

President Pezeshkian to Visit Pakistani Saturday
TEHRAN -- President Masoud Pezeshkian will visit Pakistan this Saturday at the official invitation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, his political advisor Mehdi Sanaei announced here Wednesday.
During the trip to Islamabad, President Pezeshkian is expected to hold official meetings and engage with cultural and business leaders. The visit aims to strengthen ties between the two nations, which include political, economic, religious, and cultural cooperation. Key goals include enhancing provincial and border collaboration and boosting bilateral trade beyond the current \$3 billion level, Sanaei added.

Ghalibaf Blasts IAEA for Failing to Condemn Strikes on Iran
GENEVA (Dispatches) -- Iran's Parliament Speaker Muhammad Bagher Ghalibaf condemned the international community's failure to hold Israel accountable, warning it has emboldened the regime to escalate its crimes, posing a serious threat to global peace.
Speaking at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament here Wednesday, Ghalibaf said Israel launched a U.S.-backed attack against Iran in June, killing about 1,100 Iranians. He said the strikes targeted Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities, which were under regular International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) monitoring.
(Continued on Page 7)

Viewpoint

Israel-US Intensifying the Genocide of the Gazans

Zanjan Day Celebrates Glorious History of Suhrawardi Illumination

Iran Honors 30 Athletes Martyred in Israeli Aggression

Canada Never Stopped Arming Israel Despite Pledge to Halt New Permits, Report Says

114 Lawyers Demand ICC Probe Into France's Role in Gaza Genocide

PARIS (Dispatches) -- French lawyers have submitted a formal request to the International Criminal Court (ICC) demanding an investigation into senior French officials, including President Emmanuel Macron, for their complicity in war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide committed by Israeli forces against Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

This bold move exposes a stark contradiction: while Macron and other Western leaders have recently voiced criticism of Israel's military actions, behind the scenes their governments continue to provide unwavering political, military, and economic support to Tel Aviv, effectively enabling ongoing atrocities.

In a detailed 56-page communication revealed by the investigative outlet Blast, 114 French lawyers accuse Macron, Prime Minister Francois Bayrou, Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, Defense Minister Sebastien Lecornu, and 19 members of the National Assembly's European Affairs Committee of facilitating Israel's criminal conduct.

The complaint alleges that these officials, despite public condemnation, have actively supported Israel's occupation and violent campaigns against Palestinians, violating international law and their own commitments under the Rome Statute.

The ICC communication highlights how the French government's continued arms deliveries and diplomatic backing embolden Israel's forces to persist in what many now describe as a genocidal assault on Gaza.

The lawyers note that French officials' support is not passive or incidental; rather, it "has had a substantial effect on the commission of the crimes in question." By supplying weapons, political cover, and economic cooperation, France is implicated as an accomplice aiding and abetting Israel's deadly actions.

This charge is underscored by evidence that French authorities have full knowledge of the consequences of their conduct, satisfying the legal standard of mens rea—guilty intent or recklessness—required for complicity.

The complaint details how Israeli leaders' public threats and incitements to violence against Palestinians have been met not with decisive sanctions or withdrawal of support, but with silence, rationalizations, or even endorsements by French officials.

For example, Prime Minister Bayrou's statement in May defending Israel's bombing campaign in Gaza as a justified response to the October 7 attacks

With Hezbollah Disarmament Ultimatum, U.S. Pushes Lebanon Toward New War



Clouds gather over the northern city of Ehden, Lebanon.

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- The United States is intensifying pressure on Lebanon to force a cabinet decision to disarm Hezbollah before any meaningful negotiations can occur regarding Israel's ongoing attacks and occupation of southern Lebanon, according to multiple sources speaking to Reuters.

This demand comes amidst an entrenched cycle of violence and occupation that Washington and Tel Aviv have perpetuated for

years, masking broader geopolitical aims behind the rhetoric of peace and stability.

"Without a public commitment from Lebanese ministers, the U.S. will no longer dispatch envoy Thomas Barrack to Beirut for negotiations with Lebanese officials, or pressure Israel either to stop airstrikes or pull its troops from south Lebanon," said sources familiar with the situation, including Lebanese officials and diplomats.

This ultimatum reveals a one-sided approach in which Lebanon is expected to disarm before Israel even considers ending its illegal military actions or withdrawing from Lebanese territory it continues to occupy.

Lebanon has long been caught in the crosshairs of U.S. and Israeli efforts to weaken Hezbollah, a group that emerged as a resistance movement after decades of Israeli invasions and occupations.

Washington's so-called "road-

map" demands full disarmament of Hezbollah, sweeping political reforms in Beirut, and improved ties with Syria — all in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied during the ceasefire. This roadmap conveniently overlooks Israel's ongoing military presence and strikes, placing the burden entirely on Lebanon and its resistance forces.

An earlier Reuters report revealed that envoy Tom Barrack told Lebanon it has until November, or at the latest the end of the year, to disarm Hezbollah.

Lebanon's official response was unequivocal: Israel must withdraw and halt its attacks first. This stance reflects Lebanon's precarious position, facing pressure from the U.S. to capitulate, while grappling with an occupying force that repeatedly violates its sovereignty.

According to Reuters' sources, Nabih Berri — Lebanese parliament speaker and head of Hezbollah's ally, the Amal Movement — requested that the U.S. ensure Israel halt its strikes as a prerequisite to fully implement the ceasefire agreed upon last year.

The sources also claimed that Israel rejected Berri's proposal late last week, prompting Washington to double down on demands for a Lebanese cabinet vote to disarm Hezbollah.

(Continued on Page 7)

Huge Quake, Tsunami Displace Millions Across Pacific

CHIBA, Japan (AFP) -- One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck Russia's sparsely populated Far East on Wednesday, causing tsunamis up to four meters (12 feet) high across the Pacific and sparking evacuations from Hawaii to Japan.

The magnitude 8.8 quake struck off Petropavlovsk on Russia's Kamchatka peninsula and was the largest since 2011 when one of magnitude 9.1 off Japan caused a tsunami that killed more than 15,000 people.

Almost two million people in Japan were told to head to higher ground and tsunami warnings were issued across the region, before being rescinded or downgraded -- though scientists warned of the danger of powerful aftershocks.

While the immediate area around the quake seemed to have been spared, people on the other side of the Pacific were gearing up for the impact of a tsunami expected to hit overnight.

Ecuador's Galapagos Islands off the west coast of South America closed visitor sites and schools, ushering tourists to dry land as a precaution.

"The boats haven't gone out to fish," said a fisherwoman in Puer to Ayora on the islands who did not want to be named.

"We've been warned through the loudspeakers that it's best not to approach the coastline."

In Russia's far east, a tsunami flooded the port town of Severo-Kurilsk, crashing through the port area and submerging the local fishing plant, officials said. Russian state television footage showed it sweep buildings and debris into the sea.

Authorities said the population of around 2,000 people had been evacuated.

The waves reached as far as the town's World War II monument about 400 meters from the shoreline, said Mayor Alexander Ovsyannikov.

Several people were injured in Russia by the quake, state media reported, but none seriously.

"The walls were shaking," a Kamchatka resident told state media Zvezda.

"It's good that we packed a suitcase, there was one with water and clothes near the door. We quickly grabbed it and ran out... It was very scary," she said.

Later Wednesday, the authorities in the Kamchatka peninsula announced the tsunami warning had been lifted.

Officials from countries with a Pacific coastline in North and South America -- including the United States, Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia -- issued warnings to avoid threatened beaches and low-lying areas.

In Japan, nearly two million people were advised to evacuate, and many left by car or on foot to higher ground.

One woman was killed as she drove her car off a cliff as she tried to escape, local media reported.

A 1.3-metre high tsunami reached a port in the northern prefecture of Iwate, Japan's weather agency said.

By Wednesday evening, the agency had downgraded its tsunami alerts -- issued for much of the archipelago -- to advisories.

In Hawaii, governor Josh Green said flights in and out of the island of Maui had been cancelled as a precaution.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center later downgraded the alert for Hawaii to an advisory and local authorities cancelled a coastal evacuation order.

Earlier, tsunami sirens blared near Hawaii's popular Waikiki surf beach where an AFP photographer saw gridlocked traffic as Hawaiians escaped to higher ground.

"STAY STRONG AND STAY SAFE!" U.S. President Donald Trump said on social media.

Wednesday's quake was the strongest in the Kamchatka region since 1952, the regional seismic monitoring service said, warning of aftershocks of up to 7.5 magnitude.

The USGS said the quake was one of the 10 strongest tremors ever recorded.

The quake was followed by at least six aftershocks that further rattled the Russian far east, including one of 6.9 magnitude.

The U.S. Tsunami Warning Centers said waves exceeding three meters above the tide level were possible along some coasts of Ecuador, northwestern Hawaiian islands and Russia.

Between one- and three-meter waves were possible along some coasts of Chile, Costa Rica, French

(Continued on Page 7)