

Iran and Kazakhstan Have Underscored Their Shared Determination to Comprehensively Expand Relations in Various Fields and the Importance of Effective Participation in Regional and International Organizations

IRAN NEWS

The Head of the United Nations Nuclear Watchdog (IAEA) Has Once Again Certified That, Based on Their Field Inspections, the Islamic Republic of Iran Does Not Have a Nuclear Weapon Program

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2 DOMESTIC



Iran to Boost Gas Flaring Recovery to 295 Million Cubic Feet per Day by 2026

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Ukraine Troops Still Holding Out in Pokrovsk

> SEE PAGE 3



Western Hostility Toward Iran Is Longstanding



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The political deputy of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), Brigadier General Yadollah Javani, said on Saturday that hostility from the United States and Europe toward Iran predates the 1979 Islamic Revolution and stretches back at least two centuries.

Speaking to a gathering of Basij-affiliated jurists in Mashhad, Javani traced Western policy from the Qajar and Pahlavi eras to a persistent strategy aimed at reducing Iran's independence, fostering dependency, and eroding the nation's religious and national identity. He argued that the 1979 revolution halted that course and put Iran on a path toward dignity and progress.

Javani warned that contemporary adversaries pursue the same objectives using modern political and media tools. He said their opposition is not simply a reaction to Iranian political behavior but is rooted in resistance to Iran's independent, faith-based stance. As a result, he said, Iran's people cannot—and will not—yield. He pointed to the 46 years of revolutionary experience as proof that steadfastness in the face of pressure brings progress and divine support.

Referring to recent events, Javani described what he called a tenser recent assault—a “12-day” hostile campaign—that, according to the enemy's calculations, was supposed to topple Tehran within 48 hours and collapse the country's defenses in a week. He said those plans failed because of the population's solidarity with the leadership and the armed forces.

Public Awareness Key to Exposing U.S. Human Rights Record



TEHRAN - Public awareness and education among nations, especially the youth, can play a crucial role in exposing the true nature of America's human rights record, said Mohammad Es-haqi, Deputy for Education and Research at the Office for the Preservation and Publication of the Works of the Supreme Leader.

Speaking at a press conference for the upcoming conference “We and the West in the Thought of Ayatollah Khamenei”, held at the Islamic Revolution Research and Cultural Institute, Es-haqi explained that the event was designed to highlight key aspects of the Supreme Leader's intellectual framework on the relationship between Iran and the West.

“Western projects are reaching dead ends,” Es-haqi said. “That is why raising awareness among nations and youth can be decisive in unveiling the realities behind America's human rights claims.”

He announced that the one-day conference will be held on November 9 at the IRIB International Conference Center, featuring the latest academic research and presentations from prominent scholars and political figures.

Mousa Haqqani, the conference's scientific secretary, said that the organizing team began preparations a year ago.

Gov't Will Fully Support the Peaceful Advancement of Iran's Nuclear Industry

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian reaffirmed his government's full commitment to advancing Iran's peaceful nuclear industry, emphasizing that scientific and technological independence is essential to the nation's progress and global competitiveness.

Speaking during a visit to the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Pezeshkian toured an exhibition showcasing the latest achievements of Iranian nuclear scientists in healthcare, medical treatment, and radiopharmaceutical production. He later held a roundtable meeting with senior officials and experts in the nuclear field, calling their efforts a symbol of “scientific jihad and sincere service to the Iranian nation.”

“The work you are doing in developing radiopharmaceuticals and new treatment technologies is an urgent national need,” the president said. “This effort must be pursued with even greater speed and strength.”

Pezeshkian highlighted Iran's strategic position as a leading producer of radiopharmaceuticals in the region, noting that the sector holds major potential for generating national wealth and establishing a strong presence in the global market.

“It is vital for our country to embrace new technologies and enter international competition seriously,” he said. “The arrogant powers seek to deprive independent nations, including Iran, of access to advanced technologies, keeping them dependent on imported products and high-cost medicines.”

He stressed that while Iran's current nuclear activities are valuable, strategic planning must now focus on expanding exports and professional marketing to increase global market share.

“Our products' quality, effectiveness, and affordability will make us leaders in this field,” he added.

President Pezeshkian condemned the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists, describing such actions as proof of major powers' anxiety over Iran's scientific independence.

“We have repeatedly stated that building nuclear weapons is not on our agenda—and they know this,” he said. “But they continue to use false accusations as a pretext to hinder Iran's progress.”

He praised the determination of Iranian youth and experts, saying they refuse to remain passive or dependent on foreign industries.

“Our scientists are linking their abilities directly to national needs, ensuring that Iran's progress cannot be stopped,” he asserted.

Pezeshkian also underlined the broad civilian applications of nuclear technology—in medicine, agriculture, and environmental protection.

“Every achievement I witnessed today contributes to improving public health and serving society,” he said. “Unfortunately, we have not done enough to publicize these achievements or counter the false propaganda that seeks to equate ‘nuclear’ with ‘weapons.’ We must create an effective strategy to introduce and market our products globally.”



Criticizing the waste of national resources, especially fossil fuels, Pezeshkian said:

“We burn millions of barrels of valuable oil and gas every day, causing environmental pollution while neglecting opportunities to create added value through science. Solving this challenge depends on our scientists and innovators—this very capability is what worries our enemies.”

He suggested that the targeting of Iranian scientists stems from their potential to transform Iran into a self-reliant, knowledge-based economy.

“They assassinate our scientists because they know these minds can capture markets, build capacity, and free the country from dependency,” he remarked.

Pezeshkian called on universities to evolve into “fourth-generation institutions” focused on solving national challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation.

“Leading universities worldwide are defined by their problem-solving approach and real-world engagement,” he said. “Our nuclear scientists must extend their expertise into other sectors—such as water management, agriculture, and the environment.”

He urged the academic community to guide the nation toward efficient use of natural resources: “It is up to us to decide how to use our resources, what to produce, at what quality, and for whom. Our experts can—and must—help us make those decisions wisely.”

Addressing widespread misinformation about Iran's nuclear program, Pezeshkian said Western narratives have distorted public understanding by equating nuclear science solely with weapon production.

“In reality, the nuclear industry is a vast complex of scientific and industrial capacities. Only a tiny, inhumane fraction of this field relates to weapons,” he explained. “The rest serves humanity—meeting essential needs in medicine, energy, and agriculture.”

He reaffirmed that Iran's pursuit of nuclear technology is strictly peaceful and aimed at improving living standards.

“Our goal is not to build weapons,” he said. “Our goal is to serve our people and enhance our country's welfare.”

Concluding his visit, President Pezeshkian pledged unwavering governmental support for advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear energy.

“The government will use all its power to strengthen and expand these capacities,” he declared. “With the dedication of our scientists and careful planning, Iran can secure a greater share of the global market.”

He praised Iranian researchers for their perseverance and ingenuity, saying their work symbolizes national dignity and hope for the future.

“We value you, our scientists, and we will stand beside you in striving for Iran's progress,” he said. “The future of our nation depends on being at the forefront of science and moving decisively toward advanced technologies.”

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Iran Ready for Nuclear Negotiations But Rules Out Missile Talks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says Tehran is open to holding talks on its nuclear program but refuses to negotiate over its missile capabilities.

“We are ready to negotiate to address concerns regarding Iran's nuclear program and are confident in the peaceful nature of our nuclear program,” Araqchi said in an interview with the Qatari news network Al-Jazeera published on Saturday.

“We will never negotiate our missile program, and no rational actor would accept being disarmed,” he added.

Araqchi reiterated that Iran will not compromise on its uranium enrichment program either. “It is not possible to stop uranium enrichment, and what could not be achieved by war cannot be achieved through politics.”

The top Iranian diplomat said it was still possible to reach a “fair” agreement on the country's nuclear program, but “Washington has set forth unacceptable conditions.”

He emphasized that Iran has no desire for direct talks with Washington, but can reach an agreement through indirect negotiations.

Araqchi once again rejected the “unlawful” move by the European parties to the 2015 deal – Britain, France, and Germany—to trigger a “snapback” mechanism to restore UN sanctions, saying there is no international consensus on imposing sanctions against Tehran.

Iran had held five rounds of talks on a replacement for the 2015 nuclear deal prior to the US-Israeli airstrikes on the country and its nuclear facilities in mid-June.

The United States and its European allies have repeatedly called for any future agreement to address not only Iran's nuclear activities but also its ballistic missile program.

Tehran has consistently rejected that demand, insisting its military capabilities are non-negotiable.

On August 28, the European trio invoked the “snapback” mechanism, further complicating



diplomacy to resolve tensions.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Araqchi said Tehran is prepared for all possibilities and expects any act of hostility from Israel.

“We have the highest level of preparedness at all levels, and Israel will suffer another defeat in any possible future war,” he added.

He noted that during the war in June, Iran succeeded in testing its missiles in “real combat”, warning that any new Israeli attack would have “bad consequences.”

The Iranian minister said the Israeli regime targeted the country's oil facilities to expand war across the region, but “we had managed the war with Israel well and prevented it from spreading to the wider region.”

He added that Israel could not have attacked Iran without the US green light, stressing that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is a war criminal who has proven that Israel is the true enemy of the region.

Pointing to the US attack on three Iranian nuclear sites, Araqchi said, “Nuclear materials still remained under the rubble ... and were not transferred elsewhere.”

“We suffered damage to our nuclear facilities and equipment, but the nuclear technology still exists,” the foreign minister pointed out.

On June 13, Israel launched an unprovoked war against Iran, assassinating many high-ranking military commanders, nuclear scientists, and ordinary civilians.

More than a week later, the United States also entered the war by bombing three Iranian nuclear sites in a grave violation of the United Nations Charter, international law, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

On June 24, Iran ultimately succeeded in halting the war through its retaliatory operations against the Israeli regime.

Why Was the Den of Espionage Seized?

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

The 13th of Aban 1358 (November 4, 1979) marks the day when the Students Following the Line of the Imam—a name suggested and approved by Ahmad Agha—climbed the walls of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, forced the armed guards inside to surrender, and initiated the 444-day hostage crisis involving American embassy staff, who were accused of espionage.



A comprehensive analysis of the dimensions of the takeover of the “Den of Espionage” would require about 7,000 pages of writing. Therefore, in this short article—so that it may be published in an acceptable length for the digital space—only the general outlines are mentioned.

Mehdi Bazargan became the interim prime minister during the days of the Islamic Revolution, and, through the initiative of Imam Khomeini (may his soul rest in peace), the people supported him. Public support led to the army's compliance and the flight of Shapour Bakhtiar. Nevertheless, Bazargan's government collapsed even before completing nine months in power.

During this short period of less than nine months, his government maintained both overt and covert relations with the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The White House viewed these contacts positively. On the 1st of Aban 1358 (October 23, 1979), Henry Precht, the head of the Iran desk at the U.S. State Department, came to Iran. Along with Bruce Laingen, the U.S. chargé d'affaires in Tehran, he met with Ebrahim Yazdi. They described the admission of the Shah into the United States as a humanitarian act and laid the groundwork for a meeting between Iranian and American delegations in Algeria.

The Iranian delegation consisted of Mehdi Bazargan, Ebrahim Yazdi, Mostafa Chamran, and Ali Mojtahed Shabestari. Representing the United States were Zbigniew Brzezinski (U.S. National Security Advisor), Robert Gates (then an official of the CIA), and William Eagleton (U.S. Ambassador to Algeria). The meeting took place on the afternoon of Eid al-Adha, Thursday, the 10th of Aban 1358 (November 1, 1979), in the Orasi Hotel Hall in Algiers, lasting about an hour and a half.

Iran's requests included the extradition of the Shah and his wife to Iran and the release of \$21 billion in frozen Iranian assets. In return, Iran promised the return of F-14 fighter jets to the Air Force, continued hostility toward the Soviet Union, recognition of the Iranian people's revolution, and the continuation of past cooperative relations.

There were no reporters or photographers present because the meeting was intended to remain secret.

However, Seyyed Sadegh Tabatabaei, brother-in-law of Ahmad Khomeini, reported this confidential news directly to Ahmad Agha. Subsequently, a three-member team consisting of Ahmad Khomeini, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, and Seyyed Mohammad Mousavi Khoeinha convened at Khoeinha's house. They decided to counter the pro-American direction of Bazargan's government by organizing the seizure of the U.S. Embassy. On the morning of Friday, the 11th of Aban (November 2), they informed Ebrahim Asgharzadeh and Mohsen Mirdamadi, members of the Office for Strengthening Unity, and the operation was executed on Sunday morning, the 13th of Aban (November 4, 1979).

The plane carrying the Iranian delegation returned from Algeria at 12:30 p.m. that same day, landing at Mehrabad Airport. After learning of the embassy takeover, they went to Qom and met with Imam Khomeini. The Imam made his stance clear, and right then, Bazargan submitted his handwritten resignation, which was published in the media the following day.

On the 14th of Aban (November 5), Imam Khomeini (may God have mercy on him) described this action as greater than the first revolution, as it marked the end of America's dominance—following the collapse of the Pahlavi regime, which had held roughly 70% of the power in Iran. It also set the stage for confronting the remaining 30% of influence belonging to Britain, which was organized through several interconnected networks. Unfortunately, none of these networks were successfully dismantled, and over time, they grew stronger in political and economic spheres, openly and covertly challenging the unity of decision-making within the Islamic Republic.



Lufthansa to Resume Flights to Iran in December

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Amin Kashf-Azar, acting CEO of Imam Khomeini Airport City, announced that Lufthansa will resume its flights to Iran in December, while Austrian Airlines will restart operations from Tehran on Monday at 2 a.m., marking the return of major European carriers after months of suspension.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of a cooperation agreement between Imam Khomeini Airport City and the Iranian Railways for the establishment of the Tehran Logistics City, Kashf-Azar highlighted the airport's strategic role in Iran's supply chain. "Our goal is to make the airport an integral part of the national logistics network," he said. "The advanced logistics market has grown from \$90 billion to over \$1 trillion globally, and Iran must seize this opportunity."

U.S. Cargo Transits Iran's Railway Route to Afghanistan



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development announced that shipments from several countries — including the United States — have passed through the Khaf-Herat railway linking Iran and Afghanistan.

Speaking to ILNA, Jabarali Zakeri said the rail corridor has seen record levels of freight movement in recent months. "Last month, freight transport on the Khaf-Herat railway reached 63,000 tons, marking a new record for the Iran-Afghanistan rail link," he said. Zakeri added that the ministry aims to raise total freight traffic on this route to 100,000 tons by the end of the Iranian calendar year (March 2026).

He noted that achieving this goal requires cooperation from Iranian companies. "Given the strong demand from Afghan traders and India's growing interest in using the Shantiq route for exports and transit, Iranian firms must prioritize solving existing logistical challenges. We are addressing these issues one by one," he explained.

According to Zakeri, the Iranian and Afghan rail authorities have made expansion of the Khaf-Herat line a top priority. "Within a month, an additional 43 kilometers will be added to the Herat line. Construction progress has reached 90 percent, and Afghanistan's railway director, Mr. Sahebzada, has pledged to complete this section soon. Once this part—from Rozmak toward Herat—is finished, only one remaining station, currently under construction, will complete the route," he said.

The head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways highlighted the economic potential of the project, pointing out that an industrial zone located near the next station is expected to become a logistics hub once connected to the rail network. "Linking the industrial park to the railway will significantly boost freight capacity," he noted.

Need to Increase Exports from Khuzestan to Kuwait



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The acting Deputy for Commercial Services at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has emphasized the importance of boosting exports from Khuzestan Province to Kuwait, describing the neighboring country as a key trade partner with strong potential for expansion.

According to the Public Relations Office of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Mohammad Sadegh Ghanadzadeh made the remarks during a meeting with Iran's commercial attachés to Iraq, Oman, and Qatar, held at the Khorramshahr Chamber of Commerce. He noted that the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr have maritime connections with Kuwait, while the Shalamcheh border crossing represents a strategic regional asset.

"Kuwait is Khuzestan's second most important neighbor. Given the province's significant potential, we must see an increase in exports to this country," Ghanadzadeh said.

He stressed the importance of maintaining Iran's market presence in both Iraq and Kuwait, pointing out that the most stable border trade occurs with countries sharing land borders, where trade faces fewer threats.

Referring to a recent visit to the Shalamcheh commercial border, Ghanadzadeh noted complaints from Iraqi traders about long processing times at the crossing. "Some traders arrived at 9 a.m. and were still waiting to exit several hours later. Such delays can lead to economic losses and loss of market opportunities," he warned.

The TPO official also mentioned a memorandum of understanding signed in 2013 with free trade zones and said plans are underway to organize an exhibition showcasing Khuzestan's industrial and commercial capabilities.

Iran to Boost Gas Flaring Recovery to 295 Million Cubic Feet per Day by 2026

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Oil Minister, Mohsen Paknejad, announced that the country's gas flaring recovery capacity will rise by approximately 295 million cubic feet per day (mcf/d) by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1405 (March 2027), following the signing of 12 new contracts aimed at capturing associated petroleum gas.

Speaking at a ceremony marking the signing of Iran's largest gas flaring recovery project—attended virtually by President Masoud Pezeshkian—Paknejad said that reducing gas flaring has long been a major concern for the oil industry. "Preventing the burning of associated gas and extinguishing flares has been one of the key environmental and economic priorities in recent years," he said. "With a firm national commitment, significant steps have been taken to curb the waste of this valuable national resource."

The minister emphasized that flare gas recovery plays a crucial role in reducing air pollution, protecting the environment, and improving energy balance, in addition to its considerable economic value. "This initiative prevents the loss of national wealth and transforms wasted gas into a valuable feedstock for industry," he noted.

According to Paknejad, Iran has prioritized both short- and long-term flare gas recovery programs, carried out with the active participation and investment of private and non-governmental sectors.

He recalled that prior to the 14th administration, Iran had developed a total capacity of around 330 mcf/d for flare gas recovery through various projects, including the first phase of the NGL 3200 plant, and short-term projects in the Parsi Cluster, Marun 3, 5, and 6, and Cheshmeh Khosh.

Under the Seventh National Development Plan, Iran's National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) are obligated to recover around 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) of flare gas by the end of the plan. "To meet this target, comprehensive plans have been designed and launched," Paknejad said.

He outlined recent achievements, including gas recovery from Rag Sefid and Gachsaran 1 and 2, commissioning of the NGL 3100 plant, completion of the Marun 5 sour gas project, operation of compressors at NGL 1000, and launch of the Haftkel station. Additional projects under the Bidboland and Marun contracts are expected to come online by 2025.

"With the 12 new contracts signed today, flare gas recovery will gradually increase by about 295 mcf/d by the end of 1405 (2026–2027)," the minister said, adding that total recovery will reach the equivalent of 44 million cubic meters per day by the end of the Seventh Plan—a key quantitative goal set for the sector.

The 12 contracts—signed in the presence of President Pezeshkian—cover the recovery of flare gas from 32 flares across oilfields in Ahvaz, Rag Sefid, Bibi Hakimeh, Lali, Golkhari, Haft Shahidan, Kupal, Karun, and Zilayi, spanning the provinces of Khuzestan, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, and Bushehr.



"These agreements mark a new phase in private sector participation and demonstrate the determination of Iranian engineers and managers to use energy resources efficiently," Paknejad said.

He invited both domestic and knowledge-based companies to invest in remaining gas recovery zones, saying the government is actively facilitating private sector engagement.

According to Paknejad, the newly signed projects will add about 180 mcf/d of light gas to national production, generating an estimated \$600 million in annual revenue from gas sales, processing, and value-added product chains. The projects are

also expected to create around 2,000 direct and indirect jobs in the southern oilfields.

He stressed that these projects will also supply feedstock for petrochemical plants, supporting Iran's broader strategy of completing its value chain in the energy sector.

Paknejad highlighted that all 12 projects are being implemented under a fully private investment model, with the government playing no financial role. "In line with the 14th administration's strategy to end gas flaring, these contracts were awarded to private and semi-public companies," he said.

Under the contractual framework, ownership of the facilities will rest with the private investor, who will utilize the recovered rich gas for further processing and sale under an agreed pricing mechanism. "All revenues and added value from these projects will belong entirely to the private sector," the minister explained.

He described this as a major transformation in Iran's approach to investing in flare gas projects, noting that the model has already attracted strong private sector interest. "This plan fulfills a long-standing dream of the oil industry. For decades, experts and executives have sought to capture and use flare gas to prevent the destruction of this national wealth," he said.

Estimates suggest that with an investment of around \$800 million, these projects will eliminate about 30 flares within two years, preventing the daily loss of over 295 mcf of natural gas.

The contracts are projected to generate \$550–600 million in annual revenue, produce approximately 800,000 tons of gas liquids per year, and inject around 200 mcf/d of light gas into Iran's national grid—helping meet domestic energy demand, particularly during the cold winter months.

Paknejad praised President Pezeshkian's "unwavering support" for the oil sector and environmental sustainability. "Without his commitment, such large-scale progress in gas recovery would not have been possible," he said, adding that the government is working to advance implementation timelines by at least one year ahead of schedule.

He concluded, "These projects are not just industrial initiatives—they are a gift to the Iranian people, ensuring cleaner air, sustainable energy, and dignified national development."

Iran, Tajikistan Launch Joint Initiative to Register the Cyrus Cylinder

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Minister of Science, Research, and Technology announced a joint initiative between Iran and Tajikistan to seek the global registration of the Cyrus Cylinder as a symbol of human rights and cultural diversity under UNESCO's auspices.

Speaking at the 43rd UNESCO General Conference, Minister Mohammad Ali Simai expressed pride in addressing "this enduring institution of international cooperation, knowledge, and cultural exchange."

"It is a great honor to speak at the 43rd General Conference of UNESCO," Simai said, addressing UNESCO officials and delegates. "Allow me first to express my sincere appreciation to Ms. Audrey Azoulay, former Director-General of UNESCO, for her exemplary leadership and steadfast commitment to education for all, preservation of cultural heritage, and promotion of peace through knowledge."

The Iranian minister also extended congratulations to Dr. Khaled El-Enany, the newly elected Director-General of UNESCO, adding: "Your distinguished experience in the fields of culture and heritage will undoubtedly further strengthen UNESCO's noble mission."

Simai reflected on the hardships endured by nations worldwide, noting that "many countries have faced great suffering in recent years, but none more than those enduring the devastating consequences of conflict and aggression."

He strongly condemned the recent assassination of Iranian scientists in what he described as "attacks carried out by the Zionist regime," calling it "a tragedy not only for Iran but for the global scientific community."

"These distinguished scholars dedicated their lives to expanding the frontiers of knowledge and were martyred in the service of humanity," he said. "Their loss is a wound to the global scientific body. We call with one voice for the protection of scientists, intellectuals, and researchers everywhere. Acts of violence against them have no place in a world striving for peace and progress."

The minister also praised former UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay for her "clear and courageous condemnation" of attacks against Iranian journalists. "Freedom of expression and the safety of media professionals are fundamental principles for building informed and just societies," he said.

Despite what he described as "unjust sanctions," Simai reaffirmed Iran's commitment to the universal right to education, saying that the



country continues to keep its schools and universities open to "thousands of Afghan students, providing them with security, opportunity, and hope."

Minister Simai commended UNESCO for its forward-looking approach to the ethical dimensions of emerging technologies, citing its recommendations on the ethics of neurotechnology and artificial intelligence.

"These initiatives reflect UNESCO's visionary role in ensuring that innovation is always guided by ethical responsibility, respect for privacy, and the

preservation of human dignity," he stated.

In the closing section of his address, Simai drew the attention of the delegates to a new cultural and ethical initiative of global significance: the joint proposal by Iran and Tajikistan to register the Cyrus Cylinder as a universal symbol of human rights and cultural diversity.

"The Cyrus Cylinder," he said, "is a global emblem of the fundamental rights of humanity and a testament to cultural pluralism. This initiative represents an invitation to renew our collective commitment to tolerance, peace, and mutual respect—values deeply rooted in our shared human heritage."

Simai urged all UNESCO member states to support the proposed resolution, calling it "a timely reminder of the moral and ethical foundations that unite all nations."

Concluding his remarks, Simai reaffirmed Iran's commitment to UNESCO's ideals: "This initiative is more than a historical gesture—it is a call to the conscience of humanity. By honoring the Cyrus Cylinder as a symbol of rights, diversity, and peace, we reaffirm our shared belief that the path to progress lies through respect, empathy, and cooperation."

He added, "We invite all nations to support this resolution as a reflection of our common ethical heritage—a heritage that reminds us that peace and justice are not modern inventions but timeless values born of humanity's collective wisdom."

The proposal, jointly advanced by Iran and Tajikistan, is expected to be formally submitted to UNESCO's cultural committee in the coming months. If approved, it would mark a significant cultural milestone, highlighting the enduring influence of ancient Persian civilization and the shared human commitment to peace and moral integrity.

Digital Economy to Reach 10% of Iran's GDP



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Seyed Sattar Hashemi, announced that the share of the digital economy in Iran's GDP is expected to reach 10%, up from the current level of under 5%. He emphasized that achieving this goal will require "major coordinated efforts at both national and provincial levels."

Speaking in East Azerbaijan Province, Hashemi unveiled the initiative "One Province, One Digital Economy Hub," highlighting the province's historical and cultural significance as well as its growing role in Iran's digital transformation.

"East Azerbaijan is one of Iran's most distinguished provinces, a cradle of culture and civilization, where every corner tells a story of love, sacrifice, and national identity," Hashemi said. "Tabriz holds a special place not only in our history but also in the hearts of all Iranians."

The minister inaugurated over 710 communications projects in the province, with a total investment of more than 33 trillion rials. He said these projects reflect the government's commitment to balanced development and have placed East Azerbaijan among the country's leading provinces in digital infrastructure.

"Seventy percent of the commitments made in May have already been implemented," he said, "and the remaining 30% are progressing according to schedule."

Hashemi also inaugurated the Tabriz Smart Postal Sorting Center, describing it as a key example of technological transformation within the National Post Company.

8% Economic Growth Requires 23% Growth in Exports



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Holding trade exhibitions presents an opportunity to promote Iran's industrial diplomacy and boost exports, as achieving 8% economic growth depends on a 23% increase in exports. Exhibition events can serve as key platforms for trade promotion, officials said.

According to the Public Relations Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, the 25th Iran International Industry Exhibition will be held from November 1 to 4 at the Tehran International Exhibition Center. This year's event features 107 companies from Germany, Japan, China, Turkey, and several other countries. The exhibition aims to foster new industrial partnerships, expand export opportunities, and provide a vital platform for B2B meetings connecting domestic and international businesses while showcasing Iran's industrial capabilities.

Sadegh Bikzadeh, Managing Director of the Iran International Exhibitions Company, told reporters that due to global and regional challenges—including ongoing conflicts in the Middle East—some events were postponed to the second half of the year, with only the ELECOMP exhibition taking place in the first half. "Nevertheless, the Industry Exhibition remains the country's most significant industrial event," he stated.

Emphasizing the critical role of exhibitions in driving export growth, Bikzadeh said: "Achieving 8% economic growth requires a 23% increase in exports, and trade exhibitions can act as effective platforms for export promotion. The main goal of this exhibition is to create domestic and foreign demand while increasing the share of technology and innovation in the industrial sector."

He added that consistent participation in such exhibitions can help companies grow their exports by up to 20%. However, some businesses reduce their participation if they do not receive sufficient benefits or incentives.

Mexico Supermarket Explosion Kills 23

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - A supermarket explosion killed at least 23 people in northern Mexico, according to local officials, with investigators saying the blast was an accident possibly caused by a faulty electric transformer.

“Sadly a number of the victims we’ve found were minors,” Alfonso Durazo, governor of Sonora state, said in a video message as he announced the toll of 23 dead and another 11 injured.

Durazo said the survivors were being treated at hospitals in the city of Hermosillo, where the explosion took place. “I have ordered an extensive and transparent investigation to determine the causes of the incident and figure out those responsible,” he said.



Tanzania’s Main Opposition Rejects Hassan’s Election Win



DAR ES SALAAM (Dispatches) - Tanzania’s main opposition party rejected President Samia Suluhu Hassan’s landslide victory in elections that triggered deadly protests across the East African nation over the exclusion of her key challengers from the fray.

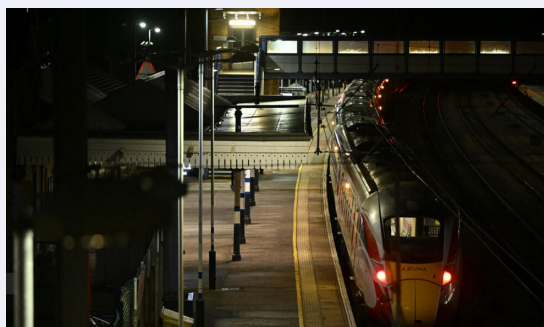
The main opposition party CHADEMA, which was barred from the election for refusing to sign a code of conduct and whose leader Tundu Lissu was arrested for treason in April, said late on Saturday that the results were “completely fabricated”.

It added, “CHADEMA strongly rejects the so-called election results announced by the National Electoral Commission. These results have no basis in reality, as the truth is that no genuine election took place in Tanzania,” it said on X.

“The countrywide demonstrations are clear proof that citizens did not take part in what is being called an election, and that they reject anyone emerging from this flawed electoral process,” the party added in the statement on its account.

There was no immediate reaction from the government to CHADEMA’s statement. Some demonstrators tore down banners of Hassan and set ablaze government buildings while police fired tear gas and gunshots, according to witnesses of the protests that erupted during Wednesday’s vote for president and parliament.

UK Police Arrest Two Suspects in Mass Train Stabbing



LONDON (Dispatches) - UK police arrested two suspects after a mass stabbing on a London-bound train late Saturday that left 10 people in hospital, nine likely with “life-threatening injuries”.

Armed police, backed by police cars and a fleet of ambulances, swarmed a railway station in the eastern rural town of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, after the alarm was raised about the attack and the train brought to a halt there.

“Ten people have been taken to hospital following a multiple stabbing on a train in Cambridgeshire. Nine are believed to have suffered life-threatening injuries,” British Transport Police said on X, adding that counter-terrorism units were supporting the investigation.

Transport police confirmed the train was running from Doncaster in the northeast to London’s King’s Cross Station, a busy route often packed with travellers.

A witness described seeing a man with a large knife and told The Times newspaper there was “blood everywhere” as people hid in the washrooms.

Some passengers were getting “stamped (on) by others” as they tried to run, and the witness told The Times they “heard some people shouting we love (you)”.

Witnesses told Sky News they saw a man holding a large knife on the platform after the train halted. They then saw the man tasered and restrained by police.



Ukraine Troops Still Holding Out in Pokrovsk

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine’s top military commander said his troops were still holding out in the embattled eastern city of Pokrovsk, which Moscow said its forces were at last enclosing in a pincer movement after more than a year of fighting.

Russia has been trying to capture Pokrovsk, dubbed “the gateway to Donetsk”, since mid-2024 in its campaign to control the entirety of Donetsk, a Ukrainian province it claims to have annexed. The city, home to 70,000 people before the war, has been all but completely destroyed and depopulated.

Capturing Pokrovsk would be the most important Russian territorial gain inside Ukraine since Moscow took the ruined city of Avdiivka in early 2024 after one of the bloodiest battles of the war.

Since then, Russia has made steady but slow gains in intense fighting along the 1,000 km (600 mile) front line, believed to have killed tens of thousands of soldiers on both sides. Kyiv says the costly fighting is largely stalemated and its territorial losses marginal; Moscow says it is still making important gains.

“We are holding Pokrovsk,” Ukraine’s army chief Oleksandr Syrskiy said on Facebook. “A comprehensive operation to destroy and dislodge enemy forces from Pokrovsk is ongoing.”

Russian officials say control of Pokrovsk and Kostiantynivka to its northeast would allow Moscow to drive north towards the two biggest remaining Ukrainian-controlled cities in Donetsk - Kramatorsk and Sloviansk.

They have described increasing advances in the Pokrovsk area in recent days. Reuters has not been able to verify the battlefield accounts because access is restricted on both sides.

Deepstate, a Ukrainian map of the front line made by compiling data from open-source images, shows Russian troops in full control of a small southern part of the city, with most of the rest of it still depicted as a grey zone, fully controlled by neither force.

In a later report, Deepstate said Russian forces were still infiltrating southern parts of Pokrovsk, with a significant number of infantry troops remaining inside.

But it said Ukrainian forces were identifying and eliminating groups of enemy troops, creating larger “grey zones”, with neither side in full control. Senior officers, it said, had been deployed in the city and were using specialised units to track down infiltrating forces.

The Russian Defence Ministry’s Zvezda news outlet said on Saturday that Ukrainian troops were beginning to lay down arms inside Pokrovsk, and released a video of two men it said were Ukrainian soldiers who had surrendered. Reuters could not verify the video or determine where or when it was filmed.

Kyiv said this week it had landed a helicopter with a team of special forces in Pokrovsk in a mission to halt the Russian advance. Russia’s Defense Ministry said on Saturday its troops had killed all 11 members of that Ukrainian special forces team.

A Ukrainian military official, speaking on condition of anonymity, denied that the special forces had been killed and said the operation was continuing.

Russia also said its troops had pushed back a Ukrainian unit’s attempt to break out of Hryshyne, northwest of Pokrovsk. Battles in that area could indicate Russian forces are close to cutting off Ukrainian supply lines to Pokrovsk.

Ukraine’s military said the situation in Pokrovsk “remains difficult and dynamic” but the army had “managed to improve its tactical position in several quarters of the city”.

Russia wants to take the whole of the Donbas region, which comprises Luhansk and Donetsk provinces. Ukraine still controls about 10% of Donbas - an area of about 5,000 square km (1,930 square miles) in western Donetsk.

Trump Threatens U.S. Military Action in Nigeria Over Treatment of Christians

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday said he has asked the Defense Department to prepare for possible “fast” military action in Nigeria if the West African nation fails to crack down on the killing of Christians.

The U.S. government will also immediately stop all aid and assistance to Nigeria, Africa’s most populous nation and top oil producer, Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

If the United States sends in military forces, it would go in “guns-a-blazing,” to completely wipe out the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities,” Trump wrote, without providing any evidence of specifics about the treatment of Christians in Nigeria.

Trump called Nigeria a “disgraced country” and warned its government must move quickly. “If we attack, it will be fast, vicious, and sweet, just like the terrorist thugs attack our CHERISHED Christians!” he wrote.

Abuja had no immediate reaction to Trump’s threat of military action. The White House also had no immediate comment on the potential timing of any U.S. military action.

Although the U.S. Department of Defense referred Reuters to the White House for comment on Trump’s threat, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth released a social media post of his own.

“The Department of War is preparing for action,” Hegseth wrote on X. “Either the Nigerian Government protects Christians, or we will kill the Islamic Terrorists who are committing these horrible atrocities.”

Trump’s post on Nigeria came a day after his administration added



Nigeria back to a “Countries of Particular Concern” list of nations that the U.S. says have violated religious freedom. Other nations on the list include China, Myanmar, North Korea, Russia and Pakistan.

Before Trump posted his attack threat, Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Tinubu earlier on Saturday pushed back against claims of religious

intolerance and defended his country’s efforts to protect religious freedom.

“The characterization of Nigeria as religiously intolerant does not reflect our national reality, nor does it take into consideration the consistent and sincere efforts of the government to safeguard freedom of religion and beliefs for all Nigerians,” Tinubu said in a statement, citing “constitutional guarantees to protect citizens of all faiths.”

Nigeria’s Foreign Ministry, in a separate statement, vowed to keep fighting violent extremism and said it hoped Washington would remain a close ally, saying it “will continue to defend all citizens, irrespective of race, creed, or religion. Like America, Nigeria has no option but to celebrate the diversity that is our greatest strength.”

The U.S. military footprint in West Africa was significantly diminished when about 1,000 troops withdrew from Niger last year. While the U.S. sometimes has small groups of troops in the region to take part in drills, the largest U.S. military base on the continent is in East Africa in Djibouti, which hosts over 5,000 troops and is used for operations in the region.

Trump had designated Nigeria a country of concern during his first term in the White House. His Democratic successor Joe Biden removed it from the U.S. State Department list in 2021.

On Friday, Trump said “thousands of Christians” were being killed in Nigeria by radical Islamists, but offered no

details.

Nigeria, which has 200 ethnic groups practicing Christianity, Islam and traditional religions, has a long history of peaceful coexistence, but it has also seen flare-ups of violence among groups, often exacerbated by ethnic divisions or conflict over scarce resources.

Asia-Pacific Leaders Call for Shared Trade Benefits as APEC Summit Wraps Up

GYEONGJU (Dispatches) - Facing deepening fractures in the global trade order, Asia-Pacific leaders adopted a joint declaration that emphasised the need for resilience and shared benefits in trade at the end of the annual APEC summit on Saturday.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting, hosted by South Korea this year, unfolded under the shadow of rising geopolitical tensions and aggressive economic strategies - ranging from U.S. tariffs to China’s export controls - that have pressured global trade.

Ahead of the gathering, U.S. President Donald Trump announced trade deals with a number of countries, including China and South Korea. But he left before the summit kicked off.

Washington’s views, however, remained on display in the declaration, analysts said, which, unlike last year’s document, did not mention multilateralism or the World Trade Organization.

“It is a result of member countries acknowledging, at least to some degree, that it will be difficult to restore a free trade order



based on multilateralism and the World Trade Organization,” said Heo Yoon, a professor of international trade at Sogang University in Seoul.

“We cannot deny anymore that there is a paradigm shift in the global trade order.”

With Trump’s swift exit before the summit, China sought to position itself as a steady advocate of free and open trade, a role the U.S. had dominated for decades. China will host APEC in Shenzhen in 2026, President Xi Jinping announced.

In closing remarks, Xi proposed the establishment of a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, while the gathering adopted other declarations on demographic change and AI. But there was no mention of AI regulations.

“China is clearly taking advantage of Trump’s absence at APEC to actively engage countries worried about the retreat of the U.S. and China’s rise,” said Li Xing, a professor at the Guangdong Institute for International Strategies.

“It’s certain they will be reassuring countries like South Korea that can no longer fully count on U.S. backing due to Trump, that they’re not seeking hegemony but common enrichment.”



Sinner Crushes Zverev 6-0, 6-1 to Reach Paris Final

PARIS (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner moved to within one win of reclaiming the world number one ranking with a 6-0, 6-1 dismantling of an ailing Alexander Zverev in the Paris Masters semi-finals today, setting up a final with Félix Auger-Aliassime.

The Italian raced to a remarkable thrashing of reigning champion Zverev at La Défense Arena in just 61 minutes.

"I saw it straight away from the first couple of points that he was struggling physically," the 24-year-old Sinner said after a fourth straight win over Zverev.

"It's not the way you want to win a match but at the same time for me personally I'm happy to be in the final, it means a lot."

Sinner will replace rival Carlos Alcaraz at the top of the rankings if he beats Canada's Auger-Aliassime.

"If it happens good, if not, it's next time," said Sinner. "It's not changing that much if you become number one in the world for one or two weeks. So in any case, from my side and my point of view, it has been an incredible season."

Auger-Aliassime reached the second Masters 1000 final of his career by beating in-form Kazakh Alexander Bublik in the first semi-final.

Sinner and Auger-Aliassime have split their four previous meetings, although the world number two has won the past two, including in this year's US Open semi-finals.

"It's always good to play him," Auger-Aliassime said of facing Sinner. "I feel like he pushes players to be very, very disciplined tactically and to execute their game almost perfectly in order to win."

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner is now on a 25-match winning streak on indoor hard courts.

He is targeting his fifth title of the season after last weekend adding the Vienna Open trophy to his Australian Open, Wimbledon and China Open triumphs.

Third seed Zverev made a dreadful start today and Sinner needed just 15 minutes to take a double break and a 3-0 lead, sealed by a crushing cross-court winner.

A wild forehand saw Zverev broken for a third successive service game, before Sinner wrapped up the set with an ace.

It was the first time Zverev had lost a set to love since the 2023 French Open semi-finals against Casper Ruud.

The German showed some resilience in the first game of the second set, staving off a break point as he finally got on the board.

But the resistance was short-lived, as Sinner broke in the third game when Zverev ballooned another groundstroke.

Sinner completed the demolition when Zverev, who had earlier called for the trainer, dumped another shot into the net.

Ninth seed Auger-Aliassime clinched a 7-6 (7/3), 6-4 victory as Bublik crumbled from 4-1 up in the second set of his maiden Masters 1000 semi-final.

"All finals of Masters 1000s are a dream, but especially in Paris, a tournament with so much history and important past champions," said Auger-Aliassime.

Auger-Aliassime climbs above Lorenzo Musetti into the eighth and last qualifying spot for the ATP Finals in Turin this month.

The 25-year-old can seal his second appearance in the season-ending tournament with victory in tomorrow's showpiece match.

Salah Hits 250 Goals as Liverpool End Skid



LONDON (Dispatches) - Mohamed Salah's 250th Liverpool goal ended the Premier League champions' losing streak in a 2-0 win against Aston Villa today, while leaders Arsenal beat Burnley to surge seven points clear.

Elsewhere, Manchester United were held to a 2-2 draw at struggling Nottingham Forest and Chelsea won 1-0 at London rivals Tottenham.

After losing their previous four league games, and six of their last seven in all competitions, spluttering Liverpool finally showed signs of life at Anfield.

Arne Slot's troubled team were gifted their opening goal in first-half stoppage time when Villa goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez's wayward pass was intercepted by Salah, who slotted into the empty net for his fifth goal this season.

The Egypt forward's milestone 250th goal in all competitions for Liverpool was followed by Ryan Gravenberch's 58th-minute deflected strike, wrapping up the Reds' first league victory since they beat Everton on September 20.

"It's a great feeling to score goals and win trophies for this big club. It's something I don't take for granted. I'm so proud," Salah said.

Liverpool's win, which leaves them third but seven points behind Arsenal, was well-timed ahead of a crucial week featuring clashes with Real Madrid and Manchester City.

"What I liked most was everybody here felt the importance of the game. I'm talking about my players and the fans. They felt this was the moment today to show we're still there," Slot said.

Arsenal eased past Burnley 2-0, creating a five-game winning streak in the league to position themselves as firm favourites to end their painful two-decade wait to be crowned English champions.

Viktor Gyökeres headed the Gunners ahead following a Declan Rice corner in the first half at Turf Moor for his first league goal since mid-September — yet more joy for the set-piece specialists.

Mbappe's Real Madrid Extend Liga Lead

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Kylian Mbappé struck twice as Real Madrid romped to a 4-0 win over Valencia to move seven points clear at the top of La Liga.

Villarreal continued their strong start to the season by thrashing Rayo Vallecano 4-0 to climb above champions Barcelona into second place provisionally.

Atletico Madrid earned a comfortable 3-0 win over Sevilla to tighten their grip on fourth and pull level on points with Barca, who host Elche tomorrow looking to cut Madrid's lead back to five points.

After Mbappé's double, Jude Bellingham and Álvaro Carreras also scored for rampant Real as they racked up an easy victory ahead of Tuesday's Champions League clash at Liverpool.

Vinicius started on the left of Madrid's attack after apologising for his high-profile sulk following his substitution in the Clásico win over Barcelona last weekend.

The Brazilian missed a penalty in the first half, after appearing to ask Mbappé to take it, but otherwise turned in a decent performance.



"I want them to score the penalties, they are good opportunities," Real Madrid coach Alonso told reporters.

Mbappé netted a penalty to open the scoring, and Alonso confirmed the French superstar is the man tasked with taking spot kicks.

"The first was scored by Kylian and the second I would have liked to be scored too, but it's not a big topic, Kylian is still the first-choice taker... (Vinicius) had a very good game," said Alonso.

Alonso went with arguably his strongest side, despite his team's advantage in the table and the impending visit to Anfield.

Mbappé's double and Bellingham's strike gave Madrid a commanding three-goal lead at the break and effectively finished the game.

Mbappé has now scored 18 goals across all competitions in 14 games and leads the Spanish scoring charts with 12 in La Liga.

"Time will tell (how many he can score), you can't really extrapolate how many goals he'll get based on his average (so far)," said Alonso. "Kylian has that ease of finding the net, of being in the right place... he will score many goals."

Celtics End Sixers' Unbeaten Start

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jaylen Brown scored 32 points as the Boston Celtics slipped past host Philadelphia 109-108, handing the 76ers their first loss of the season on the opening night of NBA Cup action.

Anfernee Simons added 19 points for Boston, while Derrick White and Payton Pritchard each chipped in with 15 points. The Celtics have won three straight games since starting the season 0-3, including a one-point loss to the Sixers in the season opener.

Tyrese Maxey had 26 points and 14 assists to pace Philadelphia. Four other Sixers scored in double figures, including Joel Embiid (20 points) and rookie VJ Edgecombe (17).

Philadelphia trailed by 10 with less than three minutes



remaining but got within one and had the ball with 3.8 seconds to go. Quentin Grimes overdrilled on the final play, leaving Embiid with nothing but a desperation attempt as time expired.

Kawhi Leonard capped a 34-point performance by sinking a tiebreaking 22-footer with four-tenths of a second left as Los Angeles Clippers edged visiting New Orleans Pelicans 126-124.

James Harden finished with 24 points and a game-high 14 assists while Ivica Zubac had 14 points and a game-high 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who improved to 3-0 at home.

Jordan Poole came off the bench to score a team-high 30 points for the Pelicans, who fell to 0-5 on the season.

Azam Leads Pakistan to T20 Series Win Over South Africa



LAHORE (Dispatches) - Babar Azam scored a superb 68 from 47 deliveries to take Pakistan to victory over South Africa by four wickets in their third and final Twenty20 International in Lahore and clinch the series 2-1.

Pakistan elected to bowl first and restricted the visitors to 139 for nine in their 20 overs, before chasing down their victory total with six deliveries remaining.

Babar had looked out of touch in the first two games in the series on his return to the Pakistan T20 side for the first time this year, but conjured up a match-winning effort on a tricky surface that was providing assistance to the seamers.

He put on 76 for the third wicket with captain Salman Agha (33 from 26 balls) that set up the victory for the home side.

"This innings was due," Babar said at the post-match presentation. "I backed myself and the team believed in me. I was hoping for such a knock."

"There is pressure in everything. It is about how you absorb it and I wanted to do what the team needed, play according to the situation."

"We wanted to take it deep and build partnerships and it worked for the team."

Several South African batters made starts in their innings but wickets fell at regular intervals.

Reeza Hendricks top-scored with 34 and Corbin Bosch (30 not out) and captain Donovan Ferreira (29) were the others with modest contributions.