

President Ebrahim Raisi in a Congratulatory Message to His Algerian Counterpart Abdelmadjid Tebboune Congratulated Him and Algerian People Over the Anniversary of the Revolution in Algeria

IRAN NEWS

On the Sidelines of the Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani Announced That the Long-Range Defense System Named Martyr Aliverdi Will Be Unveiled Soon

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Jabalia Another Disgrace Added to List of Zionist Crimes



TEHRAN (MNA) - The Iranian president said that the brutal bombing of the Jabalia refugee camp with the direct participation of the U.S. is another disgrace in the list of Zionist crimes. Speaking during a government cabinet meeting on Wednesday, the Iranian president condemned the Israeli regime's deadly attack on Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp. Ebrahim Raisi called the savage bombing of the Jabalia refugee camp and the killing of innocent people a continuation of the Zionist regime's war crimes against humanity in the past 20 days, emphasizing the direct role of the United States in these crimes through equipping this regime with weapons and other types of military aid. He pointed out that the events in Gaza are a show of inhumane actions in front of the eyes of the international community, noting that these crimes indicate the failure of international organizations to establish security. These crimes showed that many international treaties and the United Nations Charter have lost their prestige and effectiveness, he said, adding that the international community must reconsider these mechanisms at the request of public opinion. The President stated that the decisive vote of the members of the General Assembly to approve the cease-fire resolution in Gaza could lead to the isolation of the United States in the international community while describing the approach of some Western countries in accompanying the Zionist regime in crimes against humanity as a manifestation of double standards in international systems. Gaza officials have said that dozens of people were killed in the strike carried out by the Zionist Israeli regime military on Jabalia refugee camp in the north of the Gaza Strip. There was an Israeli air attack that targeted a group of residential homes in Jabalia camp in the north of Gaza on Tuesday afternoon.

Al-Aqsa Storm Opened New Chapter for Palestine, Muslim World



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri says the Palestinian resistance groups' Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shattered the Israeli regime's delusion of grandeur and ushered in a new chapter for Palestine, the West Asia region, and the Muslim world. Baqeri made the remarks in a ceremony held in the Iranian capital of Tehran on Wednesday to commemorate the martyrdom of thousands of innocent Palestinians, including women and children, on the 26th day of the large-scale Hamas-led operation against the occupied territories in response to the illegal entity's decades-long crimes in Palestine. "The valiant, surprising and unparalleled defense of Palestinian combatants in Operation Al-Aqsa Storm will be the harbinger of a new chapter for Palestine, the region and the Islamic world," Baqeri said. "The operation showed that all the notions that the Zionists and their masters had concocted were absurd and meaningless, and all their false delusion of grandeur fell into pieces with this flawless and precise operation," he added. Underlining that the Israeli regime's disgraceful defeat cannot be repaired and compensated, the top Iranian general said the bombing of innocent people, women, children and the elderly is not and will not be a sign of might and victory for the Zionist regime. "The enemy, who is unable to face confrontation on the battlefield, kills innocent and defenseless people in hospitals, ambulances and houses with planes donated by criminals," Baqeri said. "This is the reality of the United States, Europe and global arrogance, which have displayed the apex of brutality before the eyes of the world," he added. "Most of the people in the world have shouted for a ceasefire, but the criminal US says a truce, at the present time, suggests the defeat of Israel." The chief of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces echoed earlier remarks by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and said holding a referendum with the presence of all the Palestinian people, both Muslims and non-Muslims, was the sole way to resolve the decades-long conflict. "There is no fate and end in sight for this battle except the victory of Palestinians, today, all the people across the world are crying out for an end to these crimes and demand relief aid to the people in Gaza," Baqeri said. "Should the neighboring countries of Palestine allow people to pass, millions of freedom-seekers of the world will show up at the borders of this holy land to help Palestine," he added. Affirming that the future of Palestine is quite clear, the top Iranian general said, "The future belongs to the Palestinian people and the aggressors and foreign immigrants must leave this land and they have no choice but to do so."



Leader Calls for Stopping Exports of Oil and Other Commodities to Tel Aviv

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called upon Muslim states to press for an end to the ongoing Israeli atrocities against the besieged Gaza Strip, impose sanctions on the Tel Aviv regime and stop oil and goods exports to the occupied territories. Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks during a meeting with students from across the country on Wednesday, ahead of the National Student Day and the National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance, which Iranians celebrate on November 4. The Leader lauded the Palestinians for their resistance and steadfastness in the face of Israeli atrocities in the besieged Gaza Strip, stating that their resilience has aroused the human conscience. "What Muslim states must insist on is the immediate cessation of [Israeli] crimes in Gaza. They must promptly stop the bombardment of Gaza, and stop the export of oil and other commodities to the Zionist regime," he said. "Muslim states must not cooperate economically with the Zionist regime, but denounce these catastrophes and crimes vociferously and without hesitation in all international forums." "The scale and circumstances of what is going on must be clarified. The Zionist regime must be condemned, and the entire Muslim world must be mobilized against it," the Leader added. Ayatollah Khamenei lauded the Palestinians for their resistance and steadfastness in the face of the devastating Israeli onslaught against the Gaza Strip, saying their resilience aroused the human conscience. The Leader noted that protesters in Western countries, Britain, France, Italy and various US states have taken to the streets en masse and chanted slogans in condemnation of Israel and the United States. "It was an absolute disgrace for them, which they can neither recover from nor justify," the Leader said. "The Muslim world should not forget that all through the critical issue of Gaza, the party which stood against Islam and the oppressed Palestinian nation was [the United States of] America, France and Britain." "In its transactions, equations and analyses, the Muslim world should not forget parties that are standing against and exerting pressure on the oppressed people of Palestine. It is simply the Zionist regime," Ayatollah Khamenei added. He went on to say that the central issue nowadays is not the Israeli war on Gaza, but rather, the battle between the truth and falsehood, and the fight between the power of faith and the power of arrogance. "Of course, the power of arrogance comes with military pressure, bombardment as well as calamities and crimes; but the power of faith will overcome all of these by God's grace." The Leader also said "The blow to the Zionist regime is irreparable. I said this at the beginning, I emphasize it now, and I repeat it. It's now gradually shown in the words of the Zionist regime's officials that the blow they received is not a blow that can be compensated. They cannot compensate." "The Zionist regime is now helpless and confused. Tel Aviv lies to his own people. The fact that they express concern about their captives in the hands of the Palestinians is also a lie. This lying is out of haplessness. The Israeli bombings may kill their own captives." Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that, "Now, the Zionist regime is in shock and confused. It doesn't know what to do. If it was not and will not be the help of the United States, the Zionist regime will definitely collapse in a matter of days." Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei described the 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Tehran by students as a sharp blow by the Iranian nation to Washington. "The U.S. was disgraced [on November 4, 1979]. This was the blow of the Iranian nation to America," he said. The Leader explained that Americans harmed the Iranian nation on two November 4 occasions, one being in 1964, when they forced Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the late founder of the Islamic Revolution, into exile, and another time during the massacre of students in Tehran in 1978 at the hands of the former Pahlavi regime. "During the fateful days of the Iranian nation's revolution, the Shah's police slaughtered students right in front of the University [of Tehran]," he noted. "It was ten months after the victory of the Revolution that students entered the [US] embassy [on November 4, 1979], took over the mission, and disclosed the secrets and confidential documents being stored there," the Leader said.

Iran Oil Production Hits 3.4m bpd



TEHRAN (Shana) - Oil Minister Javad Owji on Wednesday announced that Iran's oil production has reached 3.4 million barrels per day (bpd). Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the weekly cabinet session, the minister said the country's oil output amounted to 2.2m bpd when the incumbent administration took office two years ago. The figure has now soared to 3.4m bpd thanks to the Oil Ministry's measures over the past 24 months, he mentioned. Given the ministry's plans and investments in onshore and offshore fields, domestic oil output will hopefully increase, Owji added. Statistics showed a 19.8 percent economic growth for the oil and gas industry in spring 2023, recalled the minister, expressing hope that the upward trend will continue.

FM Meets With Hamas Leader Haniyeh



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has met with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in second such encounter since a conflict erupted between the Palestinian resistance group and the Israeli regime on October 7. Amir-Abdollahian and Haniyeh met on Tuesday in the Qatari capital of Doha where the top Iranian diplomat was briefed about the latest situation of people in Gaza amid ongoing Israel aggression on the small blockaded territory. "The region is at a critical juncture and the resistance groups in the region make decisions independently and they do not necessarily wait for political decisions," Amir-Abdollahian said. "Therefore, if the war crimes of the Zionist regime continue and the scope of conflict and war widens, no party will remain unaffected by the consequences and repercussions," he added. For his part, Haniyeh said the Palestinian resistance is at the peak of its strength and capabilities. Therefore, instead of engaging with the resistance forces, the occupying regime continues to target Palestinian civilians, he said. He added that the amount of explosives used against the residents and residential areas of Gaza exceeds the volume of the atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Hiroshima, expressing regret that the Israeli attacks are carried out with full support from the United States and some European countries. Haniyeh serves as head of the political bureau of Hamas, the top office in the resistance group which is based in Doha and deals with various issues, including attracting foreign support for Gaza's fight against Israel and its decades-long occupation of Palestine. Amir-Abdollahian and Haniyeh had met in Doha on October 14, a week after Hamas launched a successful military operation against Israeli settlers and military forces in the occupied territories near Gaza. The operation, dubbed Al-Aqsa Storm, led to some 1,400 deaths on the Israeli side and was described as the worst defeat suffered by the regime in 75 years since its creation. Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Qatar earlier on Tuesday to coordinate and discuss efforts needed for an immediate stop in the fighting in Gaza. Tehran has announced it is ready to use its relations with Hamas to work out a ceasefire deal between the group and the Israelis, although Iran does not have any relations with the regime. The Iranian foreign minister held meetings with senior Qatari officials on Tuesday before departing for Turkey to continue his diplomatic efforts to help find a solution to the crisis in Palestine.

Israeli Regime's Representative "Odious Behavior" Example of Promoting Hatred

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeid Iravani has said that the Israeli regime's representative's "odious behavior is a clear example of promoting hatred and should be unequivocally condemned." Iravani said so in letters sent to Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres and President of the Security Council of the UN Sergio Franca Danese on Tuesday (October 31, 2023) local time. Below is some excerpt of his letter: I am writing to express my strong condemnation and categorical rejection of the recent hate speech, racist remarks, and unfounded allegations made by the representative of the Israeli regime against my Country during the emergency session of the UN Security Council held on October 30, 2023, under the agenda item "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question" (S/2023/9462). Given the format of the meeting, which prevented the Iranian delegation from participating and responding to the unfounded accusations made against my Country, I would like to bring the following points to the attention of the Council members: 1. Once again, the Israeli regime's representative misused the Security Council chamber to spread Iran's phobia and made fabrications and baseless accusations against Iran. Not content with these unfounded allegations, he then resorted to spreading lies, disinformation, and hateful and inflammatory language, while attacking the dignity of Iranian officials. This odious behavior is a clear example of promoting hatred and should be unequivocally condemned. 2. This provocative and irresponsible behavior is entirely consistent with the Israeli regime's long record of utilizing deception and lies as tools. Just last week, following the United Nations Secretary-General's fact-based statement during the UN Security Council open debate on the Palestine issue held on 24 October 2023 (S/2023/9451), in which he correctly stated that Hamas's actions did not occur in isolation or in a vacuum, the Israeli regime's representative attacked the Secretary-General's dignity and engaged in hate speech, even going so far as to demand his resignation as the highest official of the United Nations. 3. The authorities of this regime openly disregard any respect or acknowledgment of the United Nations and openly declare non-compliance with UN resolutions. However, they opportunistically utilize the UN platform to propagate hate, disseminate disinformation, and divert international attention away from the severe atrocities being perpetrated against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. This manipulation is facilitated by the unwavering support of the United States. 4. Israel, the occupying apartheid regime, has continued to



blatantly violate the fundamental principles and norms of international law, notably international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in occupied Palestine for over seven decades. These violations include brutal massacres, the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, the deliberate targeting of civilians, notably women and children, as well as critical and civilian infrastructure, and the use of starvation as a method of warfare against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. All these criminal actions constitute the gravest international crimes, and their documentation by relevant international bodies is meticulous and extensive. As a result, the Israeli regime must be held accountable and not be permitted to evade responsibility or avoid punishment through disinformation campaigns or by attempting to shift blame onto others. 5. The Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the international community, in particular the UN Security Council, to fulfill its responsibilities and take resolute actions. These actions must compel the Israeli regime to end its occupation, cease its acts of aggression, and adhere unwaveringly to its international obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law. 6. I would like to take this opportunity to categorically reject the unsubstantiated allegations against my Country in the letters dated 24 August, 8 and 11 October 2023 from the representative of the Israeli regime addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2023/623, S/2023/744, S/2023/756). It is evident that the Israeli regime is attempting to justify and conceal its criminal acts and atrocities against the Palestinian people in occupied Palestine, along with its persistent breaches of UNSCR 1559 (2004) and 1701 (2006), by levying such unfounded accusations.

IRAN NEWS



Iranian Reporters to Be Dispatched to Gaza

TEHRAN (IP) - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance says a group of Iranian reporters will be sent to Gaza with the Red Crescent Society's ships. Mohammad-Mahdi Esmaili told reporters on Wednesday the reporters will be dispatched to Gaza for better reflection of the Palestinians' victory and the Israeli regime's crimes in Gaza. Esmaili told reporters on the sideline of the cabinet session that the squad of Iranian reporters will go to Gaza under the title of "The Narrative of Victory". He referred to the role of Iranian cultural attaches and noted that they strongly stepped in to elaborate the oppression and crime against the Gazan people under the Israeli regime's attack.

Iran, Iraq Stress Using National Currencies for Bilateral Trade Exchanges



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Officials from Iran and Iraq stressed the need to use the national currencies to enhance mutual trade relations. Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Aliabadi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani emphasized using the national currencies of 'rials' and 'dinar' for bilateral trade exchanges. During their meeting in Baghdad on Tuesday, the two sides discussed bilateral ties and explored avenues for using the national currencies in bilateral trade exchanges and financial transactions. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office said, "Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani hosted Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Abbas Aliabadi. In this meeting, the two sides explored avenues for strengthening bilateral relations and bolstering mutual trade exchanges and participating in various fields."



Tehran, Ankara Discuss Israeli War on Gaza

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has met with his Turkish counterpart Hakan Fidan in Ankara to discuss efforts needed for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, as the Israeli regime continues its acts of aggression against the besieged enclave. The two foreign ministers held a meeting behind closed doors in the Turkish capital on Wednesday, to exchange views on finding a solution to secure a ceasefire in Gaza and an immediate end to the Israeli crimes in Gaza, as they discuss the latest developments in the region and some issues of mutual interest. Amir-Abdollahian and Fidan will participate in a joint press conference after the meeting. This is the second meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries since the Israeli regime started its brutal war against the Palestinians living in Gaza. Two weeks ago, Amir-Abdollahian and Fidan met on the sidelines of the extraordinary meeting of the Executive

Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah. In the meeting, the two sides discussed the current Palestinian developments, especially the disastrous situation in Gaza, and ways of ending the merciless killing of Palestinians by the Israeli regime. Amir-Abdollahian arrived in Ankara early on Wednesday a day after he took a trip to the Qatari capital of Doha and held meetings with senior Qatari officials, including the Arab country's Emir, to continue his diplomatic efforts to help find a solution to the crisis in Palestine. The top Iranian diplomat is also scheduled to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during the daylong trip. Tehran has already announced it is ready to use its relations with the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas to work out a ceasefire deal between the group and the Israelis, although Iran does not have any relations with the occupying regime.

Iranian Trade Delegation to Visit Tajikistan



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Iran-Tajikistan Joint Chamber of Commerce is going to send a trade delegation to Dushanbe during November 7-12, concurrent with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to the country. The visit of this delegation has been organized in collaboration with the ICCIMA and Trade Promotion Organization (TPO). Holding a business conference with the presence of economic operators and officials of the two countries and business visits during the trip will be part of the plans of this visit. In a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mehdi Zeyghami and Tajikistan's Ambassador in Tehran Nizamuddin Zahedi, in late July, the two sides discussed the ways of removing trade barriers and improving economic relations between the two countries. Speaking in the meeting, the Tajik ambassador emphasized that his country is eager for expanding trade ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Zeyghami for his part said that President Ebrahim Raisi's administration attaches great importance to trade ties with neighboring countries, including Tajikistan, and proposed holding a joint business forum between the two countries during the Iranian president's upcoming visit to Dushanbe. He also pointed to the decrease in the volume of trade between the two countries and noted that TPO is conducting research for identifying the causes and is taking the necessary measures to remove the obstacles to the development of trade between Iran and Tajikistan. The official further announced that Iran is going to dispatch a commercial attaché to Tajikistan by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2024).

Iran, Thailand FMs Hold Talks in Doha



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Thai counterpart Parnpree Bahiddha-nukara held talks in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday. Expressing satisfaction with the meeting and referring to the situation in Gaza, the Thai top diplomat voiced concern about the current developments in the Palestinian enclave. He urged Iran to play a role in helping to release a number of Thai nationals who, according to him, have been captured by the forces of the Hamas movement during the recent developments. Elaborating on Tehran's view vis-a-vis the current developments in Palestine, the Iranian foreign minister said he would convey Thailand's request to the political officials of the Hamas movement. Amirabdollahian noted that Hamas is a liberation movement that does not seek to take hostages, the Iranian Foreign Ministry's website reported. He added: "With the discussions I had today with the high political officials of the Hamas movement, the issue of such citizens was also discussed. Hamas officials have emphasized that if the relentless attacks of the Zionist regime on Gaza stop, they are ready to consider such requests and proceed to release such citizens immediately."

U.S. in Command of Massacre in Gaza



BEIJING (IP) - The Supreme Advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of Iran's Armed Forces said the U.S. is in command of massacring Palestinians in Gaza. Delivering a speech at the international conference of common security and sustainable peace held in Beijing, China, Major General Yahya Safavi pointed out that the U.S. is in command of the political, military, and media campaign of massacring Palestinians in Gaza. General Safavi said the world is still witnessing the destruction of hundreds of houses, and hospitals, killing and injuring thousands of people, and cutting off water, electricity, fuel, medicine, and food in Gaza. All nations and states are required to form a discourse in the international arena for protecting global security, he stressed and recalled that security is the greatest divine gift and a basis for all the advancements of humankind. The top Iranian commander said the U.S. hegemony and unilateralism failed after adopting the wrong military campaign strategy and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq for 20 years such that it spent more than 7,000 billion dollars and did not achieve any of its political, economic, military, and security goals and finally was forced to withdraw from Afghanistan.

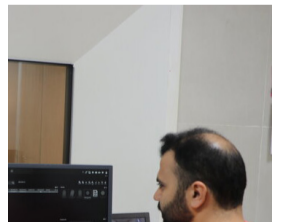
Transit of Goods Via Iran Rises 15%

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Transit of commodities through Iran increased by 14.97 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced. Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that 9.3 million tons of commodities were transited via the country in the first seven of the present year. As previously announced by the deputy transport minister, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20). Shahriyar Afandizadeh also announced that Iran registered a new record high with the transit of 8.3 million tons of non-oil goods in 1401, adding that 2.5 million tons of oil products were also transited via the country in the previous year. "Considering the transit of 7.5 million tons of non-oil goods in 1400, we have seen a 10.7-percent growth in the transit of this type of goods in 1401 compared to the previous year", the official said. "In 1401, we witnessed important developments and achievements in the strategic and operational areas of the country's transit, whose definitive effects will be seen gradually and steadily on the growth of transit from the country in 1402 and the coming years", the deputy transport minister further highlighted. Afandizadeh then explained: "In line with the activation and development of the North-South International Transport Corridor, in a tripartite meeting in last September between the high-ranking officials of our country and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, while

aiming to achieve the transit of 15 million tons of goods through this corridor by 2030, agreements were reached in the field of strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in joint investment and financing, the completion and development of key infrastructures and their exploitation, especially the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway line, facilitating cross-border traffic of goods and increasing the quality and quantity of this traffic", adding that the implementation of these agreements is being followed up. He went on to say, "One of the most important events last year was Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In a short period of time after the meeting of the heads of Shanghai in September 1401 in Samarkand, the first six-party meeting of the transport ministers of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, in addition to Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Tehran in October 1401 with the goal of achieving 20-million tons of annual transit between Iran and Central Asian countries, as an area with a very high role and importance in east-west and north-south transit, especially after the recent regional and international developments, which was approved by the members." This year, the issue of transit and playing a role in major programs such as those related to China's Belt and Road Initiative, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is one of the main priorities of the Transport Ministry in developing transport relations with regional and extra-regional target countries, the deputy transport minister noted.

WHO, Japan Strengthen Resilience of the Iranian Health System

TEHRAN (MNA) - WHO announced the culmination of a project that saw 6 state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) machines, which the Government of Japan generously funded, successfully installed in Iranian hospitals. This initiative represents a significant stride in bolstering the diagnostic capacity and resilience of the Islamic Republic of Iran's health system, ultimately enhancing the overall quality of patient care. The advanced 1.5 Tesla MRI machines have been strategically placed in key referral hospitals identified by the Iranian Ministry of Health and Medical Education. The recipient hospitals are Kosar Hospital, Semnan; Hajar Hospital, Shahrekord; Pasteur Hospital, Bam; 12 Farvardin Hospital, Kahnooj; Imam Ali Hospital, Andimeshk; and Shohada Hospital, Neyriz. Within the framework of the project for strengthening capacity of health for COVID-19 crisis in the Islamic Republic of Iran, through provision of six MRI machines, more communities across the country now have access to vital medical imaging technology, removing the need for patients to travel long distances for diagnostic services. To ensure the environmental safety and protection of the hospitals and surrounding areas, an environmental assessment was carried out. Any issues were promptly addressed, guaranteeing that the installation of the MRI machines meets the highest social and environmental standards. Health professionals in the 6 hospitals have received comprehensive training on how to operate cutting-edge imaging devices. This training empowers medical staff to harness the full potential of the MRI machines, enabling accurate diagnoses and early detection of diseases. This newfound capability will significantly enhance patient outcomes and provide invaluable support to the Iranian health system.



Iran Says Talks With Afghanistan Over Hamoun Water Share "Fruitful"

ZAHEDAN (IRNA) - Vice President and the Head of the country's Department of Environment said that Tehran and Kabul have had fruitful talks on the water share of Iran's International Hamoun Wetland. Ali Salajeghe said that the Afghan officials have pledged to release the water share of the Hamoun Wetland as soon as there is enough precipitation in Afghanistan. He added that further talks are still underway between Tehran and Kabul in this regard. Noting that the government will not tolerate the hardship of the people for meeting their needs for water, the official said that there is no room for concern even if the precipitation conditions go worse in Sistan-Baluchestan Province.

Erdogan:

Israel committing crimes against humanity with West support

TEHRAN, Oct. 31 (MNA) – Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that the Israeli regime is committing crimes against humanity with the support of the US and European Union. Saying that the Israeli regime has been committing crimes against humanity in the past 25 days with the support of the US and the European Union, Erdogan told reporters following a cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara on Tuesday that Turkey is holding discussions to make sure that perpetrators behind war crimes in Gaza are held accountable before the law. Erdogan also criticized Western countries for their complicity in the Israeli regime's war crimes, Daily Sabah reported. The Western world, mainly European countries, have failed their humanity lesson once again in Gaza, he said, adding that they have completely lost their credibility.

**Jihadists Kill 17 People in Northeast Nigeria**

ANAMBRA (Dispatches) - Jihadists affiliated to the Islamic State group killed 17 people in a raid on a remote village in northeast Nigeria after villagers refused to pay an illicit tax, anti-jihadist militia and a resident told AFP Tuesday. Scores of fighters from Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) stormed the remote farming and herding village of Kayayya in Yobe State late on Monday, 150 kilometres from the state capital Damaturu, hurling explosives and opening fire, the sources said. "The terrorists attacked the village around 8:00 pm (1900 GMT) with explosives and guns while the residents were chatting away the night," said Gremah Bukar, a militia member who assists the military fighting the jihadists. "They then opened fire on those residents who tried to flee. They killed 17 people and injured five others," Bukar said. According to a Yobe state police report, 20 people were killed and parts of the village razed before the militants fled. A Yobe state security official did not immediately respond to a request for confirmation. The attack was in response to the villagers' refusal to pay jihadists a tax they demanded on cattle, Abubakar Adamu, said another militia member who gave the same toll. Militants and armed groups in remote parts of Nigeria sometimes demand "taxes" on communities as a way to exercise control and raise funds. Babagana Kyari, a resident of Geidam town, said the five injured in the Kayayya attack were taken to the general hospital in the town for medical attention. "One of the injured victims said the ISWAP insurgents attacked the village because they told them they would not pay the cattle levy they imposed on the village," said Kyari who visited the injured at the hospital. A Yobe state police report said 20 people were killed and that parts of the village were razed before the militants fled. Over the last two years, jihadists have carried out attacks beyond their stronghold in northeast Borno State, the heart of the country's 14-year-long Islamist militant conflict. Yobe, Borno state's immediate neighbour, has also borne the brunt of the jihadist violence, including deadly raids on villages, military bases, schools and markets, as well as mass abductions. In April last year, ISWAP jihadists killed 11 people in attacks on bars and a technical college in Geidam, days after six people were killed and 16 injured in an explosion targeting another bar in northeastern Taraba state. On Wednesday ISWAP claimed responsibility for an explosion at a bar in northeast Taraba state the day before which local police said killed six people and injured 16 others. Nigeria's jihadist conflict has killed 40,000 people and displaced around two million from their homes in the northeast since it erupted in 2009, according to the UN.

Bolivia Severs Ties With Israel, Others Recall Envoys

LA PAZ (Dispatches) - Bolivia said on Tuesday it had broken diplomatic ties with Israel because of its attacks on the Gaza Strip, while neighbors Colombia and Chile recalled their ambassadors to the Middle Eastern country for consultations. The three South American nations lambasted Israel's attacks on Gaza and condemned the deaths of Palestinian citizens. Bolivia "decided to break diplomatic relations with the Israeli state in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive taking place in the Gaza Strip," Deputy Foreign Minister Freddy Mamani said at a press conference. The three countries called for a ceasefire, with Bolivia and Chile pushing for the passage of humanitarian aid into the zone and accusing Israel of violating international law. Colombian President Gustavo Petro called the attacks a "massacre of the Palestinian people" in a post on the social media network X, formerly known as Twitter. Israel's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Other Latin American countries, such as Mexico and Brazil, have also called for a ceasefire. "What we have now is the insanity of Israel's prime minister, who wants to wipe out the Gaza Strip," said Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Friday. Bolivia is among the first countries to actively break diplomatic relations with Israel over its war in Gaza, retaliation for an Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel by Palestinian Hamas militants who Israel says killed 1,400 people, including children, and took 240 people hostage. Bolivia cut diplomatic ties with Israel in 2009 under the government of leftist President Evo Morales, also in protest against Israel's actions in Gaza. In 2020, the government of right-wing interim President Jeanine Anez reestablished ties. "We reject the war crimes being committed in Gaza. We support international initiatives to guarantee humanitarian aid, in compliance with international law," Bolivian President Arce said on social media on Monday. Gaza health authorities say that 8,525 people, including 3,542 children, have been killed in Israeli attacks since Oct. 7. U.N. officials say more than 1.4 million of Gaza's civilian population of about 2.3 million have been made homeless.

Egypt to Receive Wounded Gazans Through Key Crossing

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Egypt is preparing to treat wounded Palestinians from the bombed Gaza Strip starting Wednesday, with the opening of a border crossing to people after weeks of war, medical and security sources said. The border authority in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip said that Egypt had agreed to let in 81 of the most badly wounded on Wednesday through Rafah, the only crossing not controlled by Israel. An AFP photographer on Tuesday saw a large number of ambulances gathered at Rafah. It comes amid unrelenting Israeli bombardment of the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, with the health ministry in the besieged Palestinian territory saying more than 8,500 people have been killed, including over 3,500 children. The strikes come in response to an October 7 attack in which Hamas militants infiltrated into southern Israel, killing 1,400 people, the majority civilians, according to Israeli officials. "Medical teams will be present tomorrow (Wednesday) at the crossing to examine the cases coming (from Gaza) as soon as they arrive... and determine the hospitals they will be sent to," a medical official in Egypt's city of El Arish told AFP. A security source at the Rafah crossing confirmed the information, which was earlier reported by the state-affiliated Al-Qahera news channel. The medical official added that a field hospital with an area of 1,300 square metres (about 14,000 square feet) would be built to receive the wounded Palestinians in the city of Sheikh Zuweid in northern Sinai, about 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Rafah. The United States voiced hope that hundreds of Palestinian-Americans stuck in Gaza would be able to leave through Rafah. "We do think we've made very good progress on this in just the past few hours," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters in Washington. "We would hope that any agreement to get any individuals out would also unlock the possibility of American citizens or their families and other foreign nationals coming out," he said. He said that the United States would inform US citizens in Gaza to head to Rafah "as soon as we have actionable information." US officials had earlier reported a deal with Egypt on the crossing and accused Hamas of not letting people through. Miller said that Secretary of State Antony Blinken raised the Rafah issue in telephone talks with leaders of Qatar, where Hamas has an office. Foreign governments say that people from 44 countries and 28 agencies, including UN bodies, are living

in the Gaza Strip, where 2.4 million people have been living through bombardment without water or electricity and with little food after Israel tightened its 16-year blockade further in response to the Hamas attacks. The United States, which has backed Israel but pressed for greater humanitarian considerations, has voiced hope that 100 trucks per day could go through Rafah. The decision to open the crossing came hours after an Israeli strike on the largest refugee camp in Gaza, where the health ministry has said at least 50 people were killed. Egypt on Tuesday condemned the strike on Jabalia camp "in the strongest terms", warning against "the consequences of the continuation of these indiscriminate attacks that target defenceless civilians" in a foreign ministry statement. Meanwhile Israeli airstrikes hit a densely populated refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, killing at least 50 Palestinians and a Hamas commander, and medics struggled to treat the casualties in the enclave where food, fuel and basic supplies are running scarce. Israel claimed on Wednesday nine soldiers had been killed since it sent armoured troops into Gaza following weeks of air bombardments in retaliation for an attack by Palestinian Hamas militants on southern Israeli towns on Oct. 7 and the taking of more than 200 hostages. An Israel Defense Forces (IDF) statement said the strike by fighter jets on Jabalia, Gaza's largest refugee camp, had killed Ibrahim Biari, a Hamas commander it said was "pivotal" in the planning and execution of the attack. Dozens of Hamas combatants were in the same underground tunnel complex as Biari and were also killed when it collapsed in the attack, IDF spokesperson Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conriscus said, adding: "I understand that is also the reason why there are many reports of collateral damage and non-combatant casualties. We're looking into those as well." Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem denied any senior commander was in the camp, and called the claim an Israeli pretext for killing civilians. Palestinian health officials said at least 50 Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded. A Hamas statement said there were 400 dead and injured in Jabalia, which houses families of refugees from wars with Israel dating back to 1948. Reuters could not independently verify the reported casualty figures.

**North Korea Closes Multiple Embassies Around the World**

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea is poised to close as many as a dozen embassies including in Spain, Hong Kong, and multiple countries in Africa, according to media reports and analysts, in a move that could see nearly 25 percent of Pyongyang's missions close worldwide. North Korea's recent closing of its diplomatic missions was a sign that the reclusive country is struggling to make money overseas because of international sanctions, South Korea's unification ministry said on Tuesday. On Monday, North Korean state media outlet KCNA said the country's ambassadors paid "farewell" visits to Angolan and Ugandan leaders last week, and local media in both African countries reported the shutdown of the North's embassies there. Both Angola and Uganda have forged friendly ties with North Korea since the 1970s, maintaining military cooperation and providing rare sources of foreign currency such as statue-building projects. The embassy closings set the stage for what could be "one of the country's biggest foreign policy shakeups in decades", with implications for diplomatic engagement, humanitarian work in the isolated country, as well as the ability to generate illicit revenue, wrote Chad O'Carroll, founder of the North Korea-focused website NK Pro. More than a dozen missions may close, likely because of international sanctions, a trend of Pyongyang's disengaging globally and the probable weakening of the North Korean economy, he said in a report on Wednesday. Seoul's unification ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, said the pullout reflected the impact of international sanctions aimed at curbing funding for the North's nuclear and missile programs. "They appear to be withdrawing as their foreign currency earning business has stumbled due to the international community's strengthening of sanctions, making it difficult to maintain the embassies any longer," the ministry said in a statement. "This can be a sign of North Korea's difficult economic situation, where it is difficult to maintain even minimal diplomatic relations with traditionally friendly countries." North Korea has formal relations with 159 countries, but had 53 diplomatic missions overseas, including three consulates and three representative offices, until it pulled out of Angola and Uganda, according to the ministry. North Korea will also shut down its embassy in Spain, with its mission in Italy handling affairs in the neighbouring country, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported. Correspondence with the Spanish Communist Party released on the party's website showed the North Korean embassy announcing the closing in a letter dated Oct. 26. The North's embassy in Madrid was in the spotlight after members of a group seeking the overthrow of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un staged a break-in in 2019, during which they bound and gagged staff before driving off with computers and other devices. Pyongyang denounced the incident as a "grave breach of sovereignty and terrorist attack," and accused the United States of not investigating the group thoroughly and refusing to extradite its leader.

Asia's Factories Squeezed as China's Nascent Recovery Teeters

TOKYO (Reuters) - Asia's manufacturers faced worsening pressure in October with factory activity in China slipping back into decline, clouding recovery prospects for the region's major exporters already squeezed by weaker global demand and higher prices. Purchasing managers' indexes (PMIs) for factory powerhouses China, Japan and South Korea showed activity shrinking while Vietnam and Malaysia also struggled with the broadening fallout from a Chinese slowdown. China's Caixin/S&P Global manufacturing PMI fell to 49.5 in October from 50.6 in September, a private sector survey showed on Wednesday, falling back below the 50.0 point threshold that separates growth from contraction. The Chinese survey echoed a downbeat official PMI reading on Tuesday, which also showed an unexpected contraction in activity, casting doubt over recent hopes of a recovery in the world's second-largest economy. "Overall, manufacturers were not in high spirits in October," said Wang Zhe, an economist at Caixin Insight Group, on China's survey outcome. "The economy has showed signs of bottoming out, but the foundation of recovery is not solid. Demand is

weak, many internal and external uncertainties remain, and expectations are still relatively weak." The impact of China's slowdown is being felt in countries like Japan and South Korea, whose manufacturers are heavily reliant on demand from the Asian giant. Japan's factory activity shrank for a fifth straight month in October, the final au Jibun Bank PMI showed. That came a day after official figures showed Japan's factory output rose much less than expected in September as demand slowed significantly. Japanese machinery makers like Fanuc and Murata Manufacturing recently reported weak six-month earnings due to sluggish Chinese demand. South Korea's factory activity fell for the 16th straight month while PMIs from Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia also showed continued declines in activity. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has warned that China's weak recovery and the risk of a more protracted property crisis could further dent Asia's economic prospects. In its World Economic Outlook released last month, the IMF cut next year's growth estimate for Asia to 4.2% from 4.4% projected in April, and down from 4.6% forecast for this year.

**Mali Rebels Claim Takeover of Vacated UN Base**

KIDAL (Dispatches) - Separatist rebels in northern Mali on Tuesday claimed to have taken over a camp just evacuated by the UN in the strategic town of Kidal, a significant development in an ongoing battle for territory. They occupied the camp immediately after it was vacated by the peacekeeping mission MINUSMA, a local official confirmed to AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The Permanent Strategic Framework (CSP) – a Tuareg-dominated alliance of armed groups that recently relaunched a rebellion against the state – said in a statement Tuesday that it was "now taking control of the areas abandoned by MINUSMA in Kidal". A convoy of peacekeepers made up of more than a hundred vehicles had earlier left the camp in a column of more than a hundred vehicles, heading for Gao, another key town in the north about 330 kilometres (200 miles) away, MINUSMA officials told AFP. It was the third and last camp to be evacuated by the mission in the Kidal region of Mali's volatile north, which has been wracked by jihadist and separatist violence. The other two were at Tessalit and Aguelhok. Even before the camp takeover, tensions had been expected to rise further in the Kidal region when the UN departed. Questions will now be raised about whether the Malian army will try to regain control of the region – the stronghold of the Tuareg rebellion and a major sovereignty issue for Mali's junta-led government. The Kidal region has long been centre of insubordination and a launching point for independence rebellions, which have shaken Mali since independence. The army suffered humiliating defeats between 2012 and 2014 in the region. The separatist groups, which had agreed to a ceasefire and a peace deal with authorities in 2014 and 2015, have recently resumed hostilities in the lead-up to MINUSMA withdrawal. They do not want the peacekeepers to hand over their camps to the Malian army. Mali's ruling junta, which seized power in 2020, in June ordered the peacekeepers out, proclaiming the "failure" of the UN mission. While the final departure from Kidal was initially planned for the second half of November, a deterioration in security has pushed MINUSMA to accelerate its withdrawal from all bases, which has irritated the junta.



Alcaraz Stunned by Qualifier in Paris Masters Defeat

PARIS (Dispatches) - Carlos Alcaraz slipped to a shock defeat on his return from injury on Tuesday at the Paris Masters while Alexander Zverev needed three sets to see off Marton Fucsovics. Spanish world number two Alcaraz, who was making his return to the court following injuries to his lower back and left foot, had been given a bye in the first round but had no answer to Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin who eased through 6-3, 6-4. "He didn't surprise me at all because I knew that he has been playing a great level these last few months, beating big guys, reaching finals," said a disconsolate Alcaraz. "I knew that he was going to play a high level." Safiullin, ranked 45 in the world, cancelled out an early Alcaraz break in the first set and then never looked back as he ran on to claim the opener 6-3. The same scenario then played out in the second set, with Alcaraz breaking for an early lead only for his opponent to strike back immediately. Having only announced he would play in the tournament last Wednesday, Alcaraz looked far from his sharpest. "I just didn't feel well, you know, on the court," he said. "A lot of things to improve, a lot of things to practice. I think I didn't move well. In the shots, I think I had a good quality of shots. But physically, in terms of movement, I have to improve a lot." However, much credit must go to Safiullin, who was relentless in getting over the line for a career-boosting win in what was his first meeting with the Spaniard. The 26-year-old held his nerve under pressure from the Wimbledon champion to serve out for the win, despite facing several deuce points in the final game. "Even if he's not in the best shape it's tough to beat him," said Safiullin. "So, I'm really happy that I made it." The German

10th seed Zverev also had his difficulties, having to come back from a set down to beat Hungarian Fucsovics 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 in the round of 64 at Bercy Arena. "It was just one or two points (that made the difference)," said Zverev. "He was playing incredibly well and tactically I think he was unbelievable. His slice was effective as I did not know what to do on this surface here. It was a very difficult match, and I am happy to be through. I found my level and I am happy with that." Zverev is still seeking to secure his place among the top eight who will go on to the ATP Finals in Turin next month. After this victory, the 2021 champion sits seventh just behind Stefanos Tsitsipas and 430 points ahead of ninth-placed Hubert Hurkacz. American Taylor Fritz's chances of qualifying for the tour's showpiece event took a hit when he was forced to retire with an abdominal injury. On Monday, the ninth seed had comfortably beaten Argentine Sebastian Baez 6-1, 6-4. Hometown favourite Gael Monfils was knocked out in the first round by Argentinian world number 21 Francisco Cerundolo in three sets on Tuesday. The battling 37-year-old looked tired after losing the second set in a tie-break but rolled back the years with a break of serve right at the start of the third. However, it was not enough as Cerundolo struck back in the eighth game of the set, before breaking the Frenchman's serve again to take the decider 7-5. The 11th-seeded Hurkacz saw off Sebastian Korda 6-3, 6-7 (6/8), 6-3 to book his place in the second round alongside Felix Auger-Aliassime, who toppled Jan-Lennard Struff in two sets. Russian fifth seed Andrey Rublev completed the day's play with a quickfire 6-4, 6-3 victory over Japanese qualifier Yoshihito Nishioka.



Saudi Arabia Sole Bidder to Host 2034 World Cup



ZURICH (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia was the only football association to present a bid to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup before the deadline closed, soccer's global governing body said on Tuesday. FIFA had invited bids from Asia and Oceania for the tournament by Oct. 31, and Saudi Arabia announced it would bid only minutes after the announcement on Oct. 4. Australia said on Tuesday it would not be presenting a bid to host the tournament, leaving Saudi Arabia as the only candidate. "As established in the Bidding Regulations approved by the FIFA Council, the FIFA administration will conduct thorough bidding and evaluation processes for the 2030 and 2034 editions of the FIFA World Cup, with the hosts to be appointed by FIFA Congresses expected to take place by Q4 2024," FIFA said. Saudi FA President Yasser Al Muehali said the federation is fully committed to fulfill all FIFA requirements for the right to host the World Cup. "All members of the Saudi football family are doing their best to achieve the dream of the Saudis male and females to see the World Cup in the Kingdom for the first time," he said on social media platform X. "We believe in the great power of football to inspire future generations and we hope World Cup 2034 contributes to the development of the game throughout the world." FIFA also confirmed that the sole confirmation of interest in hosting the 2030 World Cup came from Morocco, Portugal and Spain with Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay hosting celebratory games. On Oct. 4 FIFA announced that the combined bid of Morocco Spain and Portugal would host the 2030 World Cup subject to the completion of a successful bidding process.

Leipzig Knocked out of German Cup

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Wolfsburg produced the first shock of this season's German Cup, knocking out holders RB Leipzig with an inspired 1-0 win as fourth-tier Homburg upset Greuther Fuerth and Kaiserslautern sank Cologne. Wolfsburg, coached by Niko Kovac, who guided Eintracht Frankfurt to glory in this competition in 2018, took an early lead through Vaclav Cerny - and Leipzig never recovered. The Red Bull outfit have a rich recent pedigree in the competition, reaching the previous three finals, losing in 2021 to Borussia Dortmund first but winning the last two against Freiburg and Frankfurt. However, Wolfsburg have not made it beyond the quarter-finals since lifting the trophy in 2015. But on home turf, Kovac's side put their Bundesliga troubles behind them and pulled off their biggest victory of the season. Despite going into this game having lost four of their last five league games, Wolfsburg flew out of the blocks. Summer signing Cerny latched onto a perfectly-weighted pass by Tiago Tomas and unleashed an unstoppable left-footed drive into the roof of the net for his first goal of the season. Leipzig struggled to find their rhythm and when Yussuf Poulsen saw red nine minutes into the second half for a clumsy second yellow, the reigning champions' chances disappeared. In another surprise result, Greuther Fuerth of Germany's second division were beaten 2-1 at home by fourth tier Homburg with Phil Harres scoring a late winner. Bundesliga strugglers Cologne were sent packing by second-tier Kaiserslautern, whose slick performance put them 3-0 up after 65 minutes and seemingly out of sight. Cologne clawed it back to 3-2 but it was too little too late, ending the game with nine men after Eric Martel and captain Florian Kaiz were sent off within the space of five second half minutes. Cologne have now won only one of their last 10 games. In an extraordinary game between third division

Unterhaching and second-tier Fortuna Duesseldorf, the underdogs were pegged back to 3-3 after being 2-0 up, with Duesseldorf eventually prevailing 6-3 after extra time. Hamburg were 13 minutes from going out to third-tier Arminia Bielefeld but levelled the game at 1-1, with the second division club eventually clinching victory 4-3 in a penalty shoot-out. Earlier, Stuttgart's fine start to the Bundesliga season transferred to the Cup, winning 1-0 against beleaguered Union Berlin. Union Berlin qualified for the Champions League for the first time in their history last season, but their domestic form this term has been poor. The only goal of the game came in first half stoppage time courtesy of Deniz Undav. Borussia Moenchengladbach, three-time German Cup winners, beat Heidenheim 3-1 to reach the last 16, while Johannes Eggestein scored a 102nd minute winner for St. Pauli, who needed extra time to beat Schalke 2-1.



Al-Dawsari, Kerr Take Asian confederation's Player of the Year Awards



DOHA (Dispatches) - Saudi Arabia's Salem Al-Dawsari has been named the Asian Football Confederation's Player of the Year with Chelsea and Australia forward Sam Kerr taking the women's title at the regional body's awards ceremony in Doha on Tuesday. Al-Dawsari, who scored Saudi Arabia's winner in their shock 2-1 victory over Argentina at the World Cup last year, took the men's award after also leading Al-Hilal to the final of the Asian Champions League and the Club World Cup. The awards were being held for the first time in four years as a result of the disruption caused to the game across the continent by the COVID-19 pandemic. "I am very happy with this achievement and I would like to thank the leadership in Saudi Arabia for their keen interest in athletes and support for sport," said Al-Dawsari, who won ahead of Qatar's Almoenz Ali and Mathew Leckie of Australia. Kerr, who on Monday had finished as runner-up in the Ballon d'Or vote in Paris, won her award for the second time having previously been named the confederation's best female player in 2017. She becomes the third woman to claim the award more than once, joining Japanese duo Aya Miyama and Homare Sawa as a multiple title-holder. "I just want to say what an amazing honour it is to win this award, especially up against some amazing finalists," said Kerr, who was given the award ahead of China's Zhang Linyang and Saki Kumagai from Japan, the 2019 winner. Japan's Hajime Moriyasu won the trophy for best men's coach after leading the Samurai Blue to the last 16 at the World Cup, with victories over Germany and Spain in the group stage of the tournament. Shui Qingxia claimed the honours in the women's coaching category after she led China to the Women's Asian Cup last February in India, the country's first continental title since 2006.

Pakistan Stay Alive in Semi-Final Race, Bangladesh Eliminated



KOLKATA (Dispatches) - Former champions Pakistan kept alive their slender chances of making the semi-finals of the 50-over World Cup with a comprehensive seven-wicket victory against Bangladesh, who were eliminated from the tournament on Tuesday. Electing to bat, Bangladesh never recovered from a top order collapse and posted a modest 204 before being all out in the 46th over at Eden Gardens. Pakistan's three-pronged pace attack impressed with the new ball and were equally effective in the death overs with only Mahmudullah (56) managing a half-century for Bangladesh. Openers Fakhar Zaman (81) and Abdullah Shafique (68) combined in a 128-run stand to set up the victory that came with 17.3 overs to spare in a major net run-rate boost for them. Babar Azam's men moved into fifth place after their third win in seven matches, while Bangladesh became the first team to drop out of contention. "We are trying to force things but it isn't working," Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan said after their sixth defeat in seven matches. Pakistan head coach Grant Bradburn had rued how lack of swing in India had defanged his team's pace attack, usually their strong suit, in the tournament. Bradburn must have been pleased as the pace trio of Shaheen Afridi, Mohammad Wasim and Haris Rauf collectively claimed eight of the 10 Bangladesh wickets in the match. Left-arm quick Afridi (3-23) struck with his fifth delivery, trapping Tanzid Hasan lbw for his 100th ODI wicket. Najmul Hossain Shanto fell in Afridi's next over and Bangladesh slumped to 23-3 after Rauf (2-36) had Mushfiqur Rahim caught behind in the sixth over.

Randle Helps Knicks Pull Away From Cavs in 2nd Half

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Julius Randle posted a double-double for the visiting New York Knicks, who pulled away in the second half to defeat the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers 109-91 in the opener of a home-and-home set. Randle had 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who outscored the Cavaliers 51-39 in the second half. The two teams are slated to play again Wednesday night in New York. Jalen Brunson also scored 19 points, and RJ Barrett scored 16 points. Immanuel Quickley (18 points) and Isaiah Hartenstein (13 points) scored in double figures off the bench while combining to shoot 52.4 percent (11-for-21) from the field. Donovan Mitchell scored a game-high 26 points for the Cavaliers, who played without Darius Garland, Caris LeVert and Jarrett Allen. Garland and LeVert were out due to hamstring injuries and Allen missed the game because of an ankle injury. Isaac Okoro and reserve Georges Niang had 11 points apiece, and Craig Porter added 10 points off the bench. Brunson scored nine points in a game-opening 16-8 run before the Cavaliers responded with a 13-3 run in which they took their final lead at 21-19 on Mitchell's jumper with 3:23 left in the first quarter. The Knicks ended the period on a 9-3 run to take a 28-24 lead. Hartenstein's hook with 7:26 left in the second quarter gave the Knicks their first double-digit lead at 41-31. Mitchell scored 10 points in a 13-4 run that pulled the Cavaliers within one. Cleveland was within two points twice more before New York ended the half on an 8-4 run to take a 58-52 lead. The Cavaliers cut the deficit to four points twice early in the third quarter before going cold, as the Knicks ended the quarter on a 24-10 run. Randle had seven points and Brunson added six points in the surge. Cleveland was 0-for-11 with four turnovers over a nearly six-minute span and shot just 29.2 percent (7-for-24) in the quarter. The Cavaliers began the fourth quarter with a 10-4 run, but the Knicks scored the next nine points via two 3-pointers by Quickley and a 3-pointer from Josh Hart to extend their lead to 99-78 with 6:36 left. New York led by as many as 23 down the stretch.

