

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Says It Is Fully Prepared to Deepen Strategic Cooperation With the Yemeni Armed Forces in the Battle Against Global Arrogance and International Zionism

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Denounced as a “Politically Motivated Act Based on False Claims” the Display of a Drone in the British Parliament Allegedly Linked to Tehran, Calling It an “Absurd Show” Staged by the Israeli Lobby and Its Supporters

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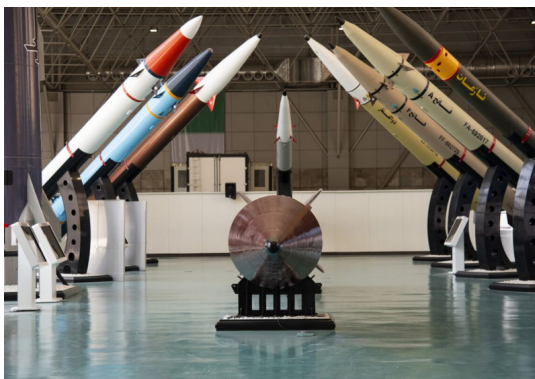
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Iran's Missile Arsenal Untouched in 12-Day War



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian commander has stated that the country's missile and defense infrastructure remained fully intact after the 12-day war, saying "not even a scratch the size of a fly's feather" was made on Iran's missiles.

Speaking in an interview, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi, deputy coordinator of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) during the 12-Day War, detailed the military course and the aftermath of the US-Israeli aggression, stressing that Iran's missile force emerged unscathed.

"Not even a scratch, not a thin line the size of a fly's feather, has been made on the body of our missiles," he said, adding that none of the country's "missile cities" were damaged and launch operations resumed quickly after attacks.

According to Naqdi, despite enemy forces bringing their full capabilities to the battlefield in Gaza—including advanced equipment and new weapons—the Israeli military failed to destroy Hamas's tunnels, the very ones its tanks drive over for two years.

Iran's tunnels, he implied, remain even more secure after just a 12-day war.

General Naqdi rejected enemy claims of destroying half of Iran's missile launchers, stating they failed to eliminate even three percent of them.

Pakistan Relaxes Trade Rules With Iran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Pakistan has relaxed its rules for trade with Iran amid efforts to boost economic exchanges between the two neighboring countries.

Reports said that the Pakistani Ministry of Commerce had exempted 57 goods and products from requirements for Iran trade, including from complying with the country's Certificate of Origin (COO) rules.

Pakistani business leaders welcomed the move, saying it would promote cross-border trade with Iran and would lead to more economic growth in Pakistan, according to a report by the economic website of the Pakistan Today newspaper.

The report said that a second list of 37 additional items is waiting for the approval of the Pakistani commerce ministry to be exempted from requirements for Iran trade.

Pakistan and Iran have sought to expand their trade relations in recent years amid efforts by Iran to engage more with its neighbors to reduce the impacts of Western sanctions on its economy.

Pakistan's ambassador in Tehran also announced on Sunday that his country had revised a 2023 Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) for barter trade with Iran, Russia, and Afghanistan, as he expressed hope that the move could substantially elevate and diversify trade between Pakistan and Iran.

Enemies Unlikely to Repeat Mistakes; Highest Level of Readiness Maintained

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, warned on Sunday that while Iran's adversaries are inherently aggressive and hostile, it is unlikely they will dare repeat their mistakes after the recent blow they suffered—"if they are wise."

Mousavi made the remarks during the graduation ceremony of Army officer cadets at Imam Ali Officer University, attended by Major General Hatami, Commander-in-Chief of the Army, other senior military officials, and linked virtually to other officer universities. He congratulated the graduates, referring to them as "officers of the Resistance Front and future commanders of the Army," emphasizing that their student years were a unique period witnessing Iran's steadfast resistance and victories against global powers.

"The world now respects Iran's faith, courage, and unity," Mousavi said. "Palestine has become a beloved name worldwide, and Gaza is an emblem of blood prevailing over the sword." He highlighted the significance of the Al-Aqsa Storm operation, describing it as a turning point in regional and global affairs, exposing the criminal and child-killing nature of the U.S. and Israel and transforming Palestine from a neglected issue into the foremost global concern.

Mousavi stressed that even skeptics now recognize that the Islamic Revolution's stance represents justice and principles: defending the oppressed is the right side of history, and resisting tyranny demonstrates wisdom, honor, and independence. He criticized Israel and the U.S. for attempting to rescue themselves from international humiliation and internal disarray by attacking Iran, noting that they suffered a crushing defeat and ultimately requested a ceasefire.

The general warned that adversaries are now attempting to recover from their defeat through a full-scale cognitive war—a campaign of misinformation, psychological operations, and narrative manipulation aimed at weakening Iran's national unity and resilience. "What they could not achieve through force and military operations, they now pursue through distortion, rumors, and fabricated narratives," Mousavi said.

He underscored the necessity for the Armed Forces to maintain the highest level of readiness, urging media and intellectuals to counter enemy disinformation with clarity and accurate reporting. "Universities and research centers must produce critical analyses and strategic thought," he added, highlighting that modern warfare extends beyond weapons to meanings and narratives. Mousavi called on the Iranian public to maintain social resilience with confidence and faith.

Reiterating that Iran is not seeking war but remains fully prepared, Mousavi said, "We closely monitor enemy movements, we understand the rules of engagement, and while we have no intention of acting now, our response—if required—will be entirely different this time."

He recalled that the adversaries had spent 15 years planning, training, and preparing for confrontation, believing they had chosen the optimal moment. Yet, under the leadership of the Supreme Leader, with divine assistance, the vigilance of the Iranian nation, and the bravery of the armed forces, Iran delivered an unforgettable blow.

Mousavi also emphasized the long-term significance of this generation, stating, "Future generations will remember this nation and its armed forces with pride. Just as Iran has overcome obstacles in the past, it will prevail over current challenges."

He concluded by advising new officers to strengthen spirituality, self-discipline, scientific knowledge, military skills, physical fitness, emotional resilience, creativity, and technological competence to ensure success in future battlefields and cognitive warfare. Mousavi offered gratitude for the guidance of the Supreme Leader and prayed for his continued protection over defenders of justice worldwide.

The graduation ceremony underscored Iran's commitment to cultivating a resilient military leadership prepared to confront both conventional and psychological threats, emphasizing the strategic importance of national unity, readiness, and ideological steadfastness.

Russian Banks Start Processing Iranian LCs



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Banks in Russia have started processing letters of credit (LCs) issued by Iranian banks amid growing trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

Central Bank of Iran's deputy governor for foreign exchange operations said on Sunday that two banks in Russia had agreed to accept Iranian-issued LCs to help facilitate trade between Iran and Russia.

Alireza Gachpazzadeh said that the new arrangement would boost Iran's ability to import basic goods, especially agricultural staples, from Russia.

Gachpazzadeh said a third Russian bank may follow suit and start processing LCs issued by Iranian banks in the near future.

An LC is a document issued by a bank guaranteeing a buyer's payment to a seller. The decision in Russia to accept LCs issued by Iranian banks would significantly reduce the costs of imports for Iranian businesses.

The measure comes amid growing economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Russia as the two countries seek to reduce the burden of Western sanctions on their economies.

Tehran and Moscow have also expanded their banking relations in recent years as part of efforts to accommodate growing volumes of bilateral trade.

Russia's second-largest bank, the VTB, announced in January that it would upgrade its representative office in Tehran to a branch, becoming the first Russian bank to establish a branch in Iranian territory.

It was also announced in May that Russian citizens holding bank cards connected to their national payment system, known as Mir, were able to use the cards for making payments inside Iran.

Enemies Seek to Spread Fear in Iran's Economy



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Affairs, Hamid Ghanbari, has warned that foreign adversaries are attempting to spread fear and instability in Iran's economy and markets as part of a broader strategy to pressure Tehran into changing its foreign policy and conceding more in negotiations.

Speaking on Monday at the first ECO Insurance Conference, Ghanbari emphasized the need for domestic resilience and public optimism to counter the effects of external pressure. "We must reduce the impact of sanctions by maintaining hope, supporting our people, and fostering a thriving economic environment," he said.

Ghanbari stated that Iran's legal position on the so-called "snapback" mechanism—which would automatically reinstate United Nations sanctions lifted under the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)—is firmly based on international law.

"There is strong legal reasoning that reactivation of the snapback mechanism is unlawful," he explained. "Because of the divisions among the permanent members of the UN Security Council, attempts to renew these sanctions have failed and will continue to fail."

He added that adversaries understand that the economic impact of renewed sanctions would not be the same as before, given Iran's diversified trade structure. "That is why they are now trying to instill fear among our people rather than relying on sanctions alone," he said.

Reflecting on Iran's earlier responses to sanctions, Ghanbari said that some former officials once described the sanctions as mere "scraps of paper" in an attempt to ease public anxiety. "While those measures sought to maintain morale, sanctions did affect people's lives. But today, the situation is very different," he noted.

He emphasized that no one in the current administration denies the real impact of sanctions, adding: "We should neither exaggerate nor downplay their effects, but explain the situation clearly to the public."

Iran Declares UN Resolution 2231 Concluded, Reaffirms Nuclear Rights



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baqaei, stated that Iran, Russia, and China have jointly affirmed their positions regarding UN Security Council Resolution 2231, signaling that the resolution should now be considered concluded, and that the UN Secretariat must act accordingly.

Speaking at the weekly press briefing, Baqaei addressed recent diplomatic developments, emphasizing Iran's focus on regional stability and its commitment to defending its nuclear rights. He highlighted ongoing concerns in Palestine, criticizing Israel for more than 80 ceasefire violations, which resulted in nearly 100 Palestinian deaths, and noted that the Rafah crossing remains closed, preventing humanitarian aid from reaching Gaza. "The Israeli regime has failed to honor its promises, and the guarantors of agreements have passively allowed continued attacks," he said.

Baqaei also underscored the significance of the Uganda conference, where the Non-Aligned Movement expressed strong support for Iran, rejecting claims by three European countries attempting to reinstate UN sanctions. "This was not merely a written message—it reflected the global community's concern over unilateral power grabs," he stated.

Regarding Resolution 2231, Baqaei said Europe's attempt to exploit the UN process failed due to opposition from permanent Security Council members, Russia and China. "The joint letter from Iran, Russia, and China confirms that Resolution 2231 should be considered terminated, and the UN Secretariat must act accordingly," he emphasized. He added that while the European trio created legal confusion, the majority of the international community rejects their stance.

Baqaei reaffirmed Iran's position on Gaza, calling for an immediate halt to Israeli attacks, lifting the blockade, and rebuilding efforts. "From the outset, we have stressed the need to compel Israel to stop killing civilians in Gaza. No responsible individual can deny this," he said, citing past failures

of Israel to honor agreements, including ceasefires in Lebanon.

On Iran-Russia cooperation, Baqaei confirmed ongoing collaboration in all sectors, including defense, based on several key agreements, noting that the conclusion of Resolution 2231 will not hinder bilateral cooperation.

Regarding Iran's nuclear program, Baqaei emphasized that the termination of Resolution 2231 does not affect Iran's inalienable rights, including uranium enrichment and peaceful nuclear development. He noted that since 2018, both the U.S. and the three European countries have been considered violators of the JCPOA, whereas Iran fully complied with all obligations, confirmed in 15 official IAEA reports.

On the European countries' recent calls for negotiations, Baqaei responded bluntly: "They must demonstrate that they are reliable partners. Evidence suggests they lack both capability and political will to influence regional developments."

Baqaei also addressed broader regional concerns, including tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan, expressing relief that a ceasefire agreement was reached and urging continued dialogue to reduce regional instability. He criticized U.S. intentions regarding the Bagram base in Afghanistan, noting that America's presence there historically brought insecurity, instability, and drug trafficking.

Concerning the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Baqaei stressed that Iran expects the agency to act independently and free from political pressure. "We object if political motives influence IAEA reports; the agency must maintain neutrality and technical credibility," he said.

Finally, Baqaei criticized the U.S. for repeatedly abusing Security Council mechanisms, including vetoing actions against Israel, and reiterated that no Security Council decision reinstating sanctions against Iran has been legitimately adopted.



Call for Stronger Economic Cooperation Among Caspian Sea Nations

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, Hadi Tizhoush Taban, has called for strengthened economic and trade cooperation among Caspian Sea countries, emphasizing the region's strategic importance. Speaking at the 22nd Meeting of the International Council for Business Cooperation of Caspian Sea Chambers of Commerce, Tizhoush Taban said the Council, founded nearly 30 years ago by Russia, Kazakhstan, and Iran, aims to expand regional and transregional trade relations.

Need to Address Transport Challenges and Ease Visa Procedures



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A joint meeting between Vietnamese business representatives and members of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce was held at the chamber's headquarters in the presence of the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Iran. The session focused on strengthening bilateral trade and addressing key challenges in cooperation.

According to the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, the meeting explored opportunities for collaboration in sectors such as steel, refineries, cement, home appliances, construction, and bitumen. Discussions also covered the introduction of an online visa system and measures to streamline visa issuance for Isfahan's business community. The meeting was seen as a significant step toward expanding economic relations and enabling the international presence of Isfahan's private sector.

Amir Keshani, President of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, underscored the critical role of transportation infrastructure in trade development between Iran and Vietnam.

"Efficient transport systems are essential for expanding trade between our two countries," Keshani said. "No commercial exchange can succeed without resolving logistical issues."

He also highlighted the importance of addressing banking and financial transaction challenges within the framework of the Iran-Vietnam Joint Economic Commission. Keshani emphasized that facilitating business visas for Isfahan's entrepreneurs is another key priority, suggesting that collaboration with the Vietnamese Embassy could pave the way for smoother visa issuance for registered traders.

Vietnamese Ambassador to Iran, Nguyen Luong Ngoc, praised the dynamism of Isfahan's business community, saying:

"I am impressed by Isfahan's vast industrial and commercial potential. It has long been the industrial and creative heart of Iran, excelling in metallurgy, handicrafts, textiles, food processing, nanotechnology, and precision engineering."

He noted that while trade between Vietnam and Iran has grown in recent years, there remains great untapped potential. The ambassador called for organized visits of Vietnamese traders to Isfahan's international exhibitions and reciprocal visits by Isfahan's business delegations to Vietnam, stressing that "this meeting is just the beginning of a promising economic partnership."

Trinh Hoang Son, First Secretary at the Vietnamese Embassy in Iran, addressed concerns about the visa process, announcing that the embassy had reported current issues to Vietnam's Immigration Department and was awaiting an official response.

He explained that under the new e-visa system, a designated embassy representative will coordinate directly with the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce to receive lists or official introductions of applicants, allowing chamber members to obtain visas more efficiently.

Mostafa Dolatyar, Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Isfahan, described the meeting as a symbol of both nations' determination to deepen economic, cultural, and academic ties. He encouraged business owners to openly share their challenges and recommendations to ensure that such meetings lead to tangible and actionable results.

Industrial Leaders Voice Concern Over Negative Economic Growth

TEHRAN - Members of the Industry Commission of the Iran Chamber of Commerce have expressed serious concern about Iran's negative economic growth rate amid heightened international tensions, stricter sanctions, and instability in the foreign exchange market.

During the commission's latest session, members discussed the current challenges facing the country's industrial sector and emphasized the need to strengthen business resilience, provide constructive policy recommendations to the government, and ensure stronger support for the private sector. They also called for simplifying trade regulations and facilitating the presence of Iranian products in global markets.

Opening the meeting, Abolfazl Roghani Golpayegani, Chairman of the Industry Commission, highlighted the deteriorating state of key economic indicators.

Citing a report by the Iranian Parliament Research Center, he said:

"According to the latest data, the country's economic growth is around minus three percent. The government had promised a four-percent growth rate, but current trends show this goal has not been achieved. Immediate action and policy review are essential."

Roghani stressed that chambers of commerce play a vital role in communicating the private sector's concerns to policymakers:

"The Industry Commission is the voice of Iran's businesses. We must accurately convey their problems, insights, and recommendations to the government to ensure they are reflected in decision-making."

In a presentation titled "Enhancing SME Resilience through Productivity," Majid Younesi analyzed key factors for sustaining industrial operations amid uncertainty.

He identified supply chain efficiency and risk management as the two core elements of resilience for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Younesi argued that improving productivity can significantly boost firms' capacity to withstand economic shocks, urging comprehensive planning to strengthen resilience through smarter supply chain and risk strategies.

Sayyed Baqer Sharifzadeh, a member of the Tabriz Chamber of Commerce, warned that shortages of raw materials have become one of the main obstacles to production. He called for urgent action to facilitate imports:

"Borders must be opened, and currency holders should be allowed to import raw materials freely. Otherwise, production will grind to a halt."

Sharifzadeh criticized restrictive trade policies, saying they "contradict the very concept of resilience" and have, in effect, halted industrial activity. He proposed the creation of special committees to ease customs procedures and address foreign exchange issues affecting exporters.

"The World's Doors Are Closed to Us" – Need for Regulatory Reforms

Masoud Ta'amoli, a member of the Iranian Composite Association, criticized the country's weak international engagement and technological isolation.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



"We have closed the world's doors on ourselves. As a result, we are deprived of modern technology, which directly impacts our productivity and competitiveness," he said.

He emphasized that government support packages should focus not only on budget allocations but also on simplifying regulations to help producers and private businesses operate more effectively under current conditions.

Abdollah Yazdanbakhsh, from the Mashhad Chamber of Commerce, called for unity among producers and investors, warning against passivity:

"If we lose hope, no one will come to our aid. We must stay organized and proactive — advising ministers and officials on how to make effective decisions, because their choices directly shape the future of production."

He reiterated that many existing laws are anti-production, stressing that "industrial growth requires motivation and practical solutions," which are currently lacking.

Mohammad Hassan Ebrahimi Yazdi, from the Industrial Automation Association, said supply chain diversification is crucial for resilience.

He argued that resilience should not mean mere survival but rather adaptive growth through innovation, digitalization, data analytics, and modern risk governance.

Without these tools, he said, "smart decision-making and sustainable resilience will remain out of reach for Iranian enterprises."

Navid Izadpanah, CEO of Steel Alborz and a leading home appliance manufacturer, criticized the government's economic approach, saying:

"When asked how the Ministry of Economy plans to boost resilience, the minister replied: 'By slowing the velocity of money.' But in economics, slower money circulation means lower productivity."

He accused the government of prioritizing short-term inflation control over long-term industrial growth, creating tension between public policy and private sector needs.

"As long as the government pursues short-term resilience, sustainable benefits for production and the private sector will remain out of reach," he warned.

Abbasali Motosselian, a polymer industry entrepreneur from Yazd, highlighted Iran's troubling global ranking in productivity.

"Out of 182 countries, Iran stands at 174th. This means 174 nations are more productive than us," he said, calling for a fundamental rethink of the government's approach to resilience and private sector participation.

He questioned whether the government views resilience as a shared goal or merely as an operational directive for businesses:

"It seems we are treated not as partners, but as instruments of policy execution," he remarked, criticizing the growing pressures on transparent and compliant companies, which, he said, "bear the heaviest burden of taxation and regulation."

Foreign Investment in Iran Still Alive



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Despite ongoing economic and political challenges, foreign investment in Iran "remains active and alive," according to Farshid Shekarkhodaei, Chair of the Investment and Financing Commission of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

In an interview with ICCIMA Online, Shekarkhodaei reported that the latest meeting of the Investment and Financing Commission, held on Sunday, October 18, reviewed updated reports on foreign investment applications and developments in the sector.

He emphasized that "foreign investment in Iran is still functioning — licenses are being issued, and funds continue to enter the country."

Shekarkhodaei explained that a significant portion of what is classified as foreign investment in Iran originates from Iranian nationals living abroad who are channeling their overseas capital back into the country.

He added that recent political tensions have not had a tangible impact on the inflow of foreign capital, particularly from the Iranian diaspora.

"Iranians abroad who wish to reinvest their money in their home country under the framework of foreign investment remain motivated and continue to do so," he said.

Regional Corridor Projects Advancing Without Iran's Participation



TEHRAN - A member of Iran's Parliament Economic Commission has warned that regional transportation and trade corridors are being designed without Iran's involvement, describing the trend as a potential threat to national security.

Fathollah Tavasoli, a member of the Majlis (Parliament) Economic Commission, said in an interview with ILNA that "unfortunately, Iran is being surrounded by regional corridors designed and implemented without its participation." He emphasized that Iran must develop a clear strategy to manage and respond to these emerging routes.

Commenting on the broader economic situation, Tavasoli said Iran currently faces both domestic constraints and international restrictions, including the UN Security Council sanctions reactivated under the so-called "snapback mechanism", as well as longstanding U.S. sanctions.

"These sanctions have created serious barriers targeting our national economy," he said. "One major challenge is in the banking sector: our industries, production lines, and exporters are active, but if financial returns from exports cannot come back, one crucial link in the economic chain is broken."

Tavasoli added that internal limitations also hinder economic growth, noting that many large domestic companies are unable to supply goods in high volumes. "When a country places a large-scale order and we cannot fulfill it, we lose that market," he said. "Our industries must be capable of meeting demand, or customers will turn elsewhere."

The lawmaker criticized what he called internal mismanagement and lack of coordination between key institutions such as the Central Bank, Customs Administration, and Ministry of Economy.

"When the Minister of Economy says he has nothing to do with the rising exchange rate, and the Central Bank says economic policy is not its responsibility, these statements are unacceptable," he said. "All of these officials are accountable, and coordination among them is essential."

Despite the difficulties, Tavasoli stressed that Iran has learned how to navigate sanctions and economic pressure. "Although production costs and export expenses have risen, these pressures have not stopped us — as long as we maintain our determination to keep producing and exporting," he said.

Tavasoli highlighted Iran's geographic advantage, sharing borders with 15 neighboring countries, including Pakistan, which he called a "massive market with hundreds of millions of consumers."

"If we could meet even a fraction of Pakistan's needs, a significant portion of our economy could be sustained," he said.

Tavasoli warned that Iran is at risk of being bypassed by regional infrastructure projects. "We have repeatedly alerted officials about this issue," he said. "The Zangezur Corridor, one of nine regional corridors surrounding Iran, is among these concerns. These routes could threaten our national security, and we must have a strategic plan to manage them."

He acknowledged that Iran has recently taken steps to strengthen its position in regional connectivity, but added that developing and completing corridor infrastructure requires substantial funding — measured in hundreds of trillions of rials — and that resources remain limited.

"When countries build corridors that exclude Iran, it not only has economic consequences but also security implications," Tavasoli cautioned. "These projects can increase centrifugal pressures along border regions."

Beyond corridor politics, Tavasoli also pointed to water-related disputes as another major strategic concern. "We face serious water challenges in three areas — dams built by Afghanistan in the east, by Turkey in the northwest, and ongoing water-sharing issues with Iraq and Persian Gulf countries in the south," he said.

He urged senior Iranian officials to take decisive action to address these water and infrastructure challenges, warning that both the economy and national security are at stake.

17,000 Foreign Companies Active in Iran



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Registry Organization of Deeds and Properties has announced that more than 17,000 foreign companies are currently operating in the country. According to the organization's spokesperson, company registration now takes less than one day, and registering corporate changes can be completed in under two days through new online systems.

In a press briefing on Monday, Azam Ghavidel, the spokesperson for the Registry Organization, told IRNA that any company with at least one non-Iranian shareholder is legally considered a foreign company. She added that to facilitate foreign investment, the company registration process has been fully digitized, allowing applications to be submitted and processed electronically and remotely with minimal time and paperwork.

Ghavidel noted that eight stages of the registration process — including filing and signature verification — are now conducted entirely online.

Ghavidel also emphasized that converting traditional booklet-style property deeds into digital cadastral titles (known as Hadngar) is a legal requirement under Article 11 of the Comprehensive Cadastral Law, passed in 2014.

The law stipulates that all booklet deeds must be replaced with cadastral titles within five years of its enforcement. After that period, the Registry Organization will no longer provide registration services for outdated deeds.

She urged citizens to complete the conversion as soon as possible, noting that this is one of the organization's top priorities. "Since the beginning of this year, over 500,000 new digital titles have been issued electronically," she said.

Ghavidel dismissed rumors circulating on social media claiming that the conversion is being used to collect new taxes. "That is entirely false," she said. "The government already has full access to land data. The main reason for the cadastral conversion is the legal and practical advantages of digital ownership documents, which include precise mapping and secure registration in the national land database."

Iran Achieves 86% Self-Sufficiency in Sugar Production



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture, Gholamreza Nouri Qazeljeh, announced that the country has reached 86% self-sufficiency in sugar production this year, thanks to improvements in seed quality and a strategic shift from spring to autumn planting. He added that Iran is expected to achieve complete self-sufficiency in sugar within the next two years.

Speaking at a meeting with representatives from Khorasan Razavi Province in Mashhad, Nouri Qazeljeh said, "By promoting autumn sugar beet cultivation, we have not only increased production but also saved a volume of water equivalent to that of the Karaj Dam."

The minister also revealed that Iran has launched a six-year program to achieve self-sufficiency in red meat production. "The project began this year, and we expect to reach full independence within six years," he said.

Highlighting the high cost of tropical fruit imports, Nouri Qazeljeh noted that Iran currently spends about \$700 million annually on imports such as bananas. "We have planned to eliminate banana imports within three years by expanding domestic production," he stated.

He added that 350,000 tons of bananas were produced domestically this year in fertile regions whose irrigation water previously flowed unused into the Gulf of Oman.

Japan's LDP, Ishin Agree to Form Coalition Gov't

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's Liberal Democratic Party and the Japan Innovation Party have effectively agreed to form a coalition government, public broadcaster NHK said on Monday, citing a source familiar with the matter. LDP chief Sanae Takaichi and Hirofumi Yoshimura, head of the smaller, right-leaning party known as Ishin, spoke via phone on Monday morning and effectively reached an agreement, NHK said. The two leaders will formally establish the coalition by signing an agreement on Monday night, NHK reported.



Zelenskiy Urged to Make Concessions to Russia in Tense Meeting With Trump



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to give up swaths of territory to Russia during a tense meeting on Friday that left the Ukrainian delegation disappointed, according to two people briefed on the discussion.

Trump also declined to provide Tomahawk missiles for Ukraine's use, and mused about giving security guarantees to both Kyiv and Moscow, comments that the Ukrainian delegation found confusing, added the two sources, who requested anonymity to discuss a private conversation.

After his meeting with Zelenskyy, Trump publicly called for a ceasefire on the current frontlines, a position that the Ukrainian president then embraced in comments to reporters. A third person said Trump came up with that proposal during the meeting after Zelenskyy said he would not voluntarily cede any territory to Moscow.

"The meeting ended with (Trump's) decision to make a 'deal where we are, on the demarcation line,'" the third source said.

Trump underscored that position in remarks to reporters on Sunday.

"We think that what they should do is just stop at the lines where they are, the battle lines," he said on Air Force One. "The rest is very tough to negotiate if you're going to say, 'you take this, we take that.'"

Asked if he had told Zelenskyy that Ukraine must cede all of the Donbas region to Russia, Trump said no. "Let it be cut the way it is. It's cut up right now. I think 78% of the land is already taken by Russia," Trump said in response to a question from a Reuters reporter.

French Crown Jewels Snatched in Hollywood-Style Daytime Heist at Paris' Louvre



PARIS (Dispatches) - Thieves raided Paris's Louvre museum in broad daylight yesterday, taking just seven minutes to grab some of France's priceless crown jewels, but dropping a gem-encrusted crown as they fled, officials and sources said.

The spectacular heist, one of several to target French museums in recent months, forced the closure of the Louvre, the world's most-visited museum and home to the Mona Lisa.

President Emmanuel Macron posted on social media that "everything is being done" to catch the perpetrators and recover the stolen treasures.

Outside the Louvre, soldiers patrolled the famed glass pyramid entrance, while evacuated visitors, tourists and passersby were kept at a distance behind police tape.

It was "like a Hollywood movie," one American tourist, Talia Ocampo, told AFP.

It was "crazy" and "something we won't forget — we could not go to the Louvre because there was a robbery," she said.

A culture ministry statement said eight items of jewellery had been stolen from the Apollo Gallery that houses the French crown jewels.

"Two high-security display cases were targeted, and eight objects of priceless cultural heritage were stolen," it said.



Rodrigo Paz Wins Bolivian Presidency

LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Centrist Rodrigo Paz won Bolivia's presidential runoff on Sunday, defeating conservative rival Jorge "Tuto" Quiroga, as the country's worst economic crisis in a generation helped propel the end of nearly two decades of leftist rule.

Paz, a senator from the Christian Democratic Party, won 54.5% of the vote, beating Quiroga's 45.5%, according to early results from Bolivia's electoral tribunal. But Paz's party does not hold a majority in the country's legislature, which will force him to forge alliances to govern effectively.

The new president takes office on November 8.

"We must open Bolivia to the world," said Paz during his victory speech from La Paz, after Quiroga conceded defeat.

The 58-year-old senator's win marks a historic shift for the South American country, governed almost continuously since 2006 by Bolivia's Movement to Socialism, or MAS, which once enjoyed overwhelming support from the country's Indigenous majority.

Paz's moderate platform — pledging to maintain social programs while promoting private sector-led growth — appeared to resonate with left-leaning voters disillusioned by the ruling MAS, founded by former President Evo Morales, but wary of Quiroga's proposed austerity measures. He is the third member of his extended family to be elected president of the landlocked nation.

Support for MAS cratered in the August first round amid a deepening economic crisis.

"This election marks a political turning point," said Glaedys Gonzalez Calanche, analyst for the Southern Andes at International Crisis Group. "Bolivia is heading in a new direction," she said.

Both runoff candidates pledged to strengthen diplomatic ties with Washington — strained since 2009 — and seek U.S.-backed financial support to stabilize Bolivia's fragile economy.

In late September, Paz unveiled plans for a \$1.5 billion economic cooperation deal with U.S. officials to ensure fuel supplies.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said this week that both presidential candidates "want stronger, better relations with the United States," after decades of anti-American leadership. "This election is a transformative opportunity," he said on October 15.

Outside a polling station in La Paz, Lourdes Mendoza said she had grown weary of the MAS era. "My children were born and raised with a single government," she said. "I hope they can see other possibilities and alternatives."

The chart shows year-on-year change in consumer prices for select Latin American countries.

Bolivia's fragile economy dominated the runoff campaign. Once plentiful natural gas exports have plummeted, inflation is at a 40-year high, and fuel is scarce.

Both candidates campaigned to roll back elements of the MAS era, state-led model, but differed over how drastically. Paz favored gradual reform, including tax incentives for small businesses and regional fiscal autonomy, while Quiroga proposed sweeping cuts and an IMF bailout.

"We're going for a new stage of Bolivian democracy in the 21st century," Paz told Reuters two days before the election at his family's ranch in the southern gas-producing region of Tarija.

Israel Says Ceasefire and Aid to Resume After Airstrikes Kill 26 in Gaza

CAIRO (Dispatches) - The Israeli military said a ceasefire in Gaza had resumed after an attack killed two of its soldiers and prompted a wave of airstrikes that Palestinians said killed 26 people, in the most serious test yet of this month's truce.

U.S. President Donald Trump said the ceasefire he brokered was still in place. Hamas leadership, he said, may not be involved in the violations. "We think maybe the leadership isn't involved in that," he told reporters aboard Air Force One.

"Either way ... it's going to be handled toughly but properly."

Trump said he did not know whether the Israeli strikes were justified. "I'd have to get back to you on that," he said.

Aid into Gaza was set to resume on Monday following U.S. pressure, an Israeli security source said, shortly after Israel announced a halt in supplies in response to what it said was a "blatant" violation by Hamas of the truce.

The Israeli military said it struck Hamas targets across the enclave, including field commanders, gunmen, a tunnel and weapons depots, after militants launched an anti-tank missile and fired on its troops, killing the soldiers.

The strikes killed at least 26 people, including at least one woman and one child, according to local residents and health authorities. At least one strike hit a former school sheltering displaced people in the area of Nuseirat, residents said.

"We're going to have to see what's happening. We want to make sure that it's going to be very peaceful with Hamas," Trump said.

Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner were



expected to travel to Israel on Monday, an Israeli official and a U.S. official said.

The armed wing of Hamas said it remained committed to the ceasefire agreement, was unaware of clashes in Rafah, and had not been in contact with groups there since March.

U.S. Vice President JD Vance did not mention the Israeli strikes when speaking to reporters, but said there were about 40 different cells of Hamas and no security infrastructure yet in place to confirm their disarmament.

"Some of those cells will probably honor the ceasefire. Many of those cells, as we saw some evidence of today, will not," he said.

"Before we actually can ensure that Hamas is properly disarmed, that's going to require ... some of these Persian Gulf Arab states, to get forces in there, to actually apply some law and order and security keeping on the ground."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he had ordered the military to respond forcefully to what he described as Hamas' violations of the ceasefire.

Fearing the truce may collapse, some Palestinians rushed to buy goods from a main market in Nuseirat and families fled their homes in Khan Younis further south, after airstrikes hit nearby.

The strikes were reminiscent of Israel's response to what it viewed as serious violations of its ceasefire with Hamas' Lebanese ally Hezbollah in late 2024, less than a week after it came into effect and after days of mutual accusations of truce breaches, though that ceasefire has since largely held.

But formidable obstacles remain in the way of a durable peace in Gaza, where a ceasefire collapsed in March after nearly two months of relative calm when Israel unleashed a barrage of airstrikes.

The new ceasefire took effect on October 10, halting two years of war, but the Israeli government and Hamas have been accusing each other of violations of the ceasefire for days.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the "yellow line" to where Israeli forces had pulled back under the ceasefire deal would be physically marked and that any violation of the ceasefire or attempt to cross the line would be met with fire.

Hamas detailed what it said was a series of violations by Israel that it says have left 46 people dead and stopped essential supplies from reaching the enclave.

Trump to Cut Funding to Colombia, Calling Its President an Illegal Drug Leader

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump said Sunday he would slash U.S. funding to Colombia because the country's leader "does nothing to stop" drug production, in what is the latest sign of friction between Washington and one of its closest allies in Latin America.

In a social media post, Trump referred to Colombian President Gustavo Petro as "an illegal drug leader" who is "low rated and very unpopular." He warned that Petro "better close up" drug operations "or the United States will close them up for him, and it won't be done nicely".

Trump, while at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, wrote on his Truth Social platform that Petro is "strongly encouraging the massive production of drugs, in big and small fields" across Colombia, which the Republican president initially misspelled as Columbia before deleting his post and replacing it the correct spelling of the country. "Petro does nothing to stop it, despite large scale payments and subsidies from the USA that are nothing more than a long term rip off of America," Trump said.

"AS OF TODAY, THESE PAYMENTS, OR ANY OTHER FORM OF PAYMENT, OR



SUBSIDIES, WILL NO LONGER BE MADE TO COLOMBIA," Trump said. He also said Petro had "a fresh mouth toward America".

Petro responded later Sunday by saying Trump was being "fooled by his lodges and advisers" in announcing an end to US aid to his country.

Earlier Sunday, Petro accused the US government of assassination and demanded answers after the latest American strike in Caribbean waters. The US said on Saturday it was repatriating to Colombia and Ecuador two survivors from that attack, the sixth since early September. At least 29 people have been killed in strikes that the US has said are targeting alleged drug traffickers.

In September, the Trump administration accused Colombia of failing to cooperate in the drug war, although at the time Washington issued a waiver of sanctions that would have triggered aid cuts. Colombia is the world's largest exporter of cocaine, and the cultivation of the critical ingredient of coca leaves reached an all-time high last year, according to the United Nations.



Verstappen's Flawless U.S. Grand Prix Win Tightens F1 Title Race

AUSTIN (Dispatches) - Red Bull's Max Verstappen dominated the U.S. Grand Prix from pole position, leading every lap to take another significant chunk out of Oscar Piastri's Formula One championship lead on a perfect weekend in Texas.

McLaren's Piastri finished fifth with his teammate and closest rival Lando Norris second after passing Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, last year's winner, five laps from the chequered flag.

Piastri now leads Britain's Norris by 14 points with five rounds and two sprints remaining, while Verstappen has slashed his gap to the Australian to 40 after being 104 behind at the end of August.

Verstappen also won the Saturday sprint from pole position at Austin's Circuit of the Americas, while the McLarens collided and retired, on a weekend of maximum points for the four-times world champion.

McLaren have already sealed the constructors' title.

"For sure, the chance is there," Verstappen said of the title battle. "We just need to try and deliver these weekends until the end.

"We will try whatever we can. It's exciting," he added after his third win in the last four races and 68th of his career.

Piastri said he still had full confidence in his ability to become Australia's first champion since Alan Jones in 1980, and no worries.

"I'd still rather be where I am than the other two," added the 24-year-old.

Norris lost out to Leclerc at the start and then took 21 laps to find a way back past as the Monegasque, on the faster but less durable soft tyres, held a defensive masterclass.

Leclerc then battled with Lewis Hamilton, who started on mediums, before pitting on lap 23 and coming back out in ninth place with his teammate moving up to third and Piastri to fourth.

Verstappen by then was 10 seconds down the road from his closest rival.

Once the rest of the frontrunners had made their pitstops, Leclerc was again second on the road - but

more than six seconds behind Verstappen - with Norris third and having to overtake all over again with a track limits warning hanging over him.

Job done, Norris pulled away and finished 7.9 seconds behind Verstappen and 7.4 ahead of the Ferrari.

"It was tough. We did everything we could," he said of a battle that gave the fans some excitement as Verstappen completed lap after lap largely absent from the global television feed.

"I expected a slightly easier second attempt to get through, but it wasn't the case. Charles drove a very good race. It was good fun, good battles. So we have to take second. Not a lot more we could've done today."

McLaren team boss Andrea Stella said, however, that Norris could have fought for the win had he not been held up by the Ferrari.

Hamilton was fourth, with Piastri just 1.1 seconds behind, and George Russell - winner last time out in Singapore - taking the chequered flag in sixth for Mercedes.

Red Bull's Yuki Tsunoda finished seventh, ahead of Sauber's Nico Hulkenberg and Haas's Oliver Bearman. Fernando Alonso took the final point for Aston Martin.

The virtual safety car was deployed on lap seven when Mercedes' Italian rookie Kimi Antonelli and Williams' Carlos Sainz collided, with the Spaniard retiring after trying to overtake on the inside for seventh place.

Stewards handed Sainz a five-place grid penalty at next weekend's Mexican Grand Prix, plus two penalty points, for causing the collision.

Sainz's teammate Alex Albon had also been caught up in a first corner collision with Sauber's Brazilian rookie Gabriel Bortoleto.

The weekend was declared a heat hazard, although the air temperature during the race was lower than feared at around 28.6 degrees Celsius (83.5 Fahrenheit).

Liverpool Suffer Fourth Straight Anfield Defeat



LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Liverpool slumped to a fourth consecutive defeat for the first time in 11 years as Manchester United won 2-1 to end their near decade-long wait for victory at Anfield.

Harry Maguire's 84th minute header secured back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time in Ruben Amorim's tenure as United boss.

Twelve minutes from time, Cody Gakpo had cancelled out Bryan Mbeumo's opener after just 61 seconds.

Defeat leaves Liverpool four points adrift of Arsenal at the top of the table and Arne Slot still searching for answers in how to get the right blend after splashing out nearly £450 million (RM2.5 billion) on new players in the transfer market.

United close to within two points of their historic rivals and up to ninth in the table to ease the pressure on Amorim after his biggest win in nearly a year in charge.

"It means everything. They had had the better of us over the last few years and it's not been good for our club," said Maguire.

"We have not given our fans enough days like today, so it has been a long time coming, coming to this ground and picking up three points."

Liverpool had only lost one of the previous 14 Premier League meetings between the sides and United had not tasted victory at Anfield since the early days of Jurgen Klopp's reign in January 2016.

However, the Reds are in a state of flux after transforming the squad that stormed to the title last season and the tragic loss of Diogo Jota, who died in a car accident in July.

Mbappe Fires Real Madrid to La Liga Top Spot



MADRID (Dispatches) - Kylian Mbappe extended his goalscoring streak to 11 consecutive games to help Real Madrid reclaim top spot in La Liga with a 1-0 victory at nine-man Getafe.

After rivals Barcelona briefly displaced Los Blancos with a narrow win over Girona on Saturday, Xabi Alonso's side restored their two-point advantage before next weekend's Clasico.

Getafe fended off Madrid until Allan Nyom was dismissed a minute after coming on and Mbappe quickly pounced to decide the game in the 80th minute. Alex Sancris was also sent off as Getafe unravelled in the final stages.

Alonso started with Brazilian star Vinicius Junior on the bench, with the Champions League clash against Juventus on Wednesday and Barca's impending visit in mind.

The winger turned out to be key as a second half substitute, with both of Getafe's red cards issued for fouls on him.

"Vini had a great impact... we told him this morning he could be so important," Alonso told reporters.

"It was a very demanding game, coming here to face Getafe is never easy... it wasn't the prettiest game but we did what we had to do."

Mbappe returned after an ankle problem kept him out of a France World Cup qualifier earlier in the week, leading the line at Getafe's Coliseum stadium.

The French forward had scored in his previous 10 consecutive appearances for club and country and found the net once again.

"We are very happy with how Kylian is going, he's being decisive," said Alonso.

Mbappe twice came close before Getafe earned a foothold in the game and began to frustrate the visitors, stopping them from creating much danger.

Only towards the end of the first period did Madrid perk up again in attack, with Soria saving from Rodrygo Goes after good work by Jude Bellingham.

Getafe's goalkeeper made a good stop from a powerful David Alaba free-kick and Fede Valverde flashed a strike across the face of goal before half-time.

Alonso sent on Vinicius in the second half and his spark began to worry the hosts, who resorted to fouls to fend off the Brazilian.

Medvedev Ends 882-Day Title Drought With Almaty Open Win

ALMATY (Dispatches) - Former world number one Daniil Medvedev ended an 882-day wait for his 21st ATP Tour title on the ATP tour when he beat Corentin Moutet 7-5 4-6 6-3 in the Almaty Open final.

Russian Medvedev, 29, last won a title at the Italian Open in May 2023 and has lost six finals since, including at the U.S. Open and Australian Open.

"It continues my funny story of 21 titles in 21 different cities," former U.S. Open champion Medvedev said.

Medvedev, ranked 14th in the world, struggled with unforced errors against Frenchman Moutet, who was chasing his maiden ATP title.

The Russian made 13 unforced errors in the first two sets while Moutet had only four but Medvedev served three aces in the decider and held his nerve to prevail.

"I was not super happy with how I played in some moments of the match, but to win feels amazing. In the most important points I played good," Medvedev said.

Meanwhile Felix Auger-Aliassime thanked his new bride after he beat Jiri Lehecka 7-6 (7/2), 6-7 (8/6), 6-2 to lift the Brussels ATP 250 title.

The 25-year-old from Quebec won his eighth ATP title here —



his third this season after Montpellier and Adelaide.

Neither of these powerful servers conceded a break during the first two sets.

But the Czech Lehecka, who also lost in the final last year, saved two match points in the deciding game of the second set before being broken twice in the final set.

"It's my first tournament as a married man, and I'm leaving with the trophy — I guess I have to give a bit of credit to my wife

for this win," he said after marrying a month ago.

Auger-Aliassime married showjumper Nina Ghaibi in Morocco two weeks after making the quarter-finals of the US Open.

Next up for the winner is the ATP 500 in Basel to try for the world top-8 Masters at the end of the year.

He stands ninth just 340 points behind Lorenzo Musetti, who stands in the eighth qualifying spot for the ATP Finals.

Meanwhile Elena Rybakina rallied from a set down to beat Russian fourth seed Ekaterina Alexandrova 3-6 6-0 6-2 and win the Ningbo Open title, as her late surge to reach next month's WTA Finals gained momentum.

A 10th career title for Rybakina means the Kazakh only has to reach the semi-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo this week to seal the last qualifying spot for the season finale at the expense of Russian teenager Mirra Andreeva.

Others who have qualified for the WTA Finals, to be held in the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh from November 1-8, are Aryna Sabalenka, Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff, Amanda Anisimova, Jessica Pegula, Madison Keys and Jasmine Paolini.

"I'd like to congratulate Ekaterina for a great week and great season," said Rybakina.

Australia Storm Past India as Returning Rohit, Kohli Fail

PERTH (Dispatches) - Australia's stand-in captain Mitchell Marsh continued his fine run of form on Sunday, scoring 46 not out and leading his side to a seven-wicket triumph over India in the weather-affected first one-day international at Perth Stadium.

India limped to 136-9 from 26 overs, interrupted four times by rain, setting Australia a revised target of 131 which the hosts reached in 21.1 overs.

The sea of blue in the 42,423-strong crowd did not have to wait long to see Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli after India were put into bat.

Having retired from the game's other formats with an eye



on the 2027 World Cup, the former captains made their return to national duty for the first time since winning the Champions Trophy in March.

Neither looked convincing against Australia's pace bowlers, with Rohit edging Josh Hazlewood to second slip on eight and Kohli cutting Mitchell Starc to a diving Cooper Connolly at backward point for a duck.

"All of their batters are world class and legends of the game," said spinner Matthew Kuhnemann, who picked up 2-26. "In one-day cricket, especially, to get wickets up front makes a massive difference."