

Iran's Parliament in Its Open Session Is Supposed to Review and Discuss the Report of the Economic Commission on the Draft Agreement Between Iran and Belarus Bilateral Trade Ties

IRAN NEWS

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Is Going to Receive Iran's Asian and Para-Asian Games Medalists, Athletes, Former medal Winners and Sports Officials Today, Wednesday

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Crisis-Hit Israel After Truce, U.S. Denying Permission



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The U.S. has forbidden the Zionist regime from striking a ceasefire which it craves desperately as it has been mired in a crisis in the Gaza Strip, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami said. Addressing a conference of university professors in Tehran on Tuesday, the IRGC commander said the Zionist regime is looking for a ceasefire because it is gripped by crisis after attacking Gaza. However, the Americans do not permit the Israeli regime to go for a ceasefire, he added. The IRGC commander noted that the anxiety and unease that the Zionists feel in Gaza at present are much more severe than what appears. On the other hand, the people of Gaza remain mentally calm and are not afraid of anything, he stated. The general noted that the Al-Aqsa Storm operation has shattered the credit of the U.S., the West and the Zionists and laid bare their true nature. He also described the Islamic Republic of Iran as the central point of political developments in the region, saying all attention is focused on Iran as everybody wonders how Iran will handle the game. More than 13,300 people have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, when Hamas launched a surprise operation against the Zionist regime. On Monday Salami said the Israeli regime's military is sustaining big damages as it loses at least 15 tanks each day. Addressing a conference on Monday, the IRGC commander said the Zionist regime is desperately attempting to achieve a fake victory against Gaza by killing children and infants and bombing civilians. However, the Zionist forces have exposed themselves to Palestinian offenses inside Gaza, he added. Major General Salami said the Israeli forces have come within reach of the Palestinian fighters, as the Zionist army is losing at least 15 tanks and several personnel carriers and forces every day.



Tehran Raps UNSC for Failing to Call for ceasefire in Gaza

TEHRAN - Iran has slammed the United Nations Security Council for failing to call for ceasefire in the Gaza Strip in its recently-approved resolution on Israel's genocidal war against the besieged territory. Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the UN Amir Saeed Iravani made the remarks in an address to a UN General Assembly meeting on the humanitarian situation in Gaza on Monday. He was referring to a mid-November resolution passed by the Security Council, which only called for "extended humanitarian pauses" in Gaza. The resolution, prepared by Malta, was adopted with 12 votes in favor, while the United States, Britain and Russia abstained. It followed repeated vetoes cast by the United States, Israel's biggest and oldest ally, against previous resolutions that called for cessation of the Israeli regime's aggression against Gaza. Iran's ambassador said the Security Council's resolution failed to stop Israel's atrocities in Gaza as it lacked an executive guarantee and was not legally binding. "There is generally an expectation that the content of the Security Council's resolution should have included the main elements of the resolution of the General Assembly that was adopted with a majority of 121 votes, especially its key point that there is a most urgent need for an immediate, sustainable and durable truce for civilians," he said. The General Assembly's resolution, which was adopted in late October, called for "an immediate, durable, and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities" in the Gaza Strip. "What has happened since the adoption of this resolution [by the Security Council]? Has the number of attacks on innocent people decreased? Has Gaza's population received sufficient humanitarian assistance? The answer is no. Instead, the representative of the occupying regime said in the same meeting that they would do whatever they wish," Iravani said. Iran's ambassador added that the Security Council's resolution "lacks an adequate provision for ending the war, which is essential for ceasing Israel's atrocities in Gaza against innocent civilians." Noting that "the people of Gaza expect concrete support from the United Nations," Iravani added, "Gaza is experiencing a challenging time and the people of Gaza are facing unabated war crimes and crimes against humanity by the Israeli regime." "In such a dire situation, sympathy is no longer enough," he said. According to Gaza's Government Media Office, the death toll from Israel's geocidal war on the territory climbed to 13,300 on Monday, including more than 5,600 children and 3,550 women, with 31,000 people wounded so far.

South Africa to Host BRICS Virtual Meeting on Gaza



TEHRAN - Upon a proposal by Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, the leaders of the BRICS group of emerging economies will hold an emergency virtual meeting to discuss Israel's ongoing onslaught against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. "Leaders of the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India and China - will gather [under the South African presidency] for an emergency virtual meeting, inviting the leaders of the [new] BRICS countries - Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates," the South African president's office said in a statement on Monday. It added that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa is scheduled to deliver the opening remarks at the BRICS extraordinary meeting on Tuesday. It noted that the six member and invited states will deliver separate statements on the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza as the Israeli regime continues its relentless attacks on the besieged Strip. UN Secretary General Antyonio Guterres will attend the meeting and the participants are expected to issue a joint statement. Back in August, the South African president announced that the BRICS group agreed to admit Iran, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, the UAE and Saudi Arabia as new members. Ramaphosa added that the five current member states have reached a "consensus on the first phase of this expansion process" and have invited the six states to become new members of the BRICS group from January 1, 2024.

IRGC Stages Tactical Drill in Southern Iran



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Ground Force launched a tactical war game in Iran's southern province of Kerman. The exercise kicked off on Tuesday morning in the presence of Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri. The top general has traveled to Kerman to evaluate the combat and defense preparedness of the IRGC Ground Force units. Major General Baqeri also paid a visit to the mausoleum of late Iranian commander Lt. General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in a US strike in Iraq in January 2020. Paying tribute to the late commander, General Baqeri said the legacy of General Soleimani has inspired the resistance forces in Palestine to stand against and destroy the Zionist regime. Commenting on the ongoing crisis in Gaza, the top general said, "The enemies must bear in mind that the youth of Muslim countries and the resistance axis won't remain silent and won't allow anything from the foundation of arrogance to remain." Iran's Armed Forces hold routine military exercises throughout the year. Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never subject to negotiations.

Oil Output, Export Hikes Amid Sanctions a Golden Leaf in Gov't's Record

TEHRAN (Shana) - President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Monday said the increase in oil production and exports amid sanctions and threats is a "golden leaf in the popular government's record" in the past two years. He made the statement during his visit to the Oil Ministry and meeting with Oil Minister Javad Owji and other top officials, discussing the ministry's performance and problems and giving guidelines for promoting quality and boosting output. "Oil and gas industry is the best sector for investment," said the president, urging oil officials to attract more domestic and foreign capitals for accelerating the process of production and increasing revenues. He also urged the ministry to avoid selling raw materials as underlined by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, pointing out that the processing of crude oil creates job opportunities and boosts productivity. Implementation of development projects, flare gas collection by using the expertise of knowledge-based companies, and production and consumption management were among the issues Raisi put great emphasis on. He said the country is grappling with fuel smuggling, urging all related organizations to cooperate with the Oil Ministry to solve the predicament. The president also stressed the need for establishing integrated systems in petrochemical upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors within the Oil Ministry's general policies, redressing imbalances particularly in gasoline and gas sectors, devising plans for attracting private-sector investors, and using artificial intelligence (AI) in oil and gas industry through cooperation of knowledge-based firms. The exploitation of fields shared with neighboring states is among the top

priorities of the government, which helps attract investment, Raisi mentioned. Owji gave the president a report on his ministry's performance over the past two years. The ministry has made investments in completing partly-finished projects and implementing new projects to boost production, carried out gas megaprojects, collected flare gas, expanded the storage of natural gas, increased oil and gas condensate refining capacities, and completed and launched the oil pipeline projects, he said.



Enemies Lined Up in Crosshairs; Air Force's Readiness Unprecedented



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of the Iranian Army says the country's Armed Forces are powerful enough to stand up against any enemy and deal heavy blows. Speaking at the Army Aviation combat base in the city of Kerman, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said that the armed personnel in all countries are expected to be capable of conducting offensive and defensive operations and defending national interests in the face of an act of aggression. "It has been for years that our country's Armed Forces, including the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, have reached a level of capability that enables us to stand up against any enemy at any level and location, defeat them, and deal decisive blows that make them regret greatly if they want to conduct an act of aggression against our country," he added. Mousavi noted that the enemies believe they should not engage in a military confrontation with the Islamic Republic as it will definitely inflict an "irreparable defeat" on them. He further hailed the current state of readiness of the Iranian Army Aviation as "unprecedented" considering the number of its helicopters equipped with items and weapons. Iranian helicopters, he said, can today hit their targets even from a long distance using different weapons. "Through cooperation between Air Force, Army's Ground Force and the country's defense industry, major achievements have been made," Mousavi noted. Iranian military experts and engineers have in recent years made remarkable breakthroughs in manufacturing a broad range of indigenous equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient. Iranian officials have made clear that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will be never open for negotiations.



Tehran to Host 4th ECO Experts Meeting Next Week: GSI

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Tehran will host the fourth meeting of experts of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)'s member states on November 26-29 in order to investigate the reduction of risk of disaster in the region. Manager of the Public Relations Department of the Geological Survey of Iran (GSI) for International Affairs Hanieh Bakhshaei made the announcement, saying the meeting will be held with the participation of experts from ECO member states. Sharing new ideas and views on solving the problems of geological hazards with a special emphasis on the phenomenon of subsidence and earthquakes in the region are among the most important goals of the meeting, she mentioned. The third meeting of experts of ECO's member states was held in Turkey in 2021, Bakhshaei said, adding, "After the Geological Survey Organization of Iran joined the Committee on Human Resources and Sustainable Development of the ECO, the organization undertook to host the 4th meeting."

Iranian Official Slams Int'l Bodies for Failure to Protect Gaza Children



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's top human rights official has used the occasion of the World Children's Day to slam international organizations and governments for their failure to protect children in Gaza, where the Israeli regime has killed thousands of children over the past 45 days as part of a relentless war against the territory. "If they consider the children in Gaza to be part of the world's children, it would be good for them to recognize the right of these oppressed children to a childhood, to continue to live and to grow," said Kazem Gharibabadi in a post in Farsi on the X, formerly known as Twitter, on Monday. Gharibabadi serves as the secretary general of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, a subsidiary of the Iranian judiciary. The body has been involved in a campaign of documenting human rights violations and crimes against humanity committed by the Israeli regime during the war in Gaza. His comments came as the number of children killed since the start of the Israeli aggression on Gaza on October 7 exceeded 5,500 on Monday, according to official figures. That means that one out of every 200 children in Gaza has been killed in Israeli attacks over the past six weeks. Estimates suggest that nearly half of Gaza's population of more than 2.3 million people are under 18 years of age. The plight of children in Gaza has drawn the attention of rights activists and anti-war groups around the world as protests are being held almost on a daily basis in cities in Western countries to press the Israeli regime to stop its massacre of women and children in the blockaded territory.



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Officials from Iran and Turkey stressed the need to develop bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade, economy and agriculture. Alireza Mohajer, an Iranian deputy agriculture minister, in a meeting with Turkish Deputy Minister of Agriculture Ebubekir Gizligider in Tehran, said Tehran and Ankara share cultural and religious commonalities that can be used to further expand mutual ties. Mohajer emphasized the promotion of trade and economic cooperation between Iran and Turkey especially in the field of agriculture. He put the total volume of the agricultural products produced in Iran at 125 million tons and added that 80 percent of these products belong to the agricultural sector, the most important of which include wheat, cotton, rice, barley, corn, sunflower and summer crops such as tomato, onion, potato and greenhouse products. He further

pointed to the cooperation of the two countries in the field of producing and importing seed and noted that Iran is interested in developing bilateral cooperation in this field. Producing soybean, sunflower species, and oilseeds and also exchanging technical know-how and knowledge within the framework of the training courses were among other issues emphasized by the two sides. Turkey's deputy minister of agriculture pointed to the necessity of cooperation between the two countries based on the climate changes and developments and added that dealing with the climate crises requires the cooperation of countries with one another and also international contributions. Supply of water for agricultural use is the most important concern of Turkey, Gizligider said, emphasizing that the agricultural sector of his country is equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Iran Oil Production to Reach 3.6m bpd by March 2024



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Oil Minister Javad Owji has said that this country's oil production will reach 3.6 million barrels per day (bpd) up to the end of the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2024). Owji made the remarks in Iranian President's visit to the Oil Ministry on Monday, in which Raisi was briefed about the oil industry's plans for the current Iranian year (starting on March 21). Referring to the point that Iran has 163 billion barrels of proven reserves, Owji added that Iran aims to reach 5.7 million bpd of oil production for Iran's Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP). Some six contracts have been signed in the joint oil and gas fields, which are mostly related to the joint fields in the west of Karun, such as Azadegan, Yaran, etc., and the value of these contracts is \$14.5 billion, he added. Iran's Oil Minister said that in Forouzan Oil Field, oil production was 24,000 barrels per day in 2021, which this amount has reached 30,000 barrels and will reach 40,000 bpd by the end of September 2025. Owji added that oil production from Forouzan Oil Field has increased by 25% and the number of wells has increased by 8%.

Iran-UAE Trade Hits \$34b in 2022

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The total value of trade exchanges between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) reached \$34 billion in 2022, Iran's minister of roads and urban development said. Mehrdad Bazrpash made the remark while speaking in a meeting with UAE Ambassador to Tehran Saif Mohammed Al Zaabi. Iran's minister of roads and urban development pointed out that Tehran and Abu Dhabi share cultural and religious commonalities and can play a leading role in the regional equations. Speaking on the National Day of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), he stated that the relations between the two countries have developed especially in the last two years in all political, economic, trade and tourism fields and it is hoped that the amicable ties will further expand in the coming years. Iran has paid special attention to the development of relations with neighbors, especially the United Arab Emirates, and is of the opinion that

cooperation between the two countries, in addition to serving the national interests of the two countries, will bring about constructive effects for the stability and security of the regional countries, Bazrpash added. The 3rd Iran-UAE Joint Economic Cooperation Commission meeting will be held in the coming weeks in line with the development of bilateral cooperation, he also noted. Elsewhere in his remarks, the chairman of the Iran-UAE Joint Economic Cooperation Commission stated that according to the statistics of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the United Arab Emirates was the third export destination of Iranian products. He put the total value of trade exchanges between Tehran and Abu Dhabi in 2022 at \$34 billion, stating that the two countries have the potential to further expand the level of trade in various fields.

Iran, Pakistan Call for Bolstering Border Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian border police commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi and Director General Pakistan Maritime Security Agency Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali have urged enhancing border cooperation between the two countries. Brigadier General Goudarzi met and held talks with Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali on Monday. Stating that the Persian Gulf and Oman Seas are important for regional countries in terms of security, Brigadier General Goudarzi said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fighting drug traffickers fiercely and will prevent them from entering the region. He urged strengthening border control between the two countries through joint patrols and maneuvers to prevent drug trafficking, and illegal fishing, and secure the safety of fishermen at sea. Rear Admiral Imtiaz Ali, for his part, emphasized promoting interactions and joint management of the maritime borders, noting that the Persian Gulf has a vital place in the world that requires the region's security and stability.



Iran Ranks 13th in Agricultural Sector Scientific Production



TEHRAN (MNA) – Iran has moved from 15th to 13th in the global ranking of scientific production in the agricultural sector, according to the deputy minister of agriculture. Mojtaba Khayyam Nekouei, who also heads the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Organization (AREEO), said this on Monday, adding that scientific productions are important in the agricultural sector. He described the sustainability of food security in the country as the most important goal in the agricultural sector, stating that becoming knowledge-based and increasing productivity are the most important components of food security. He said more than 25 percent of the scientific productions of the country in the agricultural sector belong to the AREEO, the outcome of which can be witnessed in boosting agricultural production. Currently, Iran stands at the first rank in the West Asia region in terms of scientific production in the field of agriculture, Khayyam Nekouei said, adding that the speed of scientific production should be accelerated in order to attain the appropriate scientific status in the international arena. Turning to Iran's accession to international treaties including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), he noted that Iran can become an authentic scientific source in the agricultural sector in SCO and ECO member states.

Albanian Opposition Protests Budget in Parliament

TIRANA (Dispatches) - Albania's opposition Democratic Party members set off smoke bombs and lit a small fire, quickly extinguished, in the middle of parliament on Monday in a failed bid to stop the chamber from voting on the 2024 budget. MPs piled chairs in the center of the chamber and red, green and purple smoke filled the air as security kept protesters back from the seat of Prime Minister Edi Rama. One MP appeared to light a small fire which was passed forward in a container before flames briefly spread and were doused by surrounding MPs. The de-facto leader of the party, Sali Berisha, a former prime minister, has accused the government of trying to silence the opposition in parliament where Rama's Socialist Party has a majority. "The battle has no way back," Berisha told reporters after the disturbance in the chamber where the budget passed a first vote in a session that lasted less than five minutes.



Ukraine Says Russian Troops Focusing on Bakhmut in the East



KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukrainian forces were engaged in containing increasing Russian attacks on Monday around the shattered eastern town of Bakhmut, military officials said. The officials said Ukraine's troops had also achieved some success after crossing to the east bank of the Dnipro River in southern Kherson region. Russia has concentrated on Ukraine's eastern regions after failing to move on Kyiv in the early days after the February 2022 invasion. Their progress has been slow. Ukrainian forces have also made marginal gains in a five-month-old offensive in the east and south. Moscow's forces seized Bakhmut in eastern Donetsk region in May after months of heavy fighting that left the town in ruins. Volodymyr Fityo, a spokesperson for Ukrainian ground forces, said Russian troops focused attacks on Klischiivka, a nearby village on heights retaken by Ukrainian forces in September. "Russian occupying forces have brought in the necessary reserves and gone on the attack," Fityo told national television. "Eleven attacks have been repelled in the past 24 hours. The enemy is trying to dislodge our men from defensive positions around Klischiivka." Russian accounts said Moscow's forces had beaten back more than 30 Ukrainian attacks in and around Bakhmut in the past week. The Russian Defence Ministry reported more than two dozen attacks near Kupiansk in Ukraine's northeast in a week. Reuters could not verify accounts from either side. Fighting in the east has also centered on the equally devastated town of Avdiivka, still in Ukrainian hands 20 months into the war and after more than a month of Russian assaults. Military analyst Serhiy Zgurets, writing on the Espresso TV media outlet website, said Russian forces were trying to launch a new offensive on the town, known for its vast coking plant. "To be truthful, enemy's attempts to surround Avdiivka have resulted in significant losses for them," Zgurets wrote. Maksym Morozov, an Interior Ministry major, told Espresso that recent rains had left the ground soft and unsuitable for enemy equipment near the town, where 1,500 residents remain from a pre-war population of 32,000. Another military spokesperson, Andriy Kovaliov, said Ukrainian forces had "carried out several successful and effective actions" on the east bank of the Dnipro nearly a week after military officials acknowledged their presence there. Russian forces were making up to 10 daily attempts to dislodge Ukrainian forces from positions on the eastern bank and were drafting in reserves, he told national television. Russian troops left the western bank of the river and the region's main city, Kherson, a year ago, but have since been shelling their abandoned positions from areas across the river. Ukrainian authorities earlier reported that Russian shelling had killed three people and damaged power lines and a gas pipeline in Kherson region and in central Dnipropetrovsk region.



Hamas Chief Says Close to Truce Agreement With Israel

GAZA (Dispatches) - The chief of Hamas told Reuters on Tuesday that the Palestinian militant group was near a truce agreement with Israel, even as the deadly assault on Gaza continued and rockets were being fired into Israel. Hamas officials are "close to reaching a truce agreement" with Israel and the group has delivered its response to Qatari mediators, Ismail Haniyeh said in a statement sent to Reuters by his aide. The statement gave no more details, but a Hamas official told Al Jazeera TV that negotiations were centered on how long the truce would last, arrangements for delivery of aid into Gaza and the exchange of Israeli hostages held by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners in Israel. Both sides would free women and children and details will be announced by Qatar, which is mediating in the negotiations, said the official. Issat el Reshiq, Hamas took about 240 hostages during its Oct. 7 rampage into Israel that killed 1,200 people. Mirjana Spoljaric, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), met Haniyeh in Qatar on Monday to "advance humanitarian issues" related to the conflict, the Geneva-based ICRC said in a statement. She also met separately with Qatari authorities. The ICRC said it was not part of negotiations aimed at releasing the hostages, but as a neutral intermediary it was ready "to facilitate any future release that the parties agree to." Talk of an imminent hostage deal has swirled for days. Reuters reported last week that Qatari mediators were seeking a deal for Hamas and Israel to exchange 50 hostages in return for a three-day ceasefire that would boost emergency aid shipments to Gaza civilians, citing an official briefed on the talks. Israeli Ambassador to the United States Michael Herzog

said on ABC's "This Week" on Sunday that he hoped for an agreement "in the coming days" while Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said that the remaining sticking points were "very minor." U.S. President Joe Biden and other U.S. officials said on Monday a deal was near, but an agreement has appeared close before. "Sensitive negotiations like this can fall apart at the last minute," White House deputy national security adviser Jon Finer told NBC's "Meet the Press" program on Sunday. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed." Hamas' raid on Oct. 7, the deadliest day in Israel's 75-year-old history, prompted Israel to invade the Palestinian territory to target Hamas. Since then, Gaza's Hamas-run government said at least 13,300 Palestinians have been killed, including at least 5,600 children and 3,550 women, by unrelenting Israeli bombardment. Hamas said on its Telegram account on Monday that it had launched a barrage of missiles towards Tel Aviv. Witnesses also reported rockets being fired at central Israel. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said on Tuesday at least 17 Palestinians were killed in Israeli bombing of the Nuseirai camp in central Gaza at midnight. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Gaza's health ministry said on Monday that at least 12 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded by firing into the Indonesian Hospital complex, which was encircled by Israeli tanks. Health officials said 700 patients along with staff were under Israeli fire. WAFA said the facility in the northeast Gaza town of Beit Lahia, funded by Indonesian organisations, had been hit by artillery rounds. Hospital staff denied there were any armed militants on the premises.

Scholz Pledges Greater Investment in Africa's Green Energy Sector



BERLIN (Reuters) - Germany will invest 4 billion euros in green energy projects in Africa until 2030, Chancellor Olaf Scholz said, noting these could in turn help Europe's largest economy achieve its own transition to carbon neutrality. Germany will need to import large quantities of green hydrogen going forward, including from Africa, if it is to achieve its goal of net zero emissions by 2045, he said at a German-African business forum in Berlin. The forum preceded a summit of the "G20 Compact with Africa" that aims to drum up investment in the world's poorest but fast-growing continent by coordinating the development agendas of reform-minded countries and identifying business opportunities. "Hydrogen production requires considerable investment at the start, so clear signals for a long-term and durable cooperation are needed," said Scholz, who has made five trips to Africa since taking office in late 2021 in a bid to increase engagement with the continent. "The Compact with Africa conference aims to send this signal: You can count on Germany as a partner." The 4 billion euros would be channeled into the common EU-Africa Initiative for Green Energy. The European Union had already announced it would deliver it 3.4 billion euros in grants. African countries have long complained that while Europe talks about investment, China actually provides financing without any moral lecturing. Still, Chinese lending in Africa is in decline, while European interest is rising. Indeed the West is increasingly jostling with China and Russia for geopolitical influence, critical minerals and new economic opportunities in the continent. "The global order is shifting and Europe and Germany can not just sit on the sidelines," Finance Minister Christian Lindner said after meeting with his counterparts from several African countries at the conference. The summit of the G20 Compact with Africa on Monday was its fifth since its creation in 2017 under the German G20 presidency and convened the leaders of more than a dozen African states. German trade with Africa was 60 billion euros (\$65.4 billion) last year, which is a fraction of its trade with Asia but up 21.7% on 2021. Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara said the number of German companies had tripled in five years while Morocco's Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch said German investment had increased sixfold since 2015. The member countries of the G20 Compact are Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Senegal, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia.

North Korea Will Try Again to Launch a Military Spy Satellite

TOKYO (AP) - North Korea told Japan on Tuesday that it will make a third attempt to launch a military spy satellite in the coming days, prompting its neighbors to issue an urgent request for the North not to perform the launch in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Japan's coast guard said North Korea notified Tokyo of its plan to launch the satellite sometime between Wednesday and Nov. 30. The notice identified three maritime zones where debris from the rocket carrying the satellite may fall. Two are in the waters between the Korean Peninsula and China and the third in the Philippine Sea, Japanese coast guard spokesperson Kazuo Ogawa said. Ogawa said the areas are the same as North Korea identified for its failed satellite launches in May and August, implying the third attempt would have a similar flight path. North Korea has given Japan the launch information because Japan's coast guard coordinates and distributes maritime safety information in East Asia. The North's notification came a day after rival South Korea warned it to cancel its launch or face consequences. South Korea's military suggested Seoul would suspend a 2018 inter-Korean agreement to reduce tensions and resume front-line aerial surveillance and live-firing drills in response to a North Korean satellite launch. U.N. Security Council resolutions ban any satellite launches by North Korea because they are seen as a cover for testing its missile technology. North Korea says it needs a space-based surveillance system to better monitor its rivals, but South Korea says the North's launches are also designed to enhance its long-range missile program. Since last year, North Korea has carried out about 100 missile tests as part of its efforts to modernize its arsenal of nuclear-capable weapons targeting the United States and its allies. Many foreign experts say the North still has the few remaining technological hurdles to possess functioning nuclear-tipped missiles. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida asked officials to coordinate with other countries to ask North Korea to cancel its launch. He said Japanese destroyers carrying Aegis-class radars and PAC-3 missile defense systems on Okinawa have been activated to stand by in case of an unexpected development. "Even if the purpose is to launch a satellite, if ballistic missile technology is used, it is a violation of the United Nations Security Council resolutions, and this is a matter that greatly affects the safety of the people," Kishida said. During trilateral phone talks, senior officials from Japan, South Korea and the U.S. affirmed their cooperation to "strongly request North Korea to cancel" its launch plan, according to Japan's Foreign Ministry. South Korea's Unification Ministry said separately that

it strongly urged North Korea to scrap the launch plan because it would pose a serious threat to regional peace. After the second launch failure, North Korea had vowed a third launch would take place in October, but failed to follow through with the plan without giving any reason. South Korean officials recently said the delay happened likely because North Korea is receiving Russian technology assistance. North Korea and Russia are pushing to expand their relationships in the face of separate confrontations with the West — North Korea over its nuclear ambitions and Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. Foreign governments and experts say North Korea is seeking Russian technologies to enhance its nuclear and other military capabilities in return for supplying conventional arms to support Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. Such transfer would violate U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban any weapons trading to and from North Korea. "I will just say that our position is very clear, which is that Russia should not supply North Korea with technology that would violate United Nations Security Council resolutions," U.S. State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said Monday. "North Korea should not supply Russia with arms that it can use to prosecute its war of aggression against Ukraine." Both Russia and North Korea dismissed the alleged weapon transfer deal as baseless. But when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un travelled to Russia in September, President Vladimir Putin told state media that his country would help North Korea build satellites. In the first launch attempt, the North Korean rocket carrying the satellite plunged into the ocean soon after liftoff. North Korea authorities said the rocket lost thrust after the separation of its first and second stages. After the second launch failure, North Korea said there was an error in the emergency blasting system during the third-stage flight. South Korea retrieved debris from the first launch and said the satellite wasn't advanced enough to perform military reconnaissance. But some civilian experts said the North Korean satellite was still likely capable of detecting big targets like warships so it could be militarily useful for the North. North Korea is under rounds of punishing U.N. sanctions imposed over its past weapons tests and rocket launches. But its recent testing activities and two spy satellite launches didn't earn the North fresh sanctions, because Russia and China blocked the U.S. and others' attempts to toughen the sanctions. South Korea and the U.S. have been expanding their military exercises and increasing the temporary deployments of U.S. strategic assets in South Korea in an effort to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear arsenal.



Two Ships Divert Course Away From Red Sea Area

LONDON, Nov 20 (Reuters) - Two commercial ships that diverted their course in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden were connected to the same maritime group whose vessel was seized by Yemen's Houthi, according to shipping data and British maritime security company Ambrey. Israel on Sunday said the Houthi had seized a British-owned, Japanese-operated cargo ship in the southern Red Sea, describing the incident as an "Iranian act of terrorism" with consequences for international maritime security. The Houthi confirmed that they had seized a ship in that area but described it as Israeli. Japan's top government spokesperson on Monday confirmed the capture of the Nippon Yusen-operated ship Galaxy Leader, adding that Japan was appealing to the Houthi while seeking the help of Saudi, Omani and Iranian authorities to work toward the swift release of the vessel and its crew. Two other ships also listed as commercially managed by Ray Car Carriers, Glovis Star and Hermes Leader, diverted their sailing routes on Sunday, Ambrey said on Monday. The Hermes Leader had set a course to sail south of Nishitan in Yemen when it diverted its journey. "The vessel continued to sail back to where it had come from, providing a new AIS destination as Hambantota, Sri Lanka," Ambrey said. "The vessel incurred a minimum four-day business disruption and sailed an additional 1,876 nautical miles. The Glovis Star drifted for a number of hours in the Red Sea before continuing its journey, AIS ship tracking data showed on Monday. Isle of Man registered Galaxy Maritime Ltd, which is the registered owner of the Galaxy Leader, said in a statement on Monday that the vessel "was illegally boarded by military personnel via a helicopter" on Nov 19. When asked about the other two vessels diverting, a company spokesperson said it was not commenting further on "political issues." Houthi leadership last week said their forces would make further attacks on Israel and they could target Israeli ships in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb Strait. U.S. maritime administration MARAD in an advisory said the Galaxy Leader had been hijacked approximately 50 miles west of the Houthi-controlled port of Hodeidah, adding that ships should "exercise caution when transiting this area."

Taiwan Election About Choosing Whether to Embrace China

TAIPEI (Reuters) - Taiwan's people have to make a choice at next year's election about whether the island keeps moving forward on the road to democracy or "walks into the embrace of China", the frontrunner to be the next president said on Tuesday. The issue of China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, looms large ahead of the Jan. 13 presidential and parliamentary elections, especially as Beijing has been stepping up its military pressure against the island. Lai Ching-te, vice president and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party's (DPP) presidential candidate, has led in most opinion polls ahead of the election. The DPP champions Taiwan's separate identity from China. The largest opposition party, the Kuomintang (KMT), which traditionally favours close ties with Beijing, is locked in a dispute with the smaller Taiwan People's Party (TPP) about which of their candidates should run as president and which as vice president after initially agreeing to work together. Speaking to reporters and supporters after formally registering his candidacy with the election commission, Lai said Taiwan's security was an international issue and the whole world was watching this election. "The people of Taiwan have to choose between trusting Taiwan, allowing Taiwan to continue to move forward on the road of democracy, and relying on China, following the old path of the one-China principle, and walking into the embrace of China," he said. Beijing has demanded Taipei accepts both sides of the Taiwan Strait

belong to "one China", which the DPP-led government has rejected saying only the island's people can decide their future. Lai on Monday announced Taiwan's high profile former de facto ambassador to the United States, Hsiao Bi-khian, as his running mate. Like Lai, Hsiao is despised by China, which has twice placed sanctions on her, most recently in April, saying she was an "independence diehard." Late on Monday, Chinese state television lambasted the Lai-Hsiao team up in a commentary on its website, saying they were "villains colluding together." "Taiwan independence means war. The Lai-Hsiao independence double act will intensify cross-strait tensions and conflict," it said. Lai on Monday dismissed China's criticisms, saying it was further proof of Beijing's efforts to interfere in the election. Lai, standing next to Hsiao outside the election commission, said he was full of confidence. "We both deeply love this land, passionately love this country," he added. The election registration deadline is Friday. It remains unclear when the opposition will register their candidates. Vincent Chou, campaign manager for the TPP's presidential candidate and party chairman Ko Wen-je, told reporters on Tuesday after further talks with the KMT it was "not an option" for them for Ko to be the running mate for the KMT's Hou Yu-h. "But if it's a Ko-Hou ticket, then everyone can work for this," Chou said. Hou, speaking at a separate event, said he would "wait until the last moment" for Ko to make a decision on cooperation.





Holders Italy Secure Euro 2024 Place

PARIS (Dispatches) - Reigning champions Italy secured their ticket for Euro 2024 on Monday after holding on for a nervy goalless draw against Ukraine in their final qualifier, while the Czech Republic and Slovenia also clinched places at next year's finals. Italy only needed the draw in a game played in Leverkusen, Germany, in order to qualify but a defeat against their direct rivals in Group C would have left their fate to be decided in play-offs next March. That was a scenario they desperately wanted to avoid following the trauma of failing to qualify for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups after losing in play-offs, either side of winning the last European Championship in 2021. The high stakes made it a tense occasion and Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had to produce a firm hand low down to keep out an early Georgiy Sudakov strike. However, Luciano Spalletti's side threatened at the other end with Ukraine 'keeper Anatoliy Trubin saving from Nicolo Barella and racing out to deny Davide Frattesi before the half-hour mark. Donnarumma blocked a Mykhailo Mudryk attempt in the 65th minute and there was a flashpoint in stoppage time when the Ukraine winger went down in the Italy box under a Bryan Cristante challenge, but no penalty was given. The two nations finish level on 14 points behind England in Group C, but Italy have the better head-to-head record having won 2-1 in Milan in September. "We are delighted. After all the difficulties we have had, we will be in Germany and we will be going there as reigning champions and going there to win," Donnarumma told broadcaster Rai 1. Ukraine must therefore negotiate the play-offs if they are to return to Germany for the tournament next June. Asked about the late penalty call, Ukraine coach Serhiy Rebrov told the post-match press conference: "From my point of view that was a penalty, but again I was not there and it's only about my emotions." England had already qualified before their trip to Skopje to play North Macedonia, when they needed a second-half own goal to earn a 1-1

draw and finish their campaign undefeated. Enis Bardhi opened the scoring for North Macedonia four minutes before half-time, following up to net after his penalty was saved by Jordan Pickford. The spot-kick was given after a VAR check showed that Manchester City's Rico Lewis, on his debut, had caught Bojan Miovskii in the area. England drew level just before the hour mark, and moments after Harry Kane was sent on from the bench, as Jani Atanasov diverted a Phil Foden corner into his own net. The Czech Republic only needed a draw at home to Moldova in Olomouc to secure their place at an eighth consecutive Euro finals, and the outcome was never in doubt as they eased to a 3-0 victory. David Doudera swept in the opener and Moldova had Vladislav Baboglo sent off early in the second half before late goals by Tomas Chory and captain Tomas Soucek secured victory. They finish second in Group E behind Albania - who drew 0-0 with the Faroe Islands on Monday - but their evening was overshadowed by coach Jaroslav Silhavy announcing his resignation immediately after the game. "Even though we are happy now, we had already decided before the game not to continue," the 62-year-old coach told Czech television. His departure comes after three players, including West Ham United defender Vladimir Coufal, were sent home from the squad for having spent Saturday night at a nightclub. Slovenia will appear at the Euro for the first time since 2000 after their 2-1 win at home to Kazakhstan in Ljubljana clinched second place behind Denmark in Group H. Benjamin Verbic netted Slovenia's late winner after Ramazan Orazov had netted for Kazakhstan to cancel out Benjamin Sesko's penalty opener. Kazakhstan would have qualified with a win but will instead now go into the play-offs as their hopes of appearing at first major tournament remain alive. Denmark lost 2-0 in Northern Ireland, with Isaac Price and Dion Charles scoring, while Finland - who will be in the play-offs - won 2-1 away to minnows San Marino.

Djokovic Eyes Golden Slam in 2024



LONDON (Dispatches) - Novak Djokovic wrapped up his 2023 season by adding the ATP Finals trophy to the three major titles he won this year and the Serb immediately set the bar even higher for next season by targeting a 'Golden Slam'. Djokovic, who won his seventh ATP Finals with a straight set win over Jannik Sinner, missed out on Grand Slam this year after losing to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final. The 36-year-old told reporters in Turin he wanted a clean sweep of the majors next year as well as the singles gold medal at the Paris Olympics. Steffi Graf is the only player to have achieved the 'Golden Slam', winning the Australian, French and U.S. Opens, Wimbledon and a gold medal at the Seoul Olympics in 1988. "Well, you can win four slams and an Olympic gold," Djokovic said. "I have always the highest ambitions and goals. That's not going to be different for the next year. The drive that I have is still there. My body has been serving me well, listening to me well. I have a great team of people around me. Motivation, especially for the biggest tournaments in sport, is still present. It still inspires me to keep going." The 24-times Grand Slam winner said he was "very, very proud" of his season. "Four out of five tournaments... I couldn't ask for more to be honest," he added. "It's a great reward for what my team and I have been through this year, being one of the most successful years in my career that I've ever had."

Winter World Cup Led to Increased Injury Severity in Europe's Top Leagues



LONDON (Dispatches) - The mid-season World Cup in Qatar last year led to players from Europe's top five leagues spending an average of eight days longer on the sidelines due to injury in the months after the tournament, a study has revealed. Insurance group Howden published its European Football Injury Index for the 2022-23 season a year after the World Cup having studied the effects fixture congestion had on player welfare last season. The study said that in October 2022, 88 recorded injuries led to players being sidelined for 11.35 days on average pre-tournament, but that rose to 19.41 days in January 2023 after the tournament. Injuries to the ankle (170%), calf/shin (200%) and hamstring (130%) saw the greatest increase in severity. "We've seen clearly that the staging of a men's World Cup in a European winter led to players facing an extra eight days on the sidelines in the second half of the season, compared to the first," Howden's head of sport James Burrows said. "The impact was consistent across domestic leagues such as the English Premier League and the German Bundesliga." Burrows added that the increased injury severity contributed to the financial impact rising by nearly 30% from 553.62 million euros (\$603.83 million) to 704.89 million euros across Europe's top five leagues. "The data is clear in demonstrating a trend," he added. "We hope our research and analysis will provide Europe's top clubs with additional insight as they continue to talk to the game's governing bodies about an improved alignment of the domestic and international calendars and the broad issue of fixture congestion." The study showed there were 3,985 injuries in Europe's top five leagues over the course of the 2022-23 season. The English Premier League and German Bundesliga had 23.6% and 14.8% of players competing in the World Cup respectively, and they saw the biggest impact on rates of injury. "In the two months after the tournament, Bundesliga players... suffered 46 injuries, compared to 49 in the English Premier League suggesting that the extended winter break in Germany following the men's World Cup proved to have minimal effect," the study said. Earlier this year, international players' union FIFPRO said nearly half the players competing at the World Cup experienced extreme or increased mental fatigue during an unprecedented season of fixture congestion. Around 44% of players experienced more physical fatigue and 23% more mental fatigue in January compared to other seasons while 53% felt more likely to suffer injuries.

Nuggets Pull Off Late Win Over Pistons

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Reggie Jackson had 21 points and six assists as the visiting Denver Nuggets overcame the ejection of center Nikola Jokic to beat Detroit 107-103 on Monday, handing the Pistons their 12th straight loss. Denver coach Michael Malone was ejected with 1:21 remaining in the first quarter for arguing with the officials. Jokic was tossed with 1:22 left in the first half after picking up his second technical. Jokic finished the game with nine points, five rebounds and five assists. Kentavious Caldwell-Pope supplied 20 points for the Nuggets, who snapped a four-game road losing streak. Christian Braun contributed 15 points and six rebounds, and Michael Porter Jr. tossed in 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Aaron Gordon added 11 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Cade Cunningham led the Pistons with 27 points and nine assists. Marvin Bagley III had 18 points and eight rebounds, Jaden Ivey added 17 points and Isaiah Stewart chipped in 11 points and 11 rebounds. The Nuggets had a 56-55 halftime lead. All 10 of their players who saw action scored, as they shot 53.7 percent from the field. Detroit was led by Ivey, who had 13 points. Denver clung to the lead until Ivey made a layup to give Detroit a 66-65 edge. The Nuggets answered with 3-pointers from Braun and Porter. A 7-0 Pistons spurt, capped by a Cunningham 3-pointer, allowed the Pistons to regain the lead. Jackson scored with 24 seconds left in the third quarter to give Denver an 81-79 lead entering the fourth. Stanley Umude scored eight consecutive Pistons points to give Detroit an 87-84 edge. Porter's 3-pointer with 6:57 left put Denver back on top, 92-91. Free throws by Stewart gave Detroit a 95-94 lead with 5:02 to go. After Jackson tied it at 97-all with a three-point play, neither side had more than a two-point advantage until Gordon's three-point play with 1:25 left. That made it 106-103. Both sides had empty possessions until Denver sealed the contest on a Jackson free throw with 11 seconds remaining.



Eagles Rally Past Chiefs to Improve to 9-1

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jalen Hurts rushed for two touchdowns and the Philadelphia Eagles overcame a 10-point halftime deficit to beat the host Kansas City Chiefs 21-17 on Monday night in a Super Bowl rematch. D'Andre Swift rushed for a touchdown and had 107 scrimmage yards (76 rushing, 31 receiving) as the Eagles, who own the best record in the NFL at 9-1, won their fourth straight game. DeVonta Smith caught six passes for 99 yards, including a long one that set up the winning score. Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdowns but also threw an interception and finished with just 177 passing yards. He completed 24 of 43 passes for the Chiefs (7-3). Kansas City's Travis Kelce and Justin Watson had touchdown receptions. The Week 11 showdown was a rematch of the highly competitive Super Bowl LVII. The Chiefs won the game 38-35 thanks to Harrison Butker's game-winning 27-yard field goal with eight seconds remaining. Hurts was 14-of-22 passing for 150 yards and one interception on Monday. He was harassed repeatedly in the first half when he was sacked five times, but the Eagles didn't allow a sack in the second half. Chris Jones and Trent McDuffie each had two sacks for the Chiefs. Kelce had seven receptions but just 44 yards. Philadelphia moved ahead for the first time at 21-17 with 6:20 remaining. The touchdown was set up by Hurts' 41-yard pass to Smith to the Kansas City 1-yard line. The Eagles then called for the "Tush Push," and Hurts received the usual extra help while plunging in for the score. The Chiefs later took over from their 9-yard line with 2:49 remaining. Kansas City had second down from its 49-yard line when Mahomes threw deep but Marquez Valdes-Scantling dropped the pass despite being open inside the Philadelphia 5. Later in the possession, Mahomes' pass on fourth-and-25 was incomplete and the Eagles took over with 1:28 left and ran out the clock. The Eagles pulled within 17-14 when Hurts scored on a 10-yard keeper on third-and-5 with 4:05 left in the third quarter. Mahomes threw two touchdowns to help the Chiefs hold a 17-7 halftime lead. Kansas City got on the board when Mahomes tossed a 3-yard scoring pass to Watson with 5:34 left in the first quarter. The Eagles knotted the score on Swift's 4-yard run with 31 seconds remaining in the opening period. The Chiefs scored 10 points in the final two minutes of the half. Mahomes hit Kelce on a 4-yard touchdown pass with 1:45 left and Butker booted a 43-yarder as time expired.

