

Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman in a Statement Said the U.S's Destabilizing Activities in the Caribbean and Latin American Regions—Particularly Its Recent Military Attacks Targeting Venezuela's Vessels—Constitute a Grave Threat to Regional Stability, Peace, and International Security

IRAN NEWS

Ramin Zare, Iran's Ambassador to Nicaragua, and Reyna Rueda, the Mayor of Managua, During a Meeting in Managua, Highlighted the Importance of Fostering Urban Cooperation Between Their Two Countries

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Iran Reacts to Western Claims on Nuclear Program and Negotiations



TEHRAN - The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Japan has responded to recent claims by three European countries regarding the resumption of nuclear negotiations, as well as U.S. statements about Iran's peaceful nuclear program. In a post on its official X account, the embassy said that the United States and the three European nations "continue the myth that Iran should not be allowed to develop nuclear weapons, or that they aim to prevent it through diplomacy."

The embassy described these claims as "pure deception and hypocrisy" and outlined the following points:

Religious and Humanitarian Ban on WMDs: Iran has consistently stated that weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, are prohibited for religious and humanitarian reasons. They have no place in its defense doctrine, and Iran supports a world and West Asia free of nuclear weapons.

Commitment to Peaceful Nuclear Program: Since the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran has been recognized in 15 reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the most committed party regarding its peaceful nuclear program. Any party pursuing nuclear weapons would not comply with the agency's most intrusive inspections nor engage in genuine interactions with the IAEA.

U.S. Support for Israeli Attacks: The U.S. backing of Israeli aggression and attacks on Iranian nuclear sites under IAEA protection, occurring during Iran-U.S. negotiations with the malevolent support of the three European countries, represented blatant efforts to undermine diplomacy.

Lavrov Slams West's Use of Snapback Against Iran



TEHRAN - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has branded the West's attempt to re-impose UN sanctions on Iran through the JCPOA's snapback mechanism as "utterly outrageous," saying that Washington and its European allies are abusing international law.

The dispute is rooted in the collapse of the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA), which Iran says it upheld even as the United States abandoned it and Europe failed to honor its commitments. The deal placed strict limits on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.

However, the United States unilaterally abandoned the deal in 2018, and Europe failed to deliver on its commitments. Iran gradually reduced its obligations, while Western powers escalated pressure. In August, the European trio invoked the snapback mechanism to restore sanctions, a move Iran rejected as illegitimate.

"The idea of re-imposing the sanctions which the West is trying to present as a legitimate legal procedure is utterly outrageous," Lavrov told RT, Russia's Foreign Ministry website reported.

He argued that Iran had consistently shown restraint and flexibility, even after the US withdrawal. "As you may recall, the resolution approving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme was not violated by Iran. The Islamic Republic had been fulfilling it since 2015 when it was first adopted. Then, in 2019, the United States said it did not like the deal and would no longer comply with it."

Iran Warns: Strait of Hormuz Access Hinges on Top Leadership Decisions

TEHRAN - Rear Admiral Alireza Tangsiri, Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy, has reiterated Iran's firm commitment to defending its national interests in the Persian Gulf, warning that the continued openness of the Strait of Hormuz—a vital global energy corridor—depends on the decisions of Iran's highest authorities.

Speaking about Iran's history of maritime resistance against U.S. forces and the country's determination to safeguard its sovereignty, Tangsiri reflected on both the sacrifices of Iranian naval forces and the enduring strategic weight of the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow but crucial passage connecting the Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea.

Recalling past confrontations between IRGC naval units and American forces during the Iran-Iraq War, Tangsiri described years of asymmetric warfare fought under extreme limitations.

"At that time, the most advanced weapon we had was the RPG," he said. "Later, we brought 107 mm rockets into the fight. We had no air cover and very limited resources, yet we engaged U.S. forces directly for nearly a year and a half. It was an unequal war, and many of our sailors were martyred."

He noted that Iran's naval forces have sacrificed nine Defenders of the Holy Shrines in the fight against "global arrogance," particularly in the Persian Gulf. Among them, Martyr Mahdavi and his comrades are remembered as icons of bravery and devotion.

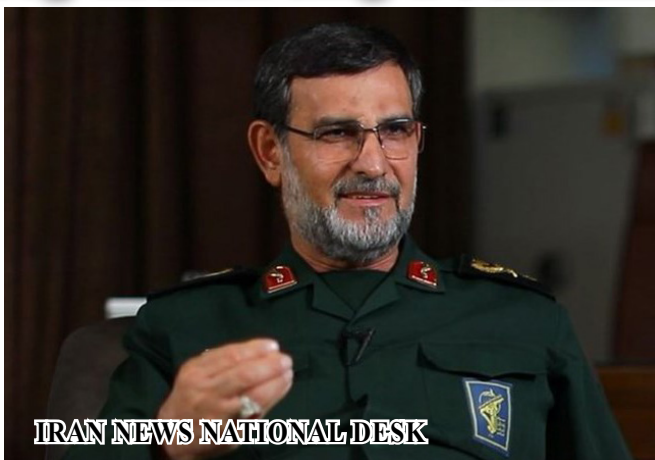
"Of the nine blows delivered to the United States, six occurred during the Sacred Defense," he said, referring to the Iran-Iraq War. "Despite their advanced equipment, they were defeated by the will of God."

Tangsiri revisited Operation Mehr 16 (October 8), where seven Iranian naval personnel were martyred and three wounded. Some of the same soldiers later perished in the 2018 Ahvaz terrorist attack. "Martyrs Mahdavi, Mobaraki, Shafee, Tavassoli, Kord, and Mohammadi each represented courage and faith against the enemy," he said.

He also cited the destruction of the U.S. warship USS Samuel B. Roberts, describing it as "the third major slap" Iran dealt to America. "The vessel, valued at \$600 million, was completely destroyed," he claimed. "Two more of our men were martyred on April 18, bringing the total to nine—symbols of a resilient nation standing firm against global arrogance."

Highlighting the global importance of the Strait of Hormuz, Tangsiri described it as "the lifeline of the world's oil and gas supply," stressing that Iran has always protected and maintained its security.

"Iran has never sought to close this strait," he said. "But is it fair that the entire world benefits from it while Iran is deprived of its rightful share?"



Tangsiri warned of the dangers posed by nuclear-powered vessels and submarines in the Persian Gulf, citing potential environmental and humanitarian disasters.

"If an incident involving these ships occurs, the damage will be extensive and long-lasting," he cautioned. "Even coastal waters feeding desalination plants could become unusable for years."

He added that the Persian Gulf's limited water circulation could make any pollution persistent, recalling a 1980s collision between a Japanese tanker and a U.S. submarine that caused severe oil leakage and ecological harm.

The IRGC Navy chief criticized the continued foreign military presence in the region, calling it "a source of insecurity."

"These countries create enemies to justify their presence," he said. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has not attacked any country in its 300-

year modern history. We do not initiate hostility, but we will decisively defend our interests when threatened."

Tangsiri reaffirmed Iran's official position on the Strait of Hormuz: to keep the vital waterway open for global energy supplies while safeguarding environmental and regional security. However, he stressed that the decision to open or close the strait lies solely with Iran's top leadership, depending on the level of pressure imposed on Iran's oil exports.

Reflecting on the Iran-Iraq War, Tangsiri recalled the severe shortages and sanctions Iran faced at the time.

"When we were attacked, our hands were empty. No one helped us—not even with barbed wire, as the Supreme Leader once said," he noted.

He contrasted those hardships with Iran's present-day military self-sufficiency, saying, "Today, we proudly stand among the few nations capable of producing and exporting missiles, drones, and naval vessels."

Addressing recent events in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Tangsiri praised the close cooperation between the IRGC Navy and the Iranian Army Navy, emphasizing their readiness to counter any threat.

"Our soldiers in this vital region—whether in the Army or the IRGC—stand ready to defend national interests," he said. "We will protect this dignity until our last breath."

He also referred to the '12-Day War,' noting that the sacrifices and achievements of Iran's aerospace and naval units during that conflict have yet to be fully documented. "We did not start the war, nor did we ask for it to end," he declared. "We continue to defend our path with strength and faith."

Iran to Launch Research Satellite Constellation by Late 2026

TEHRAN - Iran's space program is entering a new phase focused on delivering practical satellite-based services rather than conducting launches for demonstration purposes, said Vahid Yazdanian, head of the Iranian Space Research Institute, in an exclusive interview marking World Space Week.

Yazdanian announced that the Nahid-2 communications satellite will be launched by late December this year using a domestically produced launch vehicle, and a series of "Pazhoohesh" (Research) satellites will follow by the end of next year (March 2027).

"The shift in Iran's space policy has already begun. We've moved from the concept of 'launch for the sake of launch' to 'launch for service,'" Yazdanian explained. "All our satellite designs, launches, and research are now focused on delivering tangible benefits to the public."

The space institute chief described this change as a major cultural milestone, emphasizing that the country's entire space sector — from design to deployment — is now geared toward providing satellite data and communications services in key fields such as agriculture, water management, mining, disaster response, and infrastructure development.

"This shift has not only shaped our engineering goals but also changed how the public and policymakers perceive space activity," he said.

Highlighting recent accomplishments, Yazdanian said Nahid-2, Iran's first fully domestically built communications satellite, was successfully placed in a 500-km orbit, marking a critical step toward future geostationary (36,000-km) missions.

Telemetry data confirmed the satellite's proper performance immediately after launch. Its locally designed sensors, control systems, and subsystems functioned correctly, enabling autonomous position detection and adjustment.

In a significant milestone, Iranian engineers achieved a successful "store-and-forward" data relay between two ground stations, verifying secure data transmission via the satellite.

Further tests of the KU-band system enabled Iran's first experimental satellite phone call, demonstrating voice relay capability.

"Although there was some noise at first, we successfully established two-way communication. This was a groundbreaking moment — the first voice exchange between a ground station and an Iranian-built satellite," Yazdanian said.

He added that Nahid-2 supports up to 16 simultaneous communication channels, and its second model, Nahid-3, is under construction as an upgraded version capable of operating in higher orbits. The second model of Nahid-2 and the Pars-1 remote-sensing satellite are both scheduled for launch by late December or early January, pending weather and technical conditions.

"If we aim to form a satellite constellation, we must have multiple Nahid-2 satellites in orbit," Yazdanian noted.

He confirmed that while the first Nahid-2 was launched using a Soyuz rocket, future launches will increasingly rely on Iran's domestic launchers developed by the armed forces. Using foreign rockets, he explained, is merely a risk-management measure, not a sign of dependency.

Yazdanian described the private sector as the "center of gravity" for Iran's future space development. The goal, he said, is to build an economic ecosystem where private companies can process and commercialize satellite data for industries such as agriculture, environment, mining,



and urban management.

"We're helping create a market for satellite data. Once it matures, private companies should take the lead in offering services," he said.

Iran is also developing PARS-3, a high-resolution remote sensing satellite capable of producing one-meter imagery — a level previously achieved only through foreign cooperation (e.g., the Khayyam satellite built by Russia).

To strengthen domestic capabilities, the institute is leading a network of "Pazhoohesh" research satellites, developed in partnership with universities and knowledge-based companies, to test subsystems for future satellites.

Contracts for Pazhoohesh-1, 2, and 4 have been signed, while Pazhoohesh-3 is under re-tendering and Pazhoohesh-5 has been defined. These satellites are expected to become operational within 12 to 18 months.

The institute is also developing radar imaging systems (SAR) to complement optical observation, enabling monitoring under cloudy or night conditions. Both space-borne and airborne radar payloads have been developed, with successful test results reported.

Yazdanian highlighted several technological spinoffs from the space sector that are being commercialized, including: High-efficiency solar panels and advanced energy storage systems (lithium-ion and vanadium-flow batteries); Radiation detection systems now used at airports and customs checkpoints; Brushless electric motors adapted for use in consumer appliances such as silent vacuum cleaners; Composite materials and specialized coatings applicable in transportation infrastructure, including railway systems.

Yazdanian confirmed that international collaboration remains a key pillar of Iran's space strategy. Talks are underway with Russia, China, and several neighboring countries including Oman, Turkmenistan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan for joint projects and satellite development.

"With technologically advanced countries, we pursue joint satellite projects that combine Iranian-built subsystems with their consulting or technical support," he said. "Our approach is not to sell products alone, but to share and export knowledge — a principle welcomed by many partners."

Yazdanian revealed that Iran has begun designing its own satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, China's BeiDou, and Japan's QZSS. Initial studies suggest that a single satellite could provide positioning with about 20 meters of error, but a constellation of 5–6 satellites would deliver high-precision coverage across Iran within 2–5 years.

Acknowledging that sanctions have increased costs and complicated procurement of parts and materials, Yazdanian said Iran has nonetheless achieved full technical self-sufficiency in satellite design and production, including all major subsystems.

"We can now build satellites entirely domestically. The remaining challenges are mainly logistical and financial due to sanctions," he said.

Yazdanian emphasized that joint investment and regional cooperation are essential for sustaining a vibrant national space ecosystem, citing global models such as Europe's shared space programs and SpaceX's global service networks.

"For Iran's space ecosystem to thrive, we must attract regional partners and build shared benefits," he concluded. "Despite sanctions, the direction is clear — the era of Iranian satellite services has begun."

Demolish with Netanyahu, Rebuild with Trump

Donald Trump's 20-point plan contains a hidden spirit that will play an extraordinarily significant role in turning Gaza into a tourist destination in the future. I haven't forgotten that on February 11, 2024, at a Republican primary rally in South Carolina, while speaking about the Israel-Hamas conflict, Donald Trump said: "You have to handle this problem. You have to finish up this problem. You have to get it done. And I said, you ever hear of building a tunnel? I'd want to build a tunnel. If you don't mind, I'd want to build a tunnel. You have to seal up the tunnels. You have to seal up the tunnels."

The full text of his remark was as follows:

"You have to handle this problem. You have to finish up this problem. You have to get it done. And I said, you ever hear of building a tunnel? I'd want to build a tunnel. If you don't mind, I'd want to build a tunnel. You have to seal up the tunnels. You have to seal up the tunnels."

His precise meaning by "building a tunnel" was not entirely clear. Many analysts and social-media users interpreted it as a suggestion to "build a tunnel to besiege or drown Hamas's tunnels in Gaza" — an idea that seemed technically impractical and very strange.

A common interpretation was that perhaps he meant digging a large tunnel or canal around Gaza to cut off Hamas tunnels' access to water or to create an underground barrier. The remark was quickly ridiculed and widely criticized across social and news media. Many saw it as evidence of his lack of awareness of the geopolitical complexities and military realities.

But — and this is a big but — despite the oddness of the "build a tunnel" proposal, the core of his message echoed the longstanding stance of Israel and its allies: the need to destroy and seal Hamas's underground tunnels. "These tunnels are used for surprise attacks, arms smuggling, and as shelters," and they have been one of the main targets of Israeli military operations.

Palestinian officials condemned these remarks, calling them a sign of indifference to Palestinian lives and an exclusive focus on Israeli security without regard for the human toll in Gaza. Unaware that Trump, through deals with Netanyahu using Israeli budgets and U.S. aid, had paved the way for commercial opportunities for himself. Trump's 20-point plan states that Gaza will not become Israel's territory and will remain Palestinian; Israel will withdraw. Humanitarian aid will be allowed into Gaza; militarism in Gaza will be halted; collective civilian elections and technocrats will be chosen; and with our money we will rebuild Gaza so that it becomes the Western Middle East's leisure and tourist destination.

With Trump's plan, Israel's security would be guaranteed and Gaza would receive money by becoming the bride of the Middle East. Even Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia would participate in secularizing Gaza.

30 percent Gaza, 30 percent Arabs, 40 percent Trump.

Housing + modern urban planning + one hundred 5- and 7-star hotels, an international airport and casinos — oh my.

Israel happy, America happy, the people of Gaza happy.

Now, can we find the dissatisfied parties? And that's that.

Iran Navy Wins 2025 IONS Rescue, Shooting Contests



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Navy won top honors in both the rescue and relief and shooting contests held as part of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2025 Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Working Group in Nowshahr.

The competitions, held on the sidelines of the international meeting on October 6–9 at the Imam Khomeini Naval University, brought together naval teams from Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, the United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, and China.

The competition aimed to enhance operational rescue skills and coordination during maritime emergencies.

During the rescue drills, participants responded to simulated distress calls, swam to a damaged vessel, located an injured person, and safely transferred the casualty to shore.



Cyberattacks Against Iran Continue

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The Secretary of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace and Head of the National Cyberspace Center, Dr. Seyed Mohammad Amin Aghamiri, announced that Iran continues to face ongoing cyberattacks, noting that cybersecurity specialists are working around the clock to counter them.

Speaking at a conference in the holy city of Qom honoring online activists for their efforts during the “12-Day Sacred Defense in Cyberspace,” Aghamiri said the United States, in its 2023 Department of Defense strategy document, identified five domains of warfare, one of which is cyberspace.

Youth Unemployment Declines and Service-Sector Jobs Grow in Summer



TEHRAN - The Statistical Center of Iran has released the results of its latest labor force survey, offering a new snapshot of the country's job market during the summer of 2025. Conducted across both urban and rural areas with a sample of 60,648 households, the study reveals notable changes compared to the same period in 2024.

The new report shows that the unemployment rate among young people aged 15 to 24 dropped by one percentage point compared with last year—reaching 15.9% in rural areas and 20.1% in cities. This marks the lowest youth unemployment rate since 2020, largely attributed to higher labor force participation and the entry of more young people into service and industrial jobs.

The overall national unemployment rate stands at 7.5%, a slight 0.1% increase from the summer of 2024. In urban areas, the rate is 7.0%, while in rural regions it is 5.3%. Among the provinces, Ardabil recorded the highest unemployment rate at 10.6%, and West Azerbaijan the lowest at 5.2%.

Employment in the service sector rose from 59.5% in summer 2024 to 60.3% in summer 2025. This 1.6-point increase occurred mainly in urban areas, driven by growth in education, healthcare, and digital businesses.

The share of underemployment—workers who work fewer hours than standard or earn insufficient income—increased in urban areas from 6.2% to 6.8%, but declined in rural areas to 10.3%. This indicator reflects persistent job quality issues, especially in provinces with low overall unemployment.

The share of university graduates among all unemployed persons fell by 3.6 points to 40.3%, while graduates make up 27% of the total employed population. According to the Statistical Center, the drop in graduate unemployment is mainly due to their absorption into service and technology-related jobs, though their unemployment rate remains above the national average.

Two Out of Every Three Iranians Will Be Elderly in 60 Years



TEHRAN - Deputy Health Minister has warned that the country is facing a dramatic demographic shift, stating that within the next 60 years, two out of every three Iranians will be elderly.

Dr. Alireza Raeesi, Deputy Minister of Health, made the remarks during a visit to the Tooba Health House and Medical Center in the village of Kafi-al-Malek, Shabestar County.

“The aging rate in this region has reached 24 percent,” Raeesi said, adding that while there are few pregnant women, the village currently has 30 infertile individuals who require specialized medical support.

Raeesi also highlighted the role of volunteer physicians and philanthropists in improving healthcare services in underserved areas. “Many benevolent doctors are working voluntarily across the country, but sustaining their efforts requires support and infrastructure,” he emphasized.

Dr. Hossein-Ali Shahriari, head of the Parliament's Health Commission, also attended the event. He praised the contributions of health philanthropists, calling their role “invaluable and praiseworthy” in advancing healthcare services.

“This facility was built to serve as a clinic,” Shahriari said. “However, I propose that it be upgraded and licensed as a charitable medical center.” He expressed gratitude to local benefactor Mr. Khoshghadam for his generosity, noting that “philanthropists play a crucial role in strengthening Iran's healthcare sector.”

Member of Parliament Mahmoud Taheri, who represents Shabestar, also attended the event. He commended the Ministry of Health and the Parliamentary Health Commission for their on-site visits to underprivileged areas, saying such fieldwork helps enhance healthcare services.

Iraqi PM Orders Expansion of Tourism Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN - The head of Iraq's Tourism Organization under the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities announced that Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al-Sudani has issued an order to strengthen tourism cooperation with Iran. According to the directive, developing tourism is one of Iraq's three main priorities in its relations with other countries, including Iran.

Nasser Ghanem Murad made the remarks on Wednesday, October 8, during a meeting with a 40-member delegation of leading Iranian tour operators and key figures from the country's tourism sector who had arrived in Baghdad as part of the “Iran Tourism Roadshow in Iraq.”

“Tourism's mission is to promote openness, respect for cultures, and the strengthening of ties between nations,” Murad said, emphasizing the importance of expanding tourism between Iran and Iraq.



Iran's tourism sector: “Given Iraq's growing tourism infrastructure, our government and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities warmly welcome the participation of Iranian tourism companies. We hope this roadshow will mark a new chapter of increased cooperation and higher tourist exchanges between the two countries.”

Meanwhile a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance tourism cooperation between Iran and Iraq was signed in Baghdad, marking a significant step toward facilitating the exchange of up to 10 million tourists between the two neighboring nations each year.

The agreement was signed during the “Iran Tourism Roadshow” event in Baghdad by Hormatollah Rafiei, head of the Association of Air Travel and Tourism Services Offices of Iran, and Haider Amer

Al-Dujaili, head of the Association of Travel Service Offices of Iraq. Under the MoU, the private sectors of both countries committed to sending five million tourists annually to each other's destinations.

Rafiei praised the efforts of tourism professionals in both countries, calling them “the pioneers of the tourism industry in Iran and Iraq who help keep the tourism economy vibrant.” He said the cooperation agreement represents a milestone in developing bilateral tourism.

He noted that hosting the Iran Tourism Roadshow in Iraq and signing the bilateral cooperation agreement would help shift Iran's tourism focus from Western markets toward neighboring countries. “With this MoU between the private tourism sectors of Iran and Iraq, the share of inbound tourists between the two nations will reach 50 percent,” Rafiei added.

He continued: “Fortunately, the Iran Tourism Roadshow in Iraq and the signing of this bilateral cooperation agreement—covering a wide range of destinations beyond religious tourism—will create a balanced two-way tourism flow between Iran and Iraq.”

Rafiei emphasized that, according to the signed agreement and with the efforts of private tourism stakeholders and the support of both governments, “Iran and Iraq aim to reach an annual exchange of five million tourists each way, totaling 10 million travelers between the two countries every year.”

He also announced that the MoU was finalized following a joint meeting between Iran's Association of Air Travel and Tourism Services Offices and Ahmed Al-Hakkak, Iraq's Minister of Tourism and Antiquities, and was officially signed in Baghdad.

Rafiei concluded that this agreement would usher in a new era of structured, diversified, and balanced tourism relations between Iran and Iraq, expanding cooperation well beyond religious travel.

Iran Among Leading Countries in Biotechnology

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) emphasized the importance of self-sufficiency in producing biotech medicines and plasma-derived products, calling investment in these areas vital for reducing foreign currency dependency and boosting exports of high-quality Iranian pharmaceuticals.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a new biopharmaceutical production complex, Mehdi Pirsalehi, head of the FDA, said that despite the country's difficult economic conditions, sanctions, and foreign exchange transfer challenges, local pharmaceutical companies continue to face liquidity constraints.

“In such conditions, when we see new investors relying on domestic expertise to produce high-quality medicines and planning for export markets, it makes us proud,” Pirsalehi stated.

He praised facilities that maintain high GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) standards, saying that visiting such sites “removes the fatigue from our work.”

Pirsalehi acknowledged the complexity of establishing a pharmaceutical factory, noting that from design to execution — especially meeting GMP and quality standards — the path to sustainable production and eventual export requires great persistence and effort.

Highlighting Iran's achievements in biotechnology, Pirsalehi noted that the country has made significant investments in this field since the early 2000s.

“Today, Iran is among the leading countries in biotechnology, and each new facility added to this sector is a source of national pride,” he said.

He also underlined the shortage of plasma-derived product production in Iran and stressed the need for further investment in this area. Currently, only two plasma fractionation plants are operational in the country, while domestic demand far exceeds existing capacity.

“A large amount of plasma is currently sent abroad for processing and then re-imported as medicine. We hope that with increased investment, we can meet more of our domestic needs through local



production,” Pirsalehi added.

Pirsalehi explained that importing high-quality medicines remains necessary for treatments that cannot yet be produced domestically. He commended companies that initially operated as importers but have since invested in local manufacturing, describing this as a sign of long-term commitment to national healthcare.

“We hope all pharmaceutical industry players succeed in improving public health so that we can build a healthier and more prosperous Iran,” he said.

On the sidelines of the event, the FDA chief explained that the new plant will produce recombinant protein drugs, which are among the most advanced medicines globally. These are used to treat various diseases, including cancer, autoimmune disorders, and other conditions that do not respond to conventional therapies.

“This site has made significant investments to ensure product quality and has plans to enter export markets. These drugs will not only aid patients but also reduce foreign currency outflows,” Pirsalehi said.

He noted that bringing biotech drugs to market is a time-intensive process requiring clinical trials, but expressed hope that promising products will reach patients soon.

Discussing plasma-derived products, Pirsalehi mentioned that albumin and IVIG are among the most widely used medicines in this category. Other essential products, such as Factor VIII, Factor IX, fibrinogen, and several others, are also obtained from human plasma.

In the past, Iran sent plasma abroad for purification and imported the resulting medicines back into the country. Now, with two domestic plasma fractionation facilities active — with a total capacity of about 300,000 liters per year — production still falls short of the country's actual need, which is estimated at 1.5 million liters annually.

“A new plant with a planned capacity of 100,000 liters is under design and expected to join the national production network soon,” Pirsalehi said, adding that Iran still needs more plasma processing facilities to achieve full self-sufficiency.

Construction of 63 Bridges and a 2-Kilometer Tunnel to Link Iran's Railway to Europe



TEHRAN - The Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development announced that along the 160-kilometer Rasht–Astara railway — designed to transport 15 million tons of cargo annually — 63 bridges totaling 41 kilometers in length and a 1,960-meter tunnel are currently under construction.

Houshang Bazvand, during a joint visit to the project site with Mohsen Haji-Mirzaei, Chief of Staff to the President, Hadi Haqshenas, Governor of Gilan Province, and the Commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, described the project as a key component of the North–South Transport Corridor, emphasizing that its completion will play a decisive role in connecting Iran's rail network to Europe.

Bazvand highlighted the strategic importance of the Rasht–Astara railway, saying: “This project is one of the main links in the International North–South Transport Corridor. Once completed, Iran's railway network will connect directly to European transit routes, enhancing the country's position in regional trade.”

He added that, following a special directive from the President and continuous follow-up by the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, the joint visit was conducted to review the project's progress and address technical and financial challenges in a specialized meeting afterward.

Providing technical details, Bazvand noted that the railway is designed for trains traveling at up to 160 km/h. The project includes 63 bridges totaling 41 kilometers and a 1,960-meter tunnel. It is expected to handle 15 million tons of freight annually once operational.

Target Set for 300 Annual Trains on the China–Europe Route



TEHRAN - The CEO of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) announced that, following new agreements among six countries along the China–Europe railway corridor, the number of trains operating on this route is expected to reach 300 per year.

Jabbarali Zakari, in an interview with IRNA, said that under the new agreement between Iran, China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, train traffic from China to Europe through these countries has been operational and is steadily increasing.

The Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development noted that only seven trains traveled this route last year, while 22 trains have already made the journey to Europe since the start of this year.

“Given the economic advantages of this route for companies and cargo owners, and following the latest meeting among the six participating countries' railway officials, we aim to reach an annual target of 300 trains,” Zakari said.

“To facilitate this goal, existing obstacles have been resolved, and the countries have agreed on a unified and standardized tariff for transit operations.”

Zakari also provided an update on the Tehran–Ankara international passenger train, explaining that its full resumption remains delayed due to track damage caused by the earthquake in Turkey two years ago.

“Turkish authorities have reported that repair and rehabilitation work is still underway. We are waiting for the completion of these upgrades before resuming full-speed operations,” he said.

Blast Destroys Tennessee Munitions Plant

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Eighteen people were missing and feared dead following an explosion at a munitions factory in rural Tennessee on Friday that obliterated the building and was felt for miles around. The explosion at Accurate Energetic Systems about 60 miles (100 km) west of Nashville caused multiple fatalities but officials had yet to determine a death toll as of late Friday night. Humphreys County Sheriff Chris Davis told a press conference the scene was "one of the most devastating situations that I've been on in my career," and that it would take time to determine the cause. "There's not going to be a short explanation for that," Davis said, adding that investigators from the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were at the scene.



North Korea Shows Off Most Powerful Missile at Military Parade



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea showed off its "most powerful" intercontinental ballistic missile at a military parade attended by top officials from Russia and China, Pyongyang's state media reported Saturday.

The event to mark 80 years under the ruling Workers' Party came as leader Kim Jong Un has been emboldened by the war in Ukraine, securing critical support from Russia after sending thousands of North Korean troops to fight alongside Moscow's forces.

Dmitry Medvedev, deputy head of Russia's Security Council and a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, attended the parade Friday alongside Chinese Premier Li Qiang and Vietnam's leader To Lam -- all seated near Kim, according to images released by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The spectacle featured some of the country's most advanced weapons, including its new Hwasong-20 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which KCNA described as its "most powerful nuclear strategic weapon system".

Thousands of people in colourful traditional dress filled the streets of the North Korean capital for the late-night event, the images showed, waving national flags and cheering as weapons rumbled down the main streets.

Among the featured weapons, long-range strategic cruise missiles, drone launch vehicles, and ground-to-air and ground-to-ground missiles paraded one after another, KCNA added.

The country's "invincible" army "has always added doubled strength to our Party's efforts to overcome difficulties and bring earlier a bright future", Kim said in a speech.

UNSC Members Voice Concern About U.S.-Venezuela Tensions



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - U.N. Security Council members expressed concern about escalating tensions between the United States and Venezuela, with Russia accusing Washington of using a shoot-first "cowboy" principle in attacking alleged drug boats.

Russia's Ambassador to the United Nations Vassily Nebenzia told a meeting of the 15-member U.N. council that Venezuela had every reason to believe the United States was ready to move from threats to action against it.

Countries including U.S. allies France, Greece and Denmark called for de-escalation and dialogue to resolve tensions, and adherence to international law.

The United States has struck several vessels allegedly carrying drugs off the coast of Venezuela in recent weeks. The U.S. representative to the U.N. meeting, John Kelly, said Washington "will not waver in our action to protect our nation from narco terrorists."

The strikes - part of what the Trump administration has called a conflict with drug cartels - have alarmed Democratic lawmakers and raised questions as to their legality as Trump expands the scope of presidential power.

Nebenzia said Russia condemned the strikes as gross violations of international law and human rights, adding that "boats that people were on were simply fired upon in the high seas without a trial or investigation." He said this was done "according to the cowboy principle of 'shoot first'."

Gazans Trek to Ruined Homes as Israeli Forces Pull Back Under Ceasefire

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Thousands of displaced Palestinians trekked over the wastelands of Gaza to return to the ruins of their abandoned homes on Friday, after a ceasefire took effect and Israeli troops began pulling back under the first phase of an agreement to end the war.

A huge column of people filed on foot north along the coastal road overlooking sandy beaches towards Gaza City, the enclave's biggest urban area, which had been under attack just days ago in one of Israel's biggest offensives of the war.

"Thank God my house is still standing," Ismail Zayda, 40, said in the Sheikh Radwan district of Gaza City. "But the place is destroyed, my neighbours' houses are destroyed, entire districts have gone."

In the south, people picked their way through the dusty moonscape that was once Gaza's second-largest city, Khan Younis, which Israeli forces razed this year. Most walked in silence.

A middle-aged man, Ahmed al-Brim, was pushing a bicycle with bundles of scrap timber tied to the front and back: his family would need the firewood to cook. It was all they had been able to recover from the ruins of their home.

"We went to our area. It was exterminated. We don't know where we will go after that," he said. "We couldn't get the furniture, or clothes, or anything, not even winter clothes. Nothing is left."

Palestinian health authorities said medical teams were able to recover 100 bodies from areas across the Gaza Strip after the army pulled back.

Even as Gazans headed home, questions loomed about whether the ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange deal between Israel and Hamas, the biggest step yet toward ending two years of war, would lead to a lasting peace under U.S. President Donald Trump's 20-point plan to end the war.

Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump expressed confidence the ceasefire would hold, saying: "They're all tired of the fighting." He said he believed there was a "consensus" on the next steps but acknowledged some details would still have to be worked out.

The Israeli military said the ceasefire agreement had been activated at noon local time (0900 GMT).

The first phase of Trump's plan to halt the conflict between Israel and the Hamas militant group gives Israeli troops 24 hours to pull from positions in urban areas, although they will still hold more than half of Gaza.

Israeli police said they were preparing for Trump's visit on Monday that officials said would include a speech to the Knesset,



Mahdi Saqla, 40, said his family had decided to set off north towards Gaza City as soon as they heard the news of the ceasefire. "Of course there are no homes - they've been destroyed," he said. "But we are happy just to return to where our homes were, even over the rubble. That too is a great joy. For two years, we've been suffering, displaced from place to place."

Israel's government ratified the ceasefire with Hamas in the early hours of Friday. Once Israeli troops have pulled back, Hamas has 72 hours to release the 20 living Israeli hostages it is still holding.

Trump said the hostages are due to "come back" on Monday.

Israel will free 250 Palestinians serving long terms in its prisons and 1,700 detainees captured during the war. Hundreds of trucks per day are expected to surge into Gaza carrying food and medical aid.

Israeli military spokesperson Brigadier General Effie Defrin urged residents of Gaza to avoid entering areas under Israeli military control: "Keep to the agreement and ensure your safety," he said on Friday.

Israel's parliament, the first by a U.S. president since George W. Bush in 2008.

Trump said he would head to the Middle East in coming days and planned to address Israel's parliament in Jerusalem. He said he would also travel to Egypt and that other world leaders were expected to be present. Axios reported earlier that Trump plans to convene an international summit on Gaza while in Egypt.

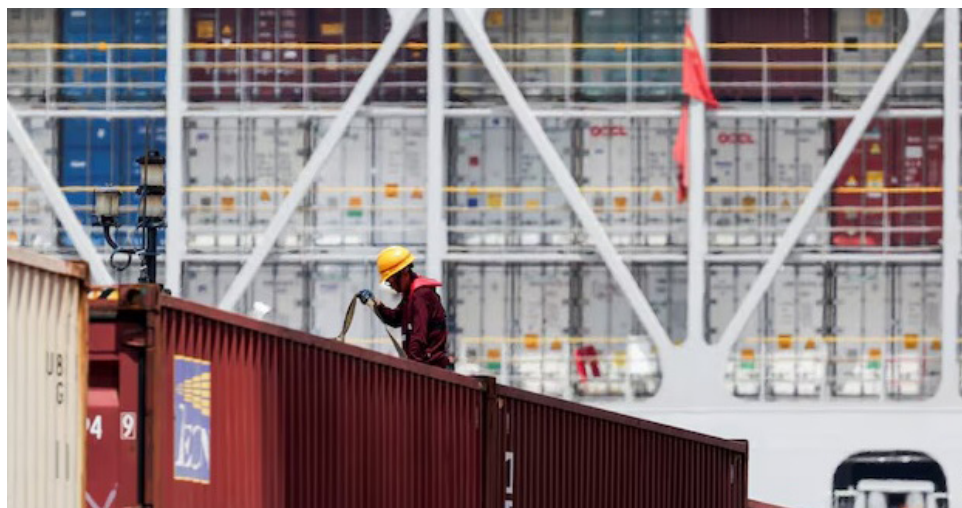
The next phase of Trump's plan calls for an international body - the "Board of Peace" - to play a role in Gaza's post-war administration. The plan calls for Trump to lead it and includes former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

But in a potential challenge to this element of the plan, Hamas issued a statement late on Friday rejecting what it called any "foreign guardianship," adding that governance of Gaza was purely an internal Palestinian matter.

In a televised address, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israeli forces were staying in Gaza to ensure Hamas was disarmed: "If this is achieved the easy way, then that will be good, and if not, then it will be achieved the hard way."

As the day wore on and it became clear troops were no longer blocking the roads into cities, an initial trickle turned into a flood of Palestinians returning from makeshift tented camps to the homes they had left behind.

Trump Ratchets Up U.S.-China Trade War, Promising New Tariffs



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump revived the trade war against Beijing on Friday, ending an uneasy truce between the two largest economies with promises to sharply hike tariffs in a reprisal against China curbing its critical mineral exports.

The president unveiled additional levies of 100% on China's U.S.-bound exports, along with new export controls on "any and all critical software" by November 1, nine days before existing tariff relief is set to expire.

Trump also called into question the prospects for a previously announced meeting set for three weeks from now with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, saying on Truth Social that "now there seems to be no reason to do so."

"I haven't canceled," Trump later told reporters at the White House. "I would assume we might have it." Beijing has never confirmed the meeting.

The new trade steps were Trump's reaction to China dramatically expanding its rare earth element export controls. China dominates the market for such elements, which are essential to tech manufacturing.

"It was shocking," Trump said of China's steps, which did not specifically target Washington. "I thought it was very, very bad."

The actions signaled the biggest rupture in relations in six months between Beijing and Washington - the world's biggest factory and its biggest consumer. Many questioned whether an uneasy economic detente reached over the summer can survive.

It was a swift and dramatic response by Trump, a Republican who has

wielded tariffs paid by U.S. importers against friends and foes. It could escalate a trade war that Washington and Beijing paused earlier this year after painstaking diplomacy.

Experts said restrictions on U.S. software shipments to China could be a massive blow to the country's tech industry, including cloud computing and artificial intelligence.

Trump also threatened new export controls on airplanes and airplane parts, and a person familiar with the matter said the administration was sketching out other possible targets.

Beijing has long called for Washington to abandon unilateral trade restrictions it says undermine global commerce.

Trump's trade threats - delivered in a series of social media posts and a public back-and-forth with reporters - sent markets and relations between the world's largest economies into a spiral.

China produces over 90% of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets. Many are vital materials in products ranging from electric vehicles to aircraft engines and military radars.

Trump's unexpected broadside shook global financial markets, sending the benchmark S&P 500 Index sliding by more than 2%, its biggest one-day drop since April when a steady barrage of tariff announcements by Trump stoked market volatility.

Investors fled into the safe haven of gold and U.S. Treasury securities, and the U.S. dollar weakened against a basket of foreign currencies.

Tech stocks piled on losses in after-market trading after Trump detailed the tariff and export control measures.

"Trump's post could mark the beginning of the end of the tariff truce," said Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. Singleton said Washington viewed China's export control steps as a betrayal. "Beijing appears to have overplayed its hand."

In his first social media post on Friday, Trump said China has been sending letters to countries worldwide saying it planned to impose export controls on every element of production related to rare earths. The reference to letters was an apparent reference to Beijing's policy papers.

Trump said he had been contacted by unnamed countries incensed over Beijing's steps and said he was surprised because of the "very good" recent relationship with China.

Machado Wins Nobel Peace Prize, Dedicates to Trump

OSLO (Dispatches) - Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for fighting dictatorship in the country and dedicated the award in part to U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly insisted he deserved it.

Machado, a 58-year-old industrial engineer who lives in hiding, was blocked in 2024 by Venezuela's courts from running for president and thus challenging President Nicolas Maduro, who has been in power since 2013.

"Oh my God ... I have no words," Machado told the secretary of the award body, Kristian Berg Harpviken, in a phone call which the Nobel Committee posted on social media.

"I thank you so much, but I hope you understand this is a movement, this is an achievement of a whole society. I am just one person. I certainly do not deserve it," she added.

She later said, in an X post in English: "I dedicate the prize to the suffering people of Venezuela and to President Trump for his decisive support of our cause!"

Trump is a fierce critic of Maduro and the U.S. is one of a number of countries that



does not recognise his government's legitimacy.

The White House had earlier criticized the Norwegian Nobel Committee's decision to focus on Venezuela just days after Trump announced a breakthrough in talks to halt the fighting in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

"President Trump will continue making peace deals, ending wars, and saving lives... The Nobel Committee proved they place politics over peace," White House spokesperson Steven Cheung said in a post on X.

Maduro, whose 12 years in office have been marked by deep economic and social crisis, was sworn in for a third term in January this year, despite a six-month-long election dispute, international calls for him to stand aside and an increase in the U.S. reward offered for his capture.

"When authoritarians seize power, it is crucial to recognise courageous defenders of freedom who rise and resist," the Nobel Committee said in its citation.

Marco Rubio, now Trump's secretary of state, nominated Machado for the Peace Prize together with a group of U.S. members of Congress in August 2024, when he was still a senator.



Medvedev in Shanghai Semis

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - A cramping Daniil Medvedev battled through physical discomfort and marathon rallies to defeat Alex de Minaur 6-4 6-4 on Friday, reaching the Shanghai Masters semi-finals for the first time since his 2019 title triumph.

Medvedev's victory over the Australian seventh seed marks a milestone 50th career top-10 win for the former U.S. Open champion and sets up a last-four clash with Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech.

The match between Medvedev and De Minaur showcased two of tennis's flattest hitters engaged in gruelling baseline exchanges, with some rallies exceeding 20 shots, before the Russian prevailed in just under two hours despite cramps.

"I was super tired I knew that against Alex we were going to have long points. I think in the third or fourth game, we had a couple and I was like, 'Damn, that's going to be a long day,'" 16th seed Medvedev said.

"But I'm happy with the way I played. I was really clutch in important moments. I was hitting the ball great. I was putting him under pressure many times. And in the second set ... I managed to really bring the best of me in the last two games."

The victory extends Medvedev's strong Asian swing form, having reached the semi-finals of the China Open -- where he retired with cramps -- before arriving in Shanghai.

De Minaur failed to capitalise on break points in the opening set as Medvedev found his rhythm with net approaches and pinpoint accuracy to all corners of the court.

At 5-4, the Australian saved two set points but could not prevent Medvedev from claiming the opener with a thunderous cross-court forehand volley that drew roars from the crowd.

The pair were neck-and-neck in the second set until Medvedev pounced at 4-4, firing a winner down the line before the Russian immediately called for a trainer to massage his legs as he suffered a bout of cramps.

However, undeterred by the discomfort, he served for the match and wrapped up the contest with an ace to reach his 50th hard-court semi-final.

Earlier, Rinderknech produced a commanding performance to upset Canadian 12th seed Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3 6-4, joining his cousin Valentin Vacherot in the semis.

Rinderknech's win came a day after Vacherot, ranked 204th in the world, shocked Danish 10th seed Holger Rune to become the second-lowest ranked player ever to reach an ATP Masters 1000 semi-final.

Their fairytale run has set the stage for a potential family showdown, though four-times Shanghai champion Novak Djokovic looms large in Vacherot's path.

"First of all, I follow my cousin. He's going through the emotions, and I'm trying to battle to follow and do as good as him," Rinderknech said, as Vacherot cheered him from the stands.

"It's been incredible since the beginning of the week, the whole family following from home. We are in our little world of our own.

"It's been incredible, it's been unreal. It's been a good performance from myself - happy to get the win, two sets so I can be not too tired for tomorrow."

The 30-year-old Rinderknech also made history as the oldest first-time ATP Masters 1000 semi-finalist since German Jan-Lennard Struff achieved the feat in Madrid in 2023.

Ranked 54th, Rinderknech is set to break into the top 40 for the first time when the latest ATP rankings are released on Monday.

Kimmich Double Fires Germany Top in 4-0 Win Over 10-Man Luxembourg



SINSHEIM (Dispatches) - Germany's Joshua Kimmich netted twice to power his side to a 4-0 home win over Luxembourg in a World Cup qualifier where the visitors went down to 10 men in the first half and the hosts moved top of the standings in a tight Group A.

Germany were playing catch-up after losing their opening game 2-0 in Slovakia, their first away defeat in a World Cup qualifier. After a 3-1 win over Northern Ireland, Julian Nagelsmann's side continued their revival against Luxembourg.

The win combined with Slovakia's 2-0 defeat in Northern Ireland puts the Germans top on goal difference, with the Irish second and the Slovaks dropping to third, with all three teams on six points. Luxembourg are bottom without a point.

The group winners qualify automatically with the runners-up advancing to the playoffs. Germany are already assured of a playoff spot thanks to their Nations League ranking.

Germany laid siege to the visitors' goal from the start and Nick Woltemade appeared to have scored his first international goal after he deflected in Serge Gnabry's shot, but his effort was ruled out for handball.

David Raum opened the scoring in the 12th minute, netting his first goal for Germany in style by curling a free kick around the wall which beat goalkeeper Anthony Moris at his near post.

Luxembourg lost defender Dirk Carlson to a red card for a handball in the area and Kimmich converted the resulting penalty in the 21st minute but, despite their numerical advantage, the hosts failed to increase their lead before the break.

That quickly changed after the interval, when a Karim Adeyemi pass sent Gnabry racing into the box and he smashed his effort past Moris three minutes into the second half.

Two minutes later, after Luxembourg failed to clear the ball from inside the six-yard box from a corner, Kimmich pounced to net from close range.

Estevao, Rodrygo Help Brazil Thrash South Korea 5-0



SEOUL (Dispatches) - Brazil's Estevao and Rodrygo each netted twice as the visitors cruised to a 5-0 victory over South Korea in a friendly on Friday, showcasing a dominant display under Italian manager Carlo Ancelotti at the Seoul World Cup Stadium.

Brazil opened the scoring in the 13th minute through 18-year-old winger Estevao from close range after a perfectly weighted through ball from Bruno Guimaraes.

They doubled the lead in the 41st with a piece of brilliance as Rodrygo curled a strike into the bottom corner to finish a fine collective effort by the five-times world champions.

Brazil struck again after the break as Estevao capitalised on a misplaced pass from Kim Min-Jae in the 47th for his second before Rodrygo finished off a swift move started by Vinicius Jr, who wrapped up the win after another counter in the 77th.

The result highlighted the attacking dynamism of Ancelotti's Brazil side as they prepare for the 2026 World Cup.

The Italian, who took over in May after a tricky qualifying campaign, has prioritised attitude and adaptability in the limited time before next year's tournament in North America.

Brazil's win marked their third in five matches under Ancelotti as his bold attacking set-up overwhelmed a South Korean side left chasing shadows.

Brazil lined up with four forwards and only two midfielders, relying on high pressing and rapid transitions.

Vinicius Jr and Rodrygo swapped roles between the left wing and central attack, while Matheus Cunha operated as a deep-lying playmaker and Estevao ran up and down the right channel.

Mbappe Leads the Charge as France Beat Azerbaijan

PARIS (Dispatches) - Striker Kylian Mbappe played saviour as France closed in on qualification for next year's World Cup with a lacklustre 3-0 home win over Azerbaijan in their Group D qualifier on Friday, before coming off late with a painful ankle knock.

The 26-year-old opened the scoring on the stroke of halftime and set up Adrien Rabiot for the second, with substitute Florian Thauvin adding a third to put Les Bleus on nine points from three games and give Didier Deschamps' side a chance to secure qualification on Monday when they travel to Iceland.

France were missing several key players, with Paris St Germain forwards Ousmane Dembele, Desire Doue and Bradley Barcola all sidelined through injury, but former PSG duo Mbappe and Rabiot got the job done despite an appalling first half.

Azerbaijan, who next play second-placed Ukraine (four points), remain bottom of the table with one point behind Iceland who have three after three games.

"We got the result we wanted but not the performance -- especially in the first half," Deschamps told a press conference. "Our ball circulation was too slow, it was all a bit too flat. I can't stop players from thinking the goal will come eventually, but we didn't do enough to unsettle them."



Les Bleus stretched their unbeaten run in World Cup and European Championship qualifiers to 26 games, although they did not do it in style.

Mbappe had their first chance within seconds followed by a powerful angled strike from Malo Gusto at a quiet Parc des Princes. Hugo Ekitike also tested goalkeeper Shakhruddin Magomedaliyev, but France lacked a cutting edge in a largely

underwhelming first half.

On the stroke of halftime, however, Mbappe slalomed through the visitors' defence and found the back of the net with a neat low shot to put France ahead.

Ekitike came close early in the second half, his angled right-footed effort bouncing off the far post.

Rabiot finally put the result beyond doubt in the 69th minute, heading home from Mbappe's cross from the left.

Six years after his last cap, Thauvin -- a world champion with Les Bleus in 2018 -- replaced Mbappe in the 83rd minute after the captain took a knock to his ankle and scored a subtle volley with his first touch a minute later.

"Kylian is in great shape -- he's the leader, the captain, and he was already in this kind of form back in September," said Deschamps. "He had a sore ankle, and as often happens, he took another knock in the same spot. He preferred to come off because the pain had become quite intense."

Meanwhile Sweden's hopes of qualifying for next year's World Cup are hanging by a thread after Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka scored from the spot to help the visitors win 2-0 in their qualifying Group B clash on Friday.

Jaiswal Nears Double Hundred as India Reach 318-2 Against West Indies

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal feasted on a modest West Indies attack and struck a majestic 173 not out to power the hosts to a commanding 318-2 on the opening day of the second and final test at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Jaiswal hit 22 fours in his fifth 150-plus score in tests to show why he is one of the world's most exciting batsmen.

India captain Shubman Gill was batting on 20 at stumps and would be pleased at how his batters vindicated his decision to bat first in the bid to secure a 2-0 series sweep.

"We all know that he (Jaiswal) is very aggressive and he likes to score runs quickly," India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said of how the opener paced his knock.

"Even after being not so aggressive, he's still batting on 173. That shows how good he's batted ... I think he was brilliant



today."

It was the first time Gill had won the toss since taking over as India test captain earlier this year.

KL Rahul (38) survived a close lbw appeal but Jaiswal was rock solid during their opening stand of 58.

Touring captain Roston Chase opted for spin from both ends and harnessed Jomel Warrican with Khary Pierre.

Warrican lured Rahul out of the crease with his third delivery and spun it past the bat. Wicketkeeper Tevin Imlach, one of two new faces in the West Indies playing XI, had all the time in the world to whip off the bails.

Jaiswal reached his fifty in the first over after lunch when he hit Jayden Seales for three fours and brought up his seventh test hundred, taking two off Pierre's bowling.