

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Has Questioned the Credibility of the Nobel Peace Prize, Given the 2025 Winner's Open Glorification of War Criminal Benjamin Netanyahu

IRAN NEWS

Iran Has Released Two French Nationals Held in the Islamic Republic for Security Offenses on Bail by the Order of the Presiding Judge, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei Announced

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President Calls for Improving the Quality and Export of Technological Products



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian emphasized the importance of improving the quality and profitability of Iran's high-tech products during a visit to the National Exhibition of Emerging Technologies, stating that such innovations should also be used to advance medical justice by serving citizens in underprivileged regions.

Pezeshkian visited the 16th Iran International Nanotechnology Exhibition and the first "FarIran" Exhibition of Advanced Technologies on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, held at the Tehran International Permanent Fairground. The president reviewed the latest developments in Iranian scientific, industrial, and medical technologies.

During his tour, organized by the Vice Presidency for Science, Technology, and Knowledge-Based Economy, Pezeshkian honored researchers and innovators for their contributions. "Many of these achievements provide valuable opportunities for reform and improved efficiency," he said.

While visiting various booths, the president offered practical suggestions for supporting and commercializing the innovations on display. "Each of these products must generate value and profitability," he said. "We must work to enhance quality, expand exports, and ensure that these technological products are also applied in delivering services to citizens in less developed areas."

He called on ministries and state-owned enterprises to fulfill their social responsibilities by supporting knowledge-based producers and helping them scale their businesses.

Iran, Pakistan Seek Stronger Parliamentary and Economic Ties



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf began an official visit to Islamabad on Wednesday at the invitation of Ayaz Sadiq, Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, leading a delegation of Iranian lawmakers. The visit aims to deepen parliamentary cooperation and expand bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries.

According to Iranian state media, Qalibaf is scheduled to hold meetings with Pakistan's National Assembly and Senate leaders, as well as senior political officials, including Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. His itinerary also includes visits to Lahore and Karachi — key cultural and economic centers of Pakistan — where he will meet with cultural and religious figures, business leaders, and academics.

Before departing Tehran, Qalibaf said that enhancing parliamentary coordination was a key goal of the trip. "At the invitation of the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly, we are visiting to strengthen our inter-parliamentary cooperation and to discuss ways to expand ties between our two nations," he said.

He expressed appreciation for what he described as Pakistan's "clear and supportive stance" toward Iran following the recent 12-day conflict in the region. "Given the post-war situation, cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and other Islamic countries holds particular importance," he added.

Iran Urges UN to Address Trump's Nuclear Threats as a Danger to Global Peace

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has called on the United Nations to take urgent action over what it describes as "reckless and alarming" nuclear threats made by former U.S. President Donald Trump, warning that his remarks pose a serious threat to international peace and security.

In a formal letter sent Tuesday to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the President of the UN Security Council, Iran's Ambassador to the UN, Amir Saïd Iravani, requested that the matter be immediately referred to the Security Council under Article 99 of the UN Charter, which allows the Secretary-General to bring issues endangering international peace before the Council.

Iravani wrote that Trump's public statements constituted "a blatant violation of international law and a direct breach of the United States' obligations under global disarmament treaties."

Iravani cited two recent remarks by Trump: one made on October 29, 2025, when he announced on social media that he had directed the "U.S. Department of War" to begin nuclear weapons testing on an equal footing with other nuclear powers, adding that "this process will begin immediately." Two days later, in an interview with CBS's 60 Minutes, Trump reportedly boasted that the United States "has enough nuclear weapons to blow the world up 150 times."

"These statements are not only irresponsible but represent an explicit threat to use nuclear weapons," Iravani warned. "They also amount to a clear declaration of intent to resume nuclear testing."

The Iranian envoy argued that such threats violate Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which commits signatories to pursue effective measures toward nuclear disarmament. He added that Trump's words directly contradict the purpose and spirit of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which the U.S. has signed and pledged to observe through a continued moratorium on nuclear testing.

"The United States, as one of the three depository governments of the NPT, bears a unique legal and moral responsibility to uphold the treaty's integrity," Iravani wrote. "Yet the former U.S. president not only neglects these duties but openly glorifies nuclear weapons and threatens catastrophic destruction."

According to the letter, these "reckless and dangerous" remarks undermine decades of international work toward disarmament and non-proliferation, risk triggering a renewed nuclear arms race, and dangerously lower the threshold for nuclear confrontation.

Iravani also accused the United States of spreading "false and misleading narratives" about



Iran's peaceful nuclear program to justify what he described as "unlawful aggression." He referenced the June 24, 2025 U.S. airstrike on Iranian nuclear facilities, which Tehran claims were under the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and part of its peaceful nuclear energy program.

He called the attack a "flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter," saying it represented a direct assault on the foundations of the global non-proliferation system.

Given the gravity of the situation, Iran urged the UN Secretary-General to immediately bring the issue before the Security Council and to assess the potential consequences of Trump's remarks for the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture.

"I respectfully request that this issue be urgently considered by the Security Council in light of its primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security," Iravani stated.

He concluded by asking that his letter be distributed as an official Security Council document, underscoring Tehran's intent to make the complaint a matter of formal international record.

Trump's statements — widely criticized by arms control advocates — have reignited global debate about nuclear testing and the stability of existing non-proliferation frameworks. If the U.S. were to resume nuclear testing, it would be the first such action since 1992, raising fears of a chain reaction among other nuclear-armed nations.

Iran's appeal comes amid escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington, following months of mutual accusations, regional military incidents, and diplomatic deadlock over nuclear negotiations. Analysts say Iran's decision to involve the UN reflects both its effort to internationalize the dispute and its broader strategy of framing U.S. actions as violations of international norms.

As of Wednesday, the UN Secretary-General's office had not publicly responded to the letter, and the U.S. Mission to the UN declined to comment. Diplomats in New York, however, indicated that the issue could resurface during upcoming Security Council discussions on non-proliferation and disarmament.

Iran's sharply worded letter adds to a growing list of diplomatic confrontations between Tehran and Washington. But by placing the matter formally before the UN, Iran appears intent on shifting the nuclear debate from bilateral hostility to a global forum — pressing the international community to take a stand on what it calls "the reckless nuclear brinkmanship of a former U.S. leader."

Food Security Is the Foundation of National Strength

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref emphasized that "food security is the foundation of national power," stating that the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad's role in ensuring the country's food security has been no less important than the work of the defense sector.

According to a statement from the Presidency Office, Aref made the remarks during a meeting with senior managers and deputies of the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad. He described the ministry as one of the most vital and wide-ranging executive institutions in Iran's development structure.

Aref said that the recent 12-day war provided a clear opportunity to evaluate the performance of various government sectors. "On the first day of the war, the armed forces demonstrated strength and unity. On the second day, the economic front showed its resilience," he said, noting that despite the onset of the war—coinciding with the religious months of Muharram and Safar, school closures, and the start of summer travel—"the markets were fully stocked, and there was no shortage of essential goods."

He attributed part of this stability to "the Agriculture Ministry's coordination with the private sector and its effective management of food supply chains."

The First Vice President reiterated the government's fourteenth administration strategy to prevent hoarding and price manipulation. "Our policy has been to minimize punitive measures and instead rely on regulatory and market-based tools such as liberalizing imports," Aref said.

Recalling past meetings with rice farmers, he criticized intermediaries who buy rice from farmers at low prices and sell it at inflated rates: "Some traders purchased rice below cost and later sold it for over 300,000 toman per kilo, exploiting farmers' hard work."

Aref acknowledged the sector's challenges, including years of drought, water scarcity, and power outages, adding: "The agricultural sector has suffered silently, and farmers have remained patient."

He praised the Agriculture Ministry's performance in maintaining the production and distribution of essential goods and supporting domestic farming, horticulture, and livestock output. He reaffirmed that food security and self-sufficiency in key commodities remain strategic priorities for the Islamic Republic.

Emphasizing the need for competition in agricultural production, Aref called on the Agricultural Research, Education, and Extension Organization (AREEO) to take the lead regionally. "Thanks to diplomatic openings under the current administration, opportunities for regional cooperation and



barter trade have expanded," he said, urging AREEO to align with the self-sufficiency and regional trade strategy.

He cited a 28% increase in sugar production, efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in bananas, and growth in livestock production as examples of recent progress. He commended the ministry for working closely with other departments to solve problems internally, without letting them spill outside the government.

Aref recalled Iran's 2004 wheat self-sufficiency achievement and the authorization of 2 million tons of flour exports, calling for renewed efforts toward full wheat independence. He urged a review of outdated policies and greater encouragement of private sector

participation to strengthen regional trade links.

Aref described the Seventh Development Plan as the "core agenda" of the government, insisting that "implementation is mandatory." He said accurate data collection is essential for national planning, urging the Agriculture Ministry to provide precise, transparent statistics rather than politically filtered figures.

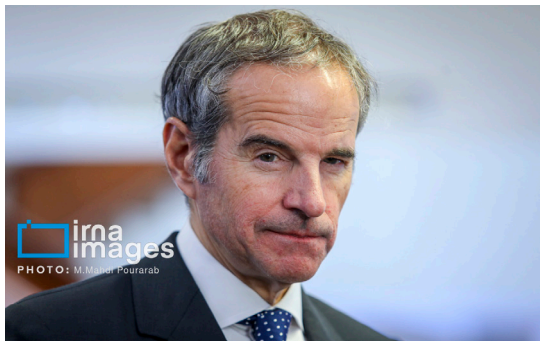
Addressing issues in the livestock feed supply chain, Aref admitted delays in providing foreign currency but criticized some importers for withholding goods: "Even if the government is late, it always pays its debts."

He noted that the Agriculture Ministry inherited a \$5 billion debt from previous administrations—"one billion has been repaid, and plans are underway to clear the remaining \$4 billion in the coming months."

Aref also referred to the Supreme Leader's guidance on competitive procurement, stressing the need to diversify suppliers rather than rely on a few companies. He said that after the 12-day war, several retail chains requested permission to import goods directly, and the government is reviewing how to regulate such activities within national policy frameworks.

In conclusion, Aref instructed the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad to make advance preparations for supplying and distributing essential goods, fuel, and energy during the holy month of Ramadan. Earlier in the session, Minister of Agriculture Jihad presented a report summarizing the ministry's achievements over the past year, including implementation of the Justice-Oriented Development Plan, resource management (especially water and soil), support for domestic production, agricultural diplomacy, and advances in plant and animal research, market regulation, and cooperation with universities.

IAEA Urges Renewed Cooperation with Iran on Nuclear Monitoring



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has called on Iran to strengthen its cooperation with UN inspectors to ease rising concerns about its nuclear activities and prevent further diplomatic strain with Western nations.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi told the Financial Times that while the agency had conducted several inspections in Iran since the outbreak of the conflict with Israel in June, inspectors had not been granted access to key nuclear sites — including Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan — all of which were severely damaged in US-led airstrikes.

Grossi said the situation had created uncertainty around 408 kilograms of uranium enriched close to weapons-grade levels, emphasizing that inspections should have already resumed. "We should have already been back to continue our verification work," he said, stressing the importance of maintaining transparency over nuclear materials.

Despite the challenging circumstances following the conflict, Grossi noted that the IAEA was seeking to handle its relationship with Tehran "with understanding," while reminding Iran of its commitments under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). "One cannot claim compliance with the treaty and at the same time withhold cooperation," he said.

The IAEA has been using satellite imagery to monitor the bombed facilities but has limited visibility into what is happening on the ground. Grossi said that while it was not yet necessary to refer Iran to the UN Security Council, "cooperation needs to improve seriously."

Tehran suspended cooperation with the agency after the outbreak of war, accusing the IAEA of bias and suggesting that its earlier resolution criticizing Iran's compliance had provided justification for Israel's attacks.

Airlines Plan to Resume Flights to European Destinations



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - As Austrian Airlines, a subsidiary of the Lufthansa Group, announces the resumption of direct flights to Iran, several Iranian carriers are also preparing to reestablish services on certain European routes.

According to IRNA, Austrian Airlines has restarted limited operations to Iran with several weekly flights. The airline has indicated that the number of flights may increase in the future as part of its broader Middle East expansion plan.

Austrian Airlines is among the few European carriers that maintained direct connections with Iran before the COVID-19 pandemic and, even during the sanctions era, served as an important link between Iran and Europe.

In related news, Ramin Kashi-Azar, acting head of Imam Khomeini International Airport City, confirmed discussions with Lufthansa and announced that Tehran-Frankfurt flights are expected to resume by mid-December.

Meanwhile, Qeshm Air is planning to expand its flight network to several European destinations.



Iran Approves Mango Imports from Kenya Under Quarantine Conditions

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Plant Protection Organization has authorized the import of mangoes from Kenya, provided that all specified quarantine conditions are met.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture Jihad, after a risk assessment and technical evaluations, Kenyan mangoes have been classified as a medium-risk quarantine commodity. Import permits will only be granted if full quarantine requirements are observed and verified by plant quarantine experts at entry points and customs offices.

8% of the World's Mineral Reserves Found in Iran



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A member of the board of directors of Iran's Lead and Zinc Miners Association announced that eight percent of the world's mineral reserves are located in Iran, emphasizing the need for more effective use of these resources.

Speaking at a specialized panel titled "Challenges and Solutions for the Development of Lead and Zinc Mines and Industries" on Tuesday, Ahmad Hari highlighted the importance of identifying Iran's comparative advantages in the global mining sector.

"Lead and zinc will eventually be replaced by alternative materials, and even copper — which is now at the peak of its production — will one day decline. Therefore, we must find our competitive edge to remain active in global markets," Hari said.

He stressed that exploration and extraction activities should be carried out with an international perspective rather than focusing solely on domestic markets. "Mining requires a long-term outlook and the ability to seize opportunities created by global demand. If exporting raw materials or concentrates generates healthy profit margins, we should not shy away from that," he added.

Hari also pointed to customs and currency allocation challenges, as well as limited government support, as key obstacles facing the mineral sector. He said that exporting mineral products has become difficult due to restrictions on cooperation with international companies and organizations.

In another part of the panel, Ali Se-Dehi, head of the board of directors of the Lead and Zinc Miners Association, said the association helps streamline technical, commercial, and administrative issues as well as licensing processes.

"Our country is rich in lead and zinc reserves, and to unlock this potential, miners in these sectors need stronger support," Se-Dehi stated.

He noted that Iran has about 600 lead and zinc deposits that constitute significant economic reserves for the mining industry. "Exploration and operation of these mines require essential government support," he added.

Rail Tourism Thrives Under Iran's Current Gov't



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's domestic tourism development director, Mostafa Fatemi, has highlighted the growing focus of the 14th government on rail tourism, emphasizing the rapid expansion of tourist train routes across the country. According to Fatemi, trains on the Tehran–Shirgah route are already operating at full capacity due to strong public demand.

Fatemi noted that the Tehran–Shirgah line offers not only a recreational journey but also a unique opportunity to experience Iran's untouched landscapes. "Tourist rail operations began about a decade ago, with the Tehran–Shirgah line as the pioneer. Though temporarily halted, services have resumed since last year with higher passenger numbers," he said.

He explained that earlier interruptions in rail tourism were mainly due to logistical and infrastructure challenges, but government support has revitalized this sector.

Fatemi described rail tourism as a safe, accessible, and distinctive travel experience and expressed optimism about its future in Iran. He pointed to new and reactivated routes, including Sarakhs in Razavi Khorasan (with religious and historical appeal), the Golden Tourism Triangle—Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd—focused on cultural heritage, Tehran–Kashan, and most recently, Tehran–Rasht, which joined the network last week.

"The government's approach to rail tourism has intensified, viewing trains not just as transport but as an affordable and comfortable travel experience for all," Fatemi said, adding that rail companies are also developing new routes and travel packages.

Iran to Establish AI Investment Consortium and Two National AI Operators

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has unveiled plans to launch an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Investment Consortium aimed at creating a sustainable national AI ecosystem and establishing two major AI operators.

According to Ehsan Chitsaz, Deputy Minister for ICT Strategy and Digital Economy Development, the ministry's approach centers on facilitation rather than intervention, focusing on enabling private-sector growth and avoiding premature price regulation.

"Our vision is to double the size of Iran's digital economy," Chitsaz told IRNA. "The government should not own innovation—it must enable it. We are here to build trust, provide infrastructure, and reduce investment risks."

Despite global expansion in the digital sector, Iran's digital economy has declined in recent years. Data from the Statistical Center of Iran shows that its share of the national GDP dropped from 4.72% in 2021 to 4.2% in 2023.

"This downward trend shows we haven't leveraged the full potential of the digital economy," Chitsaz said. "While the world creates value from data and knowledge, we've been slow to adapt. The nations that master data—not oil or minerals—will be the wealthiest in the future."

Once a regional leader in digital growth, Iran has now fallen behind its neighbors. The ICT Ministry aims to reignite digital innovation, retain domestic talent, and attract investment back into the country.

To accelerate development, the ministry plans to form an AI investment consortium to fund large-scale computing and data infrastructure. This initiative, approved by the ICT Regulatory Commission, will support the launch of two national AI operators, each with a minimum of 200 FLOPS (floating-point operations per second) of processing capacity.

These operators will serve as the backbone for domestic AI startups, industries, and digital services. The ecosystem will include several layers—from semiconductor production and data centers to AI algorithms and user-facing applications.

"A complete AI ecosystem must integrate hardware, data, algorithms, and human talent," Chitsaz explained. "We're coordinating with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology to align infrastructure and innovation."

The government will intervene only where the market fails, offering risk coverage, guaranteed purchases, and regulatory support to encourage private-sector investment.

Iran faces a shortage of skilled professionals in the digital sector. Under the Seventh Development Plan, the ministry aims to train 500,000 specialists in cooperation with the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Training will take place through the "Digital Iran" program, which emphasizes hands-on mentorship and work experience to align skills with real market needs. "We already see young people gaining digital skills outside universities and achieving strong incomes," Chitsaz said. "We must support this trend rather than constrain it."

The ministry is also pursuing simultaneous expansion of fiber-optic broadband and 5G mobile networks. A national plan seeks to establish 10 million fiber connections, marking one of the largest telecom projects in Iran's history.



Replacing copper cables with fiber will dramatically improve internet speed and reliability. "We are witnessing a historic shift from copper to light," Chitsaz said. "Citizens should feel the difference in everyday life."

In parallel, the ministry is securing financing for 5G deployment despite international restrictions. Within two years, widespread 5G access is expected to transform connectivity and enable new AI-driven services.

Chitsaz warned against over-regulation and excessive licensing by traditional sectors trying to limit digital platforms. "Innovation depends on breathing space," he said. "Our goal is to give the digital economy room to grow while maintaining fair oversight."

The ministry's Digital Economy Development Charter aims to align regulations with innovation rather than restrict it. The upcoming Data Governance Framework and Personal Data Protection Bill are also designed to support AI growth while protecting user privacy.

Acknowledging widespread dissatisfaction with internet restrictions, Chitsaz said the government has submitted a de-filtering action plan to the Supreme Council of Cyberspace.

"Excessive filtering has harmed network security, reduced service quality, and even turned user devices into attack vectors," he warned. The ministry plans to strengthen domestic messaging platforms by integrating essential daily services to encourage adoption, while ensuring users can safely access international tools when needed.

He stressed that the ICT Ministry's role is to regulate competition, not prices, adding that past government price controls had "destroyed the value of telecom firms" and hindered investment.

To help telecom operators purchase modern equipment, the ministry has opened new credit lines and coordinated with the National Financing Council. These measures aim to resolve long-standing problems in international procurement caused by sanctions.

Chitsaz also emphasized that any decisions affecting internet access—such as shutdowns—must be made with full awareness of their economic and social consequences. The ministry is engaging policymakers to prevent hasty decisions that could harm millions of citizens and businesses.

The government is finalizing a national framework for digital regulation, focusing on cross-sector collaboration to avoid fragmented policymaking. "We're shifting from isolated, sector-based control toward integrated digital governance," Chitsaz said.

A high-level meeting with President Masoud Pezeshkian is scheduled soon to discuss digital economy reforms, AI strategy, and the path toward more transparent and coordinated regulation.

"If we align investment, policy, and trust," Chitsaz concluded, "Iran can once again become a digital leader in the region. The AI consortium and national operators are only the beginning of that journey."

Path for Trade Between Isfahan and Iraq Becomes Smoother

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - At the meeting held to discuss opportunities for commercial cooperation between Isfahan and Iraq, the economic and industrial capacities of Isfahan Province and the potential for collaboration with Iraq's private sector were examined.

According to the Public Relations Department of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, representatives from the Chambers of Commerce of Basra, Nasiriyah, and Iraq's Ministry of Oil met with Isfahan's economic stakeholders to expand cooperation in the fields of economy, investment, and energy. Business representatives from both countries emphasized the development of trade exchanges, joint investments, and the implementation of industrial projects across various sectors.

Mohammad Reza Gol-Ahmad, Chairman of the Corporate Social Responsibility Commission and a member of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce Board, highlighted the province's diverse economic strengths, saying:

"With the presence of major companies in oil, petrochemicals, steel, stone, construction equipment, food industries, textiles, and medical equipment, Isfahan is ready to multiply its trade volume with Iraq."

Gol-Ahmad announced that plans are underway to hold specialized meetings between the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce and representatives from Iraq's various economic sectors to identify mutual industrial capacities and needs.

He added: "If the Iraqi side specifies its needs, Isfahani companies have the ability to supply the requested goods and equipment immediately. It was also suggested that during their stay in Isfahan, representatives of Iraq's Chamber of Commerce hold daily meetings with specialized industrial groups to conduct practical trade negotiations."

Luwey Jumaa Abadi Al-Hajjaj, a member of the Basra Chamber of Commerce Board, stated:

"The city of Basra is fully prepared to attract investment and develop economic cooperation with Isfahan Province."

Expressing gratitude to the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce for hosting the event, he said:

"We would like to create a joint plan to identify cooperation opportunities and implement investment projects between the two sides."

Al-Hajjaj added that once coordination is complete, an official invitation will be sent to continue negotiations between the Basra and Isfahan Chambers of Commerce.



Maher Shaker Tobia, Vice President of the Nasiriyah Chamber of Commerce and Director of its International Relations Department, emphasized Iraq's supportive policies:

"The Iraqi government, aiming to strengthen domestic production and attract foreign investment, has provided special facilities for Iranian companies in its industrial zones."

He added: "Land in the industrial areas of Dhi Qar and Basra provinces is offered free of charge to investors, and projects implemented on Iraqi soil will enjoy a 15-year tax exemption along with special government support."

Tobia stressed that the creation of a joint working group between the Chambers of Commerce of Isfahan, Nasiriyah, and Basra could pave the way for practical projects and increased economic interaction between the two countries.

Ahmad Latif, Consul General of the Republic of Iraq in Isfahan, underlined the importance of expanding economic cooperation between Iraq and Iran—particularly with Isfahan Province—saying:

"Investment opportunities in Iraq are vast, and there is room for collaboration across various sectors between the two countries."

Referring to his recent meetings with Isfahan's governor and officials, he added:

"A memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Iraqi Consulate and the Deputy Governor of Isfahan, and we are currently coordinating its implementation."

Latif described Isfahan as a province rich in industrial and economic capacity and emphasized that bilateral cooperation would be mutually beneficial.

Ali Abdulkarim Nasser, CEO of Iraq Oil Pipelines Company, stated that the purpose of the high-level delegation from Iraq's Ministry of Oil visiting Isfahan was to expand oil-related cooperation between the two countries.

He said: "This delegation, led by Engineer Ali Mousavi, Head of the Group and CEO of Iraq Oil Pipelines Company, traveled to Isfahan with the support of the Iraqi Prime Minister and Minister of Oil."

Nasser added that a representative office of Iraq's Ministry of Oil has been established in Baghdad in cooperation with Iran's Ministry of Oil to enhance oil-sector interactions between the two nations at both governmental and private levels.

He concluded that the Iraqi delegation's presence in Isfahan reflects the significance of energy cooperation between the two countries.

Iran, Oman to Accelerate Implementation of Preferential Trade Agreement



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – Iran and Oman have agreed to accelerate the implementation of their Preferential Trade Agreement, hold the next Joint Economic Commission and Business Forum in Tehran, and establish a bilateral Industrial Committee to expand trade and investment ties.

According to the Public Relations Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Mohammad Ali Dehqan-Dehnavi, Head of the TPO and Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, met with Qais bin Mohammed Al Yousef, Oman's Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion, during his recent visit to Muscat.

Dehqan-Dehnavi was accompanied by Abdolamir Rabiavi, Director General of the TPO's West Asia Office. The talks focused on accelerating the execution of the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries, organizing the next Joint Commission and Investment Forum in Tehran, and launching the Iran–Oman Industrial Committee.

Rabiavi noted that both sides emphasized the importance of activating mechanisms to facilitate trade and investment. "The establishment of the Industrial Committee and finalization of its draft framework were among the key topics agreed upon," he said. The Minutes of Understanding (MoU) for the Industrial Committee will be signed by both parties.

As part of the visit, Dehqan-Dehnavi also met with Saleh bin Said Masan, Oman's Deputy Minister of Commerce, Industry and Investment Promotion and co-chair of the Iran–Oman Joint Economic Cooperation Commission.

Rabiavi said that during this meeting, the two sides held exclusive discussions on strengthening bilateral trade, with a focus on the Preferential Trade Agreement, formation of the Industrial Committee, and industrial collaboration between the two nations.

Iran, Kuwait Seek to Remove Barriers, Expand Trade Relations



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - TEHRAN – The 13th meeting of the Iran–Kuwait Joint Commercial and Technical Commission emphasized the need to remove barriers and enhance bilateral trade between the two nations.

According to a report from Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) on Tuesday, the meeting was held in Kuwait City at the deputy ministerial level, bringing together senior officials from both sides to discuss ways to strengthen trade and economic ties.

The session was co-chaired by Mohammad Ali Dehqan-Dehnavi, Iran's Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and head of the TPO, and Marwa Al-Ja'eidan, Kuwait's Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry. Representatives from customs, port authorities, and other commercial institutions of both countries also attended.

During the talks, participants reviewed potential areas for expanding trade in goods and discussed existing challenges faced by Iranian traders in Kuwait.

The final draft of the bilateral trade cooperation memorandum is scheduled to be signed tomorrow, following technical reviews by expert teams from both sides.

While in Kuwait, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization is also expected to meet with senior officials from the Customs and Ports Authorities, as well as representatives of the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to explore new avenues of cooperation.

The head of the Iran–Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce welcomed the revival of the commission after more than a decade-long hiatus, calling it a turning point in rebuilding economic relations between the two nations.

Typhoon Death Toll Climbs to 66 in the Philippines

CEBU (Dispatches) - The death toll from Typhoon Kalmaegi in the Philippines climbed to 66 on Wednesday as residents of hardest-hit Cebu province began picking through homes and businesses devastated by the worst flooding in recent memory. Floodwaters described as unprecedented had rushed through towns and cities, sweeping away cars, trucks and even massive shipping containers.

Cebu accounted for 49 of the fatalities, civil defence deputy administrator Rafaelito Alejandro said in an interview with local radio outlet DZMM, as he confirmed the overall tally.

“It was the major cities that got hit (with floods), highly urbanised areas,” Alejandro said, adding that 26 people remained missing.



U.S. May Ask UN to Mandate Int'l Force in Gaza for Two Years



UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The United States has drafted a United Nations resolution that approves a two-year mandate for a Gaza transitional governance body and an international stabilization force in the Palestinian enclave, according to the text seen by Reuters on Tuesday.

The draft - which is still being developed and could change - was shared with some countries this week, but has not yet been formally circulated to the 15-member Security Council for negotiations, diplomats said. It was not immediately clear when Washington planned to do that.

A State Department spokesperson said discussions with U.N. Security Council members and other partners on how to implement President Donald Trump's Gaza plan were ongoing and declined to comment on "allegedly leaked documents."

The two-page text would authorize a so-called Board of Peace transitional governance administration to establish a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF) in Gaza that could "use all necessary measures" - code for force - to carry out its mandate.

The ISF would be authorized to protect civilians and humanitarian aid operations, work to secure border areas with Israel, Egypt and a "newly trained and vetted Palestinian police force, which the ISF will be responsible for training and supporting.

Russian and Ukrainian Troops Battle in Ruins of Pokrovsk



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian and Ukrainian troops fought battles on Tuesday in the ruins of Pokrovsk, a transport and logistics hub in eastern Ukraine that Moscow has been trying to capture for over a year.

Ukraine's military said fierce fighting was under way in a part of the city that was key for Kyiv's frontline logistics. It said additional special forces had arrived there, and more weapons and equipment were being sent.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said he spent the day visiting troops near Pokrovsk and in nearby areas, including Dobropillia, where Ukrainian forces are conducting a counteroffensive against Russian troops.

Writing on the Telegram messaging app, Zelenskiy said military commanders reported on "the stabilisation of the defensive line and coordination with adjacent units".

"Attention was given to strengthening our defences and providing the soldiers with everything they need".

Russia's Defence Ministry said its soldiers had cleared 35 buildings of Ukrainian troops. It also said that Russian forces were squeezing surrounded Ukrainians near the town of Kupiansk in the Kharkiv region, about 100 miles (160 km) to the north.



Lula Touts COP of Truth in Brazil as UN Warns Emissions Too High

BELEM (Dispatches) - With a U.N. report warning that worldwide carbon emissions remain too high to halt global warming, Brazil's president said on Tuesday that this month's U.N. climate change summit in the Amazon would be a "COP of Truth" and offer real solutions.

Despite three decades of global negotiations, countries will not prevent warming from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius - the main goal of the Paris Agreement brokered a decade ago. Instead, the world is on track for an extreme 2.3 - 2.5°C of warming, the United Nations' Environment Programme said on Tuesday.

The forecast assumes countries will fulfill pledges they have made so far to cut emissions. If they fall short, the world will get even hotter.

"This will be difficult to reverse," UNEP said of the 1.5C overshoot, noting that countries would need to move even faster and make even bigger reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to prevent runaway climate change.

Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whose country hosts COP30 on November 10-21, said failure to deliver on past climate deals - including the Kyoto Protocol and promised climate finance - was demoralizing for people around the world.

Speaking with reporters at a naval base in Belem, Lula said countries must deliver on past promises, rather than making new ones.

"We don't want the COP to continue to be an exposition or a fair for ideological climate products, with everyone seeing what they want, how they want it, and no one being obliged to do anything and make things happen," Lula said.

"We want it to be very serious, and for the things we decide to be implemented," he said, noting some countries were "not complying" with the Paris treaty committing them to limit warming to "well below" 2°C above pre-industrial levels, working for a limit at 1.5°C.

The U.N. emissions report on Tuesday noted that the current warming trajectory was only 0.3°C lower than it was a year ago before COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan - meaning new plans announced this year have done little to move the needle.

Brazil will propose creating a new U.N.-linked global environment council empowered to travel and monitor progress on

climate pledges around the world.

"Because otherwise nothing will happen. A country says 'I'm not going to comply' and nothing happens to it," Lula said. "So the COP loses its momentum, and soon people will no longer want to participate, because it's pointless."

The conference will be held in the riverside city of Belem in the Amazon rainforest with dozens of indigenous groups participating in the talks. Still, limited capacity and high costs have created logistical headaches.

"We didn't want to be comfortable, we wanted challenges. And we wanted the world to come and see the Amazon," Lula said.

Instead, many corporate executives, regulators, bankers and investors have gone further south to the coastal Brazilian city of Sao Paulo, where they hope to help speed up climate action in the real economy by highlighting what is working.

Clean industry groups said in a report on Tuesday that over 1,000 clean projects were in development worldwide. More than 70 of them, together worth \$140 billion, are set to be shovel-ready in coming months, according to the Industrial Transition Accelerator and Mission Possible Partnership.

Near Sao Paulo's financial hub, business experts attended panel discussions, meetings and roundtables tackling topics from carbon markets to best practices in pricing the carbon held in a stand of trees.

Hitachi Energy's head of sustainability, Alicia Argüello, said she attended a roundtable Monday about green electricity grids.

"I got a lot of feedback," she said.

Across town at a massive convention center, another three-day event offered more than 150 speakers.

Some were disappointed at being so far from the COP30 discussions in Belem, a four-hour flight from Sao Paulo. That meant they would not be able to network with country officials.

The world has made some progress in 30 years of climate negotiations. A decade ago, when the Paris Agreement was signed, the planet was on course for around a 4°C temperature rise.

But in 2024, UNEP said, global carbon emissions increased by another 2.3% to 57.7 gigatonnes of CO2 equivalent.

Progressive Democrat Zohran Mamdani Wins New York City Mayoral Race

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Zohran Mamdani, a 34-year-old state lawmaker and democratic socialist, was elected mayor of New York City on Tuesday, becoming the city's first Muslim and first South Asian mayor - and its youngest in more than a century. His victory marks a landmark triumph for the Democratic Party's progressive wing and caps a meteoric political rise.

In a victory for the Democratic Party's progressive wing, Mamdani defeated former governor Andrew Cuomo and Republican Curtis Sliwa. He must now navigate the unending demands of America's largest city and deliver on ambitious - critics say unrealistic - campaign promises.

With the victory, the democratic socialist will etch his place in history as the city's first Muslim mayor, the first of South Asian heritage and the first born in Africa. He will also become the city's youngest mayor in more than a century when he takes office on January 1st.

Mamdani's unlikely rise gives credence to Democrats who have urged the party to embrace more progressive, left-wing candidates instead of rallying behind centrists in hopes of winning back swing voters who have abandoned the party.

He has already faced scrutiny from national Republicans, including President Donald Trump, who have eagerly cast him as a threat and the face of what they say is a more radical Democratic Party.

The contest drove the highest turnout in a mayoral race in more than 50 years,



with more than two million New Yorkers casting ballots, according to the city's Board of Elections.

Mamdani's grassroots campaign centred on affordability, and his charisma spoiled Cuomo's attempted political comeback. The former governor, who resigned four years ago following allegations of sexual harassment that he continues to deny, was dogged by his past throughout the race and was criticised for running a negative campaign.

There is also the question of how he will deal with Trump, who threatened to take over the city and to arrest and deport Mamdani if he won. Mamdani was

born in Uganda, where he spent his early childhood, but was raised in New York City and became a US citizen in 2018.

Mamdani, who was criticised throughout the campaign for his thin résumé, will now have to begin staffing his incoming administration before taking office next year and determine how he plans to accomplish the ambitious but polarising agenda that drove him to victory.

Among the campaign's promises are free childcare, free city bus services, city-run grocery stores and a new Department of Community Safety that would send mental health care workers to handle certain emergency calls rather than police officers. It remains unclear how Mamdani will pay for such initiatives, given Democratic governor Kathy Hochul's steadfast opposition to his calls to raise taxes on wealthy people.

His decisions around the leadership of the New York Police Department will also be closely watched. Mamdani was a fierce critic of the department in 2020, calling for "this rogue agency" to be defunded and labelling it "racist, anti-queer and a major threat to public safety." He has since apologised for those comments and said he will ask the current NYPD commissioner to remain in post.

Mamdani's campaign was driven by his optimistic view of the city and his promises to improve the quality of life for its middle and lower classes.

Meanwhile, supporters packed Mamdani's rallies, and he held whimsical events, including a scavenger hunt and a community football tournament.

Putin Hails New Nuclear Weapons as Key to Russia's Security and Future in Space

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - President Vladimir Putin praised some of Russia's newest weapons, describing them as faster and more effective - capable of ensuring security and strategic parity, and even of use in rare metals extraction and lunar missions.

Putin extolled the qualities of the Burevestnik cruise missile and Poseidon super torpedo at a ceremony honouring the experts who helped design and build the weapons.

"The result you have achieved has, with no exaggeration, historic significance for our people for ensuring security and strategic parity for decades to come and, we can boldly say, for the entire 21st century," Putin said in comments reported by Russian news agencies.

Last week, Putin said Russia had successfully tested the nuclear-capable Burevestnik (storm petrel) missile, saying it could evade any defence system. The chief of staff of Russia's armed forces said it had travelled 14,000 kilometres (8,700 miles).

Yesterday, he praised the missile's speed - more than three times the speed



of sound - and its propulsion system of small nuclear reactors which can be brought into action much more quickly than standard reactors - within seconds.

He said a NATO warship had been in the vicinity when the missile was being tested.

The Kremlin leader also announced last week the successful test of the Poseidon nuclear-powered super torpedo that military analysts say is capable of devastating coastal regions by triggering vast radioactive ocean swells.

At the ceremony, Putin said the torpedo's speed far exceeded that of any surface vessel.

Putin said the small-scale nuclear technologies used in both the Burevestnik and the Poseidon were particularly useful for work in the Arctic and for space travel and, eventually, for building a station on the moon.

They were equally useful in creating energy sources for extracting rare metals, he said.

Putin also said Russia was proceeding with mass production of its Oreshnik missile, which Russia said was first used to attack Ukraine in November 2024.



Liverpool Down Real Madrid in Champions League, Bayern Edge PSG

PARIS (Dispatches) - Alexis Mac Allister scored the only goal as Liverpool beat Real Madrid in the Champions League, while Luis Diaz grabbed a brace as Bayern Munich sunk title-holders Paris Saint-Germain 2-1 in the French capital.

Premier League leaders Arsenal won 3-0 at Slavia Prague as rising star Max Dowman came off the bench to become the youngest player in the competition's history, at just 15 years and 308 days old.

Leaders Bayern and second-placed Arsenal remain the only teams with a perfect record in the competition — alongside Inter Milan, who play their fourth match tomorrow against Kazakh newcomers Kairat Almaty.

At Anfield, Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois produced a stellar performance to frustrate six-time champions Liverpool.

In a performance reminiscent of his match-defining display in the 2022 final against the same opposition — which the Spaniards won 1-0 — Courtois produced eight saves to keep back the hosts.

“He is a fantastic keeper — we all know,” Mac Allister told Amazon Prime. “But today I think we were better and deserved to win.”

The Argentinian eventually broke Courtois' resistance shortly after the hour with a header from a Dominik Szoboszlai free-kick in an encounter that saw former Liverpool hero Trent Alexander-Arnold return to his hometown amid a hail of boos when he emerged from the Madrid bench late on.

Arne Slot will be hoping the result marks a turning point for his side after they had come into the match with six defeats in their previous eight outings.

For previously unbeaten Madrid, it was their first defeat in any competition since September's 5-2

reversal at Atletico Madrid.

“It's a tough blow to take because we came from a run of good games, but the important thing is to move forwards,” Real's Fede Valverde told Movistar.

PSG welcomed Bayern to the Parc des Princes for a fixture which midfielder Vitinha had said would bring together “the two best teams in Europe”.

And it was the Bundesliga champions who emerged victorious as they made it 16 wins from 16 outings in all competitions this season.

“I know the Champions League winner is not decided now, otherwise PSG would not have won it last season,” Bayern coach Vincent Kompany said.

“But this was a very important three points.”

Summer signing Diaz claimed the headlines as he netted a brace before being sent off for a dangerous tackle on Achraf Hakimi, all in the opening 45 minutes.

Hakimi had to be helped from the field in tears, following recent Ballon d'Or winner Ousmane Dembele who came off after just 25 minutes.

Bayern took the lead inside five minutes and then overwhelmed PSG's usually unflappable midfield and defence with their intense pressing game.

Diaz grabbed a second when he robbed Marquinhos of possession and slotted home after the half-hour.

His dismissal then changed the game as PSG fought back in the second period, but Joao Neves' 74th-minute header was not enough to stop the Ligue 1 champions falling to a first defeat in this year's league phase.

Late Surge vs. Hornets Gives Pelicans First Win of Season



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Trey Murphy scored 21 points and Jose Alvarado added 18 as the New Orleans Pelicans broke through for their first win, finishing with an 11-0 burst to reel in the visiting Charlotte Hornets 116-112.

Saddiq Bey had 16 points, while Derik Queen amassed 12 points, eight rebounds, seven assists and four steals for the Pelicans, who were without injured star Zion Williamson due to a left hamstring injury.

Miles Bridges posted 22 points for Charlotte, while Kon Knueppel paired 20 points with 12 rebounds. Tre Mann scored 18 and Collin Sexton 17 for the Hornets, who went scoreless across the last 3:21.

New Orleans' bench — led by Alvarado, Bey, Queen and Karlo Matkovic — contributed 62 points.

Charlotte led 112-105 on Mann's floater before faltering down the stretch through missed shots, turnovers and offensive fouls.

Alvarado drained a 3-pointer, produced a steal and an assist for Queen, then hit another trey with 16.1 seconds remaining to put the Pelicans in front 113-112.

Rookie Sion James' inbound pass was picked off by Queen, which resulted in two Murphy free throws, before Bridges missed a 3-pointer to tie it with nine seconds left.

Bey snared the rebound and his foul shot finished the Hornets off with 5.3 seconds to go.

Charlotte forged ahead 17-8 before New Orleans seized the initiative, primarily through Matkovic and Jordan Poole.

The Pelicans connected on 12 of 20 from the floor, including 6 of 10 from deep, in the opening quarter, and led 33-30 after Bridges' late 3-pointer halved the Hornets' deficit.

Murphy had 13 points in the second period to steer New Orleans to a 12-point cushion before Charlotte hit back.

The Hornets closed the half on a 12-2 run to trim the gap to 61-59, before opening the third frame with the first 11 points, the 23-2 overall run putting them ahead 70-61.

The Pelicans missed their first seven shots of the third quarter before chipping into Charlotte's lead through their effective bench.

Djokovic Makes Winning Return in Athens

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic returned after three weeks out of action to ease past Alejandro Tabilo in straight sets at the Athens ATP tournament.

Top seed Djokovic, the recipient of a first-round bye at the indoor hard-court tournament, won through 7-6 (7/3), 6-1 against his 89th-ranked opponent in the round of 16.

Djokovic, 38, had lost his previous two meetings against Tabilo, a decade younger, on clay in Rome last year and Monte Carlo this season.

“Playing against Tabilo, who I had never won against, I was more under tension before the match than some other matches and I really tried to draw the energy from the crowd,” Djokovic said.

“It feels really at home, playing in Athens,” continued the 24-times Grand Slam winner who has recently moved to Athens.

“A few months ago when I came here with my family, I was very excited because I have always loved Greece.



“Serbians love Greece, for sure. Historically, culturally, and religiously, we have a lot of things connecting us.

“Athens is in my heart, no question about it.”

The world number five, whose presence at the season-ending WTA finals in Turin was confirmed on Monday, took the measure of the Chilean in the opening set tiebreak and broke twice in the second set to reach his 225th tour-level quarter-final.

Djokovic will next play Portuguese sixth-seed Nuno Borges who rallied past American qualifier Eliot Spizzirri 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

After his defeat in the semi-finals of the Shanghai Masters 1000 against Valentin Vacherot on October 11, Djokovic skipped the Paris Masters, which ended on Sunday.

Meanwhile world number one Aryna Sabalenka earned a 6-4 2-6 6-3 win over Jessica Pegula, while defending champion Coco Gauff put on a clinical performance to beat Jasmine Paolini 6-3 6-2 and eliminate the Italian in Riyadh.

Pakistan Win ODI Against South Africa



FAISALABAD (Dispatches) - Salman Ali Agha top scored for Pakistan as they snatched a last-over victory over South Africa on Tuesday in an exciting finish to the first of three One Day Internationals at Faisalabad.

Salman scored 62 as Pakistan won by two wickets with two balls remaining as they successfully chased down a 264-run target.

Pakistan put South Africa in to bat and the tourists' opening pair put on a 98-run partnership before teenager Lhuan-dre Pretorius, who scored 57 off 60 balls on his ODI debut, was expertly caught at point.

Quinton de Kock, back in the ODI ranks after a two-year absence, was South Africa's top scorer with 63 and Corbin Bosch made a quick-fire 41 in the last overs before South Africa were bowled out for 263 with five balls to spare.

Fakhar Zaman (45) and Saim Ayub (39) got Pakistan off to a solid 87-run first-wicket start and they kept on course as Mohammad Rizwan hit 55 and featured in a key 91-run fourth-wicket partnership with Salman. Rizwan had been replaced as captain last month.

There was a wobble for Pakistan, who were seemingly coasting to victory when they lost three wickets in successive overs, but new captain Shaheen Shah Afridi was there at the end to help see them over the line.

The two teams meet again at Iqbal Stadium, hosting international cricket after a 17-year absence, on Thursday.

Ronaldo Prepares for Emotional Goodbye to Football

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo has revealed he plans to retire “soon” as the Portugal and Al Nassr star prepares for a tearful end to his glittering career.

Ronaldo discussed his thoughts on retirement and his life after football in an interview with *Piers Morgan Uncensored*.

The 40-year-old, who has scored a remarkable 952 goals, is one of the most decorated players in the history of the game, but the end is in sight for his astonishing career.

Asked when he would consider hanging up his boots, Ronaldo, who is under contract with Al Nassr until 2027, replied: “Soon. But I think I will be prepared.

“It will be tough, of course. It will be difficult? Yes. Probably will cry, yes, yes. I'm an open person. It will be very, very difficult, yes.



“But Piers, I prepare my future since 25, 26, 27 years old, I prepare my future. So I think I will be capable to support that pressure.”

Ronaldo is confident he will be able to cope without football because he wants to focus on his family and his off-the-pitch interests.

“Nothing will be able to compare that the adrenaline that we have for football to score a goal,” he said.

“But everything has a beginning, and everything has an end. I have other passions. I'm going to have more time for me, I'm going to have more time for my family to raise my kids.

“I want to follow Cristiano Junior because he's at an age when kids do stupid things. I was the same. Mateo loves football as well.