

Page 2 | NATIONAL
Chinese Investments
Genuinely Beneficial, Instilling
Confidence and Optimism:
Brazilian Legislator

Trump in Arab Palaces; Gaza Under Bombs

The recent trip of current U.S. President Donald Trump to three wealthy Arab nations carries not only a commercial appearance...

Page 2 | NATIONAL

Page 3 | ECONOMY
Afghanistan's Trade With
Pakistan Increased
By 23% in April



Kabul
31° / 14°



Herat
35° / 14°



Nangarhar
38° / 23°



Balkh
31° / 16°



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Your Gateway to Afghanistan & the Region

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Afghan Refugees in Iran, Pakistan Urge Attention to Situation

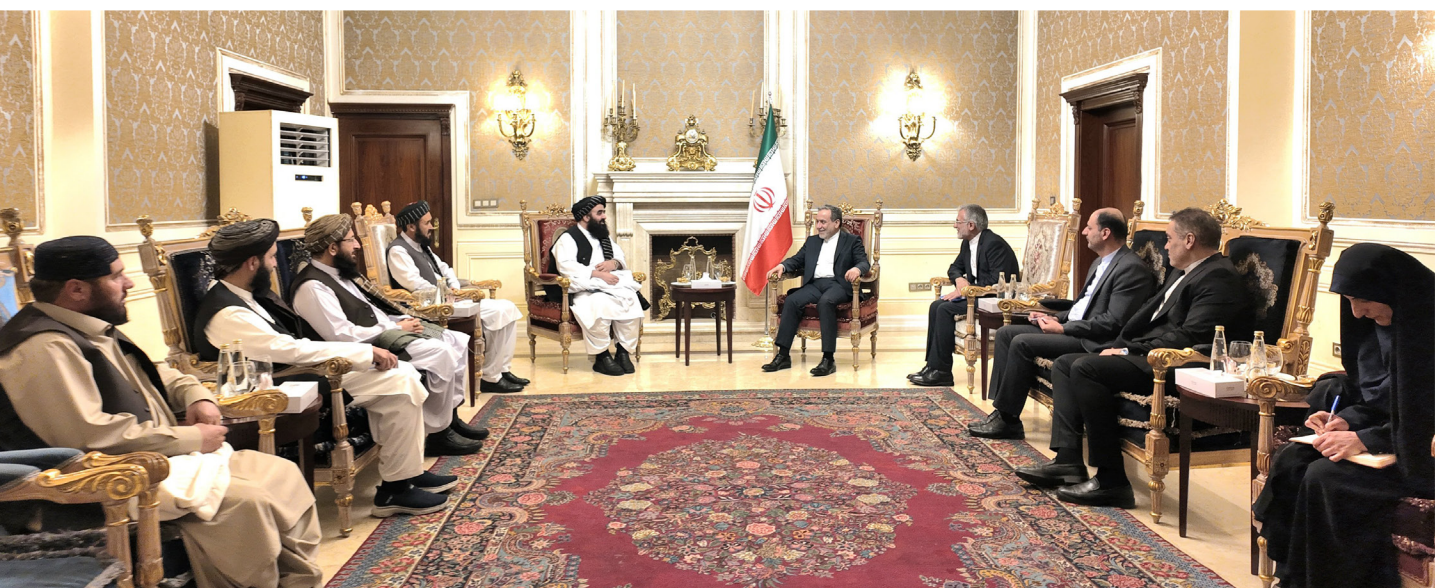
Following rising concerns over the deportation of Afghan migrants from neighboring countries, a number of Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan have voiced complaints about the difficulties they face. They called on host countries and the Islamic Emirate to address their concerns. Atiqullah Mansoor, an Afghan migrant in Pakistan, said: "Despite billions of dollars in Afghan migrant investments contributing to the host country's economy, they still remain uncertain about the future for themselves and their children in Pakistan." Enayat Alkozai, another Afghan migrant in...



Economy Minister Calls for Continued Support for Returning Afghan Migrants

Qari Din Mohammad Hanif, the Minister of Economy and Chairman of the Committee for Attracting Aid for Returnees, emphasized the importance of ongoing support for Afghan migrants returning from neighboring countries during a recent meeting with charity leaders. In his address, Minister Hanif acknowledged the previous contributions of charitable organizations in aiding victims of climate change and natural disasters, as well as their efforts to assist returning migrants last year. He urged these organizations to sustain their commitment to helping the current wave of returnees, highlighting the critical need for coordinated efforts to address their challenges. Charity officials shared their ongoing preparations and activities aimed at supporting returning migrants, assuring the Minister of their...

Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi Holds Talks with Iran's Foreign Minister



Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, met with Iran's Foreign Minister, Seyyed Abbas Araghchi, in Tehran. Deputy Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zia Ahmad Takal, wrote on his X account that during this meeting, the two sides held detailed discussions on bilateral relations, security issues, water, and the situation of Afghan refugees. Muttaqi described the relations between the two countries as valuable and called for further

cooperation in various areas such as trade, transit, migration, and political coordination. He also emphasized the need to strengthen diplomatic ties. Muttaqi expressed gratitude to the Iranian authorities for hosting Afghan refugees and added that the Islamic Emirate is committed to providing the necessary conditions for the return and reintegration of its citizens. He stressed that the return of Afghan refugees should be carried

out according to the principle of "gradualism." Furthermore, the Foreign Minister requested the transfer of Afghan prisoners from Iran and the provision of necessary facilities for them. On the other hand, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi stated that the two countries should enter a new phase in their bilateral relations. He described the return of Afghan refugees as dignified and gradual,

and reiterated Iran's commitment to providing more facilities for Afghan migrants in the country. The foreign ministers of both countries considered the current cooperation in the fields of trade and transit to be expanding. It is also scheduled that Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi will meet with several other high-ranking Iranian officials. He is visiting Iran at the official invitation of the Iranian Foreign Minister.

Afghan Justice Minister to Attend 13th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum

Acting Justice Minister of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), Abdul Hakim Sharei, left for Russia on Saturday to participate in the 13th St. Petersburg International Legal Forum. The three-day conference will kick off on coming Monday and will be attended by ministers of justice, judicial officials and legal experts from various countries. Acting Minister of Justice of the Islamic Emirate will deliver a speech on the nature of laws, the need for reforms in international law, ensuring justice and the role of the Islamic Emirate in international relations, the Ministry of Justice said in a statement.



Administrative Complex Inaugurated in Torkham to Serve Returnees



Abdul Rahman Attash, CEO of the National Development Company, announced at the inauguration ceremony of the administrative complex in Torkham township that major projects will be launched across the country this year. He also said that the construction of the complex in Torkham township was completed within just 15 days.

"The National Development Company plans to begin major projects this year, and the opening of this administrative complex is a good start for returnees," Attash added. Ahmad Jan Bilal, director general of the Emirati Companies Administration, said at the event: "This year, major projects will be implemented by Emirati

companies and, overall, under the Islamic Emirate across the country." The complex was inaugurated at Omari Camp in Torkham with the participation of the acting minister of economy, heads of the National Development Company and Emirati Companies Administration, and local officials. Acting Minister of Economy Din Mohammad Hanif, commented: "Completing such a building in just 15 days is a testament to the excellent capacity and talent of the National Development Company." He also criticized the forced deportation of Afghan refugees by neighboring countries, stating that migrants are being used as political tools. Hanif said: "At first, neighboring countries welcomed Afghan migrants warmly..."

Afghan...

Pakistan, said: “Our Afghan migrants in Iran are also facing serious challenges. Many are essentially quarantined in their homes and, unfortunately, cannot leave to work and earn a living.” Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has reported that since 2023, more than 3.4 million Afghans have returned from Iran and Pakistan to Afghanistan—either voluntarily or involuntarily. The agency has emphasized that the return of Afghan refugees must be voluntary and carried out with dignity. Juma Khan Pouya, a refugee rights activist, said: “Authorities in Afghanistan must, through mediation by international organizations such as UNHCR and IOM, persuade host governments to act within the framework of ethical standards, international obligations, and the provisions of conventions including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” On another note, Iranian media, citing the country’s Interior Minister, have reported that there are currently around two million undocumented foreign nationals in Iran.

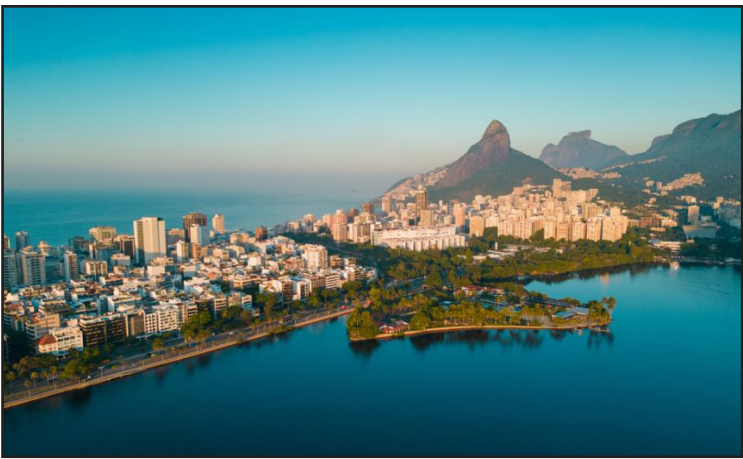
Economy...

readiness to provide immediate and essential assistance to those coming back to Afghanistan. The meeting underscored the collective responsibility of government and non-governmental organizations to facilitate the reintegration of returnees and to mitigate the difficulties they face upon their arrival.

By: Global Times

Chinese Investments Genuinely Beneficial, Instilling Confidence and Optimism: Brazilian Legislator

In an era marked by unprecedented global transformations, the world stands at a critical crossroads, grappling with deepening deficits in peace, development, security, and governance. As humanity faces unparalleled challenges during this tumultuous period, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and Chinese president, has put forth a solemn call to action through the Global Development Initiative (GDI), the Global Security Initiative (GSI), and the Global Civilization Initiative (GCI). The three pivotal initiatives address the pressing issues of our time, offering viable pathways and robust support for the building of a global community of shared future. Rooted in the rich historical experiences of the CPC’s century-long struggle and infused with the wisdom of China’s traditional culture, these initiatives are expected to unite the world in the pursuit of common progress and stability. To offer a deep understanding of the three global initiatives, and elaborate on their significance on a global scale, the Global Times is launching a series of articles. Brazil occupies an important position in China’s global partnerships, having been the first country to forge a strategic partnership with China. It is also the first nation in Latin America to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership with China. As one of the most important economic and cultural centers in Brazil, the state of Rio de Janeiro plays a strategic role in the development of China-Brazil relations. In this issue, Global Times reporter Xie Wenting (GT) speaks with Marina dos Santos (Santos), a legislator from Rio de Janeiro, about bilateral cooperation, including in football, as well as her insights on the GDI, the GCI, and the GSI. proposed Global Development Initiative (GDI) stresses sustainable development, fosters growth impetus, and advocates for people-centered development. How do you view the potential of South-South cooperation between Rio de Janeiro and Chinese cities in areas such as climate change



and smart cities, among others within the GDI?

Santos: Building a prosperous, sustainable future necessarily involves South-South cooperation. Our shared experiences and common challenges lead to democratic solutions to the crises facing all of humanity. By sharing technologies and traditional knowledge, and investing in climate adaptation, damage mitigation among others, we strengthen the cooperation within the GDI and promote solidarity among peoples. This process has already yielded concrete results in rural areas through partnerships for the mechanization of small farms, the production of bio-inputs, and the exchange in public policies.

GT: Rio de Janeiro is a major global cultural center, while China’s Global Civilization Initiative (GCI) fosters intercultural dialogue. Do you see opportunities for deeper cultural and sports engagement between Rio de Janeiro and Chinese cities? Does the state legislature support these programs?

Santos: It’s inspiring to see China, with its millennia of history, committed to intercultural dialogue and recognizing Rio de Janeiro and Brazil as strategic partners. Culture is a transformative force rooted in creativity and popular representation, and Brazilians are deeply interested in learning more about China – whether in cuisine, cinema, fashion, or even football, our national passion. In our legislative work, we’re already organizing

meetings with the Chinese Consulate in Rio and promoting discussions in the State Legislative Assembly and within the Workers’ Party to strengthen this collaboration. One proposal is introducing a Chinese language course at the Rio de Janeiro Legislative School. GT: Rio de Janeiro is transitioning to a low-carbon economy, but the high cost of clean-energy technologies remains a challenge. China is a global leader in renewables. How do you view the prospects for cooperation between China and Brazil in this sector, and what is its global significance?

Santos: Brazil and China must deepen their integration, with clean energy as a priority. Such a strategic partnership would be crucial to tackling Rio de Janeiro’s challenges in achieving a just and sustainable energy transition. On one hand, we aim to develop AI applications in areas like solid-waste management and the production of bio-inputs, recognizing the roles of both legislative and executive branches in this effort.

On the other hand, we’re advancing collaborations among universities in both countries, including the China Agricultural University, the East China Normal University, the University of Brasília, and the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro. With the latter, collaboration is happening via the Interdisciplinary Center for Social Development in the Technology Center, which, for years, has been developing social technologies aimed at boosting agroecological production

and reducing physical labor across the state. We need more joint university actions and exchanges among related fields to guide young people toward fostering a new model of global development based on respect for the environment and human dignity. Faced with various problems and available solutions, there’s only one possible path: One that ensures dignity for our people and safeguards the environment.

GT: With the New Development Bank (NDB) headquartered in Shanghai, how can Rio de Janeiro leverage this platform for direct engagement with Chinese provinces in areas like port infrastructure, tourism, and trade?

Santos: The NDB is a key instrument for promoting sustainable development in historically exploited nations. Under the leadership of President Dilma – known for her determination and courage – the institution reaffirms its commitment to a new growth model. For Rio de Janeiro, that means an integrated, sustainable economic transition, productive revitalization that creates jobs and income, and direct government investment in social welfare. We now have a real chance to transform the state’s reality, ensuring dignity for our population through effective policies.

Our challenge is to coordinate development strategies in diverse areas, such as social and popular tourism, capitalizing on our natural landscapes across both urban and rural settings, and fostering cultural exchanges. One interesting link between Chinese provinces and Brazil is football: In China, there is the “Cun Chao” Rural Super League, while here we have the Agrarian Reform Championship in several states, such as Ceará.

Frevo dancers perform at a Carnival in Pernambuco, Brazil. Photo: VCGGT: The Global Security Initiative (GSI) advocates a comprehensive approach to security. Given Rio de Janeiro’s range of challenges, from urban crime to cyber threats, what is the potential for pilot security cooperation projects? Santos: China’s experience in... **P3**

Editorial

Trump in Arab Palaces; Gaza Under Bombs

The recent trip of current U.S. President Donald Trump to three wealthy Arab nations carries not only a commercial appearance but also deep strategic political messages. This journey took place at a time when the oppressed people of Palestine—particularly in Gaza—are facing one of the gravest humanitarian catastrophes due to relentless Israeli bombardment. For over two months, food, medicine, and water have been cut off, and respected international bodies like the United Nations, Human Rights Watch, and the Red Cross have clearly referred to the situation as genocide. While Gaza bears witness to one of the most harrowing tragedies in modern history, President Trump is engaged in warm receptions inside marble palaces, securing business deals for luxury towers, cryptocurrency ventures, and

other lucrative contracts. His close associates and personal financial interests give this trip another dimension—it shows that humanitarian crises hold far less value for him than skyscrapers, golf courses, and Trump Towers. Despite claims that President Trump has distanced himself from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the U.S. continues to send weapons and ammunition to Israel on a daily and weekly basis. It is precisely this military support that is fueling the genocide in Gaza. Political slogans of distancing become meaningless when actions actively aid ongoing atrocities. Before the official visit, Trump’s son Eric and the son of his business partner Steve Witkoff, Zack Witkoff, had already traveled to the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Qatar to finalize billion-dollar real estate and business projects. These included

Trump Towers, cryptocurrency complexes, golf courses, and luxury residential developments. This highlights that the trip was not merely official—it carried significant personal and economic motives. On the broader geopolitical front, the U.S. appears determined to reassert its strategic dominance in the region. As Saudi Arabia drew closer to China and Russia—especially through nuclear cooperation and oil policy shifts—Washington seeks to reverse these alignments. Furthermore, after the Houthi missile strikes on key targets in Saudi Arabia and America’s apparent inaction, Riyadh was compelled to turn toward Beijing. Now, Trump is trying to pull it back. Iran, meanwhile, has not overlooked Trump’s commercial inclinations. Tehran sees this as an opportunity to attract American... **P3**

UN Security...

We have rigorous mechanisms to ensure our aid gets to civilians, and not to Hamas. But Israel denies us access, placing the objective of depopulating Gaza before the lives of civilians,” he told the security council.

According to Fletcher, some 70 percent of Gaza’s territory is either under displacement orders or within Israeli-militarized zones, leaving hundreds of thousands of civilians trapped in shrinking areas without basic necessities. “Every single one of the 2.1 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip face the risk of famine. One in five face starvation,” he said, quoting a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO).

Israel blocked the entry of goods and supplies into Gaza on March 2, following the end of the first phase of a January ceasefire deal with Hamas. It resumed attacks on Gaza on March 18, with at least

2,720 Palestinians killed since then.

Concerns over Gaza’s humanitarian crisis have deepened following Israel’s recent declaration that it plans to intensify its ongoing military campaign.

Fu Cong, China’s permanent representative to the UN, noted that nearly half a million people in Gaza are facing catastrophic levels of hunger. He urged Israel to uphold international humanitarian law and lift the blockade to allow unhindered access to food, medicine and other critical supplies.

Gaza has become the most dangerous place for humanitarian workers, with more than 400 humanitarian workers killed in the current conflict, Fu said.

“China urges Israel to immediately cease its military attacks on Gaza,” Fu said, noting that military action cannot resolve the conflict and only prolongs the humanitarian crisis.

Afghanistan's Trade With Pakistan Increased By 23% in April

The bilateral trade between Afghanistan and Pakistan has recorded an increase of approximately 23 percent from \$97 million in March to \$119 million during April on month-over-month basis, a Pakistani newspaper reported on Saturday.

In April 2025, Pakistan's exports to Afghanistan rose by 21 percent compared to March 2025, increasing from \$72 million to \$87 million, The Nation reported.

Imports from Afghanistan also surged by 28 percent, reaching \$32 million from \$25 million in the month of



March 2025. This led to a 23 percent rise in total bilateral trade for April between Afghanistan and Pakistan from \$97 million in March to \$119 million during April on month-on-month basis.

However, in April 2025, the growth momentum slowed on year-on-year basis.

Overall, Pakistan exports to Afghanistan increased by 31 percent from \$871 million during the first 10 months (July to April) of the FY 2023-24 to \$1,138.3 million in the same period of the ongoing fiscal year 2024-25, according to the newspaper.

Trump in Arab...

investors. While Trump hints at engagement with Iran, the Houthis, and even Hamas, he simultaneously continues the transfer of weapons to Israel, which perpetuates Gaza's suffering. This contradictory approach represents not a pursuit of peace, but a pursuit of self-serving interests. Ultimately, President Trump's trip revolves around wealth, business, and strategic power—not humanitarian values. The cries of Gaza's martyred children, the devastation of war, and the pain of human conscience are absent from his agenda. The world will only move toward justice when its leaders prioritize saving children over building towers, and place human dignity above personal gain.

Administrative Complex...

but over time, they began to use them as political leverage."

Hamdullah Fitrat, deputy spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate, speaking at the ceremony, said: "Afghan engineers, the National Development Company, and other companies in Afghanistan have the capacity and skills to build such facilities for citizens under challenging and urgent circumstances."

According to the Emirati Companies Administration, the administrative complex was built on approximately 3,200 square meters of land at a cost of 40 million afghanis by the National Development Company. It includes 60 office rooms, a conference hall, and other facilities to serve returnees at the camp.

Israeli Strikes...

looms in Gaza after Israel blocked aid deliveries to the strip 76 days ago, with UN aid chief Tom Fletcher asking the Security Council this week if it would act to "prevent genocide". Trump on Friday acknowledged Gaza's growing hunger crisis and the need for aid deliveries, as international pressure grows on Israel to resume ceasefire talks and end its blockade of Gaza. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on May 5 that Israel was planning an expanded, intensive offensive against Hamas as his security cabinet approved plans that could involve seizing the entire Gaza Strip and controlling aid.

Chinese...

public security offers valuable lessons for Rio de Janeiro, particularly in the state's efficacy in protecting its citizens. It's not just about ensuring personal safety and material property, but about using security to foster well-being and quality of life.

I'd also highlight the importance of security for women – whether at home, work, or on the streets – and the establishment of a sound legal framework to combat violence against women, including femicide and harassment. It would be irresponsible not to learn from these advances, particularly given the challenges we face. It's vital to establish strategic cooperation that allows for the exchange of monitoring technologies, investigative methods, and intelligence systems capable of dismantling organized crime at its roots. We know that genuine, lasting security will only come about when coupled with robust social policies. Accessible, high-quality, eco-friendly mass public transport; food and nutritional security, land regularization, popular housing, preventative healthcare, and formal employment opportunities are not only basic rights but also the foundations of a stable, secure society.

GT: Large-scale investments are needed to improve Rio de Janeiro's favelas and other infrastructure, but some media outlets raised "concerns" over the role of Chinese capital, especially regarding so-called debt risks. How would you address these concerns?

Santos: Such concerns stem from false narratives propagated by certain media outlets and economic interests that have historically undermined the autonomy of Global South countries. Actual reality contradicts these unfounded fears. Countries that once suffered from colonialism are

now making historic strides thanks to such partnerships. China's own trajectory shows that these investments are genuinely beneficial and instill confidence and optimism to press ahead with them.

GT: Chinese tech firms are expanding into Latin America. What benefits could their presence bring to Rio's urban development? How do you assess these companies' contributions to local job creation and skilled workforce training?

Santos: These firms' presence can accelerate the modernization of urban infrastructure. By investing in emerging technologies like 5G, the Internet of Things, and smart-city solutions, we can upgrade city infrastructure. These innovations would enable real-time traffic management, integrated public-safety systems, and intelligent environmental monitoring, improving the quality of life for Rio's residents and attracting new tech ventures that generate skilled jobs. Chinese companies often supplement their projects with technical-training programs in partnership with universities and research institutes, which strengthens the local workforce and helps adapt technological solutions to our own urban needs. Cities that have taken this route have seen notable improvements in administrative efficiency, reduced operational costs, and enhanced public services. Beyond urban areas, China has developed vital information technologies to boost production and marketing in rural zones and link producers to consumers – lessons Brazil can greatly benefit from. The arrival of these Chinese companies has a positive impact on training Brazil's workforce in these fields. GT: What role can Rio de Janeiro play in deepening Brazil-China relations? Santos: China is one of Brazil's top trade partners in the energy sector, and since

Rio is our nation's largest oil and gas producer, we could attract Chinese investment in exploration, refining, and energy infrastructure. We can also collaborate with China on clean-energy solutions like biomass and biogas – areas that are growing in the state. Our potential also extends to agriculture. Agriculture in Rio is marked by diverse crops, a favorable climate, and proximity to large consumer centers. Areas like Northern Fluminense, Médio Paraíba, and Baixada Fluminense host family farms producing fruits, vegetables, and horticultural products, and they are increasingly going agroecological. Rio could take part in pilot projects with China in agricultural innovation – especially in farm mechanization, sustainable technologies, and the circular economy. Thanks to our ports and geography, Rio could even become a logistics hub for goods bound for China. We should also note the state's strong academic institutions with national and international standing, such as the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the Fluminense Federal University, Rio de Janeiro State University, the Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro, and the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics. Partnerships with Chinese universities and research centers in fields like biotechnology, public health, AI, applied mathematics, and clean energy are most welcome. Finally, let me highlight that the state is a major center of culture and the creative economy. We're a global reference for samba, Carnival, and leading football clubs, but we constantly reinvent ourselves. We're a vibrant, welcoming state that draws tourists from around the world with its natural beauty, varied cuisine, and cultural events. Rio de Janeiro can serve as a strategic link in Brazil-China relations across economic, cultural, scientific, and environmental fronts.

Russia, Ukraine...

he said. The Istanbul talks follow a proposal by Putin on Sunday to resume direct negotiations with Ukraine. Zelensky has previously said he is open to a face-to-face meeting with Putin. However,

the Kremlin said Putin would not attend the talks. The last direct talks between Ukraine and Russia took place in Istanbul in March 2022, where the two sides failed to agree to halt the fighting.

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Russia, Ukraine Agree on Large-scale POW Swap, Further Talks in Istanbul

Delegations of Russia and Ukraine concluded their meeting in Türkiye's Istanbul on Friday, agreeing to hold a new round of negotiations and have a large-scale prisoner exchange. As a key outcome of the two-hour talks, Russia and Ukraine agreed to a prisoner exchange involving 1,000 people from each side.

According to Russian diplomatic sources, Presidential Aide Vladimir Medinsky said the swap would take place soon. He also expressed overall satisfaction with the meeting and confirmed that Russia is ready to continue the dialogue.

Medinsky noted that both sides will soon present their detailed views on a possible ceasefire, after which the negotiations will move forward.

He also said that Ukraine proposed direct talks



between the two presidents, and that Russia "took note" of the request.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, quoted by the state-run Anadolu Agency, said both sides focused on three key topics: a ceasefire, the prisoner exchange, and the possibility of a future presidential summit. Umerov described the agreement on the prisoner swap as "the largest exchange since the beginning of the war."

In a post on X, Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who chaired the negotiation, noted that the meeting produced several important outcomes aimed at building trust and laying the foundation for future negotiations.

He said Russia and Ukraine agreed to "share with the other side in writing the conditions that would make it possible to..." **P3**

A look at the world

Trump's Gulf Visit Signals Potential Shift in Mideast Policy



U.S. President Donald Trump departed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday afternoon, concluding a lucrative four-day Gulf tour, which had also taken him to Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Despite expectations that Trump's visit could help calm the conflict in Gaza and ease regional tensions, the U.S. president instead focused his Middle East visit primarily on economic gain, securing multi-trillion-dollar investment commitments from the three Gulf countries.

Analysts believe that, by sidestepping the region's conflict zones and prioritizing business deals, Trump's tour signals a potential pivot in U.S. Middle East policy. Massive commercial deals defined Trump's Middle East tour. From the outset of his second term, Trump signaled that his first major foreign trip would emphasize promoting U.S. economic interests. On his inauguration day in January, Trump stated he would choose Saudi Arabia as his first destination "if Saudi Arabia wanted to buy another 450, or 500 billion (dollars' worth of U.S. products).

Upon arrival in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, Trump secured an investment agreement with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, locking in 600 billion U.S. dollars in investments into the United States.

Among the deals signed was "the largest defense sales agreement in history -- nearly 142 billion dollars," said a White House statement. Under this agreement, the United States will supply Saudi Arabia with "state-of-the-art warfighting equipment and services from over a dozen U.S. defense firms."

In Qatar, Trump cut a deal with the Gulf nation to generate "an economic exchange worth at least 1.2 trillion dollars." He also secured commercial deals worth over 243.5 billion dollars, including the sale of 210 U.S.-made Boeing 787 Dreamliner and 777X jets to Qatar Airways, valued at 96 billion dollars.

In the UAE, the final stop of the trip, Trump announced 200 billion dollars in bilateral commercial agreements, bringing "the total of investment agreements in the Gulf region to over 2 trillion dollars," the White House noted.

UN Security Council Urges Israel to Lift Gaza Aid Blockade Amid Famine Warnings

The United Nations Security Council has called on Israel to lift its blockade on Gaza, where food supplies are dwindling and the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.

Addressing an emergency meeting held on Tuesday on Gaza's worsening humanitarian crisis, Tom Fletcher, the UN

under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said the humanitarian situation in Gaza is deteriorating rapidly amid an Israeli blockade that has prevented the entry of food, medicine, water and shelter materials for more than 10 weeks. "We have life-saving supplies ready, now, at the borders..." **P2**



Israeli Strikes Kill at Least 58 Palestinians Overnight: Reuters



(Reuters) - Israel's airforce killed at least 58 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza overnight, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press ahead with a new ground offensive.

More than 300 Gazans have been killed in Israeli strikes since Thursday, according to local health authorities, one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came after U.S. President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire. "Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Al-Sultan.

Israel's military said on Saturday it is conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in the Gaza Strip and achieve "operational control" in areas of the Palestinian enclave. The escalation, which includes the build-up of armoured forces along the border, is part of the initial stages of "Operation Gideon's Wagons", which Israel says is aimed at defeating Hamas and getting its hostages back. An Israeli defence official said earlier this month that the operation would not be launched before Trump concluded his visit to the Middle East.

United Nations experts warn that famine... **P3**



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