

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Says Strengthening Iran's Civil Defense System Is Vital to Protect National Infrastructure Against Enemy Threats and to Boost Resilience in the Face of Sanctions

IRAN NEWS

Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi Stated That Iran Favors Dialogue to Resolve Disputes, Provided the Other Side Refrains From Imposing Its Will

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2 DOMESTIC



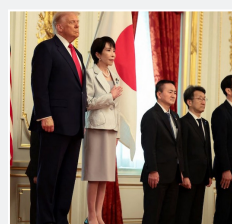
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With Unity, Muslim Nations Will Prevent Foreign Aggression



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says that unity among Muslim nations is essential for safeguarding their collective interests and security, as well as deterring foreign aggression.

Pezeshkian made the remarks in a meeting with Omani Minister of Interior Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al-Busaidi in Tehran on Monday.

Pointing to the deep-rooted and cordial relations between Iran and Oman, he said interactions have always been based on mutual respect and goodwill.

The two countries have always supported each other through the ups and downs of regional developments, the president said.

He hailed Oman's "constructive" role in regional developments, particularly in the context of mediation and hosting negotiations between Iran and the United States, which reflects "wise and peaceful performance" of the Omani authorities.

Iran and the US had held five rounds of Oman-mediated indirect negotiations in the Italian and Omani capitals over Iran's nuclear program early this year before the Israeli regime derailed the diplomatic efforts by launching a war of aggression against the Islamic Republic in June.

More than a week into the war, the US chose to enter the conflict with direct intervention, as the Israeli regime was facing serious setbacks in the war.

“Corridor Wars” Open a New Arena for Iran’s Strategic Role



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Martyr Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani Research Institute for Sacred Defense Studies said that recent geopolitical developments in the region and global competition over transit routes have turned “corridor wars” into a decisive arena in international relations, where Iran can play a central role by leveraging popular capacity, security, and sustainable development.

According to IRNA, citing the Research Institute for Sacred Defense Studies, Major General Seyyed Yahya Safavi, senior assistant and advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, spoke on Monday, 5 Aban 1404, at the sixth session of the Scientific Committee of the “Mobilization, Development, and Sustainable Security of the Southeast Region” conference. He emphasized the increasing importance of Iran's geopolitical position, stating: “The world today is engaged in a new competition known as the ‘corridor wars,’ determined by rail lines, maritime routes, and transit roads. Countries with geographic advantage and popular security will be the main actors in this arena.”

He added: “Southeast Iran—particularly Sistan and Baluchestan—is at the heart of this competition. Strengthening development infrastructure, enhancing sustainable security, and activating local capacities will redefine regional interactions.”

ECO Region Faces Urgent Need for Infrastructure and Enhanced Regional Cooperation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized that the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) region today requires foundational infrastructure more than ever to support economic development, ensure security, and guarantee the welfare of its member states. He stressed that strengthening regional collaboration and preparing appropriate systems and frameworks is essential for the organization's continued progress.

Addressing the meeting of Interior Ministers from ECO member states, Pezeshkian highlighted the significance of holding the fourth session after a long hiatus, describing it as evidence of the member countries' collective determination to enhance cooperation and coordination in key areas of mutual interest. He noted, “Interior ministries are among the most critical governmental bodies. Beyond their specialized responsibilities, they play a central role in establishing the fundamental infrastructure necessary for economic development, security, and public welfare.”

Pezeshkian added that the ministries of interior are crucial for multilateral and regional economic cooperation. “Success in regional economic collaboration requires robust, predictable, stable, and resilient frameworks. Interior ministries are uniquely positioned to provide and strengthen these prerequisites,” he said.

The President underlined several key areas where regional cooperation is particularly important, including border security, law enforcement, combating illegal migration, human trafficking, drug smuggling, terrorism, and other forms of organized crime. He stressed that ECO member states' interior ministries hold an indispensable role in preparing for potential national and regional crises. “The ECO region today, more than ever, requires appropriate and resilient infrastructure,” Pezeshkian said.

He also highlighted that ECO is the inheritor of decades of effort by member states to achieve economic integration and has recorded significant achievements. Nevertheless, he noted that “untapped capacities remain abundant, and fortunately, the will of member states to provide and deepen future cooperation is clearly evident.”

Pezeshkian referred to the recent ECO Summit in Khankendi, Azerbaijan, as a clear demonstration of this intent. “A series of attractive and operational proposals were put forward at the highest level by member countries. In line with these discussions, the ECO 2035 vision will be formulated, signaling a bright future for the organization and its member states,” he said.

The President described ECO as a bridge connecting the region's nations and a valuable



platform for dialogue, exchange of experiences, and synergy across all sectors. “In a world where challenges and opportunities evolve rapidly, regional cooperation is not merely an option but an undeniable necessity,” he said. Pezeshkian emphasized one unfinished initiative within ECO—the creation of the ECO Police, known as “ECO-Pol,” which has yet to be fully established.

He stressed that the absence of ECO-Pol represents a significant gap that increases regional vulnerability and impedes optimal collaboration with other regional and international police forces.

Pezeshkian also noted the importance of judicial cooperation among ECO member states. Referring to the recently held meeting of ECO prosecutors in Uzbekistan, he said, “Strengthening judicial collaboration among member countries is crucial to supporting economic cooperation and ensuring the rule of law across the region.”

The President warned that the ECO region and its surrounding areas are not immune to external interventions. “Our region has endured some of the most extensive foreign interventions in contemporary history. The largest occupation of the century continues near our borders after nearly eight decades,” Pezeshkian said. He added that one of the world's most brutal genocides and crimes against humanity has occurred in the past two years in West Asia, particularly in Gaza, perpetrated by the Israeli regime.

He highlighted that global powers and opportunistic actors are eager to intervene in the region. “Central, Caucasian, South and West Asian countries, along with Gulf states, must develop and implement a coherent, stability-promoting, internally-driven, and development-oriented security architecture,” Pezeshkian emphasized.

In conclusion, President Pezeshkian expressed his appreciation to Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, and their teams for organizing the meeting. He also thanked ECO Secretary-General Dr. Asad Majid Khan for his efforts in preparing the summit and wished the gathering success in achieving its objectives.

The President's remarks underscored a central message: for the ECO region to navigate economic, security, and social challenges in the 21st century, member states must invest in infrastructure, deepen regional cooperation, and create resilient systems that ensure both security and sustainable development. By aligning national priorities with regional initiatives, Pezeshkian asserted, ECO can fully realize its potential as a unifying force and driver of prosperity in Eurasia.

Tehran to Host Grandest Anti-Imperialist Gathering at Former U.S. Embassy

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The commander of the Tehran-based Hazrat Muhammad Rasoulollah (PBUH) Corps announced that, ahead of 13 Aban, Iran will witness its most magnificent anti-imperialist gathering at the former U.S. Embassy, reaffirming allegiance to the ideals of Imam Khomeini and the goals of the second phase of the Islamic Revolution.

Brigadier General Hassan Hassanzadeh made the remarks on Monday during a ceremony commemorating the birth of Lady Zainab (PBUH) and the “Nine-Member Councils” of the Imam Jawad Plan, held near the shrine of the late Imam Khomeini. He said: “Today is a day to renew our pledge to the Imam and his ideals.

The Imam considered opposition to arrogance a core principle of the Islamic Revolution, and we take pride in renewing our commitment to these values at his sacred shrine on the eve of 13 Aban 1404.”

Referring to the 12-day war, Hassanzadeh added: “Thanks to God and the efforts of the resistance fighters and steadfastness of the Iranian nation, we have witnessed the decline of U.S. influence and the increasing shine of the Islamic Revolution's ideals. In the near future, God willing, we will see one of the grandest anti-imperialist gatherings on 13 Aban at the U.S. Embassy.”

Highlighting the critical role of Iran's education system, Hassanzadeh noted: “All leaders, commanders, scientists, legal experts, and officials of the country—from the head of state to ministers, military and law enforcement commanders, doctors, and jurists—are products of this nation's educational system. They have spent approximately 12 years under the guidance of Iranian teachers.”

He emphasized that the country's achievements in various fields are rooted in this educational system. “Martyrs such as Hajjzadeh, Salami, Rashid, Bagheri, Tehrani, Shahriari, and Fakhrazadeh are shining examples of this upbringing. Tomorrow's leaders will



undoubtedly emerge from today's students.”

Describing missile operations during the 12-day war, Hassanzadeh explained that the enemy had established nine layers of integrated air defenses from neighboring countries to occupied territories to curb Iran's missile power. “Yet in the first phase, over 50 percent of our approximately 500 missiles and drones struck their targets. By the 22nd wave, accuracy reached 100 percent, with even single missiles hitting the enemy's most sensitive sites. Targeting the U.S. ‘Al-Aid’ base even forced them to negotiate a ceasefire. These successes are the fruit of Iran's educational system,” he said.

Hassanzadeh criticized viewing schools merely as educational institutions, stating: “A school is a microcosm of society where students practice governance. Today's students are tomorrow's

administrators and leaders. The Nine-Member Councils, comprising students, teachers, and parents, identify and address school issues, plan solutions, and implement them collectively.”

He added that the councils cover cultural, social, scientific, athletic, recreational, religious, and developmental activities. “If such participation is institutionalized, we will witness a transformation in governance and administrative efficiency in five to ten years,” he said.

Paying tribute to the historic 13 Aban, Hassanzadeh said: “This year, students and youth will send a clear message to the United States: crimes and aggression only awaken nations.”

He stressed that the enemy seeks to limit Iran's “uranium enrichment,” “missile capabilities,” and “regional influence.” “On 13 Aban, students will demonstrate their determination to resist and advance Iran, carrying flags of the resistance front, showcasing missile and nuclear achievements, and honoring martyrs,” he said.

Hassanzadeh emphasized that this grand event, guided by the Nine-Member Councils as its inaugural flagship program, will undoubtedly impact enemy perceptions.

He also expressed gratitude to the custodians and administrators of the Imam Khomeini Shrine, noting: “Many of the nation's revolutionary and religious ceremonies are held at the sacred shrine of the Imam.”

Iran Engages in Talks with China and Russia to Develop Satellite Internet



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran is in discussions with China and Russia to establish satellite internet connectivity, officials said, as the country works to expand its domestic space infrastructure and connect to the global network.

Vahid Yazdanian, a member of Iran's Supreme Space Council and head of the Iranian Space Research Institute, told ILNA that the country has already launched its first satellite for this purpose—Nahid—but emphasized that a single satellite is not sufficient for full global connectivity. “We currently have the infrastructure—Nahid is in orbit and capable of sending and receiving data—but to establish a reliable satellite communications network, we need 40 to 50 satellites like Nahid,” he said.

Yazdanian explained that most communication satellites operate in low-Earth orbit (LEO). “Satellites used for services such as Starlink are entirely in LEO, meaning they operate at lower altitudes. Using LEO satellites like Nahid, we can establish telecommunication links,” he said.

However, he added, geostationary satellites are necessary for broadcast applications. “If we want to provide broadcast services, we need geostationary satellites,” he explained.

When asked if Iran has achieved satellite internet technology, Yazdanian said it depends on the definition. “If satellite internet is defined as having the infrastructure, then we already have it. Nahid transmits and receives data in the KU band. But if the expectation is global connectivity, we need an entire constellation surrounding the Earth,” he said.

He added that with 40 to 50 Nahid-class satellites, Iran could establish a constellation capable of linking the country to the global internet. “The infrastructure exists; we need to expand it into a full constellation,” Yazdanian said.

China Will Act If Its Interests Are Harmed by Iran Sanctions



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - China will act to respond to the sanctions imposed against Iran if they harm its interests, the country's ambassador to Iran has said.

Cong Peiwu said on Monday during a press conference in Tehran that China will not hesitate to act if its economic interests are affected by restrictions imposed on trade with Iran.

Cong made the remarks in response to questions about China's way of dealing with recent United Nations sanctions on Iran, which were re-imposed in late September after European parties to a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers accused Tehran of failing to observe its obligations under the agreement.

Along with Russia and Iran, China believes that the move by Britain, France, and Germany to return UN sanctions on Iran was illegal, signaling that it would not necessarily abide by the UN sanctions.

The Chinese ambassador said that Beijing seeks closer cooperation with Tehran as he reiterated that Iran and China share a common stance opposing unilateralism in the world.

China is Iran's largest trading partner, as it buys 29% of Iran's total non-oil exports while being responsible for 25% of imports into the country.

Estimates suggest that more than 92% of Iran's oil exports also end up in China, despite a harsh regime of US sanctions that imposes heavy penalties on buyers of Iranian oil.



Iran Holds 90% Share of Global Saffron Production

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Iran produces 90 percent of the world’s saffron, according to the Minister of Agriculture, marking the country’s dominant position in the global market. The minister highlighted that this achievement is the result of the dedication of farmers, exporters, and experts across the nation.

In a message on the occasion of National Saffron Day (November 5), Gholamreza Nouri Ghezleh described saffron as a symbol of Iranian heritage, culture, and knowledge-based agriculture. He called the day an opportunity to promote saffron scientifically and culturally as a national brand and to strengthen collaboration among research, agricultural, and commercial institutions.

Known as “Iran’s Red Gold”, saffron has played a prominent role in Iranian cuisine, traditional medicine, rituals, and culture for thousands of years. Today, Iranian saffron is recognized worldwide for its distinct aroma, taste, and quality.

Iran Among Top Five Countries in Developing Aviation Safety, Quality Assurance Software



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran has joined the world’s top five countries in the development of specialized Safety Management System (SMS) and quality assurance software for the aviation industry — marking a major milestone in the nation’s aerospace technology advancement.

According to an official statement from the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the Iranian-developed projects were registered in Geneva on October 2, 2025 (Mehr 10, 1404) and achieved a 100% Innovation Index rating in the ISA Europe official report.

These advanced software systems, fully compliant with the standards of the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), have significantly enhanced both the Safety Maturity Level and the accuracy of flight data analysis.

Officials described the achievement as a historic milestone, positioning Iran as a global pioneer in aviation safety technology and quality assurance while opening new horizons for the nation’s civil aviation sector.

Until recently, only the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and Australia possessed such advanced aviation safety systems. Due to international sanctions, Iranian airlines were unable to access or use these technologies. Moreover, countries that sought partnerships with Western developers were required to share all flight data for analysis — a challenge for maintaining operational independence.

Iranian engineers and aviation experts, particularly from Qeshm Island, overcame these barriers by developing domestic versions of the technology — reportedly improving upon the performance of existing international models. This achievement marks a significant leap in the safety of domestic air travel and the technological self-sufficiency of Iran’s aviation sector.

Siamand Abdollahzadeh, CEO of the airline that implemented the software, praised the dedicated safety engineering team, calling the accomplishment “a source of national pride and a testament to the exceptional capabilities of Iranian engineers.”

Iran, Tajikistan Agree to Establish Joint Working Group on Capital Market Digitalization



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran and Tajikistan have agreed to form a joint working group to digitalize capital market infrastructure and launch innovative financial projects, following discussions during the “Bridge of Trust and Development” conference held in Dushanbe. The agreement is part of a broader plan to expand bilateral cooperation in Islamic finance, green investment, and enhanced capital market supervision.

According to Tajik media reports, the “Bridge of Trust and Development” conference was held to strengthen financial cooperation between the two nations and develop financial institutions. The event featured specialized panels and professional training sessions covering Islamic financial mechanisms, green investment, ESG principles (environment, social responsibility, and corporate governance), and supervision of emerging markets.

According to a Monday report by Asia-Plus Tajikistan, one of the major outcomes of the gathering was the issuance of the first international certification for financial market specialists in Tajikistan. More than 80 participants, including representatives from the National Bank, commercial banks, insurance firms, and major local companies, received these certificates.

Iran Continues Energy Talks With Russia and Turkmenistan



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Managing Director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Saeed Tavakkoli, announced that no general increase in gas tariffs is planned, stressing that adjustments will only affect households with excessive consumption. He also confirmed the continuation of gas negotiations with Russia and Turkmenistan aimed at regional energy cooperation and supply balance.

Speaking to reporters, Tavakkoli clarified that the ongoing plan is a tariff reform, not a rate increase. He said about 88–90 percent of Iran’s population will not be impacted, as their usage falls within the national consumption standards. Based on billing data from October, 76 percent of households paid less than 10,000 toman for gas.

“For low-income groups, gas consumption within the first tier remains free of charge,” he added, emphasizing that the reform plan is guided by justice-oriented principles aimed at curbing excessive energy use and redirecting resources toward vulnerable communities.

Tavakkoli underlined that the goal of tariff reform is not to boost government revenue, but to balance consumption and reduce energy imbalance in the residential sector. The revised structure simplifies consumption categories from 12 to 4 global-standard tiers, allowing for clearer assessment of user behavior. Only 2 percent of high-consuming households—often owners of second homes or properties with luxury heating facilities—will face higher bills.

He also revealed a major update in Iran’s climatic zoning system: the previous five-zone classification has been replaced with 1,300 independent thermal regions, ensuring fairer tariff rates based on each city’s long-term temperature data. “Five

zones for a country with Iran’s climate diversity was unfair,” he said.

Tavakkoli noted that a Cabinet decree requires all government agencies to cut energy use by at least 20 percent compared to 2022 levels and maintain indoor temperatures at 20°C during winter. Citizens can report violations via the NIGC hotline 194.

He clarified that none of the tariff adjustments are intended to raise state income, as all resulting funds will be allocated to about 500,000 low-income families supported by the Welfare Organization and the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee.

Discussing broader initiatives, Tavakkoli announced a national plan to modernize heating systems, including replacing outdated gas heaters with energy-efficient models. So far, contracts for 1.725 million units have been signed, and 300,000 installations are expected to be completed by the end of this year, with full implementation by 2026.

He highlighted that these measures will cut energy waste, create thousands of jobs in manufacturing and installation, and strengthen Iran’s energy security.

Tavakkoli also confirmed that gas storage facilities in Sarajeh and Shourijeh are at their highest capacity in history, with liquid fuel reserves also at exceptional levels—reflecting better energy management and coordination across the Oil Ministry’s subsidiaries.

Emphasizing Iran’s regional strategy, he stated: “Our gas diplomacy with Russia and Turkmenistan has never stopped. We continue regular negotiations on gas imports, exports, and joint projects to enhance regional energy synergy and security.”

Tavakkoli concluded that the company’s main objective this year is to address energy imbalances through efficiency, ensuring stable gas supply to industries and supporting Iran’s industrial growth.

Foreign Ministry Backs Women Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Assistant to the Foreign Minister and Director General for the Americas announced that Iran’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs is fully prepared to support women entrepreneurs and business leaders and to facilitate their economic activities.

Speaking on Monday at the International Women’s Leadership Conference titled “Naghsh-e Jahan, Naghsh-e Zanan” (The Role of Women in the World’s Design), hosted by the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Zahra Ershadi praised the resilience and global contributions of Iranian businesswomen.

“Despite unjust sanctions, Iranian women entrepreneurs have played a key role in presenting the country’s economic and cultural potential to the international community,” she said.

Ershadi added that if the activities of these women are systematically guided within the framework of national economic strategies, they can significantly accelerate the country’s development.

She emphasized the importance of cooperation between government institutions and the private sector to transform this vital potential into sustainable economic growth, stating: “Expanding Iran’s global economic relations is impossible without engaging half of the country’s population — women.”

Ershadi noted that in the past decade, women have made remarkable progress in higher education, in knowledge-based enterprises, and in the private sector, calling these achievements “a promising sign for the nation’s future.”

“Sanctions have not stopped the determination of creative Iranian women,” she added. “They have continued to shine in driving economic dynamism.”

She stressed that facilitating women’s participation across sectors is a core strategy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is committed to creating supportive mechanisms for women in diplomacy, trade, and international cooperation.

At the same conference, Zahra Khodadadi, head of the Parliamentary Women and Family Caucus, announced that the Seventh National Development Plan sets a target of 25% growth in women’s job skills, to be pursued through comprehensive training in marketing and modern digital technologies.

Khodadadi stated that expanding innovation infrastructure for

women and families will make business activities more flexible and inclusive.

“We need to create mother-and-child innovation centers where women can balance family responsibilities with economic and social participation,” she explained.

She underlined that economic and social resilience requires a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach, involving both government and private institutions.

The lawmaker noted that women entrepreneurs operating in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have proven their ability to achieve maximum efficiency with limited resources.

“Women have always turned challenges into opportunities,” Khodadadi said. “Through creativity and entrepreneurship, they have contributed meaningfully to the national economy.”

She added that Iranian women have created new income models through local businesses, and are playing visible roles in fields such as digital health, green technology, sustainable agriculture, and the knowledge-based economy.

In macroeconomic policymaking, she said, women’s role in strengthening economic resilience is being emphasized. Achieving tangible results from this strategy, however, requires production networking and participation in economic consortiums.

“Women entrepreneurs are at the forefront of promoting a human-centered economy, contributing to national identity, innovation, and social participation,” Khodadadi remarked.

She added that women often excel during critical economic moments, and stressed that establishing fair mechanisms to develop and simplify women’s entrepreneurship, along with revising related laws, is now a legislative priority.

The event, focused on women’s roles in economic resilience and reconstruction, brought together Iranian and international women entrepreneurs at the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce.

Highlights included the unveiling of the National Consortium of Women Entrepreneurs, several economic-focused expert panels, and honoring distinguished women business leaders.

According to officials, during the first half of this year, more than 64,000 electronic business license applications were submitted in Isfahan Province — a sign of the growing participation of women in Iran’s entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Iran, Uzbekistan Explore Trade Opportunities to Boost Economic Ties



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Iran met with the Head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO) to discuss expanding bilateral trade and exploring new avenues for economic cooperation between the two countries.

Faraldin Nasriev, Uzbekistan’s Ambassador to Tehran, held talks with Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT) and Head of the TPO, focusing on ways to enhance commercial relations and strengthen economic collaboration.

Dehghan Dehnavi emphasized the need to expand the list of goods covered under the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Uzbekistan, noting that 20 items have so far been agreed upon within this framework.

He also underlined the potential of barter trade mechanisms as an effective tool to increase the volume of bilateral trade.

Referring to the establishment of the Uzbekistan Trade House in Iran, Dehghan Dehnavi suggested that creating a similar Iranian Trade House in Uzbekistan would help connect compatible traders and facilitate smoother commercial exchanges. He further highlighted the importance of promoting tourism between the two countries as a complementary channel for economic cooperation.

Both sides also discussed the development of interprovincial partnerships between Iranian and Uzbek regions as a means of deepening bilateral relations.

In addition, the meeting addressed logistical challenges, including freight transport and customs procedures, as well as facilitating visa issuance for businesspeople from both nations to support smoother trade interactions.

Iran Dismisses Rumors of UNESCO Delisting



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Director General of World Heritage Sites at Iran’s Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has rejected claims that Iran’s UNESCO World Heritage sites may be removed from the global list, stressing that inclusion or removal from UNESCO’s World Heritage List is a complex and technical process carried out through international review and cannot occur arbitrarily.

Farhad Azizi Zelani, speaking to IRNA, said: “If the World Heritage List changed with every minor alteration or perceived threat, no site would remain listed after inscription. Such rumors stem from misunderstanding and misinformation.”

He emphasized that all government bodies, local institutions, and citizens share responsibility for safeguarding Iran’s World Heritage sites.

“These sites belong not only to the Iranian people but to all humanity,” he noted.

Azizi Zelani urged collective cooperation instead of fueling speculation or public anxiety: “Through collaboration, empathy, and public participation, we can ensure that these global treasures play a stronger role in the sustainable development of their surrounding regions.”

He added that preservation, restoration, and proper management of these heritage sites require national synergy: “The Ministry of Cultural Heritage is doing everything possible to protect these treasures, but achieving larger goals depends on the cooperation of all sectors of society. Every individual and institution must contribute to protecting and wisely utilizing these assets so that Iran’s World Heritage continues to enrich contemporary life.”

Lithuania Accuses Belarus of Hybrid Attack After Contraband Balloons Shut Airports

PARIS (Dispatches) - Lithuania accused Russian ally Belarus of hitting it with a “hybrid attack” after dozens of balloons loaded with contraband forced it to temporarily close airports last week.

Lithuania, a NATO and EU member, also shut its last two border crossings with neighbouring Belarus over the incident, which forced the airports in the capital Vilnius and the south-central city Kaunas to close because of balloons carrying illegal cigarettes -- a tactic often blamed on Belarusian smugglers.



Russia's Lukoil Plans to Sell Intel Assets Due to Western Sanctions



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia's second-largest oil producer, Lukoil, said on Monday it would sell its international assets following sanctions over Ukraine announced last week by the United States.

The planned sale of the assets is the most consequential action so far by a Russian company in the wake of Western sanctions over Russia's war in Ukraine, which started in February 2022.

“The sale of the assets is conducted under OFAC wind down license. If necessary the company plans to apply for extension of the license to ensure uninterrupted operations of its international assets,” Lukoil said in its statement, adding that the consideration of bids from potential purchasers had started.

On October 22, U.S. President Donald Trump imposed Ukraine-related sanctions on Russia's largest oil companies, Lukoil and Rosneft.

On October 15, Britain also targeted Lukoil and Rosneft, as well as 44 so-called shadow fleet tankers, mainly consisting of aging tankers with opaque ownership, in what it described as a new bid to tighten energy sanctions and choke off Kremlin revenue.

Moscow-headquartered Lukoil accounts for around 2% of global output. Its name derives from three oil towns in Lukoil's traditional exploration region of western Siberia: Langeepas, Urai and Kogalym.

The company did not identify specific assets to be sold.

Ukraine Deploys Reinforcements as Fighting Spreads in Pokrovsk City



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine is rushing to strengthen its positions in the strategic eastern transport hub of Pokrovsk as about 200 Russian troops have infiltrated the city in small groups, Kyiv's military said on Monday.

The Ukrainian general staff, which made the estimate of enemy forces, reported small arms firefights and the active deployment of drones. The Russian defence ministry said that its assault groups were trying to advance near the train station.

“There is fierce fighting in the city and on the approaches to the city... Logistics are difficult. But we must continue to destroy the occupiers,” President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Sunday.

Russia has been aiming to occupy Pokrovsk, a key part of Kyiv's defensive lines, for months, seeing it as a crucial point for its push to fully capture the Donetsk region.

Its forces have renewed their attempts in the wake of a failed push by U.S. President Donald Trump to secure a ceasefire, Ukrainian officials say.

The 7th Rapid Response Unit of Ukraine's airborne troops on Monday said that the positions in the city have been strengthened in recent days as urban fighting continued.

“The occupiers, who have entered the city, are not trying to take hold, but intend to advance further north,” the unit said in a Facebook post. “In doing so, the enemy wants to disperse our defence forces and block land logistics corridors.”

U.S., Japan Sign Rare Earths Deal as Takaichi Hails Golden Age in Bilateral Ties

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's new premier Sanae Takaichi lavished U.S. leader Donald Trump with praise and vows of a “golden age of ties” on his visit to Tokyo Tuesday, before inking a deal with Washington aimed at securing critical minerals.

Takaichi, Japan's first woman prime minister, lauded Trump's involvement in mediating conflicts and will nominate him for a Nobel Peace Prize, the White House said.

Trump, on an Asia tour that aims for a trade deal with China, reciprocated with warmth for the key partner in business and defence by saying Washington is an ally of the “strongest level”.

Takaichi greeted Trump at her prime minister's residence in Tokyo, her first face-to-face meeting with the U.S. leader just days after she took office.

“We are an ally at the strongest level, and it's a great honour to be with you, especially so early in what will be, I think, one of the greatest prime ministers,” Trump told Takaichi.

She praised Trump's efforts towards a ceasefire between Thailand and Cambodia and his “unprecedented historic achievement” of the Gaza deal.

“I would like to realise a new golden age of the Japan-US Alliance, where both Japan and the United States will become stronger and also more prosperous,” she said.

The two sides also signed an agreement aimed at “achieving resilience and security of critical minerals and rare earths supply chains,” a statement said.

Beijing this month announced sweeping restrictions on the rare earths industry, prompting Trump to threaten 100 percent tariffs on imports from China in retaliation.

Trump also apologised for being late, saying he was watching World Series baseball -- a game featuring Japanese stars Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Shohei Ohtani for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Trump arrived in Tokyo on Monday for a visit sandwiched between a trip to Malaysia and a meeting in South Korea with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping that could ease the bruising trade war.

Negotiators from Beijing and Washington have both confirmed a “framework” has been agreed between the world's two biggest economies.

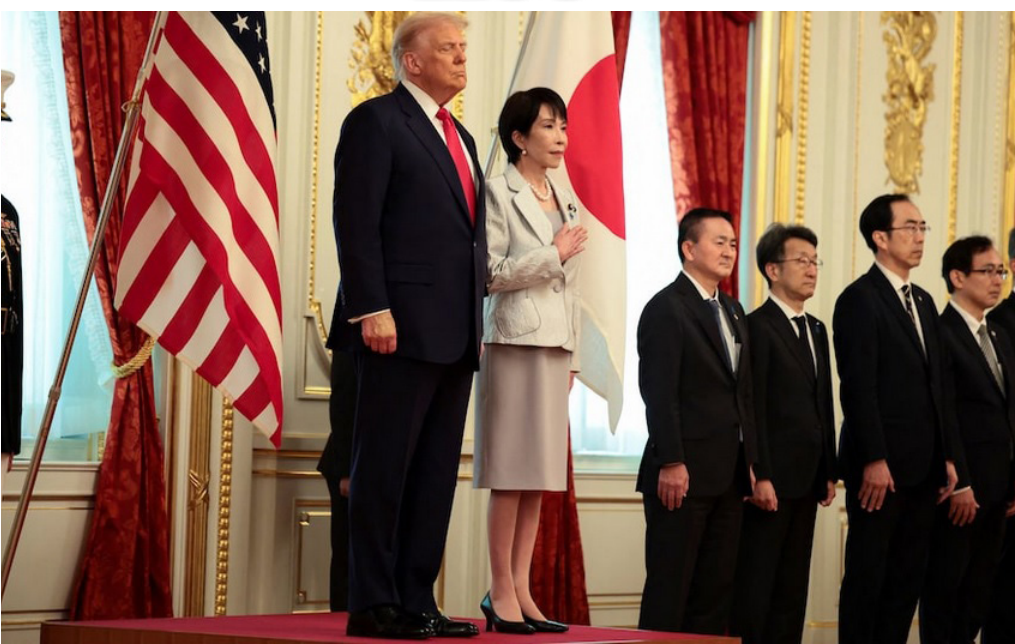
In Tokyo, Trump and Takaichi were expected to focus on security and trade between their allied countries.

Takashi Ito, a 58-year-old Tokyo resident, said that “what's important is finding some kind of middle ground” on trade.

“Simply pushing to raise tariffs has already created various issues.”

On security, long-pacifist Japan is adopting a more muscular military stance as relations with China worsen.

Takaichi, a China hawk who last week became the first woman to serve as Japan's prime minister, said her government would achieve its target of spending two percent of gross domestic product on defence this year -- two years ahead of schedule.



billion in the United States.

Takaichi will be at pains to establish a good relationship with Trump, who had a close personal relationship with assassinated former premier Shinzo Abe.

Trump said before arriving that he had heard “phenomenal things” about Takaichi, “a great ally and friend of Shinzo Abe, who was my friend”.

Abe's alleged killer Tetsuya Yamagami was due to go on trial in the western city of Nara -- also Takaichi's hometown -- more than three years after the fatal shooting.

The greatest prize for Trump -- and for global markets -- remains a China trade deal.

Trump is due to meet Xi on Thursday in South Korea for their first face-to-face talks since the 79-year-old Republican's return to office in January.

“I have a lot of respect for President Xi and we are going to, I think... come away with a deal,” Trump told reporters en route from Malaysia, where comments from US and Chinese negotiators raised hopes of an accord.

Trump also indicated he was willing to extend his trip in order to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, though no such meeting has been announced.

Venezuela Suspends Energy Agreement With Trinidad Amid U.S. Warship Dispute



CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said he had suspended an energy agreement with Trinidad and Tobago after the Caribbean nation welcomed a US warship. In a televised address, Maduro accused Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar of turning her country “into an aircraft carrier of the American empire against Venezuela.”

Venezuela's vice president said Monday that energy agreements with Trinidad and Tobago should be canceled over what she described as “hostile” actions by the island nation.

Trinidad is now hosting one of the US warships involved in a controversial campaign to destroy Venezuelan speedboats allegedly carrying drugs to the United States.

On Sunday, the USS Gravely, a destroyer fitted with guided missiles, arrived in Trinidad to conduct joint exercises with Trinidad's navy.

Venezuelan authorities described Trinidad's decision to host the ship as a provocation, while Trinidad's government has said that joint exercises with the US happen regularly.

“The prime minister of Trinidad has decided to join the war mongering agenda of the United States,” Venezuela's Vice President Delcy Rodriguez said Monday on national television.

In text messages to The Associated Press, Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar said she was not concerned over the potential cancellation of the energy agreement, adding that the military training exercises

were exclusively for “internal security” purposes.

“Our future does not depend on Venezuela and never has,” Persad-Bissessar wrote. “We have our plans and projects to grow our economy both within the energy and non-energy sectors.”

Rodriguez, who is also Venezuela's minister of hydrocarbons, said she would ask President Nicolás Maduro to withdraw from a 2015 agreement that enables neighboring countries to carry out joint natural gas exploration projects in the waters between both nations. Trinidad and Venezuela are separated by a small bay that is just 7 miles (11 kilometers) wide at its narrowest point.

Unlike other leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean who have compared strikes on alleged drug vessels to extrajudicial killings, Persad-Bissessar has supported the campaign. She has said that she'd rather see drug traffickers “blown to pieces” than have them kill the citizens of her nation.

“I am tired of seeing our citizens murdered and terrorized because of gang violence driven by illegal drugs and arms trafficking,” she told AP.

Trinidad, which has a population of about 1.4 million people, is sometimes used by smugglers to store and sort drugs before shipping them to Europe and North America.

Venezuela's government has described the US military buildup in the Caribbean as a threat, with government officials there claiming that the deployment of US warships to the region is part of an effort to overthrow Maduro, who has been widely accused of stealing last year's election.

Tensions between Venezuela and the United States escalated last week as the Trump administration announced it would be deploying its largest aircraft carrier to the southern Caribbean, complementing a flotilla that already includes eight warships, a submarine, drones and fighter jets.

The Trump administration has launched 10 strikes against alleged drug carrying vessels since September, when it first deployed ships to the southern Caribbean. At least 43 people have been killed in the controversial attacks.

Kashmir Black Day Observed at the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran

IRAN NEWS INTERNATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Tehran observed Kashmir Black Day on Monday, October 27, to express solidarity with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle for self-determination. The day marks a somber chapter in history — it was on October 27th, 1947, that Indian forces landed in Jammu and Kashmir, beginning a decades-long occupation that has subjected generations of Kashmiris to political repression, human rights abuses, and denial of their fundamental right to self-determination as enshrined in various United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Senior officers of the Pakistan Embassy, members of the Pakistani community, and a large number of Iranian media representatives participated in the event, reaffirming their moral and emotional bond with the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

H.E. Muhammad Mudassir Tipu, Ambassador of Pakistan to Tehran, reiterated Pakistan's unwavering and principled support for the Kashmiri cause and their inalienable right to determine their own future. He highlighted that the people of IIOJK have



Ambassador H.E. Mudassir Tipu speaking at the ceremony held observe “Kashmir Black Day” and a photo exhibition also organized by the Embassy of Pakistan, Tehran today, 27 October 2025.

been enduring decades of Indian state-sponsored terrorism, military siege, and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

Ambassador Tipu reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to continue extending political, moral, and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the realization of their right to self-determination. He called upon the international community, including the United Nations and other global organizations, to take concrete measures to end the ongoing oppression in IIOJK and to ensure that India abides by its international obligations and the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the messages of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Mr. Asif Ali Zardari, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif, were read out. Both leaders reaffirmed Pakistan's steadfast commitment to the Kashmir cause and paid tribute to the sacrifices of the Kashmiri people.

Speakers at the event strongly condemned the continuing atrocities perpetrated against the innocent people of Kashmir. A photo exhibition was also organized to shed light on the decades-long suffering of the Kashmiris and to expose the brutal use of force by the Indian authorities in the occupied region.

The event concluded with prayers for the martyrs of Kashmir and a renewed pledge by Pakistan and its people to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their Kashmiri brethren until the realization of their legitimate right to self-determination.



Spurs Put Raptors Away, Off to First 4-0 Start Since '16

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Victor Wembanyama poured in 24 points, grabbed 15 rebounds and hit two late baskets that helped the host San Antonio Spurs to a 121-103 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Monday.

It's the first time since the 2017-18 season that the Spurs have started a campaign with four consecutive wins.

San Antonio led by as many as 22 and were up by 19 at halftime. The Raptors clawed back in the fourth, cutting their deficit to 101-93 by forging a 9-0 run thanks to three straight turnovers by San Antonio.

Toronto was within eight until Harrison Barnes canned back-to-back 3-pointers, the latter with 4:51 to play, to push the margin to 14. Those two shots from distance keyed a 13-1 run that included a step-back jumper and a driving basket from Wembanyama and salted away the win.

Stephon Castle added 22 points while Barnes had 18, Devin Vassell scored 15 and rookie Dylan Harper and Keldon Johnson contributed 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Toronto's RJ Barrett led all scorers with 25 points, with rookie Collin Murray-Boyles hitting for 19, Immanuel Quickley tallying 15 and Brandon Ingram adding 14.

The Spurs roared out of the gate, building a 17-point lead in the first quarter while shooting 73.7% from the floor and carrying a 41-29 advantage.

Wembanyama had eight points in the period, while Murray-Boyles kept the Raptors within shouting distance with 10 points off the bench.

San Antonio cooled a bit in the second period but never let the Raptors gain their stride. Toronto was within 12 after Barrett's two free throws at the 9:10 mark of the quarter, but the Spurs responded, forging a 12-3 spurt capped by a Barnes 3-pointer with six minutes to play to go up 55-33.

San Antonio led 69-50 at the break. Vassell and Castle paced San Antonio with 12 points each while Wembanyama scored 10 and took eight rebounds in the first half. Ingram's 12 points before halftime led the visitors.

Meanwhile - Anfernee Simons scored 25 points to lead six Boston double-figure scorers and the visiting Celtics got their first victory of the season by defeating the winless New Orleans Pelicans 122-90 on Monday night.

Payton Pritchard added 18 points, Luka Garza had 16, Jaylen Brown and Josh Minott had 15 each and Derrick White 11 for the Celtics, who completed a back-to-back that began with a loss at Detroit by beating the Pelicans for the ninth straight meeting.

Jordan Poole scored 22 points, rookie Derik Queen had 12, and Yves Missi, returning from a one-game absence due to a sprained ankle, Herbert Jones and Saddiq Bey had 11 each for the Pelicans.

Zion Williamson missed the game because of a left foot bone contusion suffered in a 120-116 overtime loss to visiting San Antonio on Friday night. The injury is not believed to be long term.

Bey made two 3-pointers, Missi added a three-point play and the Pelicans turned an 11-point halftime deficit into a 75-71 deficit midway through the third quarter.

Sam Hauser and Baylor Scheierman each made a 3-pointer to help the Celtics take an 87-78 lead at the end of the third quarter.

New Orleans got within five points on a 3-pointer by Poole but Hauser made a 3-pointer and Simons made two to push the lead to 102-86. Boston outscored New Orleans 35-12 in the fourth quarter.

Brown scored eight points to help the Celtics open a 23-9 lead. Trey Murphy III and Bey made consecutive dunks off turnovers to pull the Pelicans with five before Simons and White each made a 3-pointer to leave Boston with a 34-26 lead at the end of the first quarter.

DeAndre Jordan scored his first four points for New Orleans and the Pelicans scored the first six points of the second quarter. Minott scored seven points and Pritchard had five as the Celtics opened a 51-37 lead.

New Orleans got as close as nine points on four occasions before Boston took a 65-54 halftime lead.

Mahomes, Kelce Lead Surging Chiefs Over Commanders



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Patrick Mahomes threw three second-half touchdown passes and the Kansas City Chiefs pulled away for a 28-7 win against the visiting Washington Commanders on Monday night.

Mahomes completed 25 of 34 passes for 299 yards and overcame two first-half interceptions as the Chiefs (5-3) won their third straight game and improved to 5-1 in their last six games.

Travis Kelce had six catches for 99 yards and a score and Rashee Rice had nine catches for 93 yards and a touchdown. Kareem Hunt had a touchdown catch and a touchdown run.

Marcus Mariota, playing in place of the injured Jayden Daniels, completed 21 of 30 passes for 213 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions for Washington (3-5), which has lost three straight.

Wide receiver Terry McLaurin had three catches for 54 yards and a touchdown in his return after missing four games but left in the third quarter after apparently reinjuring his quad.

On the opening drive of the third quarter, Mahomes found Kelce in the flat and the tight end rumbled 38 yards to the 9. On fourth-and-goal from the 2, Mahomes hit Hunt for a touchdown and a 14-7 Chiefs lead.

After a Washington punt, the Chiefs drove 75 yards for a touchdown. Mahomes went 6-for-6 on the drive and hit Kelce for a 10-yard score to make it 21-7 with 3:20 left in the quarter.

Washington then crossed midfield but on third down at the Kansas City 38, Mariota was sacked for a 10-yard loss on the final play of the quarter.

Atletico Madrid Move Furth in La Liga



SEVILLE (Dispatches) - Atletico Madrid earned a solid 2-0 win at Real Betis on Monday to move fourth in La Liga and bounce back from their Champions League thrashing by Arsenal.

Diego Simeone's side lost 4-0 last week in north London but put that defeat behind them with a strong display at La Cartuja stadium, where Betis are playing on a temporary basis.

They were able to record only their second clean sheet in their last nine games across all competitions and their first away win of the season.

The coach's son Giuliano Simeone opened the scoring with Alex Baena netting the second before half-time.

"This is an important win, hard-fought, and I'm happy," Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak told Movistar.

"I hope we continue like this, away from home, not just at home... it was a great game from the whole team and a big effort."

Giuliano Simeone fired the visitors ahead in the opening stages with a neat volley from the edge of the box.

Star summer signing Baena curled home his first goal for the club before half-time to double the Rojiblancos' lead.

Real Betis were the better team in the second half and hit the crossbar from Abde Ezzalzouli's free-kick, but Atletico's defence held firm.

Atletico trail La Liga leaders Real Madrid by eight points, although they are the only team to inflict defeat on their city rivals.

"Our first win on the road and we're very happy for the great work the team did," said Giuliano Simone, who dedicated the goal to his recently-born nephew Faustino in his celebration, making the letter F with his fingers.

Faustino's birth made Atletico coach Diego Simeone a grandfather.

Norris and Piastri Can Feel Confident in Title Chase

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - McLaren boss Andrea Stella says Formula One title contenders Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri can both feel confident going into the last four races, with neither likely to have a track advantage.

Norris took over at the top by a point from his Australian teammate in Mexico on Sunday but Stella told reporters there was everything to play for in Brazil, Las Vegas, Qatar and Abu Dhabi.

There are also two sprints to come in Sao Paulo and Doha.

"I think both Lando and Oscar go into the final four races with reasons to be confident," said the Italian.

"The team also go into the final four races with more understanding of how to extract performance



from the car consistently, because over the last four races before Mexico at times we have left some performance in the garage.

"In the final four races, there's no reason to think that one (track) may favour one driver or the other."

Piastri has been beaten by Norris in the last five races and the Briton's dominant victory from pole position in Mexico City on Sunday wiped out the 24-year-old's 14 point advantage.

Norris has said he does not believe in momentum, however, and Piastri sounded more optimistic about his situation after racing from seventh on the grid to fifth at the chequered flag on Sunday.

Messi Keeps 2026 World Cup Hopes Alive, Fitness Permitting

MIAMI (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi wants to play for Argentina in next year's World Cup, but he says he will listen to his body before deciding whether he can make that dream come true.

The 38-year-old striker for Inter Miami of MLS led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title and years to be on the field when the "Albiceleste" defend the crown next year in North America.

Eight-time Ballon d'Or winner Messi told NBC News in an interview broadcast on Monday that he will see next year how his body feels before deciding on whether or not he can play in the World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and



Canada.

"It's something extraordinary to be able to be in a World Cup and I would love to," said Messi, who turns 39 next June.

"I would like to be there, to be well and be an important part of helping my national team, if I am there.

"And I'm going to assess that on a day-to-day basis when I start preseason next year with Inter and see if I can really be 100%, if I can be useful to the group, to the national team, and then make a decision."

Messi, who has been playing professionally since 2004, wants the chance for one more star turn on football's biggest stage.