

President Ebrahim Raisi Is Scheduled to Visit Saudi Arabia Next Sunday to Attend the OIC Meeting on Palestine and the war in Gaza Which Will Be Held in Riyadh on November 12

IRAN NEWS

President Ebrahim Raisi Is to Leave Tehran Today (Wednesday) for official visit to Tajikistan at an Official Invitation of Tajik President and Then Will Go to Tashkent, the Capital of Uzbekistan

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2 DOMESTIC

Iran Offers \$250b Oil Investment Opportunity at China Expo

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Gaza Becoming Graveyard for Children

> SEE PAGE 3

Tehran Has Received New Message From Washington on Gaza



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says Tehran has received a new message from Washington claiming that the US seeks a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, but they continue to support Israel's genocide in the Palestinian territory in practice. The minister, who was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a Monday meeting between Iranian and Iraqi heads of governments in Tehran, said, however, that the message did not correspond to what the U.S. has done in practice in Gaza where it has supported the Israeli crimes against the civilians. "The Americans ... delivered a message to us in the past three days (claiming) that they are after ceasefire and have carried out efforts in this regard," said Amir-Abdollahian, adding that "they, however, back mass killing and genocide" of people in Gaza. "We hope that the U.S. will soon change its policy and stop supporting the occupying party," he said. The U.S. had sent similar messages to Iran, a country with influence over resistance groups in Palestine, since the Israeli aggression on Gaza started on October 7, according to statements by Amir-Abdollahian and other authorities. Amir-Abdollahian also commented about reports suggesting that his U.S. counterpart Antony Blinken had arrived in the Iraqi capital Baghdad on Sunday while wearing a bullet-proof vest out of fears that he could be targeted because of his support for the Israeli carnage in Gaza. "This is the reality about the U.S. role in the region," said the diplomat.

Tehran, Kabul Explore Ways of Boosting Annual Trade Up to \$10b



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Senior officials from Iran and Afghanistan have reportedly explored ways of expanding economic ties between the two countries in order to increase trade exchanges to a target of \$10 billion. In a televised program on Monday, Economic Adviser of the Iranian President's Special Envoy in Afghanistan Affairs Mohammad-Mehdi Javanmard-Ghassab, and Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Taliban Government Nooruddin Azizi said the current level of trade between the two sides is not satisfactory, and should be increased. According to the officials, the two sides need to take the necessary measures in order to increase the level of trade up to \$10 billion per year. Asked about the areas in which the two sides can develop their economic ties, Azizi said mining industry, agriculture, and transit are among the areas in which the two sides have great potential to expand mutual cooperation. "Afghanistan is very rich in terms of minerals and is one of the countries that is highly valued in this regard, and all Iranian economists agree on the potential for cooperation in this field," the Afghan official said. "We can also grow the products needed by Iran, such as cotton, beets, sesame, etc., in our agricultural lands. Of course, extraterritorial cultivation is also a very large capacity in which we can be self-sufficient and export to neighboring countries," he added. On Saturday (November 4), Iran's capital Tehran hosted an Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting for the first time after the new government in Afghanistan took office. The Iranian and Afghan representatives to Joint Economic Committee held the first day of their meeting, with high-ranking economic officials of both countries being in attendance.

Iran, China Reach New Agreements Under 25-Year Partnership

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said the 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China has entered a new phase with new agreements being reached between various ministries of the two countries, IRIB reported. According to Khandouzi, the mentioned agreements have been reached between the two sides during the visit of Iran's delegation to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE). "Specific projects were defined between the government departments of the respective ministries of Iran and China, and agreements were reached on the details of the implementation of the mentioned projects," Khandouzi said. Regarding the private sectors of the two countries, some Iranian companies operating in China and some large Chinese companies operating in Iran faced obstacles, which were discussed and resolved by the relevant authorities, he explained. "We are going to witness a significant growth in economic cooperation and investment between the two sides with the implementation of these projects," the minister noted. Headed by Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, a senior delegation comprised of Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi, as well as the deputies of various ministries and the economic deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited China last week to attend the 6th CIIE. Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021. The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry. Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement. The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

Iran Supports Global Bids for Swift Ceasefire in Besieged Gaza

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says the Islamic Republic supports any joint global effort seeking to establish an immediate ceasefire in Gaza as Israel continues its brutal attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip. Speaking in a phone call with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, Raisi added that Iran backs collective bids to lift the blockade on Gaza and provide aid to the oppressed Palestinian people in the war-hit territory. "The continuation of the killing of the Palestinian people has infuriated all the free nations in the world," the president said, warning that the killings will have "extra-regional consequences." It would be "unfair and unrealistic" to carry out any analysis of the recent Israeli crimes in Gaza without paying heed to the root causes, the president emphasized. He said all nations condemn the "unacceptable" killing of the oppressed and innocent Palestinian women and children, as well as attacks on hospitals, schools, mosques, churches and residential areas. Raisi defended the Palestinian resistance groups' legitimate right to confront the Israeli regime's occupation and called on all countries to support the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom. He said the recent surprise operation by the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas -- dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm -- was a "natural response to the policies and criminal actions" of Israel in occupying the Palestinian territories, killing children and women, and desecrating Palestinians' sanctities. He criticized global double standards when it comes to condemning war crimes, saying that the European countries' confrontation against Nazi Germany is regarded as an "admirable and heroic" act but the resistance of the Palestinian people against the child-killing and criminal Israeli regime is condemned. The



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Iranian president emphasized that the United States is the "main accomplice" to the crimes the Zionists perpetrated against the Palestinian people due to Washington's full financial, arms and intelligence support for the Tel Aviv regime. He also criticized the U.S. for vetoing United Nations Security Council's resolutions aimed at halting Israel's bombardment of Gaza. He lashed out at the Western countries for pursuing a deceitful policy to portray an incorrect image of the developments in Gaza and secure support of other countries for the forced displacement of the Palestinian people under the false pretext of fight against terrorism. "The mass killing of the people of Gaza is the most inhumane crime in the 21st century, which must be stopped immediately," Raisi pointed out. Pointing to the killing of more than 10,000 Palestinians in Gaza, most of them women and children, the president said all independent and influential countries across the world are duty-bound to prevent genocide and crime against humanity. He also called on India, as one of the founders of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to use all its capacities to end Israel's crimes against the oppressed people of Gaza. For his part, the Indian prime minister expressed his concern over the difficult situation of the Gazans due to Israel's brutal attacks and hailed Iran's stance on Palestine. Modi condemned Israel's murder of the Palestinian civilians and stressed the importance of ending the regime's attacks and reopening of the border crossings for delivery of humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. He emphasized that Iran plays a very important and effective role in putting an end to the killing of the Palestinian women and children and distributing aid to them.

Israel Waging War on Hospitals as Calls Grow for End to War Crimes



GAZA (Dispatches) - The Health Ministry in Gaza has said Israel is "waging a frenzied war" on hospitals in the besieged enclave, amid growing calls for an end to Israeli war crimes. Spokesman for the ministry, Ashraf al-Qadara, cited the Israeli attack on Nasser Medical Complex on Sunday which killed at least eight Palestinians. "The occupation is waging a frenzied war on hospitals and ambulances in the Gaza Strip, and has directly targeted the only mental health hospital in the Strip and the Rantisi Specialized Hospital for Children," al-Qadara said on Monday. The Nasser Medical Complex comprises the Al-Nasser Children's Hospital, the Rantisi Specialized Hospital, the Eye Hospital, and the Psychiatric Hospital. Al-Qadara said 70 displaced people who sought refuge in the hospitals as well as patients in the oncology center were injured in the strikes. "The health system has become completely incapable as the aggression enters its second month." "The occupation committed 19 massacres during the last hours, claiming the lives of nearly 300 martyrs," he added. Suleiman Qaoud, a doctor at the Rantisi Hospital also said, "The solar panels and water tanks were also targeted, meaning that the Rantisi hospital does not have a single drop of running water." Al-Qadara also called on all parties to work to provide a safe humanitarian corridor to ensure the passage of aid. "The occupation continues to lie about the existence of safe corridors for the displaced and medical personnel, and that the safe corridors it talks about are nothing but corridors of death," he added. He slammed the international community inaction, saying the international silence is a "green light" for Israel to continue its massacre. Amid heavy humanitarian toll of the Israeli war, Belgian Minister of International Cooperation, Caroline Gennez, said in a televised interview that Israel must be investigated for "war crimes in Gaza." "Israel must be investigated and all evidence points to the Israeli military committing war crimes in Gaza," the Palestine Chronicle quoted Gennez as saying on Tuesday. She added that Israel is punishing innocent civilians and violating the rules of engagement. She further demanded a review of countermeasures by the Belgian government, including restrictions on importing Israeli products and issuing visas for senior Israeli officials. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also said on Monday that "no one is safe" as the Israeli regime is simultaneously targeting "civilians, hospitals, refugee camps, mosques, churches, and UN facilities -- including shelters."

Zionist Regime Committing Crimes in Gaza With Help of Others



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi, referring to the continuation of Zionist crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, has said that the Zionist regime is not single-handedly committing these crimes. In a meeting to analyze the role of international and humanitarian law regarding the crimes in the Gaza Strip, Gharibabadi said in Tehran on Tuesday that the Zionist regime has a 75-year history of such actions, a fact that should not be overlooked. The Zionist regime has perpetrated various forms of crimes in Gaza over the past month, he added, saying that the crimes of the Zionist regime are against humanity and tantamount to war crimes. He also emphasized that the crimes of the Zionist regime are not limited to recent days, adding that over the course of seven decades, the Zionist regime has caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands and the displacement of millions of people in Palestine. Israel's bombardment campaign against Gaza began after the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm in response to decades of violence against Palestinians by the Israeli regime on October 7. The death toll from Israel's brutal aggression on the Gaza Strip has surpassed 10,000, most of them women and children, while more than 24,000 others were injured.

IRAN NEWS



Stop Genocide, Hypocrisy Against Gaza

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's foreign minister has reiterated that the Americans sent a message to Iran claiming that they seek a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, rejecting Washington's denial of the message as completely false. "The U.S. has been seeking a humanitarian ceasefire since last week," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian confirmed in a post on his X account on Monday night. It came hours after he revealed Washington was seeking a ceasefire in Gaza despite their continued support for Israel's genocide against Palestinians. "We hope that the U.S. will soon change its policy and stop supporting the occupying party," he said. Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the US National Security Council rejected Amir-Abdollahian's comments as "categorically false", claiming, "We have made it clear to Iran that they should not seek to escalate the conflict." What they say is "completely false," said Amir-Abdollahian in his X post.

Trade With EAEU Reach More Than \$921m



TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's trade with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) reached \$921 million in the seven months of the current Iranian year (March 21 to October 22, 2023). According to Shada, Omid Golzari, Director General of the Office of International Cooperation and Customs Public Relations out of Iran's total foreign trade with Eurasian countries, more than 2.4 million tons with a value of \$921,849,000 was for export. Golzari stated that Iran's exports to Eurasia increased by 48% in terms of weight and 22% in terms of value compared to the same period last year. The Director General also provided information on imports from Eurasian countries during this period and said that nearly 5.7 million tons of goods with a value of over \$3.3 billion were imported, representing a growth rate of 37% in terms of weight and 31% in terms of value. In terms of specific countries, Iran exported more than \$532 million to the Russian Federation, over \$235 million to Armenia, over \$104.5 million to Kazakhstan, and over \$40 million to Belarus. On the import side, Iran imported over \$3.7 billion from the Russian Federation, nearly \$147 million from Kazakhstan, and more than \$94.6 million from Belarus. Golzari highlighted that Iran's exports to five member countries have increased in terms of value, with the largest increase seen in exports to the Russian Federation and Kyrgyzstan at 30% and 20%, respectively. As for imports, Belarus and Kyrgyzstan saw the largest increase in value at 179% and 109%, respectively. During this period, imports from Armenia increased by 59% and from Russia by 34%, while imports from Kazakhstan decreased by 28%.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



Iran Offers \$250b Oil Investment Opportunity at China Expo

TEHRAN - The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) managing director opened up an opportunity for \$250 billion investment in the upstream and downstream sectors within the next eight years. Mohsen Khojastehmehr made the offer at the Sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) and the Hongqiao International Economic Forum in Shanghai, saying investments help stabilize and secure global energy market. The world's energy future will be determined by leading players, including Iran, said the NIOC CEO in a session attended by Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and a number of CIIE guests. Iran ranks first in the world in terms of oil and gas reserves on aggregate, mentioned Khojastehmehr, adding the country is the holder of some 340 billion barrels of crude oil equivalent. The Iranian companies have a strong presence in the expo, he said and added the event displays massive economic trade, particularly in international energy market, he continued. Iran-China relations are growing, stated the NIOC chief, adding, "We are seeking to create a strategic platform and an international market-based trade arena." Iran is holding a pavilion at the Sixth China International Import Expo, which opened at Shanghai's National Convention and Exhibition Center on Sunday

and will run through November 10. Meanwhile on Monday First vice president said oil and gas industry has a "considerable" potential for Tehran-Beijing cooperation. Addressing the 2023 Iran-China High-Level Business Forum on the sidelines of the Sixth China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, Mohammad Mokhber called for Beijing to encourage big Chinese companies to participate and invest in Iran's oil and gas projects. Elaborating on bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the top official pointed to investment in oil fields, development of gas fields, Iran-Pakistan-China participation in IP gas pipeline project, Iran-Turkmenistan-China participation in swapping the Turkmen gas to Iran's Makran coasts, the Iranian project for constructing natural gas complexes and paving the way for importing liquefied natural gas (LNG), and Chinese companies' investment in Iran's petrochemical industry. The first vice president said Iran has high capabilities for exporting technical and engineering services and cooperating in the fields of new technologies and co-investment. Given the launch of the Center for Developing Exports of Knowledge-Based Products in China in 2014, trade sessions between Iranian and Chinese knowledge-based companies are deemed necessary, he concluded.

FMs of Iran, Saudi Arabia Discuss End to Israel's Genocide in Gaza



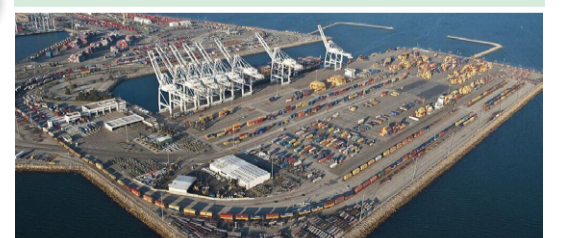
TEHRAN (PressTV) - Top diplomats from the two West Asia heavyweights Iran and Saudi Arabia have discussed the latest developments in the Gaza Strip. In a phone conversation on Monday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan exchanged views about holding an emergency summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) focusing on the Palestinian issue. They stressed the importance of putting an end to Israel's war crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and delivering constant humanitarian aid to the war-hit people. The OIC said in a statement on Monday that an extraordinary summit will be held in Riyadh on November 12 at the request of the current chairman, Saudi Arabia, to discuss Israel's attacks on the Palestinian people. The Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza announced on Monday that the death toll from the incessant Israeli bombardment of the coastal silver stood at 10,022 people, including 4,104 children and 2,641 women. It also said the number of those wounded over the past 31 days had risen to 25,408. The regime has also cut off one of the most densely-populated places in the world from basic supplies, such as water, electricity, and fuel. Shortage of medical supplies and food has left 2.3 million Palestinians at risk of starvation.

Some 1.5m Tons of Steel Products Exported in H1



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - As announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), Iran exported about 1.5 million tons of steel products during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22). As the association has announced, 11.112 million tons of steel products were produced in the country during the six-month period. Iran exported 3.199 million tons of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the ISPA has previously reported. The country's steel products export fell six percent in 1401, as compared to 1400 when the figure was 3.406 million tons. The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers. The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

Investment in Iran's Free Zones Reaches 200m Euros



KISH (IRNA) - The secretary of Iran's Supreme Council of Free Trade-Industrial and Special Economic Zones Hojatollah Abdolmaleki has said that investment in Iran's free zones has reached €200 million during the Ebrahim Raisi's administration. Abdolmaleki made the remarks on Monday in the inauguration ceremony of KishINVEST Exhibition, adding that 850 investment packages valued €15 billion, regarding Iran's free and special economic zones have been presented recently. He added that some 70% of the Iran's transit is being carried out through free and special economic zones, and \$18 billion of non-oil exports from the country through free zones show the dynamics of the economy in these zones. The Kish International Exhibition of Exchange, Banking, Insurance and Privatization is being held in southern Kish Island under the title of Kish InVest. This Exhibition is underway in Kish Island until November 9, 2023.



About 763,000 Vehicles Manufactured in 7 Months

TEHRAN - Iranian automakers produced about 763,000 vehicles in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), an official with the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry said. Abdollah Tavakoli Lahijani, the director general of the Iranian Industry Ministry's Auto Industry Office, said Iranian carmakers managed to manufacture about 624,000 passenger cars in the mentioned seven months which shows a growth of 24 percent compared to 503,000 vehicles produced in the same period last year. In the mentioned period, 91,000 trucks were also produced, registering a 47 percent growth compared to the same period last year. Car manufacturing in Iran increased by 39 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), as the Iranian carmakers manufactured 1,347,394 vehicles in the mentioned year. In the past year, 1,182,078 passenger cars were manufactured in the country, registering a 35-percent rise year on year. Vans accounted for the lion's share of the production in the past year, as 125,507 vans were manufactured, with a 56-percent growth. In the past year, 34,136 trucks were manufactured, with a 150 percent rise. The manufacturing of buses stood at 1,391, and minibuses, and middle buses at 1,118, registering a growth of 88 percent and 11 percent, respectively. Also, about 450,000 motorcycles were manufactured in the previous year, with a 61.2 percent rise year on year. Meanwhile, the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (known as OICA) ranked Iran sixth in the world in terms of car manufacturing growth in 2022.



Exchange of Goods Between Iran, Tatarstan Through Nat'l Currencies

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian deputy minister of economy for banking and insurance affairs emphasized the need for developing trade and economic cooperation with the Republic of Tatarstan and also exchanging goods with the republic through the national currencies of the two sides. Speaking in a meeting with the Republic of Tatarstan deputy prime minister and economy minister on Tuesday, Mohammad Javad Sharifzadeh pointed to Iran's firm determination to develop trade-economic cooperation with the Republic of Tatarstan. In this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy, adviser and the director general of office of the minister of economy and also senior managers of Kama Automobile Factory (KamAZ), Iran's deputy minister of economy hailed the inauguration of the new building of Mir-Business Bank branch in Kazan in Tatarstan, saying the financial settlement of the

trade exchanges between Iran and Tatarstan can be carried out through Mir Business Bank using the national currencies of the two sides. The deputy prime minister of Tatarstan, for his part, noted that the Republic is one of the important economic sectors in the Russian Federation and its financial turnover reaches \$65 million. Shayakhmetov revealed the willingness of Russian President Vladimir Putin to increase interactions with the Islamic world's countries. He pointed to his visit to Iran's first and second largest car manufacturing companies i.e. Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) and SAIPA Automotive Manufacturing Group and said the two Iranian companies have indigenized almost 100 percent of producing auto parts and today, Tatarstan is eyeing to cooperate with these two industrial and production companies.

Cuban ambassador: Israel is the real terrorist

Tehran, IRNA – Israel is the real terrorist despite calling the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas a terrorist group, says Cuba's ambassador to Tehran. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Latin America Cartoon and Caricature Exhibition in Tehran, Alberto Gonzalez Casals condemned the Zionist regime's ongoing crimes in the Gaza Strip. "Israel calls Hamas a terrorist organization, and the West, led by the United States, considers Hamas a terrorist organization, but they themselves are real terrorists," he said. Hamas launched Operation al-Aqsa Storm into the occupied territories on October 7 in response to intensified crimes by Israeli forces and settlers against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. In response, the Zionist regime waged an all-out war on Gaza, killing more than 9,000 people and wounding tens of thousands in the tightly besieged enclave. Casals also said he was honored to be in the exhibition where "we had the chance to have some of the best Latin American artists present."



Zelensky Says Not the Time for Presidential Elections



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Monday he doesn't believe it is the right time for elections as debate intensifies on holding a vote in 2024 while the country fights against Russia's invasion. All elections including the presidential vote set to take place next spring are technically cancelled under martial law that has been in effect since the conflict began last year. "We must decide that now is the time of defence, the time of battle, on which the fate of the state and people depends," Zelensky said in his daily address. He said it was a time for the country to be united, not divided, adding: "I believe that now is not the (right) time for elections. The frontline between the warring sides has remained mostly static for almost a year despite a much-touted Ukrainian counter-offensive, with Russian forces entrenched in southern and eastern Ukraine. Officials from the United States and Europe – Kyiv's key allies – are reported to have suggested holding negotiations to end the grinding 20-month-old conflict. But Zelensky has fiercely denied that Ukraine's counter-offensive has hit a stalemate, or that Western countries were leaning on Kyiv to enter talks. The United States and other supporters have publicly maintained they are ready to back Kyiv with military and financial aid for as long as it takes to defeat Russia. Global attention has turned to the Middle East since the October 7 Hamas attack on Israel – and Zelensky has come under increasing pressure. Russian strikes overnight in the southern Ukrainian region of Odesa left eight people wounded and damaged a historic art museum, Ukrainian officials said, in the latest barrage of drones and missiles. Three more were injured in a Russian shelling attack on the southern city of Kherson on Monday, as Kyiv doubled down on its warnings that Russia was planning to pummel Ukraine's energy infrastructure ahead of the winter. Images released by officials from inside the Odesa Fine Arts Museum showed art ripped from the walls of the 19th-century building and windows blown out by the aerial bombardment. UNESCO said it "strongly condemns the attack" and that "cultural sites must be protected". On Monday, Zelensky said that Ukrainian forces had successfully destroyed a major Russian ship in the Kerch shipyard in annexed Crimea. The president, who was elected in 2019, said in September that he was ready to hold national elections next year if necessary, and was in favor of allowing international observers. Voting could be logistically difficult due to the large number of Ukrainians abroad and soldiers fighting on the front. Zelensky's approval rating skyrocketed after the war began, but the country's political landscape has been fractious despite the unifying force of the war. Former presidential aide Oleksiy Arestovych has announced that he would run against his former boss, after criticising Zelensky over the slow pace of the counter-offensive. Also on Monday, a close advisor to the commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian army, General Valery Zaluzhny, was killed by an explosive hidden inside a birthday gift. "Under tragic circumstances, my assistant and close friend, Major Gennadiy Chastiakov, was killed," Zaluzhny wrote on Telegram, saying an investigation had been launched. Ukrainian prosecutors meanwhile said they had formally notified two senior defense officials that they are suspects in a large-scale fraud case involving the purchase of military uniforms. Ukraine has been fighting an uphill battle against systemic corruption as part of reforms urged by the West for membership to institutions like the European Union.



Gaza Becoming Graveyard for Children

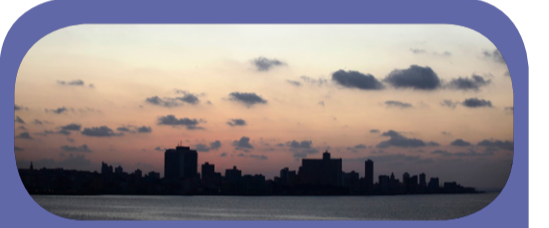
UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned that the bombarded Gaza Strip was becoming a "graveyard for children," as he urged an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas conflict. "The unfolding catastrophe makes the need for a humanitarian ceasefire more urgent with every passing hour," he told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York. "The parties to the conflict – and, indeed, the international community – face an immediate and fundamental responsibility: to stop this inhuman collective suffering and dramatically expand humanitarian aid to Gaza," he said. "The nightmare in Gaza is more than a humanitarian crisis. It is a crisis of humanity." Hamas militants stormed into Israel from Gaza on October 7, killing some 1,400 people, mostly civilians, including through targeting homes and revelers at a music festival. Israel's retaliatory strikes have killed 10,222 people, including more than 4,000 children, in the densely populated and besieged Gaza Strip, according to the Hamas-run health ministry. Guterres also deplored the killings of media workers. According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 36 journalists and media workers have been killed. "More journalists have reportedly been killed over a four-week period than in any conflict in at least three decades," Guterres said, adding that 89 UN aid workers have also been killed. Guterres was formally launching a recently announced \$1.2 billion UN humanitarian appeal to help 2.7 million Palestinians over the entire Gaza Strip and parts of the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Aid trucks have been coming into Gaza from Egypt through the Rafah border crossing, but the level remains well below that of before October 7, with Israel saying it needs time for security checks of vehicles. One restriction is that they are not bringing fuel. "Without fuel,

newborn babies in incubators and patients on life support will die," Guterres said. "The way forward is clear. A humanitarian ceasefire – now. All parties respecting all their obligations under international humanitarian law," he said. Guterres again voiced alarm about the "clear violations of international humanitarian law that we are witnessing." "Let me be clear: No party to an armed conflict is above international humanitarian law," he said. Guterres did not name Israel Monday. He outraged the country's leaders on October 24 at a Security Council meeting where he alleged violations of humanitarian law and said that the Hamas attacks "did not occur in a vacuum," leading Israeli officials to accuse the UN chief of justifying violence. Guterres denied that was his intention and on Monday repeated his condemnation of "the abhorrent acts of terror perpetrated by Hamas," and urged the Islamist militants to free hostages. The UN Security Council, which has yet to pass any text on the conflict, met again Monday afternoon without a resolution. According to diplomatic sources, there is no consensus on whether to call any interruption in fighting a "ceasefire" or "humanitarian pause." "We talked about humanitarian pauses and we're interested in pursuing language on that score," US Deputy Ambassador Robert Wood said after the meeting. "But there are disagreements within the Council about whether that's acceptable." And though all 15 members of the body recognize the "urgent humanitarian need" in Gaza, according to UAE Ambassador Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, "the gaps remain on what is achievable on the ground." "Without a cessation of hostilities, or some kind of humanitarian truce that is immediately implemented... far too many more will continue to lose their lives," she said, adding that the Security Council "feels enormous pressure to reach agreement."



China Owed More Than \$1 Trillion in Belt and Road Debt

BEIJING (Dispatches) - China is owed more than a trillion dollars through its Belt and Road project, making it the biggest debt collector in the world, a report said this week, with an estimated 80 percent of the loans supporting countries in financial distress. Beijing says upwards of 150 countries stretching from Uruguay to Sri Lanka have signed up to the BRI, a vast global infrastructure push unveiled by President Xi Jinping a decade ago. The first decade of the initiative saw China distribute huge loans to fund the construction of bridges, ports and highways in low and middle-income countries. But much more than half of those loans have now entered their principal repayment period, said a report released Monday by AidData, a research institute tracking development finance at Virginia's College of William and Mary. That figure is set to hit 75 percent by the end of the decade, it added. Crunching data compiled on Chinese financing of almost 21,000 projects across 165 countries, AidData said Beijing had now committed aid and credit "hovering around \$80 billion a year" to low and middle-income nations. The United States, in contrast, has provided \$60 billion to such countries a year. "Beijing is navigating an unfamiliar and uncomfortable role – as the world's largest official debt collector," the report said. "Total outstanding debt – including principal but excluding interest – from borrowers in the developing world to China is at least \$1.1 trillion," AidData said. AidData, it added, "estimates that 80 percent of China's overseas lending portfolio in the developing world is currently supporting countries in financial distress." Proponents of the BRI praise it for bringing resources and economic growth to the Global South. But critics have long pointed to opaque pricing for projects built by Chinese companies, with countries including Malaysia and Myanmar renegotiating deals to bring down costs. AidData said China has in recent years suffered reputational damage among developing countries, with its approval rating falling from 56 percent in 2019 to 40 percent in 2021. But China is "learning from its mistakes and becoming an increasingly adept crisis manager," the study said. Beijing is seeking to de-risk the BRI by bringing its lending practices more in line with international standards, it stressed. But also among those methods are "increasingly stringent safeguards to shield itself from the risk of not being repaid", it said. That includes allowing key BRI lenders to pay themselves principal and interest due by "unilaterally sweeping" borrowers' foreign currency reserves held in escrow. "These cash seizures are mostly being executed in secret and outside the immediate reach of domestic oversight institutions... in low- and middle-income countries," it said. "The ability to access cash collateral without borrower consent has become a particularly important safeguard in China's bilateral lending portfolio." At a major summit in Beijing last month marking the project's tenth anniversary, Xi said China would inject more than \$100 billion of new funds into the BRI. But a joint report this year by the World Bank and other institutions, including AidData, said Beijing had been forced to hand out billions of dollars in bailout loans to BRI countries in recent years. The initiative has also drawn scrutiny for its massive carbon footprint and the environmental degradation caused by massive infrastructure projects.



Cuba Seeks Foreign Investment, Thumbing Nose at U.S. Sanctions

HAVANA (Dispatches) - Cuba hosted a business fair with over 800 companies from more than 60 countries on Monday as it lobbied for new investments, thumbing its nose at U.S. sanctions that have long spooked foreign companies from engaging with the communist-run island. Cuba blames the Cold War-era U.S. trade embargo and the COVID pandemic for crippling tourism and domestic industry, wiping out the cash it needs to import basic goods and making foreign investment ever more important. "Today we work ...to minimize the negative impact of the economic, financial and commercial blockade," said Cuba foreign trade minister Ricardo Cabrisas at the forum's opening event. The U.S. has long said its trade embargo is aimed at promoting "human rights and fundamental liberties in Cuba," a policy which has barely budged in decades. Cuban president Miguel Diaz-Canel told attendees "massive" participation at the fair this year was proof of business confidence in Cuba. "This is the largest fair with the most participation, in terms of businessmen and countries, that we have had in the last five years," said Diaz-Canel. "It means that there is support from the international business community." The trade fair includes promotional stands from countries ranging from Spain to Russia, Iran and China. Increasingly, it also includes small privately-held Cuban businesses that re-emerged just two years ago after being effectively banned for decades. Jay Brickman, a vice president at the Crowley shipping and logistics company, said emphasis on private business marked a major shift. "This year has been very different due to changes in the Cuban government's policy, depending much more on medium and small businesses and a little less on state entities," he told Reuters in an interview. But financing for such businesses is still largely hobbled by Washington's sanctions. Foreign companies also complain that local regulations, bureaucracy and problems with the peso currency and payments also bog down business in Cuba. In September, the Biden administration hinted it would unveil new regulatory measures in support of Cuba's fledgling private business, but those rules have yet to materialize. A few foreign entrepreneurs, such as Cuban-born Miami businessman Hugo Cancio walk a fine line with authorizations from both the U.S. and Cuba. Cancio told reporters he will be launching a new food industry brand in Cuba this week. DeCancio Foods, proof of what is possible during a time of "economic opening." "It's more real than many think," he said.

Indian States Vote in Key Test for Modi and Rivals



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Two of five Indian states due to elect new legislatures this month began voting on Tuesday, a big test of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chances of winning a third term in a national election due by May. Modi and leaders of the main opposition Congress party headed by Rahul Gandhi have criss-crossed the five states, addressing campaign rallies and promising cash doles, farm loan waivers, subsidies and insurance covers, among others, to woo voters. Gandhi has worked hard to revive Congress since its drubbing in the 2019 general elections and helped form an alliance of 28 regional parties to give Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party a tougher fight in 2024. But surveys suggest Modi remains popular after a decade in power and will likely win a third term. The new opposition alliance, called the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA), has also not been able to extend its unity to this month's state elections due to local rivalries, giving BJP an edge. More than 160 million people – or about one-sixth of India's total electorate – are eligible to vote in the regional polls being held in four legs until Nov. 30. Votes in all five states will be counted on Dec. 3 and results expected the same day. The elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram states are mainly a contest between BJP and Congress. "We are confident of securing a majority in all states," said Raman Singh, a senior BJP leader and former chief minister of the mineral-rich central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, which votes on Tuesday along with Mizoram in the northeast. Singh said Modi's weekend decision to extend a free food grains programme by five years will help win more votes. "BJP faces a challenge but results will prove that people are in no mood to experiment and they trust Modi's stable governance," Singh told Reuters. Opinion polls suggest close fights, particularly in the heartland states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, two of which are ruled by Congress and one by BJP. "State elections' results before the 2024 polls will showcase the overall public mood and it will tremendously help our opposition bloc to perfect its messaging, coordination and leadership," said Sachin Pilot, a senior Congress leader. "The aim is to ensure all five states are won by the Congress," he said, adding what he called Modi's failure to create new jobs, address rural distress and exacerbate communal fault lines will lead to BJP's defeat.

Moldovan President's Pro-West Party Wins Local Elections, Loses in Big Cities

CHISINAU (Dispatches) - The Moldovan president's pro-European party came first in hundreds of local elections, but failed to win mayoral seats in major cities during a weekend vote that monitors said was marred by foreign meddling and the barring of a pro-Russian party. The elections on Sunday to pick 12,000 local officials, including the mayor of Chisinau, the capital, were seen as a test of President Maia Sandu's pro-European course and took place under a cloud of allegations of Russian interference. Moscow denies interfering in the elections. Sandu's ruling Party of Action and Solidarity (PAS) won more than 40% of the votes cast for mayors, city councillors and district and village councils. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said in a preliminary report that campaigning had been distorted by an "influx of illicit and foreign funds and the monetary incentives used to influence voters' choice". In the buildup to the vote, Moldovan authorities accused Russia of "buying" votes by funneling \$5 million to "criminal groups" led by fugitive businessman Ilan Shor who was convicted in absentia of being involved in bank fraud in Moldova. Just two days before the vote, authorities barred the Chance party linked to Shor on security grounds, a decision the OSCE said had "limited voters' choice and resulted in uncontested races in some smaller localities." "The blanket exclusion of

candidates without a possibility for effective legal remedy is contrary to OSCE commitments and international standards," it said. The speaker of Moldova's parliament, Igor Grosu, hailed the ruling party's performance in the face of what he said was a Kremlin bid to "throw all its forces into interfering in this election." "Despite the unprecedented interference by a foreign state, the PAS and pro-European candidates managed to achieve the best result in the country," Grosu said in a press conference. Sandu's party won mayoral seats in the first round of voting in 244 of 898 villages, towns and cities. Those victories were mostly in rural areas, and its candidates failed to win control of the big cities and Chisinau. In the capital, incumbent mayor Ion Ceban said on Monday he had defeated Lilian Carp of PAS, narrowly avoiding a run-off with 50.62% of the vote, according to preliminary results. In other cities, the mayoral race in Balti went to a second round after the PAS party contender crashed out; in Cahul, the mayor's seat was won by an independent candidate; in Orhei, an independent candidate linked to Shor won in the first round. Infrastructure Minister Andrei Spinu, vice chairman of PAS, said the main takeaway of the election was that Moldova's "pro-European choice has won confidently across the whole country." This is Moldova's last national vote before a presidential election due in

November 2024, as the small ex-Soviet state bordering Romania tries to advance its bid to join the European Union and leave Russia's orbit. Sandu has denounced Russia's invasion of neighbouring Ukraine and accused Moscow of plotting to oust her in a coup.





Jackson Treble Fires Chelsea to Chaotic Victory Over Spurs

LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea ended nine-man Tottenham's unbeaten start to the Premier League season as Nicolas Jackson's hat-trick inspired a 4-1 win in a chaotic clash filled with VAR drama on Monday. Blues boss Mauricio Pochettino was able to savour a sweet victory over Tottenham on his first return to the club since his sacking in 2019. But the Argentine's revenge mission was overshadowed by an incredible litany of controversial incidents including red cards for Tottenham duo Cristian Romero and Destiny Udogie. Dejan Kulusevski had given Tottenham an early lead, but Romero was dismissed for a foul that led to Cole Palmer's equaliser from the penalty spot before half-time. Referee Michael Oliver and the over-worked VAR officials sent off Udogie soon after the break for his second booking. Both teams had goals disallowed by VAR, while Tottenham's misfortune also included losing England playmaker James Maddison and Dutch defender Micky van de Ven to first-half injuries. Chelsea finally made the most of their numerical advantage when Senegal striker Jackson netted three times in the closing stages to hand Tottenham their first defeat in 11 league games. Ange Postecoglou's team remain in second place, one point behind leaders Manchester City, while Chelsea moved up to 10th place after their first win in three league games. "There will be a forensic study of every decision out there, I think that is the way the game is going and I don't like it," Postecoglou said. "If you look at all that standing around we did today, maybe people enjoy that sort of thing but I'd rather see us playing football." Pochettino was given a largely warm reception by Tottenham fans in recognition of a five-year reign that included taking them to their maiden Champions League final. But there could be no doubting his pleasure at inflicting a first league defeat on his former employers this term, especially given the extraordinary circumstances of one of the Premier League's most incendiary matches. "The technology is there and we need

to accept. Many things happen on the pitch and you need to verify and check," Pochettino said. "We deserve the credit. Tottenham are doing fantastic but tonight we were the better team." Tottenham had made the perfect start in the sixth minute when Kulusevski unleashed a powerful shot that deflected off Levi Colwill. Tottenham were fortunate not to be reduced to 10 men when Udogie was only booked after VAR looked at his reckless two-footed lunge on Raheem Sterling. Sterling and Tottenham's Son Heung-min both had goals disallowed by VAR for handball and offside respectively. An already heated encounter approached boiling point after Romero escaped a red card for kicking out at Colwill. It was a short-lived reprieve for Romero as the Tottenham defender saw red in the 33rd minute. When Moises Caicedo's blast from the edge of the area beat Guglielmo Vicario, VAR ruled Jackson was offside but still came to Chelsea's aid. As the VAR check went on, Romero's challenge on Enzo Fernandez just before Caicedo's shot was adjudged to be a penalty, with the defender dismissed for his studs-up follow-through on the Chelsea midfielder's shin. Palmer's spot-kick was almost saved by Vicario but it had enough power to elude his grasp as it went in via the post. Udogie had flirted with a red card earlier in the game and he finally got his marching orders in the 55th minute for a crude lunge on Sterling. That set the stage for a Chelsea siege as Spurs played a high defensive line, allowing the visitors to get behind them. Chelsea landed the knockout blow in the 75th minute when Sterling raced away down the right and his cross was slotted home by Jackson from 10 yards. Even then, Tottenham commendably kept fighting and Eric Dier was denied by a VAR-ruled offside before Rodrigo Bentancur headed inches wide and Sanchez saved from Son. The carnage climaxed in stoppage-time when Jackson fired home from Conor Gallagher's cross, then ran clear to condemn Tottenham to a rare defeat.

Liverpool Have Created Safe Place for Diaz



LONDON (Dispatches) - Virgil van Dijk says Liverpool's players have created a "safe place" for Luis Diaz since his father was kidnapped in Colombia. The 26-year-old winger came off the bench in the 83rd minute at Luton on Sunday and scored a dramatic equalizer deep into added time to earn a 1-1 draw. He lifted his shirt after his goal to show a message reading "Freedom for Papa" and after the match released an emotional statement on Instagram pleading with his father's kidnapers to release him immediately. It was his first appearance since Luis Manuel Diaz was abducted in the northern Colombian town of Barrancas on October 28. Diaz's mother was also kidnapped but was rescued hours later. The head of Colombia's ELN guerrilla group on Saturday acknowledged the organization had made a "mistake" when it abducted Diaz's father and vowed to work toward his release. Following the game against Luton, Liverpool defender Van Dijk said: "He's been training with us, knowing that it's so fresh, what's going on. He feels like being with us is a safe place, so it helps him." "We're here for him. We mentioned it last week, it's an absolutely horrible situation. Hopefully there will be a solution. We'll be here for him and everybody should support him. Hopefully it will be sorted as soon as possible." Liverpool had looked set to fall to a shock defeat before Diaz's late intervention, trailing to an 80th-minute goal from Luton substitute Tahith Chong. "He's still disappointed because he also wanted to win," said Van Dijk. "There's a lot of emotions in his head. It must have been (meant to be) that he should have scored. I'm happy for him, but hopefully we can get his father back as soon as possible." "You can't imagine it, that's the scary part. The only thing we can do is hope they will find him safe and sound and they get him back to his family." "When it happened it was a shock to everyone. We spoke about it and it should give us extra motivation. He doesn't want us to suffer from what he's going through, he wants us to take fuel from it."

Edwards Helps Timberwolves End Celtics' Unbeaten Start

BOSTON (Dispatches) - Anthony Edwards scored a game-high 38 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves handed the Boston Celtics their first loss of the season with a 114-109 overtime victory Monday night in Minneapolis, Minn. Edwards also had nine rebounds and seven assists for the Timberwolves, who outscored the Celtics 13-8 in overtime. Minnesota led 106-105 in OT and Edwards extended the lead to 112-105 by making jump shots on three consecutive possessions. Jayson Tatum scored a team-high 32 points for the Celtics, who received 26 points from Jaylen Brown and 20 from Kristaps Porzingis. Boston entered the game averaging an NBA-best 126.4 points per game. Jaden McDaniels had a 20-point performance for the Timberwolves, who received 14 points and 12 rebounds from Rudy Gobert. Karl-Anthony Towns was held to seven points, but had 10 rebounds before he fouled out with 3:56 remaining in overtime. Edwards hit a 3-pointer to give the Timberwolves a 90-88 lead with 6:35 to play. It was the start of an 8-2 spurt that gave the Timberwolves a 95-90 lead with 5:02 remaining in the fourth. Brown's 3-pointer capped a 9-2 run that put Boston in front 101-98, but McDaniels tied the score, 101-101, on a 3-pointer with 1:41 remaining in the fourth. Neither team scored again in regulation. Minnesota led 29-26 after one quarter, but the Celtics had a 55-52 lead at halftime. The Timberwolves outscored the Celtics 27-19 in the third quarter and had a 79-74 advantage entering the fourth. The Timberwolves won despite missing 12 of their 25 free throw attempts and committing 24 turnovers. Boston guard Derrick White missed his second straight game for personal reasons, reportedly the birth of his second child. White is averaging 15.8 points and 4.3 assists in four games with the Celtics this season. The Celtics (5-1) were the last unbeaten team in the NBA.



Shakib Leads Bangladesh to Win After "Time Out" Drama



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan triggered a debate on the spirit of cricket before smashing a rapid 82 in their three-wicket victory against 1996 champions Sri Lanka, who were eliminated from the 50-overs World Cup. The all-rounder collaborated in a 169-run stand with Najmul Hossain Shanto (90) to help Bangladesh chase down a 280-run victory target in 41.1 overs. Charith Asalanka's 108 underpinned Sri Lanka's 279 all out after they were put into bat by Shakib, who was in the eye of a storm on an eventful day. It was Shakib's appeal that led to Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews becoming the first player to be "timed out" in an international match. Put into bat, Sri Lanka lost Kusal Perera in the first over when Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim flew to his left to grab a one-handed blinder in front of the first slip. Pathum Nissanka (41) and Sadeera Samarawickrama (41) could not convert the starts but Asalanka smashed five sixes and six fours in his second ODI century to help Sri Lanka post a competitive total. Nearly 20,000 spectators witnessed drama at the halfway stage of the Sri Lankan innings when Mathews walked out to bat after Samarawickrama's exit. After the chinstrap of his helmet broke, Mathews waited for a new helmet to arrive before facing Shakib, but was adjudged "timed out" after failing to take strike within the stipulated two minutes. Bangladesh lost both openers inside seven overs but Shakib and Shanto put their chase back on track. Mathews denied Shakib a hundred, and tapped his wrist in a send-off as if to tell the Bangladesh captain it was his time to go. Shanto missed out on a hundred too but Sri Lanka still succumbed to their sixth defeat in eight matches. Following the team's poor performance in the tournament, the entire Sri Lankan board was sacked and replaced with an interim committee earlier on Monday. The prevailing filthy air in New Delhi was the talking point ahead of the match between the Asian sides. The air quality index (AQI) near the Arun Jaitley Stadium read close to 400 on Monday noon triggering speculation that the match might get delayed if not cancelled altogether. An AQI of 0-50 is considered good while anything between 400-500 affects healthy people and is considered a danger to those with existing diseases. Both teams had cancelled a training session in the buildup, and on Sunday, asthmatic Bangladesh cricketers remained indoors while Sri Lankan players wore masks. Organisers installed air purifiers in the players' dressing rooms while water sprinklers were used to reduce pollutants in the air. New Delhi has stood on top of a real-time list of the world's most polluted cities compiled by Swiss group, forcing the local government to extend the closure of primary schools until Nov. 10.

Swiatek Wins WTA Finals, Reclaims No.1 Ranking



CANCUN (Dispatches) - Poland's Iga Swiatek thrashed Jessica Pegula to win the WTA Finals on Monday, sealing her return to world number one. Second seed Swiatek dominated Pegula from start to finish to clinch a 6-1, 6-0 victory in a 59-minute masterclass. The 17th win of Swiatek's career ensures that the four-time major singles champion from Warsaw will finish the season as world number one for a second straight year. "The team that's been with me the whole

season, we had many ups and downs," a jubilant Swiatek said after her win. "This is for sure an up. We will for sure have many more if we keep working like that," added Swiatek, who lost just 20 games across the tournament -- a new record. Pegula had few complaints about her defeat after an error-strewn display. "It just was one of those days where I felt like I was going for too much," Pegula said. "And she was just playing super solid." Swiatek, 22, had beaten outgoing world

number one Aryna Sabalenka in the semi-finals on Sunday. Sabalenka took over the number one ranking from Swiatek following the US Open in September. Pegula defeated Swiatek in the two players' previous meeting in Montreal in August, and had impressed on her way to Monday's final, which had been shunted back 24 hours after wet weather washed out play on Saturday. But the 29-year-old American from New York never looked capable of pulling off a repeat of her Canadian victory against three-time French Open champion Swiatek, who was sharper in every facet of her game. The Polish star dominated on serve, and pulled Pegula all over the court with whipped groundstrokes that left her opponent flailing. Pegula also struggled on serve, being broken five times while coughing up 23 unforced errors compared to Swiatek's six. Swiatek -- who gave up only one break point opportunity in the entire match, which Pegula was unable to convert -- sealed victory in the sixth game of the second set when the American pulled a backhand return long. Swiatek took control of Monday's contest early on, breaking Pegula in the fourth game for 3-1 before holding and breaking again for a 5-1 lead. She served out to love to claim the first set and then carried that momentum into the second set. She broke Pegula twice in the first three games of the second set, and then held comfortably for a 4-0 lead. Pegula -- who won just seven points on first serve through the match -- suffered another break to leave Swiatek on the brink. Loud cheers erupted for Pegula when she finally managed to earn her first break point of the match on Swiatek's serve. But Swiatek quickly got it back to deuce and then moved to match point by crushing a forehand winner with Pegula stranded, before wrapping up victory on the next point after another errant groundstroke from the American.