

Ali Shamkhani, Political Advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Says the Resistance Front and the Freedom-Seeking People of the World Will Fulfill Their Duty Toward Israel's Genocide of Palestinians

IRAN NEWS

The Supply of Water from the Hirmand River in Afghanistan to Iran Has Been Completely Cut Off for a Month, Iran's Water Sector Spokesman Firouz Ghassemzadeh Says

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Over 100 Newborns at Risk After Zionist Regime Cuts Gaza Fuel



TEHRAN (MNA) – The lives of at least 120 newborn babies in the besieged Gaza's hospitals are at risk as fuel runs out in the besieged enclave, the UN children's agency, aka UNICEF, has warned. More than 1,750 children have already been killed by Israeli strikes launched against Gaza, AFP reported citing the Palestinian Health Ministry. Hospitals face a dire lack of medicines, fuel, and water not only for the thousands wounded in more than two weeks of Israeli offensive in Gaza but also for routine patients. "We have currently 120 neonates who are in incubators, out of which we have 70 neonates with mechanical ventilation, and of course, this is where we are extremely concerned," said UNICEF spokesman Jonathan Crickx on Sunday. Power is one of the main worries for the seven specialist wards across Gaza treating premature babies to help with breathing and provide critical support, for example when their organs are not developed enough. Amid widespread electricity cuts, the World Health Organization warned on Thursday that hospitals had already run out of fuel for generators.

The WHO said that about 1,000 people needing dialysis will also be at risk if the generators stop. "If they (babies) are put in mechanical ventilation incubators, by definition, if you cut the electricity, we are worried about their lives," the UNICEF spokesperson told AFP. The Health Ministry in Gaza said on Saturday that 130 premature babies were in danger of dying due to the lack of fuel. Around 160 women give birth each day in Gaza, according to the UN Population Fund, which estimates there are 50,000 pregnant women across the territory of 2.4 million people.

Iran Supports Resistance, But Has Not Supplied Missiles, Weapons



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A high-ranking commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Iran has supported Palestine since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, but dismissed reports that Tehran has provided the resistance forces with missiles and weapons in the recent confrontation with the Israeli regime. Addressing a gathering of students at Tehran University on Monday, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the IRGC Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said resistance forces have become independent and have upgraded their equipment throughout years. The Iranian commander, while stressing the Palestinian resistance factions' stand-alone operation on October that "left Israelis in shock", added if it is necessary and in case the Iranian forces are "instructed", they will even target the Israeli-occupied city of Haifa. Meanwhile Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani termed the Israeli regime's non-stop assault and aggression on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip in the recent past as a "political suicide." In a phone conversation with his Syrian counterpart, Brigadier General Ashtiani said, "The Israeli regime is trying to cover up its irreparable and unprecedented operational and intelligence failure" by killing Palestinian children and civilians. He also praised the Syrian government's "decisive" stance against the Israeli regime, saying it should serve as a role model for Arab and Muslim states that seek to normalize relations with the occupying regime.



Biden's Pro-Israeli Remarks Reactionary, Anti-Democratic, Inhuman

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has strongly condemned his American counterpart's recent pro-Israeli remarks as "reactionary and anti-democratic." Ebrahim Raisi made the remark while addressing a Cabinet session. He was referring to Joe Biden's statements during his visit to the occupied territories earlier this month, when he noted, "I have long said: If Israel didn't exist, we would have to invent it." Describing Biden's remarks as "reactionary, anti-democratic, and inhuman," the Iranian president said, "Such statements amount to unwanted admission of the fake nature of the usurping Zionist regime." Raisi added, "The Americans must answer this question: Which international law, agreement or regulations are compatible with such remarks?" Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi said Biden's comments also serve as a "warning" to Muslim states in the region, adding, "Such remarks are indicative of the fact that for the United States, preserving the Zionist regime is considerably more important than [protecting] the lives of human beings, especially women and children." The Iranian president's remarks came on the 16th day of a barbaric onslaught by the Israeli regime against the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, which has so far killed more than 4,700 Gazans and left more than 15,000 others injured. "Today, the question posed to governments, world powers and international organizations by the people of the world is how they can allow an arrogant regime [like Israel] to kill the oppressed women and children of Palestine in such a barbaric and bloody manner with the US support right in front of their eyes," Raisi said. He added, "What is happening in Gaza against the oppressed people of this region is a clear example of war crimes and crimes against humanity." Stressing the necessity of bringing to justice the "criminal leaders of the U.S. and Zionist regime as the main perpetrators and supporters of these crimes," Iran's President said, "We are certain that the unjustly-spilt blood of the oppressed people of Gaza will speed up the fall of the Zionist regime and liberation of the Holy al-Quds."

Israel Committed Political Suicide by Gaza Onslaught

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Israel has committed "political suicide" by its brutal attacks on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, says Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani. Speaking in a phone call with Syrian Defense Minister Ali Mahmoud Abbas on Monday, Ashtiani denounced Israel's relentless airstrikes on Gaza as a "violation of all rules of war and human rights." They hurt the free consciences of all Muslim nations and awakened the world to the crimes of the bloodthirsty regime, he said. Israel waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, a surprise attack into the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people. According to the Palestinian Health Ministry, the Israeli onslaught on Gaza has so far killed over 4,740 Palestinians, including more than 1,900 children. Ashtiani said Israel knows no boundaries in its acts of aggression against the people of Gaza, which, he maintained, have been green lit and supported by the United States and its Western allies. He also lauded the great achievements reached by Palestinian fighters during the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, saying they exposed the true nature of the "Zionist regime" to the world. The Israeli regime is trying to avenge its unprecedented operational and intelligence failure by killing innocent Palestinian children and people, he said. The continuation of Gaza's blockade and severe restrictions as well as acts of obstruction in the way of the dispatch of humanitarian aid to the strip would lead to a humanitarian catastrophe, the Iranian defense minister warned. He also condemned Israel's deadly airstrikes on Syria's two main airports in the cities of Damascus and Aleppo, saying the regime was trying in vain to convey the message that it is capable of giving a decisive response on all fronts. However, the regime is more fragile and fake than perceived, Iran's defense minister asserted.

FM, Hamas Official Discuss Developments in Gaza

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and head of the political bureau of the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement Ismail Haniyeh have reviewed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip. The two officials discussed the latest issues related to the Zionist regime of Israel's aggression against Gaza, Shehab news agency of Palestine reported late on Sunday. The discussion followed after reviewing all possible ways to cease the Zionists' crimes. No further details have been released about the talks. Amir-Abdollahian had already held a telephone conversation with Sameh Shoukry about a halt to the regimes' aggression and dispatch of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. Meanwhile Haniyeh has said that the Palestinian resistance is moving toward victory. In a message addressed to the people of Jordan, Haniyeh outlined his views on the current state of affairs. He characterized the operation on October 7 as a decisive attack and a pivotal moment in the history of the conflict with the Zionist regime. This operation, he said, shattered the security doctrine of the Zionist regime. Haniyeh highlighted that from a military, security, and intelligence perspective, the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation was a success. It struck a devastating blow to the allies of the occupying regime who had supported this regime in perpetrating historical injustices against the Palestinian people.

He asserted that after the Al-Aqsa Storm, the situation would not remain as it was before. The Palestinian issue, which some had presumed to be over, has now emerged as a primary concern for the entire world.

Haniyeh praised Resistance in Gaza, stating that with field dominance, military tactics, and security briefings, it is steering the battle toward victory and liberation.

He called upon the people of Jordan to persist in their support for Palestinians and their resistance, urging them to provide immediate humanitarian financial aid to the people of Gaza.

3+3 Meeting on Caucasus Aimed at Boosting Regional Peace

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Moscow says the meeting of the 3+3 cooperation format in Tehran is aimed at bolstering peace and stability in the Caucasus region without foreign interference. Kazem Jalali made the remarks in an X post on Monday, before the foreign ministers of the three South Caucasus countries of Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan plus Russia, Turkey, and Iran meet in Tehran. "Tehran's hosting of a meeting of the foreign ministers about the Caucasus based on the 3+3 format lies within the framework of the Islamic Republic's neighborliness policy. The meeting has put the strengthening of regional stability, peace and security on its agenda," he wrote. "The surrounding issues can be negotiated and resolved with the cooperation and interaction of regional countries and the non-interference of external actors." The 3+3 consultative platform was established in an attempt to resolve regional problems through the inclusion of regional countries and the exclusion of extra-regional and Western countries. The first 3+3 meeting was held in Moscow in December 2021 at the level of deputy foreign ministers and without the presence of Georgia. The Tehran meeting is expected to discuss regional issues such as the dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. The landlocked region has always been internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan though it is mostly populated by ethnic Armenians. Azerbaijan won the 2020 war, regaining much of the Nagorno-Karabakh. Another battle in September left the entire territory under the control of the Baku government after months of blockade.

IRAN NEWS



Sanctions Barring Access to Thousands of Internet Services

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Minister of Information and Communications Technology Issa Zarepour has said that sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic have barred Iranian users' access to thousands of websites and services. In a post on his social media account, Zarepour said programmers, experts, and academics are most affected by the "unilateral" and "cruel" sanctions imposed by the self-styled human rights advocates against Iran. Nonetheless, some people unknowingly or intentionally claim that this widespread ban has been imposed domestically and even regard it as a "disruption in the network," he said. He added that the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology is pursuing efforts to resolve the issue through international channels in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Iranian, Saudi Officials Discuss Enhancing Bilateral Trade Cooperation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN – Iranian and Saudi Arabian officials held talks for promoting mutual ties in the fields of trade and economy. Head of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) Mehdi Zeyghami and Saudi Arabian Ambassador Abdullah bin Saud Al-Anzi met in Tehran on Monday to discuss bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. At the initiative taken by Iran and Saudi Arabia Job Opportunities Development and Investment Fund, the talks focused on planning for developing trade relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. Welcoming the dispatch of the trade and economic delegations between the two countries, the two sides emphasized the need for active presence at exhibitions of the two countries, the deputy industry minister noted. During the meeting, Zeyghami stressed the need for enhancing interactions between the two countries in the field of modern technologies and technical know-how. The TPOI chief expressed his interest in the participation of Iranian companies in exhibitions on health, food and petrochemical industries in Saudi Arabia and called on the ambassador to

facilitate Iranian companies' participation in these exhibitions. The Saudi envoy to Iran welcomed the suggestion and said he would provide the necessary ground for easing the participation of Iranian companies at exhibitions in Saudi Arabia. Meanwhile Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Salahvarzi said that talks are underway with Saudis for launching joint council. He added that in coordination with the foreign ministry, the ICCIMA is working for exchange of delegations with Saudi Arabia for launching the joint council. He noted he will meet Saudi Ambassador to Tehran in upcoming days to talk on the issue. Salahvarzi then pointed to Iran's joining the BRICS which will officially happen in 2024 and said that the chamber is in talks with the member states of the BRICS to host their commerce chambers in Tehran. He reiterated that talks are underway with the commerce chambers of the D-8 members to host them next year for broadening economic cooperation.

Iranian Jet-Powered Drone Armed with New Air-Based Missile



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Iranian experts have adapted a homegrown surface-to-air missile for the 'Karrar' jet-powered drone, a top commander said. Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard said on Sunday that his forces have managed to furnish Karrar drone with a heat-seeking air-to-air missile with a range of 8 kilometers. After a year and a half of research and trial, the Air Defense experts made a series of technical modifications to "Majid" surface-to-air missile and turned it into an air-based missile, he said. He said the Karrar drone has been armed with Majid missile, whose warhead can detonate various aerial targets. Karrar is the first Iranian military drone that has set a service ceiling record by reaching an altitude of 47,000 feet. The drone has in the past given radar and radio warnings to foreign aircraft that have been approaching Iran's coastal waters or its flight information region (FIR). Known as an advanced interceptor drone, Karrar is among the new generation of Iran's jet drones, configured to intercept the enemy's flying objects. It enables the country's armed forces to conduct a broader range of air defense operations at high altitudes.



Agrifood Exports Up 21% y/y in H1

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's exports of agrifood rose by 21% in value terms in the first half of the calendar year that started in late March. Figures released by Iran's House of Industries, Mine and Trade (HIMT) on Monday showed that Iran had exported 3.5 million metric tons worth \$2.428 billion worth of farming, livestock, fishery, and food products in the six months to September 22. HIMT spokesman Rouhollah Latifi said that Iranian overseas agrifood shipments had increased by 2% in volume terms year on year in March-September, adding that exports of agrifood had accounted for 6% of the volume and 10% of the value of total exports from the country over the period. Livestock, fishery, farming, and food products were responsible for \$616 million of Iranian agrifood exports in the six months to late September, Latifi said, adding that shipments had risen by 37% year on year. Exports of horticulture and arable farming products rose to \$1.292 billion over the period, he said, adding that main agrifood exports from Iran included dairies at \$345 million, followed by tomatoes at \$159 million and fisheries at \$140 million. Meanwhile, some 17.6 million tons of goods valued at \$30.443 billion were imported into the country in the said period, indicating an 11.62-percent rise in terms of value, and a 6.89 percent increase in terms of weight, year on year.



Iran Exports Technical, Engineering Services to Armenia

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Minister of Roads and Urban Development arrived in Yerevan on Monday to discuss the promotion of bilateral transport cooperation. Mehrdad Bazrpash, at the head of a delegation, arrived in Yerevan today to visit the Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinyan, and Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures Gnel Sanosyan for the promotion of bilateral transport cooperation. Mehrdad Bazrpash was welcomed at the Zvartnots International Airport by the Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure of the Republic of Armenia and the executive director of the "Road Department" Fund. Among the agenda of this visit is signing two contracts for the reconstruction of the 21 km road section from Agarak to Vardandizor and the construction of the 11 km road from Vardandizor to the tunnel

exit as part of the Tranche 4 of Armenia's North-South Road Corridor. Armenia's North-South Road Corridor reduces the distance from Iran's border to the Georgian border and will significantly facilitate access to the Black Sea for Iran and Armenia. The project will provide access to the Black Sea and European countries through the territory of Armenia (Meghri-Kapan-Goris-Yerevan-Ashtarak-Gyumri-Bavra) and Georgia. Previously in October 2022, Iran and Armenia agreed to participate in the construction projects of Armenia including tunnels and roads by Iranian companies. Kheirollah Khademi, Iran Deputy Minister and CEO of the Construction and Development of Transportation Infrastructures Company, and Mahdi Safari, Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy accompany the delegation.

Foreign Tourists' Visits to Iran Up 26% in 7 Months



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The World Tourism Organization on Monday announced a 26 percent growth in the arrival of foreign tourists to Iran in the first seven months of 2023. In this period, about three million foreign tourists visited Iran, which is home to sceneries with breathtaking views. According to the statistics of the international body, the arrival of foreign tourists to Iran from January to July 2023 registered a 26 percent growth compared to last year's corresponding period. The organization put the number of foreign tourists in the world from January to July 2023 at 700 million, registering a 43 percent growth compared to the same period last year. Over 489 million foreign tourists had visited various parts of the world from January to July 2022. According to this report, July was the most crowded month in the world's tourism industry with 145 million foreign tourists traveling and visiting various parts of the world.

Israel's Ultimate Goal Is Forced Displacement of Palestinians to Sinai, Jordan



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister says the ultimate goal behind the Israeli regime's bloody attacks against the besieged Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank is to force Palestinian people to leave their motherland. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remark in a Sunday phone call with his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukry. During his phone conversation, Iran's top diplomat lauded Egypt's efforts to stop the Israeli war on Gaza and pave the way for humanitarian aid to reach the territory. "The ultimate goal of the fake and occupying Israeli regime is forced displacement of the people of Gaza and the West Bank to the Sinai region in Egypt and parts of Jordan," Amir-Abdollahian said. He added, "In fact, Tel Aviv [regime] is trying to have the Palestinian government established outside the historical land of Palestine, but the resistance has proved to be a real obstacle that does not allow Zionists' dream to come true." Amir-Abdollahian also declared the readiness of Iran's Red Crescent Society to send humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza through Egypt. Shoukry, for his part, said his country was opposed to further spread of the war, arguing that the Palestinian nation must remain in its own land. In a related development also on Sunday, Iran's foreign minister wrote a letter to Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States Paul Richard Gallagher. In his letter, Amir-Abdollahian said the recent crimes committed by the Israeli regime, including bombardment of al-Mamdani Hospital and a historical church in the Gaza Strip, where women and children had sheltered, "reveal another facet of the Zionist regime's savage and brutal nature."

More Than 1,400 African Migrants Reach Canary Islands

MADRID (Dispatches) - More than 1,400 African migrants have reached Spain's Canary Islands this weekend, with one vessel bringing a single-boat record of 321 people, authorities said. A total of 1,457 migrants had reached the Spanish islands off the western African coast between Friday night and Sunday morning, the authorities said on X, formerly Twitter, adding to a recent spike in arrivals. An emergency services spokesman said all of the arrivals hailed from sub-Saharan Africa. Saturday saw 321 people reach the island of El Hierro aboard one vessel, a rescue services spokesperson told AFP, surpassing the previous record for a single boat of 280 on October 3. Spanish broadcaster TVE showed images of a multicoloured vessel crammed with smiling and waving passengers reaching port.



Latin American Leaders Appeal to U.S. on Migration at Summit in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches)

- Latin American leaders holding a summit called Sunday on the United States to change the way it deals with the flood of illegal migration heading to its border. For Washington, this is a red hot issue with political fallout on the scale of the wars in the Middle East and in Ukraine. Without explicitly naming the US, the presidents of Mexico, Cuba, Venezuela and other leaders of the region called on destination countries to end "inconsistent and selective policies" such as granting entry to certain nationalities but not others. They also are called on such destination countries to broaden above-board, legal and safe paths by which migrants can travel to such wealthier countries -- a nod to enhancing mobility for workers seeking a better life as they flee countries with gang violence, corruption and poverty. The statement after the meeting held in the southern city of Palenque was read out by Mexican Foreign Minister Alicia Barcena. In what has become standard at such Latin American summits, the leaders called for an end to "unilateral, coercive measures" imposed on countries -- a reference to communist-run Cuba and the US trade embargo in effect against it for decades. The International Organization for Migration has said the US-Mexico border lies on one of the most dangerous migratory treks anywhere in the world. It said that last year 686 people died or went missing making that journey, for which travelers pay a small fortune to traffickers. This year alone, 1.7 million migrants arrived at the Mexican-US border. And the migration is becoming a huge political hot potato in both North American nations, which each have presidential elections next year. September alone saw 60,000 migrants arrive in Mexico from Venezuela, along with 35,000 Guatemalans and 27,000 Hondurans, according to the Mexican government. For the summit President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador welcomed his counterparts Nicolas Maduro of Venezuela, Miguel Diaz-Canel of Cuba, and Gustavo Petro of Colombia, among others including several foreign ministers. They met in Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas, which has become the entry point for thousands of people coming from South America, Central America, the Caribbean and elsewhere, to try to make it across sprawling Mexico -- and into the United States. One migrant at a shelter nearby slammed what he called this "Summit of the Oppressors," and mentioned the presidents of Venezuela, and Cuba -- the only Communist-ruled one-party nation in the Americas. "I suppose they are going to decide to deport all of us," said Jorge Rodriguez, a 33-year old Venezuelan on his way northward. Amid US economic sanctions and a political and economic crisis, some 7.1 million Venezuelans have fled the country in recent years, creating challenges for its South American neighbors. Some 130 Venezuelan migrants arrived back home Wednesday on a chartered plane from the United States on the first such deportation flight following an agreement between the two countries, despite the fact that Washington does not recognize Maduro's 2018 reelection.



Paris Crowd Calls for End of Massacre in Gaza

PARIS (Dispatches) - Thousands of people rallied in Paris demanding an end to the Israeli military operation in Gaza which organizers said was a "massacre", following the bloody attack by Hamas militants. "Israel assassin, Macron complicit" and "No peace without decolonization" were among the slogans at the demonstration in the Place de la Republique square in eastern Paris, called by a left-wing collective. Police said they made ten arrests at what was the first pro-Palestinian rally in the capital that had not been banned by the police because of security fears. It came after a court overturned a police ban on a similar rally in the capital on Thursday. "We managed to convince the judges that we are defending human rights," lawyer Dominique Cochin told the crowd. Police estimated that 15,000 people attended the rally Sunday, while organizers counted 30,000. Roughly a thousand people also marched in the southern city of Marseille. Gaza health officials say more than 4,600 people have been killed in the Israeli response to the Hamas assault on October 7, which killed around 1,400. "You don't have to be Palestinian to be affected by what is happening. For me, this type of gathering is a sign of the desperation," said Maya, a student who declined to give her last name. "It's the only thing you can

do on an individual level. The government has a role to play diplomatically. It must have stronger positions and not act as a support for Israel," she told AFP. "Macron is giving Israel licence to kill," said Bertrand Heilbronn, the chairman of Association France Palestine Solidarity. Heilbronn said the Hamas attack had given rise to "legitimate emotion" among Israelis but that it was "criminal to exploit it to justify a war of elimination which the state of Israel is waging against the Palestinian people". Around 40 organizations joined the rally, including Heilbronn's as well as the Jewish French Union for Peace and an association of France-based Muslims. The rally took place amid tight security after recent days brought bomb threats to several French airports and the Versailles palace tourist hotspot west of Paris. Several thousand people also demonstrated support for Palestinians in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo with the city's mayor harking back to the bloody siege the city endured during Bosnia's inter-ethnic war in the 1990s. "The city that has endured the longest siege in modern history, Sarajevo, has the right to stand firmly with Gaza today," mayor Benjamin Karic said. "We know what it's like when there's no water, no food, we know what it's like when children are killed," she added.



Economy Minister Massa, Outsider Milei Head to Argentina Runoff

BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina's Economy Minister Sergio Massa and anti-establishment outsider Javier Milei will face off in a runoff presidential poll, a battle for two wildly different versions of the country, election results showed. Latin America's third-largest economy is creaking under triple-digit inflation after decades of recurrent fiscal crises marked by debt, financial mismanagement, and a volatile currency. The charismatic Massa, representing the ruling center-left Peronist coalition, overcame expectations to come first with 36.4 percent of votes, despite overseeing record annual inflation and poverty levels. "Our country is in a complicated situation... nevertheless you believed we were the best tool to build a new step in Argentina's history," Massa told his cheering supporters in Buenos Aires. The libertarian Milei, who brought a powered-up chainsaw to rallies vowing to slash public spending and dollarize the economy, scored 30.51 percent of the vote. The rock-singing, TikTok-savvy outsider came from nowhere to put up a fierce challenge to traditional political parties, touching a nerve with Argentines fed-up with economic shambles. "Today is a historic day because two-thirds voted for change. All of us who want change have to work together. We can win, take back our country, prevent our kids from leaving the country," said Milei. The two will compete in a November 19 runoff election, with the winner to take office December 10. In his victory speech Massa sought to present himself as the calmer, steadier hand, as opposed to Milei, who surged to prominence with his angry diatribes against the "thieving and useless political class" and dire state of the country's economy. "I am convinced that this is not a shit country. It is a great country and we are going to give it the place that it deserves," said Massa. During the campaign, Massa took pains to highlight what his opposition's plans to cut hefty electricity and public transport subsidies would mean for people's pockets. To woo voters, he went on a pre-election spending spree, slashing income tax for much of the population in a move analysts said would only make the country's fragile financial situation worse. Milei, a libertarian economist, blindsided pollsters when he surged to the front of the election race, winning an August primary with 30 percent of votes. However, he kept the same amount of votes in the first-round election. While some are keen for a radical shift, "a lot of Argentines have a lot to lose from the dismantling of the social welfare state," which supports millions, said Benjamin Gedan, director of the Argentina Project at the Washington-based Wilson Center. "If Milei is at rallies wielding a chainsaw, well, at the other end of that chainsaw is people's quality of life." However, with over eight million votes up for grabs that went to third-placed former security minister Patricia Bullrich and two other candidates, he said Massa faces a stiff battle against the upstart Milei. "I think a simple reading of this first-round result is that many more Argentines want to throw Peronists out of power than the number who would like to see them remain," said Gedan. Analysts say Milei's surge follows the regional trend towards anti-establishment parties, and he is often compared to former US president Donald Trump or Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro. Bolsonaro's son Eduardo was present in his election bunker Sunday to show his support. "I believe that Milei will win, whether it's in the first or second round doesn't matter," he said. Milei, a self-described "anarcho-capitalist," is against abortion and sex education, wants to ditch about ten government ministries, and does not believe humans are responsible for climate change. With 40 percent of the population living in poverty and a middle class brought to its knees, many voters are drawn to Milei, seeing traditional parties as the architects of their misery.

Russian Forces Intensify Pressure on Ukraine's Avdiivka, Kherson



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian forces aiming to contain a four-month-old Ukrainian counteroffensive maintained unrelenting pressure on the shattered town of Avdiivka in the east and intensified shelling in the southern area of Kherson. Russia has focused on the industrial east since pulling back from a failed advance on Kyiv at the start of the February 2022 invasion and its forces have tried to maintain positions in Kherson since abandoning the region's main town late last year. The General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces, in its evening report, said Ukrainian forces repelled nearly 20 Russian attacks around Avdiivka, its buildings now largely reduced to shells. Russian air strikes hit nearby villages, it said. Avdiivka has become a watchword for resistance, viewed as the gateway to recapturing the Russian-held city of Donetsk and the rest of Donbas -- made up of Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It was briefly seized in 2014 when Russian-backed separatists captured swathes of eastern Ukraine, but was later retaken by Ukrainian forces who, in the ensuing nine years, have built solid fortifications. "It is true that Avdiivka has significance," Andriy Yusov, spokesperson for the Ukraine Defence Ministry's Intelligence Directorate, told the Espresso TV news outlet. "This is not the first instance the occupying forces have boosted tension with declarations of taking over all of Donetsk and Luhansk... Their plans have failed, the deadlines pushed back. This is just another episode of tension." President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the situation in Avdiivka and the nearby town of Maryinka was "particularly tough. Numerous Russian attacks. But our positions are being held." Every day, we need results for Ukraine, to withstand Russian assaults, to eliminate occupiers, to move forward," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. "Whether it's a kilometre or 500 metres, but forward, every day." Russian military accounts made no mention of Avdiivka, but described successful operations against Ukrainian positions to the east in Bakhmut, seized by Moscow in May after months of fighting. In Kherson, regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin said several villages had been struck in shelling episodes, as had transport and food production sites in the city of Kherson. Reuters could not independently verify the accounts from either side. Russian forces routinely shell Kherson and villages on the western bank of the Dnipro from positions on the eastern bank, where they retreated late last year. The U.S.-based Institute for the Study of War has reported in the past week that Ukrainian forces have crossed the Dnipro to take up new positions of their own and pursue Russian forces.



Philippines, China Trade Blame Over Collisions in South China Sea

MANILA (Dispatches) - Beijing and Manila traded blame for two collisions Sunday between Chinese vessels and Philippine boats on a resupply mission to Filipino troops on a remote outpost in the disputed South China Sea. The incidents happened near Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, a hotly contested region where Beijing deploys ships to assert its claims over almost the entire sea. A Philippine government task force said the "dangerous blocking manoeuvres of China Coast Guard vessel 5203 caused it to collide with the Armed Forces of the Philippines-contracted indigenous resupply boat" about 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Second Thomas Shoal. China said the "slight collision" happened after the resupply boat ignored "multiple warnings and deliberately passed through law enforcement in an unprofessional and dangerous manner", state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing the foreign ministry. In another incident, a Philippine coastguard vessel escorting the routine resupply mission was "bumped" by what the Philippine task force described as a "Chinese Maritime Militia vessel". China, however, accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately" stirring up trouble by reversing in a "premeditated manner" into a Chinese fishing vessel. Video released by the Philippine military showed the bow of the Chinese coastguard ship and the stern of the smaller resupply vessel briefly touching. The Philippine vessel continues on its course. No one on either Philippine vessel was injured, but the supply boat involved in the collision was damaged, the National Security Council said in a statement, citing the coastguard. A second resupply boat was able to reach the grounded BRP Sierra Madre and "successfully resupply our troops and personnel stationed there", the statement said. "The National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea condemns in the strongest degree the latest dangerous, irresponsible, and illegal actions of the CCG and the Chinese Maritime Militia done this morning," the task force said in a statement. It said the "provocative, irresponsible, and illegal action" of the Chinese coastguard boat had endangered the safety of the crew on the supply boat. The Philippine coast guard was escorting the two resupply vessels back to port, the National Security Council said. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars in trade passes annually, and has ignored an international ruling that its assertion has no legal basis.

Verstappen Takes 50th Win With Hamilton, Leclerc Excluded



AUSTIN (Dispatches) - Red Bull's triple world champion Max Verstappen took the 50th win of his Formula One career, and record-equaling 15th of the season, at the U.S. Grand Prix on Sunday while Lewis Hamilton was disqualified from second after post-race checks. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who finished sixth, was also excluded for excessive wear of the mandatory wooden plank under the car's floor. "Others got it right where we got it wrong and there's no wiggle room in the rules. We need to take it on the chin, do the learning, and come back stronger next weekend," said Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff. Hamilton's exclusion meant McLaren's Lando Norris moved up from third to second with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz completing the podium, even if the ceremonies were long over by then. The victory was Verstappen's third in a row at Austin's Circuit of the Americas and equalled, with four races to spare, the record the Dutch 26-year-old set last year for most wins in a single season. Dominant Red Bull and Verstappen, who started in sixth place and whose win was the first in Austin by a driver not on the front row, have already secured the constructors' and drivers' titles. "The whole race, I was struggling a lot with the brakes," said Verstappen, who was booed by some of the crowd as he stood on the podium. "You could see it was very close to the end." Norris, lining up on the front row, seized the lead from pole-sitter Leclerc into the first corner but his hopes of a first win in his 100th start had faded by the half distance. On the plus side, his points haul allowed McLaren to leapfrog Aston Martin for fourth in the constructors' standings. Verstappen was fifth by the end of lap one and used the DRS drag reduction to take the lead

from Norris on the 28th of 56 laps. He did not just disappear into the distance, as so often this season, instead complaining over the radio about the brakes and giving Mercedes hope that they might be able to reel him in with their upgraded car. "We changed the brakes after yesterday and it was not good," he said, referring to the Saturday 19-lap sprint that he won from pole. "I had no good feeling under braking and I couldn't really get on top of it for the whole race, so this is something we need to understand." Seven times world champion Hamilton provided excitement at the end as he chased Verstappen, starting the last lap only 1.8 seconds behind after being 5.3 adrift when he passed Norris with seven laps remaining. "We were catching them towards the end and I was hopeful but we needed some more laps," said Hamilton before the summons to stewards. Red Bull's Sergio Perez moved up to fourth with George Russell fifth for Mercedes ahead of Alpine's Pierre Gasly and Aston Martin's Lance Stroll, who started from the pit lane. AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda moved up to eighth and also took a bonus point for fastest lap right at the finish. Williams duo Alex Albon and rookie Logan Sargeant bagged unexpected points with ninth and 10th, the latter scoring for the first time and in his home race. Verstappen increased his unassailable lead over Mexican Perez to 226 points and became only the fifth Formula One driver to reach 50 wins. Perez in turn moved 39 clear of closest rival Hamilton. If Verstappen wins in Mexico next weekend he will match the tally of four times world champion Alain Prost and could overtake former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel's 53 wins before the end of the season. Alpine's Esteban Ocon and McLaren's Oscar Piastri collided and retired, as did Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso.

Bublik Wins Third ATP Title in Antwerp



ANTWERP (Dispatches) - Kazakh Alexander Bublik swept past France's Arthur Fils 6-4, 6-4 to win his third ATP tournament trophy in Antwerp. The 36th-ranked Bublik, who came into the event having lost in the opening round of all five tournaments he contested since his run to the Wimbledon fourth round, won through in one-hour 16 minutes against his 38th-ranked French opponent. Fils had been chasing his second title of the season after winning at home in Lyon in May, having ousted Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas in the semi-final in the Belgian tournament. But the 19-year-old came up against Bublik's solid serve and paid for a string of unforced errors. The Kazakh, 26, wrapped up the first set in 34 minutes after breaking his rival's serve at 2-2. He broke early in the second and staved off two break points at 3-2 to seal his third title after Halle this year and Montpellier in 2022. Meanwhile French veteran Gael Monfils rallied past Russian qualifier Pavel Kotov to win the 12th ATP title of his career and first this season in Stockholm. Monfils, ranked 140th, won 4-6, 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 against his 109th-ranked opponent for his second title in the Swedish capital after 2011. The 37-year-old has endured a season plagued by foot and wrist injuries. He is just the fourth player above the age of 37 to win an ATP Tour title since 1990, joining Roger Federer, Ivo Karlovic and Feliciano Lopez. Monfils was pushed hard in the two hour-35 minute clash on his way to becoming the oldest champion in the history of the tournament.

Kohli Hits 95 as India down New Zealand

DHARAMSALA (Dispatches) - Virat Kohli hit 95 to lead India to a four-wicket victory over New Zealand and a fifth win in five matches at the World Cup although the superstar batsman just missed equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 one-day international centuries. Fast bowler Mohammed Shami returned figures of 5-54 to help bowl out New Zealand for 273, a total India overhauled with 12 balls to spare in Dharamsala. The Kiwis, who rode on Daryl Mitchell's 130 to post 273, suffered their first loss in five matches and are second behind leaders India in the 10-team table. India, who lost to New Zealand in the semi-final of the 2019 edition, ended a 20-year wait for a win against the Kiwis in an ICC event after they last beat them in the 2003 World Cup. An in-form Kohli, who hit 103 not out in the previous victory over Bangladesh, put on key partnerships including a 78-run stand with Ravindra Jadeja, who hit the winning four in his unbeaten 39. "He (Kohli) has done this for us so many years. He backed himself to do the job," India captain Rohit Sharma said of his star batsman after the win. "Kohli and Jadeja pulled us back when we lost a few wickets in the middle." Kohli fell to Matt Henry in an attempt for the glory shot which would have given him another century. He leads the tournament batting charts with 340 runs. Rohit (46) and Shubman Gill (26) provided a strong start in a stand of 71 before fast bowler Lockie Ferguson struck in his first two overs to remove the openers. Kohli and Shreyas Iyer, who made 33, attempted to rebuild and did a good job despite fog descending from over the Himalayas and halting play for about 10 minutes. Left-arm quick Trent Boult sent

back Iyer in his second spell, coming around the wicket with a bouncer and having the batsman caught out in the deep. Kohli and KL Rahul, who made 27, then ploughed on before left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner broke through and had Rahul trapped lbw. Suryakumar Yadav was run out for two in his maiden World Cup appearance after a mix up with Kohli and New Zealand sensed a turnaround. But Kohli kept his calm and along with the left-handed Jadeja saw the team home.



Teen Striker Guiu Snatches Barca Win Over Athletic

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Teenage debutant Marc Guiu snatched champions Barcelona a 1-0 win over Athletic Bilbao just seconds after coming on from the bench on Sunday in La Liga, taking the Catalans up to third. Xavi's Barca will face leaders Real Madrid next Saturday in the Clasico just one point behind their bitter rivals, and second-placed Girona, who beat Almeria 5-2 earlier on. For a long time it seemed like Barcelona would not find the breakthrough against their Basque visitors but striker Guiu, 17, netted under a minute after being thrown on by Xavi. The forward was slipped in by the silky Joao Felix and slotted past Unai Simon, who got a hand to his shot but could not keep it out. Guiu became the latest on a conveyor belt of youths to make their debuts for Barca as their La Masia academy continues to produce gems. "He's been training with us for the whole season, it's important that everyone who comes brings something," Barcelona defender Inigo Martinez told DAZN. "We're happy for him, for the goal, and above all, for winning." Xavi started Martinez against his former club and 20-year-old Fermin Lopez on the left of the attack, another academy product, with Barcelona down to the bare bones. Several regular starters, including key striker Robert Lewandowski, are out injured. The Catalans host Shakhtar Donetsk in the Champions League on Wednesday before welcoming rivals Madrid to Montjuic. However the hosts were negated by former Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde's Athletic, who took the sting out of the game and occasionally sprang forward with both Williams brothers threatening from the flanks.

LeBron Eyes Return to Summit as 21st NBA Season Beckons

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - LeBron James heads into 21st season in the NBA hungrier than ever as he looks to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a record-breaking 18th championship. James, 38, finished last season in a downbeat mood, hinting at possible retirement after the Lakers were comprehensively beaten by the Denver Nuggets in the Western Conference finals. But a summer of rest and a reloaded roster has left James brimming with optimism as the Lakers launch the new season with a demanding road game in Denver on Tuesday. Nowhere has James' renewed sense of determination been more evident than in the Lakers pre-season. Christian Wood, one of several new additions that have bolstered the Lakers roster in the off-season, revealed that James has routinely been the first player to arrive for training. Determined to make a good impression, Wood said he had arrived early at a voluntary player-run training camp in San Diego recently -- only to discover James had beaten him to it. "I tried to be one of the first ones in... first person I see is LeBron James, already in a full sweat," Wood told ESPN. Lakers general



manager Rob Pelinka, meanwhile, says James, who turns 39 in December, has been training "like a rookie." "He's been doing 6 a.m. workouts," Pelinka said. "Probably been in our building as much as any player this off-season." Any team LeBron has played for, it has been pretty uniform that his work sets the tone. "James will head into the new season as the oldest active player in the NBA. But his statistics from the 2022-2023 campaign indicate he remains one of the most formidable individual talents in the league, when fit and firing. Last year he averaged 28.9 points, 8.3 rebounds and 6.8 assists in 55 games before leading the Lakers to the brink of the finals, in a season that saw him eclipse Kareem Abdul-Jabbar as the NBA's all-time leading scorer. The Lakers front office staff are mindful, however, that even allowing for James' extraordinary longevity, the four-time NBA champion cannot carry the team on his own. Accordingly, the Lakers have added offensive depth to the core of the reshaped roster that relied on steely defense to turn around last season's campaign.

Eagles Sink Dolphins, Patriots Stun Bills



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Jalen Hurts threw for two touchdowns and rushed for one more as the Philadelphia Eagles overpowered the Miami Dolphins 31-17 in their marquee NFL clash. Eagles quarterback Hurts -- lining up opposite former college teammate and now Miami quarterback Tua Tagovailoa for the first time -- shrugged off a Dolphins fightback as Philadelphia improved to 6-1 for the season. In a game billed as a potential Super Bowl preview, it was Philadelphia who looked the more complete of the two teams, with suffocating defense neutralizing the threat posed by Tagovailoa and the Dolphins' potent receiving corps, led by Tyreek Hill. The Eagles offense, meanwhile, found an extra gear after the Dolphins erased a 17-3 deficit to tie the game at 17-17 in the third quarter following Jerome Baker's interception pick six. Rocked by that rare turnover blemish, Hurts calmly regrouped and led Philadelphia on an eight-play, 75-yard drive that ended with A.J. Brown scoring a touchdown from a 14-yard pass to make it 24-17. Philadelphia's defense then came up big with a Darius Slay interception as Miami sought to get back on level terms, and the Eagles duly cashed in. Another long drive -- with Philadelphia making two short yardage conversions on fourth down -- ended with Kenneth Gainwell spinning into the end zone from three yards out to complete the scoring.