

Iran Objected to the Recent Ruling of the British Court of Appeal Regarding the Transfer and Possible Enforcement of the Confiscation order of the National Iranian Oil Company Building in London in Favor of the Emirati Crescent Company

# IRAN NEWS

According to the recent reports, Iran Continued to Increase Its Oil Exports in September Despite the Continued Pressure of U.S. Sanctions, and Just Before the United Nations Re-Imposed Its Nuclear Sanctions the Country

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## DOMESTIC



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### Iran Condemns Unfounded Claims by (P) GCC, EU Regarding Iranian Sovereignty



TEHRAN - Ismail Baqaei, spokesperson for Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has strongly rejected the interventionist and baseless claims made in the joint statement of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council ((P)GCC) and the European Union (EU) foreign ministers' meeting. The statement, which repeated the UAE's claims over Iran's islands of Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, and raised unwarranted concerns about Iran's defense and nuclear affairs, was described by Baqaei as entirely unacceptable. He also warned against the disruptive and divisive interventions of certain European countries in the affairs of the Persian Gulf region.

Baqaei emphasized Iran's indisputable and permanent sovereignty over Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa as an integral part of Iranian territory. He stressed that repeating baseless claims in political statements carries no legal value and does not alter geographical realities or historical facts.

The spokesperson expressed appreciation for all Iranian citizens, including those residing in Europe, who have contacted the Ministry and Iranian diplomatic missions to condemn any malicious interference by external actors in regional affairs and the propagation of false territorial claims against Iran. He urged the Persian Gulf's southern neighbors to focus on building mutual trust and regional friendship, rather than repeating stereotypical claims against Iran's territorial integrity and providing openings for destructive third-party interventions. He highlighted that the primary threat to peace and stability in the region remains the Zionist regime.

### Gov't Committed to Strengthening Ties With Iranians Abroad



TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi Amiri, announced that the government is determined to establish a lasting and trust-based relationship with Iranians living abroad, emphasizing that such engagement is a key strategic priority.

Speaking at the 22nd meeting of the ministry's Strategic Council on Monday, Salehi Amiri highlighted the government's new framework for outreach to the Iranian diaspora. "We stand at a point where we must launch several major strategic initiatives, the most important of which is building sustainable and trust-oriented ties with Iranians overseas. The government is committed to strengthening this connection with maximum flexibility," he said.

According to Salehi Amiri, the new structure—approved by the government—comprises four main commissions focused on education, politics, tourism, Iranology, as well as cultural and social affairs. These commissions aim to create organized, goal-oriented, and sustained cooperation between executive agencies and Iranian communities abroad.

He described Iranians overseas as "a vast national asset," noting that an estimated 7-9 million Iranians live outside the country. "Unfortunately, until now there has been no precise statistical system or cohesive policy for ongoing engagement with them, even though many are globally recognized academic, cultural, and economic leaders with significant potential to contribute to national development," he said.

## Middle East Crisis Stems from Israeli Militaristic Policies

TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has blamed the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East on what he described as the "interventionist and militaristic policies" of Israel, accusing it of committing genocide and undermining regional development.

Addressing the UN General Assembly's Second Committee, Amir Saeid Iravani, Iran's permanent representative to the UN, said the situation in the region is "extremely dire" and rooted in "the interventionist and militaristic policies of certain extra-regional powers, ongoing armed conflicts, prolonged occupation, and the genocide perpetrated by the Israeli regime."

"These conditions have consistently set back development in the region and continue to exacerbate its challenges," Iravani said.

He further argued that unilateral coercive measures have worsened the crisis by undermining fundamental human rights — including the right to development — and by disrupting legitimate trade, finance, and investment. Such actions, he said, "also intensify environmental degradation and put the lives and health of vulnerable populations — especially children, women, the elderly, and people with special medical needs — at serious risk."

Referring to recent hostilities, Iravani accused Israel, with U.S. support, of launching "a large-scale military aggression" against Iran on June 13, 2025, followed by "unlawful attacks on Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities" on June 22.

"These aggressions constitute a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, international law, and international humanitarian law," he said, noting that civilians, hospitals, media outlets, and vital infrastructure had been "deliberately targeted," threatening international peace and



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security as well as the global non-proliferation regime.

Iravani warned that such attacks risk the release of radioactive and toxic materials, with consequences extending beyond national borders. "These actions erode trust, undermine cooperation, and divert the international community from its shared responsibility to safeguard present and future generations," he said, calling for an immediate end to the assaults and their "unequivocal condemnation."

Highlighting the challenges to global development — including climate change, poverty, and growing military expenditures — Iravani stressed that progress "cannot be pursued in isolation" and requires stability, solidarity, cooperation, and equitable access to

resources.

He urged nations to strengthen multilateralism and collective action under the UN framework, arguing that "unilateralism threatens our world more than ever and weakens the foundations of peace, stability, and development."

At the national level, he outlined Iran's priorities, including improving public health, education, and social welfare; reducing inequality and discrimination; empowering women and youth; strengthening families; and addressing poverty and environmental threats such as desertification, dust storms, and climate-induced drought.

Iravani concluded by warning that divisions and unilateral measures would only deepen crises, emphasizing: "What the world needs now is not division but strengthened multilateralism, genuine cooperation, solidarity, and joint action under the leadership of the United Nations."

## Iran Welcomes Private Sector Support for Economic Reforms

TEHRAN – President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of unity and internal cohesion in a meeting with members of the Iran Chamber of Commerce on Monday, October 7, 2025. He stated, "I firmly believe that the key to a society's success lies in its unity and cohesion. This belief is supported by scientific evidence: such unity can only be achieved through fairness and justice among people."

Highlighting the significance of justice, President Pezeshkian added, "We must act in a way that what we do not wish for ourselves, we do not impose even on those opposed to the system. No group should receive special treatment while others are treated differently. If we act on the basis of fairness and justice, no power can defeat us, and all problems will be resolved within this framework."

Addressing issues raised by Chamber of Commerce members regarding customs, imports, and exports, he announced that the Minister of Economy will take the lead in reforming customs and port operations. "By leveraging successful experiences from other countries, we will advance reforms in customs procedures and port activities," he said. President Pezeshkian also assessed Iran's economic relations with regional unions and neighboring countries as positive. He noted, "We currently have good relations with countries in the region, the Eurasian area, BRICS members, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. They have expressed interest in cooperation; we only need to define the methods of collaboration. The government is ready to include Chamber representatives in official visits abroad so they can pursue the Chamber's objectives."

Criticizing the issuance of production and industrial licenses without long-term planning, the President said, "The economy is defined by four key questions: what to produce, how much to produce, what quality to produce, and where to sell. We also see similar confusion in industrial towns, where their goals are unclear. In contrast, every industrial town in other countries sets and pursues a clear mission."

Pezeshkian further criticized certain foreign exchange allocations, saying, "Some individuals obtain currency through connections, while many genuine producers cannot access it. This approach, especially in the current situation, is not right. We welcome and support private sector cooperation in addressing these reforms."

On the government's determination to solve the country's economic challenges, he stated, "Currently, there is the highest level of coordination among the three branches of government. All three are actively working to address the production and economic issues. The government is committed to continuing reforms to enhance efficiency, even though some firms attempt to resist these reforms."

Referring to the government's efforts to stabilize the economy, Pezeshkian affirmed, "We must not talk about leaving in the face of economic challenges. We will stay, we will stand, and we will resist those trying to block us."

Responding to concerns about diesel shortages raised by a Chamber member, he said, "The



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private sector should help us manage the energy sector, particularly diesel. Many holders of diesel quotas do not use their trucks or tractors, receiving the fuel only to sell it. These practices must be corrected, and quotas should go to those who actually consume the fuel."

The President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, stressing the need for government facilitation to implement the "import without currency transfer" path, said: "In the field of foreign exchange policies, the new experience of the 'Second Hall' was a very valuable effort."

Iran Chamber Online  
Samad Hasanazadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, in a meeting with economic activists and senior

members of the Chamber alongside the President, referred to the Supreme Leader's remarks on the need to move beyond the "neither war nor peace" situation, saying:

"From the private sector's perspective, the condition of 'neither war nor peace' means a transition from 'risk-taking' to 'uncertainty.' This situation naturally fuels a sense of economic insecurity, and fundamental thinking is needed to overcome it. The indecision of economic enterprises under such conditions is by no means in the country's interest; therefore, essential measures must be devised to exit this situation."

Meanwhile in the meeting, Head of ICCIMA emphasizing the need to reconsider the country's monetary and foreign exchange policies, stated: "In the field of import without currency transfer, necessary measures should be taken."

Hasanazadeh also said: "In the field of foreign exchange policies, the new experience of the 'Second Hall' was very valuable and shows that if opportunities are created for the private sector to actively determine supply and demand in the market and carry out transactions, a favorable result will follow."

He, stressing the need for planning to unify the currency rate, noted: "The Chamber's serious proposal is a gradual and smooth move toward a 'single-rate currency.' Of course, this does not mean eliminating foreign exchange for essential goods."

In another part of his remarks, referring to signs of the 14th government's determination to streamline the administration, he said: "In the 14th government, there is a new resolve for real government streamlining. We, the economic activists of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, support the downsizing and decentralization of government and are ready to cooperate in any way necessary from the private sector and economic activists to achieve this goal."

Hasanazadeh also highlighted the importance of strengthening national cohesion in difficult international conditions, saying: "Domestic media need to plan to preserve and strengthen this cohesion and foster a culture of trust among the people."

He concluded: "The Chamber of Commerce has always supported the government's policies and programs and is ready to help resolve the country's economic issues."

### Step by Step Toward Nothingness

It was reported in the news that the Expediency Discernment Council of the System, as predicted by the Axios website, took a passive stance and, after Palermo, also accepted the "CFT."

The spokesman for the Expediency Council, explaining Iran's conditions for joining the CFT convention, said: "The Parliament, in order to pass the bill for Iran's accession to the Convention on Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT), had stipulated that Iran would comply with the provisions of this convention within the framework of its own Constitution. Then, the Expediency Council added another condition, stating that the Islamic Republic will comply with this convention within the framework of its Constitution and its domestic laws. Based on this, if any provision of the convention conflicts with the domestic laws of the Islamic Republic, the domestic laws will prevail. Therefore, with these two conditions, the Expediency Council agreed to Iran's accession to the Convention on Combating the Financing of Terrorism."

The spokesman emphasized that Iran is the greatest victim of terrorism in the world, stating: "No country in the world has paid as high a price as Iran in combating terrorism — an example being the 12-day war and the assassinations that took place in the heart of Tehran, such as the assassinations that began early in the Revolution, of which the Iranian nation has long been a victim, as well as the assassination of Martyr Haniyeh in Tehran last year."

Referring to the passage of the Anti-Money Laundering Law in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament), he said: "The fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism was emphasized in this law. Therefore, the Islamic Republic has already begun taking steps and claims leadership in combating terrorism; now the other side must take the necessary steps and build trust."

Dehnavi, speaking about the connection between Iran's accession to the CFT and resolving Iran's issue with the FATF, said: "The FATF had demanded more than 40 actions from Iran in order to remove it from the blacklist, and Iran's accession to the CFT and the Palermo Convention were the final two steps in this regard. Therefore, in light of the recent resolutions of the Council, the relevant authorities must enter into negotiations with the FATF and follow up on the matter."

Now, in light of this resolution, unfortunately not only has Axios's prediction of our passive behavior come true, but we did not withdraw from the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), nor did we withdraw from the Cairo Agreement.

Even in a strange move — one that shows how far the Expediency Council is from grasping the most obvious realities of the world — we approved Iran's membership in the CFT, so that the adversary could reach the conclusion that any political or diplomatic aggression would not go unanswered with passive reactions on our part.

Our retreating actions have always, with some delay, worked in favor of our enemies. This indicates that we are moving step by step toward nothingness — in other words, we do not bow to force... unless that force is overwhelmingly forceful.

### Iran Discovers Large Natural Gas Reserve Near Persian Gulf



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has discovered a large gas reserve in its southern province of Fars near the Persian Gulf as the country moves ahead with plans to expand its massive petroleum sector despite foreign sanctions.

Iran's Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad said that the Pazan gas reserve holds an estimated 10 trillion cubic feet, or more than 280 billion cubic meters (bcm), of natural gas.

Paknejad said the large gas field also covers areas in the neighboring province of Bushehr, which is the hub of Iran's gas processing industry.

He said Iran had awarded a contract to develop the field, adding that production could start within the next 40 months.

The minister said exploration activities in Pazan had also led to the discovery of a reserve with at least 200 million barrels of crude oil, adding that the figure could increase as a result of ongoing operations in the field.

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## Belarus Thanks Iran for Support in Lifting IPC Suspension

TEHRAN (IRNA) - In a meeting with Iranian Minister of Sports and Youth, the Belarusian Ambassador expressed his appreciation for Iran's support for lifting the country's suspension from the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and its participation in the world competitions for the disabled and handicapped.

Dmitry Kaltsov, the Belarus ambassador to Iran, met with Dr. Ahmad Donyamali on Monday) to discuss joint cooperation and the development of relations between the two countries in the fields of sports and youth.

## Iran to Connect Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan via Araz Corridor



TEHRAN - Minister of Roads and Urban Development has reaffirmed that the Araz (Kalaleh) rail and road corridor, currently prioritized in its road segment, will link Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan through Iranian territory, maintaining Iran's central role in regional transit routes.

Speaking to ILNA, Minister Farzaneh Sadegh dismissed recent claims that the U.S.-brokered "Peace and Development" plan and its involvement in the so-called Zangezur Corridor (TRIPP) are aimed at sidelining Iran from regional transit networks and establishing a new American foothold in the South Caucasus.

"The idea of removing Iran from regional transit corridors is meaningless," Sadegh said.

"The Araz-Kalaleh rail and road corridor, which we are now prioritizing on the road segment, connects Azerbaijan to Nakhchivan through Iranian soil. This route remains active and under Iran's central role."

The minister stressed that the route discussed between Armenia and the United States does not cross Iranian territory, adding that Iran's corridor continues to serve as a vital regional link.

"I can say with certainty that, with the provision of financial resources — our top priority — we will complete the Araz corridor rapidly, further strengthening this regional route," she said.

Sadegh noted that the alternative route negotiated by Yerevan and Washington faces significant technical challenges.

"The route they are considering passes through high mountain terrain, making it unlikely to be completed in the near future. Meanwhile, the Araz-Kalaleh corridor remains viable — provided we accelerate the development of its infrastructure."

She acknowledged, however, that the Araz corridor still requires substantial engineering work, including the construction of complex tunnels.

"We hope that with secured funding, we can finalize the project within the next year," the minister stated.

# Snapback Mechanism Seen as Major Challenge for Oil Equipment Manufacturers



TEHRAN - The chairman of the Iranian Association of Oil Industry Equipment Manufacturers has warned that the reactivation of the UN "snapback mechanism" could significantly disrupt the country's economic activities, particularly in the oil and gas sector, potentially creating harsher conditions than those faced before the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA).

Speaking at a press conference in Tehran, Ehsan Saqafi highlighted the central role of domestically produced equipment in sustaining Iran's oil industry.

"Back in the early 1980s, less than 10% of the equipment used in the oil sector was manufactured domestically. The rest was imported," he said. "Over the past 12 years, domestic production has risen to 85%, with 70% of that meeting international standards and being deployed in various plants."

Saqafi acknowledged that although sanctions have posed serious challenges, they have also spurred local production.

"Sanctions forced us to focus on domestic manufacturing. It was difficult, but it ultimately strengthened our capabilities," he noted. "If Iran's oil industry is still functioning and generating revenue today, it is because of these domestically produced components."

The industry leader stressed that without local equipment, oil and gas operations would have stalled.

"Wherever Iranian manufacturers have been trusted, they have delivered results," he added, expressing hope that an easing of sanctions would allow buyers the freedom to choose between domestic and foreign products.

Saqafi said that Iran currently has the capacity to meet 85% of its oil sector's equipment needs domestically and aims to reach 95% within the next five years.

"The remaining share is not economically viable to produce here, but we have the ability to reach 100% if sanctions are intensified," he stated.

On exports, Saqafi explained that sanctions and banking restrictions have

complicated the trade of oil equipment.

"Some of our products are 95% made in Iran but are sold through third countries under their labels, and in some cases re-imported back into Iran," he said. "We also export certain equipment directly to countries like Venezuela."

Discussing the snapback mechanism's implications, he warned:

"Its impact on economic activity cannot be denied. The snapback mechanism will certainly cause us difficulties—potentially even more severe than the pre-JCPOA period. It affects transportation, access to foreign currency, and the supply of

raw materials."

Despite these challenges, Saqafi expressed confidence in the resilience of domestic producers, emphasizing the importance of government support and unity in overcoming obstacles.

"Banking transactions continue as before to some extent, and digital currencies are opening new avenues. The private sector will find ways to operate, provided that no unnecessary barriers are placed in its path," he said.

Saqafi also highlighted ongoing discussions between domestic manufacturers and the Oil Ministry regarding unresolved issues, noting that many of the same concerns have persisted for over a year. He pointed to energy imbalances as a systemic issue affecting households and industries alike, attributing it to "years of managerial imbalance."

He concluded by announcing that the 7th Oil, Gas, and Petrochemical Equipment Exhibition and Conference, focusing on supporting domestic production, will be held in February.

"This annual event has established itself as an important platform for showcasing the private sector's capabilities and strengthening local manufacturing," Saqafi said.

## Iran Launches \$5b Fiber Optic Project to Boost Internet Quality and Speed



TEHRAN - Iran has launched a landmark \$5 billion national fiber optic project aimed at replacing the country's century-old copper cable network, promising faster, more reliable internet and improved digital infrastructure. The move marks the largest ICT project in Iran's history and is expected to transform both the economy and the quality of online services.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, Mohammad Jafarpour, CEO of the Telecommunication Company of Iran (TCI), said the migration from copper to fiber optic networks (known as the Swap Project) is a "strategic national initiative" overseen by the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

"This project is not just for telecommunications — it is a national mega-project requiring \$5 billion in investment. It will enhance digital government, boost industrial productivity, and directly improve people's daily lives," Jafarpour said.

"Connecting industries, government agencies, and households to fiber optics will accelerate Iran's digital economy, which is projected to reach a 12% share of GDP."

According to TCI, every 10% increase in fixed broadband penetration adds 1.5% to Iran's GDP. The rollout is also expected to create up to 10,000 direct jobs and 30,000 indirect jobs for every one million new fiber connections, with the greatest impact anticipated in e-commerce and internet-based businesses.

Jafarpour noted that over 80% of Iran's internet traffic currently relies on mobile networks, which are struggling to handle surging demand from video streaming and AI-powered services. He said mobile capacity has reached its limits, leading to congestion and reduced service quality during peak hours.

"The aging copper network no longer meets modern demands. Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) can deliver speeds up to 1 Gbps," he said.

## Expansion of Foreign Relations Despite Sanctions



TEHRAN - Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade announced that the country's capacity for expanding foreign relations is currently greater than it was at the start of the 14th government, despite ongoing international sanctions.

Seyed Mohammad Atabak made the remarks on Tuesday during the inauguration ceremony of Mohammad Masoud Samiei Nejad as the new head of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Highlighting a shift in international relations, Atabak stressed that IMIDRO plays a crucial role in activating mining projects and advancing foreign cooperation, and that the organization must make full use of its capacities.

"In the past, there was global consensus on unilateralism and on accepting tools such as sanctions and the 'snapback' mechanism, but the situation is no longer as it used to be. However, stabilizing these new conditions will take time," he said.

Atabak underlined that sustaining IMIDRO's dynamism and growth requires a strong focus on exploration, developing mining zones, and unlocking dormant or restricted mines.

"Some existing laws have constrained the organization, and these must be addressed through the parliament," the minister noted.

He emphasized the need for legislative efforts to revive development organizations and to resolve conflicts that have left some mines inactive due to overlap with protected natural resources.

Calling IMIDRO one of the country's most distinguished development institutions, Atabak said it plays a decisive role not only for the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade but also for national economic development through unity and cooperation.

# Warm Welcome for Mazandaran's Role as Lead Province in Eurasian Trade Agreement



TEHRAN - At the Grand Forum Honoring Mazandaran's Top Exporters, Mohammad-Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), stressed that the strength and resilience of Iran's economy has always depended heavily on exports. He recalled that over the past 10–15 years, especially during periods of international sanctions and declining oil revenues, non-oil exports became the main source of foreign currency and a vital support for the national economy.

"Although foreign trade conditions may become more challenging, the private sector has proven it can find ways to overcome obstacles," Dehnavi said. "The government's duty is to clear the path for you, and this is emphasized by all senior officials."

He noted that in the past week alone, three high-level meetings on exports and foreign-currency earnings were held with the president's participation, with practical steps being discussed to resolve trade-related issues. "The message is clear: everyone is mobilized to support exporters, and positive developments are on the way," he added.

Dehnavi underlined that export revenues must return to the national economy, a principle accepted by both the government and private sector. However, he said, disagreements arise over additional restrictions—such as fixed exchange-rate rules and mandatory allocation of proceeds—that complicate the process.

He noted that exporters are ready to repatriate their earnings but sometimes face impractical procedures. For example, some exporters lack import quotas, though a recent decision by the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade (MIMT) now allows exporters to receive import quotas tied to their exports.

The TPO chief also emphasized the potential of barter trade, urging the Mazandaran provincial MIMT office to identify goods that can be exchanged for imports needed by the country.

On easing restrictions for imports without transferring currency through official channels, Dehnavi said the Central Bank now permits the use of exporters' foreign deposits abroad for imports. "This practice is already in place and even exempt from quota restrictions," he noted, adding that better communication and practical experience would make the process smoother.

He called on private-sector players not to be discouraged by current limitations:

"Pursue exports through every viable route and new channels. The government's role is to facilitate and support your efforts."

Highlighting the implementation of Iran's trade agreement with the

Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as of May 14 this year, Dehnavi said that tariffs on 87% of goods traded under the deal have been eliminated.

He encouraged businesses to identify and seize new opportunities:

"If you export to Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, Russia, or Kazakhstan, inform us so that we can ensure you benefit from these new facilities."

Responding to the Mazandaran Chamber of Commerce's request to designate the province as a lead region in EAEU trade, Dehnavi welcomed the proposal:

"If you are ready to take on this responsibility, we will fully support you. Identify products with export potential, and activate air and sea logistics routes. With proper coordination in customs, health, and quarantine procedures, Mazandaran's export capacity can be significantly enhanced."

He stressed that the province's current \$400 million in non-oil exports is far below its potential, given that the Eurasian market is worth \$800–900 billion annually.

"Securing just 1% of that trade within 3–5 years is achievable, especially since most of these countries are Caspian neighbors," he said.

Calling for removal of obstructive laws and tax burdens—as 40% of national exports face duties and income tax—Dehnavi urged lawmakers to help improve the business climate.

"We need investment to move beyond raw material exports, and that investment must come from export revenues. Without strong exports, we cannot secure the foreign currency needed to import machinery and boost production," he said.

He argued that government policies should complement rather than hinder private-sector activity:

"Smart policies enable the private sector to pursue its own interests while achieving social benefits. If a policy opposes private-sector participation, it is flawed."

Dehnavi announced that by mid-next year, a permanent exhibition of Mazandaran's export capabilities will be established at the provincial chamber of commerce.

"To maximize its impact, we need an export accelerator to nurture innovative ideas from young entrepreneurs alongside experienced business leaders," he said.

Concluding his remarks, Dehnavi emphasized that export-oriented thinking is essential for sustainable production:

"We must abandon the old notion of first investing and then seeking markets. Today, identifying export markets comes first."

## Iran, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan Sign New Rail Cooperation Protocol



TEHRAN - A new protocol governing the operation, registration, and auditing of Iranian rail wagons in the territories of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan has been signed, marking a significant step in strengthening regional rail connectivity and boosting cross-border freight transport.

The agreement — titled the "Protocol on the Operation, Registration, and Auditing of Iranian Wagons" — was signed in the presence of Jabarali Zakari, CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Silab Nurbaev, Deputy Minister of Rail Transport of Turkmenistan, and Zuber Narzulayev, Chairman of the Board of Uzbekistan Railways.

Officials described the protocol as a pivotal move toward the optimal use of rail transport capacity among the three neighboring countries. It is expected to play a key role in facilitating international rail freight traffic, reducing logistical bottlenecks, and promoting smoother transit of goods across regional corridors.

Under the terms of the agreement, the parties reaffirmed their commitment to conduct international rail transport in accordance with established freight transport treaties. The protocol addresses technical and operational procedures for Iranian wagons of various types — including covered wagons, tankers, grain carriers, and container wagons — traveling through Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. It also provides a regulatory framework for wagons and bogies with a 1,520-millimeter track gauge, whether state-owned or privately operated.

A notable feature of the new protocol is the permission for Iranian wagons and bogies manufactured in Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries to operate on Turkmen and Uzbek rail networks, provided that periodic maintenance requirements are met and written consent is secured from both sides. This measure is expected to ease the transportation of packaged, bulk, and liquid cargo.

## Trump Calls Off Diplomatic Outreach to Venezuela

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump has called off efforts to reach a diplomatic agreement with Venezuela and told his special envoy Richard Grenell to stop all outreach, a senior U.S. official said on Monday.

The news, which was first reported by the New York Times, follows a series of military strikes on vessels carrying drugs near Venezuela. Trump told Congress that the U.S. is engaged in “a non-international armed conflict” with drug cartels. Although Trump is reportedly considering strikes inside the South American country, the U.S. official told Reuters that the president has not yet determined whether to advance his military campaign to a second phase.

Trump delivered the message to Grenell during a meeting in the Oval Office last Thursday with senior military leaders, the senior official said.



## Immune System Breakthrough Wins Nobel Medicine Prize



STOCKHOLM (Dispatches) - American scientists Mary Brunkow and Fred Ramsdell and Shimon Sakaguchi from Japan won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Monday for work shedding light on how the immune system spares healthy cells, creating openings for possible new autoimmune disease and cancer treatments.

Their discoveries relate to peripheral immune tolerance, or “how we keep our immune system under control so we can fight all imaginable microbes and still avoid autoimmune disease”, said Marie Wahren-Herlenius, a rheumatology professor at Sweden’s Karolinska Institute, the awarding body.

The institute said all three laureates brought to the fore so-called regulatory T cells, a class of white blood cells that act as the immune system’s security guards that keep immune cells from attacking our own body.

Brunkow, who found out she had won after being woken by her dog barking at a news photographer on the front porch of her Seattle home, said she, Ramsdell and their colleagues had isolated a gene called FOXP3 that could be used as a marker for the cells.

“They’re rare, but powerful, and they’re critical for sort of dampening an immune response,” she said in an interview, describing the cells as a braking system that prevents the body’s immune system from tipping over into attacking itself.

Sakaguchi expressed surprise at a press conference in Osaka, western Japan, because he felt any major recognition would have depended on more development advances.

“I used to think that some sort of reward may be forthcoming if what we have been doing will advance a little further and it will become more beneficial to people in clinical settings,” he said in a calm voice, cracking a smile now and then.

## Thunberg Greeted by Cheering Crowd in Athens



ATHENS (Dispatches) - Swedish campaigner Greta Thunberg arrived in Greece to a cheering pro-Palestinian crowd on Monday after she and hundreds of other activists captured by Israel on the high seas were deported following an attempt to bring aid to Gaza.

Israel said it expelled 171 activists on Monday including Thunberg, bringing the total deported over so far to 341, out of 479 people it detained when it captured the flotilla attempting to break its naval blockade of Gaza.

The Greek Foreign Ministry said 161 of the activists arrived on a flight to Athens on Monday, including Thunberg, 22. They included 27 Greeks, as well as citizens of nearly 20 other countries.

“Let me be very clear. There is a genocide going on,” Thunberg told the crowd at the Athens airport referring to Israeli military action in Gaza.

“Our international systems are betraying Palestinians. They are not even able to prevent the worst war crimes from happening,” she said. “What we aimed to do with the Global Sumud Flotilla was to step up when our governments failed to do their legal obligation.”

The activists attempted to reach Gaza in scores of vessels to bring aid supplies and draw attention to the plight of Gaza, where most of the 2.2 million residents have been driven from their homes and the United Nations says hunger is rampant.

# Gaza Talks Turn to Key Sticking Points Between Israel, Hamas

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Dispatches) - Delegations from Israel and Hamas held their first day of indirect negotiations in Egypt on Monday on U.S. President Donald Trump’s plan to halt the war in Gaza, wrestling with contentious issues such as demands that Israel withdraw and Hamas disarm.

Israel and Hamas have both endorsed the overall principles behind Trump’s plan, under which fighting would cease, hostages go free and aid pour into Gaza.

The plan also has the backing of Arab and Western states. Trump has called for negotiations to take place swiftly towards a final deal, in what Washington hails as the closest the sides have yet come to ending the two-year-old conflict.

Trump, who has cast himself as the only world leader capable of achieving peace in Gaza, has invested significant political capital in efforts to end the war that has killed tens of thousands and left U.S. ally Israel increasingly isolated on the world stage.

“I really think we’re going to have a deal,” Trump told reporters on Monday at the White House as the delegations met in Egypt. “We have a really good chance of making a deal, and it’ll be a lasting deal.”

But both sides are seeking clarifications of crucial details, including those that have derailed previous attempts to end the war and could defy any quick resolution.

Trump has pushed Israel to suspend its bombing of Gaza for the talks. Gaza residents said Israel had scaled back its offensive substantially, although not halted it altogether.

Gaza health authorities reported 19 people killed by Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours, around a third of the typical daily toll in recent weeks, when Israel has been mounting one of its biggest offensives of the war in Gaza City.

The talks began at the Red Sea resort of Sharm El Sheikh with delegations from Egypt, the United States and Qatar present as intermediaries.

A Palestinian official close to the negotiations said the first session ended late Monday evening and more talks were due to take place on Tuesday.

Hamas outlined its stance on the release of hostages and the scale and timeline of Israel’s withdrawal from Gaza, the official said. The Islamist group also voiced concerns about whether Israel would commit to a permanent ceasefire and



a comprehensive pullout, the official said.

Even as the talks concluded for the day, sounds of explosions from airstrikes and demolition of houses could be heard in Gaza City, signifying that Israel had not ceased its bombardment.

The talks commenced on the eve of the second anniversary of the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023, on Israel that triggered the war. Fighters killed 1,200 people and took 251 hostages, the deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust.

Israel’s retaliatory military campaign has killed more than 67,000 Palestinians and left the majority of 2.2 million Gazans homeless and hungry in an enclave destroyed by relentless bombardment.

A senior Israeli security source said the talks initially would focus only on the release of hostages and give Hamas a few days to complete that phase.

Israel will not compromise on withdrawing troops only to the so-called yellow line in Gaza — a boundary for an initial Israeli pullback under the Trump plan, the source said. It would create a strategic buffer zone, and further withdrawal would depend on Hamas meeting set conditions.

With Israeli forces blasting their way through Gaza City and flattening neighbourhoods as they advance, Gaza residents called a ceasefire their last hope.

“If there is a deal, then we survive. If there isn’t, it is like we have been sentenced to death,” said Gharam Mohammad, 20, displaced along with her family in central Gaza.

Inside Israel there is clamour for an end to the war to bring home hostages, although right-wing

members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s cabinet oppose any halt to fighting.

Though Trump says he wants a deal quickly, an official briefed on the negotiations, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he expected the round of talks starting on Monday would require at least a few days.

An official involved in ceasefire planning and a Palestinian source said Trump’s 72-hour deadline for the hostages’ return could be unachievable for dead hostages. Their remains may need to be located and recovered from scattered sites.

# Maduro Says Venezuela Foiled False Flag Plot to Bomb U.S. Embassy

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Monday security forces foiled a “false flag” plot by what he called local terrorists to plant explosives at the U.S. embassy in Caracas and inflame tensions over drug trafficking. He cited unnamed sources alleging the plan sought to provoke Washington.

Maduro said Monday that Venezuela foiled a false flag operation by what he called local terrorists to plant explosives at the U.S. embassy in Caracas and exacerbate a dispute between the two countries over drug trafficking.

Speaking on his weekly TV program, Maduro said two sources which he did not name “agreed on the possibility that a local terrorist group placed an explosive device at the U.S. embassy in Caracas” in order to aggravate the dispute with Washington.

Jorge Rodriguez, head of Venezuela’s delegation for dialogue with its arch-foe, said earlier that Caracas had warned Washington of “a serious threat” from alleged extremists who “attempted to plant lethal explosives at the U.S. embassy.”

“We have reinforced security measures at this diplomatic mission,” added Rodriguez.

The South American nation’s socialist government often accuses the opposition of plots.

Caracas and Washington severed diplomatic ties in 2019, and the US embassy has been deserted, barring a few local employees.

Maduro said Monday night, “it is an embassy which is protected, despite all the differences we have had with the governments of the United States.”

Washington has made Venezuela the focal point of its fight against drug



trafficking, even though most of the illegal drugs entering the United States originate in, or are shipped through, Mexico.

President Donald Trump’s administration has sent warships and planes to the Caribbean region and bombed several small boats off the coast of

Venezuela, which it says were carrying drugs bound for the United States.

At least 21 people have been killed in the strikes, which Trump claims are halting the flow of drugs across the Caribbean.

“We’re stopping drugs at a level that nobody’s ever seen,” he told an audience of US Navy sailors in Virginia on Sunday.

Maduro says Trump’s true goal is regime change.

Caracas has responded to the “threats” by deploying thousands of troops along Venezuela’s land and sea borders and signing up thousands of members to a civilian militia.

The United States did not recognize Maduro’s 2024 re-election, rejected by the Venezuelan opposition and much of the world as a stolen vote.

During his first term, Trump tried to dislodge Maduro by recognizing an opposition leader as interim president and imposing sanctions on Venezuela’s all-important oil sector.

But Maduro clung to power, with the support of the military.

For weeks rumors have circulated on social networks that Venezuela’s current opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, in hiding since last year’s election, is sheltering at the U.S. embassy.

Her whereabouts have not been confirmed by AFP.

Washington has recognized a candidate backed by Machado, former senator Eduardo Gonzalez Urrutia, as Venezuela’s rightful president.

# Macron Under Pressure After Lecornu Becomes Third French PM to Resign This Year

PARIS (Dispatches) - The shock resignation of Sébastien Lecornu as prime minister on Monday has piled pressure on President Emmanuel Macron to find a way out of the deadlock and extricate France out of a deep political crisis that has rattled the markets. Marine Le Pen’s far-right National Rally immediately called for a snap parliamentary election.

Lecornu stepped down as prime minister on Monday just 14 hours after naming his government. He had been due to hold his first cabinet meeting in the afternoon. But his new government had raised hackles across the spectrum before ministers even entered their new offices and he risked an immediate no confidence vote in parliament this week.

Lecornu’s 27-day stint in office was the shortest ever for a prime minister in modern France.

“The conditions were not fulfilled for me to carry out my function as prime minister,” Lecornu said, denouncing the “partisan appetites” of factions who he said had forced his resignation.



With the instability in France causing tremors across Europe, a German government spokesman said a “stable France” was an “important contribution to stability in Europe”. Lecornu’s resignation compounds a political crisis that has rocked France for over a year, after centrist Macron called early legislative elections in the summer of 2024 which ended in a hung parliament.

On Monday morning, French stocks and the euro fell while France’s borrowing costs jumped, wiping millions of dollars off the stock market and fuelling uncertainty over the euro zone’s second-largest economy.

The euro, which has weathered much of France’s political turmoil in the last year, slid 0.7% on the day to \$1.1665.

“It’s concerning that the new cabinet only lasted 12 hours,” said Danske Bank analyst Kirstine Kundby-Nielsen.

“There seems to be no willingness in parliament for a budget to be passed, so I think yields higher, pressure on euro-dollar in the near term.”



## Broncos Knock Eagles From Unbeatens With Furious Comeback

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Bo Nix and the visiting Denver Broncos wiped out a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit and snapped Philadelphia's 10-game winning streak with a 21-17 victory.

After punting on seven of their first eight drives, the Broncos (3-2) scored touchdowns on back-to-back possessions to seize the lead. J.K. Dobbins made it 17-10 with a 2-yard TD run with 13:11 remaining, and Nix put Denver ahead with an 11-yard TD pass to Evan Engram and a gutsy two-point conversion toss to Troy Franklin with 7:36 left.

The defending Super Bowl champion Eagles (4-1) also had a 12-game home winning streak snapped, dating back to Week 2 of last season. Nix passed for 242 yards and improved his career record to 5-1 against NFC opponents. Courtland Sutton caught eight passes for 99 yards and Dobbins ran for 79 yards.

Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts passed for a season-high 280 yards and threw touchdowns to Saquon Barkley and Dallas Goedert, but he was also sacked six times.

Andy Borregales made a 52-yard field goal with 15 seconds remaining in the game to help visiting New England Patriots upset Buffalo Bills 23-20.

The Patriots (3-2) received two rushing touchdowns from Rhamondre Stevenson. New England wide receiver Stefon Diggs caught 10 passes on 12 targets for 146 yards. It was the first time Diggs has played a game in Buffalo since the Bills traded the four-time Pro Bowl selection to the Houston Texans before the 2024 season. New England quarterback Drake Maye completed 22 of 30 passes for 273 yards.

The loss ended Buffalo's 14-game, regular-season home winning streak dating back to November 2023. Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen completed 22 of 31 passes for 253 yards and two touchdowns. Allen, who was intercepted once, led the Bills with 53 yards rushing on nine carries. Tight end Dalton Kincaid caught all six of his targets for 108 yards.

Carson Wentz threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Addison with 25 seconds left in regulation,

lifting Minnesota Vikings to a 21-17 win over Cleveland Browns in London.

Wentz completed 25 of 34 passes for 236 yards and a touchdown for Minnesota (3-2), which bounced back from a loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers in Dublin last week. Justin Jefferson had seven catches for 123 yards, and Addison tallied five catches for 41 yards despite being benched at times for what was referred to as a coach's decision.

Quinshon Judkins had 23 carries for 110 yards for the Browns (1-4). Fellow rookie Dillon Gabriel made his first career start at quarterback and completed 19 of 33 passes for 190 yards and two touchdowns.

Jonathan Taylor rushed for three touchdowns and Daniel Jones threw for two more as Indianapolis Colts blasted visiting Las Vegas Raiders 40-6.

Jones completed 20 of 29 passes for 212 yards for Indianapolis (4-1), which bounced back from a Week 4 loss at the Los Angeles Rams by scoring 40 consecutive points in the middle two quarters. This included three touchdowns -- two by Taylor -- in a span of less than 4 1/2 minutes in the third quarter.

Geno Smith hit 25 of 36 passes for 228 yards and two interceptions for the Raiders (1-4), who lost their fourth straight game. Rookie Ashton Jeanty rushed 14 times for 67 yards for Las Vegas, which was blown out despite the Colts' modest 317-296 edge in total yards.

Dak Prescott passed for 237 yards and a season-high four touchdowns to help Dallas Cowboys roll to a 37-22 victory over woeful New York Jets at East Rutherford, N.J.

Javonte Williams rushed for 135 yards and one touchdown and also had a scoring reception, and Jake Ferguson caught two scoring passes for the Cowboys (2-2-1). George Pickens caught a touchdown pass and Ryan Flournoy had six receptions for 114 yards for Dallas, which scored 30 straight points after falling behind 3-0 with a pair of touchdowns in the final minute of the first half.

## Flagg Drops 10 Points as Mavericks Hang on to Beat Thunder



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Cooper Flagg played in his first preseason game on Monday night for the Dallas Mavericks, just months after the franchise selected him with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft. While he only played 14 minutes, he helped lead the Mavericks to a 106-89 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder at Dickies Arena in Fort Worth, Texas.

After a bit of a slow start, Flagg's first points of the night came in the second quarter when he sank a wild acrobatic contested layup. He then backed it up with a 3-pointer off the dribble not even a minute later.

Though he wasn't scoring early, Flagg looked very comfortable out there. He found Dwight Powell for a wide-open dunk after running the point midway through the first.

By halftime, Flagg was up to 10 points and six rebounds after he shot 3-of-6 from the field. The Mavericks broke open a 26-point lead at the break, too. The Thunder, who beat the Charlotte Hornets in their preseason opener on Sunday, went just 13-of-49 from the field as a group in the first 24 minutes.

While the Thunder rallied in the second half — they outscored Dallas by 10 points in the third, and then opened the fourth quarter on a 21-11 run — it came too late. The Mavericks held on to grab the 17-point win and start the preseason 1-0. Flagg, along with the rest of the Mavericks' starters, didn't return in the second half.

While it doesn't actually count, Monday night marked a critical step for Flagg before he officially begins his NBA career on Oct. 22. That's when the Mavericks will actually open their regular season against Victor Wembanyama and the San Antonio Spurs.

Flagg dominated at Duke, where he won consensus National Player of the Year honors and helped the Blue Devils reach the Final Four. He averaged 19.2 points and 7.5 rebounds per game there, and was long considered the favorite to go No. 1 overall in the draft. The Mavericks, just months after the chaos that came with trading away superstar Luka Dončić, remarkably won the NBA Draft lottery for the first time in franchise history. They only had a 1.8% chance to do so, too.

Flagg appeared in just two Summer League games for the Mavericks before the team shut him down. He dropped 31 points in the team's second game, too, following a very rough start in which he shot just 5-of-21 from the field.

## Mercedes Chief Calls for F1 Return to South Korea



SINGAPORE (Dispatches) - Mercedes will take Formula One back to South Korea for the first time in 12 years with a show run in Yongin next week and team principal Toto Wolff thinks it is high time the sport again made an annual visit to the country.

The team will head to Korea on a high after George Russell gave them a second win of the season at Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix, one of only three East Asian stops on the current 24-race calendar, along with Japan and China.

South Korea hosted four grands prix at Yeongam from 2010 to 2013 and Wolff strongly believes the tech-savvy population would embrace the product Formula One has become over the last decade.

"It has been a little bit of an untapped market for a while now, considering that Formula One has grown very strong over the last few years, particularly in the younger target group," the Austrian told Reuters in Singapore.

"You know, our strongest growing demographic is young females from 15 to 24 and they are very active on social media.

"South Korea is an extremely social-media-connected country and so it would be great if we could come back and show how Formula One has changed over the last 10 years."

Formula One now has six races in the Americas and four in the Middle East on top of its traditional European core.

"(Formula One chief executive) Stefano Domenicali — his aim is always to balance it well," Wolff said.

"And there's obviously commercial factors, but also long-term planning, and I believe that we have a little bit of a blank spot in (East) Asia."

## Italy World Cup-Winner Cannavaro to Coach Uzbekistan at 2026 World Cup

TASHKENT (Dispatches) - Italian Fabio Cannavaro will coach Uzbekistan as they prepare for their first World Cup next year, the Central Asian nation's soccer association said on Monday.

Cannavaro won the World Cup with Italy as a player, captaining his country to the title in 2006, but his record as a coach is more mixed.

His most recent job was with Dinamo Zagreb but that was a short-lived spell of less than four months that ended in April.

"The Uzbekistan Football Association has signed a contract with Fabio Cannavaro — a renowned specialist, one of the best defenders of his generation," the statement said.

The 52-year-old has previously had coaching roles with clubs in China and Saudi Arabia as well as in Italy. He also had a short spell as caretaker manager of China in 2019.

He will succeed Timur Kapadze, who was in charge in June when the Central Asian country qualified for the World Cup for the first time.



Meanwhile England defender Jarell Quansah left Liverpool for Germany's Bayer Leverkusen in search of more game time and a new challenge in a different environment, he said on Monday.

The 22-year-old, who is in the England squad for two games

this month, made 58 appearances for Liverpool but only four last season before signing a five-year contract with the Bundesliga club.

"I just wanted to keep progressing in a way where, as a young centre back, you need games to improve," Quansah told a press conference at St. George's Park.

"I've obviously been learning off some of the best players around me at the time at Liverpool, and being able to do that has been so good for my career.

"But at this point in my career, I'm 22 turning 23 and I'm going to be needing hundreds of games to be where I want to be at the end of the day."

Quansah has played every minute of all nine Leverkusen games this season, and scored on his Bundesliga debut in a 2-1 win over Hoffenheim.

"It's been good for myself to make that step and go abroad," Quansah said. "When you're at a team like Liverpool, it's not promised, because world-class players are all over the pitch.

## Zverev Accuses Tournaments of Slowing Courts to Favor Alcaraz

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - World number three Alexander Zverev accused tournament directors of slowing down courts to help Carlos Alcaraz succeed across all surfaces, with the German saying that the sport needs to bring back variety.

Zverev was speaking at the Shanghai Masters, where he was asked to give his thoughts on the court speed on the tour this year which others like Swiss great Roger Federer had also observed to be slower.

Federer had said the slower courts allowed players to play the same way on clay, grass or hardcourts, adding that he wanted to see Alcaraz adjust to fast conditions.

But Zverev not only echoed those sentiments but also fired a provocative shot at tournament directors.

"I hate when it's the same and I know that the tournament directors are going towards that direction because obviously they want Carlos to do well every tournament, and that's what



they prefer," Zverev said in an on-court interview.

"I've been on tour for 12 years now and we always had different surfaces. We always had tournaments which you liked and we always had tournaments which you didn't like so much."

While Alcaraz has won six Grand Slam titles at the age of 22, Sinner has won four, with the top two players in the world splitting the last eight majors between them.

"You couldn't play tennis the same way on a grass court, hard court and a clay court. Nowadays you can play almost the same way on every surface, so I don't like it, I'm not a fan of it," added Zverev, who has yet to win a major title.

"I think tennis needs game styles. Tennis needs a little bit of variety and I think we're lacking that right now."

While Alcaraz withdrew from the Shanghai Masters tournament with an ankle injury.