

Supreme Leader Appointed Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi as Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces in a Move Aimed at Strengthening Coordination Amid Strategic Defense Developments

IRAN NEWS

Iran Says Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Is “Fully” Aware of the Peaceful Nature of the Country’s Nuclear Energy Program and, Therefore, Should Avoid Making “Unfounded Remarks” on It

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2 DOMESTIC

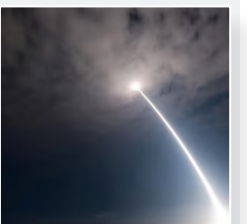


Iran and Oman Poised to Set New Record in Bilateral Trade

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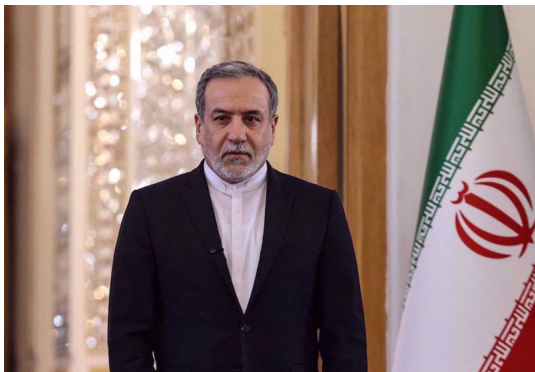
3 INTERNATIONAL

Trump Tells Pentagon to Resume Testing U.S. Nuclear Weapons



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FM Condemns U.S. Nuclear Weapons Testing Resumption as Global Threat



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araqchi has issued a warning in response to Washington’s announcement to resume nuclear weapons testing, calling it a regressive and irresponsible move.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Araqchi slammed Washington for rebranding its “Department of Defense” to the “Department of War” and denounced the US as a “nuclear-armed bully.”

“The same bully has been demonizing Iran’s peaceful nuclear program and threatening further strikes on our safeguarded nuclear facilities, all in blatant violation of international law,” the Iranian foreign minister said.

He condemned the US for its longstanding criticism of Iran’s peaceful nuclear program while simultaneously resuming its own atomic weapons tests, actions he claims violate international law.

“Make no mistake: The US is the World’s Most Dangerous Proliferation Risk,” Araqchi stated, arguing that the resumption of nuclear tests poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

He further urged the global community to unite in holding the US accountable for normalizing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, calling the announcement of renewed testing a regressive and irresponsible move.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday boasted that Washington’s nuclear arsenal is the largest in the world, and attributed this status to updates and renovations made during his administration.

India Secures 6-Month U.S. Sanctions Exemption for Chabahar Port



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India has confirmed that the United States will not impose its sanctions on the Chabahar Port in Iran for the next six months, allowing New Delhi to continue its investment and operations at the strategic facility uninterrupted.

In a statement on Thursday, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that US sanctions would be waived for Chabahar Port starting October 29, lifting previous restrictions that had threatened India’s \$370 million, 10-year development contract.

“We continue to remain engaged with the US side on finalizing the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discussions. For any further update, I would refer you to the Ministry of Commerce,” MEA spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said.

Previously, the US State Department had announced that the exemption, in place since 2018, would end on September 29, stressing that the move was consistent with the Donald Trump administration’s so-called “maximum pressure” policy against Iran.

The revocation meant that any person or company engaged in the port’s operation could be exposed to sanctions.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said that the enemies who claim to support peace and dialogue in reality speak the language of force, adding that “even as they call for dialogue, they prepare their B-2 bombers to strike our vital centers.”

Speaking at the National Congress of 3,000 Martyrs of North Khorasan in Bojnourd, Qalibaf stated that Iran’s current resistance against global arrogance and the United States stems from the spirit of martyrdom and faith of the martyrs.

He emphasized that Iran’s steadfastness, security, and territorial integrity today are the result of the culture of martyrdom and sacrifice, which continues to guide the present and future generations of the nation.

“The martyrs are not merely a part of our glorious history,” Qalibaf said. “They are the living conscience and guiding light of our society, observing our decisions and actions, and protecting the nation against threats and deceit.”

The Speaker of Parliament underscored that the culture of martyrdom should not be confined to framed pictures or memorials. “Martyrs are living examples for solving today’s social and economic problems. Limiting them to photographs is an injustice to their legacy,” he said.

Qalibaf noted that during the Iran–Iraq war, “when the trumpet of war sounded, true believers distinguished themselves through courage and faith,” and it was the faithful men and women of Iran who defended the nation with devotion.

He praised the families of martyrs for their patience and perseverance, acknowledging their crucial role in shaping the country’s spirit of resistance. “The people of North Khorasan have created a spiritual and luminous atmosphere in the province through their love, effort, and creativity in hosting the second National Martyrs’ Congress,” he said.

Referring to the high status of martyrs, Qalibaf stated that “the souls of the martyrs are present in such gatherings and support us. They entered this arena with faith in divine traditions, which never change.”

He urged that martyrs should not be viewed merely as memories from the past but as living models for confronting modern cultural, social, and economic challenges.

Qalibaf continued: “Experts and analysts agree that Iran’s current security, independence, and dignity are the result of the culture of sacrifice and martyrdom, and the unity of our people against foreign threats.”

He accused Israel and its allies of attempting to impose either war or a “forced peace” on nations. “But history shows that a nation rooted in the culture of martyrdom will never



surrender or be enslaved,” he said.

The Speaker added that Iran today enjoys exceptional security and independence thanks to the sacrifices of martyrs, war veterans, and the awareness and unity of its people across all ethnic and religious groups.

Qalibaf highlighted that the culture of martyrdom produces not only military success but also progress in cultural and economic fields. “Martyrs never complained about shortages. They faced difficulties with wisdom, maturity, and unity—and they succeeded.”

He warned against mismanagement and waste of national resources, emphasizing that the culture of martyrdom teaches responsible governance and problem-solving. “This culture generates power, wealth, dignity, and wisdom—it paves the way for national progress in all sectors,” he said.

Qalibaf described the martyrs’ mindset as founded on the belief that “we can,” calling for the promotion of this self-reliant spirit. “Commemorations and cultural programs remind us to stand against wastefulness, think critically, and resist the enemies,” he said.

He praised North Khorasan for its history of sacrifice, noting that the province offered 3,000 martyrs during the Iran–Iraq war and continues to demonstrate the same spirit of resistance today.

Qalibaf recalled several prominent local martyrs, including Commander Shojiri, who was martyred in Operation Valfajr 8, and martyrs Gerivani, Shushtari, and Ramazani, who stood courageously against enemies from the very beginning of the war.

“North Khorasan has always been a leading province in sending fighters to the front lines and upholding the values of the Revolution and Islam,” he said.

Qalibaf also commended the province’s combatants during the Iran–Iraq war, mentioning martyrs such as Nouri, Rezaei, and Yazdani, who fought bravely in Kurdistan and other fronts. “There was no major operation in which North Khorasan’s heroes were absent,” he noted.

He attributed the bravery of these martyrs to their pure upbringing and faith, saying: “They were raised by pious mothers and fed with lawful sustenance. Today, we must solve our economic problems with the same spirit. We are all comrades of those martyrs who walked with God.”

The National Congress of 3,000 Martyrs of North Khorasan is one of Iran’s major cultural and spiritual events, held to promote the values of sacrifice and martyrdom, honor the status of the martyrs, and pass on the ideals of the Sacred Defense to the younger generation.

Iran Presses Afghanistan Over Water Rights From Harirud River

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran is determined to secure its share of water from the Harirud River, a senior Iranian diplomat says, criticizing Afghanistan for restricting the natural flow through dam construction as the northeastern city of Mashhad faces a worsening water crisis.

Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs, said Thursday that Tehran views access to the river’s water as a “customary right” and will continue talks with Kabul to resolve the issue.

“Afghanistan’s dam construction prevents this water from flowing toward Iran, and resolving this obstacle to ensure the transfer of Iran’s water right is one of the topics of discussion with Afghan officials,” he stressed.

The issue of Iran’s water rights from the Harirud River is of great importance, Gharibabadi said, adding that the Islamic Republic has a customary right to benefit from these water resources.

Iran will pursue its right with determination until a result is achieved, he emphasized.

A decade after Afghanistan unilaterally seized control of Harirud’s water via the Salma Dam, its authorities have constructed a second dam on the river, further restricting water flow to Iran and Turkmenistan.

The Harirud Basin is an international water system shared by Afghanistan, Iran, and Turkmenistan, playing a vital role in supporting the livelihoods of numerous communities.

Earlier this week, Gharibabadi made a visit to Kabul and reached several agreements with senior Afghan officials on several key issues, including renewed cooperation on water rights.

“During the recent visit to Afghanistan, this issue was followed up in meetings with officials of that country, and the legal regime of the Harirud River is also being pursued,” he said on Thursday.

“There are complexities in this regard, and the Afghan side must come to the negotiating



table so that the necessary understanding can be reached, allowing for a written memorandum of understanding on this issue similar to that of the Helmand River. Nonetheless, Iran’s customary right to use this river remains in place, and follow-ups in this regard are underway,” Iran’s deputy foreign minister stressed.

The development comes as Mashhad, in northeastern Iran, is currently in a critical situation due to the current acute shortage of water.

“We are in a critical situation in terms of water supply, and the storage volume of the dams supplying Mashhad’s water has dropped to less than three percent,” warned Hossein Esmacilian, CEO of Mashhad Water and Wastewater Company, who also attended the meeting with Gharibabadi.

Esmacilian also stressed that securing funds to accelerate the implementation of Mashhad’s emergency water supply projects, as well as medium- and long-term plans, is essential.

Once the transfer line is completed, the treated wastewater will be transferred, and the agricultural wells in the region will be allocated for drinking purposes, he added.

“With the operation of wastewater treatment plants, we now have high-quality treated wastewater ready for agricultural use, intended for transfer to western Mashhad to replace the agricultural wells,” Esmacilian further said, adding that once the transfer line is completed, the treated wastewater would be transferred, and the agricultural wells in the region will be allocated for drinking purposes.

For millennia, rivers rising in central Afghanistan—lands that once belonged to Iran—have sustained communities across the arid western region. Control over these scarce water resources has fueled tensions since modern borders were established by the British in the mid-19th century.

Senior Yemeni, Iranian Officials Meet in Muscat Amid New Israeli Threats



SANAA (Dispatches) - A senior Yemeni negotiator has met with a top Iranian diplomat in Muscat, underscoring deepening coordination between the two allies amid heightened tensions following new Israeli threats against Yemen.

Mohammed Abdul-Salam, head of the Yemeni negotiating delegation and spokesman for Yemen’s Ansarullah popular resistance movement, met Thursday with Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi in the Omani capital.

Abdul-Salam briefed the Iranian official on the latest developments in Yemen, emphasizing “national unity and solidarity among the Yemeni people.” He also expressed appreciation for Iran’s “political and moral support” for Yemen in the face of foreign aggression.

Takht-Ravanchi, for his part, praised the “honorable support of the resilient and oppressed people of Yemen for the people of Palestine,” describing Yemen’s resistance to Israeli attacks as “historic and dignified.”

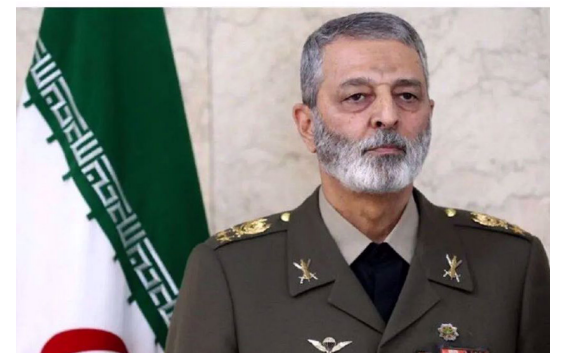
The two sides also discussed recent political developments and ongoing consultations regarding the implementation of Yemen’s peace roadmap.

The meeting came as Israeli minister of military affairs Israel Katz warned that Tel Aviv had not “had the last word” against the Ansarullah of Yemen’s Houthis, the movement that has targeted Israeli vessels in the Red Sea in solidarity with the Palestinians.

“The Houthis will pay a heavy price for their attempts to strike the Israeli home front over the past two years. We have not said the last word,” Katz said.

Mohammed al-Farrah, a member of Ansarullah’s political bureau, told Al Mayadeen that “we will not allow a criminal to threaten us.”

Passive Defense a Strategic Necessity After 12-Day War With Israel



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran’s top commander has declared that integrating passive defense into national planning is a “strategic necessity” and a “legal and national obligation,” directly referencing the lessons learned from a recent 12-day war with the Israeli regime.

In a message marking passive defense days on Thursday, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi underscored that given the lessons of the 12-day war, “establishing the principles of passive defense in vital infrastructure is not only a strategic necessity but also a legal and national obligation.”

The realization of this important matter, he said, “will pave the way for enhancing national resilience and ensuring sustainability.”

He noted that the passive defense is the “most strategic, scientific, and peaceful form of national defense.”

According to the top general, it is a critical shield against a modern spectrum of threats, including cyber, biological, chemical, and hybrid warfare, by relying on the core principles of “forecasting, prevention, and preemption.”

General Mousavi highlighted that the historical experiences of Iran, particularly during the Iran-Iraq War have long proven the necessity of this approach.

IRAN NEWS



Iranian Envoy, Nigerien Minister Discuss Tourism Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Iranian ambassador to the Republic of Niger has met with the African country’s minister of tourism and handicrafts to discuss bilateral cooperation on tourism.

Ambassador Ali Tiztak met with Soufiane Aghaichata Guichene on Thursday.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on enhancing cooperation between Iran and Niger in the field of tourism. Iran has described itself as a health-tourism hub, stating that more than 50 countries — including Nigeria — send patients to Iran for medical treatment.

Iran’s historic city of Isfahan has explicitly expressed an interest in strengthening “tourism connections with Africa”, including inviting officials from Nigeria.

Iran, Indonesia to Hold New Round of Joint Economic Commission for Expanding Bilateral Cooperation



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Communications and Information Technology has emphasized the importance of the Iran-Indonesia Joint Economic Commission during a meeting with the Indonesian ambassador in Tehran, calling for the resumption of the commission’s activities to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

According to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Seyed Sattar Hashemi, in his meeting with Ruliansyah Sumirat, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Iran, highlighted the existing potential for collaboration between the two countries and expressed hope that this meeting would pave the way for enhancing bilateral relations.

Hashemi, who heads the Joint Economic Commission between Iran and Indonesia, noted that despite Iran’s efforts and follow-ups by the ministry, commission meetings have not been held in recent years. He expressed hope that with the ambassador’s active presence, the process could be revived and new opportunities for cooperation created.

Referring to Indonesia’s Vision 2045 development plan, which includes a focus on the digital economy, Hashemi stated that under Iran’s own five-year development plan, the digital economy is set to reach 10 percent of the national GDP, demonstrating a shared goal between the two nations.

He identified cybersecurity as one of the promising areas for collaboration and pointed to Iran’s ongoing projects in rural connectivity, 5G network expansion, and household and business fiber-optic development. Hashemi said Iran was ready to share its experiences with Indonesia, particularly given the country’s geographic spread across 18,000 islands.

Lebanese Ambassador’s Residence in Tehran and Several Other Sites to Be Nationally Registered



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The National Council for the Registration of Immovable Cultural-Historical Monuments has approved the inclusion of several new heritage sites on Iran’s National Heritage List, including the Lebanese Ambassador’s Residence in Tehran, Hajazi House in Dehaghan (Isfahan Province), and Hosseinieh Azam in Lar (Fars Province).

The seventh session of the National Council for the Registration of Immovable Cultural-Historical Monuments was held under the chairmanship of Ali Darabi, Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, to review proposed files from four provinces. In total, 15 cases from South Khorasan, Isfahan, Fars, and Tehran were evaluated.

During the meeting, the council assessed 13 new historical sites for inclusion on the National Heritage List and related registries. One case involved expanding the protected area of an already registered site, while another—based on an order from the Administrative Justice Court—underwent revaluation to complete its registration process.

Among the most notable sites reviewed were the Lebanese Ambassador’s Residence in Tehran, Hajazi House in Dehaghan (Isfahan), Hosseinieh Azam in Lar (Fars), Saray Do Dar, the five qanat water systems in the village of Gol, Esfahak Bathhouse, and Jahanian Mansion in South Khorasan Province. The council approved the registration of all reviewed properties.

Iran and Oman Poised to Set New Record in Bilateral Trade

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran and Oman are on track to achieve an unprecedented level of bilateral trade by the end of the current Iranian year (March 2026), with forecasts suggesting that total exchanges between the two nations could exceed \$2.5 billion, according to the Iran–Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce.

Jamal Razaghi Jahromi, President of the Iran–Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, emphasized in an interview with Iran Chamber Online that despite existing structural and logistical barriers, the positive trajectory of trade between the two countries is expected to continue in the second half of the year, potentially setting a new record in bilateral exchanges.

According to Razaghi, in the first five months of 2025 (Iranian year 1404), trade between Iran and Oman increased by 11 percent compared to the same period last year. Iran’s exports to Oman, which grew by 16 percent, were the main driver of this growth.

He noted that non-oil exports from Iran to Oman amounted to \$780 million, while imports from Oman reached \$373 million, resulting in a total trade volume of \$1.153 billion. During the same period in 2024, exports had stood at \$675 million, and imports at \$363 million, for a total of \$1.038 billion.

Razaghi highlighted that this consistent upward trend reflects improvements in logistics, diversification of export products, and Oman’s growing role as a regional trade hub.

The head of the Joint Chamber outlined several key factors behind the growing trade volume. These include the expansion of port infrastructure—notably at Chabahar (Iran), Sohar, and Duqm (Oman)—and the establishment of new maritime shipping routes between the two nations. Such developments have reduced transportation costs and simplified export logistics for Iranian businesses.

Additionally, Iran has broadened the range of goods it exports to Oman, with petrochemical products, steel, cement, agricultural goods, food products, and fresh produce being the top-performing sectors.

Razaghi also pointed to Oman’s strategic positioning as a re-export hub, meaning that part of the goods imported from Iran are subsequently exported to markets in Africa, India, and the Persian Gulf. This re-export activity has further deepened the trade partnership between the two nations.

Moreover, Oman’s “Vision 2040” policy, which emphasizes diversification of trade partners and reducing dependence on a few key suppliers, has opened new opportunities for Iran.

Despite the promising outlook, Razaghi acknowledged that Iranian exporters face several challenges in trading with Oman. Beyond the impact of sanctions and banking restrictions, one of the main obstacles remains intense competition from rival exporters—particularly from the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, and India—who enjoy stronger logistical networks and brand presence in Omani markets.

He also highlighted issues related to quality standards and certifications, noting that some Iranian products still require improved packaging, labeling, and compliance



with Oman’s GCC/GSO health and safety regulations.

Furthermore, while transportation infrastructure has improved, shipping and container capacity remain limited, leading to occasional delays and higher costs. Many Iranian businesses are also not fully familiar with Oman’s investment and residency regulations, preventing them from establishing a permanent presence.

Despite these obstacles, Razaghi expressed optimism about the outlook for the remainder of the year, noting that Iran currently maintains a trade surplus with Oman. He cautioned, however, that sustained growth depends on several external factors, including global oil and petrochemical prices, competitive pressures from neighboring exporters, and the absence of new logistical or regulatory barriers from Muscat.

Razaghi identified several non-banking challenges that could influence future trade, particularly fluctuating shipping costs and irregular maritime schedules amid global shipping disruptions. He also emphasized the importance of exporters adhering to Oman’s import registration systems—such as the “Bayan” customs platform—and obtaining necessary approvals from Omani food and veterinary authorities for agricultural and food items.

He noted that a significant portion of Iran’s imports from Oman consist of re-exported goods, making them vulnerable to global price volatility and changes in third-country regulations.

On the positive side, Razaghi pointed to the signing of 18 cooperation agreements during an Iranian delegation’s official visit to Muscat in June 2025. These agreements included discussions on preferential trade arrangements and tariff reductions, which could lower both tariff and non-tariff barriers and strengthen bilateral economic cooperation.

He added that the growing collaboration between the chambers of commerce of both countries, along with enhanced private sector ties, would further accelerate trade expansion.

According to Razaghi, the trade composition between the two countries is largely complementary. Iran’s main exports to Oman include livestock, agricultural goods, petrochemical and petroleum products, food items, and raw agricultural materials, while its main imports consist of animal feed corn, sunflower oil, and various industrial and mineral products—all of which are in high demand in regional markets.

Moreover, Oman’s role as Iran’s second-largest re-export destination after the UAE ensures that even if direct exports fluctuate, overall trade through re-export channels remains robust.

In conclusion, Razaghi forecast that the total volume of trade between Iran and Oman will surpass \$2.5 billion by the end of 2025, marking a significant increase from last year’s levels. “Despite the structural and logistical challenges,” he said, “the overall trajectory remains positive, and with continued cooperation, Iran and Oman are poised to set a new record in bilateral trade.”

Iran Among the World’s Top Five Countries in Copper Reserves



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Geological Society of Iran announced that with the identification of nearly 30 billion tons of copper ore, Iran now ranks fifth or sixth globally in terms of copper reserves. Estimates suggest that this figure could rise to as much as 100 billion tons with further exploration.

Mansour Ghorbani made the remarks on Wednesday at the First International and 28th National Conference of the Geological Society of Iran, held at the University of Zanjan. He highlighted Iran’s outstanding position in natural resources, noting that more than 36 trillion cubic meters of natural gas have been discovered in the country so far — representing 16 percent of global reserves — with the potential to reach 50 trillion cubic meters.

Ghorbani added that Iran also holds a significant place among oil-producing nations, with more than 157 billion barrels of recoverable crude oil.

Emphasizing the country’s remarkable geological diversity, he stated that Iran possesses around 80 types of minerals, making it one of the few nations in the world with such extensive geological variation.

He also announced that 1,000 tons of proven gold reserves have been identified in Iran, with projections suggesting this could increase to 5,000 tons.

Turning to environmental challenges, Ghorbani warned that since 1991, over 200 billion cubic meters of groundwater have been extracted from Iran’s underground resources. This excessive withdrawal, he said, has led to declining water tables, the drying up of springs, and land subsidence in several plains.

He also noted a worrying increase in the domestic sources of dust storms, saying that the share of internal factors has risen from 30 percent to about 50 percent, reflecting the impact of human activity within the country.

Tehran to Host 25th Int’l Industry Exhibition With Participation of 400 Companies



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran’s 25th International Industry Exhibition will be held in Tehran from November 1 to 4 (Aban 11–14), featuring the participation of 400 domestic and foreign companies, according to Sadif Beikzadeh, Managing Director of the Iran International Exhibitions Company.

Speaking at a press conference on Friday, Beikzadeh announced that 107 international exhibitors from countries including China, Turkey, Belgium, Taiwan, Russia, and several Arab nations will showcase industrial equipment, machinery, components, engineering services, and advanced technologies at this year’s event.

Beikzadeh highlighted the strategic importance of industrial exhibitions as vital platforms for technology transfer, innovation, and business development, particularly under the current conditions of international trade restrictions and sanctions.

“These exhibitions play a crucial role in the exchange of knowledge and technology,” he said. “Although sanctions and trade barriers limit the physical transfer of industrial equipment, there are now multiple effective channels for knowledge sharing through online networks and virtual negotiations. Such tools can help us localize technology and strengthen domestic production capabilities.”

He added that the exhibition provides an opportunity for Iranian manufacturers, engineers, and entrepreneurs to engage with international companies, establish partnerships, and explore avenues for industrial collaboration.

Iran’s Use of SCO Membership Far Below Its Potential

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The head of the Iran–India Joint Chamber of Commerce has criticized the country’s lack of a coherent strategy in international economic relations, saying that despite an increase in trade with Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, Iran has not yet realized its rightful share of the bloc’s economic opportunities.

In an interview with Iran Chamber Online, Ebrahim Jamili, President of the Iran–India Joint Chamber of Commerce, said that although Iran’s full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization marked an important diplomatic success, the country’s utilization of this opportunity remains limited.

“The Shanghai Cooperation Organization is one of the world’s most important and influential multilateral agreements,” Jamili said. “Iran’s transition from observer to full member was a major achievement for the country’s foreign policy under the late President Ebrahim Raisi. However, we have not yet managed to benefit from this membership to the extent of our potential.”

Jamili explained that while Iran’s trade with SCO member states has grown in recent years, the increase is modest compared to what could have been achieved. “Yes, our trade volume has expanded, but not in proportion to our actual capacity or our potential share within the organization,” he said.

He attributed this shortfall to the absence of an active and specialized economic diplomacy within Iran’s foreign policy structure. “To effectively leverage multilateral agreements such as the SCO, BRICS, or the Eurasian Economic Union, our diplomatic apparatus must act as a genuine supporter and partner to economic diplomacy,” he said.

Jamili criticized the largely political nature of Iranian delegations sent abroad, emphasizing that they often lack participation from economic experts and private sector representatives. “Most of the delegations we send are political, not economic,” he noted. “When business leaders and private-sector professionals are not included, our engagement remains symbolic rather than practical.”

He added that to make real use of international trade pacts, Iran needs to adopt a specialized, knowledge-based approach—one that includes studying member countries’ trade regulations, identifying market opportunities, and training Iranian enterprises to engage effectively within these frameworks.

“If we truly want to benefit from the Shanghai Cooperation



Organization,” Jamili said, “we must understand the commercial rules governing its member countries. That requires hands-on involvement from economic actors and business leaders in our diplomatic missions.”

According to Jamili, one of the core reasons behind Iran’s limited success is the absence of a clear economic roadmap for its international engagements. “We do not have a defined plan for our economic relations with other countries,” he stated. “We should know exactly which Iranian companies are capable of operating in SCO, Eurasian, or BRICS markets. We must also identify the needs of those

markets and match them with our own capabilities.”

He emphasized that trade development should not be based on improvisation but on targeted planning and policy coordination. “Without a clear direction, our activities remain scattered and inconsistent,” he added.

Jamili also pointed to domestic economic challenges—especially foreign currency allocation and the lack of a unified exchange rate—as key factors hampering trade. “The multiple exchange rate system creates uncertainty for traders and investors,” he said. “These issues, along with the absence of a designated authority to oversee international trade planning, undermine our ability to act effectively in global markets.”

He argued that Iran must first establish a coherent institutional framework for economic diplomacy, determine which government bodies are responsible for trade coordination, and empower the private sector to participate meaningfully in foreign trade missions.

Jamili stressed that Iran’s ability to benefit from multilateral organizations such as the SCO depends on the alignment of diplomatic, political, and economic priorities. “If we expect to compete with other member states and gain from such agreements, our diplomacy must go beyond symbolic participation,” he said.

He concluded by emphasizing that while Iran’s trade with SCO members has increased over the years, it remains far below the country’s potential. “Our growth is real, but insufficient,” he stated. “With a well-defined strategy, specialized economic diplomacy, and stronger involvement of the private sector, Iran can move from passive membership to active participation and fully utilize the benefits of international economic cooperation.”

Trump-Putin Summit Cancelled After Moscow Sent Memo to Washington

LONDON (Dispatches) - The United States cancelled a planned Budapest summit between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin following Russia's firm stance on headline demands regarding Ukraine, the Financial Times reported on Friday.

The decision came after a tense call between the two countries' top diplomats, the Financial Times said, citing people familiar with the matter.

Reuters could not immediately verify the FT report. The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Officials in the Russian government were not immediately available for comment.



China Signals Sharper Pivot to Consumption as Imbalances Worsen



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's over-reliance on investment and exports to power its \$19 trillion economy appears to have reached a limit.

Chinese leaders are signalling a sharper shift towards supporting consumption over the next five years as limited investment room and slowing exports have exposed vulnerabilities, though measures may take time to yield results.

While the goal to expand domestic demand has been a longstanding one, and will not trump high-tech manufacturing as a priority, analysts say the proposals in the 2026-2030 plan are more explicit.

"The suggestion explicitly pledged to raise the consumption share in GDP. The philosophy of consumption policy also seems to have shifted from almost supply-centric to supply-and-demand balanced," Citi analysts said in a note.

Structural imbalances have certainly deepened amid China's property market crisis and a trade war with Washington.

This week, the Communist Party leadership pledged to "reasonably raise the proportion of public service expenditure in fiscal spending to enhance residents' consumption capacity."

They pledged to step up consumer-focused policies, improve income distribution to boost household income, and increase the central government's share of social spending to better support households.

Tanzania Reels From Election-Day Violence as Lockdown Extended



DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzania extended a lockdown on Thursday, with soldiers and police on the main roads in the country's biggest city, a day after elections turned into violent chaos with unconfirmed reports of many dead.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan, whose government is accused of a campaign of repression, had sought to solidify her position and silence criticism within her party in the virtually uncontested polls, with the main challengers either jailed or barred from standing.

But election day descended into chaos as hundreds took to the streets of Dar es Salaam, tearing down her posters and attacking police and polling stations, leading to an internet shutdown and curfew.

A diplomatic source told AFP they had unconfirmed reports of 30 or more people killed.

As the authorities sought to stamp out the unrest, army chief Jacob Mkunda took to state TV to call for order.

"Dear Tanzanians, you all remember that some people went to the streets on October 29 and committed criminal acts. These are criminals," he said.

"The army has controlled the situation for now, and continues to follow up. I urge the criminals to immediately stop. If they continue, the defence force will take legal action."

An AFP journalist said much of the economic hub Dar es Salaam was calm, but there was a visible security presence on the streets, with gunshots still frequently heard.



Trump Tells Pentagon to Resume Testing U.S. Nuclear Weapons

BUSAN (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump Thursday ordered the U.S. military to immediately restart the process for testing nuclear weapons after a halt of 33 years, a move that appeared to be a message to rival nuclear powers China and Russia.

Trump made the surprise announcement on Truth Social while aboard his Marine One helicopter flying to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping for a trade-negotiating session in Busan, South Korea.

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis. That process will begin immediately," Trump posted.

"Russia is second, and China is a distant third, but will be even within 5 years."

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to nuclear-explosive testing, which would be carried out by the National Nuclear Security Administration, or flight testing of nuclear-capable missiles.

No nuclear power - other than North Korea most recently in 2017 - has carried out explosive nuclear testing in over 25 years.

Post-Soviet Russia has never tested. The Soviet Union last tested in 1990, and China in 1996. Trump's fellow Republican, President George H.W. Bush, announced a U.S. testing moratorium in 1992 after the last U.S test in September that year.

Russia - which tested a new nuclear-powered cruise missile on October 21, held nuclear readiness drills on October 22 and tested a new nuclear-powered autonomous torpedo on October 28 - said it hoped Trump had been properly informed that Moscow had not tested an actual nuclear weapon itself.

"President Trump mentioned in his statement that other countries are engaged in testing nuclear weapons. Until now, we didn't know that anyone was testing," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

Putin, who commands the world's biggest arsenal of nuclear warheads, has repeatedly said that if any country tests a nuclear weapon then Russia will do so too.

Xi Jinping has more than doubled China's nuclear warhead arsenal to an estimated 600 nuclear weapons in the past five years, while Russian President Vladimir Putin has tested two new nuclear-powered weapons in recent days.

China's Foreign Ministry called for the U.S. to abide by its commitment to a moratorium on nuclear testing and uphold the global strategic balance and stability.

Robert Floyd, head of the Vienna-based Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, expressed alarm.

"Any explosive nuclear weapon test by any state would be harmful and destabilising for global non-proliferation efforts and for international peace and security," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has repeatedly said current nuclear risks are already alarmingly high and urged countries to avoid all actions that could lead to miscalculation or escalation with "catastrophic" consequences, said deputy U.N. spokesperson Farhan Haq.

"As he has said, we must never forget the disastrous legacy of over 2,000 nuclear weapons tests carried out over the last 80 years, and that nuclear testing can never be permitted under any circumstances," said Haq.

Later, on his way back to Washington, Trump said testing was needed to ensure the U.S. keeps up with rival nuclear powers.

"With others doing testing, I think it's appropriate that we do also," Trump said on board Air Force One, adding that nuclear test sites would be determined later.

Asked whether the world was entering a more risky phase around nuclear weapons, Trump dismissed the threat, saying U.S. stocks were "well locked up" before adding that he would welcome denuclearisation.

"I'd like to see a denuclearisation because we have so many and Russia's second and China's third and China will catch up within four or five years," he said.

"We are actually talking to Russia about that and China would be added to that if we do something."

U.S. Vice President JD Vance told reporters it was important to ensure the U.S. nuclear arsenal "actually functions properly, and that's part of a testing regime."

Trump addressed the Russian moves on his way to Asia earlier this week, telling reporters that Putin should be working to end the war in Ukraine "instead of testing missiles".

The United States has a stockpile of 5,225 nuclear warheads and Russia has 5,580, according to the Washington-based Arms Control Association, a nonpartisan group advocating nuclear nonproliferation agreements.

The Pentagon estimates that China will have more than 1,000 nuclear weapons by 2030.

Hamas Hands Over Bodies of Two Israeli Hostages



CAIRO (Dispatches) - Palestinian militant group Hamas handed over two bodies of deceased Israeli hostages on Thursday, a day after the tenuous Gaza ceasefire was shaken by a series of deadly Israeli strikes across the enclave.

The bodies of hostages Amiram Cooper and Sahar Baruch were returned to Israel for burial after an identification process was completed, the Israeli military said in a statement late on Thursday.

Under the ceasefire accord, Hamas released all living hostages in return for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and wartime detainees, while Israel pulled back its troops, halted its offensive and increased aid into the enclave.

Hamas also agreed to hand over the remains of all 28 dead hostages in exchange for 360 Palestinian militants killed in the war. Up to Thursday, it had handed over 15 bodies.

Israel says Hamas has been too slow to hand over the remaining bodies of hostages still in Gaza. Hamas says it will take time to locate and retrieve all of the remains.

Families of some of the hostages are desperate to provide a proper burial for their loved ones and fear their remains will be lost forever beneath the ruins of Gaza.

Thousands of Palestinians believed to be dead are still missing amid the vast

destruction.

The dispute over the recovery and handover of bodies of hostages has been one of the difficulties complicating U.S. President Donald Trump's plan to end the Gaza war for good.

Numerous major obstacles still lie ahead, including the future administration of Gaza and the demand for Hamas to disarm. At the same time, the sides have been trading blame for violating the truce.

From Tuesday into Wednesday, Israel retaliated for a Palestinian attack on its

troops, which left one soldier dead, with bombardments that Gaza health authorities said killed 104 people.

The Gaza health ministry said 46 children and 20 women were among the 104 people killed in the airstrikes. Israel said its strikes had targeted dozens of militants.

Witnesses said Israeli planes carried out 10 airstrikes in areas east of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, while tanks shelled areas east of Gaza City in the north before dawn on Thursday. No casualties were reported.

The Israeli military said it carried out "precise" strikes against "terrorist infrastructure that posed a threat to the troops" in the areas of Gaza where its forces are still deployed.

Gaza residents said they feared a resumption of hostilities.

"We're scared that another war will break out, because we don't want a war. We've suffered two years of displacement. We don't know where to go or where to come," said a displaced man, Fathi Al-Najjar, in Khan Younis in southern Gaza.

At the tent encampment where Najjar spoke, girls and boys were filling plastic bottles with water from metal containers placed on the side of the street, and women cooked food for their families using clay-made firewood ovens.

The war has displaced most of Gaza's more than two million people, some of them several times. Many haven't yet returned to their areas, fearing they could soon be displaced once again.

Russia Strikes Ukraine Energy Grid, Killing Seven, Including One Child



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russia launched a barrage of drones and missiles at Ukraine's energy infrastructure and other targets, forcing nationwide power restrictions and killing seven people, including a seven-year-old girl, Ukrainian officials said.

Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko accused Moscow of targeting Ukrainian people and power supplies as the cold winter months approach.

"Its goal is to plunge Ukraine into darkness. Ours is to preserve the light," Svyrydenko said on the Telegram app. "To stop the terror, we need more air defence systems, tougher sanctions, and maximum pressure on the aggressor."

Regional officials said two men were killed in the southeastern industrial city of Zaporizhzhia, and a seven-year-old girl from the central Vinnytsia region died in hospital from injuries sustained in the attacks.

The regional governor said a later drone strike on a village south of Zaporizhzhia killed one person and injured another.

In Sumy, a city near the northern border with Russia, the regional governor wrote on Telegram that 10 Russian drones had attacked the city in an hour early on Friday. He said two people were injured when two apartment buildings were hit and pictures posted online showed several apartments ablaze.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said in his nightly video address that a bomb attack on a thermal power plant in Sloviansk in eastern Donetsk region killed two people and injured a number of others.

Prosecutors in Donetsk region said Russian attacks on dwellings in the city of Kramatorsk killed one person and injured three.

Sloviansk and Kramatorsk are considered key future targets in Russian troops' slow advance westward through Donetsk region.

Russia's defense ministry said its forces launched a strike on facilities of the Ukrainian military-industrial complex overnight.

Moscow denies targeting civilians and has said its strikes are responses to Ukraine's attacks on Russian infrastructure.

Ukraine has launched regular drone attacks on military and oil sites as it fights Russia's almost four-year-old invasion.



Liverpool Humiliated at Anfield as Palace March on

LIVERPOOL (Dispatches) - Second-string Liverpool were thumped 3-0 by Crystal Palace as Ismaila Sarr struck twice for the visitors in the League Cup, booking the London side's spot in the quarter-finals and piling more misery on Arne Slot's struggling side.

Holders Newcastle United dispatched Tottenham Hotspur 2-0, Arsenal beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-0, Manchester City came back to down second-tier Swansea City 3-1 and Chelsea edged past Wolverhampton Wanderers 4-3 in other fourth-round ties.

Slot rested most of his regular starters — as did the other major Premier League clubs — leaving Liverpool to suffer their sixth loss in seven games across all competitions.

The match at Anfield was fairly even before Sarr scored in the 41st minute when Liverpool defender Joe Gomez attempted to clear the ball but teed it up instead for the Senegalese player, who unleashed a blistering shot past keeper Freddie Woodman.

In a torrential downpour that matched the Reds fans' mood, Sarr doubled Palace's lead seconds before the break when he latched onto a lovely reverse pass from Jeremy Pino.

Liverpool were reduced to 10 men when Amara Nallo was sent off in the 79th minute for taking down Justin Devenny, his second red card in two senior appearances.

Pino added to Liverpool's misery with the visitors' third goal in the 88th minute.

"It's not of Liverpool standards to lose six out of seven," Slot told Sky Sports.

Asked if Saturday's Premier League game at home to Aston Villa was a must-win, Slot said: "Every Liverpool game is a must-win."

The night marked the first time Liverpool had lost a domestic cup match at Anfield by three goals without scoring since February 1934 in a 3-0 defeat by Bolton in the FA Cup.

It was also the league champions' third loss to Palace this season.

"I don't know how often this happens when you play the champions three times within three months, and you win three times. So credit to the players," said Palace boss Oliver Glasner.

Newcastle reached the last eight thanks to goals from Fabian Schar in the first half and Nick

Woltemade in the second to oust Spurs in an electric atmosphere at St James' Park.

"Really pleased, I think when you make the (eight) changes that we did, you hope to see a performance that's in line with our identity and our expectations, and I thought we got both today," said Newcastle manager Eddie Howe.

"It's most important the attitude is right from minute one and there's that will to win that you need, and we had."

Arsenal's 18-year-old Ethan Nwaneri broke the deadlock in the 57th against Brighton at the Emirates when he latched onto a pass from Myles Lewis-Skelly and fired into the bottom corner.

Bukayo Saka doubled the Gunners' lead in the 76th minute when he pounced on the rebound from a Jason Steele save.

"A very special evening for obvious reasons," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta said. "We made 10 changes, we played players that have never played together."

"Two debuts for Max (Downman, who is 15) and Andre (Harriman-Annous, 17). That feeling is unique."

Championship side Swansea stunned Pep Guardiola's City — who are 28 places above them in England's football pyramid — when Goncalo Franco struck in the 12th minute.

But Jeremy Doku equalised with a deflected effort just before halftime, Omar Marmoush put City ahead in the 77th when he broke free from a defender and fired into the roof of the net and Rayan Cherki wrapped up the win with a goal in added time.

Chelsea looked poised to thrash Wolves as goals from Andrey Santos, Tyrique George and Estevao gave them a 3-0 lead at Molineux. But the hosts showed some life late on with a goal from David Moller Wolfe after Tolu Arokodare had got one back.

Chelsea's Liam Delap was sent off in the 86th but his teammate Jamie Gittens made it 4-2 three minutes later before Moller Wolfe got his second of the night in added time.

Sinner Cruises in Paris Masters Opener

PARIS (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner began his tilt at a maiden Paris Masters crown which would return him to world number one with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Zizou Bergs, while reigning champion Alexander Zverev battled through a lengthy three-setter.

Following the surprise exit of world number one Carlos Alcaraz at the round of 32 stage on Tuesday, a maiden crown in the ATP 1000 event in the French capital would return Sinner to the summit of the world rankings.

But the Italian second seed showed no signs of feeling the weight of that pressure in his opening match at La Defense Arena — the top eight seeds received byes through the first round.

"I'm very happy to come through the first match," Sinner said.

"I was very precise, and I also started off with a break straight away, which gives you a bit more confidence."

Four-time Grand Slam champion Sinner is



known for his efficiency on-court and won through against 41st-ranked Belgian Bergs in one hour and 27 minutes without facing a single break point.

The 24-year-old methodically engineered breaks of his own early in both sets to seal his spot in the third round, where he will meet Francisco Cerundolo today.

Germany's Zverev battled past Argentine world number 49 Camilo Ugo Carabelli 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 7-5 to open his title defence.

He will next take on Spanish 15th seed Alejandro Davidovich Fokina following his victory over Frenchman Arthur Cazaux.

A hardfought tie-break separated Zverev and Ugo Carabelli in the opening set, before the 28-year-old cruised through the second in 35 minutes.

It then seemed Zverev might follow Alcaraz in crashing out early at La Defense Arena when the third seed fell 1-3 behind in the decider.

Spurs Off to First 5-0 Start in Team History



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Victor Wembanyama posted 27 points, 18 rebounds, six assists and five blocks while leading the host San Antonio Spurs to a 107-101 victory over the Miami Heat on Thursday night.

The Spurs, who have won five NBA titles, are off to a 5-0 start for the first time in franchise history. San Antonio also got 21 points, eight assists, six rebounds and four steals from Stephon Castle.

Bam Adebayo scored a game-high 31 points and pulled down 10 rebounds while Andrew Wiggins added 24 points for the Heat, whose three-game winning streak ended.

San Antonio, which entered the game with the best scoring defense in the NBA (104.5 points per game), won a battle against a Heat team that entered the day with the league's No. 1 scoring offense (131.5).

Ryan Rollins scored a career-high 32 points and handed out eight assists, and seven other Milwaukee Bucks players reached double figures to lead Milwaukee to a 120-110 victory over visiting Golden State Warriors without Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Myles Turner delivered his best game as a Buck with 17 points and seven rebounds. Cole Anthony added 16 points despite fouling out with more than seven minutes remaining.

Stephen Curry scored 27 points to lead the Warriors, with Jonathan Kuminga (24) and Jimmy Butler III (23) not far behind. Butler grabbed 11 boards.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 31 points, seven assists and no turnovers, leading Oklahoma City Thunder to a 127-108 home win over Washington.

Record-Breaking Bayern Thrash Cologne in German Cup to Stretch Winning Run



COLOGNE (Dispatches) - Harry Kane scored twice to help Bayern Munich come from a goal down and earn a 4-1 victory at Cologne in the German Cup second round, extending their perfect start to the season to 14 wins from 14 matches across all competitions.

Bayern's winning run since the start of the season is a record for a club from the big-five European leagues with the previous best mark set by AC Milan with 13 wins in the 1992/93 campaign.

"In the first half Cologne believed and fought. They won some key one-on-ones and were good with their set pieces. In the second half we were stronger," Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said.

The Belgian coach added that he was not concerned that the level of intensity in Bayern's game could lead to fatigue.

"Everyone has their own experiences. As a player in two seasons I had 198 points (with Manchester City). We marched through two seasons. We have to use the full squad."

"We have players who will come back from injury and that won't reduce the intensity."

The Bavarians, who host Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday before travelling to European title holders Paris St Germain in the Champions League next week, were initially on the back foot, with Cologne carving out several good chances before Ragnar Ache headed in a corner for a deserved lead in the 31st.

Bayern, however, needed just five minutes to level as Luis Diaz scoring on the rebound, although the Colombian was seemingly offside with VAR unavailable in Cup games.

Bayern's leading scorer Kane then completed their comeback in the 38th with a sensational second. The England captain got the ball with his back to the goal, turned and curled a left-foot shot into the top corner.

Rodrigues-Powered India Stun Australia to Reach World Cup Final

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - India ended Australia's title defence and booked their place in Sunday's women's World Cup final against South Africa after Jemimah Rodrigues smashed an unbeaten 127 to secure a sensational five-wicket victory in the second semi-final.

Opting to bat, Australia racked up 338 all out with opener Phoebe Litchfield (119) providing them a flying start and Ellyse Perry and Ashleigh Gardner chipping in with fifties at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

When the teams returned, Rodrigues produced a majestic knock that included 14 fours to help India pull off the



biggest successful chase in women's ODI history with nine balls to spare. The outcome means a new ODI world champion side will emerge on Sunday.

"It just feels like a dream and it's not sunk in yet," player-of-the-match Rodrigues, who was in tears after their victory, said after anchoring India's nervy chase.

Seven-time champions Australia had accomplished a record chase in a 661-run humdinger against India in the league phase of the tournament and they racked up another big total against the same opponents after electing to bat in the rematch.