

The Foreign Ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Jordan Have Met to Discuss a Draft Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly Calling for Cessation of Israeli Atrocities in Gaza Strip

IRAN NEWS

On the Sidelines of the special session of the UN General Assembly on Palestine, Iranian Foreign Minister Conferred With His Indonesian Counterpart on Cessation of the Israeli Regime's Crimes in Gaza

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Int'l Community Starts Probing Into Zionists' Crimes in Gaza



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs has announced beginning of the investigation led by the international community into the Zionist regime of Israel's crimes against the people in Gaza and the Palestinian civilians. Ali Najafi made the announcement while speaking to IRNA, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported on Saturday. In his remarks, Najafi elaborated on the Islamic Republic's diplomatic and legal measures towards the Zionists mass crimes against the Palestinians. Palestine which is recognized as a Palestinian authority has joined the International Criminal Court and has argued against those crimes, so the prosecutor has a duty to investigate the case, Najafi underlined. As he noted, a documentary about the Zionist criminal acts including bombardment of the people in Gaza, targeting the residential units and hospitals, mosques and churches and its other crimes are being made. "The Islamic Republic of Iran pursues the case through various channels including the Organization of Islamic Cooperation." According to Najafi, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation has recently held an extraordinary meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, and another meeting at the level of foreign ministry is slated for the near future.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Iran Army Ground Force Launches Upgraded Indigenous Missiles in Drills

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Ground Force has launched the upgraded versions of a series of domestically-developed missiles during large-scale military exercises in the country's central province of Isfahan. During the main stage of the two-day drills, codenamed Eghtedar (Authority) 1402 and underway in Nasrabad region of the province, the Army Ground Force's mobile assault brigades, armored divisions and squadrons of helicopters fired the upgraded versions of Shafaq (Dawn), Almas (Diamond) and Dehlaviyeh missiles to detonate designated targets at a distance of 8 to 20 kilometers away. Dehlaviyeh twin-arm laser-guided missile launcher was recently installed on the M113 armored personnel carriers of the Army Ground Force. Iranian military experts have extended the range of both the ground-based and air-based versions of Dehlaviyeh missile from 5.5 kilometers to 8 kilometers. Iranian forces also launched the air-based version of Shafaq missile during the drills. The missile is reportedly capable of carrying a 50-kilogram warhead at a maximum speed of Mach 2.2. It can destroy targets within a range of 20 kilometers. Homegrown Almas missile is paired with an automatic fire control system, and can strike various targets within a range of 8 kilometers. The air-based version of Almas is mounted on Bell Cobra 209 choppers and combat drones. Moreover, the Iranian Army Ground Force employed high-explosive Sina and Fateh smart bombs, which can detonate fixed and mobile targets within a range of 10 kilometers, in the drills. The bombs are reportedly furnished with a warhead of between 300 to 1,000 grams, and can be used against various targets in ground combat. They are said to have an operational period of 10 to 15 minutes. They enjoy an intelligent guidance system, and have the ability to track targets from the moment they are launched until they hit them. The bombs were tested and assessed in action for the first time during Eghtedar 1402 military drills, and successfully destroyed the designated targets. Additionally, Bell 206 helicopters of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force conducted nightly combat operations. The choppers flew over the exercise area, surveyed it and transmitted collected information online to the command control center. Bell AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters also launched air-to-surface missiles, destroying the positions of the mock enemy. They were hit with the help of night vision systems. Iranian military forces hold routine exercises according to a detailed schedule in various parts of the country in order to test their weaponry and equipment and evaluate their combat preparedness. Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Zionist Regime Cannot Make Up for Its Defeat With Genocide



TEHRAN - The commander of the IRGC said that the Zionist regime is killing children and women to make up for its defeat against Palestinians, warning the regime against ground incursion into the Gaza Strip. Speaking in a conference in Iran's western city of Khorramabad on Saturday, Major General Hossein Salami said "Killing children and women is never a victory, but a crime." He added that, "Defeat cannot be made up for by killing children, they do not know, the battlefield is for faithful men, not weak men, because the most greedy people to live longer are the Zionists." He warned the Zionist regime against going for a ground assault on the Gaza Strip saying that the Strip would devour its troops and would become a burial place for its soldiers. "Gaza is Moses staff that will devour everything they grow. Gaza is the burial ground of the politics, strategy and power of all those who have joined hands to kill the children of Gaza and dominate them," the IRGC lead commander added. General Salami further said that the Palestinian Resistance has put the Zionist Israeli regime into a crisis, and that it cannot come out of it. "Today, Israel is the scene of unrest and terrible nightmares. The European officials go there (Israel) every day to give them (Zionists) artificial respiration and think how to make up for that heavy defeat," he stated.

Over 1.4m People in Gaza Forced to Flee Their Homes



TEHRAN (MNA) - More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have been forced to flee their homes, with nearly half of them now taking shelter in United Nations' schools, a senior World Food Programme (WFP) official said. "Nowhere in Gaza is safe. Shelters have been impacted by airstrikes and violence," Xinhua reported citing Samer Abdeljaber, country director for Palestine of the WFP at a press briefing on Friday. He said that in Gaza, food was running out and there was limited access to water and electricity, affecting over two million people. According to Abdeljaber, bakeries will shut within days if fuel is not allowed in, and people are risking their lives while queuing for hours to secure bread, yet many return to the shelters without it. Humanitarian convoys have been trickling in since October 21 after two weeks of no cargo going into Gaza, but their scale and frequency are nowhere near enough to eliminate people's suffering, he said. The Israeli regime launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian Hamas Resistance group waged a surprise attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity. Hamas said that its operation came in response to the Israeli regime's violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East al-Quds and growing Zionist settler violence. The Zionist regime has killed and injured thousands of Palestinians in its relentless airstrikes. It has also blocked water, food, and electricity to Gaza, plunging the coastal sliver into a humanitarian crisis.

Iran Backs Any Political Solution Aimed at Halting Israeli Genocide in Gaza

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran supports any political solution that would lead to the immediate cessation of crimes against humanity and genocide in the Gaza Strip, as well as sending continuous humanitarian aid and countering the forced migration of the people of Gaza, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has said. Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks on Friday during a meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in New York on the sidelines of the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly on Palestine. "The silence of some countries and the US's assistance to the brutal aggression and genocide of the Israeli regime have encouraged this apartheid regime to intensify its attacks against civilians in Gaza and the West Bank," he said. The top diplomat said the



Islamic Republic, as a foreign policy principle, will continue to offer support for the resistance of the Palestinian people to liberate their land and restore their human rights. For his part, Guterres highlighted Iran's unique role in the region, calling for the continuation of the diplomatic and constructive efforts of the Islamic Republic in this regard. He also described the humanitarian situation in Gaza as catastrophic and stressed the need for all parties to strive for the immediate cessation of the war and dispatch of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The Zionist regime launched the devastating war on Gaza on October 7, after the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched a surprise raid into the occupied territories in response to intensified Israeli crimes against Palestinians.

If War Continues, It Will Boomerang on Warmongers Too



NEW YORK (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has issued a stern warning against the ongoing war between Palestine and the Zionist regime, cautioning that if the war persists, it could have severe repercussions for those instigating the conflict. Amir-Abdollahian made his remarks before departing New York for Tehran late on Friday. He had flown to New York on Wednesday to attend the international consultations about the regional developments and the situation in Palestine. In his remarks, the foreign minister hoped for a shift toward a political initiative in the near future. When questioned about the potential political impact of the United Nations General Assembly's vote for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza on the Security Council, he affirmed that it could indeed influence Brazil's proposed resolution to the UNSC. On October 27, the UN General Assembly endorsed a resolution proposed by Arab countries on conflicts between the Palestinian Resistance group and the Zionist regime of Israel. The resolution which called for an "immediate and sustained humanitarian truce" in Gaza, received 120 votes in favor. However, 14 UN members, including the US, voted against it while 45 others abstained. Amir-Abdollahian emphasized that the UN resolution has an important message of support to the oppressed Palestinian people, focusing on a humanitarian truce and aid delivery. About the UN meeting on the situation in Palestine, the foreign minister said the UN members took part in the meeting to arrive at a political solution for the crisis. As the approval of the resolution was imminent, one of the Western states proposed labeling Hamas, the Palestinian Resistance movement, as a terrorist group. However, this proposal did not gain support as the resolution was approved, affirming that Hamas is a freedom movement countering occupation, Amir-Abdollahian noted, adding that the UN chief is to visit the region on October 28. He mentioned that several initiatives have been proposed to address current regional conditions, adding that the US unilateral support for the Zionist regime has aggravated the war. "If a political solution is not found in the near future, there is a likelihood of unforeseen incidents occurring in the region."

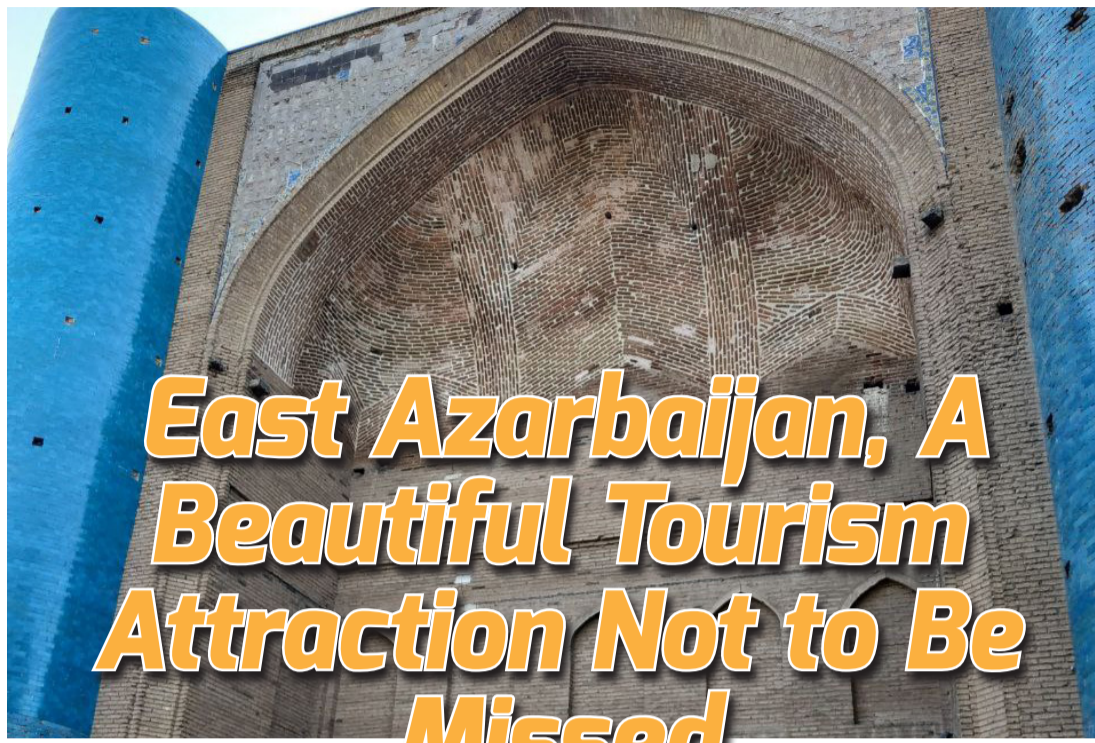
IRAN NEWS



Iranian Student Armita Geravand Dies After Month-Long Coma

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Armita Geravand, a 16-year-old student who suffered a blood pressure drop and fainted at a metro station in Tehran early this month, has passed away. Armita and her friends were entering a train at the Shohada metro station in the Iranian capital on October 1, when she fainted, causing her to hit her head and slip into a coma. The impact on her head was so severe that she suffered a cardiac arrest, and after the rescue efforts of several citizens, subway employees, and emergency personnel, she was transferred to the nearest specialized hospital for further treatment. The incident was immediately hijacked by anti-Iran media outlets, which claimed that Armita was brutally beaten by the police for wearing inappropriate clothing.

TEHRAN - On October 18-21, Tabriz hosted the 2nd International Tourism Exhibition as well as the 10th National Handicraft Exhibition which was organized by the Union of Tourism Associations of East Azarbaijan with collaboration with Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of East Azarbaijan and the event was aimed at promoting tourism and cultural and handicrafts of the province for attracting more tourists either domestic and foreign ones. A group of journalists had been invited to cover the event which was a good occasion for displaying tourism attractions of East Azarbaijan Province for tourists and during this exhibition the province achieved a global success when UNWTO named Kandovan Village as one of the World Tourism Villages and the success created a joyful and amazing



East Azarbaijan, A Beautiful Tourism Attraction Not to Be Missed

y: F. Taherpoor



atmosphere in the village and even in the province and the country. East Azarbaijan, with its blend of history, culture, and natural beauty, is a hidden treasure within Iran. It is located in northwestern part of Iran and it is one of the 31 provinces of the country, bordering Armenia, Republic of Azerbaijan, Ardabil province, West Azerbaijan province, and Zanjan province. The capital of the province is Tabriz. Travelers seeking a unique and enriching experience should consider exploring this province, where the past and present harmoniously coexist. As more people discover the wonders of East Azarbaijan, it's likely to become a prominent destination on the world tourism map. So, pack your bags and embark on a journey to this less-explored part of Iran, and you'll be rewarded with unforgettable memories and cultural insights. This province is a blend of history and nature and those who enjoy visiting historic sites or enjoy beautiful landscapes can visit different towns and cities of the province. According to reports the number of tourists visiting this province has exceeded 1.5m people this year and the organizers of the exhibitions were working to promote capabilities and attractions of the province to bring more tourists which will help the economy and social

developments in the province. Tabriz was named World Carpet Weaving City by the World Crafts Council in October 2015 and Exemplary Tourist City of 2018 by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and visitors can enjoy historic and natural sites and places of this historic city. The city is famous for its handicrafts, including hand-woven rugs and jewelry. Local confectionery, chocolate, dried nuts and traditional Tabrizi food are recognized throughout Iran as some of the best. Some of the most esteemed cultural institutions in Northwest Iran are located in Tabriz, which is also a center for intellectual activity. Blue Mosque, Arg of Tabriz, Bazaar Municipality as well as El-Golu and museum of the city are of the best places that tourists can enjoy visiting them. But beauty and history of East Azarbaijan are not limited to Tabriz and every inch of the province has its own history and beauty. The city of Maragheh is a historic and beautiful city in East Azarbaijan which is situated in a narrow valley



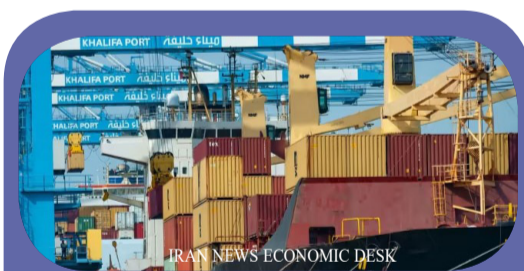
running nearly north and south at the eastern end of a well-cultivated plain opening towards Lake Urmia. The remains of the historic Maragheh observatory crown one of these hills as the city is known as the capital of Iran's astronomy and it is one of the most visited sites by the foreign tourists during their visits to this province. The Gonbad-e Modavvar and the Gonbad-e Kabud as well as Mehr Temple are of the historical sites of this city and one should not miss visiting Ilkhani Museum of the city. Heris is a small town with historic beauty which should not be missed by the tourists and

Goyjeh Bael Karvansara which has been registered by the UNESCO is in this town. Ahar is another town of the province with historic sites like Sheikh Shahabeddin Ahari Museum and enthusiasts of historic works and sites can enjoy it. But those who like to visit heavenly beauties and nature can move towards the Arsbaran Forest and town of Kaleybar. Kalibar, East Azerbaijan, is an untouched paradise for those seeking a blend of history,

nature, and culture. Whether you're exploring ancient castles, hiking through the Sabalan Mountains, or immersing yourself in the rich cultural tapestry, Kaleybar has something for every traveler. It's a destination that reveals the enchanting beauties of Iran's lesser-known treasures, waiting to be explored by intrepid adventurers and culture seekers. Kaleybar boasts a rich historical heritage that dates back centuries. The town's historical sites and structures tell tales of ancient civilizations that once thrived in this region. One of the standout features of Kaleybar is its pristine natural surroundings. The town is set against the stunning backdrop of the Sabalan Mountains, making it a haven for nature enthusiasts and hikers. Sabalan is an extinct volcano and is one of Iran's highest peaks,



offering an adventure for trekkers and mountaineers. The beautiful natural landscapes surrounding Kaleybar are especially captivating in the spring and summer when the valleys are lush and vibrant. Babak Castle is one of the best historic sites of the town but it has a very amazing eye-catching natural beauty that nobody will be able to ignore it and the writer recommends everyone to visit this natural beauties and even stay in the hotels in this beautiful area. And the town of Osku where Kandovan Village is located is another town which deserves to be visited by the tourists city because of its historic and natural texture. Kandovan village is the pick of the basket as the village has been recently named as the world tourism village and it can attract many tourists from any part of the world. Kandovan is often referred to as "Little Cappadocia" due to its unique rock houses carved into volcanic rocks. These homes are still inhabited, offering a glimpse into an ancient way of life. With such huge potentials, the province needs more attention and works from officials for promoting beauties of this province and developing the infrastructures like roads, hotels and other tourism facilities is prerequisite of attracting more tourists.



Private Sector Involved in 90% of Iran's Trade With UAE

TEHRAN - As much as 90% of trade exchanges between Iran and the UEA are being carried out by the private sector, according to Iran's consul general in Dubai. A container ship is seen in UAE's Khalifa Port which is a center for re-exports of goods to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Photo: Financial Times. Mohammad Soleimani made the remarks in a meeting with a delegation from Iran's Zanjan Chamber Commerce to Dubai's GITEX Global. He also added that the volume of trade between Iran and the UAE stands at \$25 billion. Iran's consul general in Dubai Mohammad Soleimani is seen in a meeting with a delegation from Iran's Zanjan Chamber Commerce to Dubai's GITEX Global. Noting that Dubai is responsible for a large part of the trade exchanges between the two countries, he said that the Iranian consulate in Dubai would do whatever possible to facilitate the exchanges. The UAE is Iran's second-largest trade partner after China. In a visit to Iran Chamber of Commerce in May, Chairman of the Federation of the UAE Chambers of Commerce and Industry Abdullah Al Mazrouei said that his country intends to become Iran's number one trade partner.



Iran, India to Finalize Deal on Development of Chabahar port

TEHRAN - A contract will be finalized with India on the development of Iran's southeastern port of Chabahar within the next two weeks, an Iranian deputy minister of roads said. Ali Akbar Safaei — who is also the CEO of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran — announced that the previously agreed details of the contract between Iran and India on the development of Chabahar have changed. The problems in the contract were all settled after Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi took office in August 2021, he said, adding that the only outstanding provision of the contract will be drafted in less than a month. India has undertaken an investment of \$85 million in the development

of the first phase of Chabahar Port on a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis, Safaei added, noting that the second phase of the project will be carried out with the investment of foreign companies. The deputy roads minister put the total investment made so far by India in the development of the Beheshti Port of Chabahar at \$25 million, which, he said, mainly includes gantry and coastal cranes. The Indians are committed to supplying a set of equipment such as coastal, gantry, and yard cranes, as well as the equipment needed to load and unload cargo at the port, he continued. The long-term contract, which will be finalized soon, is expected to serve the interests of the country, Safaei concluded.

No Dark Point in History of Iran-South Africa Ties



TEHRAN (IRNA) - A senior Iranian lawmaker has said that Iran and South Africa enjoy relations at a good level, and there is no dark point in the history of their cooperation. Mojtaba Zonnouri, the vice-speaker of Iran's Majlis (Parliament), made the remarks in a meeting held in Angola on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) session with Speaker of the House of South Africa Nosiviwe Nolutshando Mapisa-Nqakula. In his remarks, Zonnouri thanked Johannesburg for its support for Tehran's accession to the BRICS emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The Islamic Republic of Iran officially became a member of the BRICS bloc in August 2023. The senior Member of Parliament said Iran welcomes the development of parliamentary ties with South Africa in line with helping other governments. An Iranian delegation with 18 members has participated in the 147th Assembly of the IPU and its related meetings in Angola from October 23 to 27.

SOUTH KOREA, U.S. TROOPS HOLD DRILLS WITH DRONES, LASER SENSORS

INE (DISPATCHES) - SOUTH KOREAN AND U.S. TROOPS HELD JOINT FUTURE COMBAT DRILLS INVOLVING DRONES, AN UNMANNED VEHICLE AND WEARABLE LASER SENSORS THIS WEEK AS PART OF EFFORTS TO MODERNIZE THEIR MILITARIES, SEOUL'S ARMY SAID ON SATURDAY. THE TRAINING CAME AS SOUTH KOREA'S MILITARY CONDUCTS A SERIES OF ANNUAL HOGUK AUTUMN EXERCISES AIMED AT IMPROVING RESPONSES TO NORTH KOREA'S NUCLEAR AND MISSILE THREATS. MORE THAN 120 SOLDIERS FROM BOTH SIDES JOINED FORCES TO FIGHT AGAINST A TRAINED TEAM OF OPPOSING FORCES IN A MOCK-UP TOWN THAT APPEARED SIMILAR TO THE NORTH KOREAN CAPITAL OF PYONGYANG, BUILT AT THE KOREA COMBAT TRAINING CENTRE IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE EASTERN CITY OF INJE. THE DRILLS ALSO MOBILISED VARIOUS HIGH-TECH WEAPONS SYSTEMS AIMED AT BEEFING UP FUTURE COMBAT CAPABILITIES, WITH THE TROOPS WEARING MULTIPLE INTEGRATED LASER ENGAGEMENT SYSTEMS (MILES), WHICH USES LASERS TO SIMULATE ACTUAL BATTLE. SEVERAL DRONES WERE FLOWN FOR RECONNAISSANCE PURPOSES, SOME ALSO FIRING AN ASSAULT RIFLE, WHILE SOUTH KOREA DISPATCHED A MULTIPURPOSE UNMANNED VEHICLE TO CARRY WOUNDED PERSONNEL.



Suspect in Maine Mass Shooting Found Dead



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The suspect in a mass shooting in the US state of Maine has been found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound, US media reported Friday, after an intense manhunt that lasted more than two days. Confirmed details were not immediately known, but authorities in Maine called a news conference for 10 pm (0200 GMT). CNN reported that the body of Robert Card, 40, the subject of a massive manhunt following a rampage two days earlier that left 18 people dead, was found in woods about eight miles from Lewiston. The network said Card's body was discovered near a recycling center, from which he had recently been fired. CNN and ABC cited sources saying Card had been found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Card is accused of carrying out the country's deadliest mass shooting of the year on Wednesday night. In addition to the fatalities, another 13 people were wounded in the bloodshed. Authorities on Friday identified the victims, ranging from a husband and wife in their 70s, to a 14-year-old boy killed alongside his father. The shooting -- and Card's fugitive status -- brought dread to this hard-scrabble city in southern Maine. Earlier Friday, authorities said they were chasing down more than 530 tips and leads on Card's possible whereabouts. Card is an army reservist, but had not been deployed in any combat zone. US media reported that he had recently been sent for psychiatric treatment after he said he was hearing voices. This latest shooting is one of the deadliest in the United States since 2017, when a gunman opened fire on a crowded music festival in Las Vegas, killing 60 people. Earlier Friday, law enforcement agents deployed along the Androscoggin River in nearby Lisbon, seven miles (11 km) southeast of Lewiston, and divers used sonar to look for evidence -- or a body. Card's white SUV was found nearby, Maine public safety commissioner Mike Sauschuck said. Hours before the break in the case, Sauschuck announced the lifting of a lockdown in the area around Lewiston that had shuttered schools and businesses.

Protesters shut New York's Grand Central, Seeking Gaza Ceasefire



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Hundreds of protesters demanding a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas forced the closure on Friday of Grand Central Terminal, one of New York City's major transit hubs, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority said. "Grand Central Terminal is closed until further notice due to a protest," the MTA said on its website, urging commuters to use alternate stations and plan for extra travel time. "Mourn the dead, and fight like hell for the living," read one banner raised inside the building. Images on social media showed protesters pouring out of the train station and onto 42nd Street in Midtown Manhattan, and a large crowd being detained by law enforcement. The group Jewish Voice for Peace, which organized the demonstration, posted a video on Instagram showing police in the station escorting a long line of protesters, who were wearing shirts reading "Cease Fire Now" and "Not In Our Name" with their arms secured behind their backs. Israel's military widened its air and ground attacks on the Palestinian enclave of Gaza on Friday. Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that rules Gaza, said its militants were ready to confront Israeli attacks with "full force."



UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The UN General Assembly called by a large majority for an "immediate humanitarian truce" in Gaza, on the 21st day of the Israel-Hamas conflict as the Israeli army announced it was extending its ground operation into the shattered territory. The non-binding resolution, criticized by Israel and the United States for failing to mention Hamas, received 120 votes in favor, 14 against and 45 abstentions from UN members. Israel angrily dismissed the measure, and said the country would use "every means at our disposal" in confronting Hamas. "Today is a day that will go down as infamy. We have all witnessed that the UN no longer holds even one ounce of legitimacy or relevance," Israeli ambassador Gilad Erdan said, telling the assembly. "Shame on you." "Israel will continue to defend itself. We will defend our future, our very existence by ridding the world of Hamas's evil so that it can never threaten anyone else again," he said. Hamas meanwhile welcomed the call for a break in the conflict. "We demand its immediate application to allow the entry of fuel and humanitarian aid for civilians," said a Hamas statement. The rival Palestinian Authority's foreign ministry said that as Israel's campaign "reaches a new peak of brutality," there was "a solid international position rejecting Israel's unhinged aggression". The text proposed by Jordan in the name of 22 Arab countries called for "an immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities." An earlier version called for an "immediate

ceasefire." Jordan's Ambassador Mahmoud Hmoud, just before the vote, stressed that: "It is not merely our responsibility, but a profound moral obligation to champion the cause of peace." Israel has heavily bombarded Gaza since Hamas gunmen stormed across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapping over 220 others, according to Israeli officials. The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, in an update on Friday, said the Israeli strikes had now killed 7,326 people, mainly civilians and many of them children. The resolution co-sponsored by nearly 50 other countries centered largely on the dire humanitarian situation in sealed-off Gaza as Israel presses on with its bombardment. The document urges "immediate" provision of water, food, medical supplies, fuel and electricity and unhindered access for UN and other humanitarian agencies trying to help the Palestinians. The draft condemns "all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians, including all acts of terrorism and indiscriminate attacks" but it does not mention Hamas. The resolution exposed a division within Western countries, with France voting for the measure; Germany, Italy and Britain abstaining; while Austria and the United States voted against. "It is outrageous that this resolution fails to name the perpetrators of the October 7 terrorist attack," US ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said. "Another key word missing in this resolution is hostage," she added.



North Korea Says U.S. and Allies' Criticism of Its Ties With Russia Distorted

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea said it was the "steadfast will" of Pyongyang to expand ties with Russia, criticizing a recent condemnation by the United States and its allies on Pyongyang's suspected arms deliveries to Russia as politicized and distorted. North Korean Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui denounced military cooperation between the U.S., South Korea and Japan, and said Pyongyang's relations with Moscow will act as a "powerful strategic" element if security in the region is endangered. The United States, South Korea and Japan on Thursday strongly condemned the suspected supply of arms and military equipment by North Korea to Russia, saying they had confirmed "several" deliveries of such weapons. Russia and North Korea have denied that arms are being transferred from the North for use in Russia's war against Ukraine. "If they were curious to prove that the specific sphere of cooperation between the DPRK and Russia posed a 'threat' to international peace and security, they should have to clarify beforehand why their triangular military alliance is not regarded as a threat to regional peace and security," Choe said in a statement carried by the North's KCNA news agency. The United States, South Korea and Japan have been stepping up trilateral security cooperation to counter the North's growing nuclear and missile threats. North Korea and Russia pledged closer military cooperation when their leaders met in September in Russia's Far East. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov met North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this month and discussed implementing the agreements reached at the summit. "It is the steadfast will and stand of the DPRK to comprehensively expand and develop the bilateral relations with the Russian Federation," Choe said, adding that their ties will reach a "new higher phase through full implementation of the agreements." DPRK are the initials of the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.



European Leaders Urge Serbia to De Facto Recognize Kosovo

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The leaders of France, Germany and Italy called on Serbia to "deliver on de-facto recognition" of Kosovo, which declared independence in 2008 but which Belgrade has continued to regard as its province. In a statement the day after holding talks with both sides, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni said it was time for the Balkan neighbors to deliver on previous commitments. Their move follows growing international concerns that the former wartime foes could return to open conflict following a series of violent incidents in recent months. Much of the tension has focused on northern Kosovo, where ethnic Serbs form a majority. The rest of Kosovo is overwhelmingly ethnic Albanian. In their statement, Macron, Scholz and Meloni repeated longstanding calls for Kosovo Prime Minister Albin Kurti to establish an association of Serb-majority municipalities in the north, giving local Serbs a degree of self-government. Serbia and Kosovo have spent years talks mediated by the European Union to normalize their relations. As that process has stalled, leaders of the EU's three biggest countries have become increasingly involved in trying to get relations back on track. While the EU has previously shied away from the politically sensitive question of de facto recognition of Kosovo, the three leaders made clear that was what they expected from Serbia, putting pressure on Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic. "We call on Kosovo to launch the procedure to establish the Association of Serb-Majority Municipalities in Kosovo as prescribed in the draft Statute, and on Serbia to deliver on de-facto recognition," the statement said. Vucic has previously said he will neither formally nor informally recognize Kosovo. But both Serbia and Kosovo aspire to join the EU one day and the bloc has insisted that the two will need to settle their differences before they can become members. "Without progress in normalizing relations, both sides risk missing important opportunities," the three leaders said.

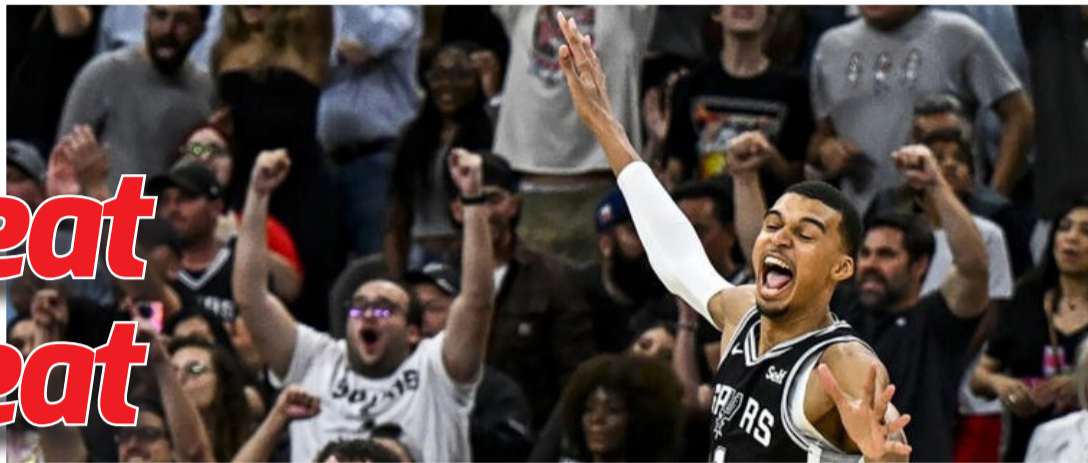
Islamic State Jihadist Group Claims Deadly Blast in Kabul

KABUL (Dispatches) - The Islamic State jihadist group claimed on its Telegram channel Friday that it was behind a blast at a sports club that killed four people in the Afghan capital the night before. The Sunni Muslim extremist group said it had used a parcel bomb that "IS fighters placed in a room where Shiites gather". The explosion occurred Thursday evening at a commercial centre in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighbourhood of Kabul, an enclave of the historically oppressed Shiite Hazara community, according to police. Police were still investigating the cause of the explosion, Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadran said on Friday afternoon in a message to reporters. He added that seven people were injured in the blast, revising the initial toll of two dead and nine injured. Taliban authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Islamic State (IS) claim. The explosion ripped through a sports club several floors up in the commercial centre, blowing out all the sides of the space and shattering windows and causing damage throughout the block, AFP journalists saw on Friday. An instructor at the club, which holds training in combat sports, told AFP the blast happened at the end of a busy boxing session that usually hosted some thirty people. "The explosion was

extraordinarily strong. The walls fell, the metal doors, glass and windows were broken", said 26-year-old Sultan Ali Amiri, who was not in the club when the blast occurred. "There has been a lot of damage, punching bags and almost everything is destroyed". AFP journalists saw several heavy bags used for combat sport training on the floor of the club, others still hanging and pocked with fragments from the blast. Afghanistan's Hazaras have regularly faced attacks in the majority Sunni Muslim country. They have been persecuted for decades, targeted by the Taliban during their insurgency against the former US-backed government as well as by IS. The Islamic State group, which considers Shiites heretics, has carried out several deadly attacks in the same area in recent years targeting schools, mosques and gyms. Images shared on social media shortly after the explosion showed a fire blazing in the sports club and boxing mitts among shattered glass on the ground. The number of bomb blasts and suicide attacks has reduced dramatically since the Taliban ended their insurgency after seizing power in August 2021, ousting the US-backed government. However, a number of armed groups -- including the regional chapter of IS -- remain a threat.



Boston Celtics beat Miami Heat



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Derrick White put up 28 points as the Boston Celtics beat rivals Miami 119-111 while NBA Draft top pick Victor Wembanyama starred in his first win for the San Antonio Spurs. Jayson Tatum scored 22 points and Jaylen Brown contributed 27 in a strong all-around display from Boston, with all five starters in double figures as the Celtics won their home opener, a rematch of last year's Eastern Conference championship series. Miami trailed by just three points with 47.1 seconds left when Jimmy Butler was called for a foul on White, which was unsuccessfully challenged by furious Miami coach Erik Spoelstra. White then drained his two free throws and when Tyler Herro missed a 3-point jumper and Brown sank his from 30-feet out, Miami's resistance was finally over. Three crucial blocks added to an impressive performance from White, who was delighted with beating a Heat team that secured a place in the NBA Finals with a game-seven triumph at Boston. "Anytime you're on home court, you want to protect the home court and obviously, last time we played them here, they came out winning," White said. "It's always a big game every time we play against them and we're going to see them down the line a lot of times. So it's always fun." Frenchman Wembanyama turned on the style in San Antonio's 126-122 overtime victory over the Houston Rockets, coming up big in the latter stages of the game as he put up 21 points and grabbed 12 rebounds with three blocked shots and two steals. "It's just a victory but it's a day I'll remember," Wembanyama said. "I really love winning. This is what I love most in life. Of course it feels great." The Spurs trailed by two with 32.1 seconds remaining when the 19-year-old grabbed a defensive rebound and tied the game on a driving layup with 20 seconds remaining in

regulation. Wembanyama's 16-foot jumper put his team ahead in overtime and he grabbed four total rebounds in the additional period. "I'm proud of what we did tonight," Wembanyama said. "We can see where we can get better. A win is a win but it shows that we got a lot of way to go as a team." Spurs coach Gregg Popovich was impressed by the youngster's impact in his second NBA start, despite "Wemby" going only 2-of-10 from the floor in the first half. "He's a competitor of course. He's gonna be decisive and do everything to win. But they're all like that," he said. "We showed some composure and some not so composed. That's work in progress. Good, but they were persistent." Wembanyama finished the night with 7-of-19 shooting from the floor, grabbing five offensive and seven defensive rebounds. "Back in the locker room, Pop acknowledged it was my first-ever NBA win, just made me proud of myself," Wembanyama said. "But it's just one. We have a whole lot of games to come." Wembanyama's three dunks brought the arena fans to their feet but he received plenty of verbal attention from Popovich in the final minute of the game. "Cause I forgot a play. It's a little mistake -- 100% legit for him to yell at me. I apologize," said Wembanyama. Nikola Jokic scored 22 points and made 12 rebounds and seven assists as the reigning NBA champion Denver Nuggets went to 2-0 with a 108-104 victory over Memphis. The Chicago Bulls also enjoyed an overtime win, beating the Toronto Raptors 104-103 with Demar DeRozan scoring 33 points. Alex Caruso's 3-point jumper with 2.1 seconds remaining secured the victory for Chicago. Luka Doncic scored 49 points, including a crucial 3-pointer with 26.1 seconds left, as the Dallas Mavericks held off the Brooklyn Nets 125-120.

Tendulkar and Kohli Turn to "Batman of Mumbai"



MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Mumbai has been home to many great India batsmen, including Sachin Tendulkar. But there is only one 'Batman of Mumbai' - Aslam Chaudhry. Unlike his fictional namesake, there is no need to use a flashlight or special telephone line to get hold of the bat-maker and repair specialist when the world's leading run-scorers need their favourite blades reconditioned while touring India or appearing in the lucrative Indian Premier League. Instead a call is put into Chaudhry's small, decades-old, workshop in a Mumbai side street, the home of M. Ashraf Bros, a bat-manufacturing business set up by his father in the late 1920s. Photographs of Tendulkar, a longstanding client, with Chaudhry adorn the walls. India's Virat Kohli, one of the leading run-scorers at the ongoing World Cup on home soil and New Zealand's Kane Williamson have also entrusted their bats to Chaudhry. "All the good guys are very particular (about their bats)," Chaudhry, who must satisfy individual requirements regarding weight, thickness and shape, told AFP. Despite a bout of Covid-19, Chaudhry, now approaching his 70th year, still makes bats by hand, a physically demanding process. He begins with a thick raw cleft of willow wood that is shaved, pressed and shaved again into shape, with a groove cut for a handle. Chaudhry's only concession to modern technology is an electric conveyor onto which a bat is placed while he turns a huge fly-wheel to operate a five-tonne weight to strengthen the wood. Few stars will visit Chaudhry's premises for fear of being surrounded by adoring fans in Mumbai, an intense hotbed of the game even by the standards of cricket crazy India. Instead he calls on them, either at their hotel or at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium, with those that do turn up, such as Sri Lanka's Lasith Malinga, getting more than they bargained for. "Malinga was mobbed," recalled Chaudhry. "He was playing for Mumbai in the IPL. As soon as people saw him with his hair, all hell broke loose! I had to pull down the shutters. We were isolated in the shop for almost an hour-and-a-half, the police were called." But Chaudhry said working on bats for Tendulkar, international cricket's all-time leading run-scorer, was no laughing matter. "Absolutely, I felt completely nervous. He's got a good knowledge of bats, so to satisfy him required something. I had to take my tools when I went to see him with the bat," added Chaudhry. "Sometimes he would then ask me to do this or that. I used to see him bat in the nets, which was a privilege." Fans in the ground, or the millions watching on television, will be unaware of Chaudhry's work, with stickers on modern-day bats often promoting both a major commercial sponsor as well as the equipment company with which a cricketer has an endorsement deal. "It doesn't bother me," said Chaudhry. And, thanks to the IPL, he does have a truly global clientele. "There are some guys you think you would never meet -- for example New Zealand is at the far end of the world." But I get calls from Kane Williamson, I've done a lot of his bats. "It takes Chaudhry four to five days to make a bat from start to finish, but IPL repairs are often "same day" jobs.

Son Fuels Tottenham Dreams to Open Up Five-Point Lead

LONDON (Dispatches) - Ange Postecoglou told Tottenham fans to dream after his side moved five points clear at the top of the Premier League for the first time. The Australian's 26 points from his opening 10 games in charge is the best return of any new manager in Premier League history. After a subdued first 45 minutes, Spurs sprang into life early in the second-half as Joel Ward's own goal and Son Heung-min's strike earned the victory. Jordan Ayew pulled a goal back in stoppage time, but it was too little, too late for the Eagles. Not since Spurs last won the league in 1960-61 have they enjoyed such an advantage at the summit of the English top flight. A title challenge still appears a remote possibility, but with no European football to sap their energy, the sky may be the limit for Postecoglou's men. "Let them dream, that's what being a football supporter is all about and, fair to say, this lot have suffered a bit," said Postecoglou. After Tottenham's last game on Monday, the former Celtic boss was not fully satisfied with his side's performance, even though they beat Fulham 2-0. It was more of a mixed bag from the visitors as they took 45 minutes to find their rhythm. "We showed real discipline and focus. Really happy with the effort the boys put in," added Postecoglou. "It is never gonna be an open game of football here. They're an organised team so I knew we needed to be patient. It is a different way for us to win a game." Goalkeeper Guglielmo Vicario has been one of the unsung heroes of Spurs' form and the Italian was needed to make a smart stop low to his left to prevent Ousmane Edouard opening the scoring inside the opening 10 minutes. The signing of James Maddison has been the catalyst to Tottenham's transformation under Postecoglou, despite the loss of the club's record goalscorer Harry Kane to Bayern Munich. Fired up by Postecoglou's half-time team talk, Spurs emerged for the second period with greater intensity and Maddison created the opening goal as his driven low shot across goal

was turned into his own net by the unfortunate Ward. Postecoglou's Midas touch was then in evidence as he introduced Brennan Johnson just after the hour mark. The former Nottingham Forest winger was on the pitch just two minutes before he collected Maddison's pass and crossed for Son to tap home his eighth goal of the season. A fine night for Spurs had one final highlight as midfielder Rodrigo Bentancur made his comeback from an anterior cruciate ligament injury suffered back in February. Ayew's powerful strike into the top corner in the 94th minute was just Palace's second goal in their last six games. The Ghanaian escaped a VAR check for handball to set up a grandstand finish. Palace had one big chance with virtually the last kick of the game when Matheus Franca sliced wide, but Spurs showed their resolve to survive 12 minutes of stoppage time.



Man Utd Report Record Premier League Revenues



LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United on Thursday reported a Premier League record revenue figure of £648.4 million (\$784 million) for the year ending June 30, 2023. It is 11 percent up on the preceding year and beats the previous record of £627 million set by United in 2019, but the 20-time English champions still reported a loss of £42.1 million. The record earnings come despite the fact United played in the Europa League, rather than the more lucrative Champions League, last season. During the 2022/23 campaign the men's team finished third in the Premier League and won the League Cup, ending a six-year trophy drought. The women's team finished second in the Women's Super League and were runners-up in the FA Cup. The club have predicted revenue for the 2023/24 period will be between £650 million and £680 million. United's wage bill for 2022/23 was down £52.8 million to £331.4 million, which the club attributed to "squad turnover" and their absence from last season's Champions League. The club reported long-term debt at £507.3 million. The figure was given as \$650 million in the accounts, unchanged from the previous year, but the report said the year-on-year change in the exchange rate meant the figure in sterling was a lower amount this year compared with last. The report confirmed no dividends had been paid to the Glazer family, who own the club. Thursday's fiscal results come at a time when the founder of the INEOS chemicals company, British billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, is reported to be close to securing a stake in the club. The Glazers announced last November they had commissioned work to look at "strategic alternatives" to help the club grow, which included consideration of a sale. It now appears the Americans will remain in control, with Ratcliffe reported to be taking a 25 percent stake and gaining control over football operations. The Old Trafford club were fourth in this year's Deloitte Money List, behind Manchester City, Real Madrid and Liverpool.

Girona Beat Celta to Top Liga



GIRONA (Dispatches) - Girona threw down the gauntlet to Spain's big two who meet in the Clasico with a 1-0 win over Celta on Friday to move top of La Liga. Yangel Herrera's late drive from the edge of the box snatched the Catalans a late victory, sending them three points clear of

Real Madrid and four above Barcelona. Rafa Benitez's Celta Vigo felt hard done by after officials ruled out a late goal of their own before Herrera drilled home to delight fans at Girona's modest Montilivi stadium. The first half featured few chances until Celta's Jonathan Bamba broke through and fired at goal, but Paulo Gazzaniga was equal to it. Girona dominated the ball but Celta were hard to break down, sturdy under Benitez, although they have just one win in 11 matches. Artem Dovbyk forced Celta goalkeeper Vicente Guaita into a save with a header from a corner, but Michel's side did not create any clear chances, until Yan Couto fired over midway through the second period. In the final 20 minutes the Catalans began to carve out more opportunities, but Cristian Stuani and Miguel Gutierrez failed to hit the target. Celta found the net through Luca de la Torre but the goal was disallowed for a foul by Carlos Dotor on Gazzaniga, although it was slight. The visitors were still upset about it when Girona snatched the lead and the three points with Herrera driving home from just outside the area. "It was a very hard game. I'm very happy for the win," said Girona winger Savinho. "We deserve it, we work very hard." Celta Vigo are 17th, two points from safety.

Wolff Backs Hamilton Claims as Verstappen Rules Again

MEXICO (Dispatches) - Team chief Toto Wolff said Mercedes would always risk disqualification, as happened with Lewis Hamilton at last weekend's United States Grand Prix, rather than take a cautious approach to racing. Speaking in the paddock at the Mexico Grand Prix, Wolff also said that he agreed with seven-time champion Hamilton's claim that half the grid in Austin would have been disqualified if their cars were also tested after the race for worn 'skid blocks'. Newly-crowned world champion Max Verstappen dominated the day's action with a clean sweep of both practice sessions for Red Bull, finishing FP2 ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who was also disqualified in Texas. Hamilton came home just two seconds adrift of Verstappen on track in the American race, but he was disqualified for excessive plank wear several hours after the race during scrutineering tests. Wolff said Mercedes were aware that Hamilton's car was 'on the limit' for wear following Saturday's sprint race, but they chose not to make adjustments -- and with them a pit-lane start for the race for breaking parc ferme rules. "The problem with the Sprint races is your car goes into parc ferme and you can't adjust it anymore," Wolff told Sky Sports F1. "Going into Saturday, we thought, 'hmm, that could be on the limit, but probably with a little bit of a margin.' I would take the disqualification running for a race win and seeing the performance, rather than ending P3 and 25 seconds adrift. ... Every day of the week I would take the disqualification!" He added that he agreed with Hamilton that more cars ran illegally, but simply were not tested. "That's the feedback we got from the other teams," he said. "They chat with each other, the drivers. Also, on a management level, I think many, many teams were probably under the nine



millimetres (limit)." He explained further that the Austin circuit was unique in creating these problems, especially as Mercedes had introduced a new floor package at a Grand Prix with a sprint race and only one free practice. There was a widespread sense of relief at having a 'normal' Grand Prix weekend without a sprint race in Mexico as Verstappen outpaced nearest rival Norris by 0.119 seconds. In deteriorating conditions in front of a boisterous and partisan crowd, rooting for his Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez, Verstappen stayed ahead with a determined performance after beating Williams' Alex Albon by 0.095 in FP1. Charles Leclerc was third for Ferrari, ahead of a revived Valtteri Bottas of Alfa Romeo, Perez, Daniel Ricciardo of Alpha Tauri and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes who was seventh. Esteban Ocon was eighth for Alpine ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri and George Russell in the second Mercedes, but with the top ten separated by only half a second there were few clear signs of performance and potential.