

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Intelligence Organization Has Announced a Major Counterintelligence Success, Apprehending the Leader of a Hacking Group Known as “Backdoor”

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Says Tehran Is Concerned About the Continuation of Tensions Between Afghanistan and Pakistan Following an Escalation of Deadly Border Fighting Between the Two Neighbors

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Larijani: West Links Global Relations to Power, Stresses National Unity



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said on Monday that the West, particularly the United States, pursues peace through power rather than justice, highlighting the strategic need for Iran to safeguard its independence and national unity.

Speaking at a conference titled "Us and the West: Views in the Thought of Ayatollah Khamenei" in Tehran, Larijani traced Iran-West relations from ancient times to the present, emphasizing that Western powers have historically tied international relations to dominance and military strength. "The West once claimed to champion science and freedom, yet its history includes two world wars," he said.

Larijani divided Iran-West interactions into five historical periods, beginning with ancient empires. He noted that despite military conflicts, Iran maintained independence during the Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanian eras, while also engaging in cultural and scientific exchanges with civilizations such as Greece and Rome. The Sassanian-Byzantine rivalry, he said, combined military, commercial, and intellectual competition, a dynamic mirrored in modern "corridor conflicts."

During the Safavid era, Iran strengthened its position as a powerful empire through science, religion, and military capability, fostering relations with European powers in trade and knowledge transfer without succumbing to foreign domination. In contrast, Qajar and Pahlavi eras saw increasing Western influence, culminating in overt foreign control over Iran's political and military institutions, notably through the 1953 coup. Larijani said, "The Pahlavi period was one of the darkest eras of dependence in Iranian history, fueling public discontent and leading to the Islamic Revolution."

Iran's Oil exports Hit New Post-Sanctions Record



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has set a new record in its oil exports despite the continued pressure of US and UN sanctions, according to the latest data from a leading energy analytics firm.

The Tankers Trackers said in a post on its X account on Sunday that Iran had exported an average of 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil over the past four weeks.

"These are numbers we haven't seen since the early half of 2018," the post said.

Iran's oil exports came under sweeping US sanctions in May 2018, when Washington withdrew from a landmark international deal on Iran's nuclear program, known as the JCPOA.

The sanctions affected Iranian oil shipments when they were tightened in May 2019, but they gradually became ineffective as Iran managed to restore and expand its exports, particularly to private buyers in China.

The Tanker Trackers had already reported a seven-year record in Iran's oil exports in September when shipments reached nearly 2 million bpd.

That report came just before the United Nations re-imposed six sanction resolutions on Iran that had been lifted in 2015 when the country signed the JCPOA with world powers.

Iran Denounces Israeli Allegations of Plot to Assassinate Ambassador as Baseless and Ridiculous

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry has categorically rejected Israeli claims that Tehran attempted to assassinate Israel's ambassador in Mexico, describing the allegations as "baseless, ridiculous, and absurd." The ministry accused Israel of trying to undermine Iran's friendly relations with other nations.

Speaking at a press briefing, spokesperson Esmail Baghaei emphasized that such claims are part of a pattern of misinformation used by Israel to damage Iran's international standing. Baghaei cited previous examples, such as false accusations involving Australia, to highlight how unfounded claims can strain diplomatic ties.

Baghaei also addressed questions regarding former U.S. President Donald Trump's statements, which Iran has submitted as evidence of U.S. complicity in international crimes. "This explicit admission holds the U.S. accountable and has been officially recorded at the United Nations Security Council," Baghaei said. "It will serve as a legal basis in any future proceedings against the U.S. for its involvement in aggressive actions alongside Israel."

Iran is coordinating with its judiciary and legal authorities to pursue international avenues for redress, emphasizing systematic documentation of U.S. and Israeli violations.

Regarding ambassadorial appointments, Baghaei clarified that Iran's diplomatic representatives serve as state officials, not solely as Foreign Ministry representatives. Appointments involve coordination between the Foreign Ministry and other relevant bodies. Baghaei confirmed that Fathali has been appointed to India and Abbas Talebi-Far to North Korea, while selections for Italy and Russia are ongoing.

Baghaei said that expressions of interest from France in nuclear negotiations are insufficient without tangible action. He stressed that discussions at the IAEA Board of Governors will address technical nuclear issues, including Iran's program, noting potential attempts by European nations and the U.S. to influence decisions.

Iran is also hosting an international conference on "International Law under Attack: Aggression and Defense," highlighting U.S. and Israeli military actions and their implications for global norms. Baghaei warned that such actions threaten international principles established over the past eight decades.

Responding to NATO Secretary-General remarks accusing Iran of collaborating with Russia to undermine global rules, Baghaei described these claims as "ridiculous deflection."



Photo: Mostafa Tehrani

He argued that U.S. and NATO member states have repeatedly violated international law, citing Afghanistan and other interventions, making accusations against Iran baseless.

He further stressed that lifting sanctions is a legitimate demand of the Iranian people, not a concession by the U.S., noting that decades of punitive measures constitute a violation of human rights.

Iran continues to issue annual reports on human rights violations in the U.S. and U.K., highlighting the instrumental use of human rights rhetoric by Western countries to pressure independent states. These reports are shared with international bodies, including the UN Human Rights Council, to inform both domestic and

global audiences.

On regional issues, Baghaei condemned U.S. interference in Iraq's elections and emphasized that any foreign meddling is unacceptable. Iran seeks stable and friendly relations with Iraq, regardless of electoral outcomes.

Baghaei highlighted ongoing positive developments in Iran-Saudi relations, describing visits by legal and diplomatic officials as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation. He also addressed the upcoming Caspian Sea Governors' Summit in Rasht, aimed at enhancing regional economic ties among littoral states.

Regarding Israel normalization efforts, including Kazakhstan joining the Abraham Accords, Baghaei warned that legitimizing Israel amidst ongoing violence in Gaza encourages further lawlessness. He reiterated that Israel's actions represent ongoing violations of international law.

When asked why Iran does not take bold steps to reset relations with the U.S., Baghaei emphasized that Iran's cautious approach stems from decades of historical experience with U.S. policies. He highlighted that U.S. plans to sabotage Iran's peaceful nuclear program have persisted even alongside diplomatic negotiations, underscoring the lack of genuine trust.

Baghaei criticized the international double standards regarding Israel, citing incidents where journalists questioning Israel's actions in Gaza were censored or punished. He argued that such hypocrisy undermines freedom of expression and accountability while perpetuating Israel's impunity.

Baghaei concluded by reaffirming Iran's commitment to defending its citizens, promoting international law, and maintaining regional stability.

Capitalism Also Fails to Provide Answers

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

In the past five centuries, modern ideological movements — including communism, socialism, liberalism, and even today's emphasis on capitalism — have all failed to bring humanity true security, spiritual peace, or relief from existential anxiety.

Communism and socialism have largely faded from global competition, while liberalism — through various adaptations such as the Austrian and Frankfurt schools and later neoliberalism — continues to breathe, albeit amid growing challenges and contradictions.

The future of capitalism, as the world's dominant economic and political system, remains a deeply contested topic among economists, philosophers, and policymakers. Several possible scenarios can be envisioned for its trajectory:

1. Continuity and Transformation (The most likely short- and medium-term scenario)
Capitalism, owing to its remarkable adaptability, will likely persist, albeit in new forms designed to ensure its survival. A sustainable form of capitalism may emerge — one that integrates profitability with greater social and environmental responsibility in response to climate change and shifts in global power structures.

2. A Stronger Role for Governments
Undoubtedly, the role of states in overseeing and regulating markets — particularly in technology, healthcare, and environmental sectors — will expand. We are already witnessing the rise of "state capitalism" or "capitalism with Chinese characteristics" in several major economies.

3. Technological Disruption
Emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and blockchain are reshaping business models and redefining ownership structures.

However, critics argue that capitalism's inherent crises — including widening inequality, recurring financial collapses, resource exploitation, and declining profit rates — may eventually become unmanageable. The widening gap between rich and poor could lead to political instability, mass protests, and the erosion of the system's legitimacy.

Environmental crises — largely driven by unchecked economic growth — also threaten the very foundations of the global order.

In the future, despite these challenges, we may see the emergence of a global mixed economy, blending elements of capitalism with robust social programs, wealth redistribution policies, and government control over strategic sectors. This model aims to combine market efficiency with social justice and environmental sustainability — much like the Scandinavian countries today.

Ultimately, the capitalism of the future will be forced to confront and respond to issues of inequality, environmental sustainability, and ethics. Otherwise, it risks spiraling into deeper instability and crisis across all fronts.



National Conditions Must Be Considered in Implementing Seventh Development Plan

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref emphasized that Iran's current conditions must be taken into account when executing the Seventh Development Plan, noting that government strategies aim to maintain social stability while addressing citizens' needs under challenging circumstances.

Speaking during a parliamentary session reviewing the government's performance in the first year of the Seventh Development Plan, Aref said the plan was drafted under assumptions very different from the realities faced in its first year. He highlighted that the government has had to manage exceptional circumstances, including security challenges, while ensuring public demands are met.

"The government's approach has been to maintain relative calm and stability in society, but for governance, exceptional and wartime-like conditions must be considered to achieve the program's objectives," Aref said. He also noted that the plan includes far more provisions than previous plans and stressed that implementation depends on available resources.

Aref acknowledged imbalances in sectors such as electricity and industry, which caused significant economic losses affecting growth. He reassured lawmakers that concerns over livestock feed supplies have been addressed and that strategic reserves are in good condition, despite debts inherited from the previous administration.

Regarding the substantial financial resources required for certain provisions, including Article 115 of the plan (approximately €100 billion), Aref explained that full implementation has not been possible due to funding limitations. He also cited Article 19 as an example of a program that could stand alone but required conditions that were not available, consuming considerable government time.

Aref detailed the government's initial efforts to implement the plan, beginning with a high-



level session on August 13, 2025, attended by Cabinet ministers and vice presidents. He said the Seventh Development Plan introduces a new governance structure through Article 118, establishing financial and executive oversight and appointing qualified experts as monitors.

"This council serves as a new governance body connecting the government and parliament, ensuring synergy among executive agencies, resolving conflicts, and eliminating duplication," Aref explained. He stressed that the presence of the head of the parliamentary Planning and Budget Commission in council sessions reflects the government's commitment to transparency.

He noted that ministries and agencies were required to adopt an intersectoral approach in planning to avoid fragmented or isolated efforts. Coordination extended to drafting regulations and directives to prevent resource allocation discrepancies. A dedicated system for monitoring the Seventh Plan was established, making reporting and oversight mandatory for all agencies.

Aref added that the networked governance approach enabled professional data sharing, collective decision-making, and regular reporting, culminating in a comprehensive annual performance report submitted to parliament. The plan encompasses 2,179 provisions across 120 articles, with Articles 118 and 119 mandating government reporting to the legislature.

He highlighted that Article 119 identifies 35 national programs aimed at ensuring progress, stability, and justice. Aref stressed that some provisions, including the resource-intensive Article 115, require parliamentary review and coordination for potential amendments to enable implementation.

Aref concluded by describing the Seventh Development Plan as a pact among Iran's three branches of government and expressed hope that all authorities would work together to achieve the plan's objectives for national advancement.

Enhancing Air Power a Key Priority for Iran's Army



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Rear Admiral Habibollah Siari, Coordinating Deputy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, emphasized that strengthening Iran's air capabilities remains a top priority for the military to ensure readiness against future threats.

Speaking on the sidelines of an international combat medicine conference attended by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, Siari told reporters that the army has continuously sought to enhance its defensive capabilities since the Iran-Iraq War. "Threats are constantly evolving, and we must be prepared to confront them," he said. "Enhancing our capabilities across all domains — land, air, air defense, naval, and cyber — remains a key priority."

Siari highlighted lessons learned from recent challenges, including a 12-day conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, noting that these experiences contribute to improving the combat readiness of Iran's armed forces. "Our current level of readiness is very high, and we will continue to strengthen our defense capabilities to face future threats fully," he added.

IRAN NEWS



A New Chapter Opens in Tourism Ties Between Tehran and Yerevan

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri has announced the beginning of a new chapter in tourism relations between Tehran and Yerevan and emphasized the need to develop automobile tourism, cultural exchanges and the formation of a joint committee to follow up on the agreed resolutions. Salehi Amiri made the remarks in a meeting with Armenian Economy and Tourism Minister Gevorg Papoyan on the sidelines of the 26th General Assembly of the UN Tourism in Riyadh on Sunday.

Official Calls for Independent Internet Governance



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran must not be bound by foreign laws in the digital space, said Seyed Mohammad Amin Agha-Miri, Secretary of the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, emphasizing that lawful governance of cyberspace aims to safeguard citizens' freedoms and rights.

According to the National Center for Cyberspace, Agha-Miri highlighted that multiple interpretations of cyberspace influence policy-making and decision-making processes. "Today, people's lives have deeply integrated into the digital world. Global studies show that internet users spend an average of more than six and a half hours a day on screens, and in Iran, this figure is even higher," he noted.

He stated that more than half of people's productive time is now spent online, with nearly every aspect of physical life—from education and healthcare to business and family communication—taking shape in cyberspace.

Agha-Miri explained that cyberspace introduces new concepts such as data and digital identity, which have no direct equivalents in the physical world. "Traditional laws cannot address the challenges of digital governance; therefore, specific frameworks tailored to cyberspace are essential," he said.

While around 200 nations exist in the physical world, fewer than 10 dominate global digital life, he added. "These countries impose their legal and value systems on others. Every nation must have the ability to manage its cyberspace according to its own laws and cultural values," Agha-Miri stressed.

He reaffirmed that Iran should not follow the legal systems of other countries online. "Just as we legislate to protect citizens' rights in the physical world, our cyberspace governance must also ensure lawful and secure digital participation," he said.

Citing remarks by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Agha-Miri said the digital space should serve as a tool for public freedom, but it must not fall under hostile control. "Lawful governance should balance opportunity and risk, preserving both freedom and security," he explained.

PMI Falls to 47.4 in October



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Research Center of the Iran Chamber of Commerce reported that Iran's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the overall economy stood at 47.4 in October (Mehr 1404), marking the 19th consecutive month of contraction in business activity.

According to the report, while the industrial sector showed signs of recovery and expansion, non-industrial sectors continued to weaken, keeping the composite PMI below the neutral threshold of 50.

The industrial PMI rose to 53.4, its highest level in 20 months, reflecting a notable rebound in production. However, this uptick was not enough to offset the ongoing slowdown across the broader economy, which remains under contractionary pressure.

New customer orders across the economy have declined for 20 consecutive months, but industrial new orders rose in October. The report suggests this increase may reflect inflation-driven demand, as firms and consumers anticipate higher prices in the coming months.

Employment indices fell in both the industrial sector and the overall economy. The industrial sector has now recorded 12 straight months of job losses, despite higher production and stronger demand.

The report warns that labor reductions will remain a key challenge for Iran's economy in the months ahead, particularly in the post-conflict period following the recent 12-day war.

The input cost index rose to its highest point in 30 months, while final product prices experienced their sharpest increase in eight months. Analysts from the Chamber cautioned that these cost pressures are likely to fuel further inflation in the second half of the year.

Esfahan and Belarus Draw Up Economic Roadmap

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - According to a report from the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, a recent meeting between Iranian and Belarusian representatives emphasized the use of shared capacities in the fields of industry, agriculture, petrochemicals, and heavy machinery. Both sides called for expanding cooperation through business delegations and long-term partnerships.

Amir Keshani, President of the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, stated that research indicates strong potential for exports and imports between Iran and Belarus, which could be expanded by utilizing both nations' resources and advantages.

He added that the Esfahan Chamber is fully prepared to send trade delegations to Belarus and host Belarusian economic teams in sectors where Iranian goods have a competitive edge.

Keshani expressed hope that this and similar meetings will pave the way for sustainable economic and trade relations between Esfahan and Belarus, creating new opportunities for cooperation among business communities in both countries.

Dmitry Koltsov, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Iran, highlighted his country's open economic policies and reaffirmed Belarus's readiness to deepen comprehensive relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran within the framework of both nations' leadership strategies.

He noted that Belarus possesses significant potential in industrial, agricultural, and export sectors. According to Koltsov, expanding mutual cooperation could lead to reduced or even eliminated customs tariffs between the two countries, thereby boosting economic exchanges.

Alireza Sanayee, Iran's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Belarus, described the two economies as complementary. He noted that Iran holds advantages in agriculture, pharmaceuticals, and petrochemicals, while Belarus excels in heavy machinery, chemical fertilizers, and mining industries.

Sanayee cited the Free Trade Agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union as an opportunity to lower tariffs and strengthen trade, adding that the North-South Corridor serves as a strategic route for expanding bilateral cooperation.

He also mentioned the activities of the Iranian Capital Bank and the opening of an Iranian Trade Center in Minsk, which he said have created a suitable foundation for facilitating financial relations and supporting business operators.

Behzad Yaghoobi, representative of the Belarus Chamber of Commerce in Iran, announced that Iranian exports to Belarus have more than tripled in the first five months of the current year.

He pointed to the Belarus Chamber of Commerce and Industry's representative office in Iran, established to facilitate trade relations and address barriers to economic exchange between the two countries.

Yaghoobi further noted that with Iran's banking system now connected to Russia's financial network, monetary transactions between Iranian and Belarusian exporters



and importers are proceeding smoothly.

Meanwhile in a meeting between the Ambassador of Belarus in Tehran and the President of the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, the two sides reviewed Esfahan's economic capacities and explored potential areas for joint cooperation across various sectors.

Both parties emphasized the importance of leveraging mutual opportunities to expand the volume of economic exchanges and establish sustainable links between Esfahan's and Belarus's business communities.

Amir Keshani, President of the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the city's long-standing international background, saying:

"Esfahan has historically maintained extensive global relations and has always been a place where diverse cultures and religions have coexisted peacefully."

He added that given the strong diplomatic ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Belarus, efforts are being made to expand joint trade and economic activities, taking advantage of the Belarusian ambassador's visit to Esfahan to promote new business collaborations.

Keshani emphasized that trade and economic interaction can play a key role in strengthening relations between the two nations and serve as a foundation for expanding mutual cooperation.

Mohammad Jafar Foodeh, Vice President of the Esfahan Chamber of Commerce, expressed hope that this visit would mark the beginning of broader economic cooperation between Esfahan and Belarus.

"We hope to see more visits from Belarusian officials and business representatives to Esfahan in the near future," he said, adding that this meeting could pave the way for new developments in trade and economic relations between Esfahan Province and Belarus.

Koltsov, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus to Iran, expressed his pleasure at visiting Esfahan, calling it "a beautiful city with significant economic potential."

Referring to Iran's positive policies toward developing ties with Belarus, Koltsov noted: "Trade relations between our two countries are already at a good level, and we hope to further strengthen cooperation and increase the volume of exchanges."

He added: "I am delighted to be in this historic city and hope that this visit will mark the start of expanded trade and industrial collaboration between Esfahan and Belarus."

Mostafa Dolatiar, Head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Office in Esfahan, remarked that simplifying administrative procedures would encourage more ambassadors and foreign delegations to visit the city, fostering stronger international engagement.

He added: "The Ministry's Esfahan office welcomes and supports such meetings and stands ready to play an active role in promoting economic, cultural, and diplomatic cooperation between Esfahan and other countries."

Consortium Proposed for Export of Engineering Services to UAE

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - In a meeting organized by the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce, participants emphasized the need for synergy and coordinated action among Iranian engineering and technical service companies ahead of their participation in the BIG5 international exhibition in the UAE. The proposal to form a special export consortium in this sector was a key outcome of the session.

The meeting, attended by Iran's Consul General in Dubai and several engineering and construction industry representatives, focused on enhancing Iran's organized presence at BIG5—one of the world's largest construction and engineering trade events.

Erfan Shakeri, head of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce, noted that while entering the UAE market is relatively easy, maintaining a lasting presence there is far more challenging.

"To align with international standards, we must continuously update our technical capabilities," he said.

Shakeri proposed forming a consortium of interested engineering and technical service providers to coordinate participation and expand exports to the UAE. He also highlighted that by 2030, over 70% of UAE buildings are expected to transition to green energy through smart and advanced technologies, urging Iranian firms to adapt to these trends.

Ali Naqavi, head of the Chamber's Commission on Engineering and Construction Services, pointed out that although Iranian engineering firms operate in high-risk but potentially lucrative markets, UAE's housing market offers both strong demand and profitability.

"However, sanctions and banking restrictions threaten investments," he warned, adding that the Chamber can play a key role in supporting Iranian participants and preventing "damaging competition" among them.

Naqavi further mentioned that participants from more than 160 countries will attend BIG5, stressing the importance of joint planning between the Iran Chamber and the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber to ensure tangible outcomes. He also urged Iranian diplomatic efforts to ease work visa restrictions currently faced by



Iranian professionals in the UAE.

Shahram Khasipour, Director of the Arab-African Department at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, said that the UAE remains one of Iran's top three trade partners in both imports and exports. He highlighted potential areas of cooperation in transit, high-tech industries, renewable energy, oil and petrochemicals, and construction services.

"Combining Iranian engineering expertise with Emirati capital and technology can open new avenues for collaboration, even in third countries," he said.

Amin Maghomi, head of the Iranian Construction Engineering

Organization, emphasized the need for pre-event coordination among Iranian participants to maximize efficiency at BIG5.

"The UAE market is extremely competitive, and we must plan to overcome our limitations," he said, noting that Iran's domestic construction market is nearing saturation, making export of technical and engineering services a necessity.

Ghazal Raheb, head of the Research Center at Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, announced the center's readiness to issue and translate international quality assurance certificates for Iranian construction companies.

"We are prepared to provide official translations of these certifications for use at BIG5," she said, adding that companies seeking to import technology could also receive necessary technical approvals through the center.

Alireza Mahmoudi, Iran's Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, pointed out the enormous scale of UAE's real estate market, where 12 billion dirhams worth of properties are traded weekly.

"Iran currently exports between \$500 million and \$1 billion worth of construction materials to the UAE annually, but this figure could potentially increase fifteenfold," he noted.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to forming a unified consortium for the export of Iranian engineering and technical services to the UAE, leveraging the BIG5 exhibition as a key platform to strengthen Iran's presence in the regional construction and infrastructure market.

Iran Faces Growing Exodus of Doctors Amid Low Pay, Poor Working Conditions



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran is witnessing a concerning outflow of its medical professionals as low wages, restrictive tariffs, and inadequate healthcare infrastructure drive many doctors—especially younger ones—to seek better opportunities abroad.

Dr. Alireza Estegamati, Dean of the Tehran University of Medical Sciences, told ILNA News Agency that while migration among doctors is a global phenomenon, in Iran it has become a one-way flow. "In other countries, medical migration is often two-way and motivated by scientific advancement or better research facilities. But here, financial pressures and lack of adequate resources are the main drivers," he said.

According to Estegamati, even highly qualified specialists and board-certified doctors are seeking training and employment overseas because of the vast income gap. "A doctor in Iran might earn \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year, while in Europe or the Gulf states the annual income can reach between \$300,000 and \$500,000," he explained.

The dean warned that the country is effectively "training doctors for the United States and Europe," as many medical graduates leave soon after completing their mandatory service. He stressed that each medical student costs the government up to one million dollars to educate. "Our universities were not established to train professionals for other countries," he added.

Estegamati cited artificially low medical tariffs as one of the key reasons behind the growing discontent among physicians. "When we talk about medical fees, attention often turns to a few famous doctors, while the majority of hardworking young physicians are ignored. Many cannot even afford to open a clinic or buy a home," he said.

Qazvin's Share of Iran-Pakistan \$10b Trade Should Multiply



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The governor of Qazvin Province has called for a major expansion in the region's export and trade capacity, urging that it be increased at least fivefold to make a meaningful impact on economic growth and inflation control.

Speaking at the 108th session of the Provincial Council for Government-Private Sector Dialogue, Governor Nasrollah Noudari emphasized the need to boost Qazvin's contribution to Iran's \$10 billion annual trade with Pakistan and other partners. "Qazvin's export potential must grow substantially to influence the province's development indicators and help stabilize prices," he said.

The meeting, held at the Qazvin Chamber of Commerce, brought together senior economic officials, private-sector representatives, and members of the media to discuss key issues including tourism tax exemptions, housing cooperative disputes, and insurance premium calculations for contractors in construction projects.

A report presented by Khalili-Khah, Director-General of Economic and Financial Affairs, showed that while Iran's annual inflation rate stood at 38.9 percent between October 2024 and 2025, Qazvin's inflation reached 40.07 percent. The province's service sector accounts for only 30 percent of its economy, compared with over 50 percent nationally.

Private-sector representatives raised concerns over tourism-related taxes, urging the government to grant full or partial exemptions similar to those in other provinces such as Zanjan, Tabriz, and Sarein. After discussions among municipal, judicial, and cultural authorities, Governor Noudari approved a 99 percent exemption for tourism facilities, to be implemented jointly by the municipality, cultural heritage department, and the governor's office.

Israel Confirms Remains Returned Are Officer Goldin Killed in 2014

TEL AVIV (Dispatches) - Israel said the remains it received on Sunday from Hamas were those of Lieutenant Hadar Goldin, an Israeli officer killed more than a decade ago in the 2014 Gaza war. Goldin was the 24th deceased hostage whose remains have been returned by Hamas since the start of the ceasefire on October 10 that has halted the latest war in Gaza, which broke out in October 2023. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said forensic experts had confirmed the remains were of Goldin. "Today, we are united in having finally brought him back to his parents and his family to be laid to rest in Israel," Netanyahu said in a video statement posted on X, holding a photograph of Goldin.



Weakening Typhoon Fung-wong Exits Philippines After Displacing 1.4m



MANILA (Dispatches) - A weakening Typhoon Fung-wong departed the Philippines over the South China Sea on Monday morning, after its driving winds and heavy rain killed at least two people and forced more than a million to evacuate.

Fung-wong, with a footprint that spanned nearly the entirety of the archipelago, slammed into the country's eastern seaboard Sunday evening as a "super typhoon" after uprooting trees and swamping towns further south.

It landed just days after Typhoon Kalmaegi swept through the islands of the central Philippines, claiming at least 224 lives.

Schools and government offices across swathes of main island Luzon, including Manila, were closed Monday, though predicted heavy rains had yet to materialise.

In Aurora province, where Fung-wong made landfall the night before, rescue worker Geoffrey Parrocha said officials were only now able to assess the damage.

"We're seeing many damaged houses and some of our main roads were not passable due to landslides," he told AFP Monday morning from Dipaculao town, where power had yet to be restored.

"We couldn't mobilise last night because the rain was heavy and the volume of water was high."

Aurora Taay, mayor of the province's Dingalan town, told a Facebook Live audience that numerous houses and boats along the shoreline had been smashed amid massive waves.

Japan's PM Flags Watered-Down Fiscal Goal in Push to Lift Growth



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday she would work on setting a new fiscal target extending through several years to allow more flexible spending, essentially watering down the country's commitment to fiscal consolidation.

Takaichi also said she would not rule out a cut to Japan's sales tax as a future option, reinforcing market expectations that her administration will prioritise steps to reflate the economy over fixing worsening public finances.

The remarks signal a major shift from past administrations that stuck to annual fiscal targets and emphasised the need to maintain market trust in Japan's finances, even as they deployed sizable spending packages.

"We'll ensure to maintain market trust in Japan's sustainable finances. But unless we boost investment, the economy won't grow," Takaichi told parliament.

The administration's focus on expansionary policies could complicate the Bank of Japan's decision on how soon to resume a rate-hike cycle that has been paused due to uncertainty over the economic fallout from higher U.S. tariffs.

U.S. Senators Strike Bipartisan Deal to End Record 40-Day Gov't Shutdown

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. senators reached a bipartisan deal yesterday that would resume federal funding and end a shutdown which has stretched to a record 40 days and forced many government operations to grind to a halt.

The deal between Democratic and Republican senators — just the first step to halting the shutdown — came as authorities warned US air travel could soon "slow to a trickle" as thousands more flights were cancelled or delayed over the weekend.

Outlets including CNN and Fox News reported lawmakers had reached a stopgap agreement to fund the government through January after wrangling over health care subsidies, food benefits and President Donald Trump's firings of federal employees.

As news of the breakthrough emerged, Trump told reporters when he arrived at the White House after a weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida: "It looks like we're getting very close to the shutdown ending."

The Republican-led Senate swiftly held a procedural vote yesterday aimed at moving the legislative measure forward, and the vote appeared to have support from enough Democrats to advance.

Once it clears the Senate, it would need to pass the House of Representatives, also in Republican control, and then head to Trump's desk for his signature — a process that could take days.

Earlier yesterday, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said that if the shutdown continued, the number of flights being snarled or cut would multiply while Americans gear up to travel for the Thanksgiving holiday later this month.

By yesterday evening, the number of cancellations of flights within the United States and to and from the US had surpassed 2,700, with nearly 10,000 delays, according to data from tracking platform FlightAware.

Airports that were particularly hard hit included the three New York City area airports, Chicago's O'Hare, and



Hartsfield-Jackson in Atlanta.

Newark's Liberty International Airport — a major northeastern US hub — was among the worst-hit. At New York's LaGuardia Airport more than half of all outbound flights were delayed.

Without a deal, Duffy warned that many Americans planning to travel for the November 27 Thanksgiving holiday would "not going to be able to get on an airplane, because there are not going to be that many flights that fly if this thing doesn't open back up."

It could take days for flight schedules to recover after the shutdown is finally ended, and federal funding — including salaries — starts to flow again.

Yesterday marked the third day of flight reductions at airports nationwide, after the Trump administration ordered reductions to ease strain on air traffic controllers working without pay.

According to lawmakers, the Bill would restore funding for the SNAP food stamp program which helps more than 42 million lower-income Americans pay for groceries.

It would also reverse Trump's firings of thousands of federal workers over the past month, and assure a vote on extending health care subsidies that are set to expire at the end of this year.

"This deal guarantees a vote to extend Affordable Care Act premium tax credits, which Republicans weren't willing to do," Senate Democrat Tim Kaine said in a statement.

The Bill — a so-called continuing resolution (CR) to keep government funded at pre-shutdown levels — "will protect federal workers from baseless firings, reinstate those who have been wrongfully terminated during the shutdown, and ensure federal workers receive back pay" as required by law, he added.

But many Senate Democrats are opposed to the deal, including the chamber's top Democrat Chuck Schumer, who expressed anger that it offers a vote for extending the health care subsidies instead of extending them directly.

"I cannot in good faith support this CR that fails to address the health care crisis," Schumer told the chamber, adding: "This fight will and must continue."

Russia's Lavrov Ready to Meet Rubio

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday that he was ready to meet U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio but that Russia would not abandon its core conditions for ending the Ukraine war.

U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts to broker an end to the Ukraine war, the deadliest conflict in Europe since World War Two, have so far failed and he last month abruptly cancelled a planned summit with President Vladimir Putin in Budapest.

The Kremlin on Friday dismissed Western media reports that Lavrov had fallen out of favour with Putin when the summit plans collapsed after Lavrov's ministry sent a message indicating Moscow was not prepared to yield on its demands over Ukraine.

"Secretary of State Marco Rubio and I understand the need for regular communication," Lavrov, Putin's foreign minister since 2004, told state news agency RIA Novosti.

"It is important for discussing the Ukrainian issue and promoting the bilateral agenda. That is why we communicate by telephone and are ready to hold face-to-face meetings when necessary," Lavrov said.

Nearly four years since Putin sent thousands of troops into Ukraine, Russian forces are grinding forwards and control about 19% of Ukraine - land Moscow now says is legally part of Russia, though Ukraine and Western European powers say they will never formally accept that.

Lavrov said that the "understandings" reached by Putin and Trump at their August 15 summit at a military base in Anchorage, Alaska, were based on Putin's June 2024 demands and ideas from Trump envoy Steve Witkoff.

Putin laid out his core conditions in June 2024, demanding Kyiv renounce its plans to join the U.S.-led NATO military alliance and withdraw troops from the entirety of the four provinces Moscow claims as part of



Russia: Donetsk and Luhansk in eastern Ukraine - which make up the Donbas - plus Kherson and Zaporizhzhia in the south.

Russia currently controls Crimea, which it annexed in 2014, almost all of Luhansk, about 80% of Donetsk, 75% of Kherson and Zaporizhzhia, and slivers of the Kharkiv, Sumy, Mykolaiv and Dnipropetrovsk regions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has acknowledged that some Russian-occupied territories might be recognised as temporarily de facto occupied but has ruled out any de jure recognition. He says he does not have a mandate to give away territory and that any withdrawal would expose both Ukraine and its European allies to new Russian attacks.

"We are now awaiting for confirmation from the United States that the Anchorage agreements remain in force," Lavrov said.

He added, in the U.S. context, that "no one questions the territorial integrity of Russia and the choice of the residents of Crimea, Donbas and Novorossiya" to reunite with their "historical homeland".

Novorossiya is a noun Russians use for a swathe of south-eastern Ukraine which became part of the Tsarist empire in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is also the name of a pro-Russian movement to re-assert Russian control over the territory.

Asked about European plans to use most of the 210 billion euros worth of Russian sovereign assets currently frozen in Europe to fund Ukraine, Lavrov said there was no legal way to take the assets and that Russia would retaliate if they were taken.

He said the United States had informed Moscow through diplomatic channels that it was reviewing Putin's proposal to maintain the limitations outlined in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) beyond its scheduled expiration in February 2026.

Ecuador Prison Riot Turns Deadly as 27 Inmates Found Asphyxiated

CUENCA (Dispatches) - At least 27 inmates were found dead from asphyxiation Sunday at Ecuador's Machala prison in El Oro province, hours after an armed riot killed four others and injured dozens, authorities said. Prison officials said the victims "committed asphyxiation among themselves, causing immediate death by suspension".

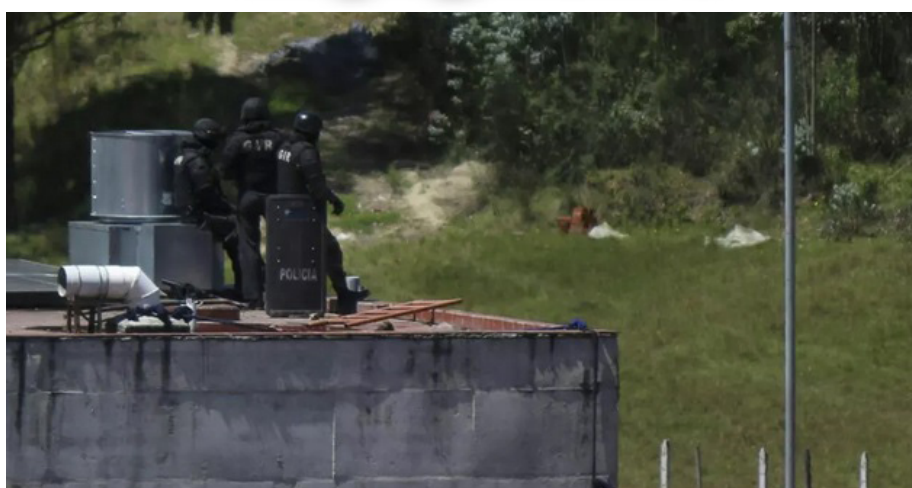
Authorities said at least 27 inmates were found dead by asphyxiation Sunday afternoon at an Ecuadorian prison where an armed riot left four others dead and dozens injured in the morning.

In a statement, prison authorities said the 27 individuals found dead at the Machala prison in El Oro province had "among themselves committed asphyxiation, which caused immediate death by suspension."

Authorities said they were still working to "fully clarify the facts," and forensic medical personnel were on site to verify information.

The deadly day at Machala's prison marks the latest spasm of prison unrest in the South American country.

Ecuadorian prisons have become operational centers for rival drug-trafficking gangs, with over 500 inmates killed in fighting between groups competing to control the lucrative but illegal trade.



The morning incident broke out around 3:00 am (0800 GMT) at the prison in Machala, a southwestern city.

Local residents could hear gunfire, explosions, and cries for help coming from inside the prison's walls.

Ecuador's SNAI prison authority issued a statement saying that four people had died in the morning violence, while 33 inmates and one police officer were injured.

Elite police teams entered the prison immediately and regained control after the riot broke out, the agency said.

But it did not specify the identities of the deceased or confirm whether the violence was another case of inter-gang fighting.

Violence is believed to be connected to plans to move some inmates into a new maximum-security prison built by the government of President Daniel Noboa in another province that is due to be inaugurated this month.

At the end of September, another armed confrontation at the prison in Machala left 13 inmates and a prison official dead.



Alcaraz Off to Flying Start at ATP Finals

TURIN (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz made a solid start to the ATP Finals with a 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 win over Alex de Minaur, while former champion Alexander Zverev got underway with a straight-sets win over Ben Shelton.

It was the first time that the Spaniard had won his opening match at the finals. He lost to Zverev and Casper Ruud in the last two years.

“This tournament is one of the best tournaments we have on tour,” world number two Alcaraz said. “I’ve been struggling in the past few years to come to the end of the year with motivation. This year is a little bit different, which I’m proud about (as) I’m doing the right things to give myself a shot to try and win this tournament.”

It was not all plain sailing in Turin. Leading 4-1 and pressing for 5-1 in the first set, Alcaraz suffered a sudden dip, struggling with his first serves and allowing seventh seed De Minaur to come back to level the score.

Trailing 3-1 and then 5-3 in the tiebreak, Alcaraz rediscovered his touch to level and then break De Minaur to win the first set.

In spite of dropping his service early, the second set was more straightforward as Alcaraz raced away to claim his fifth victory in as many meetings with the Australian.

“It was a really difficult match,” said Alcaraz.

“On this surface, Alex makes the most of the speed of the ball, he’s super-fast and really difficult on return.

“I’m just really happy to get through this really difficult challenge, and happy with how I’m playing.”

Alcaraz and De Minaur are in the Jimmy Connors Group which also features American sixth seed Taylor Fritz and Italy’s Lorenzo Musetti, a late replacement for the injured Novak Djokovic of Serbia.

Later on Sunday, third seed Zverev downed Shelton 6-3, 7-6 (8/6) in the first match of the Bjorn Borg Group, which also includes Italian top seed Jannik Sinner and Canada’s Felix Auger-Aliassime.

In a meeting between two of the biggest servers in the sport, Zverev broke the American fifth seed twice in the opener to edge ahead after less than half-an-hour on court.

The second set then rumbled inevitably towards a tie-break with few break opportunities appearing for either player.

The 2018 and 2021 winner started the breaker sluggishly as Shelton soon brought himself up three set points at 6-3.

But Zverev started the fightback with a superb backhand passing shot, before sealing match point at the first time of asking as Shelton hit long at the end of a lengthy rally.

“In the tie-break, he started off amazing,” Zverev said. “I felt like I had to control the things that I could control.

“I did that well at the end of the tie-break and I’m super happy with that win.”

Brilliant Norris Wins Sao Paulo GP to Stretch Title Lead

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Lando Norris extended his lead in the drivers’ world championship to 24 points ahead of McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri with a well-judged victory in the dramatic Sao Paulo Grand Prix — but Red Bull’s Max Verstappen stole the show by racing from a pit-lane start to finish third.

In a tense and incident-filled contest, Norris won by 10.388 seconds ahead of Mercedes’ teenage Italian rookie Kimi Antonelli with the four-time champion Verstappen just 0.362 seconds behind after a charging drive, including a puncture, to a podium finish.

George Russell came fourth in the second Mercedes ahead of the luckless Piastri and three remarkable rookies in Haas’s Oliver Bearman and the Racing Bulls of Liam Lawson and Isack Hadjar. Nico Hulkenberg was ninth for Sauber and Pierre Gasly 10th for Alpine.

It was Norris’s seventh win of the season and the 11th of his career, moving him within sight of a first world title with a comfortable advantage ahead of Piastri, who fought hard and collected a 10-second penalty, with three rounds remaining.

“I was pushing and it was an amazing race,” said Norris, who dedicated his win to the late Gil de Fera, a former driver who nurtured his early career.



“It’s so nice to win in Brazil at this amazing track and amazing fans. This is for Gil.... My mentor a few years ago. A perfect weekend.”

Asked about the title race, he said: “I’m not thinking about it, not yet, not at all. It’s a great win, but to see Max and how quick he was today. That’s where my mind is at. And there is a long way to go.”

Norris now has 390 points in the title race ahead of Piastri on 366 and Verstappen on 341.

Verstappen said: “The race was full of action and I didn’t expect to finish on the podium after starting from the pit-lane and having a puncture. An incredible result to be proud of. We never give up.”

Antonelli, who resisted intense pressure, said: “It was very stressful in the last few laps with Max on fresh tyres but I stayed cool to take P2.”

Norris made a clean start from his 15th career pole to lead Antonelli.

Behind him, Gabriel Bortoleto rammed his Sauber into the barriers after being clipped by Lance Stroll. A safety car was deployed while the luckless local hero was rescued unharmed, just a day after an airborne crash in Saturday’s sprint race.

Man City Crush Liverpool, Forest Fight Back

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City celebrated Pep Guardiola’s 1,000th game as a manager with a 3-0 win against Liverpool that lifted them back into the Premier League title race, while Nottingham Forest beat Leeds 3-1 to bolster their survival bid.

Erling Haaland missed an early penalty at the Etihad Stadium, but the City striker recovered to give Guardiola’s side the lead.

Nico Gonzalez increased their advantage before half-time and Jeremy Doku capped his man of the match performance with City’s third in the second half.

It was the perfect way for former Barcelona and Bayern Munich boss Guardiola to mark the latest milestone in a



glittering 17-year career, including 716 victories.

Second-placed City are just four points behind leaders Arsenal, who conceded a last-gasp equaliser in their 2-2 draw at Sunderland on Saturday.

“My players gave me a good present with this performance against the champions. They all performed to the highest level,” Guardiola said.

“Proud to do it here in Manchester in front of my family, especially against Liverpool. I have a huge respect for that club.”

City’s seventh win in their last eight games in all competitions was a major blow to Liverpool’s hopes of retaining the title.

Pistons Rally Behind Cunningham’s 2nd-Half Surge to Beat Sixers



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Cade Cunningham had 26 points and 11 assists to lead the Detroit Pistons to a 111-108 win over the host Philadelphia 76ers, as Tyrese Maxey’s 3-pointer to tie at the buzzer rimmed out.

Jalen Duren paired 26 points with 11 rebounds and Duncan Robinson added 17 points as Detroit extended its winning streak to six and moved to 8-2, its best start to a season since 2005-06.

Maxey scored 33 points for the Sixers and Andre Drummond added 17 points and 12 boards, starting for the first time this season in the absence of Joel Embiid (left knee management).

Cunningham’s huge jam on Drummond – which finished with a three-point play after he was fouled in the act by Kelly Oubre Jr. – put Detroit up 109-104 in the final two minutes of the fourth.

Maxey replied by dunking on Cunningham, after picking his opposite number’s pocket, then added two more free throws to trim the Pistons’ advantage to 109-108 with 31.4 seconds remaining.

Cunningham’s turnaround jumper made it 111-108 with 16.9 seconds left, before the final play saw Maxey almost lose possession, regather, then narrowly miss from deep.

The Pistons led 37-32 after the first quarter, which finished on successive 3-pointers from Caris LeVert.

Detroit had led 31-23, before the Pistons struggled in the second period, coughing up nine turnovers which cost them 13 points.

Philadelphia ratcheted up the defensive pressure and started the quarter with a 10-2 burst to hit the lead on Jabari Walker’s three, which came on the back of another Detroit cough-up.

Maxey and Walker had eight points each for the quarter, which the 76ers dominated 32-17 to push ahead 64-54 at halftime.

Drummond paced an 11-0 Sixers run in the third, which stretched the scoreline to 79-66, before Cunningham inspired a 10-0 Pistons response.

Held to just two points on 1-of-9 shooting in the first half, Cunningham peeled off 17 points in the third frame, including 6 of 8 from the foul line, as Detroit pinched an 88-85 lead on Paul Reed’s reverse jam with a quarter to play.

Lewandowski Hat-Trick Fires Barca Past Celta



BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Robert Lewandowski hit a hat-trick to help Barcelona beat Celta Vigo 4-2 yesterday in La Liga and cut Real Madrid’s lead down to three points.

The veteran Polish striker’s treble helped Hansi Flick’s side capitalise on Los Blancos’ 0-0 draw earlier on at Rayo Vallecano.

Teenager Lamine Yamal also scored for Barca in another gripping game produced by the champions’ attacking approach, and Marcus Rashford produced two more assists.

Frenkie de Jong was sent off late on for Barca for two yellow cards but by then the champions had secured their victory to move second.

Lewandowski has had a stop-start beginning of the season because of injury and Flick said his hat-trick would boost his confidence.

“After the injury I can see a different Robert Lewandowski, he’s positive, he came back very early,” Flick told reporters.

“For him, for his confidence, it’s great to score three goals today.”

Lewandowski said the game was “one of the craziest” of the season, but was happy with the result.

“Vigo is always difficult for us but now we have less points (between us) and Real Madrid,” Lewandowski told Movistar.

Flick insisted Barcelona would not change their style despite some recent struggles, including a 3-3 draw with Club Brugge in the Champions League on Wednesday, and it led to a wild first half.

The champions nosed ahead through a Lewandowski penalty on 10 minutes after a handball but Celta equalised a minute later.