

The Second 3+3 Meeting Will Kick Off in Tehran on Monday With the Presence of the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, Turkey and Iran to Address Many Regional and International Issues

IRAN NEWS

The Head of Iranian Association for the Study of the Liver Diseases Has Announced Reduction in Infection to Hepatitis in Iran as the Disease Has Approximately Been Eradicated Across the Country

VOL. XXIX, No. 7841 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY OCTOBER 23, 2023 ABAN 1, 1402

2 DOMESTIC



No More Tariffs for Trade With Russia From Late March 2024

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Kazakhstan, A genuine Actor in Global Issues

> SEE PAGE 3



Iran to File Lawsuit Against Zionist Criminal Leaders



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary-General of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi says that a lawsuit will be filed against the Zionist criminal leaders. The lawsuit will be filed in the General and Revolutionary Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran in line with the implementation of the law on countering the hostile actions of the Zionist regime against peace and security, Gharibabadi said on Sunday. The official described the pursuit of complaints filed in the courts of other countries against the Zionist regime by independent lawyers defending Palestine as another action that is being followed up by the legal community and lawyers by forming a network of lawyers in different countries. He stressed establishing a legal documentation center for the Israeli regime's crimes, focusing on victims, damages, and crimes and identifying the commanders and perpetrators of the crimes by research centers, legal bodies, non-governmental organizations, and media with the cooperation of counterparts in other countries.

Hezbollah Targets Israeli Sites With Guided Missiles

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - The Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has launched a series of retaliatory strikes against the positions of the Israeli occupation forces across the country's southern border. Lebanon's Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network reported on Sunday that Hezbollah targeted "with guided missiles" the Israeli outpost of Ruwaisat al-Alam on the Kfar Shuba hills in the eastern section of southern Lebanon. The news network also added that the technical devices and spying equipment on the tower of the Israeli Al-Abad site, located outside the town of Hula in the occupied territories, were targeted with guided missiles. Moreover, the Israeli media confirmed an exchange of fire with Hezbollah in the occupied Shebaa Farms, with an Israeli occupation army spokesman saying that a tank was hit by a guided missile fired from Lebanon. Reports by Israeli social media networks also said "heavy gunfire from Lebanon" had targeted an Israeli outpost near Misgav Am settlement on the border with the Arab country. The latest developments came a day after the Lebanese resistance movement announced striking three military bases belonging to the Israeli regime on the country's border with the occupied territories. In a statement on Sunday, the Israel regime announced its plans for settlements close to the Lebanese and the evacuation of another border, amid repeated rocket and missile attacks by Hezbollah and Palestinian resistance groups in the past two weeks. Many of the settlers in northern Israeli towns have already evacuated southward amid the escalating retaliatory attacks from Lebanon. Last week, the occupying regime evacuated settlements that are within two kilometers of the Lebanese border, as well as the city of Kiryat Shmona. Lebanon's Hezbollah and the Israeli occupation a day after the, have been exchanging sporadic fire since October illegal entity started bringing the besieged Palestinian territory of the Gaza Strip under a relentless and indiscriminate war



Israel Wages War on Gaza on Behalf of U.S.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Zionist regime, acting as proxy for the US, has launched an onslaught on the Gaza Strip and is butchering women and children under the pretext of targeting Hamas, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said. Speaking at a joint press conference with Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa Naledi Pandor, held in Tehran on Sunday, Amir-Abdollahian slammed the strikes on Gaza as a proxy war that the Israeli regime has waged on behalf of the U.S. The top Iranian diplomat bemoaned the "bitter" fact that U.S. President Joe Biden has, during a recent visit to Tel Aviv, voiced support for the Zionist regime, which is bombarding hospitals, mosques, churches and houses and killing women and children in Gaza under the pretext of attacking Hamas. It's a great shame that Biden announced in Tel Aviv that the U.S. would dispatch hundreds of planes and ships laden with arms to the occupied territories but has managed to coordinate plans for only 20 trucks carrying humanitarian aid to enter the besieged Gaza Strip, Amir-Abdollahian said. "This reveals that the Israeli regime has launched a proxy war against Palestinians." He warned that the region is currently like a "powder keg", noting that any Israeli "miscalculation" in proceeding with the policy of genocide and forced displacement of Gazans will have "heavy and bitter consequences" for the region and the interests of warmongers. If the U.S. and the Israeli regime do not stop their crimes against humanity immediately, there will be a possibility of anything at any moment and the region may spin out of control, he warned. The foreign minister also expressed gratitude to the government and people of South Africa for supporting Palestine against apartheid. For her part, Pandor said South Africa has consistently voiced support for Palestine. Nobody should suffer from injustice, she stated, calling for stronger efforts to assist the people of Palestine. The South African diplomat emphasized that Palestinians must own their territories and the 1967 frontiers should be recognized. South Africa supports peace and believes that the lands of Palestinians have been occupied and they have been deprived of human rights, she noted. Meanwhile in the presser, Amir-Abdollahian said that Iran and South Africa continue their committed expanding ties based on previous agreements and signed documents. In the meeting, the two sides emphasized the development of bilateral cooperation and interactions. They also exchanged views on the most important regional and international issues. The Iranian Foreign Minister said that Nelson Mandela is known as a symbol of racial discrimination, especially since the world is witnessing the genocide of the fake Zionist regime. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also said that he exchanged views on the situation in the region and the continuation of crimes committed by the Zionist regime. Amir-Abdollahian thanked the South African government for its support for the oppressed Palestinian nation, he added. FM added: The visits of the officials of the two countries are on the agenda. This year, the president of our country will visit South Africa. Pandor, referring to the unilateral U.S. sanctions, said: BRICS helps us to have financial exchanges. Referring to the people of Gaza and Palestine she noted: The international community should pay attention to the lack of human rights in Gaza. It cannot be that some people deserve human rights and others don't. Pandor added: The international community should take action against the injustice towards the Palestinian people. She said: South Africa is steadfast in supporting Palestine until this land is free, and this support will increase.

U.S.-Drafted Resolution on Israeli War on Gaza Ignoring Ceasefire

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The United States has submitted a draft for a UN Security Council resolution on Israel's onslaught in Gaza without any mention of a ceasefire in it, a report says. According to a document obtained by Russia's TASS news agency, the U.S.-drafted resolution condemned the Hamas resistance group's Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, urged the release of war prisoners, and supported Israel's so-called right to defend itself. However, it does not stipulate a call for a ceasefire. It also calls for the full respect of international humanitarian law, including the protection of civilians, and recognizes the efforts of Qatar and other countries that led to the release of two Israelis on October 20, who had been kept as war prisoners by Hamas. The United States on October 18 vetoed Brazil's draft resolution on the Middle East. Russia abstained from voting in light of the UN Security Council's rejection of its suggested amendments to the document. The UK also abstained, while the remaining 12 members of the UN Security Council voted in favor of the resolution. On October 17, the UN Security Council did not adopt the Russia-drafted resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as only five countries voted in favor. The draft resolution called for an immediate ceasefire and also blamed the United States for the unfolding situation in the Middle East. A UNSC resolution needs at least nine votes in favor and no vetoes by the US, Britain, France, China, or Russia. The United States has traditionally shielded its ally Israel from any Security Council action. Till now, none of the draft resolutions have received enough votes to pass. The Israeli regime began the war on Gaza on October 7 following Operation Al-Aqsa Storm launched by Hamas in response to the Israeli regime's incessant campaign of bloodshed and destruction against Palestinian people. The war has so far claimed the lives of at least 4,385 Palestinians, mostly women, children, and the elderly.

Iran-China Trade Tops \$10b in 9 Months



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - China's Customs in its latest report said the trade exchanges between China and Iran in the first nine months of 2023 (January-September) surpassed \$10 billion. The value of the trade exchanges between Iran and China in the first nine months of the current year hit \$10.790 billion, showing a 12 percent decline compared to last year's corresponding period, the report said. Iran and China had exchanged over \$12.320 billion from January to September 2022. China's export of products to Iran in the first nine months of 2023 registered an eight percent growth compared to the same period last year, it added. In this period, China imported \$3.290 billion worth of products from Iran, recording a 12 percent decline compared to the same period last year. China had imported over \$5.370 billion worth of products from Iran between January and September 2022. In this period, the balance of trade between Iran and China stood at \$4.21 billion in interest of China.

Harsh, Crushing Revenge Awaits Israel

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - Iran's Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib says the United States and all those governments that support Israel will have to pay a heavy price for the regime's atrocities in the besieged Gaza Strip. "They must await a divine revenge that will befall them through the public. It will be a harsh, destructive, mortal and annihilating revenge for the Zionist regime and its advocates," Khatib said. "Regardless of the fact that freedom-loving people and much of the international community are supportive of the Palestinian nation, the US president made a trip to the occupied territories, trampled on the blood of the oppressed and voiced support for the Zionist regime." Khatib underscored that the oppressed, defenseless and ordinary people of Palestine are facing violence, injuries and destruction on a daily basis, "all of which originate in the United States." The Iranian minister said Washington and all Israel's supporters should know that the people of the region, together with freedom-loving, justice-seeking and anti-oppression people worldwide, "will not let such support go unpunished." The minister also denounced in the strongest terms the appalling crimes of Israel in Gaza, stating that the atrocities are being committed just before the eyes of the so-called advocates of human rights. Khatib said the horrendous crimes have "irreparably ruined the course of normalization of ties with Israel." The governments that sought to appease the US by normalizing relations with Israel should bear in mind that circumstances have changed, and normalization attempts will get nowhere, the Iranian intelligence minister said.

IRAN NEWS



Islamic Nations Should Coordinate Help to Palestinians in Gaza

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi have discussed the Gaza war, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts by Islamic countries to help the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip in the face of the Israeli regime's bombardments and blockade. The two diplomats held their talks on the phone on Saturday, the latest in a series of telephone conversations between Iranian and Omani officials since the war in Gaza broke out on October 7. The foreign ministers explored ways to bring an immediate end to the bloodshed of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the lifting of the blockade of the territory as well as sending humanitarian aid to the region, including fuel, food, medicines and medical equipment.

No More Tariffs for Trade With Russia From Late March 2024

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - Tariffs on different goods being traded between Iran and the Russian Federation are going to become zero by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2024), an official with the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce said. Kambiz Mirkarimi said trade with national currencies, free trade and the opening of new border customs with Russia, Armenia, and Belarus will also be implemented soon. "Considering the development of economic relations between Iran and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), the problems of economic operators in various areas including customs, tariffs, and competitive market will be resolved by the end of the year," Mirkarimi said. Referring to the jump in exports with the development of transportation infrastructure, the official said: "Software infrastructure in the field of free trade agreements with the EAEU countries is being implemented seriously and quickly. In this regard, very good negotiators were made between Iran and Russia, and some memorandums were signed which will be implemented after finalization and being approved by the parliaments of EAEU countries and Iran." Mirkarimi expressed hope that by encouraging companies to enter the markets of Russia and Belarus in the absence of big brands, Iranian companies can develop exports and stabilize the country's position in the Eurasian markets. Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps for boosting their mutual trade over the past few years. In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an

agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion. As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level over the past few months. The imposition of sanctions on both countries has been a major factor in bringing the two sides closer together, making them a strong alliance against U.S. pressures. Over the past few months, senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations. Last week, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and Moscow Chamber of Commerce signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in various areas. The MOU was signed by the TCCIMA Deputy Head Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki and the head of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce in the presence of Governor of Tehran Province Alireza Fakhari, on the sidelines of the 4th Made in Russia International Export Forum and exhibition in Moscow. According to Niaraki the MOU is aimed to develop cooperation in the field of information exchange, exchanging delegations, introducing capacities, and holding joint conferences and exhibitions. A delegation of Iranian economic operators, headed by Fakhari traveled to Moscow to attend the Made in Russia Exhibition.

President Appoints New Head of Center for Strategic Studies



TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi has appointed Mostafa Zamanian as head of Center for Strategic Studies Organisation. Zamanian has graduated with a PhD in Public Policy and is one of the authors of the transformation plan of Raisi's Government. Center for Strategic Studies is an Iranian think tank on strategy issues and is regarded as the research arm of the Iranian President's office.

Mohammadsadegh Khayatian was the former head of the CSR.

IME Sets Higher Records in Value of Trades

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 3,089,400 tons of commodities with a total trading value of nearly \$808m, posting growths of 10% in value of trades compared with the week before that. According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,661,672 tons of commodities valued at almost \$580m. On this floor the IME sold 1,235,212 tons of cement, 601,245 tons of steel, 554,000 tons of iron ore, 254,000 tons of sponge iron, 8,745 tons of copper, 5,200 tons of aluminum, 2,250 tons of cast iron, 850 tons of zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 125 tons of lead. Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 417,530 tons of commodities worth more than \$220m. Commodities traded on this floor included 129,388 tons of bitumen, 95,594 tons of polymeric products, 76,700 tons of vacuum bottom, 54,000 tons of lube cut, 39,831 tons of chemicals, 15,380 tons of sulfur, 6,482 tons of oil, 600 tons of waterproofing materials and 410 tons of feedstocks.

The IME also traded within the same week 10,198 tons of goods on its side market.

Majlis Facilitates Importing Cruise Ships

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Lawmakers in the Iranian parliament have approved a plan that facilitates importing cruise ships in a bid to further develop tourism industry. Chaired by Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the open session of Iranian parliament was held on Sunday to continue the review of the 7th Development Plan. According to Clause B, Article 83 of the 7th Development Plan, the necessary license for the import of cruise ships, recreational vessels, vehicles and special tourism equipment for the investors of the private and cooperative sectors of the applicant with the exemption of entry fees by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts in compliance with the legal authority of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development will be issued.

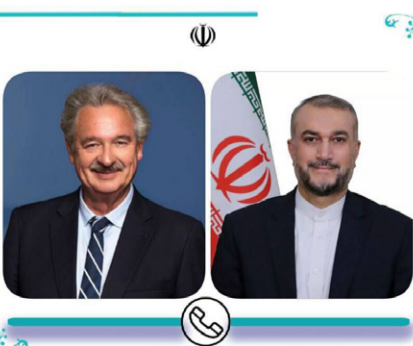


Iran Eyes Buying shares of BRICS Bank

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari has said that Iran is seeking to buy shares of BRICS Bank which he said would allow Iran to take loans from the bank for exports of techno-engineering services. He said on Saturday that Iran is ready to export non-oil products, as well as techno-engineering services, to BRICS and SCO member countries. The official noted that bringing in foreign exchange is not just restricted to exports, but

it also includes the transfer of technology, imports of low-cost raw materials and exports of techno-engineering services. Referring to techno-engineering services by knowledge-based companies, Safari said that as much as \$300-\$400 billion worth of knowledge-based projects are underway in Iran. He also noted that Iran has been trying to export automobile to target countries, such as Russia and Belarus, adding that good contracts have been reached in this regard.

Palestinian Resistance's Actions Against Occupation Based on Int'l Law



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has said that Palestinian resistance groups' actions against the Zionist regime's occupation of their land are based on international law. The top diplomat made the comment on Saturday during phone talks with his Luxembourgian counterpart Jean Asselborn as the two discussed the ongoing Israeli regime's war in the Gaza Strip where more than 4,000 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed since the conflict began on October 7 when resistance movement Hamas launched its unprecedented Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the regime. Amir-Abdollahian blamed the killing of the civilians in Gaza and the humanitarian crisis there on extremist policies of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The foreign minister said that Palestinian resistance groups are acting based on international law in the face of the Israeli occupation, adding that recent Israeli crimes against the civilian population in Gaza show the Zionist regime's weakness against Palestinian resistance forces. Luxembourg's foreign minister said that he is aware of the crisis in Gaza, expressing hope that the conflict comes to an end as soon as possible and a political solution is prioritized. He also said that the active and constructive role the Islamic Republic has always played in the region can help return peace and tranquility there. Iran has stepped up diplomatic efforts in the past two weeks with the aim of supporting the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, with President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian holding phone conversations with officials of different countries, both in the region and beyond. Last week, Amir-Abdollahian also took a tour of four regional countries of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Qatar in line with those efforts.

Italy Signs Deal to Take in Migrant Workers From Tunisia

ROME (Dispatches) - Italy signed a deal to take in some 4,000 workers from Tunisia, in line with pledges to help the northern African state stem the pressure from migrants at its borders. The deal was signed during a visit by Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani to Tunis, where he was scheduled to meet his counterpart Nabil Ammar and President Kais Saied, his office said. It envisages regular migration channels for "qualified workers" willing to come to Italy, an Italian briefing note said as Rome also promised to help Tunisia in its efforts to stop migrant smugglers and create job opportunities for the young. "Tunisia is exposed to strong migratory pressure, particularly from sub-Saharan countries, and is the first country for repatriations from Italy," the Italian document said, adding 1,615 migrants had returned there so far this year. Sea migrant arrivals to Italy have almost doubled in 2023 compared to the same period in 2022, with around 140,000 people coming ashore so far. Some 91% came from Tunisia, prompting Rome's efforts to help local authorities to stem the flow.



IRAN NEWS

China, Philippines Trade Accusations Over Latest South China Sea Clash

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China and the Philippines traded accusations over a collision in disputed waters of the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked a Philippine boat supplying forces there on Sunday, the latest in a series of maritime confrontations. The two countries have had numerous run-ins in areas of the South China Sea in recent months, especially the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands. The Philippines has been sending supplies to troops stationed on a rusted World War Two-era transport ship used as an outpost on the shoal, prompting China's coast guard to repeatedly deploy vessels to block the resupply missions. In the incident on Sunday morning, China's coast guard said there had been a "slight collision" between one of its ships and the Philippine boat while the coast guard was "lawfully" blocking the boat from transporting "illegal construction materials" to the warship. Manila responded by condemning "in the strongest degree" the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres" of the Chinese vessel. China's "dangerous, irresponsible and illegal actions" were "in violation of Philippine sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction", Manila's Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement. Beijing claims sovereignty over almost the entire South China Sea, including parts of the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia. The Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 said China's claims had no legal basis. Last week, the Philippine military demanded China stop its "dangerous and offensive" actions after a Chinese navy ship shadowed and attempted to cut off a Philippine navy vessel conducting a resupply mission. China had warned the Philippines against further "provocations", saying such acts violated its territorial sovereignty. Sunday's collision occurred during a routine resupply mission of a boat contracted by the Philippine armed forces, Manila said. "The provocative, irresponsible, and illegal action" of the Chinese coast guard vessel "imperilled the safety of the crew" of the Philippine boat, the task force said. China's coast guard said in a statement the Philippine vessel had ignored repeated warnings, crossed the bow of the Chinese ship and "deliberately provoked trouble", causing the collision. "The Philippines behaviour seriously violates the international rules on avoiding collisions at sea and threatens the navigation safety of our vessels," the coast guard said. Manila grounded the BRP Sierra Madre warship in 1999 as part of its sovereignty claim to the Second Thomas Shoal, which lies within its 200-mile exclusive economic zone.



Kazakhstan, A genuine Actor in Global Issues

By: F. Taherpoor

TEHRAN - On October 11, Astana, the capital city of Republic of Kazakhstan on the eve of its Independence Day hosted another international event that once again showed great determination of the country for playing active role in global issue. The 21st session of the Secretariat of the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions was by Nazarbayev Center for Development of Interfaith and Inter-Civilization Dialogue held in Astana where prominent religious leaders were present to discuss ways for finding dialogue for a better world in peace. Of course, this event has been one of the initiatives of Kazakhstan for showing its responsibilities for resolving global issues and problems. Astana since its independence has tried to be impartial and neutral in any conflict and dispute in the world and it has tried to involve in resolving the disputes and this congress is one of the important and wise initiatives of Kazakhstan during all of its presidents. This year's secretariat of congress tabled many proposals for expanding dialogue among nations and especially religions and it is expected in the future major problems among the religions to be resolved through dialogue. To cover this event, several journalists from different countries like the Islamic Republic of Iran were present in Astana and they thoroughly watched the event and witnessed great reforms and developments in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan's history is a tapestry woven with threads of resilience, tolerance, and spiritual fortitude. A nation that transitioned from a closed civilization to a modern, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious society faced numerous trials and tribulations along the way. Yet, the Kazakh people maintained a steadfast connection to their spiritual roots, allowing them to thrive in a diverse and inclusive society. Kazakhstan's journey to independence brought with it a commitment to religious freedom and tolerance. Despite this history of adversity, when the Soviet Union dissolved, Kazakhstan, not only guaranteed equality for all ethnic groups and religious freedom (religion was considered poison and suppressed under the Soviet regime) but also successfully took initiatives for implementing social reforms. One of the most impressive aspects of Kazakhstan is the series of progressive reforms that have been implemented over the past few decades. The government has been actively working on diversifying the economy and improving the standard of living for its citizens. Another significant reform has been the advancement of human rights and democracy. Kazakhstan has made considerable strides in ensuring freedom of speech, religious tolerance, and gender equality. These reforms are essential for the country's continued development and its aspiration to become a regional hub for trade and investment. Kazakhstan consistently demonstrates its commitment to religious freedom and tolerance within its borders, aligning with the principles at the core of the congress's mission. The congress proactively tackles contemporary global challenges, including religious extremism, terrorism, and environmental issues. By engaging religious leaders from diverse backgrounds, it seeks common

ground and solutions to these pressing problems. Under the leadership of President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions is poised for further evolution. His leadership brings a renewed focus on interfaith dialogue and cooperation in a world grappling with increasing complexity. President Tokayev recognizes the rising international tensions and the challenges facing the global order. In response, he underscores the importance of strengthening intercultural dialogue and trust. Diplomacy, he believes, is essential in facilitating cooperation, and he sees religious leaders as indispensable agents of change in building a new system of international security. Approximately 85% of the world's population identifies with a religion, giving religious leaders significant influence on global affairs. President Tokayev emphasizes the shared principles of all religions, such as the sanctity of human life, mutual support, and the rejection of destructive rivalry and hostility, as the foundation for a new world system focused on peace. President Tokayev outlines practical ways in which religious leaders can contribute to world peace, including healing societal wounds following conflicts, preventing negative trends that undermine tolerance, and addressing the impact of digital technology on society. He highlights the need to cultivate spiritual values and moral guidelines to navigate the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements. As Kazakhstan's Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions continues to evolve, it serves as a beacon of hope in an increasingly divided world. President Tokayev's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to interfaith dialogue promise a brighter future of unity, tolerance, and cooperation among diverse faiths. In a world characterized by uncertainty, Kazakhstan's steadfast dedication to interfaith dialogue reminds us that spirituality and wisdom can pave the path to a more peaceful and harmonious global society. Kazakhstan's role in international developments cannot be understated. It has been a strong advocate for peace and stability in the region. Moreover, it has been actively participating in various international organizations, such as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. It has positioned itself as a key player in promoting dialogue and cooperation between nations, fostering diplomatic ties, and addressing global challenges like climate change and sustainable development. In conclusion, Kazakhstan is a land of untold beauty and a nation on the move. Its positive reforms and international engagements make it an exciting destination for travelers and a significant player in global affairs. As I bid farewell to this remarkable country, I couldn't help but reflect on the progress it has made and the promising future that lies ahead. Kazakhstan truly deserves a place on every adventurer's list, not just for its landscapes but for the optimism and opportunities it presents on the global stage.

About 100,000 Protesters Join Pro-Palestinian March Through London



LONDON (Dispatches) - About 100,000 people joined a pro-Palestinian demonstration in central London on Saturday, marching through the British capital to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza following the Hamas attack on Israel two weeks ago. Chanting "Free Palestine", holding banners and waving Palestinian flags, the protesters moved through London before massing at Downing Street, the official residence and office of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. Police estimated 100,000 people had taken part in the "National March for Palestine" demonstration, organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign. "As a Palestinian who'd like to return home one day, as a Palestinian who has brothers and sisters in Gaza, and family, I wish we can do more but protest is what we can do at the minute," one woman, who declined to give her name, told Reuters. Many of the chants and banners contained strong anti-Israeli slogans, and one protester held a banner with pictures of Sunak, U.S. President Joe Biden, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with the message "Wanted For War crimes". Police had cautioned before the march that anyone showing support for Hamas, banned as a terrorist organization in Britain, would face arrest, and any incident of hate crime would not be tolerated. The protest was mostly peaceful, and police said they had made 10 arrests. Figures on Friday showed there had been a 1,353% increase in anti-Semitic offences this month compared to the same period last year, while Islamophobic offences were up 140%. "This has been an issue which has long stimulated passions and we are now all seeing on social media and in our communities, how divisive and polarising the current situation has become," British foreign minister James Cleverly said at a peace summit in Cairo.



Cairo Peace Summit Ends Without Gaza Breakthrough

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Arab leaders at a Cairo summit condemned Israeli bombardment of Gaza as Europeans said civilians should be shielded, but with Israel and senior U.S. officials absent there was no agreement towards containing the violence. Egypt, which called the meeting and hosted it, said it had hoped participants would call for peace and resume efforts to resolve the decades-long Palestinian quest for statehood. But the meeting ended without leaders and foreign ministers agreeing a joint statement, two weeks into a conflict that has killed thousands and visited a humanitarian catastrophe on the blockaded Gaza enclave of 2.3 million people. Diplomats attending the talks had not been optimistic of a breakthrough, with Israel preparing a ground invasion of Gaza aimed at wiping out the militant Palestinian group Hamas that rampaged through its towns on Oct. 7, killing 1,400 people. Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday Israel's air and missile strikes had killed at least 4,385 Palestinians since the Hamas attack. While Arab and Muslim states called for an immediate end to Israel's offensive, Western countries mostly voiced more modest goals such as humanitarian relief for civilians. Jordan's King Abdullah denounced what he termed global silence about Israel's attacks, which have killed thousands in Hamas-ruled Gaza and made over a million homeless, and urged an even-handed approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "The message the Arab world is hearing is that Palestinian lives matter less than Israeli ones," he said, adding he was outraged and grieved by acts of violence waged against innocent civilians in Gaza, the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and Israel. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Palestinians would not be displaced or driven off their land. "We won't leave, we won't leave," he told the summit. France called for a humanitarian corridor into Gaza that it said could lead to a ceasefire. Britain and Germany both urged Israel's military to show restraint and Italy said it was important to avoid escalation. The United States, Israel's closest ally and a vital player in all past peace efforts in the region, only sent its Cairo charge d'affaires who did not address the meeting in public. European Council President Charles Michel said the main goal of the summit was "to listen to each other". However, "we understand that we need to work more together" on issues including the humanitarian situation, avoiding a regional escalation and a Palestinian-Israeli peace process, he added. The meeting was meant to explore how to head off a wider regional war. But diplomats knew public agreement would be hard because of sensitivities around calls for a ceasefire, whether to include mention of Hamas' attack and Israel's right to defend itself. Arab states fear the offensive could drive Gaza residents permanently from their homes and even into neighbouring states - as happened when Palestinians fled or were forced from their homes in the 1948 war following Israel's creation. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi said his country opposed what he called the displacement of Palestinians into Egypt's largely desert Sinai region, adding the only solution was an independent Palestinian state. Egypt fears insecurity near the border with Gaza in northeastern Sinai, where it faced an Islamist insurgent group that peaked after 2013 and has now largely been suppressed. Jordan, home to many Palestinian refugees and their descendants, fears a wider conflagration would give Israel the chance to expel Palestinians en masse from the West Bank. King Abdullah said forced displacement "is a war crime according to international law, and a red line for all of us."



Slovenia Deploys Police on Borders With Croatia, Hungary

OBREZJE (Dispatches) - Slovenia deployed police on border crossings with Croatia and Hungary to prevent potential security threats, leading to queues as travelers waited to have their documents checked. The Slovenian government had on Friday decided to introduce temporary border controls until Oct. 30, following its neighbour Italy which introduced controls on its border crossing with Slovenia to improve home security. Police were deployed on 14 border crossings with Croatia and Hungary, Slovenian news agency STA reported. The remaining 18 crossings will not have a permanent police presence. Travellers queued to have their papers checked at the Obrezje crossing on the border with Croatia, where checks had not taken place since Jan. 1 this year when Croatia joined the control-free Schengen Area.

Man City Back in Groove, Liverpool Rule Merseyside



MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City avoided a third successive Premier League defeat as they beat Brighton & Hove Albion 2-1 to return to the top of the table and Liverpool enjoyed bragging rights yet again over Everton as they won the Merseyside derby 2-0. Chelsea looked on course for their first statement result of the Mauricio Pochettino era as they led Arsenal 2-0 at Stamford Bridge but they had to settle for a 2-2 draw. Newcastle United roared into the top five as they crushed Crystal Palace 4-0 and there were wins for Brentford and Wolverhampton Wanderers. The restart of Premier League action after the international break was overshadowed, however, by the announcement that former England and Manchester United great Bobby Charlton had died at the age of 86. Champions City's serene early-season progress had been jolted before the stoppage with defeats by Wolves and Arsenal but they returned to winning ways against a dangerous Brighton side who made life difficult. City began in dominant fashion and needed only seven minutes to take the lead as Jeremy Doku's pace down the left set up Julian Alvarez to scuff a shot past Jason Steele. Norwegian goal machine Erling Haaland had gone almost a month without scoring for City but he was presented with a chance in the 19th minute after sloppy Brighton play and made no mistake to smash home a left-foot finish. Brighton did not wilt, though, and got lifeline when Ansu Fati slotted home in the 73rd minute but City held out despite defender Manuel Akanji being sent off deep in stoppage time to secure their 21st consecutive home win in all competitions. In the day's early kickoff, Liverpool were given a helping hand as Everton's Ashley Young was sent off in the first half. But they still took 75 minutes to go ahead thanks to Mohamed Salah's penalty following Michael Keane. Salah made the game safe in stoppage time when substitute Darwin Nunez broke free and played a perfectly timed pass for the Egyptian to

calmly slot home and extend Liverpool's record to one defeat in their last 29 games against Everton. Salah has either scored or assisted in every one of his last 13 Premier League appearances at Anfield, a home streak topped only by Alan Shearer (18) and Thierry Henry (17). Chelsea produced one of their best performances since the arrival of Pochettino and led through a 15th-minute Cole Palmer penalty and an effort just after halftime by Ukraine's Mykhailo Mudryk. But Declan Rice gave Arsenal a lifeline in the 77th minute before substitute Leandro Trossard equalised from a cross by Bukayo Saka to maintain Arsenal's unbeaten start, although they failed to move top of the table. City and Arsenal have 21 points but City have a superior goal difference. Liverpool have 20 points, the same as Tottenham Hotspur who will go top if they beat Fulham on Monday. Newcastle winger Jacob Murphy scored his side's first goal and made two more in a sizzling display against Palace. Murphy set Newcastle on their way in the fourth minute as he met Kieran Trippier's cushioned first-time pass with a volley. He teed up Anthony Gordon to double the lead and Sean Longstaff effectively sealed the points in stoppage time at the end of a one-sided first half. Callum Wilson got Newcastle's fourth as the Magpies moved to 16 points. Scott McTominay scored his third goal in two games and Diogo Dalot netted the winner in Manchester United's 2-1 Premier League victory at Sheffield United on Saturday to secure their first back to back wins of the season. On a solemn day for United following the death of club great Bobby Charlton, Erik ten Hag's side climbed to eighth in the standings on 15 points after nine games. Sheffield United are bottom with one point. "First and foremost it is a really sad day," said Manchester defender Harry Maguire. "We obviously found out this afternoon and preparing for a game it hit us hard. Sir Bobby came into the dressing room a lot and he lit the place up.

English Football Legend Bobby Charlton Dies Aged 86



LONDON (Dispatches) - England World Cup winner and Manchester United great Bobby Charlton, described by the club as a "giant of the game", has died at the age of 86, it was announced on Saturday. Charlton was a key member of England's victorious 1966 World Cup team and also enjoyed great success at club level with United, who became the first English club to win the European Cup in 1968, a decade after members of the team were killed in an air crash in Munich. "It is with great sadness that we share the news that Sir Bobby passed peacefully in the early hours of Saturday morning. He was surrounded by his family," said a statement on behalf of the Charlton family. "His family would like to pass on their thanks to everyone who has contributed to his care and for the many people who have loved and supported him." In 2020, it was announced Charlton had been diagnosed with dementia and as the disease took hold he stopped attending matches at Old Trafford. United posted a picture of Charlton on X, formerly known as Twitter, with the caption: "Words will never be enough." Charlton's European Cup success at United came 10 years after the 1958 Munich air disaster, which he and team manager Matt Busby survived but which claimed the lives of eight of Charlton's team-mates. The midfielder played in the World Cup final alongside his brother Jack, who died aged 85 in 2020, and won 106 caps for England, scoring 49 goals. He made his debut for United in 1956 and went on to play 758 matches for the Red Devils, scoring 249 goals. Both were long-standing club records until they were overtaken by Ryan Giggs and Wayne Rooney respectively. Charlton won three league titles and one FA Cup at Old Trafford and, after leaving United in 1973 and becoming Preston manager, he returned to Old Trafford 11 years later as a club director. He was knighted for services to football in 1994. "Manchester United are in mourning following the passing of Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the greatest and most beloved players in the history of our club," the Premier League club said in a statement.

Madrid's Vinicius highlights Racist Gesture Made by Child

SEVILLE (Dispatches) - Real Madrid forward Vinicius Junior said he saw racist abuse by a "child" during his team's 1-1 draw at Sevilla on Saturday in La Liga. Sevilla expelled a supporter for "racist and xenophobic behaviour", the club said in a statement, with Vinicius thanking them for their quick action, as well as highlighting another incident. Spanish newspaper Marca ran photographs of a man appearing to make monkey gestures in the direction of the Brazil winger after he clashed with Sevilla goalkeeper Orjan Nyland. Vinicius shared the same picture on social media platform X, formerly Twitter, and said in addition, he had seen a video of a child making a racist gesture. "Congratulations to Sevilla for their quick positioning (on the incident) and punishment in yet another sad episode for Spanish football," wrote Vinicius. "Unfortunately, I had access to a video of another racist gesture in Saturday's match, this time carried out by a child. I am very sorry there is no-one to educate you. I invest, and I invest a lot, in education in Brazil to help form citizens with different attitudes to these." A video circulating on social media appears to show a teenage girl making a monkey gesture at Vinicius. The Brazilian winger has been the victim of racist abuse on various occasions during his time in Spain, although often no action has been taken by the law. Vinicius testified before a Spanish court on October 5 by videoconference as part of an investigation into alleged abuse he suffered

at Valencia in May. The winger stopped the game at the Mestalla Stadium to face off with a fan he believed was abusing him. "I hope the Spanish authorities do their part and change the legislation once and for all," continued Vinicius on X. "These people must be criminally punished too. It would be a great first step in preparing for the 2030 World Cup. I'm available to help. Sorry to seem repetitive, but this is isolated episode number 19, and counting."



Dettori Savors Magical Swansong at Ascot

ASCOT (Dispatches) - Frankie Dettori brought the curtain down on his dazzling three-decade career in Europe in fairytale fashion with two big race winners on British Champions Day. The flamboyant Italian showman began his final day riding in Europe with one of his trademark flying dismounts after upsetting hot favourite Kyprios on Trawlerman in the Long Distance Cup. Fittingly the winner was trained by one of his staunchest allies over the years, John Gosden, and owned by Godolphin with whom he enjoyed a heady 20-year association. The 52-year-old father of five's win raised the rafters of the racecourse which has such a special place in his heart. It was at the Berkshire track where he rode the first of his near 300 Group One winners on Markof distinction in 1990.

Max Verstappen Wins U.S. Grand Prix Sprint Race



AUSTIN (AFP) - Max Verstappen will be hunting a "fun" 50th career victory from sixth on the grid in Sunday's United States Grand Prix after cruising to victory for Red Bull in Saturday's sprint race. The newly crowned three-time world champion led from pole position to the chequered flag to finish 9.465 seconds clear of revitalized seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes. Charles Leclerc came home third for Ferrari, 17.997 adrift. "The pace of the car was really good today," said the 26-year-old Dutchman, who wrapped up his third consecutive drivers' title with victory in Qatar earlier in October. "It makes it more interesting and hopefully we can have a bit of fun out there with quite a bit of passing... It won't be easy because I need to pass five cars to win." Verstappen admitted he had to survive a real challenge from Leclerc at the first corner where the Monegasque driver tried to find a way through on the inside and then when Hamilton sought to maintain close contact in the opening laps. "It was quite tight, but luckily there was a lot of space going into turn one so that definitely helped, but after that we could settle and do our own race and control the pace a bit." "It was always around eight- or nine-tenths (to Hamilton) for a few laps, but that was controllable and once I had cleared the Drag Reduction System (DRS) zone, we settled into a rhythm." Verstappen might face a challenge from not only Hamilton and Mercedes, who showed much improved form with their major update package, but also Ferrari and McLaren in a race where tyre degradation and strategy are certain to be key factors. Leclerc's Ferrari teammate, Carlos Sainz, was the only driver to choose soft tyres, a decision that ensured the team gathered valuable data ahead of Sunday's Grand Prix, in which Leclerc starts from pole with Verstappen sixth after he had a lap deleted in Friday's sprint shootout for exceeding track limits.

Djokovic to Start 2024 Season at United Cup



MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - World number one Novak Djokovic will start his 2024 season at the mixed teams United Cup in Australia but his great rival Rafa Nadal was not on the Spain team released last week. Djokovic will lead Serbia at the second edition of the A\$15 million (\$9.47 million) event from Dec. 29-Jan. 7 before bidding for a record-extending 25th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open. Team Poland, led by four-time major champion Iga Swiatek and 11th-ranked Hubert Hurkacz, are top seeds at the 16-nation tournament, which was won by the United States in January. Nadal played for Spain in that edition and while he described it as a "great idea" he criticised the format for having teams play off in dead rubbers. He was later beaten in the second round of his Australian Open title defence after aggravating a hip injury and has not returned to action since. Tournament director Craig Tiley announced last week that Nadal would play in the next Australian Open in January but the Spaniard's representative said there was no date set for his comeback. If fit, Nadal has a choice of other Australian Open warmup events in the leadup to the Grand Slam, including a pair of ATP tournaments in Adelaide from Jan. 1.