

At Least 14,480 Afghans, Leaving Iran, Have Crossed at Islam Qala in Four Days Since the weekend, Said Abdullah Qayomi, Head of Refugee Affairs at the Busy Crossing Near the Western Afghan City of Herat

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Ministry Has Sent a Team of Experts to Saudi Arabia That Will Assess a Document Set to Be Released at the Upcoming Meeting of the Heads of States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the Gaza Crisis

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2 DOMESTIC



Chabahar Port Cost and Time Efficient for Afghanistan

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL



Israel Agrees Pauses in Fighting But Rules Out Ceasefire

> SEE PAGE 3

Gaza Turns into Burial Place for U.S., Israel's Policies



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps highlighted the defeat of the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip, saying the coastal sliver has turned into a burial place for the policies of the US, the Israeli regime and its supporters. Addressing a conference north of Iran on Thursday, Major General Hossein Salami said the Americans, the usurper Zionist regime, the French and others think they can achieve victory by massacring children in the Gaza Strip. However, they have failed and this indicates their end is near, he stressed. From now on, the Zionist regime's officials cannot get rid of the nightmare of death, the senior commander added. Today, Gaza has become a burial place for the policies of the US, the Zionist regime and its supporters, Major General Salami stated. He underlined that Gaza is triumphant in this battle and this is a divine Sunnah (law). Israel waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group conducted Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the occupying entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people. Since the start of the aggression, the Tel Aviv regime has killed at least 10,569 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and injured 26,475 others. It has also imposed a "complete siege" on the coastal sliver, cutting off fuel, electricity, food and water to the more than two million Palestinians living there. The Israeli regime, however, has failed to achieve any of its goals in the brutal aggression.

G7 Expected to Fulfill Responsibility, Stop Support for Gaza Genocide



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran says the Group of Seven (G7) was expected to fulfill its international responsibilities vis-à-vis Israel's war crimes and condemn genocide in Gaza as the regime pushes ahead with its criminal acts against the besieged Strip. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani made the announcement on Thursday as he strongly condemned as "groundless" a statement by the G7 foreign ministers and the High Representative of the European Union and a separate one by the foreign and defense ministers of Japan and Britain leveling accusations against the Islamic Republic. The G7 foreign ministers were expected to carry out their responsibility and condemn Israel's measures that are in violation of human and international rights in the Gaza Strip and end their support for Tel Aviv's war crimes and genocide in the blockaded territory, he said. He added that the ministers were also expected to make efforts to "immediately and unconditionally" put an end to military attacks as well as the blockade in Gaza and ensure Gazans' access to international humanitarian aid. The war started after the territory's resistance movements waged a surprise attack against the occupying entity, dubbed Operation al-Aqsa Storm, in response to its decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians. Kanaani further rejected as "false and ridiculous" the claims that Iran's support for the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas and the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has destabilized the region. "Since the very first day of the crisis in Gaza, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been making constant efforts to stop the military attacks by the aggressive Zionist regime on Gaza and save the lives of defenseless citizens and residents," the Iranian spokesperson said. He added that the occupation of the Palestinian territories, massacre and genocide of the Palestinian people and destruction of their homes and farms, attacks on religious and Islamic sites, hospitals and medical centers and measures against human rights and international law are among the crimes the Israeli regime has been committing against the oppressed citizens of Palestine. Elsewhere in his remarks, he dismissed allegations about the human rights situation in Iran, saying the issue of human rights has a high religious and moral position in the Islamic establishment and the Constitution. Kanaani urged those countries advising Iran to respect human rights to review their dark record in this regard and end their support for Israel's child-killing, war crimes and genocide in Gaza. The spokesman also reacted to the G7 foreign ministers' request from Iran to live up to its obligations regarding nuclear non-proliferation and fully cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). "As it has been repeatedly announced, nuclear weapons have no place in the military doctrine of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he said, reiterating once again the completely peaceful nature of Tehran's nuclear program. "Iran has fulfilled all its commitments in this regard, which has been verified by the IAEA on several occasions," Kanaani emphasized. He reaffirmed Iran's foreign policy on the promotion of stability and security in West Asia and emphasized that the military presence of extra-regional countries is among the most important reasons behind insecurity and instability in the region. Kanaani also dismissed claims about Iran's support for Russia's war against Ukraine and interference with vessels' freedom of navigation, saying all such allegations are baseless and politically-motivated.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Raisi Calls for Moment of Respectful Silence for Gaza Martyrs

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi during his speech to the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) summit underway in Uzbekistan has called for a moment of silence for respecting the martyrs of Gaza. President Raisi called on the ECO states to pray for the powerful oppressed people of Gaza. During his speech, President Raisi highlighted Iran's unconditional support for the ECO activities. The president went on to say that Iran is determined to unite more energy and sources to make a boom in cooperation in ECO. The positive process of cooperation in the ECO would lead to greater willingness to develop regional relations within the framework of the Organization, the president added. He also described ECO as the most related and mature mechanism for economic cooperation in the region. Raisi says that today, the country is moving toward founding a just system based on respect and deepening multilateral integration. He made the remarks while speaking at the 16th ECO summit held in Uzbekistan's Tashkent on Thursday morning. Saying that Iran unconditionally supports the activities of ECO, the president added that the organization is a favorable mechanism of economic cooperation in the region. He also hailed the strong will of all ECO member states to create a safe, stable, prosperous region and to play an effective role in international systems. Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the support and cooperation of many independent countries and its international partners, is moving to build a just military foundation based on respect and deepening multilateral integration, Raisi added. Elsewhere, the president once again touched on the issue of Gaza, condemned the West and the US's all-out support for the Zionists' aggression against Gaza and introduced the United States as the Israeli regime's accomplice in its crimes against the Palestinian nation. That millions of people from across the world rally in support of Palestine and the oppressed people in Gaza indicates that Palestine has lied at the heart of the world nations, he underlined. As he stressed, the dispatch of humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza is the most important measure to be taken at the present time. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the more the Zionist regime continues its crimes, the more complicated the situation of the region becomes, he announced. So, Iran urges immediate cessation of attacks and massacres and facilitation of international humanitarian aid to Gaza. President Raisi arrived in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, on Thursday morning to attend the 16th ECO Summit on November 9.

President Calls on Int'l Community to Pressure Israel to End Attacks on Gaza

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi has called on the international community to double down on efforts to bring to halt Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip, saying the entire world is concerned about the situation in the small blockaded territory. Speaking in a joint press conference with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon, Raisi said that "all the conscientious people" are worried over the fate of the poor Palestinians in Gaza. He described Palestine as the priority "issue of Islam as well as an issue of humanity," and everybody wants an immediate halt to attacks on Gaza and the end of genocide of people, including children in Palestine. The people of the world want the end of atrocities, the removal of the blockade, delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and restoration of the rights of Palestinians, he said, calling on international organizations to hear the voice of the people and take serious action to stop Israel. Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi said political and economic ties between Iran and Tajikistan have improved over the past months, but more efforts are needed to deepen cooperation. He said that his discussions with the Tajik president show there's no obstacle to



Tehran Warns Against Distortion of Facts Regarding Iran's Nuclear Program



TEHRAN - Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, at the 77th Session of the General Assembly, stressed that when addressing Iran's peaceful nuclear program, the facts should not be distorted or presented selectively. At the 77th Session of the General Assembly, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations while referring to the fact that there are close relations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), stated: "All of Iran's nuclear activities have been fully declared and verified by the IAEA." Iranian Top diplomat further stressed: "The Islamic Republic of Iran, with the highest number of safeguards inspections of its peaceful nuclear program, has a commendable record of cooperation with the IAEA." The Agency and the Islamic Republic of Iran have close working relationships in a variety of areas. As the Agency has verified and confirmed on several occasions, and there is no proof of diversion of declared nuclear material or activities in Iran. "He went on to note:" However, it is crucial to underscore that when addressing Iran's peaceful nuclear program, the facts should not be distorted or presented selectively. "However, the Agency's impartiality, independence, and professionalism should never be jeopardized in the context of the safeguard obligations nor influenced by certain parties so all states would enjoy their enshrined rights in the IAEA's Statute," Iravani emphasized. "The Israeli regime has been refusing to sign up for the NPT and abide by the comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA. The Agency must deal with this regime with an unbiased and professional approach. Time to disarm this regime and bring peace and security to the region is now", he stressed. "The Zionist regime by committing the most barbaric crimes, is slaughtering the defenseless Palestinians. Along with its other negative roles in the region, it has cowardly assassinated our nuclear scientists and sabotaged Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities. These horrific terrorist acts must be categorically condemned by the world community. This regime must be held responsible and none of those atrocities should be treated with impunity," stressed Iravani. He concluded: "Concurrent with the international condemnation of the Israeli regime for threatening to use nuclear weapons, just in last two months against Iran and lately against Gaza, we categorically condemn this regime for both the possession of weapons of mass destruction and the threat to use them."

S. Korea, Iran Sign Tentative Deal on Revision to Double Taxation Treaty



SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea and Iran signed a provisional agreement Thursday to revise a bilateral double taxation treaty to better prevent the avoidance of double taxation and fiscal evasion, and to boost cooperation on tax issues, Seoul's finance ministry said. The two sides held three-day negotiations from Monday in Seoul to revise their agreement for the avoidance of double taxation with respect to taxes and income and on capital, which came into force in December 2009, and reached an agreement, according to the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The revision calls for easing some regulations for residents of a contracting state seeking a mutual agreement procedure to resolve difficulties regarding the interpretation of the agreement. The revision also aims to enhance the bilateral information exchanges and the overall cooperation on tax matters. "We've tried to upgrade the agreement by reflecting changing international standards and recommendations presented by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and other institutions," a ministry official said. The two sides plan to hold a ceremony for a formal signing and go through due domestic procedures to have it come into force, the ministry said, without elaborating on the time frame.

IRAN NEWS



Time Running out for Israel to Continue Its Crimes

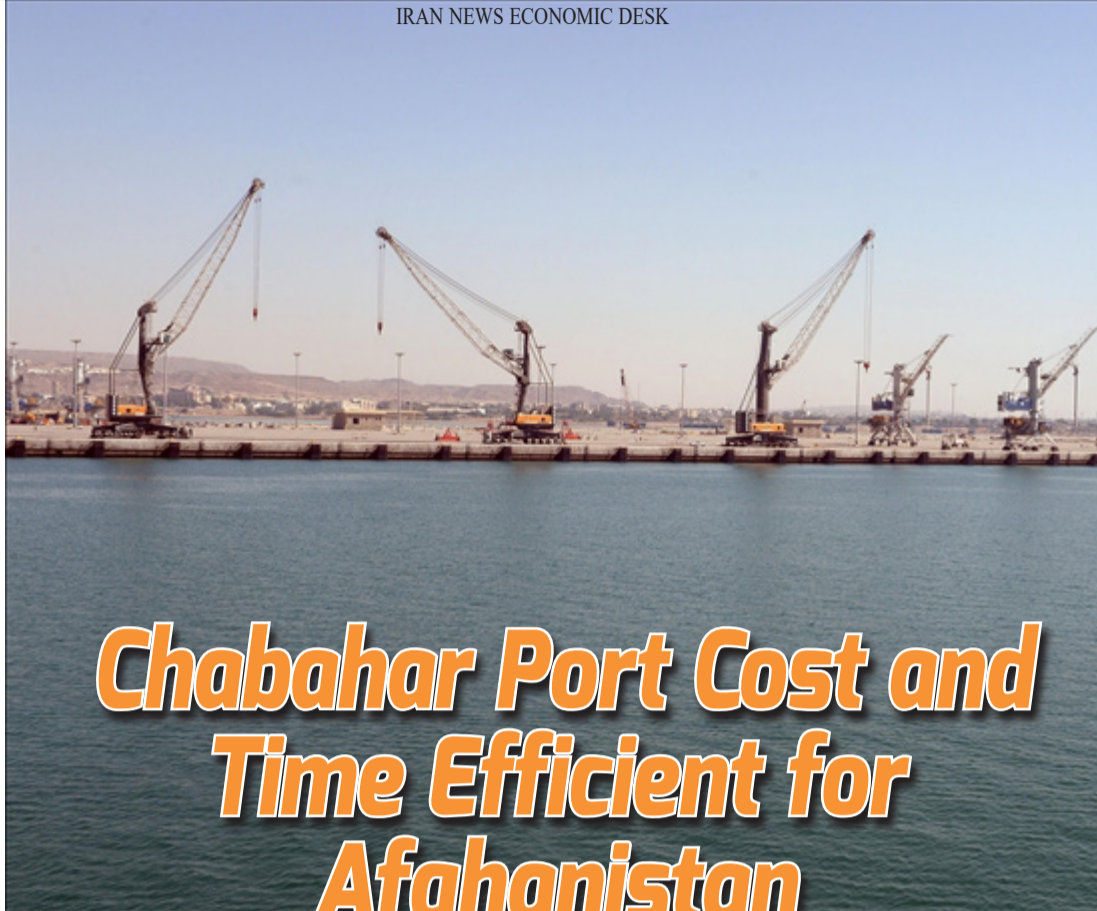
TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has asserted that time is running out for Israel to continue its brutal aggression against the Gaza Strip as it nears its collapse. In a post on his X account on Thursday, Amir-Abdollahian said the only good Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu did was further destabilize the foundations of the "fake Israeli regime." Netanyahu unmasked the "criminal, violent and aggressive face of the Zionist regime" in the massacre of the women and children of Gaza, he wrote. "Undoubtedly, the future belongs to Palestine," the chief Iranian diplomat added. Amir-Abdollahian's comments come amid widespread international condemnation of Israel's deadly bombing campaign in Gaza and growing calls to end the regime's atrocities.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Iran Gives Priority to Expansion of Ties With Muslim, Neighboring States



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi says Iran gives priority to the expansion of political and economic relations with Muslim and neighboring countries. Raisi made the remarks on Thursday during a meeting with his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in Tashkent, which hosts the 16th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO). Boosting political and economic interactions with Islamic, neighboring and aligned countries is among the main priorities in the Islamic Republic's foreign policy, he said. He also highlighted the capacity of regional organizations to facilitate ties between neighbors and strengthen their interactions. Raisi expressed his satisfaction with the implementation of Iran-Uzbekistan agreements, especially those in the fields of information technology, trade and transportation as well as monetary and banking issues, calling for more cooperation in those areas. Mirziyoyev, for his part, said he was pleased with the meeting and underlined the need for enhancing cooperation between Tehran and Tashkent. He also thanked Tehran for inaugurating the Iran House of Innovation and Technology in Tashkent, saying the project makes Uzbek economic activists more familiar with the Islamic Republic's achievements, capacities and experience. Officials from the two sides issued a statement in Tehran on Sunday in the presence of both heads of state.



Chabahar Port Cost and Time Efficient for Afghanistan

KABUL (Dispatches) - Afghanistan's economy chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar Akhund Thursday urged Iran to facilitate easier access for Afghan trade through its Chabahar port. Baradar's office said strategically located Chabahar port enables Afghanistan to establish new trade and transit partnerships while connecting to international markets "with lower time and cost." During a trip to the port in southeastern Iran, located on the Gulf of Oman, Baradar emphasized the need to enhance Afghanistan's exports and imports through the port, according to a statement from his office. Baradar, who is Afghanistan's deputy prime minister for economic affairs, urged that Iran should "facilitate easier access to Chabahar port, enabling Afghanistan to reach global markets more effectively." The Iranian side, the statement added, "assured" Baradar of their

support and intent to boost Afghanistan's trade through the port. "Connecting to Chabahar port will grant Afghanistan access to markets in Europe, the Middle East, India, and China, thereby strengthening Afghanistan's global relationships," the statement noted, pointing out that Chabahar port holds significant economic importance for Central Asian countries, particularly landlocked Afghanistan. Baradar has been on an official trip to Iran since last weekend, where he has met top officials including foreign and interior ministers. "Chabahar port offers a more efficient route, being tens of kilometers closer than Bandar Abbas (port in Iran) and hundreds of kilometers shorter than Karachi port (Pakistan), resulting in unprecedented reductions in export costs and transit times," the statement said.

Iran Calls for Release of Its Share of Hirmand River



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Energy Minister has stressed the need for Afghanistan to release Iran's share of Hirmand River based on a treaty in place between the two neighboring countries. Ali-Akbar Mehrabian made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Afghanistan's first deputy prime minister Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar. He referred to an earlier meeting with the Afghan official in Kabul where Baradar had stressed that the Afghanistan's leadership favors resolving the issue through negotiations. Mehrabian said that technical studies show that as much as 2 billion cubic meters of the river's water had been wasted over the past two years while the Afghan officials had insisted that even a single drop of water would not go to waste. The Iranian minister said that that sum of water could resolve water problems of both Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan region and Afghanistan's Zaranj Province. The Afghan official, for his part, said that Afghanistan's leadership is regretful about the waste of the water, stressing the need for the water to flow towards Iran.

Iran's First High-Power Electron Accelerator System "ELV" Unveiled



QAZVIN (IP) - The first high-power electron accelerator system "ELV" was unveiled at Qazvin Industrial Radiation Center today (Thursday) in the presence of Mohammad Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. According to the "Diplomacy and Public Information Center of Iran Atomic Energy Organization", the first high-power electron accelerator "ELV" with energy of 2.5 mega-electronvolts and rated current of 40 milliamps aimed at improving quality, increasing efficiency and lifespan and creating a field for export Polymer products were put into use as the first industrial radiation system in the 13th government and in the radiation center of Qazvin. The first high-power electron accelerator "ELV" was built on a land of 12 hectares, and irradiation of polymer materials and products, sterilization of disposable medical products, disinfection and elimination of food storage pests, conducting polymer tests in order to check properties and control. The quality of materials and the determination of the microbial load of food before and after irradiation are among the most important services and activities of this collection. The use of radiation technology creates a transverse bond in wire and cable insulation and as a result improves thermal characteristics such as increasing the melting temperature in order to transmit more power, improving chemical characteristics such as increasing insulation resistance in harsh and corrosive industrial conditions and improving mechanical characteristics such as increasing resistance.



\$500m Trade With Tajikistan Within Reach

TEHRAN (IRNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi says that an initial target for reaching a \$500 million trade with Tajikistan is possible. The president, who was on a visit to Dushanbe, made the remarks in a joint meeting of high-ranking delegations of Iran and Tajikistan in Dushanbe on Wednesday. Good steps have been taken over the past two years to help enhance cooperation on political, economic and cultural areas, the president said, while noting that there is still a long way to go in bilateral relations. President Raisi also referred to the unprecedented Zionist atrocities in Gaza, adding that Iran and Tajikistan, as two Muslim countries, have to make efforts to stop this historical oppression. Touching upon the situation in Afghanistan, the Iranian president said that Iran and Tajikistan can also cooperate to help ensure full security in Afghanistan and fight against terrorism, drug trafficking and organized crimes. The president of Tajikistan, in the meantime, underlined the need for more enhanced ties between Tehran and Dushanbe, particularly in the fields of mining, health, agriculture, techno-industrial companies, hydroelectric power plants, exploration and excavation of oil and gas resources, and cultural and techno-scientific cooperation. President Rahmon censured the brutalities perpetrated in Gaza, especially those done against the women and children, urging the need for more efforts to establish a ceasefire in the Palestinian region.



Expansion of Scope of Gaza War Inevitable

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has warned about the repercussions of the intensification of Israeli atrocities against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, which the Zionist regime has been bombing relentlessly since October 7. "Due to the expansion of the intensity of the war against Gaza's civilian residents, expansion of the scope of the war has become inevitable," Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a telephone conversation with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani on Thursday. The war started after the territory's resistance movements waged a surprise attack against the occupying entity, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, in response to its decades-long campaign of bloodletting and devastation against Palestinians. Elsewhere across the region,

Yemen's Armed Forces have conducted several rounds of drone and ballistic missile attacks against targets lying inside the occupied territories in response to the Israeli regime's unbridled aggression against Gaza. The Iranian and Qatari officials vehemently condemned the Israeli regime's attacks on Gaza's civilians and voiced deep concern regarding the humanitarian situation in the coastal sliver. The officials exchanged opinions concerning the available means of cessation of the Israeli regime's savage aggression, immediate implementation of a ceasefire, and continuous transfer of humanitarian supplies to Gaza's war-hit and besieged civilians. They also addressed some of the initiatives that had been proposed so far concerning the manner of implementation of such a ceasefire.

Raisi, Erdogan Discuss Relations, Palestine Situation



TEHRAN (MNA) - President Ebrahim Raisi and his Turkish counterpart President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a meeting on Thursday to discuss Tehran-Ankara bilateral relations, as well as the war in the Gaza Strip. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 16th summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan. During the meeting, the Turkish president stressed the need for the Islamic world to adopt a united position regarding the Israeli regime's crimes and increase pressure against the occupying entity. He added that Turkey is ready to act as a guarantor regarding the Gaza issue. Earlier on Thursday, Raisi met and held talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on the sidelines of the ECO summit. Tel Aviv waged the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian Resistance movement Hamas carried out a surprise attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, into the occupied territories in response to the occupying regime's intensified crimes against the Palestinian people.

Zionist regime attacks Gaza with phosphorous bombs

Tehran, IRNA - Palestinian news sources reported on Friday night that the Zionist army targeted the vicinity of al-Shifa hospital in Gaza with white phosphorous bombs. The planes of the Zionist regime have been insanely bombing the area, the sources reported. Also, reports indicated intense clashes between resistance fighters and Israeli occupation forces around al-Shifa Hospital. On the other hand, the tanks of the Zionist regime have also entered this area and are planning to advance, but until now they have been blocked by the resistance fighters. The lives of thousands of people are at risk in al-Shifa Hospital, and at any moment, the Zionist occupiers may carry out another brutal attack against this hospital, the sources said.



Shots Fired at Two Jewish Schools in Canada, No Injuries



MONTREAL (Dispatches) - Two Jewish schools in Montreal were hit by gunfire overnight, police said Thursday, amid spiking tensions in Canada over the Israel-Hamas war. School staff arriving in the morning found bullet holes in the front doors of the schools in the Cote-des-Neiges neighborhood of Canada's second-largest city, authorities said. There were no casualties. The shootings follow the firebombing of a synagogue in Montreal earlier this week, and clashes between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israel student groups at the city's Concordia University. "I know emotions are high, and people are scared. But attacking each other is not who we are as Canadians," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said during a visit to Montreal. "If anywhere in the world is going to start building the kinds of understandings that we're going to need to see peaceful resolution in the Middle East... it starts in a place like Canada," he said. On Wednesday, Trudeau reported a "terrifying" rise in anti-Semitism and Islamophobia across the country. He said Canada has a long tradition of peaceful co-existence among diverse peoples and it was the "responsibility of every single Canadian to see how we are recognizing each other's pain and fear and move forward." There were no injuries in the attack on the synagogue, police said. At Concordia, one person was arrested for assault and three were treated for minor injuries following scuffles. Administrators said the university, like others, has witnessed "a concerning rise in acts of intimidation and intolerant behavior" that have left students in fear. In a separate incident, swastikas were discovered in one of the school's buildings, Concordia said in a statement. As police announced stepped-up security at schools and places of worship, dozens of officers patrolled downtown streets Thursday ahead of several demonstrations planned around Montreal universities. Urban planning student Alesia Keim, 22, told AFP she felt "on edge." "It's scary coming to school and seeing three police cars outside and officers inside," Etia Yudin of the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs, which represents Jews across the country, called the shootings at the Montreal elementary and high schools "hateful and evil." "No child in Montreal should see their place of learning targeted by a weapon designed to kill," she said. "The hate must stop. Our city is in crisis." Many countries around the world, particularly in Europe, have faced a resurgence of anti-Semitic acts since the conflict between Israel and Hamas started on October 7.



GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) - Israel has agreed to pause its offensive in northern Gaza that will allow some civilians to flee heavy fighting, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out any broader ceasefire as a "surrender" to Hamas. U.S. President Joe Biden welcomed the pause, which formalizes an arrangement that has already seen tens of thousands of Palestinians flee devastation in northern Gaza, but also said there was "no possibility" of a ceasefire. Netanyahu said Israeli troops were performing "exceptionally well" in the offensive launched after Hamas fighters poured across the border on October 7, killing 1,400 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 240 hostages. Vowing to destroy Hamas, Israel retaliated with an aerial bombing and ground offensive that the health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip says has killed more than 10,800 people, mostly civilians and many of them children. Netanyahu said Israel does not "seek to govern Gaza." "We don't seek to occupy it, but we seek to give it and us a better future," he told Fox News. Tens of thousands of civilians have streamed out of devastated northern Gaza in recent days, with men, women and children clutching meagre possessions as they emerge from the devastated warzone. They have fled close-quarter fighting, with Hamas militants using rocket-propelled grenades against Israeli troops backed by armoured vehicles and heavy airstrikes. The UN agency responsible for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, said 70,000 people had travelled south on the route since November 4, most of them

walking. Almost 1.6 million people have been internally displaced since October 7, it added, more than half the area's population. But the UN estimates hundreds of thousands of civilians remain in the fiercest battle zones in the north. And while Biden welcomed the pause as a "step in the right direction", there was little hope for the broader halt to fighting that aid groups and the UN say is desperately needed. "A ceasefire with Hamas means surrender to Hamas, surrender to terror," Netanyahu told Fox. "There won't be a ceasefire without the release of Israeli hostages, that's not going to happen." Aid groups have pleaded for a ceasefire, warning of a humanitarian "catastrophe" in Gaza, where food, water and medicine are in short supply. "It's the first thing I think about when I wake up: how am I going to feed the children today," Amal al-Robayaa told AFP in Rafah, where she was sheltering with her husband, six children, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren at a UN school. Oxfam France director Cecile Duflot said staff were reporting "the worst, the most tragic situation that they have ever seen" in the territory. Overnight, fierce clashes continued, and Hamas-run local authorities accused Israel of shelling the areas of several hospitals in northern Gaza. The Al-Shifa hospital, where an estimated 60,000 people have taken refuge, along with the Rantisi children's hospital and the Indonesian hospital all came under fire overnight, Hamas authorities said. The bombardments caused injuries but no deaths, they added.

U.S., China Finance Chiefs Open Talks



SAN FRANCISCO (Dispatches) - U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen opened talks Thursday with Chinese counterpart He Lifeng ahead of a key Asia-Pacific leaders' summit, seeking to limit tensions despite looming national security concerns. The two days of bilateral meetings kicked off in San Francisco, where the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit is set to begin this weekend. The gathering is due to be the backdrop for a long-anticipated meeting between US President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping, expected to take place on November 15, sources have told AFP. On the agenda for the Treasury secretary and He, Beijing's lead for U.S.-China economic and trade affairs, are concerns about a level playing field for businesses, cooperation on climate change and debt distress, alongside "the use of economic tools for national security purposes," Yellen said in opening remarks. "The United States will continue to take targeted actions to protect our and our allies' national security," she added ahead of the bilateral talks. "But we are also committed to communicating clearly about these actions to prevent any misunderstandings or miscalculations," she added. "And we welcome more clarity on China's thinking and actions." In opening remarks, He told Yellen that Xi has had multiple meetings with U.S. representatives visiting China, charting the course for bilateral relations. "Maintaining frequent exchanges and interactions between China and the United States is of great significance to deepening our mutual understanding," he added. He also lauded progress made by economic and financial working groups set up shortly after Yellen's visit to Beijing in July. He expressed hopes for in-depth discussions on economic issues involving both countries, and the global economy, adding he also planned to communicate China's "key economic concerns." While the governments of both countries have not yet publicly confirmed the Xi-Biden meeting, they have given wide indications that they expect it to take place. White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said on October 31 that Washington hoped for a "constructive conversation in San Francisco" between the two presidents.



Trump's Rivals Clash at Debate But Do Little to Dent His Lead

MIAMI (Dispatches) - For the third time, Donald Trump's rivals for the Republican presidential nomination took to the debate stage on Wednesday night in his absence, seeking to dislodge the former president from his commanding lead in opinion polls. While contenders such as Florida Governor Ron DeSantis and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley briefly criticized Trump, the latest episode did not appear any likelier to alter the dynamics of a race that Trump has dominated for months. The candidates spent much of the two-hour event assailing one another as they strove to emerge as Trump's chief opponent with less than 10 weeks before the first statewide nominating contest in Iowa. They will have another opportunity on Dec. 6, when a fourth debate will take place in Alabama. For his part, Trump held a rival event nearby, where he mocked the participants and demanded that the Republican Party stop "wasting time" with "unwatchable" debates. With only five candidates qualifying for the stage - DeSantis and Haley were joined by U.S. Senator Tim Scott, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy - it was less chaotic than previous encounters. But it still had its share of cutting exchanges. At one point during a discussion about whether to ban TikTok, Ramaswamy noted that Haley's daughter had used the app, prompting Haley to warn him angrily not to mention her daughter again. "You're just scum," she muttered. Haley, who also served as South Carolina governor, and DeSantis, who has been in a distant second place behind Trump for most of the campaign, had their own clash over which governor had been too welcoming to Chinese investment. Recent polls have shown the two jockeying for second place in early voting states. Most of the candidates voiced support for banning TikTok, owned by a Chinese company, over national security concerns - even Ramaswamy, who has defended using the app as a way to connect with young Republican voters. The debate opened with moderators asking the candidates to explain why they should be the party's standard-bearer rather than Trump, giving them a chance to make their case directly to voters watching at home. DeSantis criticized Trump for skipping the event, which took place in their shared home state of Florida, and suggested that the party's poor showing in Tuesday's off-year elections should be laid at Trump's feet. "He said Republicans were gonna get tired of winning," DeSantis said. "Well, we saw last night - I'm sick of Republicans losing!" Haley offered a more muted critique. "Everybody wants to talk about President Trump. I can tell you that I think he was the right president at the right time," she said. "I don't think he's the right president now." Trump, 77, has done his best to deny his rivals a direct target, instead focusing on what he expects to be a rematch with Biden, 80, on Nov. 5, 2024. As Wednesday's debate proceeded, the candidates largely avoided attacking Trump, whose hold on Republican voters has proven unshakable even in the face of his multiple indictments. Instead, they trained their fire on Democratic President Joe Biden, particularly during a lengthy segment on foreign policy and the Israel-Hamas conflict. The Republicans all pledged unconditional support for Israel and assailed Biden's handling of the crisis. Asked what message they would send to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, DeSantis said, "I will be telling Bibi, 'Finish the job once and for all with these butchers Hamas, they're terrorists,'" using Netanyahu's nickname. Haley, who has staked much of her candidacy on her foreign policy credentials, faulted Biden for pressing Israel to consider humanitarian pauses. "The last thing we need to do is to tell Israel what to do," she said. "The only thing we should be doing is supporting them and eliminating Hamas."



Ukraine Says Onslaught on Avdiivka in the East Intensifies

KYIV (Dispatches) Russian troops are intensifying their attacks on the key eastern town of Avdiivka, a senior Ukrainian officer said, while the country's general staff reported its military repelled many Russian assaults in widely separated sectors of the front. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy hailed Ukraine's counteroffensive launched in June as "inspiring," but gave no details. Russian forces have focused on the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk since their drive on Kyiv stalled in the first days of the invasion in February 2022. They have been bearing down since mid-October on the shattered town of Avdiivka, known for its coaling plant and its position as a gateway to the city of Donetsk, 20 km (12 miles) to the east. Oleksandr Borodnitskiy, press officer for Ukraine's third separate assault brigade, said Russian forces were launching major infantry attacks, while trying to keep equipment intact. Borodnitskiy told the news outlet Espresso TV there were no dramatic statistics for destroying enemy equipment "because they use it much less, mainly from a distance." But their movements are quite dense now. It is not just infantry advancing but also parallel work of artillery, drones, aviation, the same air bombing and more. "Russian forces, he told Espresso, were unable to replenish supplies quickly and Ukrainian defensive positions were solid. "All this started after the events in Israel," he said. "Perhaps they believe it is the best time to advance, but they have no serious successes." Vitaliy Barabash, head of Avdiivka's military administration, told Espresso Russian forces were shelling the town "round the clock" but wet ground from several days of rain was holding their troops back. "Once the ground dries, they will definitely advance." Ukraine's General Staff, in its evening report, said its forces had repelled 11 attacks near Avdiivka, 15 in the nearby Maryinka sector and 22 further northeast in Bahmut, a town seized by Russian in May. Six attacks were repelled further north near Kupiansk, where Russian forces have been active. Russia's Investigative Committee, in an account of the day's fighting, said Ukrainian forces shelled the town of Skadovsk in a Russian-occupied area of southern Kherson region. The report said there were dead and wounded in the attack. Russia's Defence Ministry reported strikes on Ukrainian troops and equipment near Bahmut. Reuters could not independently confirm reports from either side.

Russian Fuel Export Ban to Be Lifted Next Week

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian fuel producers have been told by the government to prepare for the scrapping of all remaining restrictions on the export of diesel and gasoline, three industry sources told Reuters on Thursday. Russia, the world's top seaborne exporter of diesel, introduced a ban on fuel exports on Sept. 21 to tackle high domestic prices and shortages. The government eased restrictions on Oct. 6, allowing the export of diesel by pipeline, but kept measures on gasoline exports in place. Overseas supplies of gasoline by trucks and railways are also prohibited. Energy Minister Nikolai Shulginov on Wednesday said that Russia was considering lifting the export ban on some grades of gasoline. "They told the producers that exports will be opened up from next week," said a Russian oil company source who spoke on condition of anonymity owing to the sensitivity of such decisions. Another industry source said the ban would be lifted next week. "They promised to lift the exports ban next week. In regards to this promise, we have formed an export schedule and a plan for refining," said the source, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. The Russian energy ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment. Diesel is

Russia's biggest oil product export, at about 35 million metric tons last year. Almost three quarters of that was transported via pipeline. Russia also exported 4.8 million tons of gasoline in 2022. Another company source said that a gasoline glut had emerged because of the restrictions. "It's a low season now; we can't sell so much on the domestic market," he said. Officials have said the ban would be lifted once the domestic market stabilises. Analysts had expected the restrictions to be scrapped after completion of the recent grain harvesting season. Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak on Sunday said that Russia would continue an additional voluntary supply cut of 300,000 barrels per day from its crude oil and petroleum product exports until the end of December, as previously announced.





Jokic Leads Nuggets Past Warriors in NBA Thriller

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Nikola Jokic scored 35 points as the Denver Nuggets defeated the Golden State Warriors 108-105 in a blockbuster showdown between the two NBA heavyweights. A pulsating clash featuring the last two NBA champions lived up to the billing, with the Western Conference rivals going toe-to-toe in a game that saw the lead change hands nine times. After trailing for almost the entire game at Denver's Ball Arena, the Warriors edged in front heading into the fourth quarter after outscoring Denver 31-23 in the third. But Denver recovered from a five-point deficit early in the fourth to snatch victory, clinching the win after Klay Thompson's attempted game-tying buzzer-beater drifted wide. The victory cemented Denver's place at the top of the Western Conference, with the reigning NBA champions improving to 8-1. "We don't have the pressure of being a champion, we're just trying to enjoy the moment," Jokic told ESPN. "I'm just trying to play the game the right way. And as long as we're winning I think I'm doing a good job," added Jokic, who also had 13 rebounds and five assists. Reggie Jackson backed Jokic with 20 points while Michael Porter Jr. had 17. Steph Curry's 23 points led the scoring for the Warriors, the 2022 champions who fell to 6-3 after the loss. Elsewhere, Joel Embiid posted 27 points with 10 rebounds and four assists as the Philadelphia 76ers secured a sixth straight win of the season with a 106-103 defeat of the Boston Celtics. Embiid received offensive support from Tyrese Maxey, who finished with 25 points from 11-of-27 shooting, including three from beyond the arc. The victory leaves Philadelphia in first place in the Eastern Conference on 6-1, with the Milwaukee Bucks second at 5-2. Kristaps Porzingis led Boston's scoring with 29 points while Derrick White finished with 19 points and Jayson Tatum 16. Sixers head coach Nick Nurse paid tribute to the contributions of Maxey and Embiid. "We've got an emerging young star in Tyrese, we've got an unbelievable player in Joel, and we've got a lot of talented athletes around them who give us some depth," Nurse said. In other games, Victor Wembanyama gave a low-key display in his Madison Square Garden debut, where the

San Antonio Spurs succumbed 126-105 to the New York Knicks. Wembanyama, the No. 1 Draft pick from France, struggled to find his shooting range, making just 4-of-14 from the field before finishing with 14 points. Jalen Brunson led the Knicks scorers with 25 points, while RJ Barrett had 24 and Julius Randle 23. The Spurs loss marked the team's fourth straight game where they have conceded 120 points or more, and came after Monday's 152-111 mauling by the Indiana Pacers. Asked what he had seen from his team in recent performances, Spurs coach Gregg Popovich replied: "What am I seeing? I'm seeing teams score 120 or 130 against us - that's what I'm seeing." Also in New York, James Harden was left looking for his first win since joining the Los Angeles Clippers after slumping to a 100-93 defeat to former club the Brooklyn Nets. Harden was held to just 12 points by the Brooklyn defense. Paul George top-scored for the Clippers with 24 points but was unable to stop Los Angeles slipping to defeat. The Clippers fell to 3-4 for the season. In Oklahoma City, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander poured in 43 points from 15-of-22 shooting as the Thunder rolled to a 128-120 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers. Caris LeVert led the Cleveland scorers with 29 points. In Milwaukee, the Bucks edged past the Detroit Pistons 120-118 thanks to 34 points from new recruit Damian Lillard and 15 from Giannis Antetokounmpo. Seven of the Milwaukee line-up finished with double-digit points totals. The Los Angeles Lakers' dismal form on the road continued in Texas, with the Houston Rockets thrashing their visitors 128-94. Rui Hachimura led the injury-hit Lakers scoring with 24 points, but Los Angeles were always chasing the game after being overrun 32-19 in the first quarter. The Lakers - who have lost all five of their road games this season - went into Wednesday's match missing the injured Anthony Davis, Jarred Vanderbilt, Gabe Vincent and Jaxson Hayes. "It's tough, we're juggling different circumstances with guys being in and out of the line-up," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "But at the end of the day, no one's gonna feel sorry for you, especially when you're a Los Angeles Laker."

Man Utd's Luck Will Turn, Insists Defiant Ten Hag



COPENHAGEN (Dispatches) - Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag said his side are due a turnaround in fortune after collapsing to a 4-3 defeat at FC Copenhagen that left the Red Devils close to exiting the Champions League. United led 2-0 inside half an hour in the Danish capital after Rasmus Hojlund struck twice against his former club. But a red card for Marcus Rashford after a VAR review on 42 minutes changed the course of the game. Copenhagen made the most of 13 added minutes at the end of the first half to level through Mohamed Elyounoussi and a Diogo Goncalves penalty. Bruno Fernandes restored United's lead from the penalty spot, but the Danish champions struck twice in the final 10 minutes through Lukas Lerager and 17-year-old Rooney Bardghji to secure their first Champions League win since 2016. A third defeat in four games leaves United bottom of Group A. But Ten Hag was unhappy at the award of both Copenhagen's first two goals and Rashford's dismissal. The former Ajax boss believed Elyounoussi's strike should have been ruled out for offside and that the decision to penalise Harry Maguire for handball inside the area was harsh. "We played very good until the red card. The red card changed everything. Then we concede two goals that should never count," said Ten Hag. "Not only tonight. In this moment, we are in a season where we have to deal with many decisions against us. That's how it is. I'm sure it will turn. A season is long and at one point it will turn in our favour." A ninth defeat in 17 games this season ramps up the pressure on Ten Hag's position. However, the Dutchman believes there are positives to take from his side's performance before Rashford's harsh dismissal. There appeared to be no intent from the England international when his studs caught Elias Jelert on the ankle as he tried to protect the ball. United had produced arguably their best first 30 minutes of the season so far as two predatory finishes from Hojlund took his tally to five Champions League goals in four games. "I have seen a lot of positives from this game but at the end we lose possibly some focus," added Ten Hag. "Also, with 10 (men) we were still controlling the game." (The players are) very disappointed of course. We fought so hard, played so good and still we don't have one point. "United can still reach the last 16 as they sit one point behind Galatasaray and Copenhagen in the battle to join Bayern Munich in the knockout stages.

Canada Beat Hosts Spain, Italy Defeat France

SEVILLE (Dispatches) - Canada took an unassailable 2-0 lead over hosts Spain in the Billie Jean King Cup finals, to get off to a strong start in Group C. Earlier, Italy scored an impressive 2-1 win over France in their opening Group D tie, winning both singles rubbers. Canadian rookie Marina Stakusic, 18, beat Rebeka Masarova 6-3, 6-1 in a brilliant display, before Leylah Fernandez edged Sara Sorribes 7-6 (10/8), 7-6 (9/7) to take the tie, ahead of the closing doubles. Stakusic, ranked 258th in the world, made light work of Masarova, who is 65th - this was her first victory over a top 100 player. "I feel amazing, I'm super happy with my performance today. I just tried to have great energy from the beginning and just show I belong here," said Stakusic. "It's my best victory for sure... the Canadian fans motivated me so much today, and the Spanish fans too, I like any noise. For me it was very motivating." As impressive as Stakusic was, Masarova made 33 unforced errors and was far from her best. It left the pressure on team-mate Sorribes' shoulders and perhaps that told as she spurned three set points in the tie-break before Fernandez eventually snatched an exciting first set. Sorribes failed to convert two more set points in the second set tie-break and Fernandez triumphed. "There are something that I need to work on but my Canadian team-mates and my Canadian cheering squad here did what they had to do, gave me positivity and helped me in the tough moments," said Fernandez. "That was extremely tough, I tried to stay focused on just one point at a time." France clawed back a point in the doubles against Italy, who also won both their singles rubbers. Jasmine Paolini beat France's Caroline Garcia 7-6 (8/6), 5-7, 6-4 in a thrilling battle after Martina Trevisan beat Alize Cornet 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, earning Italy the tie. Garcia and Kristina

Mladenovic then earned a 5-7, 6-2, 10-6 win over Trevisan and Elisabetta Cocciaretto. Four-time winners Italy have now beaten France in five of their last seven meetings, edging this battle between two of the four ever-present countries at the tournament, along with Australia and Great Britain. Trevisan came back forcefully from a set down to triumph in the first singles rubber. Cornet said she was unwell in the second set. "I was feeling pretty good before and during the first set," she explained. "Then my form dropped. I started to feel a bit dizzy, and I think she changed her strategy and she played much smarter from the second set." Paolini and world number 20 Garcia played out a consistent first set with just one break point, which the Italian saved, eventually triumphing in the tie-break. In the second set Garcia blew two set points at 5-4 up but immediately recovered Paolini's break and made no mistake at the third time of asking, forcing a decider. However, it was Paolini who emerged victorious in a tense finale, winning the final four games to clinch victory.



Colombia ELN Guerrillas Free Kidnapped Father of Liverpool Star Diaz



BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) guerrillas freed the father of Liverpool soccer player Luis Diaz, after taking him hostage in the country's north nearly two weeks ago, the government said. The kidnapping of Luis Manuel Diaz has disrupted the government's peace talks with the ELN, which restarted last year in the hope of ending the group's part in Colombia's 60-year conflict, which has killed at least 450,000 people. The two sides began a six-month ceasefire in August. Local television channels showed Diaz's father at an airstrip in the city of Valledupar in Colombia's Cesar province after he descended from a helicopter, as well as images of family members crying at the news of his release. Though forward Diaz has remained in the UK and continued to play for Liverpool - scoring a last-ditch equaliser against Luton Town on Sunday - he has publicly expressed his anguish. He lifted up his shirt to reveal a white undertop with "Freedom For Dad" written in black after scoring on Sunday. Diaz was named in the Liverpool's starting lineup later on Thursday as the English team faces France's Toulouse in the Europa League. "We are delighted by the news of Luis Diaz's father's safe return and we thank all those involved in securing his release," Liverpool said in a statement on social media platform X. The government's negotiating delegation at peace talks with ELN said in a statement it celebrated the liberation and that Diaz was safe and sound, but that the kidnapping "should never have happened." "The current process with the ELN has advanced like no other until today. Regardless, our delegation considers that the kidnapping of Luis Manuel Diaz has placed our dialogue in a critical situation and because of it, the time has come to take decisions to eliminate kidnapping," the statement said. All people being held by the ELN must be liberated, the statement added. That figure numbers around 30 people, according to security and government sources. Guerrilla groups in Colombia have historically used kidnapping as a fundraising and pressure tactic.

Real Madrid Ease Past Braga to Reach Champions League Last 16

MADRID (Dispatches) - Record 14-time winners Real Madrid swanned into the Champions League last 16 with a comfortable 3-0 win over Braga to maintain their 100 per cent record. Brahim Diaz, Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo Goes were on target for the Spanish giants, who sealed progress from Group C even without rested top goalscorer Jude Bellingham. Brazilian wingers Vinicius and Rodrygo have been criticised for their lack of goals this season and both responded with classy finishes to help send their team through after Diaz opened the scoring. Madrid have four wins from four games, leading the group on 12 points ahead of Napoli, second on seven after a 1-1 draw with bottom team Union Berlin. "I'm very happy, it was a perfect game, three goals and we didn't let any in," Rodrygo told Movistar. "I am very happy for my goal, my assist, the win and qualification, which is the most important thing." Los Blancos goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga suffered an injury in the warm-up, with Andriy Lunin stepping in to replace him. The Ukrainian was immediately called into action, diving to his right to palm away Alvaro Djalo's penalty in the sixth minute. Lucas Vazquez had pulled Cristian Borja down in the area, but the Portuguese side could not take advantage from the spot. At the other end Diaz had a goal ruled out for a foul by Vinicius, but the former Manchester City midfielder did not have to wait too long for



another, this time valid. Sent through on the left side of the area, Rodrygo cut the ball back to Diaz who fired into the roof of the net from close range to break the deadlock. The 24-year-old broke out into sarcastic celebration, drawing a VAR screen as if to dare the officials to try and disallow this strike. Diaz, operating in Bellingham's usual attacking midfield role, did well on a rare start and was involved in most of Madrid's forward moves. Bellingham,

who has netted 13 times in 14 games since his summer switch, watched on from the bench as Ancelotti let him recover from a shoulder problem he suffered in the Rayo draw. Diaz should have struck again but was denied by a superb double save from Benfica goalkeeper Matheus early in the second half. Vinicius netted the second before the hour mark, with some clever movement and footwork in the box and then a smooth low finish. It was his fourth goal of the season across all competitions in 12 games, low by his own standards, but Ancelotti has predicted he and Rodrygo will outscore Bellingham by the end of the campaign. Rodrygo netted Madrid's third with an exquisite chipped finish after his compatriot Vinicius played him in, and embraced Ancelotti on the sideline in celebration. The coach advocated patience for his dynamic duo up front and both paid him back with goals that delighted the Santiago Bernabeu. "The hug was to thank him," Rodrygo explained. "We have to judge people when we're not in a good moment, then you see when they really are." "I wasn't in a good moment, the coach was always with me, always supporting me, saying good things - I was obliged to score and to go and thank him." Lunin thwarted former Barcelona striker Abel Ruiz in stoppage time with an excellent save to keep out his header and preserve Madrid's clean sheet, ensuring it was a near-perfect night at both ends.