

Iranian State-Owned Animal Feed Importer SLAL Has Issued International Tenders to Purchase Up to 180,000 Tons of Animal Feed Corn and 120,000 Tons of Soymeal, European Traders Said on Monday

IRAN NEWS

Total Volume of Water in Iran's Dam Reservoirs Has Reached 19.8b Cubic Meters Since the Beginning of the Current Water year (Sept.23, 2022) Up to November 11, Showing an 11% Increase Compared to the Same Period Last Year

VOL. XXIX, No. 7857 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2023 ABAN 23, 1402

2 DOMESTIC



Iran Export to Uzbekistan Stands at \$189m

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Zelensky Says Ukraine Must Be Prepared for Russian Winter Onslaught

> SEE PAGE 3



U.S. Launches All-Out War on Gaza



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says Israel collapsed on October 7, when the Palestinian resistance launched a surprise attack against the regime on October 7, and is now alive on "U.S.'s life support." "The world is witnessing the full-scale American war against Gaza," Amir-Abdollahian said in a post on his X account late on Sunday. "The Israeli regime collapsed on Oct. 7 and is now alive on American artificial respiration," he wrote. Referring to a recent phone conversation with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, the top Iranian diplomat added that he has told his Egyptian counterpart that "today is our test day." Cairo is expected to open Rafah, on Gaza's southern border with Egypt, with the purpose of delivering humanitarian aid, including water and medicine, to the war-stricken people in the Strip, he said. The Tel Aviv regime has also blocked access to water, food, and electricity in Gaza, plunging the territory into a humanitarian crisis.



Israeli War Spillover Likely; Iran Prepared for All Scenarios

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A top commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the Israeli regime's war on Gaza is likely to spill over to the rest of the region, stressing that Iran is at the peak of its power and is fully prepared for all circumstances. Hajizadeh made the remarks on Monday on the sidelines of a ceremony to commemorate the 12th martyrdom anniversary of Hassan Tehrani Moqaddam, a general known for his relentless efforts to develop Iran's missile program. Tehrani Moqaddam, an IRGC commander, was a key figure in developing Iran's ballistic missile program. He helped develop the medium and long-range ballistic missiles. An engineer by profession, he designed the Shahab, Ghadr and Sejil missiles with a range of over 1,000 kilometers. "The war has been expanded, and Lebanon is also involved. The extent of conflicts may increase even more... but Iran is ready for all circumstances," he said. He said the Americans are not a threat to Iran, citing recent messages they sent to the Islamic Republic which he said used the "language of request." Iran is the top power in the region and no one is capable of threatening it, the top IRGC commander asserted. Elsewhere in his remarks, Hajizadeh said the Palestinians' victories cannot be overshadowed by Israel's criminal operations, adding that the regime's onslaught in Gaza is now an international issue. He emphasized that all nations across the world are now aware of the Tel Aviv regime's criminal nature and its atrocities as repeatedly called out by Iranian officials over the past 40 years. "The child-killing nature and the depth of the Israeli regime's crimes are now clear to all but it will not survive for a long time," the IRGC commander said. He lauded the Palestinian fighters' "big strategic victory" in the face of the Israeli regime. "This victory will not be annihilated at all through the Zionist regime's tactical measures and criminal operations as well as the martyrdom of children," Hajizadeh said, stressing that the Palestinian people would achieve a final definite victory. Hajizadeh said the confrontation has already spread to Lebanon, where the resistance group Hezbollah has been engaged in cross-border clashes with the Israeli regime. He said, however, that the conflict may further escalate, adding that Iran is ready for any possible scenario.

Tehran Mayor Urges Muslim Counterparts to Back Gaza



TEHRAN (MNA) - Tehran Mayor Alireza Zakani has urged his counterparts in Muslim countries to support the Gaza Strip against the Israeli regime's atrocities. Alireza Zakani has called on his counterparts in Muslim countries not to allow the issue of Palestine to be forgotten. He also stated that the Israeli regime's attack on Gaza was "among the biggest crimes of the past century." Zakani blamed the United States and "a handful of European countries" for standing by the Zionist regime, saying the Palestinian cause is part of the anti-imperialist campaign. He told his counterparts that Muslim mayors have a serious duty and responsibility to defend Gaza. He called for using all capacities for cutting ties with the Israeli regime in all fields including economy, politics, and culture. He also demanded using the legal capacities against the Zionist regime in international courts. Activating all the capacities of urban diplomacy to put pressure on the child-killing Zionist regime, taking measures for the reconstruction of Gaza, holding meetings between mayors in support of Palestine, supporting popular pro-Palestine rallies, naming the streets after Palestine-related concepts, building Palestine-related elements in the cities, publishing advertisements in support of Palestine and against the Zionist regime, providing cultural support, supporting the collection of relief and medical aid for the benefit of the oppressed people of Gaza, and confronting media propaganda were among his other proposals.

U.S. Warns Israel About Military Actions in Lebanon



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Pentagon Chief Lloyd Austin has warned Israel against escalating tensions with Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement amid the regime's onslaught in the Gaza Strip, a report says. Axios reported that Austin's warning, which was made on Saturday, came amid fears that escalating tensions on the border separating Lebanon from Occupied Palestine could lead to a regional war that would draw the U.S. further into the conflict. According to the report, a U.S. source said the White House asked Austin to express concern to Israel's minister of military affairs Yoav Gallant about escalating provocations in Lebanon. In the public readout of the Austin-Gallant call, the Pentagon said the Austin "emphasized the need to contain the conflict to Gaza and avoid regional escalation" without specifically mentioning Lebanon. However, two informed U.S. and Israeli sources said Austin specifically mentioned concerns about Israeli military action in Lebanon. An Israeli source even said Austin asked Gallant for clarification about Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon and urged Israel to refrain from taking actions that could lead to an all-out war between the Israeli regime and Hezbollah fighters. Lebanese resistance fighters fully prepared for Israeli aggression, says Hezbollah officer. Lebanese resistance fighters fully prepared for Israeli aggression, says Hezbollah officer. A Hezbollah officer says his comrades with the Lebanese resistance movement are fully prepared to confront any Israeli act of confrontation. For his part, Gallant assured Austin that Tel Aviv does not seek to open a second front in Lebanon and ruled out such a scenario, according to the Israeli source. Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression in Gaza on October 7, daily clashes have taken place between Israeli troops and Hezbollah fighters. A Hezbollah officer has recently said his comrades with the resistance movement are fully prepared for any Israeli assault and have been mobilized in two regions on the border between Lebanon and the 1948 Israeli-occupied territories, as well as the occupied Golan Heights and the Galilee region.

Regional Resistance Groups Not Under Iran's Command

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani says that the Resistance groups in the region are not under the command of the Islamic Republic. Speaking at his weekly press conference on Monday, Kanaani said that since the onset of the Israeli war on Gaza, Iran has focused on stopping the war, lifting the blockade, immediately opening a way to send humanitarian aid to the coastal enclave, and countering the policy of forced displacement of the people of Gaza. Iran's foreign minister has had three phone calls with his Egyptian counterpart, and a good meeting was also held on the sidelines of the recent summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Riyadh between the presidents of the two countries, he said. He further explained that the opening of the Rafah crossing was among the key agendas of Iran's talks with Egypt. He also said the holding of the OIC summit was a success, adding that the meeting was held as a result of the diplomatic efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as Saudi Arabia's constructive cooperation. Referring to the continued Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, the senior Iranian diplomat called on the international community to take deterrent measures against Tel Aviv in this regard. Iran calls on the governments that have prevented the cessation of war (in Gaza) to allow the United Nations Security Council to fulfill its duty to establish international peace and security, he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, the foreign ministry spokesperson touched upon the measures that Tehran has taken so far in favor of Palestine since October 7, adding that Iran's diplomatic measures in this regard will continue seriously. He also asked the international forums, especially the United Nations, to

address the use of prohibited weapons in the Gaza war. In response to a question regarding the threat of using the atomic bomb against Gaza, said: "Those who claim human rights and used it as a tool of pressure, must respond now." They should be held accountable for the possible crimes of the Israeli regime, he noted. Kanaani emphasized that the use of prohibited weapons should be brought to the attention of the United Nations and international forums because it is their responsibility. Touching upon the baseless anti-Iran allegations made by U.S. officials, Kanaani said that the Resistance groups in the region do not take orders from Iran, nor do Iran give them instructions. "They decide and act based on their own considerations." The US should pay attention to its actions instead of accusations, he said, adding that from the very beginning, Iran has expressed its concern about the expansion of the dimensions of the war and repeats this principled position. The messages of the U.S. government contradict what they are doing in practice, he underlined. Kanaani stated "The world must convey to Israel that it is unacceptable to launch rockets at hospitals." He emphasized that the global community bears responsibility for the conflict in Gaza. He urged for an unequivocal message to be sent to the Zionist regime, stating that "there are signs prohibiting honking in front of all hospitals, but the world must create a serious and visible sign for Israel to prevent attacks on hospitals with rockets and tank shells." He also highlighted the dire situation in Gaza, where hospitals are being bombed and besieged, leading to shortages of essential resources and tragic loss of life among patients and children.

Indian Envoy Pays Homage to Indian Soldiers on Remembrance Day



TEHRAN - Remembrance Day was observed on November 12 at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Tehran, Iran, to commemorate death of soldiers during the two world wars. Indian Ambassador to Iran, Rudra Gaurav Shrestha, paid homage to the Indian soldiers who lost their lives during the wars. Notably, Memorial Day is observed in Commonwealth member states since World War I to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. "Remembrance Day was observed on Nov 12 at Commonwealth War Cemetery, Tehran, to commemorate those who died in the two World Wars. Ambassador Rudra Gaurav Shrestha paid homage to the fallen Indian soldiers," the Indian Embassy in Tehran posted on X (formerly Twitter). Meanwhile, India and Iran share a millennia-long history of interactions. The contemporary and relationship draws upon the strength of these historical and civilizational ties, and continues to grow further marked by high-level exchanges, commercial and connectivity cooperation, cultural and robust people-to-people ties, according to the Indian Embassy in Tehran. India and Iran signed a MoU in 2015 to jointly cooperate on the development of the Shahid Beheshti Port at Chabahar, Iran. New Delhi continues to cooperate closely with Tehran in realizing the vision of Chabahar Port as a major regional and international hub in the movement of humanitarian and commercial goods. At the same time, India and Iran are also important trade partners. New Delhi has been among Tehran's five largest trade partners in recent years. Major Indian exports to Iran include rice, tea, sugar, pharmaceuticals, manmade staple fibres, electrical machinery, artificial jewellery etc. while major Indian imports from Iran consist of dry fruits, inorganic/organic chemicals, glassware, etc.



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

IRAN NEWS



Arms Smuggling Network Dismantled

KERMAN (IRNA) - The security forces of Iran's Intelligence Ministry has dismantled an arms smuggling network in Kerman, southern Iran, a provincial official announced. Omid Rezaei, the prosecutor of Kahrizjuy city in Kerman, said on Monday that the trafficking network had been engaging in extensive smuggling activities in eastern and southeastern Iran. The Iranian security forces could identify the smuggling network and discover various war-grade weapons including 36 hand guns, the prosecutor announced according to the information office of the justice department in Kerman. Three main agents of the arms smuggling network were arrested after an unprecedented operation carried out under a judicial order, it said. Based on the prosecutor's remarks, the traffickers had imported their cargo to Iran through eastern borders, and they were planning to distribute the arms to the cities in central parts of Iran.

Iran Should Account at Least for 0.5% of World Economy

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi has said that given its natural resources and workforce, Iran should not have less than a 0.5% share of the world economy. Selahvarzi made the remarks addressing a ceremony in Tehran on Monday to mark Iran's National Quality Day. In order to have a more active presence in the world economy, the country has no way except for making serious efforts to promote the quality of the competitive production, he noted. Underlining the significance of quality, Selahvarzi said that 67% of the world added value is related to OECD countries, 9% to China, 11% to newly-developed countries and the rest 12% going to the other world countries. He added that competitive production is not the issue of today but it is the issue of the next 10 years and depends on the promotion of quality. Selahvarzi noted that quality is not an overnight achievement and is rather a continued process that is achieved both individually and in the industries and businesses.



TEHRAN - Iran exported 279,775 tons of goods valued at \$189 million to Uzbekistan during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) reported. According to the IRICA report, the Islamic Republic imported 34,559 tons of commodities worth \$51 million from Uzbekistan during the mentioned seven-month period. In mid-June, Iran and Uzbekistan signed several memorandums of understanding in various fields including transportation, transit, investment, and insurance for expanding economic ties. Iranian Transport Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and his Uzbek counterpart signed a document on comprehensive transportation and transit cooperation. Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi also signed two MOUs with the Minister of Investments, Industry, and Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan Laziz Kudratov for establishing joint free zones and expanding cooperation in investment and insurance sectors. Also, the ministers discussed the establishment of an investment company to transfer Iran's technical know-how to Uzbekistan. It should be noted that the

mentioned agreements and MOUs have been signed as part of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev's official visit to Iran on top of a high-ranking politico-economic delegation. Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) also hosted an Iran-Uzbekistan business forum concurrent with the visit of Uzbekistan's president to Tehran. The forum was attended by high-ranking officials from both countries including Kudratov and Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Abbas Ali-Abadi, and ICCIMA former Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie. Representatives from 50 different Uzbek companies also participated in the event. Last week President Ebrahim Raisi and his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in a meeting in Tashkent, stressed the need for developing bilateral relations between the two countries. During the meeting, Raisi said that the development of political and economic interactions with neighboring Islamic countries is one of the main priorities in Iran's foreign policy. Mirziyoyev, for his part, emphasized the need to strengthen relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Palestinian Resistance Missiles Inflict Strategic Defeat on Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The second-in-command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the precision missiles of the Palestinian resistance fighters have inflicted a "strategic defeat" on the Israeli regime and its allies. Rear Admiral Ali Fadavi said on Sunday what is taking place in Gaza is a confrontation between the axis of honor and the axis of evil. He said the evil Zionists and their allies know they are not capable of direct confrontation with resistance fighters and therefore are targeting Gaza with bombs and missiles and destroying non-military buildings and hospitals. The top IRGC commander slammed the West's support for the crimes of Israel and said all the efforts by those who sought for decades to portray a good image of the regime have been wasted since the beginning of the war on Gaza on October 7. Fadavi said the resistance front is now capable of destroying state-of-the-art drones of Israel and the United States both in Gaza and in Yemen.

Iran Sees Referendum as Permanent Solution for Palestine



TEHRAN (MNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian stressed Tehran's call for holding a referendum with the participation of all Palestinians as the principled and permanent political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian issue. "On Saturday, November 11th, we went to Riyadh together with Mr. Dr. Raisi, the honorable president of our country, to participate in the emergency meeting of heads of Islamic and Arab countries," Amir-Abdollahian wrote in a post on his X account in Farsi language. "From the very first days of the horrific crimes committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, the idea of holding a meeting at a high political level with the participation of heads of Islamic countries to make collective decisions in support of Palestine was proposed by the president of our country," he added. "Although this meeting was held with a month delay, it highlighted the importance of the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds again as an important factor for convergence in the Islamic world," the foreign minister added about the Riyadh meeting on Saturday. He added that at the Arab-OIC summit, President Raisi made 10 proposals such as lifting of the blockade on the enclave, holding a tribunal for the Zionist war criminals and forcing the regime and its Western backers to stop the brutal aggression and genocide, establishing a special fund for the immediate reconstruction of Gaza and the massive dispatch of humanitarian aid convoys. "The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the main and permanent solution for Palestine to be holding a referendum in accordance with international law to determine the destiny with the participation of all genuine Palestinians inside and outside this land, something that has always been emphasized at the highest political levels [in Iran]," the top Iranian diplomat said.

NICICO Exploratory Excavations Rise 20%



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The managing director of the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) said the company has conducted 240,000 meters of exploratory excavation since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) which is 20 percent more than the figure for the previous year. According to Amir Khorami-Shad, NICICO's total exploratory excavation conducted in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2024) is expected to increase by 50 percent compared to the previous year, IRIB reported. The official said the company managed to conduct 200,000 meters of exploratory drilling in the previous year. Back in June, NICICO's former head Ali Rostami said the company was following a new program to increase its annual revenues to \$10 billion. According to Rostami, based on the mentioned program, the country's production capacity is going to increase by threefold and more than 50,000 people will be working in the industry. Earlier in March, Rostami said the country's copper production is going to reach one million tons in the next six years. He noted that in case of reaching the above-mentioned output, the country's copper export is also going to hit \$10 billion.

Iran's Police Chief, Iraqi Interior Minister Review Mutual Cooperation



BAGHDAD (IRNA) - Iran's Police Chief Ahmad Reza Radan and Iraqi Minister of Interior Abdul Amir Al-Shammari have discussed cooperation between the two countries in the field of security, law enforcement, and police affairs. Radan met and held talks with Al-Shammari in the Iraqi capital city of Baghdad on Saturday. Referring to the magnificent holding of the Arbaeen trek, Radan thanked the Iraqi people and government for their deserved hosting of the Arbaeen pilgrims, just as the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei also thanked the Iraqi government and people. Iran's Police Chief expressed hope that security and police cooperation between the two

countries in providing security and facilitating entry and exit, as well as services to the pilgrims of the Arbaeen trek will continue in the coming years. Al-Shammari, for his part, referred to the memorandum of understanding between the two countries that is being implemented, expressing hope that during the visit of Iran's Police Chief to Iraq, the two sides strengthen cooperation in the field of combating narcotics and fighting terrorism plus border control. Pointing to the existing cooperation between the ministries of Iran and Iraq in all fields, he highlighted that the visit of Iran's Police Chief to Iraq will lead to enhanced mutual cooperation in the field of intelligence and new planning for the future.



Iranian Actors, War Veterans Stand Up in Solidarity With Palestinians

TEHRAN (IFP) - Tehran Peace Museum and the Iranian House of Artists in a joint statement have condemned the Israeli regime for its brutal carnage of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and have asked for an immediate ceasefire there. Over 120 Iranian actors and war veterans are on the list of the statement addressed to United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, asking a measure to put an end to Israel's 'open oppression' against 2.3 million people in the blockaded territory. "Dear Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations! We, Iranian actors, together with the veterans and chemically wounded survivors of the Iran-Iraq war, 1988-1988, by signing this sorrowful letter, ask you to do your utmost to stop the open oppression that is going on against the besieged women, children and civilians in Gaza," the statement reads. It adds, "Mr. Guterres, the position you hold, whether you like it or not, represents the historical conscience of today's mankind, and your performance will be the proof for the judgment of the generations to come." Renowned Iranian actors and directors including Davoud Mir-Bagheri, Majid Majidi, Leila Hatami, Kamal Tabrizi, Parviz Parastoui, along with the Iranian war veterans, are on the 126-man list. The Israeli onslaught has so far left over 11,000 Palestinians, including more than 4,500 children, dead and nearly 27,500 others wounded since October 7.

Republican Tim Scott Withdraws From U.S. Presidential Race

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – U.S. Senator Tim Scott announced Sunday that he is withdrawing from the U.S. presidential race, saying voters had given him a clear message of “not now.” The South Carolina lawmaker, who was running to become the first Black Republican president, had been struggling to rise above the pack in the party’s crowded field. Polling in sixth place among Republican primary candidates, the 58-year-old had only 2.5 percent of the vote, according to the RealClearPolitics average of recent major opinion polls. “I am suspending my campaign. I think the voters who are the most remarkable people on the planet have been really clear that they’re telling me: ‘Not now Tim,’” he told the Fox News program “Sunday Night in America.” Scott officially announced he was running for the Republican nomination in May after spending months visiting the states considered crucial to gaining early momentum in the contest.



APEC San Francisco Protesters Span Gamut of Political Issues



SAN FRANCISCO (Dispatches) - A lively crowd gathered in San Francisco to protest a meeting of cross-Pacific political leaders and a wide spectrum of other issues, prominently including those calling for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war. Protesters converged on the plaza in front of San Francisco’s ferry building, the gateway to the city, carrying banners and posters opposing the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, calling for economic and environmental change, and waving Palestinian flags. Others were opposed to the oil industry and supported labor activists and immigrants’ rights, and the crowd stretched for several blocks along the Market Street thoroughfare when the march began late afternoon. Hand-beaten drums set the atmosphere. The home of 1960s counterculture, San Francisco has retained an anti-authoritarian sensibility even as tech companies and employees have made the city a global influencer. Police expect multiple protests over the coming week at APEC, which accelerates on Wednesday with the second meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping since Biden took office in January 2021. The action could become confrontational on Wednesday, with protesters calling to block attendees from entering the San Francisco conference center. “Our community is in chaos,” said Roberto Ruiz, 53, a musician at the ferry plaza on Sunday who said the funding used to support the leadership summit should have been used to help the poor: “We have people in the streets who have no homes. This money could definitely have gone to them,” he said. As many as 3,000 people may live on the streets, according to data from a 2022 count published on the city’s website. San Francisco is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic slower than many cities, with some major retailers abandoning Market Street. San Francisco tourism is much reduced from pre-pandemic levels, according to data from hotel analytics firm STR published in June. Student Sarah R, 21, who declined to give her last name, said she had come to send a message to Biden and other leaders in support of Palestinians facing “genocide”. Israel has bombed the Gaza Strip in retaliation for the Oct. 7 attack on Israel from Gaza by Hamas militants. Geoscience engineer Marty Brewer, 56, urged a fast response to the climate crisis. “So far we are failing to address this emergency,” he said.

Zelensky Says Ukraine Must Be Prepared for Russian Winter Onslaught



KYIV (Dispatches) - President Volodymyr Zelensky warned Ukrainians to prepare for new waves of Russian attacks on infrastructure as winter approached and said troops were anticipating an onslaught in the eastern theatre of the war. A military spokesman said Russian attacks on the shattered eastern town of Avdiivka had eased in the past day, but were likely to intensify in the coming days. And Ukrainian military intelligence said an explosion killed at least three Russian servicemen in the Russian-occupied southern town of Melitopol, which it described as an “act of revenge” by resistance groups. Zelensky issued his warning during his nightly video address a day after Russian forces carried out their first missile attack on the capital, Kyiv in some seven weeks. “We are almost half way through November and must be prepared for the fact that the enemy may increase the number of drone or missile strikes on our infrastructure,” Zelensky said. “Russia is preparing for Ukraine. And here, in Ukraine, all attention should be focused on defence, on responding to terrorists on everything that Ukraine can do to get through the winter and improve our soldiers’ capabilities.” Last winter about 10 months into Russia’s invasion of neighbour Ukraine, Russia made waves of attacks on power stations and other plants linked to the energy network, prompting rolling blackouts in widely separated regions. Energy Minister German Galushchenko said on Saturday that Ukraine would have enough energy resources to get through the winter, but added: “The question is how much future attacks can affect supplies.” Ukrainian officials last Wednesday said Russia

had struck Ukrainian infrastructure 60 times in recent weeks, an indication that a campaign of attacks may already be under way. In his remarks, Zelensky hailed the “heroic” efforts of troops defending Avdiivka, under pressure from attempted Russian advances since mid-October. Pictures show buildings in the town reduced to shells. Military spokesman Oleksandr Shtupun said the number of infantry attacks in the past 24 hours was half of levels earlier in the week, but air strikes were on the rise. “The enemy suffered significant losses the day before yesterday and has to regroup,” Shtupun told national television. The head of Ukraine’s ground forces, General Oleksandr Syrskiy, said on Telegram that Moscow’s forces were “more active in the Bakhmut sector and trying to recover lost positions”. Bakhmut, north of the city of Donetsk, was captured by Russian forces in May after months of heavy combat, but Ukrainian troops have since retaken nearby villages. Russian accounts of the fighting on Sunday said its forces had repelled five Ukrainian attacks near Bakhmut. Reuters could not verify accounts from either side. In Melitopol, a hub for Russian occupation forces, the blast killed three men during a meeting at a post office used as a military headquarters, Ukraine’s military intelligence directorate said. The dead were officers of Russia’s National Guard or FSB intelligence service, the directorate said in a statement. There was no comment from Russian officials. Ukraine’s military has been increasingly active in attacking Russian-held areas, but does not always acknowledge the strikes.

Tens of Thousands Protest Across Spain at Proposed Catalan Amnesty



MADRID (Dispatches) - Tens of thousands of people protested across Spain against acting prime minister Pedro Sanchez’s plans to grant amnesty to Catalan separatists in exchange for support for another term in office. The government secured a deal with Catalan separatist party Junts on Thursday which includes passing a contentious law granting amnesty to those convicted over Catalonia’s attempt to secede from Spain in 2017. The deal sent shockwaves around the country, with Sanchez’s conservative opponents accusing him of putting the rule of law on the line for his own political gain. “We will not shut up until there are new elections,” People’s Party (PP) leader Alberto Nunez Feijoo told a cheering crowd packed into Madrid’s Puerta del Sol square. Authorities said 80,000 people turned out in Madrid while the PP, which had called for protests in cities across Spain, put the total closer to one million. Many held Spanish and EU flags, as well as banners with slogans including “respect the Constitution”. “He (Sanchez) has betrayed coexistence, democracy... he can’t keep governing,” said banker Tomas Perez, 38, holding a sign reading “Sanchez traitor”. “Many people that I know who vote for the Socialists feel absolutely disappointed because... Sanchez never said the amnesty would be part of his programme,” said Inmaculada Herranz Castro, 64. In Barcelona, local police said 6,000 people demonstrated, while numbers reached 30,000 in Granada and 50,000 in Seville according to authorities. Other protests took place in cities including Malaga, Palma and Valencia. After an inconclusive July 23 election, the Socialists spent weeks negotiating with smaller parties including far-left platform Sumar and Catalan, Galician and Basque nationalist parties. The confirmed support of Junts, as well as the Basque Nationalist Party, last week, would give Sanchez an absolute majority in the 350-member lower house in a vote due to take place in the coming days.

Gaza’s Largest Hospital “Not Functioning” Amid Israeli Assault



GAZA (Dispatches) - The largest hospital in Gaza has ceased to function and fatalities among patients are rising, the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) said, as a fierce Israeli assault continues in the Hamas-controlled strip. Hospitals in the north of the Palestinian enclave, including the al-Shifa complex, are blockaded by Israeli forces and barely able to care for those inside, with three newborns dead and more at risk from power outages amid intense fighting nearby, according to medical staff. Israel says it is homing in on Palestinian Hamas militants who launched deadly attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7, and says the group has command centers under and near the hospitals. The WHO managed to speak to health professionals at al-Shifa, who described a “dire and perilous” situation with constant gunfire and bombing exacerbating the already critical situation. Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: “Tragically, the number of patient fatalities has increased significantly,” he said in a post on X, formerly known as Twitter, adding that al-Shifa was “not functioning as a hospital anymore”. Tedros joined other top United Nations officials in calling for an immediate ceasefire. “The world cannot stand silent while hospitals, which should be safe havens, are transformed into scenes of death, devastation, and despair,” he said. The president of Indonesia, home to the world’s biggest Muslim population, also called for a ceasefire ahead of meeting U.S. President Joe Biden in Washington on Monday. “A ceasefire must be implemented soon, we also must accelerate and increase the amount of humanitarian aid, and we must begin peace negotiations,” President Joko Widodo said in a video recorded after he took part in an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Riyadh. He said the world seemed “helpless” in the face of the suffering of the Palestinians. The extraordinary joint Islamic-Arab summit also urged the International Criminal Court to investigate “war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing” in the Palestinian territories. Israel says it is trying to free the more than 200 hostages taken by Hamas militants on Oct. 7 and says the hospitals should be evacuated. The European Union condemned Hamas for using “hospitals and civilians as human shields” in Gaza, while also urging Israel to show “maximum restraint” to protect civilians. “These hostilities are severely impacting hospitals and taking a horrific toll on civilians and medical staff,” European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Sunday in a statement issued on behalf of the 27-nation bloc. White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said Hamas was using hospitals and other civilian facilities to house fighters and weapons, which he said was a violation of the laws of war. “The United States does not want to see firefights in hospitals where innocent people, patients receiving medical care, are caught in the crossfire and we’ve had active consultations with the Israeli Defense Forces on this,” Sullivan told CBS News.



Indonesia’s Prabowo Stretches Lead in New Survey on Presidential Contenders

JAKARTA (Dispatches) - Indonesian presidential candidate Prabowo Subianto has opened up a wide lead over his closest rival in a new opinion poll, despite controversy over his decision to pick the outgoing leader Joko Widodo’s son as his running mate. An Oct. 27-Nov 1 survey of 1,220 people released on Sunday by Indikator Politik Indonesia showed 39.7% of respondents would vote for third-time presidential contender Prabowo while 30% would back the ruling party’s Ganjar Pranowo. Indikator’s most recent polls have had the two neck-and-neck, with defence minister Prabowo at 36.1% and former Central Java governor Ganjar at 33.7% in its survey released on Oct. 26. Former Jakarta governor Anies Baswedan remained a distant third. About 205 million of Indonesia’s more than 270 million population are eligible to vote in elections on Feb. 14, which will decide who will succeed Jokowi, as the president is known, after a decade in power. The latest surveys were conducted when headlines were dominated by the entry into the race of Gibran Rakabuming Raka, Jokowi’s 36-year-old son, after a Constitutional Court ruling days earlier that a minimum age requirement of 40 need not apply to all candidates. Some political analysts see Gibran’s inclusion as a strategy to help Jokowi retain political influence and allow political heavyweight Prabowo to get elected by tapping the outgoing leader’s huge support base. Jokowi was accused by critics of influencing the court led by his brother-in-law, who was last week found guilty by a judicial panel of ethics violations in failing to recuse himself from a ruling that favoured his nephew. Jokowi has declined to comment on accusations he interfered. A survey published last week by pollster Charta Politika had Ganjar with a slim lead over Prabowo and some dissatisfaction about Jokowi’s role in the presidential race and alleged interference in the court ruling. “Gibran’s inclusion is like a double-edged sword. He could be an asset and liability,” said Indikator’s executive director, Burhanuddin Muhtadi. The latest poll outcome reflected a sizable jump in younger voters and Jokowi loyalists deciding to back Prabowo, helped by Gibran joining the ticket, Burhanuddin said, adding the survey also showed respondents were not overly concerned about political dynasties.

China, Pakistan Navies Hold Drills

BEIJING (Dispatches) - The Chinese and Pakistani navies are holding weeklong drills in the Arabian Sea days after the Russian Pacific Fleet and Myanmar practiced repelling attacks in their first maritime exercise, while India and the United States pledged security cooperation. At a naval base in Karachi on Saturday, the Chinese and Pakistani navies kicked off the exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea in drills that include anti-submarine operations. The exercise will end on Nov. 17. During the exercise, China and Pakistan will conduct joint maritime patrols for the first time, the People’s Liberation Army Daily reported on Monday. The exercise follows what Moscow describes as “the first Russian-Myanmar naval exercise in modern history” held from Nov. 7-9 in the Andaman Sea on the northeastern fringe of the Indian Ocean, a milestone for Russia’s naval presence in a sea that the United States counts as one of its global security interests. Admiral Tributs and Admiral Panteleyev, two large Russian anti-submarine ships, conducted exercises with a frigate and a corvette of Myanmar’s navy, according to Interfax news agency last week.

Amid the push for deeper security ties between China and Pakistan, and Russia and Myanmar, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin held defence talks in New Delhi on Nov. 10 with their Indian counterparts. In a joint statement released after the so-called “2+2 Dialogue”, the U.S. and Indian governments expressed deep concern over the war in Ukraine but made no explicit mention of Russia. They also pledged their commitment to safeguarding a free and open Indo-Pacific. New Delhi has carefully preserved its longstanding relations with Russia, including cooperation in defence, even as its ties with Washington have grown steadily stronger. China was also not mentioned in the joint statement, even though an Indian government official said ahead of the talks that China would be one of the “key focus points”. The careful navigation of those talks comes ahead of a highly anticipated meeting between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping in San Francisco this week, where Washington is expected to seek a re-establishment of military-to-military ties with Beijing.





Iyer, Rahul Tons Keep India Perfect at World Cup

BENGALURU (Dispatches) - Centuries from Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul powered India to a 160-run World Cup win over the Netherlands as they completed the group stage with a perfect nine wins in nine games. Iyer (128 not out) and Rahul (102) put on 208 runs to guide India to 410-4. India then employed nine bowlers, including part-timers Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, to dismiss the Dutch for 250 in the tournament's concluding league match in Bengaluru. The hosts will face New Zealand in the first semi-final in Mumbai on Wednesday followed by the second last-four clash between Australia and South Africa the next day in Kolkata. "We focused on one game. We are playing in (nine) different venues and play accordingly and that's what we did," Rohit said of the perfect league stage. "Very pleased at how we've played in these nine games. Very clinical from game one to today." He added: "We are playing in India, there will be expectation. We wanted to do the job at hand. It's one thing to talk about it but for everyone to buy into it is very important." Iyer smashed his first World Cup ton in a match where all the top-five Indian batsmen went past the fifty mark on a batting-friendly pitch. He reached his hundred - his fourth in ODI cricket - off 84 balls. He ended with 10 fours and five sixes. Bengaluru-born Rahul raced to his ton with two sixes for the fastest Indian hundred in World Cups off 62 balls. He departed four balls later as India fell short of their highest ever World Cup total of 413-5 v Bermuda in 2007. Kohli reached his half century but fell for 51, silencing the

crowd who had been anticipating the star batsman's 50th ODI ton after he equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 in the team's previous win over South Africa. Skipper Rohit, who hit 61, and Shubman Gill laid the foundations for the total in an opening stand of 100 with the pair hitting regular boundaries. Gill fell for 51 off Paul van Meekeren and fellow quick Bas de Leede dismissed Rohit after the captain reached his fourth 50-plus score including a ton in the tournament. Bas overtook his father Tim de Leede, who took 14 wicket for the Dutch in the World Cup, and claimed one more to finish as the highest World Cup wicket-taker for his nation with 16 scalps. The in-form Kohli reached the 71st ODI fifty of his career only to be bowled four balls later by Roelof van der Merwe's left-arm spin. Kohli surpassed South Africa's Quinton de Kock (591) as the leading batsman of the 2023 tournament with 594 runs. Iyer kept up his blazing form to register his fourth successive score of 50 and above in the tournament and received support from the other end with Rahul joining the charge. In reply, the Dutch were never in the chase and kept losing regular wickets including Kohli striking with the his gentle medium-pace to claim a first ODI wicket in nine years. With the Dutch crawling in their reply, Rohit threw the ball to Kohli who sent back opposition captain Scott Edwards, caught behind in his second over off a ball drifting down the leg side. It was only Kohli's fifth career ODI wicket from his gentle medium-pace and first since 2014.

Shiffrin Takes Slalom for 89th World Cup Win of Career



LEVI (Dispatches) - U.S. star Mikaela Shiffrin won the World Cup slalom at Levi to chalk up her 89th career victory, despite skiing with a knee injury she suffered in training. Shiffrin profited from Olympic slalom champion Petra Vlhova's mistake on the second run in Levi, where temperatures were minus 13 Celsius (eight degrees Fahrenheit). The Slovak, who won the first race at the same venue on Saturday and held a clear lead after Sunday's opening run, straddled a gate, forcing her out of the race. Shiffrin, who already holds the record for the most World Cup wins, was 0.18sec ahead of Leona Popovic of Croatia with Germany's Lena Duerr third, 0.30sec behind Shiffrin. She was racing this weekend after suffering a bruised knee in a training crash last week, but said it had not affected her: "I didn't feel pain when I was skiing, it's just that I didn't train in the last 11 days," she told reporters. "The timing is just a little hard, especially in slalom it's so important to have these (training) days in the gates. When you're skiing there's adrenaline and you don't think about it so much." Shiffrin said Vlhova had produced a "masterclass of slalom skiing" in the far north of Finland. "I was sort of settled on second place," Shiffrin admitted. "It feels like she should have won and I think everybody knows that. But I did earn a podium so I was actually pretty satisfied with second place. I'll take the luck this time." Duerr was happy to reach the podium for the second day running after the 32-year-old took second place on Saturday. "Petra and Mikaela are collecting (all the wins), but maybe next year we will have a chance," Duerr said.

Bastianini Wins Malaysian MotoGP



SEPANG (Dispatches) - Ducati's Enea Bastianini won the Malaysian MotoGP as Francesco Bagnaia came third ahead of title rival Jorge Martin to extend his narrow world championship lead with two races left. The Italian Bastianini cruised home at Sepang more than 1.5 seconds ahead of Alex Marquez in second, with Bagnaia third and Martin a distant fourth. Reigning world title-holder Bagnaia of Italy now has a 14-point lead on Spain's Martin heading into the race in Qatar next weekend. The factory Ducati rider Bagnaia is favourite to retain his crown but the championship looks set to go right down to the final race of the season in Valencia at the end of the month. "I tried to close the gap to Alex and Bastia but I was struggling a lot on the braking," said the 26-year-old Bagnaia. "But I'm happy we managed to open a bit of a gap in the championship." He said that an advantage of 14 points was "not too much" but still "better than nothing." "If it was a normal season with one race it's a good gap to manage, but 37 points each weekend (including sprint races) means there's (only) a small gap," he cautioned. Bagnaia made a sluggish start from pole and was swallowed up right away by rival Martin, who had begun second on the grid on his Ducati, and Bagnaia's team-mate Bastianini. But Pramac's Martin immediately ran wide and Bastianini, who started third on the grid, emerged at the front. Bastianini led Malaysian MotoGP sprint winner Marquez through a third of the 20 laps, with Martin and Bagnaia squabbling over third. Bagnaia won that tussle, to cheers from the Sepang crowd. In fierce heat, the race settled into a groove from there as Bastianini pulled out into a clear lead on Gresini Racing's Marquez, with Bagnaia third and Martin struggling for pace in fourth. It was to remain that way to the end. Bastianini has suffered an injury-hampered campaign but the Italian nicknamed "The Beast" held his nerve at the front to cruise home for an ultimately comfortable victory, his first of the season. "I'm tired and I have given 100 percent today," said the 25-year-old. "After a long time without a podium, today is a victory. Only me, my friends, my girlfriend and family knows what I needed to do to arrive here." Marco Bezzecchi came into Sepang in third place in the championship and is still mathematically in contention for the world title. But his unlikely hopes of winning the title evaporated as he rode home in sixth, behind France's former world champion Fabio Quartararo. The six-time world champion Marc Marquez, older brother of Alex, was 13th on his Honda after starting a lowly 20th on the grid. Earlier, MotoGP-bound Pedro Acosta was crowned the Moto2 world champion after the Spaniard finished the race in Sepang second behind compatriot Fermin Aldeguer.

Chelsea Hold Man City in Eight-Goal Thriller

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cole Palmer returned to haunt Manchester City as the Chelsea forward's last-gasp penalty rescued an incredible 4-4 draw against the Premier League leaders in one of the games of the season. Palmer struck in the final seconds after Rodri's 86th minute strike looked set to send City home from Stamford Bridge with all three points. It was a sweet moment for Palmer after City boss Pep Guardiola opted to sell the rising star to Chelsea in a surprise £42 million (\$51 million) deal in September. Guardiola said Manchester-born Palmer, who joined City aged six, rejected his offer of more playing time this season in a bid to keep him. The youngster made his old boss pay in the most dramatic fashion, having the final say in an astonishing encounter that provided countless plot twists. City blew the lead three times and also had to come from behind themselves before finally being forced to settle for a draw that leaves them one point clear of second-placed Liverpool and third-placed Arsenal. Erling Haaland's controversial penalty had put City ahead before Thiago Silva equalised. Raheem Sterling netted against his old club to give Chelsea the lead, only for Manuel Akanji to level at the end of a breathless first half. Haaland bagged his 17th goal of the season after the break, before Chelsea's Nicolas Jackson equalised. Rodri appeared to have landed the knockout blow with four minutes left, but there was a sting in the tale thanks to Palmer's penalty. City lit the fuse on an explosive contest when they snatched the lead after 25 minutes. Marc Cucurella pulled down Haaland as the City striker tried to reach Bernardo Silva's cross inside the six-yard box. It was a debatable decision as Haaland appeared to tug at Cucurella's shirt before the Chelsea defender's contract. Blues boss Mauricio Pochettino was furious that play was not stopped prior to the cross for a potential foul



by Jeremy Doku on Reece James and Moises Caicedo as the Chelsea players tried to head clear. Haaland blocked out the bubbling Chelsea frustration as he calmly sent Sanchez the wrong way from the spot. Chelsea channelled their angst into a spirited response, and they were level four minutes later. Ederson sprang to his left to make a superb tip-over from James' free-kick. But from Gallagher's resulting corner, Silva glanced his header into the far corner from six yards after Palmer blocked Haaland's attempt to mark the Chelsea defender. Pochettino's men took the lead in the 37th minute when Josko Gvardiol made a hash of clearing Gallagher's pass, getting his feet in a tangle as James pounced with a low cross that gave Sterling the simple task of tapping in to reward his man of the match display. City remained a menace and they left Pochettino raging at his players in first-half stoppage-time when slack marking allowed Akanji to head home from Bernardo Silva's cross. Two minutes after the interval, Alvarez's blast was held by Sanchez, the end-to-end drama showing no let-up as Palmer's superb run was thwarted by Ederson's save. Ederson needed treatment for an injury moments later and the Brazilian was at fault for Chelsea's 67th-minute equaliser. Instead of pushing away Gallagher's 20-yard effort, Ederson parried it straight back to Jackson, who gratefully slotted home for his fourth goal in his last two games. Rodri struck in the 86th minute, his shot taking a wicked deflection off Silva's foot as it raced past the wrong-footed Sanchez. However, Palmer had the last word at the end of an incredible afternoon, the 21-year-old lashing in his penalty in stoppage-time after Armando Broja was tripped by Ruben Dias.

Sinner Dispatches Tsitsipas in Dream Start to ATP Finals

TURIN (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner made a dream start to the ATP Finals with a comprehensive 6-4 6-4 defeat of Stefanos Tsitsipas in their opening Green Group clash. Playing in front of his home crowd in the huge Pala Alpitour indoor arena, the world number four was streets ahead of his opponent even if the score looked reasonably close. Sinner served superbly throughout and struck his groundstrokes with venom, needing just one service break in each set to wrap up a routine victory. Sinner wrapped up the opening set in 40 minutes and when he broke serve at the start of the second set he never looked like relinquishing control against a flat-looking Tsitsipas. The Italian, who has qualified by right for the season-ender for the first time, sealed victory with an ace. "It was a long week before coming here and I was excited to finally step on court," the 22-year-old Sinner said. "I knew it would be tough but I think I answered the questions really well. It's a special week, such an incredible feeling playing here with the roof closed and the crowd." "But I think I handle the situation very well, I tried to stay pretty aggressive - which I've done - and obviously very happy about my performance. [I'm] happy to start off with a win and hopefully I can keep this kind of level and intensity." Sinner has previously spoken about how he hopes that playing in front of his home crowd can help him win what would be the biggest title of his career so far. However, only seven players have previously won the ATP Finals in their own country, which suggests it is rarely as simple as that. Djokovic, bidding for a record seventh title at the event, will seal the year-end world number one ranking for an eighth time if he wins one group match.

