

China IPPR International Engineering Corporation Has Signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Iran's Ministry of Sport and Youth to Build a New Stadium in the Iranian Capital City of Tehran

IRAN NEWS

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshghi Has Said 30% of Financing in the Country's Economy Sector Was Done Through the Capital Market in the Previous Iranian Calendar Year (Ended on March 20)

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Supreme Leader Announces General Policies of Sea-Based Development



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has announced the general policies of sea-based development based on Clause 1 in Article 110 of the Constitution and after consultation with the Expediency Council. The text of the policies was issued to heads of the three government branches and the head of the Expediency Council. The following are the 9 articles of the policies issued on November 7, 2023. 1. Making integrated maritime policy and efficient management of the sea to use the maximum capacities of the sea and achieve a proper global position. 2. Developing sea-based economic activities and establishing marine development hubs in beaches, and islands so that the economic growth rate in the area of sea-based activities (sea-based economy) is at least double the rate of economic growth of the country over ten-year periods. 3. Facilitating and developing domestic and foreign investment by creating the necessary software and hardware infrastructure (legal, economic, infrastructure, and security). 4. Setting out a comprehensive plan for sea-based development and determining the share and geography of population, trade, industry, agriculture, and tourism, especially on the southern coasts and islands, especially on the coast of Makran, with an emphasis on Iranian-Islamic identity within one year after the policy announcement. 5. Maximum and optimal usage of capacities, resources, and reserves of marine ecosystems by preventing the destruction of the marine environment, especially by other countries. 6. Providing and promoting human capital and efficient management as well as establishing scientific, educational, and research support for sea-based development and ecosystem of innovation plus marine technology. 7. Developing economic, trade, and investment cooperation in large-scale and knowledge-based infrastructure with the countries in the world to take advantage of maritime capacities and effective presence in international passages and to achieve the position of regional hubs. 8. Increasing the country's contribution to maritime transport and transit by establishing and strengthening the combined transport network. 9. Supporting domestic investors in development projects and supporting economic activists and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of local communities in various fields, including fishing, agriculture, industrial, and tourism.

No Connection Between Iran and Attacks on U.S. Bases in Region



TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeed Iravani says that the Islamic Republic of Iran has never engaged in any action or attack against U.S. forces in Syria and Iraq. The statements made by Iran's representative at the United Nations were in response to a letter written by the United States to the Security Council, accusing Iran of operating against its forces in Syria and Iraq. In a letter addressed to Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the Security Council, Amir Saeed Iravani expressed his view that the United States is attempting to legitimize its illegal military actions in Syria, which he believes is a misinterpretation of Article 51 of the UN Charter. He further added that these baseless claims are aimed at justifying the continuous violation of international laws and the United Nations Charter by the United States in Syria. Iran's Ambassador to the UN emphasized that according to international laws, an occupying country does not have the right to invoke self-defense as a justification for its illegal actions. Iravani also highlighted that the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations has repeatedly voiced strong opposition to the ongoing illegal presence of American military forces in Syria, considering it a violation of international laws and a disregard for national sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and independence. The Syrian representative has also called on the United States to end its occupation of Syria. Iran's diplomat called for the withdrawal of US troops from Syria and stated that Iran's presence in Syria is completely legal and based on an official request from the Syrian government.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

Iran Urges World to Condemn Israeli Regime's Dangerous Statements



NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amir Saeed Iravani has said that the Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the international community to condemn the Israeli regime's reckless and dangerous statements and to pressure the regime to fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and adheres to dismantle its nuclear weapons program. Iravani said so in letters sent to Secretary-General of the UN Antonio Guterres and President of the Security Council of the UN Sérgio Franca Danese on Tuesday (November 7, 2023) local time. Below is the full text of Iravani's letter: I wish to draw the Security Council's attention to a matter of utmost concern: the threat to use nuclear weapons by the Israeli regime against the vulnerable and innocent civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip. The defenseless Palestinian people of Gaza, who have been subjected to persistent Israeli military aggression, horrible savage killings, atrocities, and collective punishment, all in flagrant violation of international humanitarian law, now face a nuclear threat from the lawless regime of Israel. What has heightened our concern is an assertion made by Amichai Eliyahu, Israel's Heritage Minister, during a recent interview with Radio Kol Berama on November 5, 2023. When asked about the possibility of using nuclear weapons against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, he replied, "That's one way." It is deeply concerning to note that this is the second time in just two months that senior Israeli officials have resorted to the threat of using nuclear weapons. Before this, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of the Israeli regime, in his address on September 22, 2023, at the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, made explicit threats regarding the use of nuclear weapons against Iran. (S/2023/697) The use or even the mere threat of nuclear weapons, irrespective of the circumstances or the responsible party, constitutes a flagrant violation not only of international law but also of the fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter, especially Article 2(4). Furthermore, what makes this situation even more alarming is when such dire threats originate from the authorities of an occupying regime, which has displayed a consistent disregard for international humanitarian law and is continuing its unabated heinous crimes against the Palestinian people, including genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity and even using starvation as a method of warfare in the besieged Gaza Strip. Additionally, their refusal to heed the international community's widespread call for a ceasefire sends shockwaves throughout the global community. The Islamic Republic of Iran calls for the international community to condemn the Israeli regime's reckless and dangerous statements and to apply pressure to ensure that Israel fully cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and adheres to its safeguards and verification procedures; dismantles its nuclear weapons program; and joins and fully implements all relevant international treaties and conventions on Weapons of Mass Destruction. I would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Developing Ties With Central Asian States on Agenda of Gov't

TEHRAN - Before his departure to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, the Iranian president said that the development of relations with Central Asian countries is on the agenda of the government. "In the government's foreign policy, relations with neighboring Muslim countries are one of the characteristics, and the issue of Central Asian countries is an issue that we have emphasized since the beginning of the government that there is a very significant capacity in these countries," President Raisi said in a gathering before his departure to Tajikistan. The relationship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and these countries and the development of relations with the countries of Central Asia are on the agenda of the government, he added. This trip is carried out at the invitation of the President of Tajikistan in order to strengthen the political, economic, and cultural relations between the two friendly brotherly countries, the Iranian president said. Referring to Raisi's first foreign visit to Tajikistan, Iran's ambassador to Tajikistan Alireza Haghghighian said on Tuesday that Iran and Tajikistan's ties are on the path



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

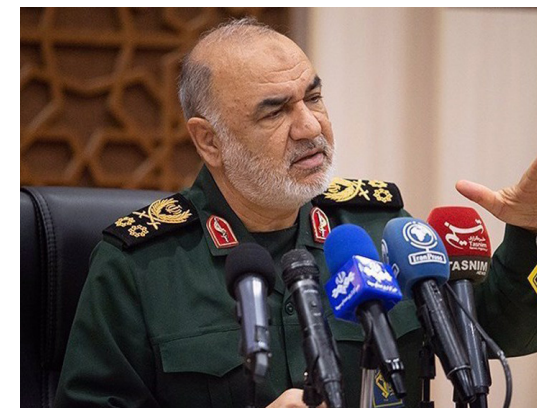
of cooperation within the framework of the neighboring policy. The volume of trade between the two countries increased from \$120 million to \$280 million in the Iranian calendar year 1401 compared to the year before that and in the first six months of the current year has so far been about \$150 million, he added. Pointing to several signed contracts between the two countries in the field of technical engineering services with a value of more than \$550 million during the said period, he said that so far more than \$100 million have been implemented. He underlined that the trade and economic exhibition of Iran, as well as the 16th Joint Economic Commission of the two countries, will be held in Dushanbe in the near future. President Raisi's visit to Dushanbe will be held at the official invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon today (Thursday). It is scheduled to sign several cooperation documents and hold a joint business and economic conference with the participation of the presidents of the two countries, as well as about 200 Iranian and Tajik economic activists and entrepreneurs.

Israel Admitted to Possessing Atomic Bombs



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) has called for global condemnation of an Israeli minister's threat of using nuclear bombs against the Gaza Strip, pointing out that the remarks also count as an admission of possessing atomic bombs. "Once again, an official of the Zionist regime has admitted to possessing nuclear weapons, and more importantly, by threatening the oppressed and innocent people of Gaza, he questioned the most basic principles of international law and the UN Charter," Mohammad Eslami said. The Zionist regime's so-called heritage minister said recently that one of the occupying entity's options in its war against Gaza is to drop a nuclear bomb on the coastal enclave. "This is one of the possibilities," Amichai Eliyahu said during an interview with Radio Kol Berama when asked whether an atomic bomb should be dropped on Gaza. The northern Strip has no right to exist, he insisted, adding that anyone waving a Palestinian or Hamas flag "shouldn't continue living on the face of the earth." The remarks come while the Zionist regime's asymmetrical war against Gaza has killed more than 10,000 people in the besieged enclave, most of whom are children and women. Eslami acknowledged that some countries have already denounced the remarks but stated that it is high time international organizations, especially the United Nations, broke their silence and took firm actions in the face of such audacity, which he called a "grave threat" to international peace and security. He also urged the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and its director general, Rafael Grossi, to take an independent and serious approach within the framework of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, especially on the creation of a Middle East free of nuclear weapons. They should "announce the consequences of the threat of using nuclear weapons by this fake regime to the United Nations Security Council in addition to condemning these destructive threats which are contrary to the principles and goals of the UN Charter," he added.

Defeat of Israel, U.S. Decline Source of Peace, Security for World



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has censured Israel's war on the besieged Gaza Strip, saying the defeat of the occupying entity and the decline of the United States constitute a source of peace and security for the world. Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks in a ceremony in Tehran, more than a month after the Israeli regime, backed by the United States, launched a brutal onslaught against Palestinians in Gaza and claimed more than 10,000 innocent lives. "Today, the Zionist regime is like a decayed and rotten tooth that has been detached from its root and feels its early and rapid decline, and the Americans have accordingly realized the collapse of their image and credibility in the eyes of the world," Salami said. Stressing that the political officials of the United States and the countries siding with it in the crimes perpetrated in Gaza are confused and bewildered, the IRGC chief said, Americans act like someone who is drifting in an aimless way. Pointing to the fact that the United States has never been so isolated throughout its history, Salami said, "Today, the U.S. has lost its previous standing in the world and is investing in a regime that has had no achievements for it, and this is the result of the lack of wisdom in the U.S. ruling system." The chief commander of the IRGC added, "The defeat of the Zionist regime and the decline of the US are a source of peace and security for the world."

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.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Most Operational Phase of Iran-China Contracts Commenced



TEHRAN (IP) - The Minister of Economy announced that the most operational stage of Iran-China interactions has begun during the visit of the first vice president of Iran to Shanghai. Ehsan Khandouzi, Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance, presented a report on the visit of the Iranian delegation to China led by the First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber. He added that during the two-day trip, several officials, including himself, accompanied the first vice president. The main objective was to follow up on projects that were scheduled for implementation after the president visited Beijing. Khandouzi further explained that the first step towards this collaboration was taken in July this year with the holding of the inaugural joint commission between both countries. "The second step was recently taken during VP Mokhber's trip to China over these two days. Khandouzi expressed hope for increased investments in Iran in the coming months, both in the public and private sectors, as projects in agriculture and industry are finalized. The Minister of Economy emphasized that previously Iran used to export energy to China while importing technology and industrial products. However, with these new agreements, a balance will be established, allowing Iran to export its domestically produced goods with joint investments from China to other countries.



Non-Oil Exports to Turkey Hit \$2.7b in 7 Months

TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$2.7 billion to Turkey during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced. Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that Turkey was the fourth top export destination of Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned seven-month period. The IRICA head also announced that exporting non-oil goods worth \$3.8 billion to Iran, Turkey was Iran's third source of import in the first seven months of this year. Based on the data previously released by the Turkish Statistical Institute, the value of Iran's exports to Turkey increased by 19 percent to reach \$3.35 billion in 2022. Turkey had imported over \$2.82 billion worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic in 2021. Based on the mentioned data, Iran's imports from the country also marked an 11-percent rise to hit \$3.07 billion in the past year, in comparison with 2021, when the figure was \$2.77 billion. According to the Turkish Statistical Institute, the trade between the

two countries has registered a 15-percent rise in 2022 compared to 2021. The value of trade between the two neighbors reached \$6.42 billion in 2022, while the figure stood at \$5.59 billion in the preceding year. Iran's trade balance with Turkey has been \$280 million positive in favor of Iran in the past year. Last July, Iran, and Turkey discussed ways of expanding economic relations along with political ties at the Turkish-Iranian High-Level Cooperation Council in Tehran. During the meeting, which was co-chaired by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the two sides negotiated the extension of the gas export contract between the two sides for the next 25 years. In the meeting, President Raisi noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to expand economic relations with neighboring countries. The president also evaluated Tehran-Ankara ties as positive and progressive, saying that the two countries should pursue appropriate policies to move towards increasing their annual trade exchanges to \$30 billion.

U.S. Support for Child-Killing Israeli Regime to Complicate Regional Security



TEHRAN - Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani says the recent Palestinian operation in the occupied territories exposed the "fake power" of the child-killing Israeli regime, warning that the U.S. and the West's support for Tel Aviv has complicated the situation in the region. Ashtiani said Palestinian operations, including Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, rely on the capabilities of resistance fighters and their spirit of resilience after several decades of sanctions and harassment. "As a completely Palestinian operation, Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was successful, had great achievements, and clearly exposed the fake power of the Zionist regime," he added in a meeting with Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Hicabi Kirilangic on Tuesday. The Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7 in response to Israel's violations at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East al-Quds and growing settler violence against Palestinians. The Iranian defense minister said that the occupying entity will not achieve any of its "objectives" in Gaza, and that the support of the US and the West for the crimes of the child-killing Zionist regime has complicated the security conditions in the region. He also called on Muslim governments to take practical measures against Israel such as imposing economic sanctions and an embargo on the regime as well as halting the export of energy and fuel to it. "It is definitely necessary for these countries, especially the major ones in the region, to act more decisively and coordinately in this regard as a religious and humanitarian duty," Ashtiani said. In the meeting, the Iranian defense minister emphasized the cultural and historical commonalities between Iran and Turkey, noting that the expansion of bilateral cooperation benefits the entire region and the Muslim world. Referring to the developments in the Caucasus region, Ashtiani said that stability and security in West Asia, Central Asia and the Caucasus are of critical importance for both Iran and Turkey. The Islamic Republic's fundamental policy is to preserve the territorial integrity of all the states in the region, he asserted. Ashtiani further urged respect for the political sovereignty of regional countries, stressing that the Iran-Turkey cooperation can be effective in creating stability and security in the region and countering separatist moves. "We strongly believe that changing the historical and geopolitical borders in the region will be harmful and destructive to the regional security," he said.



Iranian, Cuban Officials Discuss Promotion of Trade-Industrial Cooperation

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Farshad Moghimi held talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment of Cuba Ricardo Cabrisas on the expansion of bilateral ties. In line with the implementing the policy of the current administration for the expansion of trade and industrial cooperation with the Latin American countries and following the agreements made in the recent visit of President Ebrahim Raisi to this region, the deputy minister of industry, mine and trade met and held talks with the deputy prime minister, foreign trade minister and deputy industries minister of Cuba. Farshad Moghimi, who also heads the Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), has traveled to Cuba on behalf of Iran's minister of industry, mine and trade to take part at 39th Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV 2023). The two sides emphasized the need for expanding bilateral trade cooperation in the field of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Moghimi also held talks with the deputy minister of industries and president of steel and industrial company of Cuba to discuss bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest. During the meeting, Moghimi expressed his readiness to strengthen cooperation in the field of agricultural equipment and machinery. The two countries enjoy high potentials and capabilities to expand their cooperation in all fields especially in the field of trade and economy. The 39th edition of Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV 2023) kicked off at the EXPOCUBA Fairgrounds on November 6 and will run through November 11.



Tehran, Kabul Transport Ties to Be Improved

TEHRAN - Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash hosted a meeting with Afghanistan's Acting Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation Hamidullah Akhundzada in which the two sides discussed ways of developing transport ties. In this meeting, the two sides exchanged views about the previous agreements between the two countries regarding the development and strengthening of airlines, providing aviation training, solving the problems of border terminals, developing road lines, and solving traffic problems between the two countries, as well as developing railway lines. In addition to the previously reached agreements, the officials also talked about increasing flights, providing technical and engineering services in the field of aviation, activating international flight corridors for the transit of goods through Afghanistan, increasing road traffic, transit cargo through Iran, and using the capacities of the Khaf-Herat railway. Senior officials from Iran and Afghanistan have 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 Afghani 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.

Iran's Six-Month Shrimp Exports Up 22% YOY



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran has exported some 13,500 tons worth \$60 million of shrimp in the first six months of the Iranian calendar year (March 21 - September 22), according to a person with the knowledge of the matter. Ali-Akbar Khodaei, the director of the Aquatics' Production and Trade Union of Iran, said that the country's six-month shrimp exports register a 22% year-on-year increase when compared to 11,100 tons of exports reported in the last year's corresponding period. He said that Russia was the main destination for Iranian shrimp accounting for 40% of Iran's total exports, followed by the UAE which imported another 35% of the Iranian exports of the product. The rest 25% of Iranian shrimp exports mainly went to China, Lebanon, Egypt, Spain, France, Britain and some other regional countries, Khodaei said. He added that some 80-85% of Iran's shrimp output are produced in two southern provinces of Hormuzgan and Bushehr. He also cited official statistics which say that there are some 16,000-17,000 of active shrimp farms in Iran with 4000-5000 others being under construction.

Iran-India direct refrigerated container service launched

Chabahar, IRNA – Direct refrigerated container service between Iran’s southeastern port of Chabahar and Indian ports has been launched, a local official has said. The director-general of Sistan and Baluchistan’s Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Qassem Askari told IRNA on Wednesday that as a result of launching the service, importing, exporting and transiting of refrigerated products from Chabahar port to Indian port destinations and from Indian origin to Chabahar has been provided. He added that the facility of launching of direct refrigerated container shipping lines for products through sea transportation, reduces the costs of export of horticultural products, agricultural and fishery products from Chabahar.



Russia Says Israeli Nuclear Remark Raises Huge Number of Questions



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia’s foreign ministry said that a remark by an Israeli junior minister who appeared to express openness to the idea of Israel carrying out a nuclear strike on Gaza had raised a huge number of questions. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday suspended Heritage Minister Amihay Eliyahu, from a far-right party in the coalition government, from cabinet meetings “until further notice”. Asked in a radio interview about a hypothetical nuclear option, Eliyahu had replied: “That’s one way.” This has raised a huge number of questions. Maria Zakharova, Russia’s foreign ministry spokeswoman, was quoted as saying by state RIA news agency. Zakharova said the main issue was that Israel appeared to have admitted that it had nuclear weapons. Israel does not publicly acknowledge it has nuclear weapons though the Federation of American Scientists estimates Israel has about 90 nuclear warheads. “Question number one - it turns out that we are hearing official statements about the presence of nuclear weapons?” Zakharova said. If so, she said, then where are the International Atomic Energy Agency and international nuclear inspectors? Eliyahu remark drew condemnation from around the Arab world, scandalised mainstream Israeli broadcasters, was deemed “objectionable” by a U.S. official, and Iran called for a swift international response. “The UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency must take immediate and uninterrupted action to disarm this barbaric and apartheid regime. Tomorrow is late,” Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said on platform X on Monday.



G7 Seeks Common Line on Gaza, Vows Strong Support for Ukraine

TOKYO (Dispatches) - G7 foreign ministers sought Wednesday to hammer out a common line on the Israel-Hamas war while vowing there would be no let-up in their support for Ukraine in its war with Russia. The ministers were expected to issue a joint statement later in Tokyo calling for “humanitarian pauses” in Gaza, while stopping short of urging a ceasefire. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, arriving for the talks from his latest whirlwind Middle East tour, called Tuesday for the G7 to speak “in one clear voice” on the conflict. Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa said late Tuesday that the G7 ministers “need to call on the relevant countries to take humanitarian pauses and ensure humanitarian access, which is a pre-condition for sufficient and continued humanitarian assistance”. A diplomatic source said after a working dinner focusing on Gaza the same day that there was “great unity that in view of the humanitarian emergency in Gaza, humanitarian care for the Palestinian civilian population needs to be urgently expanded”. The source added that there were “constructive exchanges” about humanitarian pauses, as well as the need for discussions among the G7 and other countries in the region about the future of Gaza and how to stop the conflict from spreading. The Israeli military has relentlessly bombarded Gaza since October 7, when Hamas militants launched an attack that left 1,400 dead in Israel, most of them civilians, according to Israeli authorities. The Hamas-run health ministry says the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 10,300 people. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday there would be no fuel delivered to Gaza and no ceasefire unless more than 240 hostages seized by Hamas were freed. He also said Israel would assume “overall security” in Gaza after the war ended, while allowing for possible “tactical pauses” before then to free captives and deliver aid to the besieged territory. However, Washington said Tuesday it opposed a new long-term occupation of Gaza by Israel. On the Ukraine war, Japan said Wednesday after talks that the G7 were “united” in their resolve to continue providing “strong support” to Kyiv and

imposing “severe sanctions” on Russia. Kamikawa added that “even as tensions increase in the Middle East, it is important for the G7 to be united in sending a clear message to the international community that our steadfast commitment to supporting Ukraine will never waver”. With the war there now in its 20th month and Ukraine’s counteroffensive struggling to gain ground, President Volodymyr Zelensky has regularly met Western leaders to try to stave off fatigue over the conflict. German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said earlier that G7 countries were working on providing help to Ukraine as the country braced for a second full winter of Russian attacks on energy facilities. Similar strikes by Moscow’s forces last year left thousands without heating or electricity in freezing temperatures. “It is clear, particularly at this moment, that around the world some (parties) are watching very closely how we will continue to support Ukraine,” Baerbock told reporters. “We will do that with everything we are doing.” Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba was set to join the G7 meeting by video conference. Japan also said that the G7 ministers had “strongly condemned North Korea’s repeated ballistic missile launches as well as arms transfers from North Korea to Russia, which directly violate relevant UN Security Council resolutions”. North Korea has provided Russia with over one million artillery rounds to use in Ukraine, with Pyongyang appearing to receive advice on satellite technology in return, a South Korean lawmaker said earlier this month, citing Seoul’s spy agency. The countries’ leaders, Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin, held a summit in September in Russia’s far east, with the United States subsequently saying Pyongyang had begun providing Moscow with weapons. The Kremlin said last month there was “no proof” North Korea was sending it weapons. The G7 meetings also discussed how best to engage with an increasingly assertive China, with ministers recognising the importance of “expressing our concerns directly” to Beijing while also working with it “on global challenges as well as areas of common interest”, Japan said.

Biden Boosted by Ohio Abortion Vote and Kentucky Win




COLUMBUS (Dispatches) - The U.S. state of Ohio voted to enshrine abortion rights in the state’s constitution, while the Democratic governor of Kentucky won reelection, in results that boosted President Joe Biden ahead of the 2024 White House race. The “yes” vote victory in Ohio’s referendum, known as Issue 1, inserts the right in the Republican-run state’s constitution for residents to “make and carry out one’s own reproductive decisions,” including on abortion. A watch party of “yes” campaigners exploded with joy as the projected results were announced in the mid-western state’s capital of Columbus, with many erupting into tears, screams and hugs. “I don’t even have the words to express it,” 27-year-old campaigner Summer McClain told AFP, while other organizers broke into cries of “Abortion is health care,” “Abortion is a winning issue” and “Your body, your rights.” Reproductive rights were also in the spotlight in the Kentucky governor’s race as the conservative-leaning southern state was projected to re-elect incumbent Democratic Governor Andy Beshear, who made abortion rights a key issue in his battle against Republican Daniel Cameron. And elsewhere, in Virginia, Republican hopes for legislative wins that would allow them to tighten abortion restrictions appeared all but dashed as Democrats seemed poised to take several key state General Assembly seats. Biden celebrated the Ohio result, saying that voters “rejected attempts by MAGA Republican elected officials to impose extreme abortion bans that put the health and lives of women in jeopardy,” referring to his likely 2024 opponent Donald Trump’s slogan “Make America Great Again.” The president, who faces grim polling numbers and harsh criticism over his handling of Israel’s war with Hamas in Gaza, pointed to Tuesday’s election outcomes as a galvanizing moment for his own re-election campaign. “Voters vote. Polls don’t. Now let’s go win next year,” he posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

China Warns Against Maritime Camp Confrontations



BEIJING (Dispatches) - China’s foreign minister, Wang Yi, said maritime disputes should be resolved through talks and warned against “camp” confrontations, but stopped short of naming the United States, days before an expected meeting between the countries’ leaders. The Philippines, Japan and the United States have complained about what they say is growing Chinese aggression in the South China Sea. Beijing says most of the region is part of its territory, a claim that is hotly disputed by several littoral nations. Last month, China and the Philippines traded barbs over a collision in the South China Sea as Chinese vessels blocked the passage of Philippine ships. Beijing said the vessels were “trespassing” on Chinese territory when trying to send supplies to Philippine troops stationed on a disputed shoal, which lies in the Philippines’ exclusive economic zone. The tense encounters between China and the Philippines at the contested shoal have led Japan to call for trilateral cooperation with the United States on helping Manila bolster its security capabilities. “Historical maritime disputes should be resolved through friendly consultation between direct parties, and maritime camp confrontations and zero-sum games should be resisted,” Wang said at a symposium on maritime governance in Hainan on Tuesday, without identifying any nation. Crisis communication mechanisms should also be improved, Wang said, without referring to the incidents. China has long criticised what it labels as “cliques” among nations, especially countries that have no direct claims in disputes. Beijing has been especially critical of the U.S. Indo-Pacific strategy, which identifies China as an aggressor in the region, including the South China Sea, undermining international maritime law including freedom of navigation. Last year, at the same symposium, Wang said a “certain major country” created the Indo-Pacific strategy, put together exclusive “small circles”, and doubled down on “provocative” close-range manoeuvres and muscle-flexing. But in his remarks on Tuesday, Wang took a more dovish tone and avoided overt references to the United States, amid broader bilateral efforts to ease tensions and days ahead of an expected meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of an upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. China will continue to fulfil its obligations under international maritime laws, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Wang said, again without referring to Washington. A year earlier, he had criticised the “certain major country” for refusing to join UNCLOS, of which more than 160 countries are parties. The United States, while accepting the UNCLOS, has yet to ratify it.



Fossil Fuel Plans by Producing Nations Threatens 1.5C Limit

PARIS (Dispatches) - Plans to expand oil, gas and coal production by major fossil fuel countries would push the world far beyond the Paris deal’s 1.5C global warming limit, the UN warned. The future of fossil fuels will be a key flashpoint when world leaders meet at the COP28 climate conference later this month, tasked with salvaging the world’s agreed temperature thresholds. Most of the world’s leading producers of fossil fuels have pledged to achieve “net-zero” emissions by midcentury – a target that should align with the Paris Agreement’s aims to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since the pre-industrial era, and preferably a safer 1.5C. But the annual United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Production Gap report makes it clear that the production plans of the top 20 producing countries – including the United States, China, Russia, Australia and COP28 host United Arab Emirates – are heading in the opposite direction. Overall it found that governments’ plans would produce 110 percent more fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with limiting warming to 1.5C, and 69 percent more than would be consistent with 2C. “Governments’ plans to expand fossil fuel production are undermining the energy transition needed to achieve net-zero emissions, throwing humanity’s future into question,” said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. “Starting at COP28, nations must unite behind a managed and equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas – to ease the turbulence ahead and benefit every person on this planet.” Burning fossil fuels is by far the main cause of climate change, accounting for most of the planet-heating carbon pollution driving global warming and the ensuing barrage of temperature records, devastating weather disasters and sea level rise. But countries have been reluctant to officially acknowledge this in global climate negotiations, and even the Paris Agreement does not explicitly talk about how to reach the targets it sets. That has led to a “large discrepancy” between governments’ production plans and the need to rapidly move away from fossil fuels to meet global climate goals, said Ploy Achakulwisut, a lead author on the UNEP report and Stockholm Environment Institute scientist. The UNEP report covers 20 countries that account for 82 percent of production and 73 percent of consumption of the world’s fossil fuel supply. It found that planned increases in production in these countries would produce 460 percent more coal, 82 percent more gas, and 29 percent more oil than would be in line with the 1.5C limit. The report said the United States – the top oil and gas producer globally – has encouraged accelerated domestic production of oil and gas since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, even as it ramped up climate policies. US authorities forecast oil production will reach and remain at “record high levels” from 2024 to 2050, with gas production continuously increasing, the report said. Meanwhile, UNEP said the world’s biggest emitter China produces just over half of the world’s supply of coal, the most polluting of the fossil fuels. Its domestic coal production reached a record in 2022 of around 4.5 billion tons, the report said, adding that production was expected to peak this decade. China, the world leader in renewable power, is committed to peaking emissions by 2030 and becoming carbon-neutral by 2060.

Turkish Parliament Dumps Coke, Nestle From Menus Over Alleged Israel Support

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkey’s parliament removed Coca-Cola and Nestle products from its restaurants on Tuesday over their alleged support for Israel amid the conflict in Gaza, according to an official statement and a source who named the two companies. The two companies did not immediately respond to a request for comment. “The products of companies that support Israel will not be sold in restaurants, cafeterias and tea houses in the parliament campus,” Turkey’s Grand National Assembly said, without identifying the companies. Speaker Numan Kurtulmus made the decision, it added, in order to “support public sensitivity regarding boycotting products of companies who have openly declared their support for Israel’s war crimes (and) killing of innocent people in Gaza”. A parliamentary source said Coca-Cola beverages and Nestle instant coffee were the only brands removed from menus, adding the decision was meant to respond to “huge public outcry against these companies” for supporting Israel. Neither the parliament statement nor the source specified how Coca-Cola and Nestle supported Israel’s war effort. Last month Nestle said it temporarily shut down of one of its production plants in Israel as a

“precaution”, becoming the first consumer products giant to announce a response to the war. Turkish activists have in recent days named both companies in social media posts that call for boycotts of Israeli goods and Western companies they view as endorsing Israel. The Turkish parliament’s move is among the first by a government or major organisation to target big global brands over the month-long war between Israel and the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Elsewhere, the Barcelona port stevedores’ union refused to load and unload any military material amid the war in Gaza, while Belgian transport unions refused to handle military equipment being sent to Israel. Over the past month, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his government have sharply criticised Israel’s assault on Gaza and Western support for Jerusalem. Israel has bombarded Gaza since a Hamas raid on southern Israel a month ago, when its fighters killed 1,400 people and seized 240 hostages. Gaza health officials say Israel’s assault has killed more than 10,000 Palestinians, including some 4,100 children. Hundreds of thousands of Turks have taken to the streets to protest against Israeli operations into Gaza over the past month.



Man City, Leipzig Into Champions League Last 16



PARIS (Dispatches) - Holders Manchester City and RB Leipzig became the first teams to reach the last 16 of this season's Champions League on Tuesday while Danylo Sikan's goal allowed Shakhtar Donetsk to claim a stunning win over Barcelona. Pep Guardiola's reigning champions have eased into the knockout phase with a perfect record, a 3-0 win over Young Boys making it four wins out of four in Group G. Erling Haaland followed his brace in Bern two weeks ago with another two goals against the Swiss side, with the Norwegian striker opening the scoring from the penalty spot midway through the first half. Phil Foden got their second in first-half stoppage time and Haaland struck again soon after the interval for his 15th goal of the campaign. Young Boys were then reduced to 10 men as Sandro Lauper was sent off, and City saw out a 10th successive home victory in the competition. "People say 'yeah, the group stage, it is easy', but you have to do it. In life, you have to do it when people expect you to do it," Guardiola told TNT Sports. Leipzig joined City in securing progress from Group G thanks to their 2-1 victory at Red Star Belgrade. Xavi Simons gave the German side an early lead with a lovely finish into the far corner, and Lois Openda made it 2-0 in the rain in Belgrade with his 10th goal this season. Former European Cup winners Red Star pulled one back through a Benjamin Henrichs own goal but they are now left to fight it out with Young Boys for a place in the Europa League knockout phase. Barcelona could have booked their last-16 ticket with a win over Shakhtar but instead the Ukrainian club kept their own hopes alive with a famous 1-0 victory in Hamburg. Sikan, the 22-year-old forward, headed in the only goal of the Group H game late in the first half and Shakhtar held on. "It feels very sweet," smiled coach Marino Pusic, whose Shakhtar team are playing European home games this season in Germany amid the ongoing war in

Ukraine. "I am tremendously proud of my players and all the people in the club, working very hard to support me in this, what we achieved tonight." Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez admitted his team were "in a bit of a footballing rut", and they were joined at the top of the section on nine points by Porto, who beat Royal Antwerp 2-0 in Portugal. Brazilian forward Evanilson opened the scoring with a first-half penalty and Antwerp had Jurgen Ekkelenkamp sent off early in the second half. Porto wrapped up the win in stoppage time when veteran defender Pepe headed in to become, at the age of 40 years and 254 days old, the oldest player ever to score a Champions League goal. The record had previously been held by Francesco Totti, who last scored in the competition for Roma aged 38. Paris Saint-Germain and Newcastle United's hopes of qualifying from Group F remain in the balance after both lost on the road. PSG went down 2-1 away to AC Milan despite Milan Skriniar giving the French side an early lead at San Siro. It took Milan just three minutes to draw level when Rafael Leao finished in acrobatic fashion, and Olivier Giroud headed in the winner five minutes after half-time. Borussia Dortmund are top of the group after beating Newcastle 2-0 in Germany, with Niclas Füllkrug and Julian Brandt scoring the goals, one in each half. Atletico Madrid top Group E after crushing 10-man Celtic 6-0 in Spain to record their biggest win in the modern Champions League. Antoine Griezmann grabbed an early opener and Celtic then had Daizen Maeda sent off midway through the first half. Alvaro Morata made it 2-0 in first-half stoppage time and Griezmann made it three on the hour mark. Samuel Lino got the fourth with a stunning strike, Morata lashed in the fifth for his second, and Saul Niguez completed the scoring. Lazio beat Feyenoord 1-0 in the same section thanks to Ciro Immobile's 200th goal for the club.

Stones Faces Lengthy Injury Absence



MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Manchester City defender John Stones face a lengthy spell on the sidelines after suffering an injury in Tuesday's 3-0 win against Young Boys. City boss Pep Guardiola said the England centre-back is likely to be out for a substantial period following his half-time substitution at the Etihad Stadium. Stones had already missed the first 10 games of the campaign with a hip injury sustained in pre-season before returning to action in October. Asked if Stones would be out for a long time, Guardiola said: "Yeah, I think he will be out a while. I feel so sorry for him." Stones' injury is a blow for Premier League leaders City, who face key matches against Liverpool and Tottenham after the November international break. Adding to Guardiola's injury woes was the sight of Manuel Akanji suffering a back problem during the pre-match warm-up, with Kyle Walker a last-minute replacement for the Swiss defender. The saving grace for City is their victory over Young Boys sealed qualification for the Champions League last 16, allowing Guardiola to rest players for their remaining two group matches. "Manu had a problem in the back. Unfortunately John, he felt (injured) again," Guardiola said. "It is a big loss for us. He is so important for what he does. He will recover, the season is long. He will be back stronger."

Novak Djokovic Is the Greatest



LONDON (Dispatches) - ATP Tour veteran Lucas Pouille has come out firmly on the side of Novak Djokovic in the GOAT debate following another stunning year for the Serbian. Djokovic has spent his career locked in battle with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to be considered the greatest player of all time. He started his career after those two, and now they are retired, in Federer's case, and easing towards retirement in Nadal's. Djokovic is pulling away in almost every metric. He has had another standout year with majors, winning three and reaching the final in the other (Wimbledon). That has seen him pull clear of Federer and Nadal in the Grand Slam race, which most agree is the key statistic for greatness. He has also become the first man to reach the milestone of 40 Masters 1000 titles and extended his already incredible tally of weeks at world number one. Furthermore, he is showing absolutely no signs of decline either. In fact, his careful management of his schedule has, if anything, seen him up his already imperious level. And, as far as Pouille is concerned, he has now seen enough. "Today, he is 36 years old, he has 19, 20 years of career, he has almost 100 titles and he is still just as hungry and what is extraordinary is that he still seems the freshest on the ground," Pouille told Eurosport. "I think he can play for two, three or even four more years. The question is rather whether the desire will still be there." The desire to continue to make all these efforts, these sacrifices to be at the highest level. But for me, he still has the energy to play for a very long time. "Is Novak Djokovic the greatest? Yes, well yes, the figures speak for themselves. For me, yes, it's the biggest. He's the GOAT as they say." Lucas Pouille may well be underestimating Novak Djokovic when he questions whether the desire will wane. All the indications are that Djokovic is hungrier for success than ever before and, in fact, is still not close to the targets he set himself as a child. Bogdan Obradovic was one of Djokovic's earliest coaches, and he recently revealed what the world number one has always told him regarding his career ambitions. "I talked to Novak Djokovic when he was nine years old, that's when we met for the first time," Obradovic said. "After that, when he was 13, we started working together for the next 18 years, which is a very long time." He told me every time and I know his idea. He wants to get to the number 30, which is three-zero. That's what Novak wants. "So, for the next five years, he will play and he will probably have 20 opportunities to get to that number, to 30 Grand Slam trophies. Let's see."

Incredible Maxwell takes Australia to Improbable Win, World Cup Semis

MUMBAI (Dispatches) - Glenn Maxwell fought through cramps to smash an unbeaten 201 off 128 balls, single-handedly guiding Australia to an improbable three-wicket win over Afghanistan in a World Cup match on Tuesday and sealing the team's spot in the semi-finals. Afghanistan appeared set for a famous victory against five-time champions Australia at the floodlit Wankhede Stadium, reducing them to 91 for seven wickets after setting them a victory target of 292. But the Afghans then watched in disbelief as Maxwell launched an extraordinary counter-attack. With captain Pat Cummins for company, Maxwell took Australia past Afghanistan's total of 291 for five wickets with 19 balls to spare. The right-handed batsman suffered cramps after going past his fourth hundred in the 50-over format but laboured on, cutting down on running between the wickets to manage the pain and relying more on big hits. In total, Maxwell hit 21 fours and 10 sixes during his knock - many of them on one leg and the last six sealed the victory and also brought up his double century. "Horrible, I feel shocking," said Maxwell. "It was quite hot when we were fielding, I haven't done a whole lot of high intensity exercise in the heat. It got a hold of me today, I was lucky to stick it out until the end." Cummins remained unbeaten on 12 from 68 balls but more importantly added 202 for the unbroken eighth wicket partnership. Afghanistan held numerous meetings on the ground but were unable to find a way to dislodge Maxwell, who was dropped on 33 by Mujeeb Ur Rahman off Noor Ahmad's bowling. Maxwell was also adjudged out leg before wicket in the same over against Noor but the batsman managed to successfully overturn the umpire's decision on appeal. "Really disappointed. Cricket is a funny game, it was unbelievable," Afghanistan captain Hashmatullah

Shahidi said. "We were in the game. Our bowlers started really well, we dropped chances for the eighth wicket. Maxwell doesn't stop, I have to give credit to him." Afghanistan seamers Naveen-ul-Haq and Azmatullah Omarzai had struck early blows with the ball to reduce Australia to 49-4 after opening batsman Ibrahim Zadran's maiden World Cup hundred helped Afghanistan post a competitive total. With Steve Smith missing from the side due to a bout of vertigo, Australia did not seem to have the batting depth to chase down the target and Rashid Khan's two quick strikes seemed to have all but sealed the match in Afghanistan's favour. Tuesday's victory took Australia to 12 points. They became the third team to reach the semi-finals with India and South Africa having already booked their spots. Zadran anchored the Afghan innings earlier with an unbeaten 129 from 143 balls after the South Asian side won the toss and elected to bat. The 21-year-old Zadran's fifth hundred in the 50-overs format was studded with eight fours and three sixes. All-rounder Rashid smashed an unbeaten 35 off 18 balls with three sixes and two fours to provide Afghanistan with some quick runs towards the end.



Czechs Rout Champions Swiss in BJK Cup Finals Opener

SEVILLE (Dispatches) - The Czech Republic earned an impressive 3-0 victory over defending champions Switzerland in their Billie Jean King Cup finals opener. Marie Bouzkova and Linda Noskova triumphed in singles matches to give the Czechs an unassailable lead before the doubles rubber in Group A, dubbed 'the group of death', including record 18-time winners the United States. Noskova defeated Celine Naef 7-6 (7/2), 4-6, 6-4 in a long battle of two 18-year-old debutants, before Bouzkova saw off the in-form Viktorija Golubic 6-4, 6-4. Then Czech doubles pairing Barbora Krejckova and Katerina Siniakova beat Golubic and Jil Teichmann 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 to cement their perfect start. Swiss player Naef fought her way back in as Noskova nearly gave up a 4-1 lead in the first set and then crumbled under the pressure in the second to force a deciding third. However this time it was Naef who collapsed from 4-1 up, with world number 41 Noskova converting her second match point. "I came back in the third, which is the most important one," said an exhausted Noskova, after the two-hour, 31-minute match. The 11-time champions clinched the tie when Bouzkova saw off Golubic, stepping up at key moments -- she saved five of seven break points and converted four out of five herself. "I'm super happy to get the second point and the win for our team," said Bouzkova. "The travelling fans are so loud, it gives us so



much support ... I enjoy the team spirit and I'm really happy with this win." Switzerland were without Belinda Bencic, world number 17, who announced last week she is pregnant and expecting her first child. Earlier Slovenia beat seven-time winners Australia 2-1, taking both the singles rubbers, but they were pipped in the doubles. Kaja Juvan and

lifeline. "It's been a busy 24 hours," Hunter told reporters. "It was obviously a quick turnaround, but for me, representing my country is the greatest honour and honestly the most amazing thing I can ever do with my tennis career."

Tamara Zidansek succeeded against last year's runners-up to get Slovenia off to a winning start on their finals debut. Juvan defeated Ajla Tomljanovic 6-4, 6-1 before Zidansek beat Daria Saville 6-1, 6-4. Kimberly Birrell and Storm Hunter, the latter only arriving a few hours before the match after travelling from the WTA Finals in Cancun, Mexico, beat Veronika Erjavec and Ela Milic in a first-to-ten super tie-break, 7-5, 6-7 (2/7), 10-5. Juvan got the ball rolling with a comfortable straight-sets win over Tomljanovic, serving strongly against her tiring Australian opponent, who has endured an injury-hit season, playing just five matches prior. The Slovenian has a strong record at the Billie Jean King Cup, recording her 10th victory in 11 matches across singles and doubles. "I feel really good playing here and I was thinking today, I can't seem to lose at this (competition)," said Juvan. Zidansek produced seven aces against Saville as Slovenia moved top of Group B, which also features a solid Kazakhstan team, including 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina. Hunter, who will finish the season as the world number one in doubles, and Birrell's doubles victory gave Australia a