

Israeli cabinet ratifies Gaza ceasefire deal with Hamas

Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet has approved a deal with Hamas for a ceasefire in Gaza after more than 460 days of war in which Israeli forces have killed over 46,788 Palestinians, media outlets have reported.

The Israeli government approved the ceasefire agreement early on Saturday after meeting for more than six hours, Qatar's Al Jazeera TV network cited a statement issued by Netanyahu's office.

The media added that 24 ministers voted in favor of the deal while eight opposed it.

FM Araghchi says nature of Iran-Russia agreement is economic

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that the nature of the Iran-Russia comprehensive strategic joint agreement is mainly economic and covers all relevant fields, including trade and tourism, transportation, energy, and other issues in this domain. Expressing hope that signing the comprehensive strategic joint agreement between Iran and Russia will pave the way for developing cooperation in economic, political, and cultural fields, Araghchi elaborated on the details of the recently-singed agreement by Iranian and Russian presidents in Moscow, according to a report on Saturday. The agreement also covers cultural, scientific, judicial, legal, and communication, fields and will also create a comprehensive view of the relations between the two countries, he stated.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin signed the joint comprehensive strategic agreement in a ceremony in the Kremlin Palace on Friday.

The document, according to the presidents of the two countries, will open new opportunities for cooperation, especially economic relations between Tehran and Moscow. Tehran and Moscow emphasized their determination to expand bilateral cooperation in the form of a new document.

Iran and Russia, which share common and close views in many ways regarding international and regional issues, including confronting US hegemony, have outlined a roadmap for their cooperation at different levels.



Yemeni armed forces conduct fresh anti-Israel operations



The Yemeni Armed Forces have announced a series of coordinated operations against Israeli and US assets. The first operation targeted critical Israeli positions in the occupied Umm al-Rashrash area in southern Palestine, utilizing four cruise missiles, the Yemeni armed forces spokesman, Brigadier General Yahya Saree announced in a statement.

A second operation was conducted using drones, targeting a vital Israeli site in the occupied Ashkelon area, he added.

According to the statement, three drones were deployed in a separate strike on Israeli positions in the occupied Jaffa area, with all operations reportedly hitting their targets.

The Yemeni Armed Forces expressed their readiness to respond to any escalation by the US or Israel against Yemen.

They also expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, warning that any violations of agreements or intensified operations in Gaza would prompt appropriate retaliatory measures.

In recent months, Yemen has also launched missile and drone attacks on positions inside Israeli-occupied territories, including Tel Aviv and Eilat Port, in response to the regime's war on Gaza. Yemen continued its anti-Israel operations even after the regime launched attacks on Yemeni soil. Yemen has said its anti-Israel operations will continue until the siege of Gaza is lifted.

Iran prosecutor general orders speedy probe into assassination of two Supreme Court judges

Iran's Prosecutor General has ordered an immediate investigation into a deadly attack in downtown Tehran in which two Supreme Court judges of the country were assassinated.

In his order on Saturday, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Movahhedi Azad tasked Tehran prosecutor general with an immediate and accurate probing into the incident which happened earlier in the day.

He urged the need for identifying and arresting those behind this act of terrorism.

In a terrorist shooting on a busy square in Tehran on Saturday morning, Hojjatoleslam Ali Razini, head of Branch 39 of the Supreme Court, and Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Moqiseh, head of Branch 53, we assassinated.

They were both known for dealing with cases associated with crimes against national security, spies, and terrorism.

In a statement, the Judiciary's media office said that right after the terrorist act, an attempt was made to arrest the gunman, who then quickly committed suicide.

Iranian Armed Forces' General Staff rejects implications of crash that killed former Iranian president

Iran's Armed Forces General Staff has refuted implications that the crash that killed former Iranian President Ebrahim Ra'eesi last year was not due to inclement weather.

The communication center of the General Staff said in a statement on Saturday that an extensive investigation by the General Staff had concluded that "merely the 'complicated weather and geographical conditions of the region' had caused the accident, which involved the presidential helicopter to crash in a mountainous area in Iran's northwest".

It dismissed any speculations about technical failures, sabotage, terrorist attacks, explosions, or electronic warfare.

The statement clarified that the unfounded claims in the cyberspace regarding President Ra'eesi's death are out of touch with reality, adding that these claims arise from ignorance, a lack of knowledge, or are made for specific purposes.

Earlier, the brother of former President Ra'eesi's security chief has said in an interview published online that his brother had opposed a trip by the presidential entourage to Iran's border with Azerbaijan.

Also, Iranian member of parliament Hamid Rasa'ee claimed, "What happened to the president of this country [Ebrahim Ra'eesi] remains a question mark, and no one has yet been able to erase this question."

Late President Ra'eesi, along with Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian and six other individuals, tragically lost their lives when their helicopter crashed in the mountains and caught fire on May 19, 2024.

Vice-president hopes renewable energy development will help alleviate imbalances

Iranian Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment says that renewable energy development will be a great step towards relieving imbalances and providing more energy. Iran's 7th Development Plan (2023-27) predicts a generation of 12,000 MW of renewable energy, Shina Ansari told IRNA in a recently-held interview, which was published on Saturday on the occasion of National Clean Air Day on January 18.

In her remarks, Ansari expressed hope that the Ministry of Energy would fulfill its promise of producing 30,000 MW of renewable energy in the country.

The use of wind energy and other renewable energies, as well as the launch of solar power plants, will reduce reliance on fossil fuels, which are major sources of air pollution across the world, Ansari underlined.

According to a report released by Iran's Center for Air Pollution Research, some 50,000 deaths were registered due to air pollution across the country during the last Iranian year starting on March 19, 2024.

Exclusive: 'Iran administration pursuing ratification of FATF bills'

Iran's vice president for executive affairs says the administration is seriously pursuing the ratification of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) bills as required by the global financial crime watchdog.

In an interview with IRNA, Mohammad-Jafar Ghaempanah has discussed the prospects of the FATF bills, pointing out that the bills cannot be put to vote in the parliament again as Iranian lawmakers have already approved them.

Members of the parliament have the right to object, he said, referring to criticisms leveled by some lawmakers against renewed attempts to ratify the bills. However, he added, the administration is persistent and the fate of the FATF bills will be decided in the Expediency Council, an advisory board that settles disputes between the parliament and Constitutional Council over legislation. Asked how hopeful the administration is about the approval of FATF by the Expediency Council, Ghaempanah said, "We do not have a precise assessment of the status of the council's review." He added, however, that the administration believes some of the pressure of sanctions "will definitely be removed after FATF is accepted." Late last month, President Masoud Pezeshkian announced that the Expediency Council would re-examine the bills so that the FATF restrictions on Iran's banking system would be lifted. Established in 1989, the FATF is an inter-governmental body aimed at setting standards and promoting effective implementation of legal, regulatory, and operational measures to combat money laundering, terrorism financing, and other threats to the international .

Russian Rosatom, Iran to cooperate building new nuclear power plants

Russian company Rosatom Director General Alexey Likhachev has said that Iran and Russia will expand cooperation to build new nuclear power plants.

Iran has plans to cooperate with the Russian company Rosatom on building small and large scale nuclear power plants, Alexey Likhachev told media reporters on Friday (January 17, 2025) on the sidelines of Iran-Russia negotiations.

"Our Iranian partners called for the development of bilateral ties in the field of building small scale nuclear power plants and building a new site for large scale power plants," he added.

According to Likhachev, negotiations to build another large scale power plant in Iran will also begin in near future.

Iranian, Iraqi ministers advocate for conducting joint educational programs

Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran Hossein Simaei Saraf (left) and Iraq's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Naeem al-Aboudi (right)

Tehran, IRNA – Minister of Science, Research and Technology of Iran Hossein Simaei Saraf and Iraq's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research Naeem al-Aboudi have discussed ways to expand cooperation regarding joint educational programs.

Simaei Saraf, visiting Iraqi, held talks with the Iraqi minister in the capital Baghdad, where he expressed Iran's readiness to share its experiences in various fields such as the development of science and technology parks, the creation of research infrastructures, and the exchange of students and professors with the neighboring state. Al-Aboudi underlined the importance of facilitating the exchange of professors and students between Iranian and Iraqi universities. He also stressed the need for the designation of joint educational programs to effectively address Iraq's scientific and research needs.

The Iraqi minister said that Iraq prioritizes the development of science and technology parks and described Iran's experience in this field as valuable.

He further highlighted the significant role of Iraqi graduates from Iranian universities in strengthening scientific and cultural relations between the two nations, referring to them as the ambassadors of science and culture. It is notable that the Iranian minister arrived in Iraq on Wednesday evening to attend the Second Iran-Iraq Science Week, which will be held at the University of Karbala in the Iraqi city of Karbala from January 18 to 20.

