

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian Praised Sanaa's Support for the People of Gaza and the West Bank in a Meeting With Ebrahim Al-Dailami, the Ambassador of Yemen's National Salvation Government to Tehran

IRAN NEWS

The Deputy Army Chief for Coordination, Pointing to the Capabilities of Iran in the Field of Military Equipment, Said on Thursday That the Country Has Become "Self-Sufficient" and Exports Some Military Equipment

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Iran Objects to Israel's Presence at COP28 in UAE



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian expressed Iran's opposition to the Zionist regime's participation in the 28th United Nations Climate Change conference, underway in the United Arab Emirates. In a telephone conversation on Thursday, the Iranian foreign minister and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan talked about the latest developments in Gaza following the second extension of a ceasefire after weeks of deadly Israeli strikes on Palestinians. The senior Emirati diplomat also briefed the Iranian foreign minister on the United Arab Emirates' plans to host the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP28. The 28th United Nations Climate Change conference is being held from November 30 until December 12 at Expo City in Dubai. Expressing gratitude to President of the United Arab Emirates Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for inviting Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to COP28, Amir-Abdollahian outlined Iran's views about the conference. The Iranian foreign minister called into serious question the presence of Israeli representatives in the conference in Dubai against a backdrop of the Zionist regime's most recent war crimes and genocidal atrocities in Gaza.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Tehran Blasts Ethical Fiasco of Int'l Community on Gaza

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian has called on the international community to place on its agenda the trial and administer of justice for the perpetrators of atrocities in the besieged Gaza Strip. Amir-Abdollahian was about to address a UN Security Council meeting on Palestine on Wednesday, but due to Washington's delay in issuing visas, the Iranian delegation was unable to attend the event. In his statement, to be delivered by Iran's representative in New York for the UN record, Amir-Abdollahian rebuked the United Nations in particular the Security Council for failing to "fulfill their legal and moral responsibilities towards Palestinians and the question of Palestine". "Such failure is greatly blamed on the unquestionable support the United States is giving to the occupying regime and preventing any effective measures to make Israel accountable. "This is in fact an ethical fiasco and depreciation of conscience for the international community and the United Nations system. Notwithstanding, the main responsibility rests with the powers that adamantly prevent the Security Council from fulfilling its roles as enshrined in the UN Charter," he said. The meeting on Wednesday was held to mark the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian named 46 years ago by the General Assembly. The Iranian foreign minister said the natural expectation of the international community was that the Security Council would take an action immediately after the start of indiscriminate attacks on Gaza and prevent the further murder of innocent humans. "Who can camouflage that the all-out aggression of the occupying regime against Gaza, as one of the most densely-populated regions of the world which has been under absolute blockade for more than 17 years, as well as the killing of thousands of innocent people more than 70 percent of whom women and children, do not constitute a threat to international peace and security?" "The intensity and volume of the killing of civilians during 50 days of disproportionate attacks on Gaza are unprecedented," he said. According to Amir-Abdollahian, the number of children and women killed in Gaza alone far exceeds the total number of women and children killed in various conflicts across the world during the past year including the war in Ukraine. "Who can ignore the reality that blind and indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza by 2,000-pound bombs and other prohibited weapons such as phosphorous bombs, which make no exception for hospitals, schools, mosques and churches, contain all the elements of grave international crimes including war crime, genocide and crime against humanity?"

Elimination of Israel Needs Only 2 Days



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - If another anti-Israeli military operation like the Al-Aqsa Storm operation breaks out, the Zionist regime will collapse in only 48 hours, the commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said. Addressing a gathering of Basij forces in Iran's northern city of Qazvin on Thursday, Major General Hossein Salami said the Al-Aqsa Storm operation that the Palestinian resistance forces launched outside Gaza on October 7 proved that the downfall of the Zionist regime is not distant and is much easier than what Israel and the US perceive. Tel Aviv, the city that has been occupied by the usurping Zionist regime, is totally within the target of attacks from Hezbollah and the forces in Gaza and the West Bank, he added. "If the engine of another operation like Al-Aqsa (Storm) is turned on, the time needed for the dissolution of the fake regime (Israel) will be only 48 hours so that... the regime will be totally wiped out," the IRGC commander stated. Describing the ceasefire in Gaza as a result of the Israeli army's defeat and frustration, Major General Salami said any war after the expiry of the truce will be limited to bombardment, because the Zionist army is incapable of proceeding with a ground offensive. He said information on the ground indicates that the Palestinian fighters in Gaza have detonated 300 tanks from a total of 1,600 tanks and personnel carriers that Israel had deployed to the battlefield. The Zionist regime's economy has sustained heavy damages, as Israel is losing \$300 million each day in the wake of the war on Gaza, he added. The IRGC chief noted that the Zionist army is no longer capable of carrying on the onslaught on Gaza, as 2,000 Israeli troops have deserted in recent weeks. More than 15,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli attacks in Gaza since October 7. A 4-day ceasefire in Gaza came into effect last week and has been extended twice.

Iran Rejects Baseless Israeli Allegations Over Violating Chemical Weapons Convention



LONDON (IRNA) - Iran has categorically rejected allegations by the Israeli regime regarding the violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention by Tehran, saying that playing blame game does not help the regime cover up its "brutal crimes" against Palestinians over the past seven decades. The comment was made by Iran's Representative Reza Najafi at the 28th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The conference, held on Nov. 27-Dec. 1 in the Hague, is composed of representatives of all Member States of the OPCW (The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons). Addressing the session on Thursday, Najafi called allegations leveled by the Israeli representative baseless, saying that Iran is one of the main victims of chemical weapons. The Iranian envoy also said that the "child-killing Israeli regime, which has not declared its stockpiles of chemical weapons, has no position to make comments about a member state that is a victim of such lethal weapons." "Playing the blame game and leveling accusations against member states will not help the Israeli regime, which is the main cause of instability in West Asia, he added.

OPEC+ Agrees to Deepen Voluntary Oil Output Cuts

LONDON (Dispatches) - OPEC+ oil producers on Thursday agreed to voluntary output cuts totalling about 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) for early next year led by Saudi Arabia rolling over its current voluntary cut. Benchmark global oil prices settled down around 2%, in part because the reductions were voluntary and because of investor expectation ahead of the meeting that additional supply cuts might be deeper. Saudi Arabia, Russia and other members of OPEC+, who pump more than 40% of the world's oil, met online on Thursday to discuss supply policy. "The market reaction implies disbelief in the full efficacy of the cuts," JP Morgan analyst Christyan Malek said. "However, setting a new framework for each member to deliver on its cut reflects the degree of trust and cohesion among the members; case in point, the fact Brazil is joining is testament to the strength in numbers for OPEC+." The group discussed 2024 output amid forecasts the market faces a potential surplus and as a 1 million barrel per day (bpd) cut by Saudi Arabia was set to end next month. OPEC+'s output of some 43 million bpd already reflects cuts of about 5 million bpd aimed at supporting prices and stabilizing the market. The total curbs amount to 2.2 million bpd from eight producers, OPEC said in a statement after the meeting. Included in this figure is an extension of the Saudi and Russian voluntary cuts of 1.3 million bpd. The 900,000 bpd of additional cuts pledged on Thursday, includes 200,000 bpd of fuel export reductions from Russia, with the rest divided among six members. Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Russia's voluntary cut would include crude and products. The UAE said it had agreed to cut output by 163,000 bpd while Iraq said it would cut an extra 220,000 bpd in the first quarter. Saudi Arabia, Russia, the UAE, Iraq,



Kuwait, Kazakhstan and Algeria were among producers who said cuts will be unwound gradually after the first quarter, market conditions permitting. OPEC+ is focused on lower output with prices down from near \$98 in late September and concerns brewing over weaker economic growth in 2024 and expectations of a supply surplus. The International Energy Agency (IEA) this month forecast a slowdown in 2024 demand growth as "the last phase of the pandemic economic rebound dissipates and as advancing energy efficiency gains, expanding electric vehicle fleets and structural factors reassert themselves." OPEC+ also invited Brazil, a top 10 producer, to become a member of the group. The country's energy minister said it hoped to join in January. The OPEC+ meeting coincides with the opening of the United Nations' COP28 climate summit being hosted by OPEC member the United Arab Emirates.

Iran, Saudi Arabia Discuss Promotion of Military Ties



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Top military officials from Iran and Saudi Arabia weighed plans to expand military relations between the two Muslim countries. Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri and Defense Minister of Saudi Arabia Khalid bin Salman Al Saud talked about a range of issues in a telephone conversation on Thursday. General Baqeri expressed the Iranian Armed Forces' readiness to enhance military relations with Saudi Arabia. He also hailed the growing friendly ties between Tehran and Riyadh, praising the kingdom for hosting a recent extraordinary summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) about the Gaza crisis. For his part, the Saudi defense minister welcomed the promotion of cooperation between the military forces of the two nations. The two sides also discussed the pressing issues of the Muslim world. After intensive negotiations hosted by China, Iran and Saudi Arabia clinched a deal on March 10 to restore diplomatic relations and reopen embassies and missions after seven years of estrangement. The two regional heavyweights have underscored the need to respect each other's national sovereignty and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of one another. In June, Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Shahram Irani unveiled plans for the formation a new naval coalition in the northern parts of the Indian Ocean by a number of regional countries, including Iran and Saudi Arabia. Later, in August, Defense Ministry officials of the two states reached an agreement on exchanging military attachés.

IRAN NEWS



Iran Capable of Transiting 60m Tons of Goods of Central Asia

GONBAD KAVUS (IRNA) - The deputy of the Iranian Foreign Minister for economic diplomacy has said that Iran enjoys the capacity to transit 60 million tons of commodities of the Central Asian states per annum. Mehdi Safari said on Thursday at the Incheh Borun customs office in Iran's northern province of Golestan that if this amount of goods passes through the Islamic country, it will annually earn 60 billion dollars, which is more than its oil revenues. Referring to President Ebrahim Raisi's administration's strategy in developing trade exchanges with neighboring states, he said that the cabinet and its ministries of foreign affairs and roads are pursuing the expansion of trade ties with neighbors. Safari went on to say that provinces located in border areas, especially in the Caspian Sea region, enjoy not only rail and road capacity but also maritime routes, which should be turned into a proper platform to develop transit of commodities to and from Central Asian countries.

Iran Reliable Partner in Enhancing Sustainable Security in Africa



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani has underscored that the Islamic Republic is a reliable partner for the African nations in terms of strengthening sustainable security. Batheri Kani made the remarks in a meeting with Senegal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Madior Fall in the capital Dakar. The Iranian diplomat noted that the Islamic Republic pursues the strategy of maximizing interaction with African countries with the aim of developing sustainable security in the MENA region. He also pointed to the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, saying that vigilance by African nations and governments will not allow the Western colonizers to continue looting the continent this time under the pretext of promoting development. According to the Iranian diplomat, the root cause of insecurity in different regions of Africa and the source of terrorism in the continent are traced back to Western colonization. The Senegalese foreign minister, for his part, lauded the Iranian official's presence in the Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, saying that Iran and Senegal enjoy strong bilateral relations and that the fifth joint economic commission of the two countries will be held in Dakar in the near future.



23th Week of Italian Language Wraps Up in Tehran With Awards Ceremony

By: F. Taherpoor

TEHRAN - The 23th week of Italian Language ended with holding the awards ceremonies which was held at the residence of Italian Ambassador in Tehran on Thursday November 30. On the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of prominent Italian writer and intellectual Italo Calvino, the Italian Embassy dedicated this year's Italian Language event to this writer whose works have great fans in Iran and have been translated repeatedly in Iran. At the beginning of the event, Cultural Attache of Italian Embassy Yara Romanova gave more details to the participants in the ceremony on this year's Italian Language Week in Iran which had been allocated to Calvino. She said that the Italian Language Week started in Tehran on November 2 and ended on Thursday through holding various events. She reiterated that Calvino was the topic of the week in Iran because of his popularity among Iranians and several of his works being translated into Persian. Then Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone, for his part, said that November 30 was the last day of marking Italian Language Week worldwide and he is happy that this week in Iran was welcomed warmly. He added that this year the embassy in collaboration with Uni Italia (Uni-Italia is a center assisting international students wishing to come and study in Italy, helping them find the perfect course and Higher Education Institutions) held a competition in three categories for Iranian students in Iran and abroad who are interested in the works of Calvino. He added that they held sessions with Iranian translators who are interested in Calvino's works as Italian language is a key for access to a great civilization and culture as Italian language is considered as the language of theater and opera. He went on to say that today they are happy they speak Italian and talking about Italian literature which is one of the richest ones. He thanked Romanova and First Secretary of the embassy Ms. Giulia Flore for holding the event for promoting the Italian language especially in this week. Then Romanova took the floor for awarding the prizes of the winners of the competitions of the Italian Language Week. She said participants in the three categories of the competition had one month to submit their articles and works to the special jury to evaluate their works for naming the best ones. The first category of the competition was articles and translations on the untranslated works of Calvino in Iran and a four-man group jointly won jointly the top 2500-euro cash prize. Hadis Tavakolian, Elnaz Gorji, Mehnoush Joushesh and Fatemeh Moqaddasi won the prize. In the second category which was with the topic of welcoming Calvino in Iran, Nasim Mohammadi who is studying abroad won the top 2500-euro cash prize for her article on Calvino. Meanwhile two Tehran University students Ghazal Heydari and Reyhane Teymouri jointly won the top prize in the third category which was translation of and

study on Calvino works. Then other participants in the competitions who filed to win the top prizes were honored by giving certificates. Then Romanova thanked students who have great role in promoting Italian language and culture which boosts relations between Iran and Italy as two biggest civilizations. After the award ceremony, a roundtable chaired by First Secretary of Embassy Ms. Flore was held with the participation of two Iranian prominent translators of Calvino's works, Ms. Haleh Nazemi and Mojgan Mehregan, and Italian Professor Rosalia Gambatesa, the lecturer at the Department of Italian Language and Literature of Tehran University. Addressing the roundtable, Flore thanked the ambassador and all participants and students for the event and said that in the roundtable translators of Calvino's works in Iran would explain why they have chosen his works for translation. Then, Ms. Gambatesa talked about Calvino and his characteristics in his works especially his translated works in Iran and reiterated that in the 80s and 90s every year at least one of Calvino's works was translated into Persian and his works were popular among Iranians. She then pointed to one of Calvino's works "The Collection of Sand" and said that the last chapters of this work are about Calvino's travel to Iran in 1975. Then Ms. Nazemi, translator of the Collection of Sand, talked about why she chose this book for translation and reiterated that Calvino was a creative writer and he was more researcher than being a writer and in his works he is looking for answers to his questions. Then Ms. Mehregan who has translated four works of Calvino into Persian talked about Calvino and reiterated in his books one can find more than one human in Calvino as he has great scientific, cultural, social and even international knowledge. Meanwhile some photos of Calvino's travel to Iran and cities of Shiraz, Isfahan and Yazd were put on display on the sidelines of the event. Calvino is best known works include Italian Folktales, a lyrical retelling of 200 traditional fables, the allegorical Our Ancestors trilogy, the whimsical Cosmicomics short story collection, and the novels Invisible City and If On a Winter's Night a Traveler. The Week of the Italian Language in the World is an event that has been held by Italian missions abroad since 2001 and that over time has become one of the most important initiatives dedicated to the celebration of the Italian language internationally. The event is held and marked in the third week of October (16-21) every year and each year it is dedicated to one of the greatest of Italian literature and language. This year Italian Embassy in Tehran chose Calvino because he is famous in Iran and his works have been translated into Persian. It also postponed the event to late October and early November and some photos and books of Calvino were put on display during the event.



Envoy Appreciates Iraq's Stance on Anti-Iran UNGA Resolution

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Baghdad has expressed gratitude for the stance taken by the Iraqi government in respect of a recent anti-Iran resolution at the United Nations General Assembly because Iraq cast a negative vote on the resolution concerning human rights. Mohammad Kazem Al Sadeq said in a meeting with Minister of Justice of Iraq Khaled Shawani in Baghdad that the anti-Iran resolution proposed by Canada is losing momentum on a yearly basis. He added that the Canada-proposed human rights resolution, which is presented every year against the Islamic Republic of Iran, was approved on November 15 at the 78th Third Committee of the UNGA, but the number of countries who voted against and abstained from the political resolution increased this year and exceeded the

number of its supporters. The anti-Iran resolution was approved with only 80 votes in favor, while 29 states voted against it and 65 countries abstained. Thus, 94 countries did not agree with the anti-Iran resolution. Syria, North Korea, Iraq, Algeria, Belarus, and Pakistan voted against the anti-Iran resolution.



President Raisi Inaugurates Parand City Metro Line



TEHRAN (IP) - President Ebrahim Raisi attended the Robat Karim city on Thursday morning and inaugurated Parand City metro line. President Raisi together with the Minister of Roads and Urban Development, the Mayor of Tehran and other provincial and city officials, inaugurated the Parand city metro line on Thursday. According to this report, as it was pre-planned, in addition to the opening of the Parand metro line, more than four thousand newly completed residential units will be provided to the people of Robat Karim and Parand city. In another measure for the well-being of the people and citizens in the southernmost city of Tehran province, namely Parand, the metro station of this city, which houses hundreds of thousands of people, will be opened, so that once again the 13th government, while accompanying the people, will take another big step in the direction of well-being of the public. The newly established city of Parand is located 35 kilometers west of the capital and on the free side of the Tehran-Saveh road. It has a population of 450,000 people and about 40,000 people travel between this city and Tehran daily, mainly for business purposes. The Parand metro line branches off from Shaheed station on metro line one and reaches Parand city with five stations along a 50-kilometer route. The first 30 kilometers of the Parand metro line with Shahr-e Aftab and Imam Khomeini Airport stations had been put into operation, but the main 20 kilometers of the Parand metro line, according to the managers of the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Company were paused due to lack of financial resources. The studies of Parand metro started in 2005 and its implementation started 12 years ago, and the people of Parand have been waiting for the operation of Parand metro for more than a decade. He further considered the development of transportation and facilitating travel as one of the necessities of the development of different regions. He promised that this station would be built and its track would be laid so that this metro could be used for the welfare of the people.

Iran Elected as OPEC Conference Alternate President in 2024



TEHRAN (Shana) - Gabon and Iran were on Thursday elected as president and alternate president of the Conference of Ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for 2024, respectively. The two countries were appointed by alphabetical order at the 187th Meeting of OPEC Conference, which was held virtually. According to the OPEC Statute, the alternate president shall preside over meetings whenever the president is absent. Following the principle of alphabetical rotation, Libya and Nigeria were also elected as the OPEC Executive Board president and alternate president for 2024. The representatives of Iran, Iraq, and Nigeria in the board have been already appointed and their appointment must be approved according to the OPEC Statute during its ministerial conference. On Nov. 22, OPEC rescheduled a series of meetings. OPEC said that the 187th Meeting of the OPEC Conference, the 51st Meeting of the Joint Ministerial Monitoring Committee (JMMC) and the 36th OPEC and Non-OPEC Ministerial Meeting have all been delayed until Nov. 30. The three meetings were originally planned for Nov. 25 and Nov. 26. According to Amena Bakr, the chief OPEC correspondent, three online meetings have been scheduled; an OPEC meeting, followed by JMMC, and then the OPEC-plus meeting, during which the final decision is made.

Many States Indebted to Iran for Combating Drug Trafficking

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Border Police Commander Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goudarzi has emphasized that many nations around the globe are indebted to Iran thanks to its efforts in combating drug trafficking. The Iranian commander made the remark in a meeting with Brigadier General Hamed bin Abdullah bin Ahmed Al Balushi, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Planning of Oman, describing border cooperation between Iran and Oman as desirable in recent years. Pointing to the fact that the Iranian border guards have confiscated over 15 tons of different types of drugs in the Oman Sea, Goudarzi noted that drug is used as a sort of tactic and plot by global arrogance to harm nations; so, many countries are indebted to the Islamic Republic of Iran due to its endeavor in combatting drug trafficking, because the country seriously stands against drug transfer and it will not fall short in this regard. The Omani commander, for his part, expressed gratitude for the warm welcome and hospitality by the Iranian commander during his visit to Iran, saying that the Omani Coast Guard pursues good cooperation with the Iranian border guards and that the Omani forces play an active role in the regional waters.

India's Ruling BJP, Opposition Congress in Tight Race

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - India's main opposition Congress party is likely to win two of five state assembly elections while it is in close contest with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling nationalist party in two heartland states. TV exit polls showed on Thursday. The state elections are seen as a big test of Modi's chances of winning a third term in a national vote due by next May. More than 160 million people - or about one-sixth of India's total electorate - were eligible to vote in the regional polls, which were held in four legs ending on Thursday. Votes in all five states - Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram - will be counted on Dec. 3 and the results are expected that same day. Three of the five states in contention have witnessed a tough battle between Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress party. BJP has been in power in one of the states, Congress in two, and regional parties in the remaining two. At least nine exit polls predicted Congress party's victory in mineral-rich Chhattisgarh and Telangana state. Some of them said BJP was set to defeat Congress in Rajasthan.



Kissinger, Dominant U.S. Diplomat of Cold War Era, Dies Aged 100



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Henry Kissinger, the most powerful U.S. diplomat of the Cold War era, who helped Washington open up to China, forge arms control deals with the Soviet Union and end the Vietnam War, but who was reviled by critics over human rights, has died aged 100. Kissinger, a German-born Jewish refugee whose career took him from academia to diplomacy and who remained an active voice in foreign policy into his later years, died at his home in Connecticut on Wednesday, his geopolitical consulting firm, Kissinger Associates, said. Kissinger was at the height of his powers during the 1970s in the middle of the Cold War when he served as national security adviser and secretary of state under Republican President Richard Nixon. After Nixon's resignation in 1974 amid the Watergate scandal, he remained a diplomatic force as secretary of state under Nixon's successor, President Gerald Ford. Kissinger was the architect of the U.S. diplomatic opening with China, landmark U.S.-Soviet arms control talks, expanded ties between Israel and its Arab neighbors, and the Paris Peace Accords with North Vietnam. While many hailed Kissinger for his brilliance and statesmanship, others branded him a war criminal for his support for anti-communist dictatorships, especially in Latin America. In his latter years, his travels were circumscribed by efforts by some countries to arrest or question him about past U.S. foreign policy. Democratic U.S. President Joe Biden waited nearly 24 hours after the announcement of Kissinger's death to issue a statement saying that they often strongly disagreed, but Kissinger's "fierce intellect and profound strategic focus was evident." Earlier, Biden's national security spokesperson John Kirby said of Kissinger, "whether you saw eye-to-eye with him on every issue, there's no question that he shaped foreign policy decisions for decades, and he certainly had an impact on America's role in the world." Kissinger won the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize for ending U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War, but it was one of the most controversial ever. Two Nobel committee members resigned over the selection as questions arose about the secret U.S. bombing of Cambodia. North Vietnamese diplomat Le Duc Tho, selected to share the award, declined it.

Asia Factory Activity Weakens, Uncertainty on China Clouds Outlook



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Asia's factory activity remained weak in November on soft global demand, surveys showed on Friday, with mixed signs on the strength of China's economy clouding the outlook for the region's fragile recovery. China's private Caixin/S&P Global manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI) unexpectedly rose to 50.7 in November from a 49.5 reading in October, exceeding the 50 mark separating growth from contraction and surpassing analysts' forecasts. The reading came a day after official survey that showed a contraction in both manufacturers' and non-manufacturers' activity, underscoring deepening troubles in the world's second largest economy. "The domestic market cannot make up for losses in Europe and the United States. The data shows that factories are producing less and hiring fewer people," Dan Wang, chief economist at Hang Seng Bank China, said of China's PMI readings, which have different samples. Export-reliant Japan, South Korea and Taiwan bore the brunt of sluggish global demand with their manufacturing activity remaining stagnant in November, surveys showed. "It's hard to expect a recovery in Asia any time soon," said Toru Nishihama, chief emerging market economist at Dai-ichi Life Research Institute. "While exports probably hit bottom, they won't accelerate much from here as the global economy lacks a key driver of growth." Japan's final au Jibun Bank manufacturing PMI fell to 48.3 in November from 48.7 in October, shrinking at the fastest pace in nine months. South Korea's PMI stood at 50.0 in November, rising slightly from October's reading of 49.8. The factory gauge rebound came after 16 straight months of contraction through October, the longest downturn since the survey began in April 2004. Manufacturing activity also shrank in Taiwan, Vietnam and Malaysia, but expanded in India, Indonesia and the Philippines, the surveys showed. China's economy has struggled this year to mount a strong post-pandemic recovery, adding gloom to an already darkening global outlook as U.S. and European economies begin to feel the pinch from past aggressive interest rate hikes. "The weakness in China's service sector is particularly worrying, as it shows demand is evaporating even as supply picks up," Nishihama of Dai-ichi Life Research Institute said. In India, the PMI survey released on Friday showed the country's manufacturing growth accelerated in November on robust output and new orders. While domestic demand appeared strong, international demand took a hit, with new export orders at a five-month low.

Israel Resumes Gaza Assault After Rockets Fired

GAZA (Dispatches) - Heavy fighting was reported in Gaza on Friday as Israel's military resumed combat operations against Hamas after accusing the Palestinian militant group of violating a temporary truce by firing rockets into Israeli territory. The seven-day pause, which began on Nov. 24 and was extended twice, had allowed for the exchange of dozens of hostages held in Gaza for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and facilitated the entry of humanitarian aid into the shattered coastal strip. In the hour before the truce was set to end at 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), Israel said it intercepted a rocket fired from Gaza. There was no immediate comment from Hamas or claim of responsibility for the launches. Palestinian media reported Israeli air and artillery strikes across the enclave after the truce expired, including in Rafah, near the border with Egypt. In Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, a Reuters witness said he could hear heavy shelling and see smoke rising in the east of the town. People were fleeing the area to camps in the west of Khan Younis for cover, he added. Al-Jazeera reported a number of people had been killed and injured by Israeli raids and shelling. The Israeli military confirmed its jets were striking Hamas targets in Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said that with the resumption of fighting, Israel was committed to achieving its targets in the war. Images on social media showed large plumes of dark smoke rising over the densely built-up Jabalia camp in Gaza. Israel has sworn to annihilate Hamas, which rules Gaza, in response to the Oct. 7 rampage by the militant group, when Israel says gunmen killed 1,200 people and took 240 hostages. Israel retaliated with intense bombardment and a ground invasion. Palestinian health authorities deemed reliable by the United Nations say more than 15,000 Gazans have been confirmed killed. Qatar and Egypt had been making intensive efforts to extend the truce following the exchange on Thursday of the latest batch of eight hostages and 30 Palestinian prisoners. Israel had previously set the release of 10 hostages a day as the minimum it would accept to pause its ground assault and bombardment. Thursday's releases brought the totals freed during the truce to 105 hostages and

240 Palestinian prisoners. Among those released were six women aged 21 to 40 including one Mexican-Israeli dual national and 21-year-old Mia Schem, who holds both French and Israeli citizenship. Photos released by the Israeli prime minister's office showed Schem, who was captured by Hamas along with others at an outdoor music festival in southern Israel on Oct. 7, embracing her mother and brother after they were reunited at Haterim military base in Israel. The other two newly released hostages were a brother and sister, Belal and Aisha al-Ziadna, aged 18 and 17 respectively, according to the Israeli prime minister's office. They are Bedouin Arab citizens of Israel and among four members of their family taken hostage while they were milking cows on a farm. One of Qatar's lead negotiators, career diplomat Abdullah Al Sulaiti, who helped broker the truce through marathon shuttle negotiations, acknowledged in a recent Reuters interview the uncertain odds of keeping the guns silent. "At the beginning I thought achieving an agreement would be the most difficult step," he said in an article that detailed the behind-the-scenes efforts for the first time. "I've discovered that sustaining the agreement itself is equally challenging." The truce had allowed some humanitarian aid into Gaza after much of the coastal territory of 2.3 million people was reduced to wasteland in the Israeli assault. More fuel and 56 trucks of humanitarian supplies entered Gaza on Thursday, Israel's defense ministry and the Palestinian Red Crescent Society said. But deliveries of food, water, medical supplies and fuel remain far below what is needed, aid workers say. At an emergency meeting in Amman, Jordan's King Abdullah on Thursday urged U.N. officials and international groups to pressure Israel to allow more aid into the beleaguered enclave, according to delegates. When the ceasefire first came into effect a week ago, Israel was preparing to turn the focus of its operation to southern Gaza after its seven-week assault to the north. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in Israel during his third visit to the Middle East since the war began, did not comment on the resumption of fighting as he headed for Dubai.



Zelenskiy Calls for Fortifications in Key Frontline Areas

KYIV (Dispatches) - President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for faster construction of fortifications under pressure from Russian forces, particularly in eastern Ukraine, the focal point of Moscow's advances 21 months into its invasion. Zelenskyy issued his appeal after touring Ukrainian positions in the northeast, one of several areas where Russian forces have been trying to make recent headway - and recapture areas taken back by Ukrainian troops a year ago. He said one of the meetings he held with commanders dealt with fortifications. "In all major sectors where reinforcement is needed, there should be a boost and an acceleration in the construction of structures," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address. "This of course means the greatest attention to the Avdiivka, Maryinka and other sectors in Donetsk region. In Kharkiv region, this means the Kupiansk sector and the Kupiansk-Lyman line." Russia has made slow progress in trying to secure all of the eastern regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, but has boosted attacks in several areas. These include Kupiansk near Kharkiv, retaken by Ukraine in a drive through the northeast a year ago. Russian occupying forces have built solid fortifications and minefields of their own in areas they have held since pouring over the border in February 2022. Those defenses have been a key factor in holding back a Ukrainian counteroffensive under way since June. Ukrainian troops have made only incremental gains in the east and south. Russian forces have focused attention since mid-October on the devastated town of Avdiivka, known for its vast coking plant and its position as a gateway to the Russian-held regional center of Donetsk, 20 km (12 miles)

to the east. Military spokesperson Oleksandr Shtupun said Ukrainian forces had rebuffed Russian attacks on the coking plant. "The plant is under our control. The enemy is suffering significant losses there," Shtupun told Espresso TV, noting Russian artillery and air attacks inside and around the town. "The Russians are actively pressing ground attacks, sometimes using armoured vehicles." Reuters could not verify accounts of fighting from either side. Avdiivka was briefly seized by Russian-financed separatists who took control of large stretches of eastern Ukraine in 2014. It has held out since thanks to a considerable extent to fortifications put in place by its Ukrainian defenders. Russian forces have also been pressing near contested villages surrounding the equally shattered town of Bakhmut, captured by Russian forces in May after months of fighting. Russia's Defense Ministry on Wednesday announced the capture of Khromove, one such village, but unofficial Ukrainian accounts dispute that claim. The office of Ukraine's general prosecutor said a Russian attack on the city of Toretsk, south of Bakhmut, had killed one person. Three others were pulled alive from underneath the rubble of a house. Initial investigation showed Russian forces had dropped two bombs, in the second assault on the town throughout the day. Ukrainian military analyst Serhiy Hrabyskiy said the Russians sought to capitalise on their capture of Bakhmut to advance on at least three cities to the west. "It is crucial for the enemy to develop things in tactical terms with an eye to possibly advancing on Kostyantynivka, as well as Sloviansk and Kramatorsk," Hrabyskiy told Radio NV.



S. Korean Farmers Scuffle With Police at Protest Over Dog Meat Ban

SEOUL (Dispatches) - About 200 South Korean farmers who breed and raise dogs for human consumption held a rally on Thursday near the presidential office in the capital Seoul, demanding the government scrap a plan to ban the controversial centuries-old practice. Dozens of farmers, who had tried to drive into the street in front of the presidential office by truck with dogs in cages that they intended to release at the scene, were turned away by the police who inspected the cargo covered with blankets. The ruling party of President Yoon Suk Yeol has introduced a bill to ban the breeding and sale of dogs for consumption and offer financial compensation for those in the industry forced to shutter their business within a three-year grace period. The time is now to put an end to the controversy around eating dog meat, party members have said, adding there was broad support from the opposition party, which currently controls parliament, and from the public. More than 6 million South Korean households now own dogs as pets in a country of about 51 million people, and Yoon and his wife Kim Keon Hee are owners of six dogs, including a retired guide dog and a rescue dog. A Gallup Korea poll last year showed almost two-thirds of respondents opposed eating dog meat, with only 8% saying they had eaten dog within the past year, down from 27% in 2015. Ju Yeong-bong, who represents an industry group and led Thursday's rally, said politicians had no right to close down an industry or decide what people chose to eat. "We can't agree with the idea that it is barbaric, because all countries that have the tradition of animal husbandry have at some point eaten dogs and there are still countries where it's done," he said. The farmers had been completely excluded from discussion on the bill and proposed financial compensation was completely inadequate given they would lose their livelihoods, Ju said. The farmers scuffled with police who outnumbered them and set up barricades to stop them from crossing the street to move closer to the presidential office. Three protesters including Ju were detained by police in a chaotic scene, the organisers said. While the practice of eating dog meat has declined in popularity, the farmers and restaurant owners who serve the meat have been fighting to keep it legal. The farmers have accused First Lady Kim, a vocal critic of dog meat consumption, of exercising what they call improper pressure on the government and the ruling party to bring in the ban. "The First Lady has spoken out about this issue with keen interest, and both in the country and abroad there is support and consensus, as well as from the opposition party," the presidential office said.

North Korea's Kim Calls for Military Readiness Against Any Provocation

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for his military to be ready to respond to any "provocation" by the enemy, state media said on Friday, after Pyongyang vowed to deploy stronger armed forces and new weapons along its border with the South. Tensions on the Korean peninsula have increased since the North last month launched a spy satellite, prompting Seoul to suspend a key clause in a 2018 inter-Korean military accord and Pyongyang in turn to declare it was no longer bound by the pact. Visiting North Korea's air force command on Thursday to the branch's airmen day, Kim rolled out guidelines to improve the military's combat posture and increase "its capabilities to fight a war to the full," news agency KCNA reported. "He set forth operational and tactical policies ... so as to counter any military provocation and threat of the enemy immediately and powerfully," KCNA said. That stop was followed by a visit to a fighter wing, where pilots staged a demonstration flight, it said. Photographs released by state media showed Kim and his daughter, both dressed in long leather jackets, watching the show. Kim praised the air force for being "fully prepared to perfectly carry out their air combat missions under any unfavorable situation," KCNA said. The United States and its allies have strongly condemned the North's first spy satellite launch as a violation of multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions. But Pyongyang has said it would launch more satellites, calling it an exercise of a right to self-defence. On Thursday, the United States targeted North Korea with fresh sanctions over the satellite launch,

designating foreign-based agents it accused of facilitating sanctions evasion. South Korea also announced sanctions on 11 North Koreans. Reflecting the rising strain, South Korea has suspended tours of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) between the two Koreas, a Seoul official said. Local media reported that North Korean soldiers at the Joint Security Area (JSA) inside the DMZ had started carrying firearms again after the North withdrew from the inter-Korean military deal. The DMZ tours had restarted last week; they had been halted after a U.S. soldier's unauthorised crossing into North Korea while on a tour in July. Private Travis King was later handed back by the North and returned to the United States, where he faces charges.



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Liverpool Power Into Europa League Last 16

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cody Gakpo's double fired Liverpool into the Europa League last 16 as they routed LASK 4-0, while Brighton advanced to the knockout round with a 1-0 win at AEK Athens on Thursday.Jürgen Klopp's side sealed top spot in Group E thanks to Gakpo's brace and goals from Luis Diaz and Mohamed Salah at Anfield.Second-placed Toulouse's 0-0 draw against Union Saint-Gilloise in the other group game means Klopp can rest players for his team's last remaining pool stage fixture.Europa League group winners go through to the last 16 automatically, while the runners-up play in a two-legged knockout round play-off in February against a team who finish third in a Champions League group."The most important thing is that we're at the head of the group and that won't change so that's good," Klopp said."There was some good football but this game should have been put to bed before half-time. We didn't do that, but it's fantastic to win 4-0."Klopp made nine changes from the side which drew with Premier League champions Manchester City last Saturday, with Salah and Kostas Tsimikas the only players to keep their places.Rising to meet Joe Gomez's cross, Diaz netted his first goal at Anfield since August as his header raced past LASK keeper Tobias Lawal in the 12th minute.Having opened the scoring, Diaz helped set up Liverpool's second three minutes later when he picked out Salah, who teed-up Gakpo to net from close-range.Salah killed off the out-classed Austrians in the 51st minute, stroking home a penalty for his 13th goal this season after Gakpo was fouled by Lawal.Dutch forward Gakpo capped the demolition with a fierce strike in stoppage-time.Unlike Liverpool's rich history in continental competition, Brighton are competing in Europe for the first time and the Seagulls' adventure will continue into the New Year thanks to Joao Pedro's winner in Greece.Damian Szymanski fouled Joao Pedro in the 55th minute and the Brazilian striker picked himself up to

slot home the penalty.AEK's fate was sealed when they were reduced to 10 men in the 85th minute when Mijat Gacinovic earned a second booking for a foul on Joel Veltman.Roberto De Zerbi's side are second in Group B, one point behind Marseille following the French side's dramatic 4-3 win over 10-man Ajax.Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang scored a hat-trick for Marseille, including the winner with a penalty three minutes into stoppage-time.In the midst of a wretched season, Ajax had Steven Berghuis sent off in the 63rd minute and were consigned to elimination by their late defeat."Who knows how far we can go?" Brighton captain Lewis Dunk said. "We want to win it and you've got to dream big to achieve it."West Ham moved into the knockout round after Tomas Soucek's 89th minute goal saw off Backa Topola 1-0 in Serbia. Second-placed Freiburg thrashed Olympiakos 5-0 to join Group A leaders West Ham in the knockout round.There is a three-way battle for qualification from Group C after third-placed Sparta Prague beat leaders Real Betis 1-0, while second-placed Rangers drew 1-1 with Aris Limassol.Atalanta wrapped up top spot in Group D after a 1-1 draw against second-placed Sporting Lisbon, who are also through to the knockout round.Rennes' 3-0 win against Maccabi Haifa took the French team to the top of Group F and into the knockout round, with Villarreal joining them after their 3-2 victory over Panathinaikos.Slavia Prague's 3-2 win at Sheriff sealed their knockout round place from Group G and Roma also advanced with a 1-1 draw at Servette.Bayer Leverkusen go through to the last 16 as Group H winners after beating Hacken 2-0.In the Europa Conference League, crowd troubled marred Aston Villa's 2-1 win against Legia Warsaw as three police officers were injured in clashes with Polish fans.The game was played with Legia supporters kept out of the stadium following the pre-match violence, which included flares and missiles being hurled at police.

Cowboys Rally Late for 41-35 NFL Win Over Seahawks



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Dallas quarterback Dak Prescott hit tight end Jake Ferguson with a 12-yard touchdown pass with 4:36 to play as the Cowboys rallied from an eight-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Seattle Seahawks 41-35.Trailing 35-27 after Geno Smith's three-yard touchdown toss to DK Metcalf in the opening minute of the fourth quarter, the Cowboys sandwiched two field goals from Brandon Aubrey around Prescott's go-ahead scoring pass to Ferguson to seize the victory.Prescott connected on 29 of 41 passes for 299 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions as the Cowboys pushed their NFL home winning streak to 14 games.He hit CeeDee Lamb for a touchdown in the first quarter and found Brandin Cooks with a scoring pass in the second.After hitting Ferguson for a TD, Prescott connected with Cooks for the two-point conversion that put Dallas up 38-35. Seattle had a chance on their ensuing drive, but Smith's fourth-down pass to wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba was incomplete.After the Cowboys' final field goal, Seattle had 1:43 remaining but came up empty on their final drive, with linebacker Micah Parsons harrying Smith into an incomplete pass.Smith completed 23 of 41 passes for 334 yards and three touchdowns -- all to Metcalf -- and an interception, which was the only turnover of the game.He also ran for a touchdown that put Seattle up 28-20 early in the third quarter.Rookie kicker Aubrey booted four field goals, and for just the fifth time in NFL history, neither team punted.The Cowboys improved to 9-3, second in the NFC East division behind the 10-1 Philadelphia Eagles, who host the NFC West-leading San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.The Seahawks fell to 6-6, second in the NFC West behind the 49ers.

Clippers' 3-Point Shooting Too Much for Kings

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Kawhi Leonard went for a team-high 34 points, James Harden led a 3-point barrage with five en route to 26 points, and the Los Angeles Clippers took advantage of an emotionally drained Sacramento Kings team en route to a 131-117 victory in the California capital.Paul George chipped in with 19 points, Terance Mann 18 and Ivica Zubac 14 for the Clippers, who ran up 72 points while building a 22-point halftime lead before coasting home.De'Aaron Fox led all scorers with 40 points for the Kings, who celebrated an NBA in-season tournament group win via a one-point thriller over the Golden State Warriors one night earlier. George and Harden buried consecutive 3-pointers to give Los Angeles the lead for good just past the midpoint of the first quarter after the teams had played evenly for six minutes.Harden connected from beyond the arc four times in the first period alone as 24 of the Clippers' points in a 35-27 quarter came on 3-pointers.The lead eventually reached 25 points, putting the Kings in a big-time catch-up mode for the second straight night. But after erasing all of a 24-point deficit against Golden State, the best Sacramento could do in the encore was to get within 113-100 with still 6:35 to play before a 3-pointer by Leonard helped slam the door.Leonard finished 14-for-18 from the field on a night when the Clippers shot 53.8 percent as a team. He also found time for a team-high nine rebounds and two blocks.Harden went 5-for-8 on threes and George 4-for-9, helping the visitors go 14-for-28 as a team. Harden also contributed six assists and five steals while George had seven assists, one fewer than team leader Russell Westbrook.Zubac added eight rebounds and three blocks for Los Angeles, which completes a road back-to-back Thursday night at Golden State.Fox's 40-point game was his second of the season. He had a season-best 43 points in a win at San Antonio earlier this month.Malik Monk, hero of Tuesday's win, chipped in with 15 points off the bench while Sasha Vezenkov had 13 and Domantas Sabonis 11. Kevin Huerter led Sacramento with five assists and also was one of seven Kings with a team-high-tying five rebounds.



French Soccer League Struggling With Violence, Discriminatory Chanting



PARIS (Dispatches) - There's been discriminatory chanting in the stands, a team bus pelted with stones, a game called off because of crowd trouble, and precious few goals on the field.The French soccer league is making headlines for all the wrong reasons this season. And now even the French government is calling for something to be done about it.After 13 rounds of games this season, the number of incidents is worrying officials who have been dealing with an upsurge of violence in stadiums over the past two campaigns.According to Interior minister Gerald Darmanin, more than 100 police officers were injured in soccer-related incidents last season, and 870 people were detained. And there is no sign of abatement."There's no other sport with this level of violence," Darmanin said recently.In October in Montpellier, a match was stopped in added time after fans threw a firework from the stands that landed next to Clermont goalkeeper Mory Diaw. The Senegal player had to be taken off on a stretcher, but was not seriously injured.A new nadir was reached a few weeks later in Marseille when the bus carrying Lyon players was stoned by fans outside the Velodrome stadium. The windows were smashed and Lyon coach Fabio Grosso was left with his face bloodied, an injury that required stitching. Supporters were also targeted, five police officers were injured, and nine people placed in custody, according to Darmanin.Another episode of violence broke out in Montpellier last weekend when a bus transporting Brest fans back home was attacked as they left the southern city following a 3-1 win for the away team. Their bus was hit by stones reportedly thrown from a motorway bridge."What happened was very serious. When you look at the impacts on the vehicle, you quickly understand the violence," said Pascal Robert, the club's managing director. "If the paving stone that was thrown at the front of the bus had fallen two meters lower, the driver would have been hit... I can't imagine the tragedy that would have ensued with our sixty supporters on board."Meanwhile, the league isn't offering up a whole lot in terms of entertainment or suspense.Paris Saint-Germain once again tops the standings ahead of Sunday's match at Le Havre, having won nine of the last 11 league titles. With its star-studded team led by Kylian Mbappe -- the league's top scorer with 14 goals -- PSG has no rival on the domestic stage.Nice, however, has mounted a credible challenge this campaign and lags just one point behind the leader ahead of Saturday's match at Nantes. But the other 16 teams are not giving their fans much to cheer about. According to the league's statistics, the average number of goals per game after 12 rounds was lower than in the last three seasons -- at under 2.5 -- with the number of scoreless draws on the rise. Some supporter groups are finding other ways to stay entertained.Before the match between Marseille and Lyon was ultimately called off, fans from both teams remained in the stadium and exchanged insults as they waited for play to resume.Taunting their Marseille rivals, some Lyon fans were filmed making Nazi gestures and mimicking monkeys.

Arsenal, Real Madrid Top Groups

LONDON (Dispatches) - In a frenetic and high-scoring night of Champions League football, Arsenal scored six goals to advance to the knockout rounds as group winners, while Manchester United stayed last in their group despite scoring three goals away from home.Arsenal's 6-0 rout of Lens ensured second-placed PSV Eindhoven -- who won 3-2 in stoppage time at Sevilla -- also advanced to the round of 16 from Group B on Wednesday night. There are now 12 confirmed teams in the round of 16 draw set to take place on December 18, but Manchester United are in serious danger of missing out.The three-time European champions led by two goals after 18 minutes at Galatasaray and 3-2 early in the second half but were pegged back again in a wild 3-3 draw.United have also suffered 4-3 losses at Bayern Munich and second-placed Copenhagen this season."As a team, we have to learn from it because we are conceding too many goals and it is unnecessary and avoidable," United manager Erik ten Hag said.A hat-trick of three-goal games on their travels has brought just a single point back for ten Hag's players, who need to beat Bayern at Old Trafford in two weeks.Only four other Champions League teams this season have scored more than United's 12-goal total and they all top their groups and have advanced to the knockout phase.Real Madrid are among them and finish atop Group C after a 4-2 win over second-placed Napoli. Teams that top their standings are seeded in the round-of-16 draw and avoid other group winners like defending champions Manchester City. Teams also cannot be drawn against opponents from their own country. Bayern drew 0-0 with Copenhagen, one of two games with no goals on a night when the other six games delivered 31.Real Sociedad were held 0-0 by Salzburg to set up a final-day showdown with second-placed Inter Milan for the top spot in Group D. Both Sociedad and Inter already advanced three weeks ago.Inter produced the night's other second-half fightback in a 3-3 draw at Benfica, who wasted a three-goal lead at halftime earned by Joao Mario's hat trick against his former club.Braga drew 1-1 with Union Berlin and can still advance by winning at Napoli.

