

Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad Says the Country Has Significantly Increased Its Oil Production Despite the Continued Pressure of U.S. Sanctions as It Was Increased by 120,000 Barrels Per Day in the Year to September

IRAN NEWS

Industry Figures Show That Iran's Production of Mild Steel Rose by 3.2% in the First Half of the Calendar Year That Started in Late March as Iranian Steel Mills Had Produced 14.836m Metric Tons (mt) of Mild Steel in the Six months to September 22

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2 DOMESTIC



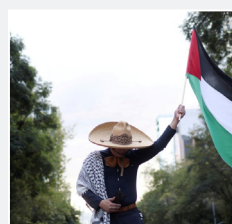
Iraq Is Iran's Primary Tourism Partner

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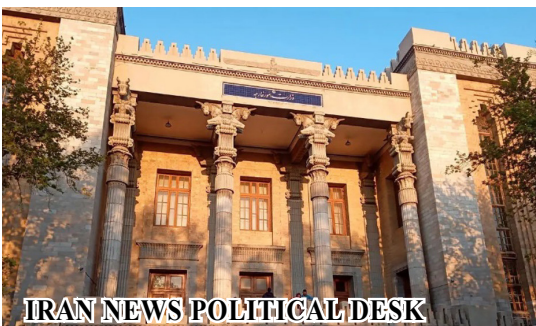
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Iran Strongly Protests Interventionist (P) GCC-EU Statement



TEHRAN - Iran summons the ambassadors representing European states in Tehran, strongly protesting an earlier interventionist statement issued by the [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union concerning the Islamic Republic.

The development took place shortly after issuance of the joint statement that had disputed Iran's ownership of a trio of Persian Gulf islands, besides portraying the Islamic Republic's defensive missile might and its peaceful nuclear energy program in a bad light.

Addressing the envoys, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Majid Takht-Ravanchi formally conveyed the Islamic Republic's "strong protest" regarding the meddlesome stances.

Takht-Ravanchi reaffirmed Iran's "absolute and permanent" sovereignty over the Iranian islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, calling them "inseparable" parts of the country's territory.

European support for "baseless" remarks to the contrary violates the principle of respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, the official added, and called the statement politically-charged and biased.

Additionally, Takht-Ravanchi vehemently denounced allegations aimed at tamishing Iran's missile program, calling them "clear interference" in the Islamic Republic's internal affairs.

He rejected any false claims concerning the program as "exaggerated narratives," and stressed that Iran's indigenous defensive capacities, including its missile power, were part of its inherent right to self-defense and a guarantor of regional stability and security.

Iran Has Industrialized Nuclear Program to Benefit Public



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has broadened its scope of activities beyond research and development to an industrial phase with the aim of directly benefiting the public, according to the organization's head.

Mohammad Eslami made the remarks during a Tuesday meeting of Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, where he briefed lawmakers on the achievements of the AEOI as well as the damage inflicted on the country's nuclear sites during the US-Israeli war of aggression in June.

Ebrahim Rezaei, the spokesperson for the committee, quoted Eslami as saying that domestic production of radiopharmaceuticals has been firmly established, has never been halted, and will continue indefinitely.

The nuclear chief further said that the AEOI has successfully transitioned its research and development into an industrial phase, aiming to create tangible benefits for the public and the national economy.

The organization has achieved nearly 500 milestones since 2022, with many directly benefiting the public, Eslami said.

He further explained that nuclear energy increases the quality and quantity of crops, and so far, a number of irradiation centers with a capacity of 500,000 tons have been established.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Any Enemy Miscalculation in the Persian Gulf Will Face a Decisive Response

TEHRAN - The Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has warned that any miscalculation by adversaries in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, or on Iranian islands will be met with a "decisive, immediate, crushing and regret-inducing response."

According to Sepah News, in a message marking the anniversary of IRGC Navy Day, Major General Mohammad Pakpour congratulated the naval forces and paid tribute to fallen commanders and fighters of the Iran-Iraq war, particularly the heroes of the historic October 8, 1987 (Mehr 16, 1366) Persian Gulf operation — "Martyrs Nader Mahdavi, Bijan Gord, Nasrollah Shafiei, Gholamhossein Tavasoli, Mehdi Mohammadi-ha, Khodadad Absalan, and Majid Mobaraki" — who, he said, "through their valiant battle shattered the hollow power of global arrogance and turned the Persian Gulf into a graveyard for the aggressors."

The message continued: "This glorious day is a symbol of strong faith, smart resistance, and the deterrent power of the brave seafarers of the people's IRGC, who, following the guidance of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution (may his life be prolonged), are the flag-bearers of lasting security in the eternal Persian Gulf, the strategic Strait of Hormuz, and the surrounding waters of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

General Pakpour added: "We thank Almighty God that today the proud and strategic Naval Force of the IRGC, relying on its committed and faithful human capital, its jihadist and revolutionary management, and indigenous advanced technologies in surface, subsurface, missile, drone, electronic, and cyber warfare, has assumed the status of an unrivaled strategic

and deterrent power. By demonstrating its strength to the enemies of Iran and the Iranian people, it heralds sustainable security in this sensitive and important region."

He further emphasized: "The IRGC, continuing the shining and civilizational path of the martyrs and adhering to the inspiring school of resistance within the framework of the defensive-offensive doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran, maintains its combat, intelligence, and operational readiness at the highest level. It warns, clearly and openly, the enemies of the Revolution, the Islamic system, and the proud nation of Iran: any miscalculation in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz, or on Iranian islands will be met with a decisive, immediate, crushing, and regret-inducing response."

Pakpour also stated: "Undoubtedly, the IRGC Navy today is not only the guarantor of Iran's national and regional security but also a founder of a new maritime order based on justice, power, and the independence of nations against the domination of global arrogance."

The message concluded with congratulations: "On this proud day, I sincerely congratulate Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, the courageous commander of the IRGC Navy, along with all the commanders, fighters, and faithful seafarers of this force. I pray to Almighty God for their ever-increasing success in fulfilling their critical and strategic missions under the auspices of His Holiness Imam Mahdi (may God hasten his reappearance) and the wise leadership of the Supreme Leader and Commander-in-Chief, Ayatollah Imam Khamenei (may his life be prolonged)."

Iran Will Show No Leniency on Europe's "Illusions" Regarding the Three Islands

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf condemned a joint statement issued by the foreign ministers of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union concerning the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, saying that the Islamic Republic will show "not the slightest leniency" regarding Europe's repeated "baseless claims" about Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa.

Speaking during a parliamentary session, Qalibaf said: "We strongly condemn the interventionist and unfounded claims made in the joint statement of the GCC and EU foreign ministers, particularly their repetition of the empty claim regarding the eternally Iranian islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa."

The Speaker emphasized that Iran's territorial integrity has been "sealed with the blood of hundreds of thousands of brave young people" and that the Iranian nation will make "no concessions to any delusional party" over this matter.

Qalibaf also marked the second anniversary of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, carried out by Hamas-led Palestinian fighters, describing it as a turning point that "not only inflicted a strategic blow on the occupying Zionist regime but also upended the calculations of global arrogance, plunging Israel into a quagmire of defeat and wrecking its plans for the future of the Middle East."

He noted that since the operation, Israel—"with the shameless support of the United States"—has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, devastated Gaza, and assassinated leading resistance figures, including Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, Seyyed Hashem Safieddine, Ismail Haniyeh, and Yahya Sinwar.

Yet, he said, the perseverance of the resistance front in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, and the steadfastness of the Iranian people have "turned Israel into the most despised regime in the world."

Qalibaf added that Israeli settlers' confidence in their security, economy, and social cohesion "has fallen to a critical one-third," and official statistics indicate that reverse migration from



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

the occupied territories has tripled compared to immigration into them.

Qalibaf asserted that Hamas "has not been eliminated; on the contrary, it is imposing its demands on Israel," adding that the regime "has moved from the stage of normalization to becoming the main threat to the region."

He praised Hezbollah in Lebanon for "defeating the Israeli army, maintaining and rebuilding its military capabilities, and depriving the Israeli forces of sleep," while commending the Yemeni resistance for "disrupting the operations of ports and airports in the occupied territories."

He said that two years after the Al-Aqsa Storm, "the Zionist regime is facing an existential crisis."

"Netanyahu, no matter how hard he tries to mask the regime's survival crisis with psychological operations, cannot throw dust over the face of the sun of truth," he added.

Qalibaf saluted "the courage of our brothers in Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and resistance cells across the region," noting that "the geography of resistance today extends not only to Gaza, Sana'a, and Beirut but also to Sydney, Berlin, Barcelona, Madrid, London, Amsterdam, Toronto, and American cities and universities."

He highlighted the growing global boycott campaigns against Israel as proof that "resistance has become a worldwide movement."

Qalibaf said that the Al-Aqsa Storm "not only shattered Israel's image but also accelerated the global shift away from U.S. dominance and led to the failure of normalization efforts with the Zionist regime."

Concluding his remarks, the Speaker reaffirmed that the Iranian parliament, "on behalf of the justice-seeking Iranian nation, emphasizes its full support for Palestine and calls on international organizations to prosecute the crimes committed by the Zionist regime."

He paid tribute to the "martyrs of the Al-Aqsa Storm, including the leaders of Hamas and Hezbollah," and vowed: "We pledge to stand with the resistance until the complete liberation of al-Quds."

October 7 Became Eternal

October 7, 2023 (coinciding with 15 Mehr 1402 in the Iranian calendar) was a turning point in the decades-long conflict between Palestine and Israel, which led to a full-scale genocidal massacre in the Gaza Strip.

The background to this is that since 2007, Gaza has been under severe military and economic blockade by Israel and even by Egypt, which made living conditions for the two million residents of that narrow strip extremely difficult. Prior to October, clashes in the West Bank had already intensified, and the number of Palestinian martyrs had reached an unprecedented level. Palestinian resistance groups, including Hamas, sought to break this deadlock and change the security equations against Israeli oppression and killings.

On that day, Palestinian resistance groups led by Hamas, in the early hours of a holiday morning, launched thousands of rockets and crossed the borders to attack Israeli military bases and settlements around Gaza. According to figures released by Israeli news sources, about 240 people, including both civilians and soldiers, were taken to Gaza.

In this attack, according to unverified Israeli figures, about 1,200 people were killed, most of them civilians. The Zionist regime initially fell into deep shock and was accused of total incompetence, but after recovering from the shock, it immediately responded with relentless airstrikes followed by a ground offensive on Gaza. After the first day of its attack on Gaza, Israel declared the complete destruction of Hamas and the liberation of the hostages as its main objectives.

According to the Gaza Ministry of Health (affiliated with Hamas), as of "October 7, 2025," that is, 730 days after the start of the events, more than 67,000 Palestinians have been killed, 130,000 injured, and nearly 10,000 missing — the vast majority of them women, children, and the elderly. More than 90% of Gaza's homes, hospitals, schools, and infrastructure have been reduced to rubble. Gaza's residents are facing famine, severe shortages of drinking water, fuel, medicine, and medical equipment.

The tensions have spread to other fronts, including the Israeli-Lebanese border (involving Hezbollah), the Red Sea (with attacks from Yemen), and the involvement of Iraq's Hashd al-Shaabi.

Although Western governments have mostly supported Israel by sending weapons, a massive wave of public protests — especially after the entry of the "Caravan of Steadfastness" and the arrest and seizure of aid ships — has erupted worldwide in condemnation of the war and in support of Palestine, accusing the Zionist regime of committing genocide and demanding urgent action to protect civilians. This has also halted the normalization process between Israel and Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia.

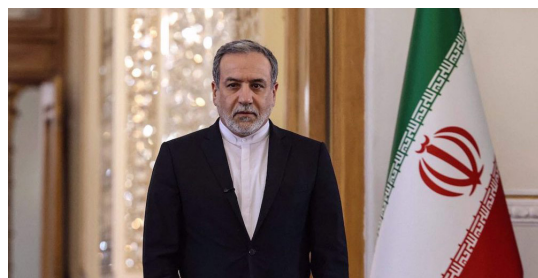
In general, October 7, 2023, was not a beginning but an explosion born out of a long history of occupation, blockade, and repression. This event shook the existence of Israel on what had been one of its safest days on the calendar, and of course inflicted the most horrific catastrophe on Palestinians since the beginning of the occupation in 1948.

It has brought the region to the brink of a large-scale war, deeply wounded the global conscience, and divided the world into two poles — those who support and those who are silenced or suppressed.

The course of negotiations, diplomatic shuttles, and even ceasefire proposals in this war have not provided any solution; instead, they have deepened divisions and hatred, casting the future of peace in the region into more uncertainty than ever.

Overall, it can be acknowledged that the action known as "October 7" has secured for itself a historic place in the struggle of the Palestinian people against occupation and genocide, marking it as an eternal day and imprinting it in the memory of the world.

No Solution But a Negotiated Outcome



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has called for a negotiated settlement to the ongoing nuclear dispute with the United States, warning against military escalation and "imaginary" threats.

In a post on X, Araqchi said the previous rounds of talks with the US were close to producing a historic deal, but US President Donald Trump erred by heeding Israel's calls for a military approach based on fabricated intelligence.

Araqchi drew a parallel with the Iraq war in 2003, pointing to Israel's role in pushing America toward conflict based on faulty claims about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

IRAN NEWS



Aluminum Ingot Output Exceeds 300,000 Tons in H1

TEHRAN (IRNA) The Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that the country's aluminum ingot production surpassed 300,000 tons during the first half of the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March–September 2025).

According to IMIDRO, Iran's four major aluminum producers — South Aluminum Corporation (SALCO), IRALCO, Almahdi, and Iran Alumina Company — produced a combined total of 304,996 tons of aluminum ingots from late March to late September 2025.

This figure is slightly lower than the 307,386 tons produced during the same period last year. Of the total ingot production, SALCO accounted for 127,475 tons, IRALCO produced 85,265 tons, Almahdi contributed 76,393 tons, and Iran Alumina Company produced 15,863 tons.

World Bank Revises Growth Outlook for Iran and the Middle East



TEHRAN - The World Bank has revised upward its forecast for economic growth across the Middle East and surrounding regions, citing stronger-than-expected recovery in Gulf economies and improved prospects in oil-importing countries.

In its latest report released on Tuesday, the Washington-based lender projected that gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan, and Pakistan (MENAAP) region will reach 2.8% in 2024, up from the 2.6% growth rate it forecast in April. The bank attributed this modest upgrade largely to the faster-than-anticipated easing of oil production limits in Gulf countries and to the ongoing expansion of non-oil sectors such as trade, construction, and services.

The report highlighted that the outlook for oil-importing nations in the region has also brightened. Improved private consumption, stronger investment flows, and better performance in agriculture and tourism have driven this positive shift.

However, the World Bank cautioned that the picture is far less optimistic for developing oil-exporting countries, many of which continue to grapple with geopolitical tensions and volatility in oil production levels. These factors are expected to weigh heavily on growth in the year ahead.

Iran's economy, in particular, faces renewed challenges. While the bank had forecast modest growth for the country in its April outlook, the new report predicts a slowdown in Iran's GDP, pointing to the continued impact of international sanctions on both oil and non-oil exports. These restrictions, the report said, are curbing Iran's ability to benefit fully from recent regional improvements.

The broader region remains deeply affected by ongoing conflicts in Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza, as well as Afghanistan. The World Bank noted that these crises have led to severe humanitarian emergencies, mass displacement, and sharp economic contractions in the affected countries.

Gov't Intervention Drives Capital Away



TEHRAN - The Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) emphasized that investment is a crucial and reliable indicator of economic development, and that countries around the world are in strong competition to attract capital.

Speaking at the National Conference on Investment Opportunities in North Khorasan, Payam Bagheri said: "As of 2024, the United States remains by far the leading country in attracting global investment, followed by other nations, with China ranking fourth. This shows the strategic importance of attracting capital."

Bagheri highlighted that investment leads to substantial benefits such as increased production, job creation, improved public welfare, stronger household economies, and the development of energy infrastructure.

"Unfortunately, Iran ranks fourth in the region after the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey in attracting investment. Given the country's vast potential, this gap is significant," he noted.

He explained that successful investment requires a "three-pillar foundation: investment security, investment attractiveness, and transparency."

"Investment security guarantees the protection of capital and the return on profits. To make Iran more attractive to investors, we must adopt predictable economic models, recognize the principle of transparency, and respect property rights," Bagheri said.

Addressing the barriers to investment in Iran, Bagheri pointed to political, economic, and legal factors:

"We are witnessing volatility in key economic indicators, which deters investors. International restrictions and sanctions, lengthy and costly bureaucratic procedures, frequent changes in regulations and economic policies, and weaknesses in energy, transportation, and communication infrastructure all hinder our ability to attract capital."

Iraq Is Iran's Primary Tourism Partner

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, has described Iraq as "Iran's first home in tourism," emphasizing the deep historical and cultural ties between the two neighboring nations.

In a video message delivered at the opening ceremony of the first Iran–Iraq Tourism Roadshow in Basra—attended by a 40-member Iranian tourism delegation, members of Iran's parliament, and officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage—Salehi Amiri highlighted the longstanding connections between the two countries.

"The great nations of Iran and Iraq share cultural, civilizational, political, religious, and historical ties, as well as common interests in various markets," he said, according to ILNA.

The minister underscored that these bonds are rooted in centuries of religious and cultural exchange, citing the presence of sacred Shi'a sites in Iraq—such as Najaf, Karbala, and Kadhimiya—as well as the shrine of Imam Reza in Mashhad, Iran.

"It is an honor for our nation to belong to Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt," he added. Salehi Amiri stressed that the ministry regards Iraq as Iran's foremost tourism market both regionally and globally.

"The people of both countries are eager to interact, communicate, and travel to each other's lands," he said. "Beyond the political relations between governments, the two nations wish to strengthen and deepen their ties."

The minister pointed out that both Iran and Iraq boast diverse climates, natural beauty, and historic heritage. He highlighted Iran's advanced medical facilities and affordable healthcare services as a significant draw for Iraqi visitors seeking health and wellness tourism.

Calling for closer collaboration in cultural heritage preservation, Salehi Amiri said both nations are leaders in historical and archaeological significance.

"Iran, with its ancient civilizations, 29 UNESCO World Heritage sites, and 27 elements of intangible cultural heritage, is among the top countries in the world in terms of heritage recognition," he noted. "Through these shared assets, we can enhance tourism cooperation with Iraq, not only in pilgrimage tourism but also in historical and cultural tourism."



The first Iran–Iraq Tourism Roadshow marks a step toward deepening bilateral cooperation in travel, heritage, and economic exchange between the two countries.

Meanwhile the Director-General for International Tourism Development at Iran's Tourism Ministry announced that 11.4 million Iranians and Iraqis traveled between the two countries last year, emphasizing that Iraq will continue to be Iran's primary tourism market.

Moslem Shojaei, who attended the opening of the first bilateral tourism roadshow in the southern Iraqi city of Basra, reported: "Last year, 3.4 million Iraqi tourists visited Iran, while 8 million Iranian tourists traveled to Iraq."

Shojaei highlighted the 1,485-kilometer shared border between the two nations, describing this as an exceptional opportunity for tourism companies and the private sector in both countries to expand cooperation and tap into each other's tourism potential.

He praised the strong participation of experienced Iranian tourism companies at the roadshow in Basra, noting that Iran, as Iraq's neighbor—particularly to the southern region of Basra—is recognized as a safe country with well-developed tourism infrastructure.

"The Iran Tourism Roadshow in Iraq aims to introduce the vast tourism opportunities in pilgrimage, health, leisure, shopping, and cuisine to Iraqi travel agencies and the public," Shojaei said. "Tourism between Iran and Iraq can expand well beyond religious pilgrimage."

Shojaei described tourism as a key industry for fostering understanding among nations and cultures:

"Tourism is the industry through which nations come to know each other. That is why this great human enterprise moves over 1.4 billion people across countries and destinations every year."

He added that tourism serves as an important tool for peace, dialogue, mutual understanding, and constructive interaction among nations, making it a significant cultural and economic force.

17th Iran Int'l Stone Exhibition Opens in Mahallat

TEHRAN - The 17th Iran International Stone Exhibition officially opened on Tuesday, widely known as the "stone capital of Iran."

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Hassan Khazaiepour, Governor of Mahallat, described the event as "a unique opportunity to showcase the capabilities of Iran's stone industry, strengthen trade relations, and expand the country's presence in global markets."

"Mahallat has long been a shining point in the history of Iran's stone industry," he said. "It is a place where art, creativity, and natural resources come together to bring beauty not only to Iranian homes but also to international markets."

Khazaiepour emphasized that the exhibition serves as a platform for promoting Iran's stone industry and forging new domestic and international business links. He highlighted Mahallat's position as one of the largest stone production and processing hubs in the Middle East, with 150 active quarries and more than 300 processing plants equipped with advanced technologies.

The governor noted that Mahallat's products — including travertine, marble, granite, and decorative stones — are prized worldwide for their exceptional quality and aesthetic appeal, frequently used in architectural and construction projects around the globe.

"Local producers have combined cutting-edge technology with Iranian craftsmanship to create products that not only meet domestic demand but also compete successfully in international markets," he said. "This exhibition allows these achievements to be presented in one place to attract foreign buyers and investors."

Khazaiepour also pointed out Mahallat's diverse economic potential beyond the stone industry. Known as Iran's "capital of flowers and plants" and home to therapeutic hot springs, the city also leads the country in ornamental fish exports, contributing significantly to both tourism and the national economy.

Mohammad Hallajian, Executive Director of the exhibition, said this year's event is stronger and more vibrant than in previous years, despite economic pressures and international challenges facing Iran.

The exhibition features 570 companies and mining enterprises from 27 provinces, covering the entire supply and value chain of Iran's stone industry. It is held over an area of 120,000 square meters, including 38,000 square meters of exhibition space.

One of the highlights of the event is the display of approximately 40,000 tons of raw stone blocks, showcasing Iran's vast potential in



the extraction and processing of construction and decorative stones.

Hallajian noted that while Iran ranks first globally in the diversity of building stones, it currently accounts for less than 0.5% of global trade in the sector due to limited international market presence.

"This exhibition aims to address that gap by enhancing Iran's role in the global market," he said. "We have created special conditions to attract foreign traders and investors."

A key feature of this year's exhibition is the participation of official trade delegations from Armenia, Turkey, India, China, Portugal, and Russia. With the support of Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and the Trade Promotion Organization, the exhibition also hosts international business leaders acting as trade representatives in target markets.

Special sessions will be held on the sidelines of the event with ambassadors and trade counselors from South Korea, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia to explore new opportunities for cooperation. These meetings, organized in collaboration with the provincial Chamber of Commerce, are expected to foster knowledge exchange, technological collaboration, and new business connections.

Hallajian also announced a heritage section at this year's exhibition, created in cooperation with the Central Province's Cultural Heritage Department. The section showcases traditional mining tools dating back about 80 years, historical photographs, and ancient stone carvings from the region — a highlight for both domestic and foreign visitors.

"We have provided dedicated spaces for business meetings so that industry players from across Iran can engage directly with foreign buyers and create new opportunities for collaboration and export," Hallajian said.

He added that the exhibition also serves as a platform for technological exchange and innovation, helping Iranian producers upgrade product quality and strengthen their competitive position in international markets.

"This exhibition is not only a showcase of domestic capabilities but also a launchpad for promoting Iran's export potential," Hallajian stressed. "With the participation of a wide range of companies, miners, and international delegations, we expect this event to help boost Iran's non-oil exports and cement the country's position as a leading stone industry hub in the Middle East and beyond."

Poultry Farmers Urged to Import Feed Ingredients



TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri, has called on major industrial units and producer associations in the livestock and poultry sectors to take an active role in importing essential feed ingredients to ensure a steady supply for the industry.

Speaking at the World Egg Day ceremony held on Tuesday in Tehran, Nouri praised the long-standing organizational and economic experience of poultry unions. He urged large-scale producers and related associations to step forward in importing feed to help reduce supply challenges.

"We believe that when producers themselves handle imports, the products will be of better quality, more reasonably priced, and delivered on time," the minister stated.

Nouri added that the government is ready to grant import permits to producer units and encouraged poultry and livestock associations — particularly the Egg Producers' Union — as well as well-capitalized industrial units to engage in both production and imports.

He stressed that such efforts would benefit not only the livestock and poultry industries but also the national economy.

The minister also noted that egg consumption in Iran remains relatively low, partly due to outdated misconceptions about its health effects — myths that have now been disproven by scientific evidence.

Highlighting the importance of food security, Nouri said: "Chicken and eggs are affordable sources of nutrition for all segments of society, including low-income groups. We must ensure that there are no shortages in their supply."

He emphasized that the Ministry of Agriculture's primary policy is to support domestic production and producers, as a healthy production system is the foundation of a stable market and accessible prices for consumers.

Urbanization Rate in Iran Surpasses Europe, Expert Warns of Consequences



TEHRAN - Pirouz Hanachi, a faculty member at the University of Tehran, has raised concerns over Iran's rapid urbanization, stating that the country's urbanization rate has now surpassed that of Europe and requires urgent reassessment to prevent future challenges.

Speaking at an event marking World Habitat Day, Hanachi described Iran as "a restless land that has historically been a cradle of civilization and urban development." He cited archaeological excavations at Hegmataneh, which reveal that early Iranian civilizations had advanced urban planning concepts that shaped city development.

"Iranians in the past understood the importance of boundaries and balance," Hanachi said. "Even in the desert, they learned to live as if in a paradise. The qanat irrigation system is a unique example of sustainable design in Iran's arid climate. This culture of respecting natural limits was passed down through generations."

Addressing the country's vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes, Hanachi stressed the need to enhance urban resilience. "We live in a seismic region. Preparedness and well-planned disaster scenarios can significantly reduce casualties and damages. We must learn to coexist with natural phenomena and factor them into our decision-making."

He criticized the current approach to municipal budgeting, noting that budgets are often drafted in ways that lead to deficits, which in turn complicate urban management.

Pentagon Nominee Backs Trump Call on 10% Taiwan Defense Spending

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The nominee to be the Pentagon's senior official for the Indo-Pacific region said on Tuesday he strongly supported President Donald Trump in saying that Taiwan should spend up to 10% of its GDP on defense. John Noh told his confirmation hearing at the Senate Armed Services Committee that Taiwan's current moves to increase its defense spending were "all promising."

"It was President Trump who said that Taiwan, which is an island that faces an existential threat from the People's Liberation Army, from the Chinese military, that Taiwan should spend upwards to 10% of its GDP on defense. I strongly support that," he added.



Australia Police Foil Kill Team Gang Hit Near Daycare Center



SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Australian police foiled an alleged organised crime hit by a so-called kill team near a Sydney daycare facility, authorities said Wednesday.

New South Wales police swooped in on two cars after learning three men were preparing to carry out the alleged killing in Revesby, a suburb in the city's southwest, on Tuesday.

Police stopped two cars and arrested the men, finding two firearms, balaclavas, bodyworn cameras and jerrycans containing fuel during a search.

A third firearm was located during subsequent searches of vehicles and premises allegedly linked to the men.

Footage from Tuesday showed the two cars wedged between police vehicles as authorities moved in on the alleged offenders brandishing firearms.

The cars' windcreens were pocked with bullet holes.

One witness, who did not wish to be named, told Australia's Channel Nine he heard the gunshots and went to investigate.

"I started walking out of my house and I heard some more gunshots and then cars were swerving," he said.

Police Assistant Commissioner Scott Cook said authorities had been investigating a transnational crime network "believed to be involved in multiple conspiracies to murder" for several weeks.

Police allege the victim was targeted due to a breakdown in relationships within the syndicate, he said. The trio of men reportedly did not know the victim.

They came "pretty close" to carrying out the hit, Cook said.

He expressed shock that the group was "prepared to kill" in an area where there was such a high risk of collateral damage.

Trump Praises Trade Progress With Canada's Carney



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump struck a friendly tone with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney Tuesday, hailing progress towards a trade deal but offering few concrete concessions on steep US tariffs.

Trump repeatedly showered praise on "great leader" Carney, who was under pressure at home to show progress from his second visit to the White House since taking office in April.

"I think they're going to walk away very happy," Trump told reporters as he sat alongside Carney in the Oval Office. "And I think we've come a long way over the last few months, actually, in terms of that relationship."

Trump said that the North American neighbors had "natural conflict" over business as their manufacturers were competing for the same market but said there was "nothing wrong with it."

Carney said he was confident that Canada would "get the right deal" from the United States, his country's main economic partner.

The pair shared a series of light-hearted moments, even laughing as Trump joked about a Canadian "merger" in a reference to his previous calls for Canada to become the 51st US state.

"He is a world-class leader," Trump said of the former central banker. "He's a nice man, but he can be very nasty."

Hamas Signals Readiness for Gaza Deal on War Anniversary

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Dispatches) - Hamas said it was ready to reach a deal to end the war in Gaza based on President Donald Trump's plan but still has demands, as Qatar's prime minister and senior US mediators headed to Egypt to join indirect negotiations between the Palestinian militant group and Israel.

On the second anniversary of Hamas' attack on Israel that triggered the Gaza war, Trump expressed optimism about progress toward a Gaza deal. A US team including special envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and his Middle East envoy during his first term, left for the talks.

"I think there's a possibility that we could have peace in the Middle East" beyond just Gaza, the US president told reporters in the Oval Office.

A source close to the talks said they had adjourned for the day and the atmosphere had been better than on Monday. Negotiations today would be a decisive indicator of whether progress was possible given the presence of the senior mediators, the source said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani of Qatar, which has been one of the key mediators, will join the talks today, an official told Reuters, "with the aim of pushing forward the Gaza ceasefire plan and hostage release agreement".

On the second day of talks in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, top Hamas leader Khalil Al-Hayya told Egyptian state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV the group had come "to engage in serious and responsible negotiations."

He said Hamas was ready to reach a deal, yet it needed a "guarantee" to end the war and ensure "it is not repeated".

According to Gaza authorities, some 67,000 people have been killed and Gaza devastated since the October 7, 2023 attack by Palestinian militants on Israel. Israel says 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken back to Gaza as hostages on that day.

The talks appeared to hold the most promise yet of ending the war. But officials on all sides urged caution over the prospects for a rapid agreement, as Israelis remembered the bloodiest single day for Jews since the Holocaust and Gazans voiced hope for an end to the suffering brought by the war.

Even if a deal is clinched, questions will linger over who will govern Gaza and rebuild it, and who will finance the huge



process under the supervision of a Palestinian "national technocratic body", he said.

Underlining the obstacles at talks, an umbrella of Palestinian factions including Hamas issued a statement vowing a "resistance stance by all means" and saying "no one has the right to cede the weapons of the Palestinian people".

Netanyahu did not immediately comment on the status of the talks. But in a statement on X, he told Israelis they were in "fateful days of decision."

"We will continue to act to achieve all the war's objectives: the return of all the hostages, the elimination of Hamas's rule, and the assurance that Gaza will no longer pose a threat to Israel," he said.

US officials have suggested they want to initially focus talks on a halt to the fighting and the logistics of how the hostages and Palestinian prisoners in Israel would be freed.

In the absence of a ceasefire, Israel has pressed on with its offensive in Gaza, which has increased its international isolation.

Ecuador Detains Five After Alleged Assassination Attempt Against President Noboa

QUITO (Dispatches) - Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa's car was surrounded by a group of around 500 people throwing rocks as he approached an event in Canar province, a top minister said, adding that "signs of bullet damage" were found on the president's vehicle.

Environment and Energy Minister Ines Manzano spoke on Tuesday after formally filing a report of an assassination attempt against Noboa. The president was not hurt and five people have been detained, the minister said.

Noboa's office said all those arrested would be processed under charges of terrorism and attempted assassination. Reuters could not independently verify whether a bullet was fired at the president's car during protests over the removal of fuel subsidies.

Speaking afterwards at a student event in Cuenca, some 77km south of where the attack took place, Noboa said his government would not tolerate such actions.

"Do not follow the bad example of those who wanted to stop us from attending this event with you and who tried to attack us," he said. "Such attacks will not be accepted in the new Ecuador and the law applies to everyone."

"Shooting at the president's car, throwing stones, damaging state property — that's just criminal," said Manzano, after reporting the attack to prosecutors. "We will not allow this."

The national Indigenous federation CONAIE, however, said orchestrated violence had broken out against people who mobilised for Noboa's arrival,



saying elderly women were among those attacked in a "brutal police and military action."

"At least five of us have been arbitrarily detained," it said in a post on X, which included a video of a woman in traditional dress being marched off by four police officers in body armour, their faces covered by black bandanas.

This handout picture released by the Ecuadorean Presidency shows one of

the vehicles in the motorcade carrying Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, which was attacked by gunfire in Caar, Ecuador, on October 7, 2025. — Ecuadorean Presidency handout pic via Reuters

This handout picture released by the Ecuadorean Presidency shows one of the vehicles in the motorcade carrying Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, which was attacked by gunfire in Caar, Ecuador, on October 7, 2025. — Ecuadorean Presidency handout pic via Reuters

CONAIE launched strike action 16 days ago, organising marches and blockading some roads, in a protest against the government ending diesel subsidies. Critics say further dialogue is needed and that the measure will increase the cost of living particularly for small-scale farmers and Indigenous communities.

Noboa signed the executive decree eliminating subsidies in mid-September, and his government declared emergency measures in several provinces to maintain order.

The government has defended ending the subsidy, which it said will free up some US\$1.1 billion a year that it has already begun to redistribute in compensation payments to small-scale farmers and people working in the transport sector.

Noboa, who was reelected in April, has frequently granted emergency powers to armed forces and police as part of his tough-on-crime approach to security.

Defence Minister Gian Carlo Loffredo shared a photo of 37-year-old Noboa standing outside the damaged car in sunglasses.

"Nothing stops this president, which is the best sign that the country won't be stopped either," he said.

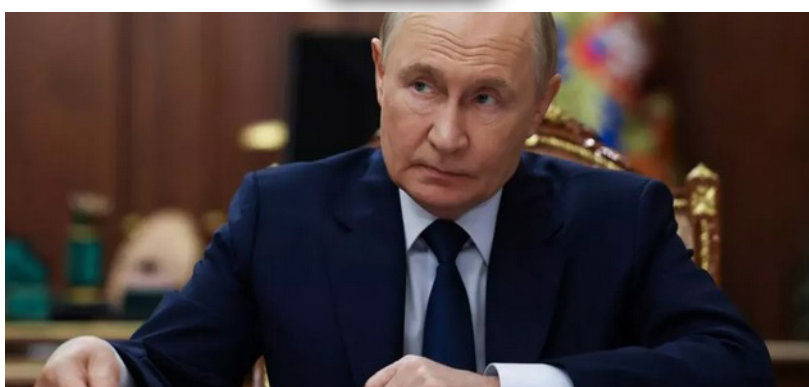
Russia Claims Its Forces Seized Nearly 5,000 Square km of Ukrainian Land in 2025

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday Russian forces had captured nearly 5,000 square km (1,930 square miles) of Ukrainian territory this year, claiming Moscow retained "complete strategic initiative" on the battlefield. The gains represent about 1% of Ukraine's land area, bringing total Russian control to nearly 20%.

Russia's 2025 gains would amount to nearly 1% of Ukraine's land area, and the country controls nearly 20% in total.

Putin, addressing a meeting with Russian top military commanders on his 73rd birthday, said Ukrainian forces were retreating in all sectors of the front. He said Kyiv was trying to strike deep into Russian territory, but it would not help it to change the situation in the more than 3 1/2-year-old war.

"At this time, the Russian armed forces fully hold the strategic initiative," Putin told the meeting in northwestern Russia near Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg, according to a Kremlin transcript.



"This year, we have liberated nearly 5,000 square km of territory - 4,900 - and 212 localities."

Ukrainian forces, he said, "are retreating throughout the line of combat contact, despite attempts at fierce resistance."

Russia's Defense Ministry on Tuesday reported the capture of two more villages along the front, which Ukraine's top commander says now extends over 1,250 km (775 miles).

Ukraine's military in August dismissed Russia's recent offensives as a failure, with Moscow's forces failing to capture a single major Ukrainian city this year.

Ukrainian accounts say Kyiv's troops have made gains in the Donetsk region, particularly around Dobropillia, a town near the key logistics hub of Pokrovsk. President Volodymyr Zelensky has also said Ukrainian forces have regained ground in the border Sumy region, where Russia has established a foothold.



Djokovic Survives Leg Injury, Heat Exhaustion to Beat Munar in Shanghai

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic battled through a left leg injury and heat exhaustion to beat Jaume Munar 6-3 5-7 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals at the Shanghai Masters.

Djokovic, 38, had to take a medical timeout after picking up the injury during the first set of an encounter that stretched to two hours and 41 minutes. He also struggled with the heat and medics checked his vitals at one point, as the temperature stayed near 30 degrees Celsius and humidity hovered around 80%.

The Serbian had also vomited during his match against Yannick Hanfmann on Sunday, the same day world number two Jannik Sinner retired due to cramps.

The 38-year-old had called the conditions "brutal" earlier in the tournament.

Fourth seed Djokovic, who had got the first break of the match to go 3-1 up in the opening set before he hurt his leg, could not break Munar's serve during the second set, which the world number 41 won after a 75-minute battle.

The 24-time Grand Slam winner bent over in exhaustion and needed more medical attention before clinching the decisive third set with two well-timed breaks.

Djokovic collapsed on the court after winning the match. He is set to face Zizou Bergs in the last eight.

Meanwhile an exhausted Emma Raducanu had her blood pressure checked during a medical timeout before retiring while trailing 6-1 4-1 to Ann Li in the Wuhan Open first round on Tuesday, with the temperature nearing 35 degrees Celsius on a humid afternoon.

The British world number 30 started with a break of serve against Li, but was soon struggling and won only seven points in the rest of the set.

Raducanu managed to hold her serve at the start of the second set, but she lost the next four games.

"I want to wish Emma a fast recovery. It looks like she wasn't feeling good," world number 46 Li said.

The conditions forced play to be suspended on all outdoor courts on Monday, when Raducanu posted a screenshot of her phone screen on social media, displaying a temperature of 34 degrees Celsius.

At the ongoing Shanghai Masters, men's world number two Jannik Sinner retired due to cramp during his match on Sunday. The ATP said it would consider introducing a formal heat rule.

Meanwhile bold swings and cheeky dropshots can earn amateur tennis players bragging rights and a million-dollar payday when they take on top professionals in a single-point showdown ahead of next year's Australian Open main draw.

Organisers of the Grand Slam announced on Tuesday the Million Dollar 1 Point Slam will pit 10 amateur players from across Australia against an elite field of 22 professionals headlined by world number one Carlos Alcaraz, with the winner pocketing A\$1 million (\$661,000).

The event, part of the expanded opening week of the major, features an elimination draw with 'rock, paper, scissors' used to determine who will serve or receive, and the winner of the point going through to the next round.

It proved hugely popular among fans after its introduction at this year's tournament in January, with some of the amateurs toppling more fancied opponents, before Australian professional Omar Jasika won the event to claim the A\$60,000 prize.

With the stakes now much higher, qualifying will take place across Australia and at the major, with the final to be played at the iconic Rod Laver Arena.

"With more big names to be announced soon, you now have a million reasons to pick up a racket and get ready for January," Australian Open Tournament Director Craig Tiley said.

Tiley added that the first of the three weeks of the Grand Slam, from January 12-17, will be open with free entry for kids, and live music lighting up Grand Slam Oval every night.

Both men's and women's doubles finals will be played on the afternoon of the final Saturday on the main showcourt.

The main draw runs from January 18 to February 1.

England's Golden Generation Were Egotistical Losers



LONDON (Dispatches) - England's golden generation failed to live up to their potential because they were "egotistical losers" who fostered an unfriendly environment and were unable to work together, former Liverpool midfielder Steven Gerrard said.

In the 2000s, big things were expected from an England squad that included the likes of Gerrard, David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Rio Ferdinand and Frank Lampard but the team never progressed past the quarter-finals at a major tournament.

"I think we were all egotistical losers. I watch the telly now and I see (Jamie) Carragher sitting next to (Paul) Scholes on this fan debate and they look like they've been best mates for 20 years," ex-England captain Gerrard said on a podcast with Ferdinand.

"Why are we all mature enough now and at stages in our life where we're closer and more connected? Why couldn't we connect as England teammates back then?"

"I think it was down to the culture within England that we were all never connected. All in our rooms too much. We weren't friendly or connected. We weren't a team. We never at any stage became a real, good, strong team."

Gerrard added that he hated being in the England camp, saying: "I used to love playing for England. Really proud. I used to enjoy the training sessions but it was 90 minutes a day. And then I was just on my own in London or Romania or wherever."

Gerrard, who retired from international football in 2014, went on to become a manager and was in charge of Rangers between 2018 and 2021, leading the club to a Scottish Premiership title in the 2020-21 season.

The 45-year-old later had unsuccessful spells with Aston Villa in the Premier League and at Saudi Pro League side Al-Ettifaq, but is reportedly close to making a return to Rangers as a replacement for Russell Martin, who was sacked on Sunday.

"There's a part of me that still feels that there's a bit of unfinished business in terms of wanting to go in and face another couple of exciting challenges," Gerrard said of his managerial career.

"But I want a certain type of challenge. If, in an ideal world, they become available, I'll jump at them. If they don't, I won't go back in."

Salah Blasted for Lack of Effort After Chelsea Defeat



LONDON (Dispatches) - Mohamed Salah is Liverpool's "Egyptian King", but the forward's crown has lost a little of its lustre during a disappointing spell in which his work ethic has come under fire.

Salah was below his best again in Liverpool's damaging 2-1 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday as he wasted several chances and failed to help out in defence.

He has been absent from the scoresheet in five of Liverpool's seven Premier League games this season and the champions have suffered as a result.

The loss at Stamford Bridge was Liverpool's third in eight days as Arsenal leapfrogged them to the top of the table.

Salah has scored just three goals and provided three assists in nine appearances in all competitions this season.

Even more alarming than Salah's statistics, mediocre by his stellar standards, was the sight of the 33-year-old taking little interest when Liverpool were under siege against Chelsea.

Without any protection from the forward, Liverpool right-back Conor Bradley was hauled off at half-time after earning a booking as he struggled to keep Chelsea at bay.

The killer ball for Estevao Willian's stoppage-time winner came from Salah's right flank, with Marc Cucurella advancing unchecked to set up the Brazilian's goal.

Cucurella revealed Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca told them exploit the defensive space vacated by Salah.

"We know that Salah is always ready for the counter-attack so we practised that and the manager said that the space might be there," he said.

Salah's lethargic display was in keeping with a major dip in form since the closing stages of last season.

Pressure, Shooting Help the Pacers Outlast Timberwolves in OT

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Pascal Siakam scored 14 points and the Pacers beat the Timberwolves 135-134 in overtime after blowing a 24-point lead Tuesday night in Minnesota in their 2025-26 preseason opener.

The Pacers play their first preseason home game on at 7 p.m. Saturday against the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Two-way contract guard RayJ Dennis scored 16 points, hitting four 3-pointers, to lead the Pacers. Forward Jarace Walker added 13 points, and forward Aaron Nesmith added 12. Forward Jalen Slawson scored nine points, including six of the Pacers' 11 in overtime. Johnny Furphy added 12 points and guard Taleon Peter had 10. Johnny Juzang led the Timberwolves with 20 points and Anthony Edwards scored 17.

The Pacers have been adamant all offseason that while they would have to adjust to the loss of All-Star point guard Tyrese Haliburton, they would still try to maintain as much of the fast-paced identity of last year's NBA Finals team as possible. Coach Rick Carlisle and the front office were very clear that would include sustained full-court man-to-man pressure defense.

The Pacers showed Tuesday that they weren't going to shy away from that standard in games that don't count. They



pressured inbounds passes off made baskets right out of the gate and the Timberwolves didn't seem ready for that. The Pacers recorded four steals in the first quarter, three in the backcourt, and had eight steals by halftime. They finished with 12 total steals, forcing 21 Timberwolves turnovers. Those allowed for easy baskets as the Pacers were credited with 28 fast-break points, 20

in the first half, to the Timberwolves' four. They had 30 points off turnovers to the Timberwolves' 22.

The Pacers still clearly want to run and exhaust opponents. Defensive pressure is arguably the most important component of that equation and they still obviously have that going for them.

The Pacers didn't put much of a burden on their top players. The four established members of the starting five — point guard Andrew Nembhard, shooting guard Benedict Mathurin, small forward Aaron Nesmith and power forward Pascal Siakam — checked out for good with 3:46 to go in the second quarter.

But all four made their minutes count and they outperformed Minnesota's top players. Nembhard was +10 in 11:04, and Nesmith, Mathurin and Siakam were each +14 in about 14 minutes each.

They brought pressure on defense, combining for five steals with Siakam grabbing two and the rest recording one each. They connected with sharp ball movement on offense and their shot-making was excellent. They combined to score 42 of the Pacers' 65 first-half points, shooting 14-of-27 from the floor and 6-of-12 from 3-point range.

LeBron James 'Second Decision': No Retirement

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Los Angeles Lakers fans can relax, raise a glass of cognac and toast the continuation of NBA superstar LeBron James' career.

The league's all-time leading scorer announced his so-called "Second Decision" on Tuesday and it had nothing to do with the 40-year-old forward's retirement.

Speculation ran rampant Monday after James posted a brief video on X, showing him walking forward to sit in a chair opposite an unnamed person. The accompanying caption read, "The decision of all decisions. October 7th. 12pm EST. (saluting emoji) (crown emoji) TheSecondDecision"

The video parodied "The Decision," a TV special in 2010 during which James revealed he was leaving the Cleveland Cavaliers to sign as a free agent with the Miami Heat. James famously told interviewer Jim Gray, "I'm going to take my talents to South Beach."



Instead of leaving the Lakers or calling it a career, however, it all turned out to be part of a marketing campaign for Hennessy cognac.

"Where the first moment marked a pivotal career move, this second decision celebrates a creative reunion and shared cultural legacy," the company said in a press release announcing the release of Hennessy V.S.O.P. Limited Edition by LeBron James.

Available in select markets worldwide this month, Hennessy called it "a bold collector's edition that invites fans to connect, celebrate, and share in a new era of sociability."

Some fans may have a bad taste in their mouths instead. Anticipating a potential retirement, ticket prices for the Lakers' 2025-26 regular-season finale against the Utah Jazz on April 12 soared from \$82 to \$580 for a single ticket, per ESPN.