added that Iran has managed the war independently, relying solely on domestic financing due to severe restrictions on foreign resources. "This has put tremendous pressure on the banking system, especially since the capital market experienced a slowdown and was temporarily inactive, reducing its role in financing."

As a result, the banking system bore the sole responsibility for financing both reconstruction and urgent government needs, causing liquidity growth to rise from the 20% range observed over the past two years back into the 30% range.

Farzin outlined recent Central Bank measures to control liquidity growth, emphasizing that rapid containment is challenging, as financial restrictions can harm production. "Nevertheless, we have employed various tools already in the market, including monetary policy operations, repo transactions, sterilization operations, and bond sales, to absorb excess liquidity. These measures must be adapted to the new economic conditions," he concluded.

President Warns No Country Safe From Israeli Aggression



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian says the September 9 Israeli strikes on Qatar showed that no Arab or Muslim country is safe from the regime's acts of aggression.

He made the remarks during an emergency Arab-Islamic summit in the Qatari capital of Doha.

Israel attempted to assassinate the leaders of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas while they were discussing a US proposal for a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Pezeshkian said Israel's brazen aggression was aimed at undermining diplomatic efforts towards ending the genocide in Gaza.

It was "pure terrorism" and an act of "aggression against diplomacy," the Iranian president stated. The strikes proved that the occupying regime has no moral and legal constraints, he added.

"The attack on Doha has transformed many erroneous equations and thoughts, showing that no Arab or Muslim country is safe from the aggression of the Tel Aviv regime," he said.

"Tomorrow, it could be any of the Arab and Islamic capitals. The choice is clear: we must unite."

The Iranian president also noted that the strikes on Doha demonstrated Israel's desperation and helplessness.

The act of aggression, he said, was the inevitable result of decades of impunity granted to Israel by certain Western powers through their diplomatic, military, and financial assistance.

"The Israeli regime has bombed several Muslim countries in 2025. Each attack and aggression by this regime is justified as legitimate defense, and each time it is met with ambiguous responses from Western countries and empty condemnations."

Iran Calls on UN Rights Council to Secure Compensation for U.S.-Israeli Aggression



TEHRAN (PressTV) - An Iranian Judiciary official has called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to compel Israel and the United States to compensate the Islamic Republic for losses incurred during the illegal aggression of June against the country.

The Iranian Judiciary's deputy for international affairs, Nasser Seraj, made the remarks at the 60th regular session of the Human Rights Council in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday, during a debate on the impacts of the 12-day terrorist assault on Iran.

"We expect the Human Rights Council to take effective measures to stop and prevent the Zionist regime's crimes and to use all its resources to make the aggressors (the Zionist regime and the United States) compensate for the material and moral damage inflicted on the Iranian people's rights."

Seraj also expressed his gratitude to the UN special rapporteurs who explicitly condemned the Israeli-US aggression and defended the rights of the Iranian nation.

The official, who is also the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, called on the UN rapporteurs to hold the criminal regimes in Tel Aviv and Washington accountable for their gross violation of the fundamental rights of the Iranian people.

FM Urges Realism and Multilateral Engagement to Strengthen ECO Cooperation

TEHRAN - Emphasizing the importance of pragmatic goal-setting and broad-based consultation, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister and senior diplomat, Seyed Abbas Araqchi, has urged member states of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) to avoid "unrealistic ambitions" in pursuing regional development and cooperation. Speaking at the opening of the second National Conference on Iran and the ECO, Araqchi highlighted the need for careful assessment of both opportunities and challenges while actively engaging all stakeholders, including governments, private sector actors, academics, women, and youth.

"This objective cannot be realized without considering the opinions and evaluations of all relevant stakeholders across member countries and the region," Araqchi told IRNA. "The ECO conference is a valuable initiative in this regard."

In his address, Araqchi outlined the turbulent geopolitical and security context that has shaped global and regional dynamics over the past two years. He criticized the unprecedented and overt violations of fundamental human values, international law, and the United Nations Charter by Israel, supported by certain global powers, describing such actions as threats to the achievements of the international community since World War II. He warned that the rise of unchecked unilateralism has not only weakened international order but also jeopardized regional and global peace and security while limiting opportunities for cooperation among nations.

Against this backdrop, he emphasized the critical role of multilateral mechanisms. "Strengthening existing multilateral frameworks and establishing new institutions for cooperative engagement is no longer a choice—it is a necessity," he stated. He highlighted Iran's own experiences as a victim of unilateral sanctions and geopolitical pressures, noting that despite these challenges, the country has remained an active, serious, and influential actor in regional and multilateral economic development. The ongoing ECO conference, he said, reflects Iran's continued commitment to this vision.

Tracing the history of regional cooperation, Araqchi noted that more than six decades have passed since the founding of the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) and its successor, the ECO. He described ECO as "undoubtedly the oldest regional economic cooperation framework among developing countries." While significant progress has been made in building institutional structures and economic collaboration frameworks, he stressed that the organization's current



achievements remain far below the vast potential of the region. "The ECO has the capacity to serve as a successful model of multilateral economic cooperation among neighboring countries," he said.

He welcomed the growing interest of member states, particularly those that joined in the early 1990s, in the organization's capacity to advance national development agendas as well as regional and extra-regional partnerships. He stressed the importance of collective decision-making and alignment in creating a "desirable ECO" that fully leverages shared potential.

Looking ahead, Araqchi explained that Iran is actively participating in shaping the ten-year vision for ECO,

defining strategic goals, and outlining practical measures to achieve them. He described this process as an opportunity for "collective action" among member states, citing the recent ECO Summit in Azerbaijan as a demonstration of shared commitment at the highest level. According to Araqchi, ECO provides an essential platform for synergy in addressing global economic fluctuations, geopolitical challenges, and rapid technological advancements, thereby promoting sustainable development, regional security, and shared prosperity.

Highlighting the transformative potential of emerging technologies, he underlined the importance of integrating artificial intelligence into ECO's ten-year strategic plan. "AI is not merely a technological tool; it represents a fundamental shift in how we live, produce, educate, and govern," he said. He called on member states to adopt a forward-looking approach to harnessing AI, warning that failure to do so could widen developmental gaps with other regions. Araqchi noted that Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian had proposed the establishment of an ECO Artificial Intelligence Center, which could act as a springboard for regional technological collaboration and drive innovation in other key areas of interest to member states.

In concluding remarks, he stressed that ECO's future cooperation must enhance both individual and collective resilience against emerging crises, including energy and food insecurity, pandemics, climate change, natural disasters, global economic volatility, and disruptions in international supply chains. "Strategic planning and coordination to address these challenges must be central to ECO's ten-year vision," he asserted, urging member states to take a proactive and pragmatic approach toward building a sustainable and prosperous regional order.

IRAN NEWS



Larijani Terms Netanyahu as Rootless Criminal

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Larijani has called Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a rootless child-killing criminal after he baselessly described Israel as “the frontline of American civilization”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has recently claimed that Iranians “see Israel as the frontline of American civilization here in the Middle East.”

Writing on his X account, Larijani late on Monday reacted to Netanyahu’s baseless comments.

“When a rootless child-killing criminal like Netanyahu calls himself the frontline of American civilization, you can’t blame Americans if they feel like suicide,” Larijani noted.

Talks With Russia and Turkmenistan on Gas Imports Continue



TEHRAN - According to ILNA, Saeed Tavakkoli, speaking at the closing ceremony of the “10% Energy Reduction Campaign,” emphasized the need for industrial standardization to prevent the indirect export of gas through energy-intensive products. He noted that with adjustments in fuel distribution and diversification strategies implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum, “we hope to achieve the best possible fuel management across the national network.”

On the issue of importing gas from Russia, Tavakkoli said: “A meeting on this matter will soon be held, but the volume of imports has not yet been determined. It depends on the existing infrastructure. If all aspects of the contract are finalized, gas imports will begin this year.”

Regarding potential energy shortages in the coming winter, the National Iranian Gas Company’s CEO acknowledged: “Energy imbalances still exist. However, thanks to integrated management within the ministry and the efforts of all sectors, liquid fuel reserves are in a better position this year. Moreover, major overhauls of gas refineries will finish earlier, allowing us to maximize gas supply to consumers.”

The deputy oil minister explained that energy imbalance during peak demand averages around 300 million cubic meters per day, and on certain days can rise to 350-400 million. He stressed that the ministry’s new fuel distribution strategy and diversification measures aim to ensure more effective fuel management.

When asked about the extension of Iran’s natural gas export contract with Turkey, given Ankara’s recent LNG import agreements, Tavakkoli said: “Natural gas maintains its position as one of the most important, best, and cleanest sources of energy. Our contract with Turkey is valid until 2026 and is actively being implemented. Negotiations have already begun with this country, and considering current conditions, not only Turkey but all regional states need natural gas.”

8m Tons of Essential Goods Unloaded at Imam Khomeini Port Since Start of 2025



TEHRAN - The Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran announced that since the beginning of 2025 (Iranian year 1404), more than eight million tons of essential goods have been unloaded at Imam Khomeini Port, the country’s largest hub for basic commodities. Current warehouse stocks stand at 1.8 million tons, down from 2.8 million tons in the same period last year.

According to the organization, the unloaded goods mainly consisted of livestock feed and other basic necessities, most of which have already been transported to destinations across the country. Officials said this marked improvement in unloading and dispatch operations ensures smooth cargo flows at Iran’s most important port for essential imports.

The 1.8 million tons of stock now held at Imam Khomeini Port reflects a significant reduction compared with last year’s levels, indicating faster cargo handling and distribution. The organization highlighted streamlined processes to move goods quickly from ships to warehouses and then to markets nationwide.

Authorities expect at least an 18% year-on-year increase in imports of essential goods during the second half of 2025, supported by fully operational berths and equipment. Officials stressed that there will be no service disruptions through the end of the year.

During the recent 12-day conflict, responsibility for managing maritime exports and imports was assigned to the Khuzestan Ports and Maritime Administration. Despite the circumstances, all provincial agencies coordinated to ensure uninterrupted cargo handling. Daily rail shipments exceeded 100 wagons, while road transport surged from an average of 1,500 to 2,500 trucks per day. A record 3,100 trucks were loaded in a single day at the peak of the conflict.

Since then, operations have continued without disruption. The Ports and Maritime Organization emphasized its policy of reducing cargo dwell time at the port and speeding delivery to domestic markets. Officials attributed this success to the readiness of equipment and human resources, which they said will guarantee sustained efficiency in the coming months.

Iran, Pakistan to Draft \$10b Trade Roadmap Within Three Months



TEHRAN - Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadegh, announced that Iran and Pakistan will finalize a roadmap to expand bilateral trade to \$10 billion within the next three months.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 22nd Joint Economic Commission between Iran and Pakistan on Monday, Sadegh described the meeting as a turning point in strengthening economic ties between the two neighboring Muslim nations.

She highlighted the long-standing relationship between Tehran and Islamabad, noting that the commission could pave the way for cooperation in trade, banking, transit, energy, agriculture, and culture.

Sadegh thanked Pakistan for its continued support of Iran on bilateral, regional, and international levels, particularly in the aftermath of Israel’s 12-day assault on Iran earlier this year. She said the gesture reflected the depth of friendship between the two nations and Pakistan’s constructive role in regional stability.

According to official figures, bilateral trade between Iran and Pakistan reached \$3.129 billion in 2024, with \$2.423 billion in Iranian exports to Pakistan and \$700 million in Pakistani exports to Iran.

During President Masoud Pezeshkian’s recent visit to Islamabad, the two countries agreed to set a target of \$10 billion in annual trade, a goal that Sadegh described as a sign of strong political will on both sides.

She proposed that within the next three months, the roadmap for achieving this target should be drafted and signed by the relevant ministers. Establishing a secure financial channel and strengthening banking relations, she added, would be essential to this process.

Sadegh emphasized the need to upgrade transport infrastructure, including expanding border facilities at Mirjaveh and Taftan, and advancing the Zahedan–

Taftan–Quetta railway project.

She also called for launching new shipping lines between Karachi (Port Qasim and Gwadar) and Iranian ports such as Chabahar and Bandar Abbas.

Highlighting progress in air transport, she noted the inauguration of direct flights between Tehran and Islamabad on September 8, and urged further expansion of flight destinations, airport cooperation, and air fleet exchanges along regional corridors.

The minister also revealed plans to launch a monthly ECO freight train on the Islamabad–Tehran–Istanbul route, calling it a strategic regional railway project.

Sadegh underlined Iran’s readiness to expand agricultural exports to Pakistan and stressed energy cooperation. She announced the official operation of the 132-kilovolt Plan–Jiwani power line and highlighted new initiatives in fiber-optic connectivity and communications.

The minister also referred to plans to increase the number of joint border markets, announcing that the Pishin–Mand market will reopen on August 30, 2025, creating new opportunities for local trade and employment.

She further encouraged the formation of joint committees to boost cultural, scientific, and tourism exchanges between the two countries.

The Minister of Roads and Urban Development also emphasized the significant potential for cooperation in the fields of tourism and handicrafts, suggesting that these areas could be further developed through the organization of meetings, seminars, and cultural weeks.

Concluding her remarks, Sadegh expressed hope that the commission’s negotiations and final agreements would lead to “practical and effective steps” in strengthening economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

Tehran, Islamabad Aim to Boost Agricultural Trade to \$3b

TEHRAN - Iran and Pakistan have set a target to increase their agricultural trade volume from the current \$1.3 billion to \$3 billion, officials from both countries announced during high-level talks on Monday.

Iran’s Minister of Agriculture Jihad, Gholamreza Nouri, met with Pakistan’s Minister of Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, in Tehran where the two sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening bilateral cooperation in food security, trade, and regional connectivity.

Nouri began the meeting by extending condolences on behalf of the Iranian government and people for the devastating floods in Pakistan, which caused loss of life and widespread damage. He also expressed gratitude for Pakistan’s “brotherly and resolute” stance in condemning the recent 12-day Israeli assault on Iran.

Highlighting the significance of agricultural cooperation, Nouri said: “The two major nations of Iran and Pakistan, with a combined population of more than 300 million and deep historical ties, must broaden their engagement. Food trade between us is of special importance.”

He noted that current agricultural trade stands at \$1.3 billion, and both governments have agreed to raise this figure to \$3 billion in the near future.

According to the Iranian minister, there is already capacity for Pakistan to export 300,000 live animals annually to Iran. He added that Tehran is ready to increase corn imports from Pakistan and redirect much of its rice purchases away from other suppliers to Islamabad.

“We are interested in carrying out imports through barter trade,” Nouri explained, “and in return, we can export Iranian fruits and agricultural products to meet Pakistan’s domestic needs.”

He also underlined opportunities in agricultural machinery, saying Iran’s tractor industry is prepared to supply modern, high-quality equipment to Pakistan. However, he stressed that such expanded exchanges would require upgraded and strengthened border infrastructure, since most of the trade would be conducted overland.

Nouri welcomed Pakistan’s proposal to include Bangladesh in future trade arrangements, noting Iran’s interest in using Pakistan as a transit hub to export certain agricultural products to Dhaka.

“At the same time,” he said, “we are prepared to play a similar role for Pakistan by facilitating its agricultural exports to Turkey, given our strong ties and trade routes with that country.”

For his part, Pakistan’s Minister of Commerce Jam Kamal Khan expressed appreciation for Iran’s hospitality and reciprocated



condolences for Iranian lives lost during Israel’s recent attacks.

He noted that both Iran and Pakistan had faced difficult months, including regional conflicts, and said Pakistan was grateful for Iran’s firm stance during those times.

Khan described the Joint Economic Commission, meeting after several years, as “a unique opportunity” covering 17 protocols across agriculture, industry, trade, and other sectors. He added that a business forum was being held in parallel, with strong participation from Pakistani traders and widespread public interest.

“What struck me with joy,” he said, “was that many of these trade

delegations spoke Persian, reflecting the cultural, religious, and historical closeness of our peoples. I believe the full capacities of our two nations are still largely untapped.”

Khan invited Iran to participate in the Karachi Agricultural Expo in November 2025, an annual event showcasing regional agribusiness.

He also emphasized the growing global focus on food security, particularly in South Asia. “If you look at Bangladesh, with a population of nearly 300 million together with Pakistan, it imports everything from sugar and corn to many other basic products. This represents a major opportunity for joint investment and trade,” he said.

To this end, Khan proposed exploring a trilateral agreement among Iran, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, and said Pakistani officials had already begun preliminary follow-up on the idea.

The Pakistani minister welcomed Iran’s proposals on live animal imports and expanded grain trade. He said Pakistan’s Ministry of Food Security had already formed committees to advance these projects and expressed hope they would be implemented soon.

Khan also highlighted Pakistan’s progress in seed technology, noting that collaboration in this field could be mutually beneficial. He reaffirmed Pakistan’s readiness to boost corn exports to Iran, pointing out that the two countries’ shared border and geographic proximity would reduce transportation costs and make trade more profitable.

Concluding the talks, both ministers emphasized that the involvement of entrepreneurs and the private sector would be critical in turning these plans into reality. They agreed that continuous, specialized cooperation would pave the way for stronger economic and trade ties, helping both nations secure food supplies and expand regional influence.

ICCIMA Calls for Secure Joint Financial Mechanism With IRU



TEHRAN - The Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has called for closer cooperation with the International Road Transport Union (IRU) to establish a transparent and reliable financial mechanism that can withstand existing sanctions and ensure sustainable cross-border transport.

Speaking in an online meeting with IRU Secretary-General Umberto de Pretto, ICCIMA President Samad Hassanzadeh said Iran’s strategic position along the North–South and East–West transit corridors makes it a natural hub for regional and global trade. “This is not only an economic advantage but also a strategic responsibility in securing the global transport chain,” he noted.

Hassanzadeh cited financial sanctions as a major obstacle, particularly in the purchase and issuance of TIR carnets, which are handled exclusively by ICCIMA. Banking restrictions, he explained, have disrupted these processes, creating serious challenges for Iranian transport companies. He urged IRU to work with ICCIMA on “secure, transparent, and dependable financial mechanisms” to ensure continuity of carnet issuance and services.

The ICCIMA head also emphasized the need to modernize processes, calling digitalization and the rollout of the E-TIR system one of Iran’s top priorities. “Simplifying procedures, reducing bureaucracy, and cutting operational costs are essential. Digital transformation is not only a technical requirement but a strategic necessity for the future of international transport,” he said.

In addition to finance, Hassanzadeh highlighted ongoing cooperation in professional training, such as CPC and ADR courses, and proposed expanding joint committees with IRU into areas like digital carnet issuance and financial facilitation.

Iran–Afghanistan Capabilities Expo Marks Turning Point for South Khorasan Trade



TEHRAN - The first International Exhibition of Iran–Afghanistan Capabilities will be held from September 17 to 20 (26–29 Shahrivar) in Birjand, aiming to strengthen cross-border trade, attract investment, and showcase the economic potential of South Khorasan province.

According to Alireza Khamazfar, head of the Birjand Chamber of Commerce, the exhibition offers a major opportunity to present South Khorasan’s strengths, revive Iran’s commercial presence in Afghanistan, and deepen cooperation between the private and public sectors of both countries. “Afghanistan is a transforming market, and active participation can pave the way for broader cooperation in many fields,” he said, stressing the importance of border provinces in driving bilateral trade.

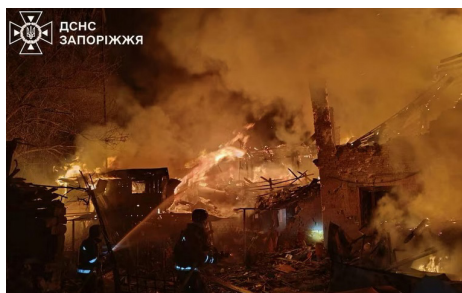
Khamazfar highlighted ongoing efforts to revive the long-dormant “Afghanistan Road” project, which could significantly boost trade flows and the province’s economy. He described the exhibition as a turning point for South Khorasan’s trade relations and expressed hope it would inspire similar events across Afghanistan.

The event will not only feature products but also showcase production and workshop capabilities in agriculture, food industries, renewable energy, and mining. Afghan officials and business leaders have been invited, while universities in South Khorasan are expected to contribute their scientific capacity to support new collaborations.

Khamazfar noted that despite the growth of Afghanistan’s domestic industries—such as 46 steel-related firms now operating—the country still relies heavily on Iranian goods and services. He emphasized that maintaining this market requires continuous promotion of Iranian capabilities. The exhibition’s goals include boosting exports, attracting foreign investment, and hosting specialized forums on investment opportunities.

Massive Russian Attack on Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia Kills One

KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian forces staged a massive attack early on Tuesday on Ukraine's southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, killing one person, injuring seven and triggering a large number of fires, the regional governor said. Ivan Fedorov said one child was among the injured. Pictures posted by the governor online showed firefighters battling blazes in private homes and other buildings. Public broadcaster Suspilne said there had been at least 10 strikes on the city.



Sweden Hits Back at Hungary's Orban Over Crime Jibe



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson accused his Hungarian counterpart of spreading "outrageous lies" on Monday, after Viktor Orban said the Nordic country was "collapsing" as gangs hired scores of children as assassins. Orban, a eurosceptic nationalist who is facing what could be a tough election in 2026, has regularly sought to rally his supporters by portraying a moral decline in other Western nations, and contrasting them with Hungary. "The abandonment of traditional values, the neglect of common sense, and weak governance have led to barbarism taking root in the home of one of Europe's greatest nations," Orban wrote on X early on Monday. Speaking in an accompanying video, the Hungarian leader said more than 280 underage girls had been arrested in Sweden for murder. Sweden has acknowledged it has a problem with gang violence, and last week said it planned to lower the age of criminal responsibility to 13 from 15, following a rise in gangs' recruitments of children. In total eight girls aged 15-17 were suspected of murder or manslaughter in Sweden in 2024, according to the Swedish National Council for Crime Prevention, the government agency responsible for keeping crime statistics. In March Sweden said its homicide and manslaughter rate dropped sharply last year to its lowest since 2014, as increased surveillance lessened gang crime that had pushed gun-related deaths to the highest level in the European Union. Responding to Orban's posts, Sweden's prime minister said Hungary's leader was "desperate" ahead of next year's vote. "These are outrageous lies. Not surprising coming from the man who is dismantling the rule of law in his own country," Kristersson wrote on X.

Turkey Court Delays Ruling on Opposition Leader



ANKARA (Dispatches) - A Turkish court delayed a decision on Monday whether to oust the main opposition leader and annul his party's 2023 congress over alleged irregularities, in a case that has already deepened the country's political crisis. The judge in Ankara adjourned the case concerning the Republican People's Party (CHP) and its chairman, Ozgur Ozel, until October 24. Hundreds of CHP members, including President Tayyip Erdogan's main political rival, Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, have been jailed pending trial in a separate, sprawling legal probe into alleged graft and terrorism links. If the court rules next month to annul the CHP's congress, that would strip Ozel - the party's combative, hoarse-voiced chair who has risen to prominence since Imamoglu's arrest - of the title that he won there. The case is seen as a test of Turkey's shaky balance between democracy and autocracy. It threatens to deepen disarray and infighting in the opposition camp, boosting Erdogan's chances of extending his 22-year rule. The court rejected plaintiff requests to suspend Ozel, 50, and his administration pending a verdict, and it ordered the CHP and election boards to submit information on planned CHP general and Istanbul congresses next week, once they are done.

(P)GCC to Activate Defense Mechanism; Doha Summit Slams Israel's Qatar Attack

DOHA (Dispatches) - An emergency summit of Arab and Islamic country leaders held in Doha has condemned Israel's "cowardly" attack on Hamas leaders in the Qatari capital, but the participants made no promises of concrete action. The (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council ((P)GCC)'s pledge to "activate a joint defense mechanism" may have been the most actionable result of the summit, which was opened by Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who called the Israeli bombing "blatant, treacherous, and cowardly".

The (P) GCC countries, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have formed a defence pact to address the security concerns of the member states.

"My country's capital was subjected to a treacherous attack targeting a residence housing the families of Hamas leaders and their negotiating delegation," Sheikh Tamim said in his opening speech. The Hamas leaders had been meeting to discuss the latest United States-backed proposal for a ceasefire in Gaza.

Sheikh Tamim called for "concrete steps to address the state of madness of power, arrogance, and bloodthirstiness obsession that has befallen the government of Israel, and what resulted and continues to result from it".

The attack on mediators proved that Israel had "no genuine interest in peace" and was seeking to "thwart negotiations" to end the war in Gaza that has killed more than 64,800 Palestinians, he said.

The emergency summit was organised after fury swept the region following Israeli strikes on September 9, which killed six people.

The (P) GCC said that consultations were already under way among the bloc's military bodies to build up "Persian Gulf deterrent capabilities", with a meeting of the group's Unified Military Command to take place soon in Doha, according to Majed Mohammed Al-Ansari, spokesman for Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

No further details were available about the new defense mechanism, which states that an attack on one member state is an attack on all.

"The joint statement obviously called for a meeting of the high command to be held here in Doha to discuss further steps to ensure that the safety and the joint security of the GCC countries is addressed," Al-Ansari told Al Jazeera.

"The (P) GCC stands in one line," he added.

The Qatari emir also warned against Israel's expansionist vision of the region, with repeated bombings of Lebanon, Syria and Yemen. Israel has also grabbed Syrian land and refused to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is dreaming of making the Arab region "an Israeli sphere of influence", Sheikh Tamim said, adding that it "is a dangerous illusion".

No immediate political or economic measures were announced against the Israeli aggression at the summit.



The member states also rejected "Israel's repeated threats of the possibility of targeting Qatar again". When questioned about these threats, as well as Israel's resolve to target Hamas "anywhere", Foreign Ministry spokesman Al-Ansari said Qatar would make use of the international system to hold Israel to account.

"We will hold Israel accountable in the international community, and our tool in doing that is our belief in international law and international organisations," he said.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Arab and Muslim leaders to apply economic pressure on Israel, arguing that "past experience has proven the success of such pressure".

He also called for Israeli officials to be brought to justice through international legal mechanisms.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said that "the heinous attack on Qatari territory is a grave violation of international law and sets a dangerous precedent".

"I say to the people of Israel that what is happening now is sabotaging the existing peace agreements, and the consequences will be dire," he said. Egypt was the first Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in 1979.

Pakistan, meanwhile, urged the UN to suspend Israel, and also called for an Arab-Islamic task force.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the task force should "adopt effective measures to ward off Israeli expansionist designs".

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, meanwhile, stated that "condemnations will not stop the missiles, declarations will not free Palestine".

He pressed for strict sanctions and the suspension of diplomatic and commercial relations with Israel.

U.S. Strike Sinks Another Venezuelan Boat as Maduro Vows to Resist

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump said a US new strike on an alleged drug trafficking boat from Venezuela killed three people Monday, as the South American country's president Nicolas Maduro vowed to resist Washington's "aggression".

Trump's administration has faced questions over the legality of deadly military strikes on suspected drug boats since the first such attack earlier this month which killed 11 people.

The fresh attack also comes amid spiraling tensions in the Caribbean as a large US naval build-up sparks speculation that Washington may be seeking regime change in Caracas.

Trump posted a video of a boat bobbing in the sea before exploding in a ball of orange flame as he announced the strike on social media, adding that it resulted in "3 male terrorists killed in action."

"The Strike occurred while these confirmed narcoterrorists from Venezuela were in International Waters transporting illegal narcotics (A DEADLY WEAPON POISONING AMERICANS!) headed to the U.S.," he said.

The strikes have raised questions about whether they are within international law or effectively amount to extrajudicial killings, but Trump insisted the United States was confident that the dead men were traffickers. "We have proof," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office.

"All you have to do is look at the cargo that was, like, it's spattered all over the ocean. Big bags of cocaine and fentanyl all over the place."

Tensions between longtime foes the United States and Venezuela reached new heights in recent weeks after Trump dispatched eight warships to waters near Venezuela to pressure Maduro.

The United States accuses the leftist of heading a cocaine trafficking cartel and recently doubled its bounty for his capture to \$50 million. Much of the international community rejected his July 2024 re-election, with the opposition claiming widespread fraud.

Maduro hit back on Monday, branding US Secretary of State Marco



Rubio the "lord of death and war" over his tough rhetoric on Latin American cartels.

Referring to the US naval build-up and the earlier boat attack, Maduro told reporters that Caracas would "fully" exercise its "legitimate right to defend itself."

Maduro often accuses the United States of attempting regime change in his country.

Speculation has been swirling that the Trump administration could be preparing targeted strikes against Latin American drug cartels, including in Venezuela.

Trump refused to deny it was a possibility on Sunday.

"We'll see what happens," Trump told reporters when asked if strikes on the Venezuelan mainland were possible. "Venezuela is sending us their gang members, their drug dealers and drugs. It's not acceptable."

Earlier this month Washington dramatically upped the ante by blowing up a speedboat with 11 people on board that it claimed was smuggling drugs from Venezuela.

In an interview with Fox News during a visit to Jerusalem on Monday, Rubio defended the attack on the boat traveling in international waters, amid questions over its legality.

"We have 100 percent fidelity and certainty that that boat was involved in that trafficking of those drugs," Rubio said.

Maduro said communications with the Trump administration had broken down over the US "aggression," adding his country would "confront it."

He leveled much of the blame at the hawkish Rubio, the son of Cuban immigrants to the United States who has been a vehement critic of left-wing authoritarian governments in Latin America.

Although most of the cartels on the terrorism list are Mexican, Washington has focused its attacks on Venezuela.

Maduro said the "bomb threats" had caused a complete collapse in relations between the two countries, which broke off diplomatic ties in 2019.

In the face of the US pressure, he has deployed 25,000 troops to Venezuela's border with Colombia, a transit point on the Latin American drug trafficking route, and along the Caribbean coast.

Thousands of people have also joined a civilian militia intended as backup for the military.

Over the weekend, they thronged training camps where they learned to handle and fire weapons.

"If they (the United States) try to attack the homeland, the entire population will defend it!" said Jenny Rojas, a 54-year-old lawyer who was among the recruits.

Israel Launches Heavy Gaza Bombardment After Rubio Pledges U.S. Support

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) - Israel heavily bombarded Gaza City, witnesses told AFP, after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio backed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's new offensive there and its stated goal of eradicating Hamas.

Rubio showed no daylight between himself and Netanyahu on a visit to Jerusalem yesterday, saying Israel could "count on our unwavering support" for its military push in the devastated Palestinian territory.

Hours later, witnesses told AFP there is "heavy, relentless bombing on Gaza City" which levelled homes and left people trapped under the rubble.

"We can hear their screams," said 25-year-old resident Ahmed Ghazal.

Rubio's trip to Jerusalem came despite US President Donald Trump chiding Israel a week earlier for carrying out air strikes on Hamas leaders in US partner Qatar.

But Rubio took a dim view of the Qatari-brokered negotiations for a ceasefire and called Hamas, whose unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war, "barbaric animals".

The Secretary of State travels to Qatar on Tuesday in an attempt to reassure the



emirate, which is home to the largest US air base in the region and has assiduously courted Trump.

Trump told reporters in Washington that Netanyahu "won't be hitting in Qatar" again.

Israel has launched a major new military campaign aimed at seizing Gaza City, the territory's largest urban center, where the United Nations determined last month a million people were facing famine—a finding rejected by Israel.

Mahmud Bassal, a spokesman for the Gaza civil defense agency, told AFP Tuesday that "bombing is still ongoing heavily across Gaza City, and the number of deaths and injuries continues to rise".

Bassal said the Israeli military also targeted the southern city of Khan Yunis, after the civil defense agency reported Israeli strikes killing 49 people on Monday.

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



Aubrey's Buzzer Field Goals Lift Cowboys Past Giants in OT

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Brandon Aubrey hit the game-winning field goal as time expired in overtime to give the Dallas Cowboys a dramatic 40-37 win over the New York Giants in Arlington, Texas.

Aubrey also sent the game into overtime by converting a 64-yard field goal -- tied for the third-longest in NFL history -- as the clock hit zeroes, extending a wild game that saw two touchdowns in the final minute of regulation and seven total lead changes.

Dak Prescott went 38-of-52 passing for 361 yards and two touchdowns, and CeeDee Lamb caught nine passes for 112 yards for Dallas (1-1). Prescott's 6-yard touchdown pass to George Pickens gave the Cowboys a 34-30 lead with 52 seconds remaining.

Russell Wilson went 30-of-41 passing for 450 yards and three touchdowns for New York (0-2). Malik Nabers caught nine passes for 167 yards and two touchdowns, including a go-ahead score after Pickens' TD grab.

An interception from Donovan Wilson set up the Cowboys at their own 30-yard line with two minutes left in overtime. A 14-yard scramble by Prescott set Aubrey up for his game-winning field goal, his fourth of the game.

Saquon Barkley and Jalen Hurts rushed for one touchdown apiece, and Philadelphia Eagles held on for a 20-17 win over host Kansas City Chiefs.

Barkley had 22 carries for 88 yards to go along with his touchdown for Philadelphia (2-0), who defeated Kansas City in the Super Bowl last season. Hurts completed 15 of 22 passes for 101 yards and he had nine carries for 15 yards.

Patrick Mahomes completed 16 of 29 passes for 187 yards, one touchdown and one interception for Kansas City. Mahomes also rushed for a team-high 66 yards and a touchdown. With the loss, Kansas City is off to its first 0-2 start since 2014, which is also the last year the Chiefs didn't make the playoffs.

Jake Browning scored on a quarterback sneak with 18 seconds left to lead an improbable comeback as Cincinnati Bengals rallied following the loss of quarterback Joe Burrow to a toe injury to defeat visiting Jacksonville Jaguars 31-27.

Browning's score capped a 15-play, 92-yard drive to lead Cincinnati (2-0) to an unbeaten mark after two weeks for the first time since 2018. Browning finished 21 of 32 for 241 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Sweden's World Record Breaker Duplantis Takes Tokyo Gold

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Mondo Duplantis lit up the third night of the Tokyo world championships when he broke the pole vault world record for the 14th time with a jump of 6.30 metres after securing a third straight world title on Monday.

The gold medal was already in the bag and all the other events finished when the American-born Swede had the bar raised a centimetre higher than the record height of 6.29m he managed in Budapest last month.

He failed by the narrowest of margins at his first two attempts but, roared on by a packed house at the National Stadium, slid over on the third with the bar giving a slight wobble before settling.

The stadium exploded as the 25-year-old raced over to celebrate with his family in the crowd before being mobbed by his delighted rivals.

"I am so happy, I cannot explain it," Duplantis said. "For the past two weeks I really enjoyed being in Tokyo. I have been enjoying everything so much. I felt the only way to leave Japan was to set the world record."



"That was my mentality. I don't know what is next for me at this moment, I don't care. I will just enjoy this right now."

The atmosphere was a stark contrast with the scenes at the same arena four years ago when Duplantis won the first of his two Olympic titles with the Tokyo public locked out because of the COVID pandemic.

Seven of the 12 vaulters cleared 5.90m in an unusually strong competition but the contest, such as it was, soon came down to Duplantis and Greek Emmanouil Karalis.

Karalis, bronze medalist behind Duplantis at the Paris Olympics, secured the silver medal with a jump of 6.00m but failed at 6.10m, 6.15m and 6.20m as he tried to put some pressure on the reigning champion.

Duplantis sailed over at 6.10m and 6.15m and then gave the crowd and athletics world what it wanted with his fourth world record jump of the season.

"I was feeling really good the whole day," Duplantis added. "I knew I had the record in me. If I have the right runway, I know that everything is possible."

Alcaraz Is a Gift for Tennis



LONDON (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz is a gift to tennis, just when it appeared that a golden era of the men's game was drawing to a close, says former world number two and fellow Spaniard Alex Corretja.

The retirement of 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafa Nadal after the end of 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer's career left a huge hole in the men's game.

But Alcaraz, 22, has already taken his Grand Slam tally to six with this month's U.S. Open triumph while forming an intense rivalry with Italian Jannik Sinner, who has four Grand Slams.

"It's a blessing to have a player like Carlos Alcaraz. He is truly a gift to the sport," Corretja told website BolaVIP.

"It is nearly a miracle to be honest. We have had so many great players in the past, but after Rafael Nadal, our legend of the sport, all of a sudden we have Carlos, who is comparable."

"He is winning Grand Slams, he is the world number one. It is something very unexpected and (we are) very fortunate to have him."

Alcaraz reclaimed top spot in the rankings by beating Sinner in the New York final. He and Sinner have shared the past eight Grand Slams between them.

"I think we really need to appreciate it, because what he is doing is very, very difficult and he is only 22 years old and has already won six Grand Slams," Corretja said.

"He will win many more Grand Slams in the future. Everybody loves him because he is so natural. He is so humble and simple, and he says whatever he feels. He is very straightforward and acts very well. He is unique."

Meanwhile American Iva Jovic captured her first WTA Tour-level title with a 6-4 6-1 win over Colombia's Emiliana Arango in the final of the Guadalajara Open.

The 17-year-old Californian, who entered the WTA 500 hardcourt tournament ranked 73rd, became the youngest player to win the title, and the youngest American to clinch a tour-level crown since Coco Gauff triumphed in Parma in 2021.

Mbappe Not Anxious Over Champions League as Real Face Marseille



MADRID (Dispatches) - Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso said that superstar striker Kylian Mbappe feels no anxiety to win the Champions League for the first time as Los Blancos prepare to face Marseille.

The coach also included Jude Bellingham in a squad for the first time this season after the player had shoulder surgery in July.

Mbappe, 26, left Paris Saint-Germain last summer to join record 15-time winners Madrid, only to see his former club lift the trophy for the first time in their history.

"He's not anxious, we all feel this is a project that's just starting," Alonso told a news conference ahead of the opening match at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"One of the objectives is to win the Champions League, hopefully sooner rather than later, Kylian is part of the path to getting there, but I don't think he's anxious."

"Today we spoke about what the Champions League means, but we were not talking about May (and the final), we were talking about the near future."

Mbappe faced his former club PSG for the first time at the Club World Cup this summer, with Madrid thrashed 4-0 in the semi-finals.

However, the striker was not fully fit at the tournament in the United States because of a stomach bug. He has hit the ground running with four goals in four La Liga games this season.

"Gastroenteritis meant it was Kylian 'lite' at the Club World Cup," said Alonso.

UEFA, FIFPRO Urge Action on Player Welfare After Yamal, Dembele Injuries

LONDON (Dispatches) - UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin and player union FIFPRO President David Terrier called on Monday for action to safeguard player health, warning that the congested fixture calendar has reached a tipping point.

Their joint statement came after Barcelona coach Hansi Flick's criticism of Spain's handling of Lamine Yamal's groin injury, in which he said the 18-year-old was given painkillers to play in World Cup qualifiers despite complaining of discomfort.

Paris St Germain said this month they were seeking corrective measures and accused France's medical staff of ignoring their recommendations on injury risks after Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doue returned to the club injured.

France's players' union (UNFP) has also blamed the international calendar for risking player health.



Ceferin and Terrier, who met last week in Albania, have urged UEFA, associations, leagues, clubs and unions to work together to protect player welfare while upholding the values of the European football pyramid.

"Our collaboration with FIFPRO Europe reflects a shared responsibility to protect player health and strengthen the foundations of the game," Ceferin said.

"National team football remains a pillar of Europe's identity and unity. As demands on players grow, it's more important than ever to work together - with national associations, leagues, clubs and players - to find balanced solutions for the future of the sport."

Terrier said there was a collective responsibility to take action. "We all recognise that the calendar has reached a tipping point," he said.