

Iran Has Condemned the G7's
Endorsement of a Move to Reimpose
Terminated UN Sanctions Against Tehran,
Labeling It as “Deceitful” and a “Distortion
of Reality”

IRAN NEWS

Iran's Top Security Official Ali Larijani
Sharply Criticized Western Countries for
Pursuing a Policy of Coercion Rather Than
Sincere Diplomacy With Tehran Over Its
Missile and Nuclear Capabilities

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President Calls for Unity to Overcome Threats, Sanctions



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian has called for unity and reliance on faith and the people in the face of threats and sanctions, noting that assassinations, military pressure and economic exploitation will not make the nation submit.

Speaking in a meeting with intellectuals and political, social, and cultural activists of Hormozgan Province in Bandar Abbas on Thursday, Pezeshkian urged officials and citizens alike to trust in domestic capabilities and the support of the populace to maintain momentum despite pressures.

“The country’s goals, dignity and pride must not be forgotten. We must move in a single row, toward one qibla, and under one leadership. This is the meaning of congregational prayer; unity. If this unity does not exist, that congregation will be only an empty shell,” he said.

“The enemies think that by assassination they can bring our nation to its knees, while thousands of more worthy people are ready to take up this flag,” he said, referring to the decades-long assassination campaign by the United States, Israel, and other terror groups supported by them against Iran.

One of the latest assassination plots occurred in June when the Israeli regime launched an unprovoked aggression against Iran, targeting top military commanders and nuclear scientists, also killing hundreds of civilians.

Pezeshkian also pointed to the illegal sanctions imposed against the country over its peaceful nuclear program, saying that they cannot block the path for the nation. “Those who fear sanctions do not believe that one can continue the path by relying on God and the people.”

IRGC Warns of Heavier Response to New Aggression



TEHRAN (PessTV) - Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has warned the enemies of a “heavier, more precise, and more deadly” response to any new act of aggression against the country compared to the Islamic Republic’s previous anti-Israel operations.

The IRGC issued a statement on Thursday, marking the first anniversary of Operation True Promise II, which involved the firing of precision-strike missiles and drones at strategic sites in the occupied territories in retaliation for Israel’s assassinations of the Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah’s leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

The attack was the second in three anti-Israel operations that Iran carried out in response to Israel’s criminal acts in the region.

It said that during the operation, Iranian missiles penetrated the Zionist regime’s multi-layered air defenses supported by the US and NATO and destroyed their targets with “astounding accuracy,” rendering Iron Dome, Arrow and David’s Sling systems “ineffective.”

Today marks the 1st anniversary of Operation True Promise II, a significant moment in geopolitical history when Iran executed a bold retaliatory strike against Israeli targets using ballistic missiles.

Tehran, Moscow Reiterate Rejection of E3’s Sanctions Snapback

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia have condemned the move of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany to invoke the so-called snapback mechanism and reinstate United Nations sanctions on Tehran, slamming the action as “illegitimate, unlawful, and politically motivated”.

In a meeting held on Friday, Iran’s ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov reiterated their joint opposition to the so-called initiative by the European trio. They also discussed bilateral cooperation, including within the BRICS framework.

Jalali emphasized that the E3 had failed to fulfill their commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) following the unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the agreement in May 2018.

He further asserted that the snapback mechanism had been transformed into “a tool to reward the original violator of the agreement—namely, the United States.”

Jalali described the decision as unlawful and evidence of Europe’s weakened international standing.

Ryabkov echoed the rejection, stressing that “Russia has repeatedly made clear, through Foreign Ministry statements and other diplomatic channels, that this procedure is illegal.”

He added that the action by Western states showed they “do not care about the content of Security Council resolutions and use them selectively as tools.”

The joint stance follows broader criticism from Moscow and Beijing. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has already written to UN Secretary-General António Guterres to underline the illegal nature of the decision, while China has also branded the process unlawful.

Earlier this week, Russia’s Ambassador to the UN Vasily Nebenzia also reiterated the stance in New York. “We do not recognize the snapback as coming into force.”

He noted that Western governments have been “serial violators” of Resolution 2231 and said they had “forfeited a diplomatic solution” by activating the procedure.

The UK, France, and Germany triggered the snapback on August 28, setting in motion a 30-day process to restore all UN sanctions on Iran.

Despite last-minute efforts by Russia and China to preserve diplomacy, the Security Council failed to reach consensus on September 26. Two days later, the E3 and the United States declared the sanctions reinstated and urged UN member states to enforce them.

Tehran has categorically rejected the claim, insisting that it was the United States and its European allies who undermined the 2015 nuclear deal by failing to honor their commitments.

Iranian officials maintain that no UN member state is obliged to comply with the unilateral and unlawful measure.

Meanwhile Iran’s Foreign Ministry praised the implementation of the comprehensive strategic partnership treaty between Moscow and Tehran.

In a statement released on Thursday night, the ministry noted that the treaty embodies the



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commitment of both countries’ leaders to enhance relations across various fields based on mutual respect, good neighborliness, and shared interests.

On Thursday, Iran and Russia officially commenced the execution of a 20-year comprehensive strategic partnership treaty, marking a significant step towards strengthening their bilateral ties. The treaty was signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in Moscow on January 17, 2025.

According to the Russian Foreign Ministry, the treaty signifies the “strategic choice” made by the political leadership of both nations to improve their friendly relations and collaborate on core mutual interests.

Last month, Presidents Pezeshkian and Putin met in Tianjin, China, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

(SCO) summit, where they agreed to intensify efforts to fully implement the treaty.

Both leaders underscored that the treaty establishes a foundation for deeper cooperation between Tehran and Moscow across various sectors.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry reiterated that the completion of the treaty reflects the desire of both nations’ leaders to strengthen their ties in all areas of mutual interest, grounded in respect and cooperation.

The ministry called the treaty a turning point in the history of the two countries’ relations, which can help expand bilateral relations in various areas ranging from defense, energy and finance to agriculture, science, and technology.

“This significant document outlines the areas and priorities for cooperation, establishing a clear framework for enhancing relations in diplomacy, economy, trade, science and technology, energy, investment, defense, and culture. It also provides a necessary basis for coordination and synergy to ensure mutual benefits and collaborative efforts to promote international peace and security while addressing rising global challenges to the rule of law and the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter,” the Foreign Ministry statement said.

The ministry further emphasized that the treaty will enhance joint efforts to maintain international peace and security and tackle emerging global threats. It stated that Iran and Russia are committed to upholding multilateralism and respecting international law.

“Iran and Russia, recognizing the essential importance of adhering to the principles and objectives of the United Nations Charter for global peace and security, will make every effort to nurture multilateralism and uphold international law, including by strengthening cooperation within multilateral organizations such as the BRICS group and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization,” the ministry affirmed.

Iran’s Parliament approved the treaty with Russia by consensus in May, following ratification by Russia’s lower house of parliament in April.

Under the treaty, both countries are dedicated to assisting one another in countering common security threats and engaging in intelligence sharing.

Boosting Defense Ties With Neighbors a Priority

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran’s defense minister says the Islamic Republic and Turkey can be a model of unity and cooperation for regional countries, warning that enemies seek to magnify the insignificant differences between the two neighboring countries despite their vast commonalities.

Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh made the remarks during his meeting with his Turkey’s Minister of National Defense General Yaşar Güler in the Turkish capital Ankara on Thursday.

Nasirzadeh, who is visiting the neighboring country at the official invitation of his Turkish counterpart, stressed that the visit provided a platform for holding direct talks on bilateral defense relations and regional issues.

“The points of commonality between Iran and Turkey are so vast that the differences appear insignificant in comparison; however, the enemies have always sought to magnify these differences and downplay the commonalities,” Iran’s defense minister emphasized, highlighting cultural and religious ties.

Nasirzadeh also considered the development and strengthening of defense relations and interactions with neighboring countries to be among Iran’s priorities.

“Turkey, as an important country in the Islamic world and the international arena, possesses effective economic, political, and military capacities, and the expansion of defense and military relations with this country can play an influential role in resolving the challenges of the Islamic world and the region,” he stressed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Iran’s defense minister touched on the recent regional developments, particularly Israel’s relentless aggression against different countries.

“The Zionist regime, with its repeated attacks on Gaza, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria, and even targeting Qatar, has once again demonstrated its expansionist and crisis-creating nature,” Nasirzadeh said.

“With its successive assaults on the countries of the region and the killing of innocents, this child-killing regime has placed itself at the top of the list of the world’s most detested regimes in the eyes of people worldwide. Today, all the countries of the region are unanimous in condemning and



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confronting the crimes of this accursed regime.”

He also underscored the role of boosting military cooperation in raising the level of bilateral ties, extending an invitation to Güler to visit Tehran and follow up on the agreements reached between the two countries.

The Turkish defense minister, for his part, referred to the importance of Nasirzadeh’s trip to Ankara, describing it as a clear symbol of close bonds between the two countries in various fields.

He touched on the presence of terrorist groups in the region that, under the guidance of certain governments outside the region, seek to create insecurity and instability.

Güler declared his readiness for joint cooperation in combating terrorism and establishing security in the region.

“Just as Iran considers Turkey’s security its own, Turkey will also exert its utmost efforts to enhance security, especially along the common borders,” the Turkish defense minister emphasized.

Speaking at the conclusion of his visit, Nasirzadeh emphasized the need for constant readiness to defend the country and warned citizens to be alert against enemy psychological warfare.

Nasirzadeh highlighted discussions on border security cooperation and regional threats posed by Israel. “This was a productive trip as it marked the first substantial dialogue in this area in some time,” he said.

He noted that despite some differences, Iranian and Turkish positions are largely aligned.

Addressing concerns over increased military equipment movements in the region, particularly by the United States, he stated that Iran’s armed forces must remain prepared to defend the nation at all times.

He described much of the recent activity as psychological operations aimed at destabilizing society and disrupting economic stability.

“The constant talk of an imminent attack is designed to create societal problems. This is part of the warfare,” Nasirzadeh said.

Urging the public to focus on their daily lives and economic activities, he reassured that if war were imposed on Iran, the military’s duty is to defend the country, as demonstrated in the 12-day war in June when Iran forced a ceasefire.

Do Not Buy Cryptocurrency

Forty-five years ago, a person named Satoshi Nakamoto, relying on three process-based factors, invented a currency that, due to people’s inclination to create wealth, turned into a valid but completely anonymous form of money.

Recently, the Hamshahri newspaper published an article stating: “The cryptocurrency market today mirrors the bitter experience of the 2021 stock market in Iran; a year when many people, hoping for quick and massive profits, poured all their assets into the stock market and ultimately suffered heavy losses.”

That experience showed that blind trust in advertisements and unreliable advice only leads to the collapse of one’s capital.

Now, the same scenario is repeating itself in a new form — the cryptocurrency market. Telegram channels and unlicensed exchanges, which have become even more active due to sanctions and the restrictions imposed by the Central Bank, play the same destructive role in fueling greed-driven excitement among the public.

In general, the roots of cryptocurrency production can be summarized in three layers:

A – Intellectual Layer:

The Cypherpunk movement and the belief in the necessity of privacy and freedom away from the gaze and control of governments and central banks.

B – Technological Layer:

Decades of research in cryptography, which led to the development of mechanisms such as Proof of Work.

C – Economic Layer:

The 2008 financial crisis and the resulting distrust in the centralized banking system, which provided a fertile ground for accepting the idea of an alternative monetary system.

Satoshi Nakamoto, with a completely hidden identity, combined the three layers mentioned above and, in the form of Bitcoin, laid the foundation not only for a digital currency but also for a technological revolution in the structure of global trust.

The identity of Satoshi Nakamoto remains one of the greatest mysteries of the tech world in recent decades. He is the creator of Bitcoin and the author of its original white paper (concept document) in 2008.

On January 3, 2009, Satoshi Nakamoto mined the first block of the Bitcoin blockchain, known as the Genesis Block. This date can be regarded as the starting point of the launch of the first cryptocurrency.

However, research indicates that the idea of “Bit Gold” had been proposed before Bitcoin.

Some speculate that Satoshi might have been part of a secret project of the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) or the CIA. Although this theory is considered weak due to its contradiction with the interests of the U.S. Federal Reserve, some point out that the cryptographic algorithm SHA-256, used in the creation and distribution of Bitcoin, was designed by the NSA.

The enthusiasm of profiteers worldwide, and quite possibly intelligence agencies, led to the creation and release of other cryptocurrencies alongside Bitcoin to generate competition.

Given these points, entering such a hidden, unknown, and suspicious structure — whose very foundation is conceptually dubious — is purely risky. The rational recommendation is to refrain from entering it.

Iran Thanks Pakistan for Opposing E3’s Snapback Move at UNSC



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has thanked Pakistan for its “responsible stance” at the United Nations Security Council in opposing the European countries’ abuse of a dispute mechanism outlined in the 2015 nuclear deal to re-impose sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Iran’s Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi made the remarks during a phone call with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ishaq Dar following the conclusion of the snapback process initiated by the three European countries — collectively known as the E3 — aimed at restoring UN sanctions against Iran.

IRAN NEWS



Iran Calls for Accountability of Israel at ICAO Global Assembly

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian representatives at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly condemned what they described as Israeli attacks on Iran's civilian aviation infrastructure during the recent 12-day conflict. They urged ICAO and all signatories of the Chicago Convention to hold Israel accountable for actions that Iran says violated international obligations. According to a Wednesday statement from Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, Majid Akhlaghi, the organization's Deputy for Flight Standards and Iran's representative at ICAO, addressed the assembly:

ICCIMA Chief Urges Greater Cooperation With Business Community



TEHRAN - Samad Hassanzadeh, President of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), has called for closer collaboration between policymakers and the private sector, emphasizing that neighboring and friendly countries view Iran's private enterprises as reliable partners for economic cooperation.

Speaking during a meeting with Mohammad Mokhiber, Adviser and Aide to the Supreme Leader, Hassanzadeh said the Chamber feels a strong sense of duty toward the nation, its people, and the country's business community.

"Whenever there is concern about the economic situation or the livelihoods of the people, the members of the Chamber of Commerce consider it their obligation to work more closely with officials to help resolve ambiguities and shortcomings," he stated.

Citing the Supreme Leader's emphasis on a "people-centered economy" and the private sector's role in economic progress, Hassanzadeh noted: "The private sector, alongside government policies, can play an influential role. Under current economic conditions, boosting production and strengthening ties with the world can help the country move forward."

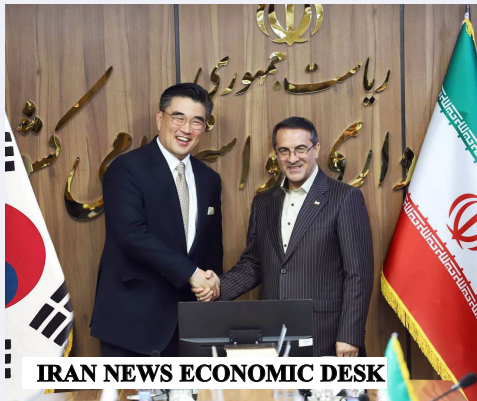
He stressed that "the world needs Iran's economy," pointing out that despite sanctions, many neighboring and friendly nations hold a positive and open attitude toward expanding economic ties with Tehran.

"These countries have great confidence in the capabilities of Iran's private sector," he added.

Hassanzadeh referred to last week's meeting of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce board in Jordan, which was attended by leaders of several chambers from Muslim countries.

"Their remarks clearly showed strong interest in expanding economic interaction. The head of Jordan's Chamber of Commerce said Amman is ready for all forms of economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Likewise, the Saudi Chamber invited an Iranian trade delegation to visit Medina and expressed willingness to engage in direct negotiations with Iran," he reported.

VP Highlights Cooperation with South Korea on Government Digitalization



TEHRAN - Vice President and Head of the Administrative and Recruitment Organization, Aladdin Rafiezadeh, in a meeting with South Korea's Ambassador to Tehran, Kim Jun-pyo, stressed the 14th Government's determination to expand administrative and technological cooperation with South Korea, identifying government digitalization and the use of artificial intelligence as key areas of collaboration.

According to the Administrative and Recruitment Organization, the meeting took place on September 29 at the organization's headquarters in Tehran.

During the talks, both sides highlighted over six decades of political relations and historical cooperation between Iran and South Korea, emphasizing the importance of strengthening ties and defining joint projects in administrative and technological fields.

Rafiezadeh noted the positive record of past bilateral cooperation, saying these relations—shaped by mutual support and shared experiences—serve as a valuable foundation for expanding future partnerships.

He underlined the commitment of the 14th Government and the President to enhancing relations with East Asian countries, describing this approach as a significant opportunity to boost administrative and technological collaboration.

Rafiezadeh also reaffirmed his organization's readiness to advance joint initiatives, stating that sharing expertise in government digitalization, artificial intelligence, and other administrative missions can open new horizons in bilateral relations.

Current Dollar Rate Driven by "Fear," Not Real Market Forces

TEHRAN - The governor of Iran's Central Bank has rejected the recent surge in the dollar's value in the free market as the result of "fear" propagated by hostile actors, rather than reflecting the real market rate of the national currency.

Speaking on Thursday at a meeting with business leaders in Isfahan focused on "Challenges in the Currency Market," Central Bank Governor Mohammad-Reza Farzin said political pressures and psychological warfare have distorted exchange rates.

"The current high price of the dollar in the free market is not the real exchange rate but rather a 'fear rate' fueled by our adversaries," Farzin told the gathering at the provincial Chamber of Commerce. "They spread anxiety to unsettle the public, while the genuine market rate remains far lower."

Farzin emphasized that the so-called real exchange rate of the U.S. dollar currently averages around 920,000 rials. He said that as recently as Wednesday, in the so-called "second market" — where exporters and importers trade currency under Central Bank oversight — the dollar was exchanged at that level. Rates quoted on social media channels, often well above that figure, were described by Farzin as "unrealistic, the product of false excitement and psychological operations designed to maintain an atmosphere of uncertainty."

He further dismissed reports about the alleged freezing of Iranian assets in European banks.

"We have no funds in the European Union, yet rumors are being circulated about seized deposits," he said. "These claims are part of the psychological war meant to frighten our society."

Farzin identified the sharp rise in the exchange rate in recent months as a principal driver of the country's current inflation.

While noting that economic policymaking involves inherent uncertainties, he argued that the main source of inflation has been cost-push factors, not merely liquidity growth.

"The main reason for intensified inflation has been the jump in the exchange rate in the NIMA market — from 400,000 rials to 700,000 rials per dollar," he said, referring to the regulated foreign exchange platform that supplies more than 70% of the country's hard-currency needs. "This surge has raised production costs across many sectors and imposed strong inflationary pressures on the economy."

He added that while fluctuations in the free-market exchange rate also contribute to inflation, the decisive factor remains the dollar's rise in the NIMA, now referred to as the "second market." Farzin pledged to bring more exporters and importers into that market to stabilize rates and reduce costs.

Farzin highlighted several measures by the 14th Iranian administration to support domestic industries, including lower-rate financing for small and medium-sized enterprises through the state-owned Bank Melli.



To assist food producers, exporters in that sector will be allowed to sell their foreign exchange earnings directly in the second market or to import gold and cash. The government is also seeking to draw in more players from the metal, steel, and petrochemical industries to increase liquidity and competitiveness in the official market.

"Exporters will be permitted to use their earnings for imports, or even transfer their export proceeds to similar firms," Farzin said, noting that the Central Bank has introduced official dollar and euro cash trading symbols to facilitate such transactions.

He also pointed to new barter regulations for export-oriented industries, already approved by the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and soon to be reviewed by the Cabinet. Farzin said these rules would help Iranian firms trade more effectively with partners in the Eurasian region, removing several existing hurdles.

The Central Bank chief further announced prioritized financing for solar energy development projects through the banking system, as well as the option to fund large-scale initiatives via bond sales.

Turning to regional issues, Farzin reported that the ratio of bank loans to deposits in Isfahan province currently stands at 74%, rising to about 85% after adjusting for mandatory reserves. He said the Central Bank is aiming to increase this ratio further and has instructed the banking network to grant greater authority to provincial branches.

At the same meeting, Isfahan's business community voiced criticism of the country's currency allocation policies and banking regulations. They urged swift and decisive action to resolve financial bottlenecks affecting trade and industry.

Business representatives raised concerns about difficulties in repatriating export earnings, irregularities in access to foreign currency for imports, problems with letters of credit, the misuse of one-time-use trading cards, and cumbersome regulations on barter trade.

They also called for lower bank lending rates, streamlined bureaucracy, and better support for exporters, describing export growth as the "key to economic dynamism and the country's foreign currency needs."

Participants suggested policy incentives — such as faster depreciation schedules for industrial machinery — to counter the decline in domestic investment.

Farzin's trip to Isfahan, made at the invitation of the provincial governor, included multiple meetings with local officials, private-sector representatives, and the Public-Private Dialogue Council. The visit aimed to directly address banking-sector demands and improve coordination between national policymakers and regional economic actors.

\$30b Trade Target Between Iran and Iraq Is Achievable

TEHRAN - The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Iraq, Mohammad Kazem Al-Sadeq, has expressed confidence that the two neighboring countries can achieve their ambitious goal of boosting bilateral trade to \$30 billion annually, highlighting strong political will on both sides to expand economic cooperation.

Speaking on Thursday during a joint meeting between the governors of Iran's Ilam Province and Iraq's Maysan Province, held to discuss the reopening of the Chilat border crossing, Al-Sadeq emphasized that the project aligns with the broader strategic agenda of Tehran and Baghdad to deepen regional economic ties and enhance cross-border trade.

"The \$30 billion trade target is within reach," the ambassador said. "With proper planning and management, the Chilat crossing can transform Ilam Province into a major hub for cross-border exchanges, boosting local employment and improving the quality of life for border residents."

Al-Sadeq described the initial approval for the establishment of the Chilat crossing as an important milestone in Iran-Iraq relations. According to him, the border gateway is not merely a logistical project but a strategic corridor designed to streamline trade, support local economies, and strengthen inter-regional connectivity.

He stressed that the initiative responds to the needs of communities on both sides of the border while also advancing the two countries' shared vision of increasing their share in international trade. "This corridor can become a successful model of joint cooperation between Iran and Iraq," he noted.

The Chilat crossing links Dehloran County in Ilam Province to the Iraqi city of Al-Amarah, the capital of Maysan Province. Positioned near the town of Ali Gharbi in Iraq, it is expected to become a focal point for commerce and a major route for the export of Iranian goods to Iraq and other regional markets.

On Thursday, the governors of Ilam and Maysan—Ahmad Karimi and Habib Zahir al-Fartousi—accompanied by Ambassador Al-Sadeq, a member of Iran's Parliament representing southern Ilam, and other officials from both countries, visited the Chilat border terminal to review its final stages of preparation for official reopening.

During the visit, the delegations discussed the remaining logistical and administrative steps needed to make the crossing operational. Both sides stressed that the initiative reflects a shared commitment



to expand cross-border trade and create new economic opportunities for their border provinces.

Maysan, located in southeastern Iraq, is among Ilam's closest neighbors. The Chilat market lies in close proximity to Ali Gharbi, facilitating easy access to the Iraqi interior and shortening trade routes for Iranian exporters.

The opening of the Chilat crossing is widely viewed as a game-changer for the region's economy. Given Dehloran's rich natural resources—including substantial oil and gas reserves—and its 123,000 hectares of fertile farmland, local officials believe the crossing will accelerate agricultural and industrial exports, generating valuable foreign currency revenues for both the province and the national economy.

Dehloran is already one of Iran's leading agricultural hubs, producing key crops such as wheat, canola, corn, vegetables, cucurbits, and sesame. It ranks as the country's second-largest producer of canola, a strategic oilseed crop.

In addition to its economic potential, the reopening of the Chilat border is expected to ease long-standing logistical challenges, especially during the annual Arbaeen pilgrimage. Currently, the Mehran border terminal in Ilam handles the vast majority of pilgrim traffic, often resulting in heavy congestion during peak periods.

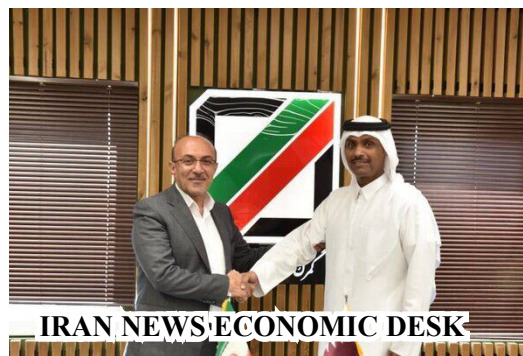
Officials predict that diverting a significant portion of the pilgrim flow to Chilat during high-traffic seasons will reduce pressure on Mehran, improve crowd management, and raise the overall quality of services provided to travelers.

Ilam Province shares a 430-kilometer border with Iraq, the longest among all Iranian provinces. Of this, 220 kilometers lie within Dehloran County, underscoring the county's pivotal role in Iran-Iraq cross-border exchanges.

With the Chilat crossing poised to reopen soon, local leaders and business communities are optimistic that the region will emerge as a dynamic hub for bilateral trade, investment, and tourism, further cementing the economic interdependence between the two countries.

Al-Sadeq concluded that the Chilat project, as part of a larger framework of bilateral cooperation, demonstrates the tangible progress being made in strengthening Iran-Iraq relations. He reiterated that with sustained political will and practical steps on both sides, achieving the \$30 billion trade goal is not just aspirational but well within reach.

Qatar Ready to Expand, Facilitate Trade and Customs Exchanges With Iran



TEHRAN - Qatar's Ambassador to Tehran said his country is ready to expand and facilitate trade and customs exchanges with Iran.

Saad bin Abdullah Al Mahmoud Al Sharif, Qatar's Ambassador to Tehran, made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). He announced that a technical committee will soon be formed to pursue the issue of electronic data exchange between the two countries' customs authorities.

The ambassador welcomed the idea of joint training programs and reciprocal visits to customs facilities, noting that cooperation between Iran and Qatar in the field of transit has been strong and commendable. He also said efforts are underway to sign an agreement on electronic data exchange between the two customs administrations in the near future and emphasized the importance of following up on the topics discussed.

Ambassador Al Sharif expressed appreciation for Iran's solidarity with Qatar following a recent terrorist attack by the Zionist regime against the country. He also thanked Iran for the significant customs facilitation provided during the period of blockade against Qatar, highlighting the crucial support received from Iranian customs authorities.

During the meeting, Iran's Customs Chief condemned the attack on Qatar and highlighted the close and friendly relations between the two nations. He said that IRICA is focused on strengthening customs cooperation with Qatar in three key areas: electronic data exchange, facilitating and accelerating the entry of Iranian goods into Qatari ports, and organizing joint training sessions and visits to each other's customs facilities.

Tourism Among Top Three National Priorities



TEHRAN - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, Seyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, stressed that tourism is one of the top three priorities of the 14th government, emphasizing that investors in this sector contribute not only to the economy but also to cultural development.

Speaking at the online inauguration ceremony for 268 new tourism projects across the country, held during Tourism Week at the historic "Moloukaneh" boutique hotel, Salehi-Amiri said: "Today, the president stands firmly behind the tourism industry. President Pezeshkian regards tourism as one of the nation's three main priorities and has placed its development at the forefront of the 14th administration's agenda."

Highlighting the crucial role of private investors in the sector's growth, the minister added:

"The work of tourism investors goes beyond mere economic activity; it is a cultural endeavor that showcases the beauty and identity of Iran. Every building that is restored or newly constructed adds to the country's charm."

Salehi-Amiri underscored the deep historical and cultural roots of Iran: "We are all devoted to our homeland. If we have an identity today, it is thanks to the perseverance and heritage of our ancestors. On every provincial trip, I witness evidence of Iran's ancient civilization—there is no corner of this land without historical or cultural treasures. The value of these cultural assets surpasses even the reserves of the Central Bank."

According to the minister, more than 2,700 tourism projects are currently active nationwide:

"It is our collective duty to remove obstacles facing these projects so that not a single initiative is left stalled anywhere in the country."

Colombia Expels Israeli Diplomats Over Gaza Flotilla Intercept

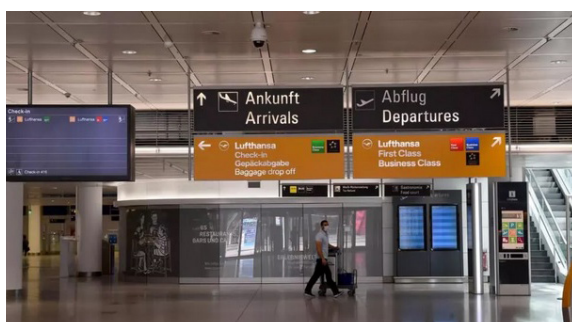
BOGOTÁ (Dispatches) - Colombian President Gustavo Petro expelled all remaining Israeli diplomats in the country over Israel's interception of a Gaza-bound aid flotilla and reported detention of two Colombian activists. Petro said two Colombian women, "who were engaged in human solidarity activities with Palestine," were detained by Israeli forces in international waters.

In a statement, his office said Manuela Bedoya and Luna Barreto were part of the Global Sumud Flotilla and called for their immediate release.

The Israeli foreign ministry confirmed that "several vessels" in the flotilla had been "safely stopped" and that the passengers were being brought to an Israeli port.



Munich Airport Reopens After Drone Sightings Disrupt Flights



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Germany's Munich airport reopened on Friday after shutting overnight due to drone sightings that forced the cancellation or diversion of dozens of flights on the eve of a national holiday and heightened concerns about the vulnerability of critical infrastructure in Europe.

As operations resumed early on Friday morning, a Reuters witness saw passengers checking in for a flight to Varna in Bulgaria, and the departure board showed only a few flights had been cancelled. A flight from Bangkok was the first of the day to land at around 5:25 a.m. (0325 GMT), according to the airport's website.

The airport said several drone sightings late on Thursday evening had forced air traffic control to suspend operations, leading to the cancellation of 17 flights and disrupting travel for nearly 3,000 passengers, who were provided with camp beds, blankets and food.

Another 15 arriving flights were diverted to other cities including Stuttgart, Nuremberg, Vienna and Frankfurt, the airport said.

The drones were sighted in the late evening above the airport, a police spokesman told newspaper Bild. But because it was dark, the size and types of the drones could not be determined, he added. Police did not immediately respond to the disruption in Munich is the latest in a string of similar drone incidents that have rattled European aviation and raised broader security concerns, coming after airspace intrusions temporarily shut airports in Denmark and Norway last week.

The incidents prompted a sharp response from European Union leaders, who backed plans at a summit in Copenhagen on Wednesday to bolster the bloc's defences with anti-drone measures.

Morocco Protest Leaders Demand Gov't Dismissal After Deadly Unrest



PARIS (Dispatches) - The group leading Morocco's mass protests called on Friday for the government's dismissal, following days of unrest that have seen the deaths of three people.

The demand came after fresh demonstrations demanding reforms to the health and education sectors took place across the kingdom on Thursday, a sixth consecutive day of largely peaceful protests pockmarked with spates of violence.

"We demand the dismissal of the current government for its failure to protect the constitutional rights of Moroccans and respond to their social demands," protest group GenZ 212 said.

The group, whose organisers remain unknown, also demanded the "release of all those detained in connection with the peaceful protests".

The rallies across the usually stable country have been fuelled by anger over social inequality, particularly following reports last month of the deaths of eight pregnant women at a public hospital in the city of Agadir.

Many Moroccans feel that the public health and education sectors should be improved as the kingdom pushes forward with major infrastructure projects to host the Africa Cup of Nations in December and part of the 2030 World Cup.

GenZ 212 said it was basing its demand for the firing of the government on an article in the constitution that "grants His Majesty the King the power to appoint and dismiss the Prime Minister and members of the government".

Anger Grows in Europe After Israel Halts Barcelona Flotilla Carrying Aid for Gaza

PARIS (Dispatches) - Protesters across Europe yesterday railed at Israel's interception of a flotilla carrying aid for Gaza's besieged Palestinians, urging greater sanctions from European governments in response.

The Global Sumud Flotilla set sail from Barcelona last month to challenge Israel's blockade of Gaza, where the United Nations reports famine conditions after nearly two years of the Israel-Hamas war, before being intercepted by Israel from Wednesday.

Forty-one ships with more than 400 people aboard, including politicians and climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, were halted by the Israeli navy and prevented from reaching the coastal territory, an Israeli official said Thursday.

Some 15,000 people marched through Barcelona in protest at Israel's actions, according to the municipal police force in Spain's second city, chanting slogans including "Gaza, you are not alone", "Boycott Israel" and "Freedom for Palestine".

Riot police beat back a portion of the protesters who attempted to climb over barriers with truncheons, forcing them to retreat, images broadcast on Spanish public television showed.

A boat carrying former Barcelona mayor Ada Colau was among those prevented from proceeding. Colau and her fellow activists, including Nelson Mandela's grandson Mandla Mandela, face deportation by Israel.

Around 10,000 people took part in a similar protest in Madrid, local officials said. Protests were held in other Spanish cities Thursday night including Bilbao, Seville and Valencia.

Around a thousand people marched in Paris's Place de la Republique, an AFP journalist saw, while in the port city of Marseille, in southern France, around a hundred pro-Palestinian protesters were arrested in the afternoon after attempting to block access to offices of weapons maker Eurolinks, accused of selling military components to Israel.

In Italy, where the country's main unions have called a general strike for Friday in solidarity with the flotilla, thousands took to the streets to urge Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to defend the activists.



according to an AFP journalist at the scene and Swiss broadcasters, with the mostly young protesters lighting a bonfire near the central station.

The protesters then headed to the Swiss city's Mont Blanc bridge, at the end of Lake Geneva, to be met by a line of police in riot gear, who pushed the demonstrators back after brief clashes.

Dozens also rallied in Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, in front of the embassy of the United States, Israel's key ally. "We are very upset... Upset, angry, disgusted because what they are doing is for humanity," said Ili Farhan, 43.

"They are just bringing in aid and baby food... this arrest is unjust."

Manchester Synagogue Attack Leaves Two Dead

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Akshata Kapoor with Peter Hutchison and Helen Rowe in London An attacker ploughed a car into a crowd outside a packed synagogue in Britain yesterday, a Jewish holiday, before going on a stabbing spree, killing two people and leaving three wounded, police said.

Police said they shot dead the suspect, later identifying him as a UK citizen of Syrian origin, and arrested three other people within hours of the attack in the city of Manchester, which took place as Jewish communities around the world marked Yom Kippur, the holiest holiday in the Jewish calendar.

The two dead victims were Jewish men, police in the northwest English city confirmed, as counter-terror police declared it a "terrorist incident". Three other people were in hospital with serious injuries, police said, after saying four had been wounded.

The three people arrested were "two men in their 30s and a woman in her 60s", who were in custody "on suspicion of commission, preparation and instigation of acts of terrorism", said Greater Manchester Police (GMP).

The attacker wore a "vest which had the appearance of an explosive device", but police revealed Thursday evening it was not functional.

As night fell on Thursday, Orthodox Jewish worshippers emerged from packed synagogues in Manchester after a day of prayers and fasting to learn about the attack, having switched off phones and computers for the day.

Aryeh Ehrentreu, 56, who spent the day praying in a synagogue minutes away, said he had heard the ambulances arriving.

"Then the security asked us to close all our doors in the synagogue, so we knew the attack took place," Ehrentreu told AFP, calling the attack "extremely worrying".

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who left a European summit in Denmark



early to chair an emergency response meeting in London, announced security was being boosted at UK synagogues.

Addressing Jewish communities directly in a televised statement shortly after the meeting, he vowed to "do everything in my power to guarantee you the security that you deserve".

He said while antisemitism was not new, "we must be clear it is a hatred

that is rising once again, and Britain must defeat it once again".

It was one of the worst antisemitic attacks in Europe since the October 7, 2023 assault on Israel led by Palestinian Islamist group Hamas, which sparked the Gaza war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the "barbaric attack".

"Israel grieves with the Jewish community in the UK," he said. GMP said it was alerted shortly after 9:30 am (0830 GMT) that a car had driven into people outside the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue and a security guard had been attacked with a knife.

Chief constable Stephen Watson confirmed later that "two members of our Jewish community have sadly died", adding officers had shot dead the attacker within seven minutes of the first emergency call.

"The driver of the car was seen then to attack people with a knife" while wearing the fake explosives vest, Watson said.

Police praised the swift action of people who reported the attack, saying it had stopped the suspect from entering the synagogue.

A witness told BBC Radio he saw police shooting a man after a car crash.

"They give him a couple of warnings, he didn't listen until they opened fire," the witness said.

King Charles III said he and Queen Camilla were "deeply shocked and saddened".

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was among the world leaders to condemn the attack.

"Houses of worship are sacred places where people can go to find peace," Guterres said.

"Targeting a synagogue on Yom Kippur is particularly heinous."

Zelensky Warns Europe Over Drone Incursions

COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky warned Europe on Thursday recent drone incursions showed Russia was looking to "escalate" its aggression, as he offered his country's war-honed expertise to help counter the threat.

The warning came at a summit of European leaders from just under 50 countries, who converged on a conference center in Copenhagen under tight security after mystery drone flights rattled Denmark last month.

The drone sightings in Denmark and high-profile aerial incursions by Moscow in Estonia and Poland have heightened fears that Russia's assault on Ukraine could spill over Europe's borders.

"The recent drone incidents across Europe are a clear sign that Russia still feels bold enough to escalate this war," Zelensky said.

"It was never just about Ukraine, Russia has always aimed to break the West and Europe."

Russian President Vladimir Putin waived the accusations, but said Russia was "closely monitoring the rising militarisation of Europe", adding that Moscow's response will be timely and "significant".



Putin accused Europe of stoking "hysteria" to excuse rising military spending, and said Russia did not pose a threat.

European leaders are keen to work with Ukraine's war-tested expertise as they seek to bolster their own defenses, and are discussing plans for a "drone wall" to counter the menace from Moscow.

"If the Russians dare to launch drones against Poland, or violate the airspace of northern European countries, it means this can happen anywhere," Zelensky said.

"We are ready to share this experience with our partners."

French President Emmanuel Macron said Western countries should be willing to take a tougher line when confronted by Russian drones, to sow doubt in the Kremlin.

"It's very important to have a clear message. Drones which would violate our territories are just taking a big risk. They can be destroyed, full stop," Macron said.

Romanian Prime Minister Nicolae Ciucanu, whose country has seen Russian drones crossing over from Ukraine, warned that his forces would shoot down the next one to violate their airspace.



PARIS (Dispatches) - Title-holders Paris Saint-Germain came from behind to beat Barcelona 2-1 with a last-minute goal in the Champions League, while Manchester City had to settle for a draw in Monaco despite Erling Haaland's double.

Elsewhere there were comfortable wins for Arsenal and Newcastle United, as Napoli and Borussia Dortmund were among the other teams to claim victories on the second matchday of the league phase.

The meeting at Montjuic of the Spanish champions and the reigning French and European champions was one of the most eagerly anticipated of the opening stages of this season's competition.

It lived up to its billing, despite Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele missing out injured for an understrength PSG, with Lamine Yamal showing flashes of his brilliance for the hosts.

Barcelona went ahead in the 19th minute as a well-worked move ended with Marcus Rashford setting up Ferran Torres to score.

Senny Mayulu equalised late in the first half for PSG, and Achraf Hakimi set up substitute Goncalo Ramos to net a 90th-minute winner as PSG made it two victories from two outings in this season's Champions League.

"It was a great game between two really good sides," PSG coach Luis Enrique told Canal Plus. "It shows the strength and mentality of our side that whoever is on the field we play like a real team."

Haaland scored twice in the first half to move to 52 career Champions League goals from 50 appearances, but 2023 tournament winners City were held 2-2 in Monaco.

Jordan Teze's stunning hit in between Haaland's strikes kept Monaco in the game until they won a late penalty as Nico Gonzalez was penalised following a VAR review for a high boot on Eric Dier.

Dier got up to convert from the spot and give Monaco their first point in the competition, denying City a second win from as many outings.

"I don't know if it was a penalty but it was given. So that's that," City coach Pep Guardiola told TNT Sports. "It is what it is. We have a point and we will take it."

Arsenal maintained their 100 percent record with a 2-0 defeat of Olympiakos in London, with Gabriel Martinelli following in to score a 12th-minute opener after a Viktor Gyokeres attempt hit the post.

The Gunners sealed the points in stoppage time as substitute Bukayo Saka scored with a shot that squirmed under Greek goalkeeper Kostas Tzolakis.

"Winning in the Champions League is always very complicated. It is yet another clean sheet for the boys in the competition, which is remarkable," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said.

Earlier Newcastle got their campaign up and running by cruising to a 4-0 victory over Belgian champions Union Saint-Gilloise in Brussels.

Nick Woltemade diverted a Sandro Tonali shot into the net for the opener, his third goal in four starts for the club.

Anthony Gordon then scored two penalties, either side of half-time, before substitute Harvey Barnes wrapped up the success late on.

Alcaraz Joins Player Revolt Over Packed Tennis Calendar



HONG KONG (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz added his voice to the criticism and pulled out of the Shanghai Masters with "physical issues" as the packed schedule for elite tennis players came under renewed scrutiny this week.

With another season approaching its climax, six-time major champion Alcaraz and fellow Grand Slam winners Iga Swiatek and Coco Gauff all took aim at the amount of tennis they play.

The busy calendar in women's and men's tennis has been a constant talking point in recent years.

Top players, who earn handsomely, have repeatedly railed against their workload and this week saw a raft of matches end prematurely at the China Open.

Five players retired from their matches in Beijing with injury on Monday alone.

On Tuesday there was the sight of Daniil Medvedev hobbling about on court, barely able to move, before the Russian called it quits when 0-4 down in the deciding set of his semi-final to US teenager Learner Tien.

Tien's quarter-final opponent, Lorenzo Musetti, also retired with injury.

World number one Alcaraz sustained an ankle injury in his opening match of the Tokyo Open that required heavy strapping and put his participation in doubt.

He shrugged off the problem to beat Taylor Fritz in the final for his eighth title of a spectacular season.

Asked about comments from Swiatek and Gauff on the packed calendar, Alcaraz said: "The schedule is really tight. They have to do something with the schedule."

Soon after the 22-year-old Spaniard pulled out of the prestigious event in Shanghai, which got under way this week, "to rest and recover".

Sinner Crushes Tien to Claim China Open Title

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner was back to his best in a 6-2 6-2 victory over American teenager Learner Tien in China Open final, as the world number two picked up his third title of the year and 21st tour-level trophy overall.

Carlos Alcaraz's Japan Open title on Tuesday and Sinner's triumph marked the first time since 2020 that the world number one and two both claimed trophies in the same week after Novak Djokovic (Dubai) and Rafa Nadal (Acapulco) managed the feat.

"It's a very, very special place for me," Sinner said during the trophy presentation in Beijing.

"My team, thanks for understanding and working with me. Not all the team is here, hopefully the rest are watching from home. We'll try to improve and push for more and see what the rest of the season looks like.

"But I'm very happy to share this (trophy) with all of you."

The four-times Grand Slam champion came into the



title match at the National Tennis Centre after a hard-fought semi-final win over Alex de Minaur on Tuesday, during which he struggled with physical problems caused by a stomach bug.

There were no signs of discomfort in his first meeting with 19-year-old Tien, however, as Sinner settled into the match with a break in the opening game and looked solid throughout to take the first set with a hold in the final game.

Tien, playing in his first final and bidding to become the youngest American ATP Tour champion since Andy Roddick in 2002, twice earned break points in the second set but Sinner fended them off and built a 4-2 lead.

The 2023 champion sealed the win on his third match point to become the second man to claim multiple trophies at the ATP 500 event after Djokovic (2009-10, 2012-15).

Ozer the Hero as Lille Beat Roma



ROME (Dispatches) - Lille keeper Berke Ozer saved three consecutive penalties to help his side secure a 1-0 victory at AS Roma in the Europa League thanks to Hakon Arnar Haraldsson's early strike, while Bologna and SC Freiburg battled to a 1-1 draw on Thursday.

In the first-ever competitive meeting between the sides, Lille's Arnar Haraldsson capitalised on an early Roma error to fire the visitors ahead after six minutes.

Roma's best opening of the first half came in a frantic spell inside the box, where a series of attempts were repelled by Lille's stubborn defence before Neil El Aynaoui's strike was cleared off the line by Aissa Mandi, ensuring the French side went into the break in front.

The second half began on more even terms, with Lille regaining some possession, but much of the period turned into a midfield battle as both sides searched for openings to build their attacks.

Roma were handed a golden chance to equalise in the last minutes after a handball from Mandi, but Artem Dovbyk's penalty was saved by Ozer.

Drama followed as the Lille keeper was judged to have moved off his line, only for Dovbyk's second attempt to be stopped as well, but with Ozer again stepping forward too early.

A third effort was then entrusted to Matias Soule, yet incredibly, Ozer denied him as well and this time the save stood, sealing Lille's win.

Bologna and Freiburg played out a 1-1 draw, with the Germans controlling much of the opening phase in the match in Italy.

FIFA's Infantino Resists Calls to Ban Israel

LAUSANNE (Dispatches) - FIFA President Gianni Infantino said football "cannot solve geopolitical problems", as he comes under pressure to suspend Israel over the Palestinian conflict.

The sport's world governing body said in a statement that at a meeting of the FIFA Council, Infantino "stressed the importance of promoting peace and unity, particularly in the context of the ongoing situation in Gaza".

"At FIFA, we are committed to using the power of football to bring people together in a divided world," Infantino said.

"Our thoughts are with those who are suffering in the many conflicts that exist around the world today, and the most important message that football can convey right now is one of peace and unity."

He added: "FIFA cannot solve geopolitical problems, but it can and must promote football around the world by harnessing its unifying, educational, cultural and humanitarian values."

Infantino later met with Palestinian Football Association (PFA) chief Jibril Rajoub at FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

On Wednesday, Rajoub also met with International Olympic Committee president Kirsty Coventry in Lausanne.



"I commend President Rajoub and the PFA for their resilience at this time," Infantino posted on Instagram.

The FIFA statement and Infantino's social media post made no mention of Israel or its football federation, despite growing calls to exclude the team from international competitions in the midst of the 2026 World Cup qualifying campaign.

FIFA banned Russia in 2022, shortly after Russian forces invaded Ukraine—despite the fact that Russia hosted the World Cup finals four years earlier.

The head of the Norwegian Football Federation, Lise Klaveness, last week called for Israel to be banned.

"Personally, I think if Russia is out, Israel should be out too. That is my personal opinion," she said.

Norway are due to play Israel in a 2026 World Cup qualifier in Oslo on October 11.

Israel are currently third in their group with nine points, the same as second-placed Italy, while Norway are top with 15 points.

Meanwhile FIFA unveiled the official match ball for the 2026 World Cup, combining high-tech refinements and design details celebrating the three co-host countries—the United States, Mexico and Canada.