

The Iranian Embassy in Caracas Has Criticized the Nobel Committee for Awarding This Year's Peace Prize to the Person Who Called for a Foreign Military Invasion of Venezuela

# IRAN NEWS

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## Iran, Pakistan Call for Active Diplomacy to Enhance Regional Peace



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran and Pakistan have underlined the need for developing an active diplomatic approach aimed at promoting regional peace and stability.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Pakistani counterpart, Mohammad Ishaq Dar, made the remarks in a Saturday telephone conversation, during which they discussed significant regional and international developments.

The top diplomats emphasized the importance of developing active diplomacy, exchanging information, and boosting coordination to promote peace and stability in the region.

They also called for strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as bolstering regional interactions and using all capacities in the fields of trade and transit.

The two sides further welcomed the cessation of Israel's two-year-long genocide in the Gaza Strip and exchanged views on future joint efforts.

Following three days of indirect negotiations in Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Hamas resistance group agreed to a Gaza ceasefire plan proposed by US President Donald Trump.

Under the first phase of the deal, which came into effect at noon local time on Friday, Hamas would free 48 captives — dead and alive — in exchange for the release of roughly 2,000 Palestinian abductees being held in Israeli jails.

## Iranian Navy: A Pillar of Expanding Global Engagements



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Deputy Commander of the Iranian Navy has described the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval forces as a key pillar in expanding maritime diplomacy and strengthening Iran's international engagements.

Speaking on Saturday on the sidelines of the International Workshop on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) hosted by the Navy in Nowshahr, Rear Admiral Faramarz Bamani highlighted the Iranian Navy's growing role in promoting diplomacy through active regional and global cooperation.

"Over the past years, the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy has achieved the strategic goals outlined by the Supreme Leader regarding the development and empowerment of naval capabilities," Rear Admiral Bamani told reporters. "The Navy now acts as a de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs at sea, playing a vital and decisive role in fostering international maritime relations."

He pointed out that the annual organization of international meetings—particularly among Indian Ocean littoral states—serves as a clear example of effective diplomacy, yielding positive feedback and satisfaction from participating countries.

According to Bamani, the Navy's success is reflected in the increasing number of nations responding positively to Iran's invitations to joint exercises and maritime cooperation events. "Joint drills, training programs, and active engagement with regional navies demonstrate the continuous growth of Iran's maritime relations and cooperation," he added.

## No Trust in Israel, No Talks Beyond Nuclear Issue

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says Iran welcomes cessation of the Israeli regime's genocide in the Gaza Strip, while advising serious caution in light of multiple instances of Tel Aviv's betrayal of previous agreements.

The top diplomat made the remarks in an extensive televised interview on Saturday, addressing the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas' recently agreeing to implementation of a first phase of a ceasefire plan aimed at ending the two-year-plus genocide.

"We have always supported any plan or initiative that would put an end to the crimes and genocide against the people of Gaza," he said, but cautioned, "There is absolutely no trust in the Zionist regime, and there have been multiple instances where it has violated ceasefires."

Araqchi said the Islamic Republic has issued necessary warnings about the possibility of non-commitment to ceasefire by either the regime or the United States that has devised the plan.

He reminded that Palestinian groups have only agreed to the first phase of the proposal, noting that more difficult stages lied ahead and asserting that there were "serious doubts" regarding the US's adherence to its claims and promises concerning Gaza.

"That will be the time to see to what extent the American officials and other parties will remain committed to the claims and promises they have made."

Araqchi, meanwhile, cited Russian President Vladimir Putin's recently conveying a "message" relayed by the regime about its allegedly not seeking war.

The official, though, also pointed to the repeated precedence of the regime's attacking the Iranian soil, including during Tel Aviv's unprovoked and illegal war on the Islamic Republic in June.

Accordingly, the country's Armed Forces are in a constant state of alert and are increasing their capabilities every day, he said, adding, "The possibility of deception and trickery in the Israeli regime is very high."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official addressed US President Donald Trump's having tried to tie such regional issues with the issue of talks concerning Iran's nuclear energy program.

He ruled out any connection between the two matters.

"We have always stated firmly that our negotiations are limited solely to the nuclear issue," Araqchi stated.

"Neither in the past nor recently have we ever, ever, held any talks with the Americans or any other party on any matter beyond the nuclear issue, especially as far as the resistance is concerned."

Araqchi categorically ruled out any prospect of Iran's joining the so-called Abraham Accords that has seen the US broker detentes between some regional states and the Israeli regime.

He called the accords "treacherous" and geared towards enabling recognition of an illegitimate, occupying, genocidal, and child-killing regime, normalization of relations with it, and deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights.

"This plan is entirely incompatible with our ideals, and such a thing (Iran's participation in it) will never happen."

Araqchi separately addressed the issue of the European trio of the UK, France, and Germany's having proposed fresh talks with Iran.

He noted that the offer came, while the countries in question had triggered the so-called "snapback" mechanism inside a 2015 nuclear deal that has re-imposed nuclear-related sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

"We do not see any grounds for negotiation with the Europeans," he said, reiterating Tehran's position that by triggering the mechanism, the Europe had lost its role in the nuclear issue.

"They should give us just one reason why we should negotiate with them again."



Concerning talks with the United States, Araqchi cited U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff's having most recently voiced readiness for talks, but then refused to join multi-party discussions also involving Europeans and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s director-general.

"The reason was that he had insisted that we accept their demands before holding the meeting."

The foreign minister cited Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei as describing talks with the U.S. as "a complete deadlock."

He, however, noted that "this does not mean a total rejection of negotiations."

"If a reasonable, balanced proposal based on mutual interests and mutual respect is presented, one that safeguards the interests of the Iranian people from a position of equality, it will certainly be considered."

Araqchi reminded that the rights of the Iranian people were a red line, adding, "We will not give up Iran's right to enrichment."

The Islamic Republic, the official said, was ready, as in the past, to work towards confidence-building and ensuring transparency to prove the peaceful nature of its nuclear activities.

"Provided that, in return, they also build trust with us and lift the unjust sanctions they have imposed."

Therefore, in order for fresh talks to take place, the US should "not mistake negotiation with dictating" its preferences, he added.

The official referred to an agreement reached in Cairo on September 9 with the IAEA towards resumption of cooperation between the two sides, saying activation of the "snapback" had caused the deal to "lose its effectiveness."

However, if "fair proposals are presented in a way that safeguards the rights of the Iranian nation, and if a role is defined for the agency in the process of reaching a solution, we can return to this agreement," Araqchi said.

Therefore, if cooperation is in the country's interest, the Islamic Republic's Supreme National Security Council will make the necessary decisions accordingly, he noted.

For this reason, it cannot be said that Iran's relations with the agency are completely severed; rather, the Cairo agreement has been temporarily set aside.

The foreign minister addressed the sanctions returned following activation of the "snapback" mechanism, saying the country was still selling its oil despite the bans.

"The markets we control are the result of years of efforts to neutralize and circumvent sanctions; now we have our own markets."

The adverse effects of these sanctions, he added, would not be greater than the unilateral and illegal ones that have been returned by the US.

"The economic damage will not be greater than what it currently is," he said, adding, "There may be minor issues, but not entirely."

He also advised against confronting Iranian vessels in line with the "snapback" sanctions, saying "we will respond appropriately and proportionally."

"I hope the parties do not create further tension in the region and instead work toward reducing it, because regional tension benefits no one."

Araqchi also addressed existing tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, saying the Islamic Republic was consulting both sides towards enabling de-escalation.

Tehran, he said, has not yet officially recognized the new Afghan government, but is cooperating with them at the level of intergovernmental interaction.

The official noted that he had most recently spoke with his Pakistani counterpart concerning the standing disputes, saying similar consultations will also take place with Afghan counterparts "so that we can resolve this issue," while preventing confrontation.

"Our position is that both sides must exercise restraint."

## Iran Supports Any Palestine-Backed Initiative to End Gaza War



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - In a parliamentary address on Sunday, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf reaffirmed that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports any initiative aimed at ending the war crimes and genocide in Gaza — provided it is endorsed by the Palestinian people.

"I emphasize that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports any initiative backed by the people of Palestine to stop the ongoing genocide in Gaza," Qalibaf stated during the open session of the parliament. "A permanent end to this genocide, halting the aggression and occupation of Gaza, withdrawing from occupied territories, lifting the blockade, reopening border crossings, and allowing the free entry of food, medicine, and essential goods are the immediate demands of the Palestinian people and resistance groups — and these are also strongly supported by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He noted that over the past two years, the Iranian Parliament has actively engaged in international forums to help establish a ceasefire in Gaza and end the ongoing bloodshed, working in coordination with countries around the world, particularly parliaments from Islamic nations.

Qalibaf described the Gaza ceasefire as a "defeat" for what he called the Israeli prime minister's "plans to recover from the failure of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm." He said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had sought to restore "a lost sense of security" among Israeli settlers by setting clear goals — eliminating Hamas, freeing hostages by force, and forcing the displacement and evacuation of Gaza. "After two years of genocide, famine, and the killing of women and children, the steadfastness of the people of Gaza and the support of

the Resistance Axis forced the world to rise against these 21st-century Nazis," Qalibaf said. "Ultimately, the U.S. and this regime were compelled to accept defeat and sign a ceasefire without achieving any of their declared objectives."

The speaker added that despite the heavy human cost, the Palestinian people had "imposed their will on the criminal regime," and that the Zionists had become "one of the most hated entities in the world."

"The world has entered an era of awakening that cannot be reversed or silenced," he continued. "The Israeli criminals are now isolated and despised, while Palestine stands proud and free. It is only reasonable that

governments, international courts, and judicial bodies pursue the prosecution of the Zionist regime's criminal leaders and all those responsible for the genocide in Gaza. These institutions must not allow their credibility to be tarnished by a handful of unrestrained war criminals."

Qalibaf went on to praise the "vigilance" of the Palestinian people and the Resistance Axis, saying they remain "ready to respond decisively to any deceit, violation, or aggression." He called on the international community to take responsibility for preventing violations of the ceasefire by the "occupying regime," just as Palestinian groups remain alert and prepared.

In closing, Qalibaf paid tribute to fallen resistance leaders, including Yahya Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and Sayyed Hashem Safi al-Din, saying, "I send greetings and peace to all the martyrs of the resistance who sacrificed their precious lives in the struggle against the Zionist enemy."

He also extended condolences to lawmaker Mr. Zohrevand on the passing of his mother, praying for divine mercy for the deceased and patience for her family.

## President Emphasizes Acceleration in Construction of Solar Power Plants



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian said all existing contracts for the construction of solar power plants could be implemented and inaugurated within a year. He added that, according to reports from the Ministry of Energy, building solar power plants will not only help solve the country's electricity shortage but also represent a major step toward environmental protection.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of a 250-megawatt solar power plant and the groundbreaking of an additional 450 megawatts of solar capacity, Pezeshkian stressed the need to accelerate the construction of solar facilities. He stated that the government is fully prepared to remove any obstacles hindering progress, address electricity supply imbalances, and facilitate private sector participation in this field.

"We must move forward in a way that ensures no factories face power shortages next summer," the President said, adding that this issue remains a top priority for the government.

Highlighting the crucial role of energy in modern life, Pezeshkian emphasized that both production sectors and everyday life depend heavily on reliable energy. "All projects aimed at boosting energy production — including the construction of solar plants — must advance swiftly," he said, instructing provincial governors to closely monitor private sector projects and quickly resolve any issues that may arise.

Pezeshkian reiterated that all solar power plant contracts could be completed within one year, citing Ministry of Energy data that solar expansion would significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to environmental protection. "This makes investment in solar energy even more vital," he noted.

## Hamas representative says "Hamas Is Alive"



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Khaled al-Qaddoumi, the Hamas representative in Tehran, said Saturday that "Hamas is alive" and vowed that the group's weapons will not be handed over, speaking at the Eighth International Conference of Solidarity with Palestinian Children and Youth and at a memorial for Mohammad al-Dura.

Al-Qaddoumi praised what he called the steadfastness of the Palestinian people since the October 7 operation he referred to as the "Al-Aqsa Storm." He said the Israeli regime has become "a common enemy of humanity" and argued the world has recognized that the root cause of insecurity is the Israeli state.

"Palestine's people and heroes in Gaza and everywhere stood tall, and because of their standing a great epic was written and the prestige of this occupying regime was broken," he said.

He said that 77 years of struggle and 77 years of crimes by Israel have occurred and claimed the international community did not come to rescue Palestinian children or help the people — but that, he said, on October 7 "these criminals — Britain, Germany and France" launched a joint war against Palestine in the land and that the Western colonial project in their view "collapsed in the heart of our lands." "October 7 is a day of God's days and believers are proud of it," he added.



# IRAN NEWS



## FM Araqchi Highlights Importance of Iran-Africa Ties

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has stressed the importance of relations between Iran and African countries. Araqchi made the remarks in a meeting with Mahmoud Khani-Jooyabadi, Iran's new ambassador to Mali. He stressed efforts to strengthen Iran-Mali relations, especially in the economic field.

Jooyabadi presented a report on his proposed plan and the status of Tehran-Bamako bilateral relations in various fields.

### Iran Ready to Attract Malaysian Mining Investment



TEHRAN - The Vice President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, who also heads the Iranian Mining House, announced that Iran is ready to attract Malaysian investment in its mining sector.

In a meeting with Khairi Omar, Malaysia's ambassador to Tehran, who led a delegation of Malaysian investors visiting the Iranian Mining House, Mohammadreza Bahraman emphasized that the necessary infrastructure for mining investment in Iran is in place.

During the meeting, Bahraman outlined Iran's vast mineral resources and technological capabilities in extraction, processing, and value addition across various mineral types. He stated that the path for cooperation between Iran and Malaysia in the mining sector is clear. "Just as investors from countries such as Russia and Georgia have entered the Iranian market, Malaysian investors can also take advantage of these opportunities," he said.

He noted that, in addition to exporting different minerals, Iran itself represents a large market for the use of mineral products extracted and processed domestically.

The head of the Iranian Mining House stressed the need to enhance Malaysian investors' awareness and understanding of Iran's mining potential and capabilities. He explained that one of the key initiatives undertaken by the Iranian Mining House is to promote Iran's mining strengths among foreign business communities, providing them with information on the country's regulations, procedures, and key investment considerations.

Bahraman also called for the Malaysian delegation to visit Iranian mines firsthand and confirmed that all necessary infrastructure is ready for Malaysian mining investors to operate in Iran.

### Value of Iran's Steel Chain Exports Rises 26% in H1



TEHRAN - The Iranian Steel Producers Association has released export statistics for the first six months of the Iranian year 1404 (March–September 2025), showing a 26% increase in the total value of the country's steel chain exports compared with the same period last year.

According to the report, the export volume of iron and steel products rose by 34%, while total exports across the entire steel value chain — from raw materials to finished products — recorded a 45% increase. This marks a notable turnaround, as exports had declined during the first quarter of the year.

The value of Iran's iron and steel chain exports reached nearly \$4 billion in the first half of 1404, driven by higher global prices and stronger overseas demand.

The association noted that exports of upstream materials in the steel production chain continue to grow sharply, with iron ore concentrate exports doubling compared with the same period last year — a trend that has raised concerns among domestic steelmakers about raw material shortages.

However, the report also highlights a significant decline in long steel product exports, particularly rebar, which traditionally accounts for over 85% of the total export tonnage in this category. Rebar exports fell 22% year-on-year, signaling weaker competitiveness or domestic supply constraints.

In contrast, exports of steel sheets and flat products nearly tripled, surpassing \$320 million. This growth is attributed to a stronger export-oriented strategy by major producers such as Mobarakeh Steel Company and its subsidiaries, including Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Automotive Sheet Company.

Overall, the data point to a robust rebound in Iran's steel export value, though the sector continues to face imbalances between upstream raw material exports and downstream finished product performance.

## Non-Oil Exports Reach \$25.94b in Six Months

TEHRAN - The head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, announced that the country's non-oil exports reached \$25.94 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March–September 2025), a slight increase from \$25.92 billion during the same period last year. While the export value remained nearly unchanged, export volume grew by 6 percent.

Speaking at a press conference ahead of Iran's 29th National Export Day, Dehnavi described last year as "a remarkable and unprecedented year" for non-oil exports, with total exports hitting \$57 billion, marking a 15.8 percent increase from the previous year — the highest figure in Iran's trade history.

He noted that exports in the early months of this year faced setbacks due to events such as the 12-day war, an explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port, and energy shortages, but the trend improved in subsequent months.

According to Dehnavi, imports totaled \$28.36 billion in the first half of this year — down 15 percent from \$33.46 billion in the same period last year. He attributed this decline partly to tighter import controls, which reflect efforts to balance trade and reduce dependency on foreign goods.

He added that 85 percent of imports consist of raw materials and capital goods, emphasizing that a decline in imports is "not necessarily a positive sign," as it could affect production.

Overall trade volume reached \$54 billion in the first six months, showing a 9 percent decrease compared to the previous year. However, the trade deficit improved significantly, narrowing from a negative \$7.5 billion last year.

Dehnavi stated that Iran's Seventh Development Plan targets a 23 percent growth in exports. Despite internal and external challenges, he expressed optimism, saying the government is "committed to overcoming obstacles and achieving positive growth."

The 29th National Export Day will be held at the end of October under the theme "Smart Trade, Export-Oriented Production." The event will honor the country's top exporters and promote a culture of export-driven growth.

Addressing the potential impact of the "snapback mechanism" (reactivation of international sanctions), Dehnavi said it poses restrictions on foreign trade but noted that "current conditions are not worse than before," as U.S. sanctions have already limited access to formal financial systems.

He warned, however, that new restrictions could raise trade and financial transaction costs, especially in the oil sector. Despite this, Iran's private sector has gained extensive experience in navigating such restrictions and developed alternative mechanisms to sustain trade.

Dehnavi also discussed the issue of exporters' foreign exchange commitments (returning export proceeds to Iran), a policy introduced in 2018 and reinforced in



2022 under the amended Anti-Smuggling Law. While some exporters have complied, others have not.

He noted that not all returned currency is reflected in official statistics, as some imports occur through informal channels that are not government-approved.

Regarding gold imports, Dehnavi said that exporters were previously allowed to import gold to settle their currency commitments. However, the Central Bank of Iran has since limited this practice, citing no domestic demand for gold.

He explained that last year's gold imports faced difficulties due to the absence of a regulated market and high conversion costs. To address this, a second trading platform will be launched, allowing exporters to exchange foreign currency more flexibly and at lower costs, without direct Central Bank intervention.

Dehnavi questioned the accuracy of currency allocation data reported by the Central Bank's online systems, noting discrepancies in the amount of foreign currency that actually reaches importers.

He explained that for products like dried fruits, prices are aligned with global market rates and the free-market exchange rate, so exporters and producers are not harmed by currency fluctuations since domestic raw material prices are similarly tied to global benchmarks.

The TPO chief announced an extension for exporters from 2018 to 2021 to settle their foreign exchange obligations through rial-based settlements until the end of December 2025. Exporters can pay a fine to clear their records and re-enter the export cycle.

He said the program, initially set to end in September, was extended due to high demand but will not likely be renewed again. Exporters are urged to finalize their settlements before the deadline.

Dehnavi also mentioned that a special committee was formed to handle delayed imports, granting temporary extensions to importers who faced legitimate obstacles such as sanctions, transportation issues, or banking restrictions. Failure to import goods within the given timeframe will result in heavy fines.

A comprehensive "Export Promotion and Currency Generation" package has been drafted under the Seventh Development Plan to enhance export support mechanisms, which is currently under review by the government.

Following the explosion at Shahid Rajaei Port, Dehnavi said several measures have been taken to compensate affected traders. The Central Bank has requested that impacted importers face no financial or trade restrictions until the end of the year and be provided with replacement foreign currency. However, he acknowledged that some compensation issues remain unresolved and require further follow-up with insurance authorities.

## Iran's Purchasing Managers' Index for the Overall Economy Stands at 45.5

TEHRAN - According to estimates by the Research Center of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, the country's overall Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) — known locally as Shamekh — for September was recorded at 45.3, showing a slightly slower decline compared with the previous month but remaining below the neutral threshold of 50 for the 18th consecutive month.

The report indicates that production and service output in September continued to shrink due to limited financial resources, power outages, and weak domestic demand.

The new orders index fell for the 19th consecutive month, though the pace of decline was milder than in August. It remains near its lowest level in recent years, mainly due to reduced consumer purchasing power amid high inflation and rising living costs. Uncertainty surrounding the possible activation of the JCPOA "snapback" mechanism has further weakened demand confidence and discouraged new purchases.

In foreign trade, exports of goods and services — a key component of the new orders index — also declined. Despite the depreciation of the rial, which temporarily made Iranian products more competitive, ongoing challenges with foreign currency commitments, regional tensions, and export restrictions have constrained non-oil exports, particularly to neighboring countries. Businesses are concerned that renewed international measures could raise export risks, reduce foreign exchange earnings, and undermine competitiveness.

Inventories of raw materials fell for the 13th consecutive month, reaching their lowest level in 31 months (since March 2023). Persistent delays in foreign currency allocation and customs clearance of imported inputs have severely disrupted supply chains. Meanwhile, rising raw material prices, combined with tight corporate finances, have added further pressure. The cost of inputs reached its highest level in seven months, while output prices recorded their highest increase in three months, reflecting continued inflationary pressures in production.

Employment levels also fell for the fourth consecutive month, marking the fifth decline since the start of the year. The contraction is attributed to stagflationary conditions — weak demand and rising costs — that have forced firms to freeze hiring or lay off workers. The burden of high living expenses has reduced worker motivation and caused shortages of skilled labor, leading to a dual labor market: fewer job opportunities but growing demand for specialized workers. These layoffs are also straining the unemployment insurance fund under Iran's Social Security Organization.

Finished goods inventories dropped to a four-month low, as firms drew on existing stockpiles to meet limited customer orders amid financing and production constraints.



Expectations for future economic activity fell for the third consecutive month, hitting the lowest point in 72 survey rounds. Concerns over the potential reactivation of the snapback mechanism and its economic consequences have sharply reduced business confidence and optimism.

The industrial PMI, which more precisely tracks manufacturing and factory activity, offered a slightly brighter outlook. The adjusted index for September stood at 50.6, signaling the end of a seven-month contraction and the first return to neutral territory. This suggests that while production remains fragile, the downward trend has temporarily halted.

The industrial output index rose to 53.5, the highest in 11 months, driven by improved access to energy and raw materials in certain sectors.

However, new orders remained below 50 for the 15th consecutive month, though the decline was the smallest in eight months. Expectations of future inflation slightly boosted short-term demand, but manufacturers continue to foresee limited domestic consumption due to high inflation, reduced purchasing power, and economic instability.

Employment in the industrial sector declined for the 11th consecutive month, with a sharper drop compared to August. Falling production and orders, along with liquidity shortages, have led firms to cut output and halt recruitment plans. A shortage of skilled labor persists, further complicating recovery efforts. The ongoing decline in formal employment also threatens Social Security revenues and heightens unemployment risks.

Raw material inventories fell for the 19th consecutive month, with a sharper contraction than in August. Key factors include exchange rate volatility, import delays, high customs costs, and liquidity shortages. Many firms have relied on existing stockpiles to fulfill orders but are unable to replenish supplies due to low demand and financial constraints.

Despite a modest rebound in production, finished goods inventories dropped to an eight-month low, as firms used up existing stock to meet limited demand amid uncertainty over future conditions.

Rising input costs and production expenses (including taxes) forced producers to raise prices, resulting in the highest increase in output prices in five months. Official data confirm this trend, showing that monthly inflation in September increased by 3.8 percentage points from the previous month — significantly higher than the long-term average of around 1.5–1.7 points.

Meanwhile, sales volumes rose for the first time in seven months, supported by a modest increase in domestic and export demand across select industries.

### Iran, Turkey Share Strong Ties and Common Positions on Various Issues



TEHRAN - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance said that the relationship between the Iranian and Turkish peoples is historic and deeply rooted, emphasizing that both governments maintain strong relations and share common positions on various issues. He expressed hope that 2025 would conclude with high-quality cultural programs held in both Iran and Turkey.

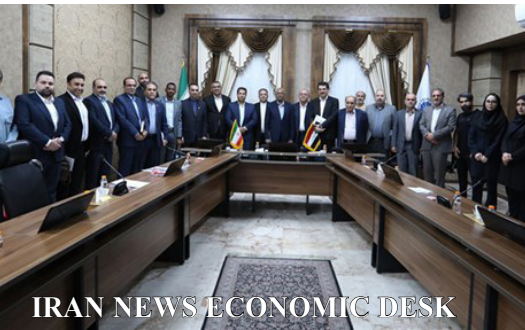
According to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's Public Relations and Information Center, Minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi made the remarks during a meeting on Saturday, October 11, with Hicabi Kurlangic, Turkey's Ambassador to Tehran. Salehi highlighted the enduring friendship between the two nations and stressed the importance of expanding cultural cooperation in the coming year.

Salehi noted that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has declared this year as the 1,500th anniversary of the birth of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). In line with this occasion, various events are being organized across Islamic countries. "We can also hold joint programs in different cultural fields," he said.

He proposed that Iran and Turkey jointly organize a "Festival of the Prophet of Mercy" this year. "Through film, performing arts, visual arts, music, and religious recitations, we can honor the luminous legacy of the Prophet of Islam," he added.

The minister emphasized the importance of strengthening media collaboration between the two countries, pointing out that Western media sometimes distort the image of neighboring nations. "There are various proposals in this regard, including expanding exchanges between media delegations," he said.

### Expanding Economic Ties Between Markazi Province and Sudan Seen as Mutually Beneficial



TEHRAN - During the Sudanese ambassador's two-day visit to Markazi Province, a joint meeting was held between Sudan's diplomatic delegation and members of the Arak Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture to discuss opportunities for strengthening bilateral economic relations.

According to the Arak Chamber's public relations office, Nasser Beiki, President of the Arak Chamber of Commerce, described Sudan as "a jewel at the crossroads of Africa and the Arab world," a country with one of the oldest civilizations on the African continent.

Beiki noted that Sudan, the third-largest country in Africa, shares many cultural and religious commonalities with Iran. He emphasized that since both nations face difficulties accessing European markets, this shared situation should be viewed as an opportunity to expand direct economic cooperation.

He identified African countries — especially Sudan — and Iran's neighboring states as priority markets for Iranian trade expansion. Beiki called Sudan a "land rich with natural and mineral resources," including vast gold and oil reserves, and said the country presents "tremendous potential for Iranian investors."

Although Sudan is strong in agriculture and livestock, he added, the country still faces shortages in related industries and processed goods — areas where Iranian producers, particularly from Markazi Province, could help fill the gap. Agricultural machinery and other industrial products from the province, Beiki said, could play a significant role in accessing the Sudanese market.



## Tens of Thousands Attend Pro-Palestinian Rally in Sydney

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people joined a pro-Palestinian rally in the business district of Australia's most populous city, Sydney, on Sunday, organisers said, after a court this week blocked a move to hold the protest at the Sydney Opera House.

Around 27 protests took place across Australia on Sunday, including in Melbourne and Sydney, said the organiser, the Palestine Action Group, which estimated a crowd of 30,000 at the Sydney rally. Police did not have a crowd estimate for the protest.

The rallies took place against the backdrop of Israeli troops pulling back under the first phase of a U.S.-brokered agreement to end the war in Gaza, which has killed tens of thousands of people and left much of the enclave in ruins.



## Japan in Political Crisis as Coalition Collapses



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's ruling coalition collapsed as junior partner Komeito quit the alliance, putting in peril Sanae Takaichi's bid to become the country's first woman prime minister.

Takaichi became head of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) less than a week ago and had been expected to be approved by parliament as premier this month. But Komeito's decision to end the alliance that has governed Japan almost uninterrupted for 25 years sank Japan into a new political crisis.

"We want the LDP-Komeito coalition to go back to the drawing board for now and bring an end to our relationship," Komeito party chief Tetsuo Saito told reporters after talks with the LDP.

"Given that we have not received clear and concrete cooperation from the LDP regarding our demands, and if these reforms prove impossible to achieve, I said (in the meeting) that it would be utterly impossible for us to write Sanae Takaichi's name in the nomination," he said.

In particular Saito told Takaichi that her answers on the LDP's recent slush fund scandal were unsatisfactory, media reports said.

Saito said however that Komeito would still support budget plans and other legislation that the two parties have prepared.

Takaichi said the coalition's collapse was "extremely regrettable" and that their decision to exit the alliance was "unilateral".

She was due to replace Shigeru Ishiba, who took the reins last year, but saw his coalition lose its majority in both houses of parliament, driven in part by voter anger at inflation and the LDP slush fund scandal.

## Madagascar Soldiers Join Protestors, Refuse Orders to Shoot Demonstrators



MADAGASCAR (Dispatches) - Groups of Madagascar soldiers joined youth-led protests in the capital of Antananarivo on Saturday after police used stun grenades and tear gas. The soldiers, who said that they would refuse any orders to shoot demonstrators, arrived at the heart of the gathering near the Lake Anosy area where they were welcomed with cheers.

Fresh youth-led demonstrations in Antananarivo drew large crowds in one of the biggest gatherings since a protest movement erupted on the Indian Ocean island on September 25.

After police used stun grenades and tear gas to try to disperse the demonstrators, soldiers arrived at the heart of the gathering near the Lake Anosy area where they were welcomed with cheers.

Protesters called out "Thank you!" to the soldiers, some of whom were waving Madagascar flags, the images showed.

At a meeting at an army barracks on the outskirts of the city earlier, the soldiers said they would not take action against the protesters.

"Let us join forces, military, gendarmes and police, and refuse to be paid to shoot our friends, our brothers and our sisters," the soldiers at the base in Soanierana district said in a video posted on social media.

They called on soldiers at the airport to "prevent all aircraft from taking off" and those in other camps to "refuse orders to shoot your friends".

# Gazans Stream Back Home as Israel-Hamas Ceasefire Holds

GAZA (Dispatches) - Thousands of Palestinians streamed north along the coast of Gaza on Saturday, trekking by foot, car, and cart back to their abandoned homes as a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas appeared to be holding.

"It is an indescribable feeling; praise be to God," said Nabila Basal as she travelled by foot with her daughter, who she said had suffered a head wound in the war. "We are very, very happy that the war has stopped, and the suffering has ended."

Israeli troops pulled back under the first phase of a U.S.-brokered agreement reached this week to end the war, which has killed tens of thousands of people and left much of the enclave in ruins.

U.S. President Donald Trump will join the leaders of more than 20 countries in Egypt on Monday for an international summit aimed at finalising permanent peace terms, a spokesperson for Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said. The summit will take place in the Red Sea resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Hamas is expected to release its remaining Israeli hostages by noon on the same day, in accordance with the terms of the ceasefire.

For many Gazans, the journey back through the enclave's wasteland led to homes reduced to rubble.

"My house, which I built 40 years ago, was gone in a moment," said Ahmed al-Jabari, as he stood in the wreckage of a Gaza City street. "I'm happy that there is no blood, no killing (but) where will we go? Will we live 20 years in a tent?"

In Israel, as dark fell, tens of thousands of people gathered in Hostages Square in Tel Aviv that was filled with joyous cheers, after two years of protests dominated by anger and heartbreak.

Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and daughter Ivanka Trump took the stage with U.S. Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, who played a key role in ceasefire negotiations since Trump took office.

"I dreamed of this night. It's been a long journey," Witkoff said. Some yelled, "Thank you, Trump, thank you Witkoff," and booed when the envoy mentioned Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Turning to the hostages, Witkoff said: "As you return to the embrace of your families and your nation, know that all of Israel and the entire world stands ready to welcome you home with open arms and endless love."



Once the Israeli forces completed their redeployment on Friday, which keeps them out of major urban areas but still in control of roughly half the enclave, the clock began ticking for Hamas to release its hostages within 72 hours, by Monday noon.

"We are very excited, waiting for our son and for all the 48 hostages," said Hagai Angrest, whose son Matan is among the 20 Israeli hostages believed to still be alive. "We are waiting for the phone call."

Twenty-six hostages have been declared dead in absentia and the fate of two more is unknown.

According to the agreement, after the hostages are freed, Israel will release almost 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, many of them captured during the war.

Hundreds of trucks per day are expected to surge into Gaza carrying food and medical aid.

UNICEF spokesperson Tess Ingram said on Saturday the United Nations' children's agency expects to significantly scale up supplies of high-energy food for malnourished children, menstrual hygiene supplies, and tents, starting on Sunday.

Witkoff, Kushner, and the U.S. military's Central Command Admiral Brad Cooper accompanied

Israel's military chief Eyal Zamir in Gaza, the military said in a statement.

Cooper said in a statement that his visit was part of the establishment of a task force that would support stabilisation efforts in Gaza, though U.S. troops would not be deployed inside the enclave.

But questions remain about whether the ceasefire and hostage-prisoner exchange deal, the biggest step yet towards ending two years of war, will lead to a lasting peace under Trump's 20-point plan.

Further steps in Trump's plan have yet to be agreed upon. These include how the demolished Gaza Strip is to be ruled and the ultimate fate of Hamas, which has rejected Israel's demands it disarm.

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

# Taliban, Pakistani Forces Clash Along Border After Kabul Accuses Islamabad of Air Strikes



KABUL (Dispatches) - Afghanistan's Taliban forces launched armed reprisals against Pakistani soldiers along the shared border, accusing Islamabad of carrying out air strikes on its soil, senior officials from several provinces said.

On Thursday, two explosions were heard in the Afghan capital and another in the southeast of the country. The following day, the Taliban-run defence ministry blamed the attacks on Pakistan, accusing its neighbor of violating its sovereignty.

"In retaliation for air strikes carried out by the Pakistani army on Kabul," Taliban forces are engaged "in heavy clashes against Pakistani security forces in various areas" along the border, the Afghan military said in a statement.

Later, Taliban defence ministry spokesman Enayat Khowarazm told AFP the "successful" operations had ended at midnight.

But he warned: "If the opposing side violates Afghanistan's territory again, our armed forces are ready to defend their territory and will respond firmly."

Islamabad did not confirm that it was behind Thursday's attacks, but called on Kabul "to stop harbouring the Pakistani Taliban (TTP) on its soil."

The TTP, trained in combat in Afghanistan and claiming to share the same

ideology as the Afghan Taliban, is accused by Islamabad of having killed hundreds of its soldiers since 2021.

Taliban officials from Kunar, Nangarhar, Paktia, Khost, and Helmand provinces—all located on the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan—confirmed that clashes were ongoing.

"This evening, Taliban forces began using weapons. We fired first light and then heavy artillery at four points along the border," a senior official in Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, bordering Afghanistan, told AFP.

"Pakistani forces responded with heavy fire and shot down three Afghan quadcopters suspected of carrying explosives. Intense fighting continues, but so far, no casualties have been reported," he continued.

In recent months, TTP militants have intensified their campaign of violence against Pakistani security forces in the mountainous areas bordering Afghanistan.

Islamabad accuses Afghanistan of failing to expel militants who use Afghan territory to launch attacks on Pakistan, an accusation denied by authorities in Kabul.

The TTP and its affiliates are behind most of the violence—largely directed at security forces.

Earlier this year, a UN report said the TTP "receive substantial logistical and operational support from the de facto authorities", referring to the Taliban government in Kabul.

Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told parliament on Thursday that several efforts to convince the Afghan Taliban to stop backing the TTP had failed.

"We will not tolerate this any longer," Asif said. "United, we must respond to those facilitating them, whether the hideouts are on our soil or Afghan soil."

Earlier Saturday, the TTP claimed responsibility for deadly attacks in several districts in northwest Pakistan that killed 20 security officials and three civilians.

# China, Philippines Trade Blame Over Boat Collision in Disputed Sea

MANILA (Dispatches) - The Philippines said a Chinese ship deliberately rammed one of its government vessels in the disputed South China Sea on Sunday, though Beijing blamed Manila for the incident.

Confrontations between Philippine and Chinese vessels occur frequently in the contested waterway, which Beijing claims nearly in its entirety despite an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

The Philippines said a Chinese coast guard ship "fired its water cannon" at the BRP Datu Pagbuaya, a vessel belonging to Manila's fisheries bureau, at 9:15 am (0115 GMT) on Sunday.

"Just three minutes later... the same (Chinese) vessel deliberately rammed the stern" of the Philippine boat, "causing minor structural damage but no injuries to the crew", the statement said.

Manila's coast guard said the incident took place near Thitu Island, part of the Spratly Islands where Beijing has sought to assert its sovereignty claims for years.

China's coast guard said the incident occurred after a Philippine vessel entered waters near Sandy Cay, "ignored repeated stern warnings from the Chinese side, and



dangerously approached" the Chinese ship.

"Full responsibility lies with the Philippine side," spokesman Liu Dejun said in an online statement.

Photos and videos released by the Philippine Coast Guard showed a China Coast Guard vessel -- with its activated water cannon -- shadowing a Philippine ship.

"Despite these bullying tactics and aggressive actions... we will not be intimidated or driven away," the Philippine Coast Guard said.

The incident is the latest in a string of recent flare-ups between Beijing and Manila in the South China Sea, a busy waterway through which more than 60 percent of global maritime trade passes.

Last month, the Philippine government said one person was injured when a water cannon attack by a China Coast Guard vessel shattered a window on the bridge of another fisheries bureau ship, the BRP Datu Gumbay Piang, near the Beijing-controlled Scarborough Shoal.

And in August, a Chinese navy vessel collided with one from its own coast guard while chasing a Philippine patrol boat near the same shoal.





## Last-Gasp Neves Winner Keeps Portugal on Track for World Cup

LISBON (Dispatches) - Portugal's Ruben Neves scored a stoppage-time goal to snatch a 1-0 win over Ireland that preserved their 100% record in World Cup qualifying Group F and consolidated top spot.

Portugal moved to nine points at the halfway stage of the campaign with a five-point lead over second-placed Hungary, who they host on Tuesday when they could secure qualification.

Neves headed home a minute into added time at the Estadio Jose Alvalade for his first international goal in 60 appearances.

It was a poignant tribute to close friend Diogo Jota, who died in a car accident in July and whose No. 21 jersey Neves wore in Portugal's first home game since the Liverpool player's death.

Cristiano Ronaldo had a penalty saved in the 75th minute as Ireland threatened to hold the hosts to a draw but the late strike kept the Irish bottom of the standings with one point.

Neves rose to head home Francisco Trincao's cross, getting to the ball ahead of goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher.

It will have come as a relief to Portugal, who had a frustrating evening trying to break down resolute Irish resistance.

It was a tough night for Ronaldo in his 50th World Cup qualifier as he struck the base of the post in the 17th minute with a left-footed snapshot from just inside the penalty box, with the rebound falling perfectly for Bernardo Silva who inexplicably scuffed his effort wide.

The 40-year-old captain had another opportunity in the 70th minute when Nuno Mendes set him up with a square pass into the penalty area, but Ronaldo got his angles wrong and shot wide.

Five minutes later, he had a chance to open the scoring when defender Dara O'Shea was adjudged to have handled the ball in the area as he rushed to block an effort from Trincao that looked to strike him on the chest rather than the arm.

It was checked, however, after Slovakian referee Ivan Kruzliak awarded a penalty and Ronaldo hit the

spot kick down the middle, but Kelleher got a trailing foot to the ball and managed to kick it away for a remarkable save.

It was the closest Ronaldo got to setting a new record of 40 goals in World Cup qualifiers and ended a run of five successive internationals in which he has scored.

The excellent Kelleher also made several key stops as Ireland were under almost constant siege with his tall defenders, notably captain Nathan Collins, proving their worth.

"It's a painful and heartbreaking result," said Ireland coach Heimir Hallgrimsson. "Our plan worked with excellent teamwork. We put a lot of energy into this match."

Meanwhile Erling Haaland scored a hat-trick to pass 50 international goals in record time as Norway cruised to a 5-0 thrashing of Israel on yesterday, edging closer to qualifying for a first World Cup finals since 1998.

Before the match in Oslo, hundreds of people attended a pro-Palestinian demonstration, chanting "Free Palestine" to protest against Israel's "genocide" in Gaza, AFP journalists reported.

Norwegian police dispersed a gathering of pro-Palestinian activists with tear gas and made several arrests.

Inside the Ullevaal Stadium, several dozen Israeli fans waved their country's flag and a banner reading "Let the Ball Talk!".

Norway now lead Group I with 18 points, six more than second-placed Italy, who beat Estonia 3-1 in Tallinn to stay on track for qualification.

The comfortable win in Oslo leaves Norway firmly in control of the group as they seek a place at next year's finals in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

After a meek performance, Israel take on Italy in Udine on Tuesday knowing they must win to keep alive their fading hopes of qualifying.

## Iraq's Iqbal Earns 1-0 Win Over Indonesia in World Cup Qualifier



JEDDAH (Dispatches)- , Oct 11 (Reuters) - Iraq sealed a 1-0 victory over Indonesia in Jeddah on Saturday to maintain their hopes of a first World Cup appearance since 1986 as Zidane Iqbal's second-half strike eliminated Patrick Kluivert's side from Asia's qualifiers for next year's finals.

Former Manchester United midfielder Iqbal, who currently plays his club football for Utrecht, netted with 14 minutes remaining after coming off the bench at the start of the second half for Graham Arnold's team.

The result means Iraq will face Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, with the winners of the tie qualifying for the World Cup while the runners-up advance to another round of preliminaries. Indonesia, meanwhile, have been eliminated after two losses.

"We knew it would be a tough game with the temperature and everything but this 1-0 victory will give us a lot of confidence," said Iqbal. "It will be a tough game against Saudi Arabia but hopefully we will win."

The Southeast Asians had looked the more likely to pick up the victory needed to keep their own World Cup dream alive.

Kevin Diks glanced his early header wide of the Iraq goal and Thom Haye was narrowly off target with a strike from distance soon after as the Indonesians made a bright start.

Mauro Zijlstra was denied his first international goal by a last-ditch tackle by Manaf Younis, the Iraq defender snuffing out the opportunity at close range as the 20-year-old forward latched onto Haye's pass into the six-yard box.

Sherko Karim's header that flew over the bar in the 29th minute was as close as Iraq came to troubling Indonesia goalkeeper Maarten Paes with Kluivert's side controlling the opening 45 minutes without reward.

A mistake by Rizky Ridho was to cost the Indonesians, however, as the defender gifted Iraq possession and the ball eventually ended up at the feet of Iqbal, who slotted a perfect finish into the bottom corner from the edge of the area.

## Ailing Djokovic Falls to World No. 204 Vacherot

SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - An ailing Novak Djokovic was knocked out of the Shanghai Masters semi-finals by world number 204 Valentin Vacherot.

The 26-year-old qualifier from Monaco beat Djokovic 6-3, 6-4 to deny him a record-extending fifth title in Shanghai.

A hobbling Djokovic threw up courtside and received medical treatment multiple times, but still managed to last two sets, although he was far from his best.

Vacherot will face either his cousin, the unseeded Frenchman Arthur Rinderknech, or Daniil Medvedev in the final.

"I'm trying to pinch myself, is this real," said Vacherot after the biggest win of his career.

"I know not many of you guys wanted me to win," he told the crowd.

"To have Novak on the other side of the court was first of all an invaluable experience for me.

"I have a hundred feelings right now."

Djokovic, 38, had said after his last match that he was concerned about his physical state, after battling through vomiting bouts, leg injury scares and fatigue throughout the tournament.

However, the 24-time Grand Slam champion looked alert and



seemed to be having a dream start when he broke in the first game.

But the satisfaction was short-lived as Vacherot broke back instantly.

The Serb former world number one began having issues in his left leg at the start of the seventh game, stopping to stretch multiple times and dropping to the ground at one point.

He had to take an extended medical break, lying on his stomach shirtless as a physio attended to his back.

He got up but was still uncomfortable, hitting a ball against the

wall in frustration after having to shake his leg out again.

With Djokovic clearly unable to move normally, Vacherot had an easy time breaking again in the eighth game, then fired two aces to hold the ninth and claim the set.

Djokovic received treatment again at the break, but was clearly still struggling in the second set.

In temperatures of 31 C and humidity levels of 62 per cent, Djokovic managed to hold the first game despite facing breakpoint twice and falling to the ground again at one point.

Serving in the ninth game he hit two double-faults in quick succession before recovering, only to ultimately be broken upon committing another.

Despite a late last-gasp effort from Djokovic, Vacherot held serve and his nerve to seal victory.

Meanwhile world number six Jessica Pegula fought back from 2-5 down in the deciding set to upset top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka 2-6 6-4 7-6(2) and set up a Wuhan Open final against fellow American Coco Gauff.

Pegula broke Sabalenka in the third set with the Belarusian serving for the match and again to move 6-5 ahead. The American squandered two match points in the next game as Sabalenka levelled, but Pegula dominated the tiebreak to seal victory after two hours and 20 minutes.

## Woods Undergoes Back Surgery to Replace Collapsed Disc

MIAMI (Dispatches) - Tiger Woods underwent lumbar disc replacement surgery in his lower back after experiencing pain and a lack of mobility, the 15-time major golf champion announced.

Woods said he had the successful operation on Friday in New York at the hands of Dr. Sheeraz Qureshi.

"After experiencing pain and lack of mobility in my back, I consulted with doctors and surgeons to have tests taken," Woods said in a statement.

"The scans determined that I had a collapsed disc in L4/5, disc fragments and a compromised spinal canal.

"I opted to have my disc replaced yesterday and I already know I made a good decision for my health and my back."

There was no timetable given for when Woods might return to competitive golf after the latest in a series of operations and



injuries that have kept him inactive since last year's British Open.

Woods suffered severe leg injuries in a 2021 car crash but returned at the 2022 Masters and finished 47th.

Woods, who turns 50 in December, had a back operation last September. He was rehabilitating from that setback when he announced last March that he had suffered a ruptured Achilles tendon.

There were available spots in his Hero World Challenge when most of the field was announced last week, but the latest announcement ends any thought Woods might play in the Bahamas event.

Woods has won 82 PGA Tour titles, matching Sam Snead for the all-time record, and ranks second on the all-time major win list, three off the record 18 won by Jack Nicklaus.

## Messi Scores Twice as Inter Miami Crush Atlanta 4-0



MIAMI (Dispatches) - Lionel Messi scored twice to spark Inter Miami to a 4-0 victory over Atlanta United, seizing the lead in Major League Soccer's scoring table in a key victory for the Florida club.

The Argentine superstar scored his 25th and 26th goals of the season, moving ahead of Los Angeles FC's Denis Bouanga in the race for the Golden Boot after starting the day tied with the Gabon international on 24 goals.

Miami, already assured of an MLS Cup playoff berth, continued their push for better playoff position.

They pulled level with Cincinnati on 62 points in the Eastern Conference, four points behind leaders Philadelphia, who have clinched the Supporters Shield as the team with the best regular season record in the league.

Messi's 39th-minute strike to open the scoring was a beauty.

Baltasar Rodriguez robbed an Atlanta defender and found Messi just outside the box. Messi strode forward and curled a left-footed shot around Pedro Amador and out of the reach of Atlanta goalkeeper Jayden Hibbert in the upper left corner of the net.

Hibbert had denied Messi in the 13th minute as the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner came up empty on a string of early attempts.

Messi was instrumental in Jordi Alba's goal that doubled Miami's lead in the 52nd minute, lofting a ball forward to the Spaniard, who chipped a left-footed shot over Hibbert into the bottom right corner of the net.

Alba's sixth goal of the season came on the day that Inter paid tribute to the former Spain and Barcelona star, who announced this week that he would retire at the end of the MLS season.