

Iran's Foreign Ministry Has Condemned the Murder of Former Hezbollah Leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Stating That the Act Constitutes a Clear Violation of International Regulations and the United Nations Charter

# IRAN NEWS

The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Says It Has Become Clear to the World That the Israeli Regime Shows No Mercy to Any Country, Pushing Nations to Seek Mechanisms for Cooperation

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### Pezeshkian Rejects U.S. Nuclear Demand as Unacceptable



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says Iran would rather face the return of sanctions than comply with an "unacceptable" US demand to hand over its entire stockpile of enriched uranium.

Speaking to reporters before leaving New York for Tehran, Pezeshkian detailed the diplomatic efforts during the United Nations General Assembly, which included meetings with leaders from France, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, Iraq, Bolivia, and the European Council.

While pointing out that an agreement had been reached with European parties, he highlighted a fundamental disagreement with the United States. "We reached an agreement with the European parties, but the American view is different, and it is natural that we did not reach an understanding regarding the snapback mechanism because the Americans' request is unacceptable," he said.

On Friday, the US and its allies, the so-called European troika, vetoed a draft resolution from Russia and China that sought to delay the imposition of the snapback mechanism following the termination of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)."

Pezeshkian added that the Americans "want us to give them all of our enriched uranium, and in return, they give us three months, which is unacceptable in any way."

The Iranian president emphasized that the US would likely push to "start the snapback" of sanctions within months, adding that if forced to choose, Iran would choose the snapback over complying with an "irrational demand," vowing that "despite that, we will solve all our problems."

### Iran Won't Yield to Coercion; History Has Proven This, Will Do So Again



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi warns the Western allies trying to bend Iran to their will through coercion that their efforts are doomed to fail as has been the case throughout history.

The top diplomat made the remarks in a letter addressed to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Saturday concerning efforts by the UK, France, and the United States to reinstate UN Security Council's sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

The letter noted how the allies had chosen to go down the path of confrontation rather than cooperation, despite Tehran's consistently demonstrating its readiness for diplomacy aimed at fair, balanced, and sustainable solutions.

He identified the stubborn approach to be rooted in the countries' "wrongly assuming that Iran will yield to coercion." However, Araqchi asserted that "history has proven this assumption false — and it will do so again."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to defend its sovereign rights and interests firmly," the official added.

"Any attempt to harm Iran will be met with appropriate responses, and full responsibility will rest with those who choose confrontation and pressure over cooperation."

In August, the European trio triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism inside a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and others in order to have the sanctions restored.

## Majlis Speaker Rejects Legitimacy of "Illegal" UN Resolutions; Warns E3 of Reciprocal Response

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf declared that the Islamic Republic does not consider itself bound by recently reactivated UN sanctions under the so-called "snapback mechanism," calling the resolutions "illegal." He warned that any country acting against Iran on the basis of these resolutions will face a "serious reciprocal response" from Tehran, adding that the three European sponsors of the move "will witness our reaction."

Speaking during a public session of the Iranian Parliament on Saturday, Qalibaf's address touched on a wide range of domestic and foreign policy issues, including the nation's economic challenges and regional security.

Opening his remarks during the week commemorating the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War—known in Iran as the "Sacred Defense"—Qalibaf paid tribute to the soldiers and civilians who fought during the conflict. He described the war as a period that "showed the peak of the Iranian nation's human capacity and strengthened the Islamic Republic on the basis of faith, religious democracy, and the leadership of the Supreme Leader."

He drew parallels between that era and current conflicts in the region, including what he called the "12-day Sacred Defense against the crimes of the Zionists," suggesting that perseverance, unity, and faith continue to underpin Iran's strength in the face of external pressures.

Qalibaf also marked Iran's National Firefighters' and Safety Day on October 7, honoring the memory of fallen firefighters, especially the 16 responders who died in the 2017 Plasco building collapse in Tehran. He described them as "teachers of responsibility, sacrifice, and devotion to the last breath."

Turning to the issue of sanctions, the speaker stressed that Iran rejects the legal basis of the snapback mechanism invoked by three European countries—Britain, France, and Germany—to re-impose UN sanctions lifted under the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"Iran does not consider itself obligated to comply with these illegal resolutions, including any suspension of uranium enrichment," Qalibaf said, adding that Tehran views enrichment as its legitimate right under international law.

He noted that Russia and China, both permanent members of the UN Security Council, have also deemed the snapback move illegitimate. "Therefore, no country is obliged to adhere to these resolutions," he asserted.

Qalibaf argued that the practical effect of the UN sanctions was limited compared with U.S.



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sanctions and claimed that their implementation would face "serious legal obstacles" within the UN system. Nevertheless, he warned that "any state that acts against Iran on the basis of these illegal resolutions will face a decisive and reciprocal response."

The parliament speaker accused Western powers of using negotiations as a tool to undermine Iran's defense capabilities.

"For the West, the word 'negotiation' is a synonym for 'deception and pressure' to strip Iran of its missile capabilities," he said. Qalibaf alleged that Western conditions for even a temporary six-month extension of snapback included negotiations with the United States and expanded access for the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"America has also made restricting the range of Iran's missiles one of its preconditions for engagement," he added, calling such demands part of a "coordinated

effort to weaken Iran's defense power."

Qalibaf reiterated that while Iran remains open to diplomacy, it considers "strengthening national power" as the primary safeguard for the country's security and interests. "Diplomacy without the backing of power is merely a tool for pressure," he said.

On the domestic front, Qalibaf emphasized the urgent need to address citizens' economic hardships, especially rising food prices, rent, and energy shortages. He urged the government to speed up the implementation of the planned electronic voucher system for essential goods so that "people always pay a fixed price for basic commodities, with the difference covered by the state."

He also called for full enforcement of legislation under Iran's Seventh National Development Plan to address energy imbalances and housing needs.

Highlighting the importance of internal cohesion, Qalibaf warned political leaders and social actors against factional disputes, saying that "anyone who undermines national unity only emboldens the enemy."

Qalibaf concluded by commemorating the anniversary of the death of Hassan Nasrallah, describing the late Hezbollah leader as "a lifelong fighter for the dignity of Muslims, the liberation of Palestine, and the security of the people of Lebanon."

He praised Nasrallah's leadership during past confrontations with Israel, saying he inspired "a global movement of resistance and defiance in the hearts of freedom-seeking youth" and left a legacy that continues to influence the region.

## UN Re-Imposes Sanctions Once Lifted Under Nuclear Deal Sabotaged by West

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The UN Security Council re-imposes sanctions once lifted under a 2015 nuclear deal, in a move triggered by European states unfoundedly maligning Iran's nuclear program, while disregarding the West's own role in undermining the accord.

The council restored the bans on Sunday at 0000 GMT. They will again freeze Iranian assets abroad, halt arms deals with the Islamic Republic and target the country's defensive missile program.

The move came nearly two days after the United States and its allies predictably vetoed a draft resolution submitted by China and Russia on delaying the so-called "snapback" mechanism inside the deal that would return the bans.

The countries vetoing the measure as well as other Washington-aligned states took the move as their latest step aimed at trying to accuse the Islamic Republic of "diverting" its peaceful nuclear energy program.

Leading the decades-long drive, the allies have consistently ignored the International Atomic Energy Agency's unexceptional failure to produce any evidence for the claims, despite its subjecting the nuclear program to its most intrusive inspections in history.

The US, itself, left the nuclear deal in 2018 in an illegal and unilateral move and once tried unsuccessfully in 2010 to trigger the "snapback" in another similarly unlawful attempt.

The European trio then reneged on their promise of returning Washington to the accord, besides suspending their trade with the Islamic Republic under American pressure.



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Iran, however, would consistently engage in dialog even with Washington that most recently betrayed the diplomatic process in June by joining the Israeli regime in attacking the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities.

Tehran is yet to react to restoration of the sanctions, but has invariably denounced the move for its lacking any legal force, and reminding the Western allies that their own measures were responsible for the situation at hand.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi wrote to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, reiterating that such attempts were "legally and procedurally flawed and therefore null and void."

He reminded that the Western states had already forfeited any right to trigger restoration of the sanctions due to their own sheer non-commitment to the nuclear accord.

Additionally, the official called on the UN to prevent Western misuse of its mechanisms, saying "no UN resources should be allocated" to revive the sanctions committees or panels that were set up back in 2006 to enforce the economic bans.

The top diplomat, however, asserted that any harm inflicted on Iran as a result of the allies' hostile measures would lead to "appropriate responses" with full responsibility falling on those who opt for confrontation rather than cooperation.

### The E3's Entry into the JCPOA: A Strategic Mistake

Today, the country stands on the verge of the activation of the snapback mechanism and the bitter culmination of two decades of harmful negotiations.

The United Nations Security Council, despite the opposition of China and Russia, with nine negative votes led by the United States, Britain, and France, rejected the proposed resolution confirming Iran's compliance with its nuclear commitments. This formally paved the way for the restoration of all UN Security Council sanctions that had been temporarily suspended under the JCPOA, and now Europe is able to activate the "Snapback" mechanism and pull the trigger of the weapon aimed at the Iranian nation.

Former President Hassan Rouhani and his team of advisers—later known as the architects of the JCPOA and the self-proclaimed heroes of diplomacy—dragged the three European countries, France, Britain, and Germany, into the Iranian nuclear file with the repetitive illusion of leaning on Europe and the fantasy of creating a rift between the European troika and the United States. They hoped they could use Britain's goodwill toward themselves and the influence of these three countries to prevent Iran's case from being referred to the Security Council at that time.

With the involvement of the European troika in Iran's nuclear negotiations, two key meetings, known as the "Saadabad Summit" and the "Paris Summit," were held.

The Saadabad Summit was convened on October 21, 2003 (29 Mehr 1382 in the Iranian calendar) as a joint meeting of the foreign ministers of the three European countries and the Iranian delegation in Tehran. According to the statement issued, Iran agreed to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for inspections of its facilities and, as a voluntary and temporary measure to verify and prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities, suspended the operation of its gas centrifuges.

Britain and France, in return, committed to preventing Iran's case from being referred to the UN Security Council.

Existing documentation of the performance of Hassan Rouhani's team at that time shows how deeply optimistic the Iranian negotiators were toward the West. They expected—contrary to all historical evidence and even their own three decades of experience in international affairs—that they could mobilize Europe to restrain the United States!

At that time, I wrote in an article: We sent children to war, Unaware of the sharp teeth of the whale.

The commitments made by the E3 at Saadabad turned out to be hollow, and Iran's case was eventually referred to the Security Council. Excessive trust in the promises of the European countries and the IAEA, and the granting of concrete and tangible concessions by the Iranian side in exchange for vague and deferred European commitments, resulted in Saadabad being added to Iran's list of diplomatic lessons. That summit was consigned to history as a prelude to Europe's growing interference in Iran's nuclear file.

Rouhani himself writes on page 599 of his book National Security and Nuclear Diplomacy:

"Europe had committed in the Tehran negotiations that as long as the Natanz facility had not resumed activity, it would prevent the referral of the nuclear file to the Security Council. However, in February 2006 (Bahman 1384), the nuclear file was referred to the Security Council while Natanz was still under suspension. Therefore, Europe had violated its commitment."

In reality, the European troika, which since World War II had never defied the United States in any major global issue and was unable to take any significant action without U.S. approval, could never have been a mediator—let alone a savior—of Iran's nuclear case!

Europe, which did not even have sufficient standing in the eyes of the United States to participate in the recent Muscat negotiations, was, through the actions of Hassan Rouhani and his advisers, granted the authority to interfere in Iran's nuclear affairs and became the legal inheritor of the snapback mechanism for reinstating the sanctions of Resolution 1929 against Iran.

It is astonishing that Rouhani's foreign minister and chief negotiator in the JCPOA went even further, expanding the role of the Europeans and even becoming a partner in the West's plan to undermine the veto power of China and Russia.

The Saadabad Agreement was the first chapter in the turbulent history of Europe's involvement in Iran's nuclear negotiations—a book that now seems to be reaching its end with the impending activation of the snapback mechanism.

Excessive optimism and the assumption of these countries' independence in decision-making caused heavy losses for the Iranian people over these months.

Hassan Rouhani must hold himself more than anyone else accountable for elevating Europe's status and granting decision-making weight to the European troika—nations that are subservient and dependent on the United States. By now, he should have realized that Britain's goodwill toward his team did nothing to solve the country's problems.



By: Hamid Reza Naghashian



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## Industry Minister to Visit Belarus for EAEU Meetings

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Seyed Mohammad Atabak, left Tehran for Belarus on Sunday to attend the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Council of Ministers meeting and hold talks with Belarusian officials.

According to the government's information portal, Atabak left Tehran for Minsk early on Sunday, September 27 (6 Mehr 1404 in the Iranian calendar), for a three-day official visit.

During the trip, the minister will participate in the EAEU Council of Ministers session and hold separate meetings with Belarusian officials, including the ministers of transport and communications as well as industry, to discuss bilateral issues in their respective sectors. Atabak will also take part in the EAEU Intergovernmental Council, meeting with his counterparts from member states for consultations.

## Positive Outlook Seen for Iran-Europe Trade



TEHRAN - The President of the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce has expressed optimism about the future of trade between Iran and Europe, provided political barriers are addressed. He emphasized the need for European countries to adopt a more independent stance in improving relations with Iran.

Speaking to Iran Chamber Online, Nariman Sadri, President of the Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce, noted that bilateral trade between the two countries has faced three consecutive years of decline. He identified pharmaceuticals, cellulose materials, and industrial machinery as the main goods imported by Iran from Austria, adding that while pharmaceutical imports have remained stable, imports of cellulose products and machinery have dropped significantly.

Sadri attributed this decline to a shortage of foreign currency available to Iranian businesses:

"Many traders have been waiting for months in line for currency allocation, but adequate amounts have not been provided."

Regarding Iranian exports to Austria, Sadri stated that they remain limited, amounting to only a few million euros annually. He reported that total trade between Iran and Austria in the first five months of this year stood at \$114 million, compared with \$318 million in 2024. According to the Iranian Trade Promotion Organization, Iran's exports to Austria last year totaled just \$6 million, against \$312 million in imports. In the first five months of 2025, exports were recorded at \$3 million, with imports at \$111 million.

Sadri explained that the low volume of Iranian exports stems partly from Austrian businesses' lack of familiarity with Iran's market and trade potential. He also pointed to political challenges, noting that no Iranian trade delegation has been able to travel to Austria this year.

"Austria is highly influenced by the broader political and economic climate of larger European countries. Since Iran's overall exports to Europe have declined and unresolved political issues remain, Austria has been affected as well," he said.

Commenting on the FATF's request for negotiations with Iran, Sadri remarked: "Accepting FATF standards would significantly facilitate trade with Europe. But under current political and security conditions, as long as Austria's consulate in Iran remains closed, businesspeople cannot engage meaningfully in trade."

Looking ahead, Sadri struck an optimistic tone: "In general, I am a positive-minded person. I believe that after resolving political differences, the outlook for Iran-Europe trade is promising. However, the prerequisite for stronger business ties remains the removal of existing political obstacles. I hope Europeans adopt a more independent approach toward improving relations with Iran, and that the government succeeds in overcoming these challenges."

## Iran's Agriculture on Alert Amid Pesticide Supply Crisis



TEHRAN - Iran's agriculture sector is facing an alarming crisis in the supply and distribution of pesticides, raising fears of an imminent disaster, the head of the Iranian Association of Pesticide and Fertilizer Importers has warned.

Speaking to ILNA, Seyed Mehdi Hosseini Yazdi, the association's president, identified the main causes of the crisis as the lack of proper foreign currency allocation and a flawed quota system.

He said that around 200 companies active in the sector have been left in limbo, and that 150 private-sector stakeholders have signed a letter to the Minister of Agriculture Jihad in protest against the current situation.

Hosseini Yazdi explained that foreign currency allocations for pesticide imports were divided into two six-month periods over the past year, but even during the first phase, "multiple problems" emerged.

"We repeatedly demanded the publication of the allocation list to ensure transparency, but only information for a few select companies was released, leaving the rest uncertain," he said.

He sharply criticized the quota-based system for distributing pesticides, calling it "disastrous and wrong." He also noted that Article 44 (on privatization) has not been properly implemented in the fertilizer sector either, and that currency allocations continue to be limited and unscientific.

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## Iran's Tourism Industry Poised for Revival as 27 Powers Delegated to Provinces

TEHRAN - Iran's tourism sector is on track to regain its peak, according to Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, who announced the delegation of 27 key authorities to provincial governments. Speaking at the World Tourism Day ceremony and the opening of Tourism Week, the minister emphasized that "Beautiful Iran shines like the sun, and tourism is a pillar of national cohesion and cultural diplomacy."

Salehi-Amiri praised the collective spirit of Iran's tourism community, saying industry leaders have gathered "under one roof with unity and solidarity to pave the way for the country's tourism development." He described tourism as the foremost channel to showcase "the real face of a beautiful Iran to the world."

Acknowledging the impact of recent regional tensions, the minister noted that "although the tourism sector suffered during the 12-day conflict, the dedicated and resilient community stood by the people." Hotels, eco-lodges, and guesthouses opened their doors to those in need, demonstrating, he said, that "the determination of tourism professionals surpassed that of the adversaries."

Salehi-Amiri highlighted tourism as one of the government's top three national priorities, backed by unprecedented financial support: 20 trillion toman from the Central Bank, 4 trillion toman from the National Development Fund, 4 trillion toman from the banking network, 6 trillion toman from budget allocations, and plus 20% of provincial development funds dedicated to tourism.

Under the Seventh Development Plan, the government aims to attract 15 million tourists and create 100,000 new jobs annually. Currently, about 1.6 million people are employed in the sector, and the minister stressed that the goal is not only to protect but to expand this workforce.

Emphasizing the private sector's central role, Salehi-Amiri said, "The government acts as a facilitator and policymaker; it should not interfere in operational activities. We will remove obstacles for investors and strengthen professional associations as vital links between the state and private enterprise."

He added that, in addition to delegating powers to governors, part of these

authorities will soon be transferred to tourism associations, which he described as "potential engines of tourism development."

Iran welcomed 7.39 million foreign visitors in the past year, up from 6 million the year before, according to official police statistics. The government had targeted 25% growth in 2024, which was achieved in the first two months of the year (Farvardin and Ordibehesht), though subsequent months saw challenges.

"The good news," Salehi-Amiri said, "is that the recovery began in September, and we expect conditions to normalize over the next six months."

Concluding his remarks, the minister underscored that "mutual trust is the foundation of joint progress. The government, parliament, associations, and tourism professionals will stand together to overcome current challenges and bring Iranian tourism back to its heyday."

Meanwhile tourism is a transformative force that not only enriches cultural life but also drives economic growth and fosters lasting peace, according to Anoushirvan Mohseni-Bandpey, Deputy Minister for Tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Mohseni-Bandpey underscored the significance of the day, calling it "an auspicious and pivotal occasion for the tourism sector."

Highlighting the strategic role of tourism in global relations, Mohseni-Bandpey said, "Tourism connects nations, elevates public culture, and stimulates economic prosperity. This modern phenomenon has sparked a profound transformation, creating a pathway toward achieving lasting peace."

Referring to this year's theme by the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), he stressed that preserving natural resources, protecting the planet, and safeguarding the environment must be top priorities for the tourism industry.

"By doing so, we can ensure both sustainable revenue and a greener, more dynamic future for our country and the world," he added.

He predicted that the upcoming Nowruz holiday will showcase "a vibrant and modern era of tourism in Iran."

## Indirect Exports of Iranian Products to the U.S.

TEHRAN - The head of the Food Industry Commission of Iran's Chamber of Commerce says some Iranian products reach the U.S. market through indirect channels, adding that the government's quota-based policies for basic commodities have failed.

Rashid Azizpour, head of the commission, told ILNA that the main challenge for the country's food industry is the provision and allocation of foreign currency, which has a direct impact on production and distribution.

He attributed price fluctuations in markets such as rice and cooking oil to misguided quota policies and inaccurate production statistics, and highlighted the growing role of knowledge-based companies in advancing Iran's food sector.

Azizpour explained that Iranian products generally cannot be exported directly to the United States due to restrictions.

"These products mostly enter the U.S. market indirectly—often via countries such as Canada or through re-export hubs like Dubai," he said.

He added that in some countries, Iranian brands have been registered locally, and production or export of these goods under the same brands is carried out by foreign firms. Azizpour urged Iranian companies to use the Madrid Agreement to register their brands internationally to prevent unauthorized use.

Responding to a question about the state of production and distribution of essential goods, Azizpour stressed the need for timely access to raw materials, some of which must be imported.

"In recent years, inaccurate data from the Ministry of Agriculture has caused disruptions," he noted.

"For example, officials reported a rice production figure of 2.7 million tons, while the actual output was closer to 2 million tons. This discrepancy led to miscalculations in import planning and turmoil in the market."

He said similar problems had affected wheat, sugar beet, and sugarcane. The situation worsens when foreign currency for imports is delayed, leaving shipments stuck at ports and customs.

"Whenever raw materials and foreign currency have been provided



on time, factories have been able to maintain adequate production and distribution," he added.

Azizpour emphasized that the food industry and food security are the top priorities during crises.

"Experience from sanctions and recent temporary crises has shown that with sufficient raw materials, proper coordination among agencies, and efficient logistics and distribution, the country can weather such challenges," he said.

He warned, however, that bureaucratic hurdles often delay the supply of even small but essential ingredients, which can disrupt production.

The food industry's competitiveness, Azizpour said, increasingly depends on research and development to meet changing consumer demands.

"Many food companies now have well-equipped laboratories and active R&D teams. Cooperation with knowledge-based companies has been expanding—whether by purchasing technical know-how or forming operational partnerships. Some food companies have even established their own knowledge-based subsidiaries or startups," he explained.

These collaborations have led to new innovative products and projects in recent years.

Discussing recent price swings, Azizpour said: "In the case of cooking oil, delays in allocating foreign currency for importing crude oil inputs have widened the gap between official and market prices. If timely allocations and imports do not occur, we could see renewed instability in the oil market in the coming weeks."

On rice, he pointed to faulty statistics and flawed quota policies as the main causes of volatility.

"Quota-based approaches have repeatedly created serious problems. At times, inexperienced companies entered the market for essential goods without the necessary capacity or know-how, disrupting established supply chains," he noted.

Azizpour argued that unified exchange rates and a rationally liberalized market could streamline operations and help stabilize prices.

## Iran-Malaysia Tourism Ties Expand as Every Tourist Becomes a Cultural Ambassador



TEHRAN - The Malaysian ambassador to Iran has underlined the vast potential for tourism cooperation between the two countries, emphasizing that every tourist acts as a cultural ambassador who shares the stories and traditions of the destination they visit.

Speaking at a ceremony marking World Tourism Day and the opening of Tourism Week on Saturday, , at the Homa Hotel Conference Hall in Tehran, Khairi bin Omar, Malaysia's ambassador to Iran, highlighted the importance of strengthening bilateral tourism relations.

"We must recognize tourism as a powerful force for advancing sustainable transformation, as reflected in this year's UNWTO theme: Tourism and Sustainable Transformation," the ambassador said.

Khairi noted that tourism ties between Iran and Malaysia have grown significantly in recent years, with both nations offering rich cultural heritage and unique historical attractions.

According to him, the number of Iranian visitors to Malaysia has increased by 30 percent in recent years.

The ambassador also stressed the role of tourism in promoting peace and cooperation between nations.

"Every tourist is, in fact, a cultural ambassador who can share the stories and narratives of the host country with the wider world," he said.

He pointed to promising opportunities for collaboration in halal tourism, health tourism, and eco-tourism, adding that Malaysia is ready to work closely with Iran to enhance cultural and tourism exchanges.

## Iran Identifies Export and Investment Opportunities in Liberia



TEHRAN - The Research Center of Iran Chamber of Commerce has released a new report highlighting promising export and investment opportunities in Liberia, while also outlining the major challenges facing bilateral trade.

According to the report, Iran's potential areas of engagement in Liberia include overseas farming, agricultural processing industries, and the export of pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, construction materials, as well as technical and engineering services.

The study, titled "Exploring Iran's Export Opportunities in Liberia," emphasizes Liberia's strategic location on the West African coast with access to the Atlantic Ocean, offering vital shipping routes. With a population of 5.5 million, the country is recovering from years of civil conflict and remains heavily dependent on exports of raw materials such as iron ore, gold, diamonds, and rubber.

At the same time, Liberia's reliance on imported consumer and industrial goods creates a favorable environment for expanding trade with Iran.

The report identifies several areas where Iran can play a significant role:

**Agriculture and Agro-Processing:** Liberia's fertile land and abundant labor make it suitable for large-scale cultivation of crops like soybeans and palm. Investment in processing industries, such as rubber-based products or edible oils, is seen as highly profitable.

**Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment:** Given Liberia's dependence on imports, Iranian producers of affordable, high-quality medicines and equipment can capture a strong market share.

**Construction Materials and Engineering Services:** The urgent need to rebuild infrastructure has created demand for materials such as cement, tiles, and ceramics. Iranian firms could also contribute to projects in road and port construction.



## Germany to Take Steps to Defend Itself Against High Threat From Drones

FRANKFURT (Dispatches) - German Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt said that the threat from drones was “high” and that the country would take measures to defend itself.

Officials in Europe have been on high alert after drone incursions in Denmark shut down air traffic in various parts of the country several times over the past week. Authorities are also investigating sightings in Germany.

“There is a threat that can be classified as high when it comes to drones. It is an abstract threat, but very concrete in individual cases,” Dobrindt told journalists in Berlin.

Among the measures, Germany will look to revise an aviation security law to allow the nation’s armed forces to get involved to possibly shoot down drones, he said.



## Russian-Occupied Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Plant Off-Grid for Days



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine’s Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant has been off-grid for four consecutive days, Ukrainian and Russian authorities said Saturday, its longest blackout to date as both sides accuse each other of attacking power-supply lines. The plant’s reactors are shut down but still need energy to maintain vital cooling and safety systems.

Blackouts at Europe’s largest nuclear power station have been frequent since Russia seized the Zaporizhzhia plant in 2022, due to its proximity to the front line. But the current blackout is the longest so far, and experts warn that it heightens the risk of a malfunction.

“As a result of Russian actions, the Zaporizhzhia NPP (Nuclear Power Plant) has been without power for the fourth day,” Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiga said on X.

Russia said the power plant has been receiving backup power supply since Tuesday, when it said Ukraine attacked the grid.

“From September 23, 2025, the power supply for the needs of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is provided by backup diesel generators,” the Moscow-backed operator of the station said on Telegram.

It added that there were “sufficient” reserves of diesel to operate “for an extended period”, without specifying for how long exactly.

“Emergency diesel generators are considered a last line of defence to be used only in extreme circumstances,” NGO Greenpeace Ukraine said.

The group claimed Moscow could use the crisis “to try and reconnect to the temporary Russian-occupied grid of Ukraine”, to restart one of the reactors later.

The head of the UN’s International Atomic Energy Agency, Rafael Mariano Grossi, was in Moscow this week for talks with President Vladimir Putin and Russia’s Rosatom nuclear agency regarding safety at Zaporizhzhia.

## Colombian President Accuses U.S. of Violating Int’l Law After Visa Revoked



BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombian President Gustavo Petro dismissed the U.S. decision to revoke his visa and accused Washington of violating international law over his criticism of Israel’s war in Gaza.

The U.S. said on Friday it would revoke Petro’s visa after he took to New York’s streets on Friday to join a pro-Palestinian demonstration and urged U.S. soldiers to disobey President Donald Trump’s orders.

“I no longer have a visa to travel to the United States. I don’t care. I don’t need a visa ... because I’m not only a Colombian citizen but a European citizen, and I truly consider myself a free person in the world,” Petro said on social media.

“Revoking it for denouncing genocide shows the U.S. no longer respects international law,” he added on a post on X.

Israel has repeatedly denied genocide charges over its actions in Gaza and says it is acting in self-defense.

Images of starving Palestinians, including children, have sparked global outrage against Israel’s assault on Gaza, which has killed 65,000 people, according to Gazan authorities, and internally displaced the entire population of the enclave. Multiple rights experts, scholars and a U.N. inquiry say this amounts to genocide.

# Lavrov Warns of Decisive Response to Aggression

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the UN General Assembly on Saturday that any aggression against his country will be met with a decisive response. His address came as NATO has been considering whether to shoot down Russian aircraft after a series of incursions over several NATO member states.

Russia issued a warning Saturday to NATO powers that are considering firmer responses to alleged Russian incursions, as Ukraine said it for the first time received a US-made Patriot system from Israel to ramp up defenses.

Several European countries say Russian fighter jets and drones have violated their airspace over recent weeks, in what NATO has seen as a test of its resolve as Moscow presses on with its invasion of Ukraine.

“Russia is being accused of almost planning to attack the North Atlantic alliance and the European Union countries,” Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an address to the UN General Assembly.

“Russia has never had and does not have any such intentions. However, any aggression against my country will be met with a decisive response,” he said.

Speaking later to reporters, Lavrov said that if any country downs objects still within Russian airspace, “they will very much regret it.”

NATO -- which considers an attack on one ally an attack on all -- has been considering whether to shoot down Russian planes, in what would be a dramatic raising of the stakes with Russia.

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday voiced support for downing Russian planes.

Trump had once boasted of his warm ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin and invited him last month for talks in Alaska, ending the veteran Russian leader’s ostracization by the West since he ordered the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

But Trump has subsequently voiced frustration with Putin and said that Ukraine should seize back all the territory Russia has taken or even cross the border -- abruptly reversing his months of pressure on Kyiv to give up land in talks with Russia.



Lavrov went out of his way still to praise Trump, who despite his public musings on Putin has yet to impose long-threatened new economic sanctions on Russia.

“In the approaches of the current US administration, we see a desire not only to contribute to ways to realistically resolve the Ukrainian crisis, but also a desire to develop pragmatic cooperation without adopting an ideological stance,” Lavrov said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced Saturday that Israel for the first time had sent a US-made Patriot anti-missile defense system.

“The Israeli (Patriot) system is operating in Ukraine. It has been operating for a month. We will receive two Patriot systems in the fall,” Zelensky told reporters as he returned from the UN summit, in which he met Trump.

Kyiv is scrambling to beef up its air defenses to repel daily Russian barrages of drones and missiles, especially ahead of winter, with

heating infrastructure a frequent target of the attacks.

Israel, despite close ties with the United States, has tried to stay out of the Russia-Ukraine conflict but has sought cordial relations with Moscow in part due to its historic influence in neighboring Syria.

However, Russia’s role there has diminished since Islamist-led fighters toppled veteran leader Bashar al-Assad in December.

Israel has still been adamant it will not share with Ukraine its state-of-the-art Iron Dome defense system built with US support that has proved crucial in shooting down incoming missiles in Israel’s own ongoing war.

Russia, after failing to seize Ukraine swiftly in 2022, has been grinding through the east of the country in costly battles.

It claimed on Saturday to have captured three villages. Ukraine said that overnight Russian attacks killed one person and wounded 12 in the southeastern Kherson region.

# Berlin’s “Together for Gaza” Rally Draws Tens of Thousands Protesters Urging End to War

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Waving Palestinian flags and chanting, “free, free Palestine”, tens of thousands of protesters gathered in the heart of Berlin Saturday to call for an end to the Gaza war. Demonstrators also called for EU sanctions against Israel, breaking with Germany’s longstanding pro-Israel stance, mainly due to its historical responsibility for the Holocaust.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of the German capital on Saturday to demand that Israel halt its military campaign in Gaza.

Large crowds waved Palestinian flags and banners reading “Free, free Palestine” and “Food and water are human rights” as they marched from Berlin’s town hall.

“Today we can send a signal that the majority, who are against Israel’s policies and against this genocide, are visible on the streets and can take action,” Dustin Hirschfeld, who took part in the “Together for Gaza” demonstration, told AFP.

The protesters finished their march at Berlin’s Victory Column monument, the site of a rally and concert by rappers and hip hop artists.

Police estimated some 60,000 people took part in both the march and the rally, which was organised by Die Linke political party and civil society groups. Organisers put the figure at around 100,000.

About 1,800 police were deployed to monitor the protests.

The protesters also called for a halt to German arms exports to Israel and demanded European Union sanctions against Israel, German news agency dpa reported.

Die Linke party has accused the German government of



staying largely silent as the humanitarian situation worsens in Gaza.

The government “must finally take action and increase pressure on the Israeli government to force it to change course,” the party urged, as it called for people to join the protest.

By around 1800 GMT, the event had been peaceful. The huge demonstration highlights growing anger and the shifting public mood in Germany.

Israel has historically enjoyed widespread support in Germany, and Berlin, at pains to atone for the Holocaust, is one of its staunchest allies.

But as the military campaign has ground on, international outrage has grown.

Berlin has stepped up criticism -- Chancellor Friedrich Merz announced in August that his government was going to restrict weapons sales to Israel.

However critics argue Merz has not gone far enough.

Germany has so far balked at sanctioning Israel, and has signalled it is not ready to recognise a Palestinian state, unlike many of its Western allies.

Israel’s offensive in the Gaza Strip was triggered by Palestinian militant group Hamas’s October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

The Hamas attack killed 1,219 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally from Israeli official figures, in the deadliest day in the country’s history.

Israel’s offensive has killed more than 65,926 Palestinians, also mostly civilians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers reliable

# Trump Announces Deployment of Federal Troops to Portland, Oregon

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he was authorizing the deployment of federal troops to Portland, Oregon, which he described as “under siege from attack by Antifa, and other domestic terrorists”. Portland is the latest city targeted by the Trump administration for deployments following announcements regarding Chicago, Memphis, Washington, DC and Los Angeles.

Trump said Saturday he will send troops to Portland, Oregon, “authorizing Full Force, if necessary” to handle “domestic terrorists” as he expands his controversial deployments to more American cities.

He made the announcement on social media, writing that he was directing the Department of Defense to “provide all necessary Troops to protect War ravaged Portland”.

Trump said the decision was necessary to protect US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities, which he described as “under siege from attack by Antifa,



and other domestic terrorists”.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for details on Trump’s announcement, such as a timeline for the deployment or what troops would be involved. He previously threatened to send the National Guard into Chicago without following through. A deployment in Memphis, Tennessee, is expected to include only about 150 troops, far less than were sent to the District of Columbia for Trump’s crackdown or in Los Angeles in response to immigration protests.

Pentagon officials did not immediately respond to requests for information.

Since the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, the Republican president has escalated his efforts to confront what he calls the “radical left”, which he blames for the country’s problems with political violence.

He deployed the National Guard and active-duty Marines to Los Angeles over the summer and as part of his law enforcement takeover in the nation’s capital.





LONDON (Dispatches) - Premier League champions Liverpool dropped points for the first time this season when they lost 2-1 at Crystal Palace in the eighth minute of added time as Manchester United and Chelsea suffered 3-1 defeats.

United slumped at Brentford and 10-man Chelsea were beaten at home by Brighton & Hove Albion, who scored twice in stoppage time.

Manchester City thrashed Burnley 5-1 thanks to two own goals and a late brace from Erling Haaland while Leeds United were held to a 2-2 draw after Bournemouth equalised in added time through 19-year-old Eli Junior Kroupi.

There was also a late twist at Tottenham Hotspur when Joao Palhinha struck an equaliser in the fourth minute of stoppage time to salvage a 1-1 draw at home to bottom club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Liverpool were on the back foot early on when Palace took the lead in the ninth minute through a set-piece when the ball fell to Ismaila Sarr who smashed it home.

Liverpool would have conceded more if not for goalkeeper Alisson while Jean-Philippe Mateta nearly made it 2-0 when he hit the post.

Although Liverpool equalised through Federico Chiesa in the 87th minute, fellow substitute Eddie Nketiah provided late drama when he scored the winner in the 97th minute, with Selhurst Park celebrating the goal twice after VAR confirmed he was not offside.

"The boys are in really good form and think we can win every game and today we showed that," Nketiah told the BBC.

Palace ended the day in second place, three points behind leaders Liverpool although Arsenal can go second if they beat Newcastle United.

Burnley's Maxime Esteve became only the sixth player to score two own goals in a Premier League game as City climbed up to fourth.

Esteve scored the first when he tried to deny Phil Foden but Jaidon Anthony made it 1-1 with a shot that deflected off Ruben Dias.

Matheus Nunes restored City's lead with a close-range effort before Esteve's second own goal came when he looked to stop Oscar Bobb from finding the net.

Haaland struck twice in the dying minutes to hand Burnley their biggest loss of the season.

Bryan Mbeumo received a warm welcome from the Brentford fans as he returned to his former club for the first time since his move to Manchester United but the reception paled in comparison to the roars when the home side went 2-0 up inside 20 minutes.

Igor Thiago capitalised on United's high line for the opener when Jordan Henderson sent him through on goal in the eighth minute, before the Brazilian forward grabbed his second when United keeper Altay Bayindir spilled a save right into his path.

United pulled one back when Benjamin Sesko scored his first goal for the club but Bruno Fernandes had a penalty saved by Caoimhin Kelleher before Mathias Jensen put the game out of reach in added time with a rocket from outside the box.

## Europe Pile Pain on U.S. Team in Ryder Cup Day Two Demolition



FARMINGDALE (Dispatches) - Europe dropped only two points on Saturday to extend their ruthless demolition over the home team 11-1/2 to 4-1/2 on the second day of the Ryder Cup, as U.S. captain Keegan Bradley was left searching for answers at Bethpage Black.

The visitors were 2-1/2 points away from retaining their title after going 3-1 in the morning foursomes and 3-1 in afternoon fourballs in front of an increasingly loud partisan crowd.

They were only the second team under the current 28-point system to win each of the first four sessions at one Ryder Cup since the 2006 European team and the first to lead by more than 11 points heading into singles.

"I didn't really imagine this," said captain Luke Donald. "The job is never done till it's done. So I'm not going to sit here and be complacent."

The United States, hoping to avenge their dreadful 2023 defeat in Rome, were instead left clinging to only shreds of hope as they would need 10 points from Sunday's 12 singles matches to win.

"I'm seeing what looks like to be historical putting. They're making everything," said Bradley. "They're a tough team to beat."

Hard-hitting fan favourite Bryson DeChambeau tried to light a spark for the home team as he teed off first for the Americans and secured a point alongside Cameron Young in the first match of the day.

But nearly everything went Europe's way from there, as the visitors won the remainder of the morning foursomes and kept the momentum going in the afternoon.

English duo Tommy Fleetwood and Justin Rose opened the scoring for Europe in the afternoon fourballs as they put on a putting clinic to beat DeChambeau and top-ranked Scottie Scheffler 3&2.

The match fell into conflict briefly as the two sides got into a heated exchange after Rose directed DeChambeau's caddie off the 15th green, as tensions between fans and players escalated across the pastoral venue.

## Messi's Scoring Streak Ends



MONTREAL (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi's scoring streak came to an end as Inter Miami were held to a 1-1 draw in their Major League Soccer clash with Toronto FC.

Argentina superstar Messi had gone into yesterday's game in Toronto in blistering form, bagging five goals in his previous three appearances for Miami.

But though the 38-year-old carved out a string of promising openings, a superb performance from Toronto goalkeeper Sean Johnson prevented him from extending his recent goal spree.

Miami, who have already booked their postseason berth, appeared on course for all three points at BMO Field after Tadeo Allende headed home a Jordi Alba cross in first-half stoppage time to put Inter 1-0 up.

But Miami's suspect defence was once again exposed in the second half, with a string of blunders gifting Djordje Mihailovic a close-range equaliser that made it 1-1 in the 60th minute.

Miami pressed relentlessly for a winner, but Johnson produced two fine saves to deny shots from Messi.

Messi continues to lead the MLS scoring charts with 24 goals in 23 matches.

Inter coach Javier Mascherano said Toronto goalkeeper Johnson had been the difference between the two teams.

"I think we deserved to win, we had the most real chances during the game, maybe we had 10-15 minutes in the second half that we were in a bit of confusion, but at the end we had the game under control," Mascherano said. "I think their goalkeeper was the man of the match."

## Alcaraz, Sinner Advance to Quarters on Asian Swing

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz showed he was in fine physical form as he defeated Zizou Bergs of Belgium 6-4, 6-3 to advance to the quarterfinals of the Japan Open in Tokyo.

Alcaraz, the top seed and World No. 1, credited his physio for helping him recover from a slight ankle injury suffered in the first round in Tokyo. The Spaniard needed just 79 minutes to move on in the hardcourt tournament and is seeking his eighth title of the 2025 season.

Awaiting Alcaraz in the quarterfinal is Brandon Nakashima, who defeated Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 7-5, 6-3.

No. 3 seed Holger Rune of Denmark topped Ethan Quinn 6-4, 6-2 to set up a quarterfinal contest against Jensen Brooksby, another American. Brooksby defeated Italy's Luciano Darderi 7-6 (7), 6-1.

Top seed and World No. 2 Jannik Sinner received a tough challenge from Terence Atmane of France, eventually taking control of the match to move to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-0 win in Beijing.

Altmane used three service breaks in the second set --



including with Sinner serving at 5-6 to stay in the match -- to get even. But Sinner answered with a dominant third set to take a victory in two hours, 22 minutes.

The Italian has won 61 matches on hard courts against players ranked outside the top 10. His next opponent -- World No. 57 Fabian Marozsan of Hungary -- defeated France's Alexandre Muller 6-3, 7-6 (5) to advance.

Also making the last eight was Australian Alex de Minaur, the No. 3 seed who outlasted France's Arthur Rinderknech 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (2) for his 33rd hardcourt win of 2025.

Meanwhile Novak Djokovic will return to action in Shanghai next month in his first tournament since his U.S. Open semi-final defeat by Carlos Alcaraz, organisers of the Masters tournament said.

The Serb has won the event four times and will be making his 14th main-draw appearance as he looks to finish the season strong after being shut out of the Grand Slams by world number one Alcaraz and number two Jannik Sinner.

## Atletico Madrid Stun Leaders Real With 5-2 Derby Win

MADRID (Dispatches) - Julian Alvarez struck twice to earn Atletico Madrid an emphatic 5-2 derby victory over La Liga leaders Real Madrid, ending their rivals' perfect start to the season.

Xabi Alonso's side had won all six of their games but Diego Simeone's Atletico overran them at the Metropolitano stadium.

The hosts came flying out of the blocks and took the lead through Robin Le Normand.

Kylian Mbappe and Arda Guler netted to put Real Madrid in front but Alexander Sorloth levelled for Atletico at the end of a thrilling first half.

Alvarez fired in from the penalty spot and then bent home a free-kick as he made the difference after the break.

Antoine Griezmann grabbed the fifth late on to seal an important win after a shaky start to the campaign.

Atletico rose provisionally to fourth, while Real Madrid can be usurped at the top of the table by champions Barcelona if they beat Real Sociedad today.



"There are no excuses, we're hurting, it's a derby and a deserved defeat," said Alonso, after his side conceded five goals against their rivals for the first time since 1950.

Atletico's joy was evident, with Simeone visibly emotional on the sideline as his team racked up the scoreline.

"There's a lot of emotions... we've had a troubled start to the season," said Simeone.

"From the start of the game we knew where we could hurt them... today was a very, very good (performance)."

Led by a flying Mbappe, Real came into Alonso's first derby at the helm as the only side in the league with a 100 percent record.

Although the French superstar scored again to reach eight league goals for the season, Atletico attacked relentlessly and deserved their victory.

Real Madrid started Jude Bellingham for the first time since his shoulder surgery in the summer, but the England international struggled to make an impact.