

A Parliamentary Delegation Led by Head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Iran's Parliament Vahid Jalalzadeh Is in Moscow to Hold Talks With Russian Officials on the Israeli Aggression on the Gaza Strip

IRAN NEWS

Pakistani ambassador to Iran Muhammad Mudassir Tipu on Sunday and During a Ceremony Appreciated Iran and Especially Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei for the Support for the Freedom Struggle in Kashmir

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Iran Rejects British Newspaper's Baseless, Disinformation Accusations

LONDON (IRNA) - Iran's chargé d'affaires in London Mahdi Hosseini Matin has rejected the accusations leveled against Iran in the article published by a UK newspaper, saying that the accusations were "baseless and disinformation." In reaction to the baseless report published in the Times newspaper on Saturday, Hosseini Matin wrote on X social media platform, formerly known as Twitter, that "All baseless accusations & disinformation attributed to Iran by The Times are completely rejected." On the threshold of the third pro-Palestinian demonstration in the UK, The Times newspaper in London claimed in a baseless report that Iran is leading the protest and "causing unrest" in the UK. The British newspaper quoted an anonymous source affiliated with the country's police claiming that "Iranian agents are hijacking Britain's UK pro-Palestinian protests", adding that "counterterrorism officers have held private discussions about Iran trying to stoke protests over Israel's bombing of Gaza and have warned of increased hostile state activity in the UK". "Sources told The Times that senior police officers have been privately warning of Iran's involvement in pro-Palestine protests. It is said to be making the policing of protests more complicated." Hosseini Matin added, "With these allegations the so-called officials mentioned, cannot obstruct tens of thousands of protesters opposing their policies to support the Israeli brutalities."

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Israel's Failed Ground Invasion 2nd Victory for Resistance

TEHRAN - Iran's president says Israel's defeat in its ground invasion of the besieged Gaza Strip was the second victory for the Palestinian resistance groups that launched Operation al-Aqsa Storm against the regime. Ebrahim Raisi was speaking in an interview with Al Jazeera TV on Saturday. Israeli forces, backed by warplanes, staged a brief ground raid into central Gaza on Friday, after frequent threats by the regime about launching a full ground invasion as part of a fierce aggression on the besieged Palestinian territory. The regime's army said its ground forces, accompanied by fighter jets and drones, "conducted an additional targeted raid in the central Gaza Strip." During his interview, Iran's president said, "After Operation al-Aqsa Storm [was launched by Palestinian resistance groups], the Zionist regime has not been able to score any real victory, and this is a strategic failure [for Israel]." He added, "The defeat that the Zionist regime suffered last night in its ground invasion of Gaza was the second victory [for Palestinians] following [the launch of] Operation al-Aqsa Storm." "Zionist regime's crimes have crossed the red lines, which may force everyone to take action," Iran's president said. "Zionist regime's crimes have crossed the red lines, which may force everyone to take action. Washington asks us to not do anything, but they keep giving widespread support to Israel. The U.S. sent messages to the Axis of Resistance but received a clear response on the battlefield. Slamming the United States' unbridled support for Israel in its bloody war on Gaza, Raisi said, "Washington asks us not to do anything, but they keep giving widespread support to Israel and this is not acceptable." He also pointed out that the U.S. has sent messages to the Axis of Resistance, but received a clear response on the battlefield. Iran's president added that the United States and some European countries are trying to block the efforts made to establish a ceasefire in Gaza "and this is a crime." Raisi emphasized that Iran, all Arab and Muslim countries, and many other countries in the world are seeking an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. "The United States' calculations in the region have been totally wrong and Washington will not achieve its goal of creating a new Middle East," Iran's president said. Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic's support for Palestine is unwavering, adding, however, that "the resistance in Palestine is independent and makes its own decisions without receiving any orders from Tehran." "Despite all U.S.' support, the Zionist regime will not be able to uproot the resistance in Palestine," Iran's president said.

Reasons Behind Iran Support of Arab-Drafted Gaza Resolution at GA

Voting Result:		Voting Result:	
IN FAVOUR	120	IN FAVOUR	120
AGAINST	14	AGAINST	14
ABSTENTION	45	ABSTENTION	45

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has defended its yes vote to an Arab-drafted resolution on the Gaza war at the UN General Assembly, saying that any other vote would have meant playing into the hands of the Zionist regime and its supporters. The General Assembly on Friday approved the resolution, drafted by Arab countries, which called for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the cessation of hostilities in Gaza. 120 countries voted in favor, 14 voted against the resolution, and 45 abstained. Iran's UN mission said on Saturday that the resolution was proposed by the Arab League, and its text had not even been put into debate at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, adding that the Islamic Republic did not approve of some parts of the resolution as they were in conflict with Iran's principled and definite policies towards Palestine. Iran however voted in favor of the resolution, because the Zionist regime and its allies were attempting to portray the October 7 "resistance operation" as a terrorist act, the mission said in reference to the Operation Al-Aqsa Storm that Palestinian Resistance Movement Hamas launched against Israeli positions from the Gaza Strip. That attempt was foiled through "strong efforts" by Islamic nations and a number of other states, the Iranian mission said, adding that the Zionist regime and its allies were also trying to create division among countries so that the resolution was approved with the least number of votes. Considering all these, the mission said, any Iranian vote other than a positive one would have been playing into the hands of the Zionist regime and its supporters.

Iran, China Ink MoU on Cultural Exchanges

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中国-伊朗文化联合委员会第二次会议
Tehran - 29 Oct 2023

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China have signed a three-year-long cultural exchange memorandum of understanding (MoU). The agreement was inked in the presence of Head of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization Mohammad-Mehdi Imanipour and Chinese Vice Minister of Culture and Tourism of China Lu Yingchuan at the headquarters of the Iranian organization in capital Tehran. Imanipour said that given the two nations' enthusiasm to develop their relationship, he hopes the cultural exchange MoU will pave the way for expansion of bilateral cooperation. The formation of a joint cultural committee reflects the development of relations between the two states, the Iranian official said, adding that he hopes holding future meetings in shorter intervals will pave the ground for the improvement of the relationship. Yingchuan, for his part, expressed hope that in the next phase of implementing mutual cultural exchanges, the two sides would be able to expand cultural and artistic collaborations. Both sides should carry out a series of projects prior to holding the joint committee in a bid to deepen relations, and based on this efforts, cultural cooperation between the two countries can move forward in all arenas, he underlined.

Iran Oil Production Reaches 3.4m bpd

TEHRAN - The spokesman of the Iranian Oil, Gas and Petrochemical Products Exporters' Union said that Iran's oil production has increased to 3.4 million barrels per day (bpd), despite the U.S. sanctions aimed at curbing oil exports and the associated revenue to Iran's government. "The latest reports show that Iran's oil production has increased to 3.4 million barrels per day, while it was about 2.9 million barrels per day until recently," Hamid Hosseini said. Given that previously closed oil wells have been reopened and returned to the production cycle, Iran can increase its oil production to 3.8 million bpd, he said. "If we seek to increase oil exports from 3.8 million barrels per day to 4.2 million bpd in the 7th National Development Plan, we need to invest an average of \$25,000 for each barrel of oil, but now, because these oil wells had been in production cycle previously, we have the opportunity to increase the oil production to 3.8 million barrels per day," he explained. Hosseini also said that about 40,000 bpd have been added to the country's oil production from the Sepehr and Jafir oilfields, which can help with the economic growth of the country. Iran produced 3.058 million barrels per day of crude oil

in September, registering a 15,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report. Based on secondary sources, Iran produced 3.043 million bpd of crude oil in August. The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the third quarter of 2023 stood at 2.990 million bpd indicating a 292,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the second quarter of the year, the report said. The report put the average Iranian crude output for 2022 at 2.554 million bpd, while the average output in 2021 was 2.392 million bpd. These statistics show that although with the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, Iran's oil production decreased; gradually the country has been able to compensate for the output decline and increase production significantly. Iran now occupies the third place among OPEC members in terms of production, following Saudi Arabia, and Iraq. The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by \$7.05 in September, to register an 8.0 percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report. Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$94.63 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to August's \$87.58 per barrel.

Zionists' Crimes in Gaza Exposed Moral Decline of U.S.

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Foreign Ministry says Israel's "brutal and relentless" crimes in its war on the besieged Gaza Strip have exposed the moral decline of its supporters, including the United States, which have endorsed the regime's atrocities as "self-defense." "The Zionists' brutal and relentless crimes committed over the past 22 days in Gaza showed the moral decline of the US regime and other hidden and open supporters of the apartheid Zionist regime to the whole world and exposed their hypocrisy," the ministry's spokesman Nasser Kanaani said in a Saturday post on X, formerly known as Twitter. The Israeli regime has been bombarding Gaza since October 7, when fighters from the Gaza Strip-based resistance groups launched a large-scale operation against the occupying entity in response to its intensified crimes against the Palestinian people. "The heinous and inhumane crimes of the child-killing Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinian people in Gaza ... have permanently diminished this regime in the conscience of world people and precipitated its decline," Kanaani added. The spokesman, meanwhile, described the blow that was dealt to the occupying regime as a result of the Palestinian operation as an "irreparable defeat." The operation resulted in the deaths of around 1,500 Israeli forces and settlers and captivity of hundreds of others. "...the Zionist regime and its supporters are doomed to failure in this catastrophic genocide in Gaza," he said. In a separate X post, Kanaani pointed to the Israeli regime's imposing of a communication blockade on the coastal territory during its failed land invasion on Friday, saying the blackout was aimed at preventing the world from finding out about the regime's losses.

IRAN NEWS



Official Urges Muslim Scholars to Expand Scientific Diplomacy

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution Abdolhossein Khosrowpanah has urged Uzbek scholars to expand scientific interactions with Iranian counterparts by implementing scientific diplomacy. If Muslims want to play a role in the production of science, they should promote scientific diplomacy, Khosrowpanah said addressing a press conference that was held on the sidelines of the 12th International Avicenna Readings, Bukhara. Central Asia played an important role in the creation of Islamic civilization, and Avicenna was one of the great civilization builders, he added. Avicenna's The Canon of Medicine was taught in Europe for seven centuries, he noted. We must understand Avicenna's works correctly and introduce them to the world, he said.

Iran to Buy 791 Wagons From China



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The head of the Islamic City Council of Tehran Cultural and Social Commission said that the Tehran mayor has traveled to China to sign an agreement for buying 791 wagons.

In addition to signing a contract for 791 wagons, this trip also had another important achievement, which was the transfer of the technology of making the train drive system (bogies) from Beijing to Tehran Wagon Manufacturing Company, Narges Ma'adanipour said.

This action shows the determination of Tehran's management to develop the public transport fleet, which is an important achievement for both Tehran and Iran, she added.

Home Appliances Production Up 16% in H1



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Production of home appliances in Iran rose by 16 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister announced. The home appliance industry is one of the industries that faced significant production growth in the past year, so it can be said that Iranian manufacturers were able to take a significant share of the market in the production of refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, evaporative coolers, and TV sets, and even in small household appliances, the production status is outstanding. Mohsen Shokrollahi, the director-general of the Home Appliances Office of the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade, has said, "Despite the problems, 1401 (the previous Iranian calendar year) was a busy year in terms of increasing production, and we were witnessing good growth in various items of household appliances." The official announced that about 600 home appliance production units are active in the country. "The home appliance industry is a growing industry and this industry is developing by launching new production lines, for example, last year we launched 27 new production lines, including 10 refrigerator production lines, six microwave and small household appliances production lines, four washing machine production lines, three dishwasher production lines, and one TV production line", he added. Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues. The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past six years.



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Iran Sympathizes With Kazakhstan Over Deadly Mine Fire

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani on Saturday expressed his condolences to Kazakhstan over a coal mine fire that left dozens of people dead earlier in the day. Kanaani expressed condolences to the people and government of Kazakhstan as well as the families of the victims over the incident in the Karaganda region. According to Kazakhstan's Ministry for Emergency Situations, at least 32 people were killed and 14 others remained unaccounted for following the fire. 252 people were working at the mine. The blaze was caused by a methane gas explosion, Kazakhstan's Kazinform News Agency reported. President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called the incident a "tragedy" and declared Sunday a national day of mourning.



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Israeli military lacks the courage and combat capabilities to engage Hamas and other resistance forces in Gaza should Tel Aviv decide to launch a ground invasion of the besieged territory, says a high-ranking official with the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah. Deputy Secretary General Sheikh Naim Qassem made the remarks in a meeting with Ebrahim Azizi, the visiting Vice Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Iranian Parliament, in the Lebanese capital city of Beirut on Friday. Sheikh Qassem said Operation al-Aqsa Storm launched by Hamas on October 7 inflicted a heavy and overwhelming defeat on the Israeli enemy, and has been recorded in history forever. Operation al-Aqsa Storm has differentiated those who stand by Palestine from those who support the occupying regime and its aggression. Ongoing battles have proven the valor of resistance fighters, and exposed the savagery of Israel, the United States and their allies, Sheikh Qassem stated. "The cowardly enemy cannot triumph through the massacre of civilians, as it is too weak to be able to

emerge victorious in a battle on the ground against the resilient and steadfast heroes of Palestine." "The scenes on the battlefield reflect Israel's hesitation and apprehension of a ground battle," the Hezbollah official said, pointing to the steely determination of resistance fighters, ongoing rocket fire from Gaza as well as confrontations at Lebanon's border. He also warned, "Americans and Israelis do not know what days would befall them should the aggression continue." Sheikh Qassem also expressed gratitude to Iran and Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for providing unflinching support to the resistance front. The Israeli regime has been bombarding Gaza since October 7, when fighters from Hamas and other groups launched the operation against the occupying entity in response to its intensified crimes against the Palestinian people. The death toll in Gaza since has reached over 7,650 with more than 20,500 wounded. The UN General Assembly overwhelmingly passed a resolution on Friday, calling for the implementation of an immediate "humanitarian truce" in Gaza.



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Pakistanis in Tehran Observe Kashmir Black Day

TEHRAN - To commemorate the Kashmir Black Day, the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran organized an event on Sunday to express support of Pakistan government and the nation for the Kashmiri people in their just struggle against the continued Indian illegal occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. Members of Pakistani community including students, media persons and senior officers of Embassy participated in the event. On the occasion, the messages from the President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan were read out. Ambassador of Pakistan in Tehran, H.E. Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, highlighted that for the past more than seven decades, Kashmiris are victims of India's state sponsored terrorism, including gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, which have further intensified under the BJP-RSS combine "Hindu Rashta" project, under which sinister anti-Kashmiri policies are also being pursued to change the

demographic composition of the occupied territory. The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's call to the world leaders, international community including the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to urge India to halt the brute use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people and resolve the Kashmir Dispute as per the charter of the United Nations and various UNSC Resolution. The Ambassador thanked the Iranian leadership and civil society for their continued support to the Kashmir cause and the Palestinians. Speakers in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the India occupation forces in IIOJK. Photo exhibition was also held in the Chancery, which depicted the photos of oppressed people of IIOJK. At the end, a special prayer was held for the alleviation of suffering of innocent Kashmiris and for their freedom from barbaric and illegal India rule.

Iran Congratulates Turkey on Its Centenary



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The president of Iran hoped for stronger relations with Turkey as the neighboring state is marking the 100th anniversary of its Republic Day. In a message to his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi congratulated Turkey on the 100th anniversary of foundation of the modern republic. He also expressed hope for the expansion of political, economic and cultural relations between the two Muslim neighbors. "I am confident that cooperation and consultation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkey will have valuable blessings and benefits for the two nations and for the peace, stability and welfare of the regional and world countries," Raisi added. The Turkish Republic, founded from the ruins of the Ottoman Empire by the national independence hero Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, turned 100 on October 29. Erdogan will be front and center of day-long events that both honor the republic's founder and play up the achievement of AK party that has been running Turkey since 2002.

2.7m Tons of Commodities Traded on IME Last Week



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 2,792,668 ton of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$649m on its physical market. According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,217,411 tons of commodities valued at more than \$390m. On this floor the IME sold 1,284,994 tons of cement, 397,000 tons of iron ore, 365,147 tons of steel, 171,000 tons of sponge iron, 9,400 tons of zinc, 6,775 tons of copper, 6,545 tons of aluminum, 500 tons of coke, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 125 tons of lead. Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 406,916 tons of commodities worth more than \$206m. Commodities traded on this floor included 160,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 95,276 tons of polymeric products, 95,503 tons of bitumen, 36,536 tons of chemicals, 14,000 tons of lube cut, 6,028 tons of oil, 850 tons of sulfur, 802 tons of petroleum products, 350 tons of waterproofing materials and 270 tons of feedstocks. The IME also traded within the same week 74,341 tons of goods on its side market.

West Asia Accounts for 50% of Iran's Foreign Trade



TEHRAN - Some 50% of Iran's foreign trade is being carried out with West Asian countries, according to the director of West Asian department of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO). Farzad Piltan made the remarks in an online meeting on Saturday with Iranian cultural attaches in 17 different countries. Also speaking during the meeting the TPO Deputy for International Businesses Mohammad Sadeq Ghannadzadeh referred to the appointment of the new Saudi ambassador to Iran and said that the Saudi ambassador has expressed readiness to organize an economic meeting between the private sector actors of the two countries. He also said that measures are underway to lift the visa requirements for Iranian and Saudi businesspeople. The official noted that some 20 Iranian commercial attaches have currently been dispatched to different countries and Iran plans to increase the number to 35.

Mexican President Blasts Critics After Deadly Hurricane

ACAPULCO (Dispatches) - The death toll from a devastating hurricane this week in the Mexican beach resort of Acapulco has risen to 39, the government said on Saturday, as President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador accused his opponents of exaggerating the scale of the disaster. Hurricane Otis pounded Acapulco with winds of 165 miles per hour (266 kmph) on Wednesday, flooding the city, tearing roofs from homes, stores and hotels, submerging vehicles, and severing communications as well as road and air connections. The government, which previously reported 27 deaths with four others missing, has so far released little information about the dead and injured. Looting has continued and residents in hard-hit neighborhoods, struggling to find food and water, have accused the government of not delivering sufficient aid. Lopez Obrador on Saturday issued a 24-minute video on social media to update the country on the situation. He devoted much of it to attacking critics he accused of trying to exploit the situation ahead of next year's presidential election. "They circle like vultures, they don't care about people's pain, they want to hurt us, for there to have been lots of deaths," he said.



Pence Quits the Presidential Race After Struggling to Gain Traction



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Former Vice President Mike Pence on Saturday dropped his bid for the Republican presidential nomination, ending his campaign for the White House after struggling to raise money and gain traction in the polls. "It's become clear to me: This is not my time," Pence said at the Republican Jewish Coalition's annual gathering in Las Vegas. "So after much prayer and deliberation, I have decided to suspend my campaign for president effective today." "We always knew this would be an uphill battle, but I have no regrets," Pence went on to tell the friendly audience, which reacted with audible surprise to the announcement and gave him multiple standing ovations. Pence is the first major candidate to leave a race that has been dominated by his former boss-turned-rival, Donald Trump, and his struggles underscore just how much Trump has transformed the party. A former vice president would typically be seen as a formidable challenger in any primary, but Pence has struggled to find a base of support. Pence did not immediately endorse any of his rivals, but continued to echo language he has used to criticize Trump. "I urge all my fellow Republicans here, give our country a Republican standard-bearer that will, as Lincoln said, appeal to the better angels of our nature, and not only lead us to victory, but lead our nation with civility," he said. Pence's decision, more than two months before the Iowa caucuses that he had staked his campaign on, saves him from accumulating additional debt, as well as the embarrassment of potentially failing to qualify for the third Republican primary debate, on Nov. 8 in Miami. But his withdrawal is a huge blow for a politician who spent years biding his time as Trump's most loyal lieutenant, only to be scapegoated during their final days in office when Trump became convinced that Pence somehow had the power to overturn the results of the 2020 election and keep both men in office — a power Pence did not possess. While Pence averted a constitutional crisis by rejecting the scheme, he drew Trump's fury, as well as the wrath of many of Trump's supporters, who still believed his lies about the election and see Pence as a traitor. Among Trump critics, meanwhile, Pence was seen as an enabler who defended the former president at every turn and refused to criticize even Trump's most indefensible actions time and again. As a result, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research from August found that the majority of U.S. adults, 57%, viewed Pence negatively, with only 28% having a positive view.

Lukashenko Says Ukraine-Russia War at Stalemate, Urges Talks



MINSK (Dispatches) - Russia and Ukraine are locked in a stalemate on the frontlines of their war and the two sides need to sit down and negotiate an end to the conflict, Alexander Lukashenko, the authoritarian leader of Belarus and an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, said over the weekend. "There are enough problems on both sides and in general the situation is now seriously stalemate: no one can do anything and substantively strengthen or advance their position," Lukashenko said. "They're there head-to-head, to the death, entrenched. People are dying." Russian forces have kept pushing this week near the ruined Donetsk city of Avdiivka suffering heavy losses, the U.S. White House said, but the vast frontline in Ukraine has moved little in the past year despite Kyiv's gruelling months-long offensive. Lukashenko, who has provided his country's territory as a launch pad for Putin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, said that Ukraine's demands for Russia to quit its territory needs to be resolved at the negotiating table "so nobody dies." "We need to sit down at the negotiating table and come to an agreement," Lukashenko said in a question and answer video posted on the website of the Belarusian state news agency BelTA. "As I once said: no preconditions are needed. The main thing is that the 'stop' command is given." Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reiterated on Saturday at a gathering of over 60 national security advisers that his 10-point peace plan, which includes calls for the restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity, is the only way to end the war.



Erdogan Tells Pro-Palestinian Rally: Israel Is Occupier

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - President Tayyip Erdogan addressed hundreds of thousands of supporters at one of the largest pro-Palestinian rallies since the Israel-Hamas war began, courting his Islamist political base a day ahead of the centenary of Turkey's secular republic. "Israel has been openly committing war crimes for 22 days, but the Western leaders cannot even call on Israel for a ceasefire, let alone react to it," Erdogan told the crowd in Istanbul, who waved Palestinian flags. "We will tell the whole world that Israel is a war criminal. We are making preparations for this. We will declare Israel a war criminal," he said. In an hour-long speech, Erdogan also repeated his assertion that Hamas was not a terrorist organization, describing Israel as an occupier. Turkey has condemned Israeli civilian deaths caused by Hamas's Oct. 7 rampage through southern Israel, which killed 1,400, but Erdogan this week called the militant group Palestinian "freedom fighters." He also criticized some Western nations' unconditional support for Israel, drawing sharp rebukes from Italy and Israel. Unlike many NATO allies, the European Union and some Persian Gulf states, Turkey does not consider Hamas a terrorist organization. It has long hosted its members, supports a two-state solution and has offered to play a role in negotiating the release of hostages abducted by Hamas during the Oct. 7 assault. Political analysts said Erdogan was keen to reinforce his criticism of Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip and to overshadow Sunday's celebrations marking Turkey's secular roots. Sinan Ulgen, a former Turkish diplomat and director of the Centre for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies, an Istanbul-based think-tank, said Gaza's worsening humanitarian crisis and pressure from political allies had prompted Erdogan to sharpen his

rhetoric. Turkey "will protect its principles and share these with the international community, but it needs to do this with a more delicate diplomacy if it expects to play such a diplomatic role," Ulgen said. The heads of allied nationalist and Islamist parties - which helped Erdogan secure victory in tight May elections - attended the rally at Istanbul's old airport. Erdogan criticized opposition parties for not calling Netanyahu a "terrorist" and for using the same term with reference to Hamas. Erdogan had invited all Turks to attend the rally where he said "only our flag and the Palestine flag will wave". His Islamist-rooted AK Party had predicted more than a million people would come. Modern Turkey's 100th anniversary came on Sunday, when newspaper headlines were dominated by news of the Saturday rally rather than celebrations of the republic's founder, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, analysts say. Erdogan, Turkey's longest-serving leader, and his AK Party have eroded support for the Western-facing ideals of Ataturk, who is revered by most Turks. In recent years, Erdogan's portraits have appeared alongside those of Ataturk on government buildings and schools. "The symbolism is clear and no one in Turkey is unaware of it - that the pro-Palestinian rally is likely to overshadow celebrations for the centennial of the secular republic," said Asli Aydintasbas, visiting fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. She said that while Erdogan's comments about Hamas reflected Ankara's long-held position, he aimed to benefit from anti-Israel sentiment domestically and "consolidate Turkey's Sunni conservatives". The government has said the Israel-Hamas conflict will not restrict celebrations of the 100th anniversary, for which it has organized events across the country.



Thousands March for Palestinians in UK, France, Switzerland

LONDON (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of pro-Palestinian protesters marched in Britain calling for a ceasefire as Israel's army intensified its assault on the Gaza Strip. Thousands more demonstrated in France and Switzerland. As Israel's intense strikes provided cover for its ground forces to step up fighting in Gaza, the United Nations warning thousands more civilians could die. Israel unleashed its bombing campaign after Hamas gunmen stormed across the Gaza border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and seizing more than 220 hostages, according to Israeli officials. The Hamas-controlled health ministry in Gaza said Israeli strikes had since killed 7,703 people, mainly civilians, with more than 3,500 of them children. It was the third consecutive weekend that London hosted a large rally in support of Palestinians. One marcher, Dani Nadiri, 36, said UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's call for a "humanitarian pause" in the fighting to allow aid into Gaza and hostages to leave was not enough. "A full ceasefire needs to happen," Nadiri told AFP. "It's time now to do something rather than let it escalate any further." The demonstrators gathered at a central point by the River Thames at midday, before making their way to the UK parliament in Westminster. Noori Butt, from Luton in southern England, said she just wanted the war to end. "It can't go on like this. The world is dying and I want lasting peace for everybody. That's the way it should be," said the 38-year-old teacher. About 100,000 people joined the "March for Palestine" in London according to British media, which also reported scuffles with police. London's Metropolitan Police deployed more than 1,000 officers to patrol the march. Police arrested one protester on suspicion of assaulting an officer, and another for making racist remarks and threats to kill. Expressing support for Palestinians is allowed in Britain but praising Hamas - a banned in the UK as terrorist organisation - is not. Other rallies took place Saturday in Manchester and Glasgow, Scotland. Thousands of demonstrators took part in rallies across France on Saturday. Protesters joined one in Paris, defying a court ban issued on public order grounds. A large contingent of police blocked demonstrators in the centre of the capital. Among the protesters were elected officials, including a green MP and a far-left lawmaker. "The need for a ceasefire is urgent, to stop killing women, children and men," said Elsa Toure, the deputy mayor of Corbeil-Essonnes, south of Paris. Demonstrator Samia Orosemane carried a sign with the words: "Where has our humanity gone?" "It is not right that a ceasefire has not been called, that thousands of civilians are dying and no one is saying anything," she said. "In the country of human rights, we are prevented from protesting," she said of the ban on the march. An administrative court on Saturday upheld the ban, citing "the serious risk of disturbing public order" amid "heightened tensions linked to the events in the Gaza Strip with a rise in anti-Semitic acts in France". There was a 135-euro (\$143) fine for taking part. By the evening, police said they had made 21 arrests and issued more than 1,350 fines. Demonstrators also took to the streets in other French cities. And in Switzerland, organisers said 7,000 demonstrators gathered in Zurich, with police saying there were "several thousand". There were 2,000 in Lausanne, 1,800 in Geneva and over a thousand in Bern.



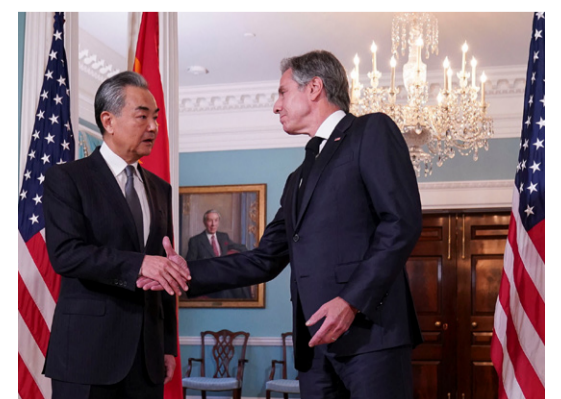
Bangladesh Opposition Protest Turns Violent Amid Calls for PM to Resign

DHAKA (Dispatches) - One police officer was killed in Bangladesh on Saturday and over 100 people injured during an opposition protest demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and calling for a free and fair vote under a caretaker government. Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets as clashes erupted when tens of thousands of supporters of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) gathered in the capital Dhaka, chanting slogans against the government. Dozens of vehicles, including police vans and ambulances, were set on fire, police and media said. Dhaka Metropolitan Police spokesman Faruq Hossain told reporters one officer had been killed and 41 others were injured in clashes with protesters. Several journalists were attacked and injured while trying to cover the clashes, media reports said. Security was tightened in the city in recent days as thousands of people arrived to attend the rally. Hundreds of opposition party activists have been arrested, BNP leaders said. The party has been calling on Hasina to resign to allow elections scheduled in January to be held under a neutral caretaker government - a demand her government has so far rejected. "Today's rally continued for hours in a perfectly disciplined and peaceful manner until all of a sudden the lobbing of tear gas shells started," senior BNP leader Abdul Moyeen Khan told Reuters. "The intensity increased and violent attacks with sounds of blasts and shootings turned the whole place into a war zone." The BNP has called for a dawn-to-dusk countrywide strike in protest against the police action. "I came to protest the enforced disappearances, murders, and oppression that we have suffered for the past 15 years. This government is not safe anymore for even a second," BNP supporter Arif Khan said. Hasina, who has maintained tight control since coming to power in 2009, has been accused of authoritarianism, human rights violations, cracking down on free speech and suppressing dissent while jailing her critics. Her government is under pressure from the Western countries to hold "free and fair" elections. In May, Washington said it would impose visa sanctions on Bangladeshis who undermine the democratic process at home, after accusations of vote-rigging and suppressing the opposition marred elections in 2014 and 2018. Hasina's government has denied the charges.

Road to Xi-Biden Summit Will Not Be Smooth

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the "road to the San Francisco summit will not be a smooth one", the foreign ministry said on Sunday, in a reference to an expected meeting between President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden. Wang met Biden and his top aides in Washington in recent days, agreeing to work together toward the expected bilateral meeting on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit. A flurry of bilateral diplomatic engagements in recent months, largely at U.S. request, has aimed at salvaging what were rapidly deteriorating ties early in the year following the U.S. downing of an alleged Chinese spy balloon. But in remarks on Saturday, Wang cautioned the road to the summit would not be a smooth one and travelling there would not be on "autopilot", the ministry said in a statement. He was speaking after a discussion with members of the U.S. strategic community in Washington, the ministry said. Last month, China's top security agency suggested any Xi-Biden

meeting in San Francisco hinged on the U.S. "showing sufficient sincerity". Wang said China and the U.S. needed to "return to Bali", referring to the last meeting between Biden and Xi, on the sidelines of a Group of 20 summit on the Indonesian resort island last November, where they discussed Taiwan, competition and communication. Washington and Beijing must put into practice the consensus achieved then, "remove interference, overcome obstacles, enhance consensus and gather outcomes", Wang said. He said both sides have jointly sent out positive signals to stabilise and improve relations, believing it is useful and necessary to maintain dialogue even as there are still various differences and contradictions, and issues to be resolved. Saturday's discussions also included in-depth exchanges on the interaction between China and U.S. militaries, finance, science and technology, China's investment environment and market access, as well as the Middle East and Ukraine crises.



Embiid and Maxey Spark 76ers Over Raptors, Pelicans Romp



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey each scored 34 points to power Philadelphia's 114-107 NBA comeback victory at Toronto. Reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Embiid added nine rebounds, eight assists a steal and two blocked shots for the 76ers while Maxey also contributed seven assists and six rebounds. The Raptors led 36-27 after the first quarter but Philadelphia, which dropped the season opener at Milwaukee on Thursday, battled back. "I feel good. I feel confident. We dropped one we shouldn't have on Thursday so we were determined to get one here," Maxey said. "We had a slow start, we've got to fix that, but once we got our feet wet and guys got comfortable, we really executed and got stops, so that helped us." Brandon Ingram scored 26 points and Zion Williamson added 24 to lead New Orleans over visiting New York 96-87, giving the Pelicans a 2-0 NBA start. Williamson, nagged by injuries as a rookie and again last year by a hamstring injury, hit 12-of-17 shots while Ingram made 11 of 17 to spark the Pelicans, who have missed the playoffs in four of the past five seasons. "They carried us offensively and that's what they need to do night in and night out," Pelicans coach Willie Green said. "Their gravity generates quality shots for us and for themselves. I thought tonight they both did a spectacular job." New Orleans limited the Knicks to 12 points in the first quarter and New

York never recovered. "That's the defense we want to see night in and night out," Green said. "We're flying around, contesting shots, having each other's backs." R.J. Barrett led the Knicks with 18 points while Julius Randle had 10 points and 12 rebounds. Green has high hopes Williamson can live up to the lofty expectations for him when he was made the top pick in the 2019 NBA Draft. "He's special. He's handling the ball, seeing what options he has and then he just takes off," Green said. "His touch around the basket -- I don't know if anybody else in the league can do what he does at his size. It's special to watch." Chicago's Zach LaVine scored 51 points in a losing cause, the Bulls falling at Detroit 118-102. LaVine hit 19-of-32 shots from the floor, including 7-of-13 from 3-point range, and made 6-of-8 from the free throw line. But Cade Cunningham scored 25 points and passed off 10 assists while Jalen Duren added 23 points and grabbed a game-high 15 rebounds to lead the Pistons to victory. Washington's Jordan Poole scored 27 points and Kyle Kuzma added 21 points and 13 rebounds to spark the host Wizards over Memphis 113-106 despite 26 points by Desmond Bane 26 to lead the Grizzlies. Reserve Aaron Nesmith scored 26 points to lead the Indiana Pacers to a 125-113 victory at Cleveland while Naz Reid's 25 points off the bench led Minnesota's 106-90 home romp over Miami.

Hurkacz Battles Into Basel Final



BASEL (Dispatches) - Hubert Hurkacz beat Ugo Humbert in the Swiss Indoors semi-finals on Saturday to inch closer to a place in the season-ending ATP Finals. Hurkacz overcame dogged resistance to beat the Frenchman 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5). The Pole gained ground on the man who holds the eighth and final place for Turin as Danish top seed Holger Rune lost to Canadian Felix Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 6-2. The top eight players this year will qualify for the season-ending event in November. Ahead of Sunday's final, Rune leads Hurkacz by 215 points. But if the Pole wins he will trim the gap to just 15 points ahead of the Paris Masters. Hurkacz said he would focus on beating Auger-Aliassime. "I try to shut down the noise and do my job, because ultimately if you can do that then you give yourself the best chance," Hurkacz said. Hurkacz gained the only break to win the first set. Humbert managed the lone break in the second set. In the third, Hurkacz broke in the eighth game but Humbert hit straight back. The Frenchman survived two match points in his next service game but Hurkacz took his first chance in the tie-break to win in two hours and 38 minutes. Auger-Aliassime reached his first final since he won the same event last year, when he beat Rune in the final. It was also the Canadian's first victory over a top-10 player this season. He arrived in Basel struggling, having won just four of his past 12 matches.

Leclerc Grabs Surprise Pole for Mexico Grand Prix

MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - A surprised Charles Leclerc admitted he did not expect his success on Saturday after he secured pole position ahead of team-mate Carlos Sainz as Ferrari locked out the front row for the Mexico Grand Prix. In a chaotic and confusing qualifying session that seemed set to see Max Verstappen on pole again, Ferrari emerged in Q3 with a surge of pace that surprised almost everyone. The Monegasque clocked a best lap in one minute and 17.166 seconds to beat the Spaniard by 0.067 seconds, leaving newly-crowned three-time world champion Verstappen third for Red Bull. "It's two weekends in a row where we say that we don't know if we have the pace," said Leclerc. "People will start not believing us anymore! To be honest, I did not expect to be on pole today -- I thought we were lucky after FP3. "But once we put everything together it all went well. The new tyres gained a lot, but I am already focusing on tomorrow's race. We may have pole position, but now we need to convert it into a win and obviously it is going to be very difficult." Sainz admitted: "It was a strange one. This whole weekend I've struggled to put a lap together then the first lap I put together in Q3 was P1 and suddenly Charles beat me by half a tenth, one tenth... I'm just struggling to understand where we can find half a second -- and then we go half a second slower in the next lap. It's very tricky with the tyres." The feeling with the car is very strange around this circuit, but we managed to put a good lap in when it counted," he added. Verstappen, who will be hunting a 51st career win in Sunday's race, said: "It's very difficult here... It's very low grip around here because of the altitude so when you try and push a little bit more it goes a bit away from you." We're very close and it's a very long race with a lot of laps to be raced. Of course, I would have liked to start first, but we'll have a good slipstream into turn one so we'll see what happens." After dominating all three practice sessions, it was

a surprise to see the 26-year-old Dutchman unable to stay on top as Ferrari found a surge of additional pace in the final Q3 section of qualifying. Daniel Ricciardo was fourth for Alpha Tauri ahead of local hero Sergio Perez in the second Red Bull, seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes and Oscar Piastri of McLaren. George Russell was eighth in the second Mercedes ahead of the Alfa Romeo pair of Valtteri Bottas and Zhou Guanyu. Three of the top ten -- Verstappen, Hamilton and Russell -- faced stewards' investigations for infringements during qualifying. Hamilton for ignoring yellow flags and Russell and Verstappen for holding up the field in the pitlane. It is Leclerc's fourth pole position success this year and the 22nd of his career, but he is without a win this season and has struggled to convert poles to wins. His last victory was at the 2022 Austrian Grand Prix, the fifth of his career.

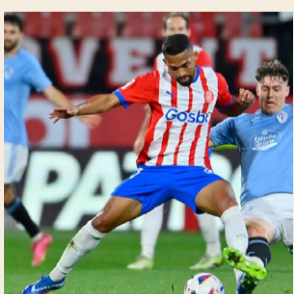


Neuer Admits Ter Stegen Is Germany Number One After Comeback



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer admitted that he was no longer Germany number one after making an emotional return to Bundesliga action from a year-long injury. Neuer made his first appearance since breaking his leg last December in Bayern's 8-0 win over Darmstadt, but admitted afterwards that he faced a fight to dislodge Barcelona rival Marc-Andre ter Stegen from the national team goal. "He is definitely number one at the moment, but that is not something I am thinking about right now," said the 37-year-old, who is hoping to take part in his fourth European Championship when Germany host Euro 2024 next summer. "I feel positive about the national team. We have great goalkeepers and I am looking forward to the Euros," he said, adding that he had spoken to new Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann the previous day. "For now, I am just happy to be back and that my comeback went so well." Neuer, whose last game for Bayern came in November 2022 against Schalke, admitted that he was nervous ahead of his return to action. "It is always possible that something happens when you come back after a long injury. You can debate for ages about when is the right point to come back. I had a good feeling and I gave the coach the green light," he said. "It was a very emotional day. I was very excited to be back with the boys on the pitch again in front of our fans." Neuer refused to swap shirts with Darmstadt keeper Marcel Schuhen after the game, admitting that he wanted to keep his own shirt as a souvenir. "He understood. I'll make sure I give him a shirt when we play them later in the season," he said.

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 Cristhian 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.

Bellingham Brace Earns Real Madrid Clasico Win at Barcelona

BARCELONA (Dispatches) - Jude Bellingham's stunning double snatched Real Madrid a 2-1 comeback victory at Barcelona in his first La Liga Clasico. The England international, who has started his Madrid career in remarkable goalscoring form, unleashed a rocket into the top corner from distance after Ilkay Gundogan had sent hosts Barcelona ahead at the Olympic Stadium. Bellingham then fired home a second in stoppage time from close range to silence Barcelona fans and reach 10 goals in the top flight this season. Barcelona hit the woodwork twice and had the better of the game but Bellingham, La Liga's top goalscorer, is in unstoppable form and inevitably made his mark in his first Clasico. Bellingham's brace sent Madrid to the top of La Liga, ahead of Girona on goal difference, with both teams four points ahead of Barcelona in third. "I love these comebacks, it played with my heart a little bit (but) they're always so fun to play in," Bellingham told Real Madrid TV. "We didn't give up and I'm so happy I could do it." Bellingham didn't waste time celebrating his equalizer, keeping a cool head and quickly preparing to re-start the game, in search of the eventual winner. "He seems like a veteran... the goal to level it totally changed the game," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said of his 20-year-old match-winner. "What was surprising today was his shot, he's always arriving in the box, today he scored a stupendous goal from in front of the area." Bellingham has now scored 13 goals in 13 games for Real Madrid across all competitions. "He can get to 20 or 25 goals, because he has started very well," added Ancelotti. Barcelona could not believe the points had slipped out of their hands after a strong performance. "The summary is simple, we had 60 very good minutes where we scored a goal, they had 20 to 25 minutes and they



scored two," said coach Xavi. "I think Madrid's victory today is unjust... they were much more efficient than us, that is the big difference." Barcelona were boosted by the returns of Robert Lewandowski, Jules Kounde and Raphinha from injury, with Xavi naming them on the bench. His counterpart Ancelotti once again deployed Bellingham in the number 10 role as he got his first taste of arguably the world's biggest club football match. "The message for everyone, the players too, is that this season is long, it's the 11th game," said Xavi, trying to rouse his troops who seemed despondent at full-time. In contrast, Bellingham was naturally overjoyed. "It was a little bit emotional thinking about all the times I watched (the Clasico) on my sofa with my family," added Bellingham. "I said to them today it was my turn to make an impression -- I've done that and I'm really happy."