

An Iranian Border Guard Commander Has Said That 16,000 Illegal Afghan Migrants Were Expelled and Returned to Afghanistan Via the Taybad Border Crossing in Razavi Khorasan Province Over the Past Five Days

IRAN NEWS

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Oman Sayyid Badr Albusaidi Was to Hold Talks With His Iranian Counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday in a Bid to Discuss the Latest Developments in the Gaza Strip

VOL. XXIX, No. 7874 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2023 AZAR 13, 1402

2

DOMESTIC



Monthly Transit of Goods Via Iran Increases 6.8% on Year

> SEE PAGE 2

3

INTERNATIONAL

Israel Strikes Gaza as Pressure Mounts to Protect Civilians

> SEE PAGE 3



U.S. Supportive Policies Encourage Zionists to Continue Crimes in Gaza

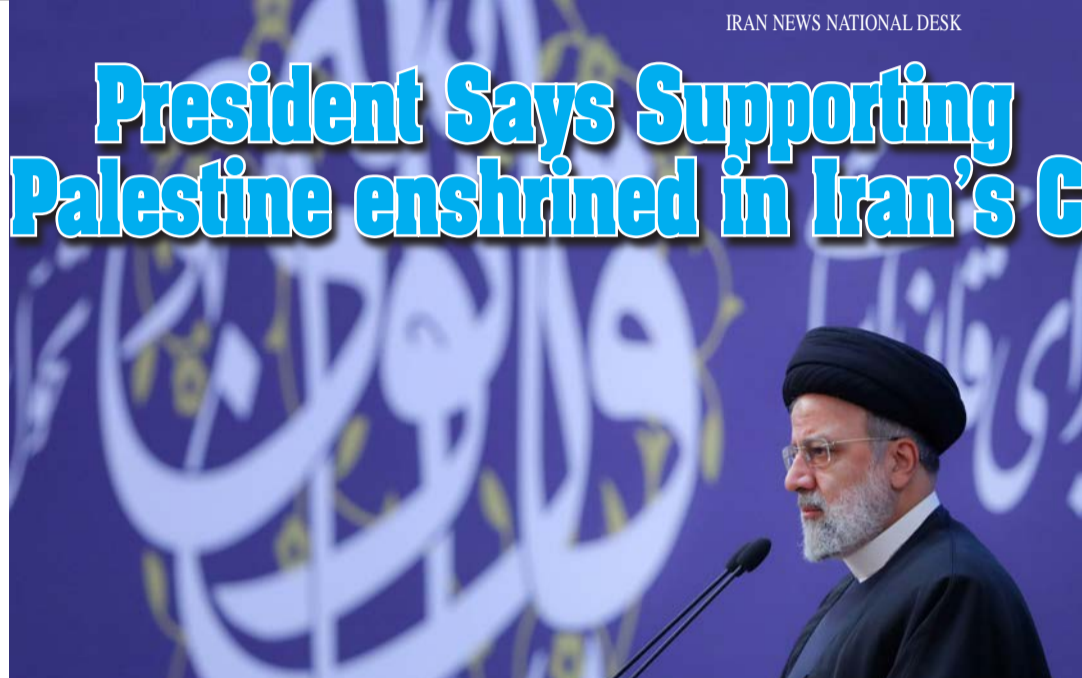


TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian says the United States' supportive policies are the main factor encouraging the Zionist regime to continue massacre of civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip. Amir-Abdollahian made the comment in a Saturday phone call with the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell. During the conversation, Iran's top diplomat stressed the necessity of putting an immediate end to the Zionist regime's crimes against Palestinians. "The Zionist regime's military attacks against the people of Gaza must stop as soon as possible to pave the way for the dispatch of humanitarian aid," he said. Amir-Abdollahian emphasized that "supportive policies adopted by the United States have encouraged the Zionist regime to continue its military aggression and massacre of civilians in Gaza," and also play an important role in continuation and further spread of the war. Iran's foreign minister issued a stern warning about the Zionist regime's plan to forcefully expel Palestinians from their occupied lands. "The root cause of the current situation [in the occupied territories] is the Zionist regime's occupation and aggression. If the Israeli regime's war crimes against [the Palestinian people] in Gaza and the West Bank do not stop, it is possible for the war to further deepen and spread to [other parts of] the region," Amir-Abdollahian said. Borrell, for his part, noted that tensions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank must end as soon as possible, noting that the European Union is trying to make Israel respect its obligations under international law. Touching on Iran's role in helping reduce regional tensions, the European Union's foreign policy chief said the bloc believes that diplomacy is the best solution to the issue of Palestine and continuation of military strikes will only make the crisis worse.

Iran Ranks 25th Among World's Top Commercial Shipping Fleet Owners



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in its latest report on the state of the world's commercial fleets, has ranked Iran 25th among the countries with the largest shipping fleets, higher than the United States, Germany and France. Based on the mentioned report, having 924 commercial vessels, the Islamic Republic stands at 25th place among 186 countries, IRIB reported. According to the CIA, last year (2022), Iran had 32 bulk carriers, 31 container ships, 393 general cargo ships, 83 oil tankers, and 403 ships of other types. Brazil, Portugal, Denmark, Canada, Germany, Australia, Bangladesh, Spain, and Switzerland are among the countries that have smaller fleets compared to Iran, based on the mentioned report. The total number of active commercial ships in West Asia analyzed in this report in 2022 amounted to 4,398 ships, more than a fifth of which belonged to Iran. Back in January, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ranked Iran as the owner of the world's 22nd-biggest maritime fleet in terms of capacity. In a report dubbed "Navigating Stormy Waters", the UNCTAD said the capacity of Iran's maritime fleet increased by one percent or 190,000 tons in 2022. In 2021, the capacity of the Iranian shipping fleet was estimated to be 19.251 million tons. The UNCTAD data indicated that the Iranian shipping fleet accounts for 0.89 percent of the world's total shipping capacity. UNCTAD put the total number of the world's commercial ships, including tankers, container ships, and bulk carriers at the end of 2022 at 55,037. The total capacity of the mentioned ships was estimated at 2,180,058,307 tons in 2022, which increased by two percent over the previous year.



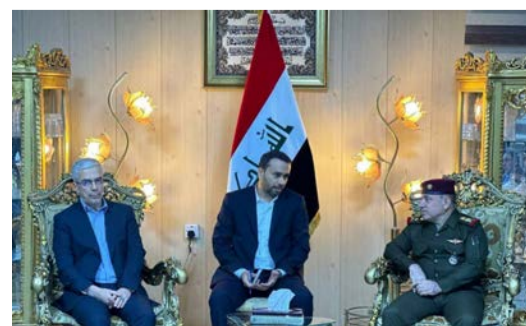
IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran has been providing unwavering support for Palestine and Gaza since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in conformity with the Constitution, President Ebrahim Raisi said. Iran's support for Gaza and Palestine is in total compliance with the Constitution, which has obligated the Islamic government to back the oppressed, Raisi said in an address to a conference on the implementation of the Constitution, held in Tehran on Sunday. He noted that supporting the rights of the Palestinian nation has been a fundamental principle of the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979. Describing the issue of Palestine as the Muslim world's top priority, the president underlined that international political developments or the interests of certain regional parties won't change this basic tenet of Iran's foreign policy by any means. He also noted that massive worldwide rallies in solidarity with Palestine and Gaza indicate that the blood of the oppressed Palestinian people has overcome the arrogance system's media empire. Raisi also expressed confidence that the Zionist regime, which has the blood of over 6,000 Palestinian children on its hands, is going to collapse and vanish. The President also said, "The constitution has met all the needs that are assumed for the modern human and are supposed to be implemented in the Islamic society; All the needs in the fields of social, economic, cultural, political, internal and external relations, institutions and structures necessary for the progress of the country have been observed in this law." Raisi stated that everything we have towards the Constitution originates from the wise measures and guidance of Imam Khomeini (RA), his memory and all those who played an important role in the drafting and approval of this national covenant. The President described and specified the constitution as what the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution interprets as the glorious manifesto of the Islamic Revolution and the embodiment of the revolution and its lessons, adding, "The constitution has taught us the foundation of laws and regulations and the communication between different departments and the basis of the Islamic system, the organization and structure of the Islamic system." Raisi stated that the issue of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist has been mentioned in the works of all major jurists since the beginning of the period of ijthad jurisprudence in the 4th and 5th centuries of Hijri, and added, "Perhaps there are differences in the extent of the expansion of the jurisprudence in the topics of different jurists, but the principle of the Guardianship of the Islamic Jurist has appeared in the works of all jurists." He added, "Politicians in the world usually listen to the people and the people's vote, but in the eyes of the Constitution, Imam Khomeini and the Supreme Leader of the Revolution Islamic and basically in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the view of the people is derived from the true belief in their rights." Emphasizing the importance of public votes in the formation of various parts of the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the President stated, "The first responsibility of officials is to try to fulfil the constitution, and therefore, the constitution should be seen in the form of a comprehensive and not a selective matter in its implementation".

Iraq Voices Readiness to Hold Joint Exercises With Iran

TEHRAN (MNA) - The Chief of General Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces announced his country's readiness to hold joint exercises with Iran. "There is good stability and security in Iraq and this country is moving in the direction of growth and development," Iran's Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Bagheri said in a meeting with the Chief of the General Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces Abdel Emir Rashid Yarallah Arabic. Referring to the joint efforts of Iran and Iraq against ISIL terrorism, General Bagheri termed Martyr General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis as a precious legacy for the people of the two countries. The two countries have good and valuable experiences in the war against terrorism and can share their experiences, he said. Emphasizing that holding a joint exercise at the borders of the two countries ensures stable security at the borders, Bagheri said, "The shared borders of the two countries are an opportunity to increase convergence and benefit both nations from mutual capacities." The Chief of the General Staff of the Iraqi Armed Forces also expressed gratitude to the Islamic Republic for its honest cooperation in the fight against Daesh. He also announced the full readiness of the Iraqi Armed Forces to develop military, defense, training exchanges and joint exercises and exchange experiences with Iran. Meanwhile in a meeting with the Iraqi defense minister, Major General Mohammad Bagheri called on the Iraqi side to step up bilateral cooperation. "The armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are ready to transfer their knowledge, experiences and capabilities to the Iraqi armed forces," Bagheri told

the Iraqi defense minister Thabet al-Abbasi. "We believe that the cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries is still far from the desired level, despite the many fields and potentials, and both countries can benefit from the utilization of these potentials," he added. Major General Bagheri announced the readiness of the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to conduct a joint bilateral or multilateral maritime rescue exercise in the Persian Gulf. He further said that the two countries share close positions regarding the Gaza war and the Palestinian issue. The Minister of Defense of Iraq, for his part, said in the meeting that, "Iraqi people, with different political views, believe in the divine's promise and they will stand by the Palestinian nation." Al-Abbasi further stated that, "during my trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran and visiting the capabilities and defense equipment, I witnessed the growing trend of Iran's defense industry."



World's Silence, Inaction Embolden Child-Killing Zionist Rulers



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has criticized the silence of the world's leaders in the face of the Israeli regime's horrendous crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, calling for efforts to end bombardment of the territory. Raisi made the remarks in a Saturday phone call with Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, during which the two sides discussed bilateral relations and the latest developments related to the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories. "We believe that the silence and inaction of the world's leaders and officials only embolden child-killing Zionist rulers [of Israel]," the Iranian president said. He added that various countries, including Japan, must make diplomatic endeavors in pursuit of four important priorities, which include "putting an end to Israel's bombardment of Gaza, sending humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza, lifting the siege of the territory, and restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people." The Israeli regime launched its brutal war on Gaza on October 7 following a surprise operation by the Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi pointed to the United States' all-out backing for Israel's military onslaught, calling Washington "the main sponsor and supporter of the Israeli regime's war machine." The U.S., Israel's biggest and oldest ally, has provided the regime with thousands of arms consignments since the war on Gaza started. Washington, which has backed Tel Aviv's ferocious attacks as a means of "self-defense," has been also casting its veto against the UN Security Council resolutions that called on the occupying regime to cease its aggression. "With direct support from the US and by trampling on more than 400 international resolutions, the Zionist regime has dropped the equivalent of seven Hiroshima atom bombs on the people of Gaza since the beginning of the war on Gaza," Raisi said. "At the same time, the United States brazenly calls on other countries to show self-restraint in the face of such crimes, so that, the fake Zionist regime would be able to continue its crimes and genocide with ease of mind," Iran's president said. Raisi urged Japan and other countries to hold referendums "to objectively witness the extent of their people's support for the Palestinian nation, though the Western countries are very afraid of such a referendum." The Japanese prime minister, for his part, lauded Raisi's positions on the ongoing developments in Gaza, while expressing concern about the continuation of humanitarian crisis in the territory. He also stressed the need for putting an end to attacks on civilians and sending humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza.

Drone Attack Targets U.S.-Run Military Base in Northern Iraq



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A military base in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region where US military forces and trainers are stationed came under a drone attack amid rising anti-US sentiments over Washington's unconditional support for the Israeli onslaught in the Gaza Strip. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, in a statement published on its Telegram channel, claimed responsibility for the attack on the US-run installation at the Erbil International Airport early on Sunday. The statement added that the explosive-laden drone directly struck the designated target and destroyed it. There were no immediate reports about possible casualties or the extent of damage caused. Sabereen News, a Telegram news channel associated with Iraqi anti-terror Popular Mobilization Units, also reported the incident. The strike comes amid rising anti-US sentiment over Washington's firm support for Israel's war against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, which has killed at least 15,207 people, most of them women and children. Another 40,650 people have been wounded as well. More than 7,500 individuals are reported missing, who may have died or been trapped under the rubble waiting to be rescued. The Israeli regime launched the war after Gaza's resistance groups conducted Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, their biggest operation against the occupying entity in years. Since the onset of the war on October 7, the United States has backed Israel's ferocious attacks on Palestinian territory as a means of "self-defense." The US House of Representatives on November 2 passed a standalone \$14.3-billion military assistance package for Israel. The legislation, however, is yet to clear the Senate. Washington has also vetoed United Nations Security Council resolutions that called on the occupying regime to cease its aggression.

IRAN NEWS



Iran Condemns Deadly Israeli Attacks on Gaza Residential Areas

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson strongly condemned the Israeli air raids on the refugee camps and residential areas of Gaza that have killed dozens of people, denouncing the US government's full-fledged support for the Zionist regime's crimes: "Strikes by the Zionist regime's warplanes on a residential complex in Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza housing displaced and defenseless people left more than 100 people martyred and dozens wounded. Moreover, an attack on Shujaiya neighborhood in east Gaza left over 60 people martyred. These strikes added more dark and disgraceful pages to the long list of war crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinian nation over the past 50 days," Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said in a post on his X account on Saturday night.

Majlis Strategic Action Law Saves Country From Quandary



TEHRAN (IP) – Majlis Speaker stated that Iran's Parliament actively participated in nuclear negotiations and saved the country from any bullying by enacting Parliament's Strategic Action law. In his pre-agenda speech, Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf said that parliament actively intervened in nuclear negotiations as the most important issue of the country's foreign policy, instead of waiting for what happened. He pointed out that Imam Khamenei considered some of the bills that have been approved by the current parliament as strategic. "The Strategic Action Plan to lift sanctions was a fundamental resolution that saved the country from a state of quandary about the nuclear issue. Qalibaf further said: In describing the characteristics and performance of the 11th Parliament, the Leader of the Revolution stated, "After three years, I still consider this parliament to be revolutionary, young and dynamic. Of course, this is a general view that does not take into account the exceptions that may exist in the parliament." He stressed that when the parliament felt that the enemy was not going to carry out many of its obligations, it enacted a law that prevented any unilateral commitments.

Qalibaf noted that the main thing that was used as a bargaining tool for the Iranian side in the Vienna negotiations, is the results of the implementation of Parliament's Strategic Action law.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Monthly Transit of Goods Via Iran Increases 6.8% on Year

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Transit of commodities through Iran increased by 6.84 percent during the eighth Iranian calendar month Aban (October 23-November 21), as compared to the same month in the past year, the deputy transport minister announced. Shahriyar Afandizadeh said that 1,541,849 tons of goods were transited via Iran in the eighth month of the present year. According to the official, transit of commodities through Iran increased by 28.2 percent during the first eight months of the current year (March 21-November 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year. He announced the achievements resulted from promoting transit negotiations, and the foundations of the "Iran-Way" initiative in the growth of the country's transit this year, and said that 9,458,862 tons of commodities were transited via Iran in the first eight months of the present year. The continuous trend of recent transit records via the country and the increasing interest of governments, traders, and those active in transport sectors from neighboring, regional and extra-regional countries in the transit and logistics situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran indicate the fruitfulness of the transformational approach of the 13th government to the strategic issue of transit, with emphasis on the development of all-round economic relations with neighbors, the official stressed. As stated by Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash, the "Iran Way" initiative made by the current Iranian government, lets the neighboring countries use Iran as a route or a solution that facilitates their access to international waters. Iran Way initiative is the gateway to Iran's land of transit opportunities, the minister has underlined. As previously announced by Afandizadeh, 10.8 million tons of commodities were transited through the country in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20). The official also announced that Iran registered a new record high with the transit of 8.3 million tons of non-oil goods in 1401, adding that 2.5 million tons of oil products were also transited via the country in

the previous year. "Considering the transit of 7.5 million tons of non-oil goods in 1400, we have seen a 10.7-percent growth in the transit of this type of goods in 1401 compared to the previous year", he said. "In 1401, we witnessed important developments and achievements in the strategic and operational areas of the country's transit, whose definitive effects will be seen gradually and steadily on the growth of transit from the country in 1402 and the coming years", the deputy transport minister further highlighted. Afandizadeh then explained: "In line with the activation and development of the North-South International Transport Corridor, in a tripartite meeting in last September between the high-ranking officials of our country and the Russian Federation and the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, while aiming to achieve the transit of 15 million tons of goods through this corridor by 2030, agreements were reached in the field of strengthening the cooperation of the three countries in joint investment and financing, the completion and development of key infrastructures and their exploitation, especially the construction of the Rasht-Astara railway line, facilitating cross-border traffic of goods and increasing the quality and quantity of this traffic", adding that the implementation of these agreements is being followed up. He went on to say, "One of the most important events last year was Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). In a short period of time after the meeting of the heads of Shanghai in September 1401 in Samarkand, the first six-party meeting of the transport ministers of Iran and the countries of Central Asia, in addition to Russia and Azerbaijan was held in Tehran in October 1401 with the goal of achieving 20-million tons of annual transit between Iran and Central Asian countries, as an area with a very high role and importance in east-west and north-south transit, especially after the recent regional and international developments, which was approved by the members."

Iran's Non-Oil Exports to Iraq to Hit \$11b by Yearend

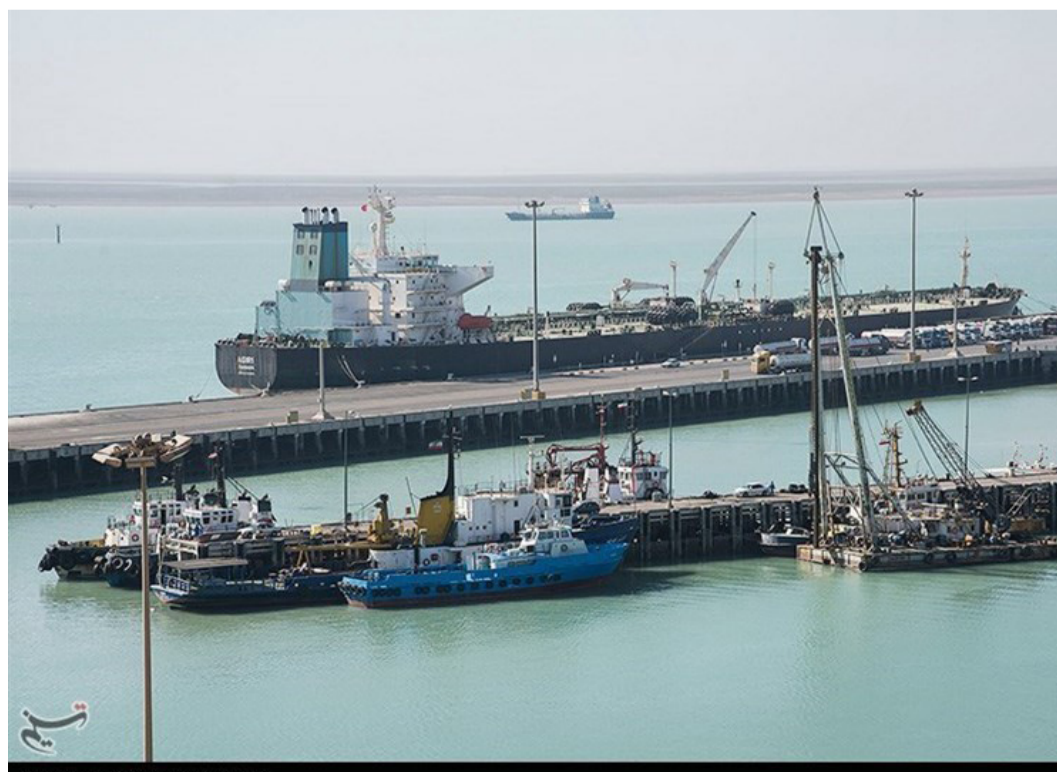


TEHRAN (Tasnim) – If export barriers are removed, Iran's export of non-oil products to neighboring Iraq will reach \$11 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (to end March 20, 2024), the chairman of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce said. Yahya Al-Es'hagh said that the country's export of non-oil products to Iraq registered about 30 percent growth in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year compared to last year's corresponding period. He called on responsible officials to take effective steps to remove trade barriers that exist between the two countries. Elsewhere in his remarks, Al-Es'hagh referred to the necessity of making joint investments with Iraq and urged both the private and public sectors to plan for launching joint investments with this country to spur economic activities. Currently, Iran's export of products to Iraq is on the growth trajectory but it seems necessary to remove trade barriers between the two countries in line with enhancing bilateral trade, he added.

Persian Gulf Littoral States Keen on Investing in INSTC

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An official in charge of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said talks are ongoing between Iran and some Persian Gulf littoral states for their investment in the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC). Speaking in the International Conference of Iran's Sea-Based Economy with a focus on the INSTC, the director general of the PMO Office of transit, logistics and agreements pointed to the latest situation of negotiations with some countries to invest in the INSTC and added, "Since the development of all-out ties with the neighboring states is one of the priorities of the administration of President (Ebrahim) Raisi, constructive talks have been held with the Persian Gulf littoral states

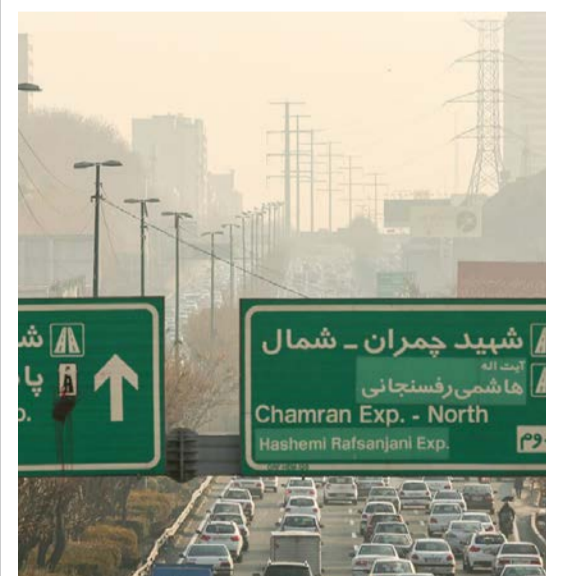
and they have shown their interest in using Iranian land to access northern countries." Concurrently, expert-level talks are being held with the Russian side, so that Iran would act as a linking bridge between north and south although INSTC is not limited to these countries, Khosro Saraei added. Talks have also been held with the Persian Gulf littoral states for attracting investment in the corridor, details of which will be announced after the finalization stage, he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, the official pointed to the participation of Indian companies in the development of Iran's Chabahar Port and added that it does not mean other countries cannot take part in the development of phases of the Chabahar Port.



U.S. Definitely Complicit in Israeli Crimes in Gaza

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry has said that the United States is "undoubtedly" complicit in Israel's "war crimes" and "genocide" against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In a post published on X late on Saturday, Nasser Kanaani condemned Israel's "gruesome" crimes, as the regime resumed its bombardment campaign and ground offensive against the besieged enclave after the talks for extending the 7-day temporary truce broke down on Friday. "The strike by jet fighters of the Zionist regime on a residential complex in Gaza's Jabalia [refugee] camp – home to displaced and homeless people, which left more than 100 martyrs and wounded dozens [of individuals], together with the attack against the al-Shujaiya residential neighborhood in the east of Gaza City with more than 60 martyrs, added another black and shameful record to the long list of war crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the oppressed Palestinian nation over the past 50 days," he wrote. He blamed Israel's "appalling crimes" on the US administration's "all-out support" for the Zionist regime. "Some reports by American news outlets revealed that Washington has supplied the apartheid Israeli regime with thousands of new bombs," he added. "There is no doubt that the U.S. administration is complicit in the war crimes, mass killings, and genocide of Palestinians by the usurping Zionist regime," Kanaani said. Basal added the civil defense teams do not have the means or the equipment to handle the "massacre."

Around 6,400 People Died of Air Pollution in Tehran in 12 Months



TEHRAN (IFP) - Reports show air pollution in the Iranian capital, Tehran, claimed thousands of lives in the year ending March, 2022. "Based on a report by ... Parliament, some 6,398 people lost their lives in Tehran due to air pollution in the Iranian calendar year 1400 (ending March 2022)," announced the Environment Committee of the Tehran City Council on Sunday. The comment comes as councilor Soudeh Nadjafi had said earlier that burning Mazut in Tehran was the root cause of air pollution in the metropolis, a claim denied by officials later on. In the second half of the year during cold season, air pollution levels skyrocket in Tehran and other major cities, like Mashhad, Isfahan, Tabriz and Kermanshah, forcing the closure of schools every now and then. Many slam the officials over such decisions saying the closure of schools is not a remedy to the deadly air pollution. The inversion phenomenon, exhaust fumes and smoke from factories on the outskirts all contribute to high smog levels in megacities like Tehran.

Burkina, Niger to Quit G5 Anti-Jihadist Force

OUAGADOUGOU (Dispatches) - The military leaders of Burkina Faso and Niger said Saturday they would quit the G5 anti-jihadist force in Africa's Sahel region, the latest blow to the fight against insurgents in one of the world's most troubled zones. The G5, created in 2014, has secured only meagre results, with Mali also quitting the original five-nation force last year in the wake of a military coup. Leaders of the five countries agreed to deploy a joint anti-terror task force backed by France in 2017, but the military rulers of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali have all accused Paris of having an outsized role after years of French deployments on their territories. Burkina and Niger "have decided in full sovereignty to quit all instances of the G5 Sahel, including the joint force" as of November 29, the two countries said in a statement.



Russians Ease Attacks in Eastern Ukraine



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian forces eased attacks on the beleaguered eastern Ukrainian town of Avdiivka and unofficial reports from the region suggested they had failed to capture the devastated town of Maryinka to the southwest. Russia's military has focused on eastern Ukraine since abandoning an advance on Kyiv in the first days after the February 2022 invasion. Since mid-October, the military has set its sights on seizing Avdiivka and its vast coking plant. Russian reports on Friday suggested Moscow's troops had taken control of Maryinka, 40 km (25 miles) to the southwest, engulfed in fighting for well over a year. But unofficial Ukrainian reports on Saturday said its forces were holding some districts. Ukrainian military spokesperson Oleksandr Shtupun told national television that Russian attacks on Avdiivka had halved over the past 24 hours, largely as a result of heavy losses. "The coking plant is controlled by the Ukrainian armed forces," Shtupun said. "Enemy forces are trying to make their way inside, but are suffering losses in infantry and equipment." Fighting was still intense, he said, in an adjacent area outside the town centre known as the "industrial zone." Russia's popular war blog Rybar said the zone had fallen under Russian control. Reuters could not verify accounts from either side. Vitaliy Barabash, head of the town's military administration, told Channel 24 television that Avdiivka was "starting to look like Maryinka, a settlement that basically no longer exists. It has been razed to its foundations." There were no official Ukrainian reports on Maryinka, but military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said reports of its capture by Russian troops were untrue. "We acknowledge that there was an advance there of the Russian military," Zhdanov said in an online presentation. "But the southwestern and northwestern parts of the town are under the control of Ukrainian forces." Deepstate, an unofficial Ukrainian war blog, quoted Ukrainian servicemen as denying any notion that Russian forces had secured full control over what was once a town of 10,000. Russia's Defense Ministry made no mention of Maryinka. Russian war blog Rybar referred to photos on social media of Russian flags in the town, but added: "Nevertheless, several buildings remain under the control of the Ukrainian military." Another Ukrainian spokesperson, Volodymyr Fitto, told national television that Kyiv's forces had repelled 21 Russian attacks in areas surrounding Bakhmut. The town, also shattered by months of fighting, was captured by Russian forces in May, but Ukrainian troops have since taken back nearby villages. Ukrainian forces have focused on recapturing occupied villages in the east and south in a counteroffensive launched in June, though President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has acknowledged that advances have been slower than Kyiv wanted.



Israel Strikes Gaza as Pressure Mounts to Protect Civilians

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) - Israel carried out bombardments in Gaza on Sunday as international calls mounted for greater protection of civilians and the renewal of an expired truce with Palestinian militant group Hamas. The Israeli army said it has conducted more than 400 strikes in Gaza since a ceasefire collapsed on Friday, while Hamas announced "rocket barrages" against multiple Israeli towns and cities including Tel Aviv. Israeli strikes hit the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza late Saturday, killing at least 13 people, according to the official Palestinian news agency Wafa. United States Vice President Kamala Harris sharply rebuked on Saturday the rising civilian toll in Israel's eight-week war, which was sparked by an unprecedented attack on October 7. "Too many innocent Palestinians have been killed," she told reporters at UN climate talks in Dubai. "Frankly, the scale of civilian suffering and the images and videos coming from Gaza are devastating." According to the United Nations, an estimated 1.7 million people in Gaza -- more than two-thirds of the population -- have been displaced by eight weeks of war. Fadel Naim, chief doctor at the Al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza City, said his morgue had received 30 bodies on Saturday, including seven children. "The planes bombed our houses: three bombs, three houses destroyed," Nemr al-Bel, 43, told AFP, adding he had counted 10 dead in his family and "13 more still under the rubble". Gazans are short of food, water and other essentials, and many homes have been destroyed. UN agencies have declared a humanitarian catastrophe, although some aid trucks did arrive Saturday. The Palestine Red Crescent Society said Israel had told NGOs not to bring aid convoys across the Rafah border crossing from Egypt after the truce expired. But on Saturday, the charity said its Egyptian colleagues had managed to send over a number of trucks. Hamas fighters broke through Gaza's militarized border into Israel on October 7, killed about 1,200 people, and took around 240 Israelis and foreigners hostage, according to Israeli authorities. Israel vowed to eliminate Hamas in response and unleashed an air and ground campaign that has

killed more than 15,000 people, also mostly civilians, the Hamas authorities who run Gaza say. A week-long truce, brokered with the help of Qatar and backed by Egypt and the United States, led to the release of 80 Israeli hostages in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners. But that truce collapsed with both sides blaming each other for violating its conditions. Israel said that Hamas had tried to fire a rocket before the ceasefire ended, and that it had failed to produce a list of further hostages for release. Israeli negotiators left Doha on Saturday after reaching a dead end in talks aimed at securing a fresh pause in hostilities. The Israeli army on Saturday said 137 hostages were still being held in Gaza. Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant told reporters on Saturday that fresh military action was needed to "create the conditions that push (Hamas) to pay a heavy price, and that is in the release of hostages". Israeli hostages released from Gaza spoke publicly on Saturday for the first time urging their government to secure the release of the remaining captives held in the war-torn Palestinian territory. French President Emmanuel Macron appealed for "stepped-up efforts to reach a lasting ceasefire" to free all hostages, allow in more aid and to assure Israel of its security. He took issue with Israel's stated war aims, warning that if the "total destruction of Hamas" in Gaza was the goal, "the war will last 10 years". But speaking in Tel Aviv later on Saturday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the war would continue "until we achieve all its aims" including eliminating the Islamist movement. This long exposure picture taken from southern Israel near the border with the Gaza Strip shows explosions in the Palestinian territory during Israeli strikes. Israel's air, naval and ground forces have attacked more than 400 targets in Gaza since the end of the ceasefire, the army said on Saturday. The figure is roughly in line with the daily average number of strikes prior to the pause, according to military figures released previously. Warplanes hit "more than 50 targets in an extensive attack in the Khan Yunis area" of southern Gaza, according to the military.



German Tourist Stabbed to Death in Paris

PARIS (Dispatches) - A person known to the French authorities as a radical Islamist with mental health troubles stabbed a German tourist to death and wounded two people in central Paris on Saturday before being arrested, officials said. The attack took place close to the Eiffel Tower during a busy weekend night and came with the country on its highest alert for attacks as tensions rise against the background of the war between Israel and Hamas. "We will not give in to terrorism," Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne wrote on X, formerly Twitter, after the attack. President Emmanuel Macron said he was sending his condolences to the family of a German killed in the "terrorist attack". French anti-terror prosecutors said that they would now take on the investigation. He fatally stabbed the German tourist, born in 1999, with a knife and then used a hammer to attack others as he sought to escape on the other side of the River Seine. The area by Bir Hakeim bridge, usually thronging with tourists and locals, was cordoned off by police and bright with the flashing lights of security forces and emergency services. The Paris prosecutor's office said the attacker, born in 1997, is French and has been arrested in an investigation into murder and attempted murder. Darmanin said the man had already been sentenced in 2016 to four years in prison for planning another attack which he failed to carry out. "A man attacked a couple who were foreign tourists. A German tourist who was born in the Philippines died from the stabbing," he said. A taxi driver who witnessed the scene intervened, Darmanin said. The attacker

then crossed the Seine attacking others and injuring one with a hammer. Police chased in pursuit and used a taser to neutralise the man, who was then arrested. "He had threatened them very violently... he will now have to answer for his actions before justice," Darmanin said. The suspect, who lived with his parents in the Essonne region south of Paris, told police he could not stand Muslims being killed in "Afghanistan and Palestine", according to the minister. Macron, writing on X, thanked security forces for their quick arrest of the suspected attacker and said justice should be served "in the name of the French people". "Paris is in mourning after this terrible attack," Transport Minister Clement Beaune wrote on X. Joseph S., 37 years old, a supermarket manager who asked not to give his last name, witnessed the scene, as he sat in a bar. He heard screams and people shouting "help, help" as they ran. A man wielding an object attacked a man who had fallen down, and within 10 minutes the police arrived, he told AFP. The country has suffered several attacks by Islamist extremists, including the November 2015 suicide and gun attacks in Paris claimed by the Islamic State group in which 130 people were killed. There had been a relative lull in recent years, even as officials have warned that the threat remains. But tensions have risen in France, home to large Jewish and Muslim populations, following Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7 and Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip. Security in Paris is also under particular scrutiny as it gears up to host the 2024 Summer Olympic Games.

Venezuela Holds Referendum Over Essequibo Land Dispute With Guyana



CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuela on Sunday held a referendum that it hopes will strengthen its century-old claim to the oil-rich Essequibo territory controlled by neighboring Guyana. "Essequibo is ours!" say posters plastered on walls lining the streets in Caracas, part of an intensive campaign by the government of President Nicolas Maduro. "It's up to us to raise the flag of Essequibo and start a new phase in the historic recovery of this land," Maduro told a large crowd at a rally Friday in the Venezuelan capital. The Maduro government has said it is not seeking justification to invade or annex the expansive territory, as some in Guyana, a former British colony, fear. And regardless of the outcome when some 20 million Venezuelans vote, little will change in the short term. The people of Essequibo are not voting, and the referendum is nonbinding. But tensions have been rising steadily since Guyana took bids in September for several offshore oil exploration blocks, and after a major new find was announced in October. Its petroleum reserves are similar to that of Kuwait, with the highest reserves per capita in the world. Meanwhile, Maduro's government has sharpened its rhetoric and conducted military exercises in the area. And Brazil has strengthened its own troop presence near the border with Venezuela, saying it is concerned by the "climate of tension." Venezuela has claimed the huge territory for decades -- even as its 160,000 square kilometers (62,000 square miles) represent more than two-thirds of Guyana, and its population of 125,000 is one-fifth Guyana's total. Caracas contends that the Essequibo River to the east of the region is the natural border between the two countries, as declared in 1777 under Spanish rule, and that the United Kingdom wrongly appropriated Venezuelan lands in the 19th century. Guyana, however, asserts that the border was set in the British colonial era and was confirmed in 1899 by a court of arbitration. It says the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the UN's top judicial body, has validated this finding. Guyana has asked the ICJ to block the referendum, saying it amounts to a violation of international rights -- but in vain. On Friday, the ICJ called on Caracas to take no action that would modify the disputed lands -- but it did not mention the referendum. And Caracas had vowed to go ahead regardless. "We believe that justice, not force, should be the arbiter of international disputes," Guyanese President Irfan Ali said Friday from the United Arab Emirates, where he was attending the COP28 international climate summit. Ali met there with British Foreign Minister David Cameron to discuss the controversy. Maduro, for his part, lashed out at Ali on Friday, calling him "reckless (and) insolent" and suggesting he was working for US energy giant ExxonMobil.



Guinea-Bissau President Calls Deadly Violence "Attempted Coup"

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Guinea-Bissau's President Umaro Sissoco Embalo on Saturday said this week's deadly violence involving members of the National Guard was an "attempted coup" as the army ordered them back to barracks. The unrest between members of the National Guard and special forces of the presidential guard on Thursday night in the capital Bissau left at least two people dead. Embalo, who was in Dubai attending the COP28 climate conference, arrived in Bissau on Saturday and said an "attempted coup d'etat" had prevented him from returning. "I must tell you this act will have serious consequences," he added. Embalo said the coup attempt was prepared before celebrations on November 16 commemorating the anniversary of the armed forces. Since gaining independence from Portugal in 1974, the small West African nation has seen a series of coups and coup attempts. Embalo, who was elected to a five-year term in December 2019, survived a failed overthrow in February 2022. A military official, speaking anonymously due to the sensitive nature of the situation, said six soldiers were injured in the fighting and evacuated to neighboring Senegal. Calm had returned by noon on Friday to the small nation with a history of instability, following the announcement that the army had captured Colonel Victor Tchongo, commander of the National Guard. On Saturday the security presence in Bissau was reduced, but soldiers were still visible around certain strategic buildings such as the presidential palace, the judicial police headquarters and some ministries. Some National Guard officers and soldiers fled into the interior of the country, the army said in a statement Saturday, without specifying numbers. "The General Staff of the armed forces hereby informs them that they must return to their place of assignment," the statement continued. Regional bloc the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said it "strongly condemns the violence and all attempts to disrupt the constitutional order and rule of law in Guinea-Bissau." ECOWAS further calls for the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of the incident in accordance with the law. "The Abuja-based organisation added in its statement on Saturday. The regional bloc also expressed "its full solidarity with the people and constitutional authorities of Guinea-Bissau." A spokesman for UN chief Antonio Guterres, Stephane Dujarric, had called Friday for calm and urged the security forces and the army "to continue refraining from interference in national politics." Members of the National Guard Thursday evening stormed a police station to extract Finance Minister Souleiman Seidi and Treasury Secretary Antonio Monteiro, according to army and intelligence officers. The two government members were being questioned about the withdrawal of \$10 million from state accounts. They had been detained under orders of state prosecutors, who are named by the president. Embalo said someone sent Tchongo to remove Seidi from detention and announced that an investigatory commission would be formed on Monday. The National Guard is under the control of the interior ministry, which, like most ministries in the country, is dominated by the PAIGC party whose coalition won the June 2023 elections. The two government members were detained again after the army removed them from National Guard control. Government spokesman Francisco Muniro Conte said Saturday: "We have always opted for the application of the law. A president who is elected must complete his term of office."

Trump Calls on Supporters to Guard the Vote in Democratic-Run U.S. Cities

CEDAR RAPIDS (Dispatches) - Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, told his supporters on Saturday to "go into" Philadelphia and two other Democratic-run cities to "guard the vote" in 2024, repeating his unfounded claims of widespread election fraud in 2020 as justification for the call to action. Speaking at a campaign event in Iowa, Trump said it was important to scrutinize the vote in the battleground states likely to determine the general election. He singled out the biggest cities in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia. "So the most important part of what's coming up is to guard the vote. And you should go into Detroit and you should go into Philadelphia and you should go into some of these places, Atlanta," Trump said in Ankeny, a suburb of Des Moines. Trump's comments foreshadow what is likely to be a contentious election in November 2024. Despite the failure of dozens of lawsuits filed by Trump and his allies challenging the outcome in 2020, Trump continues to claim, without evidence, that he lost to U.S. President Joe Biden due to fraud. Trump did not specify who he was asking to "go into" the battleground-state cities. A campaign aide, when asked to clarify, said he was referring to poll-watchers and volunteers whose objective would be to ensure a secure election. That would mesh with plans outlined by the Republican National Committee, which is aiming to recruit and train tens of thousands of poll workers and watchers in states that are hotly contested because their voting preferences could swing either to Republicans or Democrats. The comments

by Trump, who served as U.S. president from 2017 to 2021, come amid growing scrutiny over his recent rhetoric on the campaign trail, which has included referring to his political enemies as "vermin," a word some historians said echoed the language of Nazi Germany. Timothy Naftali, a senior research scholar at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, said Trump's comments calling for scrutiny of elections in large Democratic-controlled cities were concerning because he made them while seeking to undermine trust in U.S. elections. "We are in a very volatile period in our democracy," Naftali said. "If he is seeking to increase trust in our system he should be more explicit. But what he said today was in the context of his mistrust of our system." With a commanding lead in the Republican Party's primary race, Trump is widely expected to win the nomination and face Biden, the presumptive Democratic nominee, next year. In recent weeks Biden's re-election campaign has more aggressively gone after Trump, highlighting his mounting legal troubles and likely policies it argues would hurt the economy, damage democracy and deprive individuals of rights. Trump is facing four criminal trials, including a federal case centered on allegations that he sought to subvert the 2020 election, helped by a mob of his supporters who ransacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. In a second Iowa event on Saturday in Cedar Rapids, Trump reiterated plans to reform the Affordable Care Act, known informally as Obamacare, calling the healthcare insurance program "a disaster." He did not provide specifics.





Italy, Spain to Meet in Euro 2024 Group Stage

HAMBURG (Dispatches) - Reigning champions Italy were placed in the same group as Spain in Saturday's draw for Euro 2024, while France will come up against the Netherlands and England avoided any of the toughest opponents. Gareth Southgate's much-fancied England side will meet Slovenia, Denmark and Serbia, with hosts Germany taking on Scotland in the tournament's opening game on June 14 in Munich. Italy, who beat England on penalties at Wembley in the final of the last European Championship in 2021, and Spain will also face Croatia and Albania in Group B. Spain, victors over Italy in the final of Euro 2012, will take on 2018 World Cup runners-up Croatia in their opening match in Berlin on June 15. Italy were always likely to face a difficult draw after being placed in the bottom pot based on their results in qualifying, when they scraped through with a 0-0 stalemate against Ukraine in their final match. "When you're in the fourth pot you know that you have a lot of teams ahead of you, but you can't forget that you represent Italy and you have to play every match with pride," coach Luciano Spalletti told broadcaster RAI. The meeting of France, the 2022 World Cup runners-up, and the Netherlands will be the other heavyweight tie of the opening phase. They were in the same section in qualifying, with France winning both encounters. The two nations are in Group D along with Austria and a play-off winner, which will be one of Poland, Wales, Finland or Estonia. England, in contrast, will have few complaints about their opponents in Group C, although a Denmark side ranked 19th in the world were arguably the team to avoid from the second pot of seeds. Southgate's team, considered the favourites along with France for the tournament, will take on Serbia in their opening game in Gelsenkirchen on June 16. "I've stood here after quite a few draws and you always feel the same way, you can look at it on paper but the games aren't played on paper," Southgate told the BBC. "One or two teams that you are obviously

glad to avoid, especially in pot three, pot four, but all the teams we play are more than capable." He added: "We've developed a lot as a team over the past few years, we're used to these big games, we're ready for the expectation and we hope we can give our supporters some more brilliant nights as I think we have in the last few tournaments." If England top their group, and France also finish first in their section, the two sides would find themselves on the same side of the draw in the knockout phase and would be on course to meet in the semi-finals. Scotland, who famously lost to Brazil in the opening match of the 1998 World Cup, will again have the honour of featuring in the tournament's curtain-raiser when they meet Germany to start in Group A. Hungary and Switzerland complete that section, which could be one of the most evenly-matched. Germany have been European champions three times, a record shared with Spain, but there are big doubts about their form heading into the tournament. "It will be a very nice start against Scotland in Munich. The other games will also be exciting duels. It's not a group of death, but a very good one," said Germany coach Julian Nagelsmann. Euro 2016 winners Portugal were drawn in Group F with Turkey, the Czech Republic and a play-off winner from either Greece, Georgia, Luxembourg or Kazakhstan. Belgium are in Group E alongside Slovakia, Romania and the winner of the other play-off path, which will be Israel, Iceland, Bosnia and Herzegovina or Ukraine. The month-long Euro, played in 10 cities across Germany, will conclude with the final in Berlin on July 14. The top two teams in each group will qualify for the last 16, along with the four best third-placed sides. Earlier on Saturday, European football's governing body UEFA announced that the total prize pot for competing nations will be 331 million euros (\$360m). Each team gets 9.25 million euros as a starting amount and will earn up to a maximum of 28.25 million euros for the winner, if they win all their group games.

Rodrygo Helps Real Madrid Keep Pace With Girona



GIRONA (Dispatches) - Rodrygo continued his fine goalscoring form to help Real Madrid ease to a 2-0 win over Granada on Saturday and reclaim the lead in La Liga. After Catalan minnows Girona snatched a 2-1 win over Valencia they moved temporarily top, but Madrid slid back above them on goal difference on a tranquil evening in the capital. Brahim Diaz opened the scoring midway through the first half and Rodrygo doubled the lead after 57 minutes at the Santiago Bernabeu. The Brazilian forward has scored seven goals in his last five games across all competitions, appearing at the perfect time to keep Madrid's strong start to the season going despite various absences. Madrid are missing several key figures through injury, from goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois to winger Vinicius Junior. However Los Blancos had more than enough to sweep past the Andalusians, 19th and battling against relegation. "Rodrygo has returned to his best level, scoring a lot of goals," Ancelotti told reporters. The coach reserved some praise for midfielder Toni Kroos, who set up Diaz's opener with a clever pass. "He doesn't give balls away, he always chooses the best option, he's a midfielder who wants the ball," added Ancelotti. "He is not afraid and he positions himself very well, it's his biggest virtue, his control too... when he doesn't play, he's irreplaceable." Without creating an excess of chances, Madrid quickly took control of the game. After 26 minutes Kroos' superb pass sent Diaz in on goal and he stayed cool to gently nudge home and put Madrid ahead. It was the former Manchester City playmaker's second goal in four matches, with Diaz showing he can help the red-hot Rodrygo fill the gap left by Vinicius' injury. "We played the football that we know, it was a nearly perfect game, we dominated the match and they created very few chances against us," Diaz told Real Madrid TV. Earlier Girona fought back brilliantly to ensure they would not drop further points in the title race after a draw against Athletic Bilbao on Monday. Trailing to Hugo Duro's 56th-minute strike with under 10 minutes remaining, Girona finally broke down Valencia's walls through veteran striker Cristhian Stuani's brace. Stuani levelled after 82 minutes and bundled home another with two minutes to go, with both goals set up by Yan Couto crosses as fans at Girona's tiny Montilivi stadium went wild. After dropping two points in a draw with Athletic Bilbao to start the week, Girona seemed poised to fall to only their second defeat of the season.

George Lifts Clippers Over Warriors

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Paul George drilled the game-winning three-pointer as the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers rallied from a 22-point third-quarter deficit to stun the Golden State Warriors 113-112. George finished with a game-high 25 points. Eleven of those came in the fourth quarter, when he finally put the Clippers in the lead, for the first time in the game, with 9.9 seconds remaining, connecting from beyond the arc over a helpless Klay Thompson. "It felt good as soon as I released it," said George, who added six rebounds and six assists. "I got a good look at the basket, thank God it went in." The Warriors had a final chance, but Draymond Green missed a three-point attempt at the buzzer. George said the comeback was especially meaningful against the Warriors' potentially potent offense. "They can put points up so quick," he said. "The fact we were able to come back, it just shows a lot -- this group is ready to fight and play all the way until the end." James Harden added 21 points and Kawhi Leonard chipped in 20 for the Clippers, who withstood 17 three-pointers from the Warriors. Stephen Curry scored 22 points and handed out 11 assists for Golden State. Elsewhere, Giannis Antetokounmpo's first triple-double of the season -- 32 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists -- helped the Milwaukee Bucks finally see off the Atlanta Hawks 132-121 in a game that featured 17 lead changes. Damian Lillard added 25 points and nine assists for the Bucks, who were tied 114-114 with less than six minutes remaining but out-scored the Hawks 18-7 the rest of the way. In Brooklyn, Mikal Bridges scored 42 points to pace the Nets, who halted the Orlando Magic's winning streak at nine games with a 129-101 victory. Bridges singlehandedly out-scored the Magic in the first quarter, pouring in 26 points as the Nets roared to a 43-22 lead that put them on the road to victory. The thing that impressed Nets coach Jacques Vaughn about Bridges' big first quarter was that "nothing was forced." "It was in the flow," Vaughn said. "I thought his teammates around him got him into great position so he could score the basketball and he took advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves." The Magic suffered their first defeat since a November 14 loss to the Nets, coming up short in their bid for the first 10-game winning streak in franchise history. Franz Wagner and Cole Anthony scored 20 points each for the Magic, who trailed by as many as 25 in the first half. They cut the deficit to nine late in the third quarter before the Nets pulled away again. In Detroit, the Cleveland Cavaliers handed the Pistons a 17th straight defeat, 110-101. Max Strus and Darius Garland scored 22 points apiece for Cleveland. Donovan Mitchell added 20 and Jarrett Allen chipped in 19 with 11 rebounds to keep the Pistons at bay.



Brignone Wins World Cup Giant Slalom at Mont Tremblant



ROME (Dispatches) - Italy's Federica Brignone became the oldest woman to win a World Cup giant slalom event with her triumph at Mont Tremblant, Quebec where Swiss Lara Gut-Behrami was unable to extend her perfect start to the season in the discipline. Olympic silver medalist Brignone, who finished sixth in the giant slalom last week at Killington, led after the first run and went on to win by 21 hundredths of a second over Petra Vlhova with a total time of two minutes 14.95 seconds. Mikaela Shiffrin, who won the slalom event at Killington in Vermont last week for a record-extending 90th World Cup win, finished third, 29 hundredths of a second back of Brignone. "I came here after Killington weekend and there I didn't have great sensations and I just wanted to show my skiing and to come here and just ski the way I want and the way I know," said Brignone. "It's amazing, a lot of pride." With her win, the 33-year-old Italian surpassed the record set by Austria's Anita Wachter, who was 32 years and 319 days old when she won the World Cup giant slalom event at Lienz in December 1999. "I'm the oldest, right?" Brignone said through laughter after the race. "I was for sure not feeling so great in the second run. The snow was good but then I felt a little bit like I was going slow and I said 'ok you have to push now.'" Gut-Behrami arrived at Mont Tremblant looking to become the first female skier to win each of the opening three World Cup giant slalom events from the start of a season since Slovenian Tina Maze won the first four in 2012-13. Gut-Behrami was third fastest after Saturday's first run but was unable to secure another win as she finished 59 hundredths of a second back of Brignone and in fifth place.

Newcastle Too Good for Man Utd

NEWCASTLE (Dispatches) - Newcastle shrugged off an injury crisis to beat Manchester United 1-0 on Saturday thanks to Anthony Gordon's second-half winner. Victory takes Eddie Howe's men above United into fifth in the Premier League table and was the very least the home side deserved for a dominant display that should have been rewarded with more goals. Gordon's solitary strike proved enough as he slotted in Kieran Trippier's cross on 55 minutes. But the three points came at a cost for Newcastle as goalkeeper Nick Pope hobbled off late on to add to their injury woes. The Magpies were without 11 first-team players, yet were utterly dominant for the first hour against a United side that are still yet to register a win against a side in the top nine of the Premier League table this season. "We are well aware of our situation but the players have responded again," said Howe. "I couldn't be happier with the players tonight I thought we gave a really good display. The character and effort levels have been of the highest level." Andre Onana was in the spotlight after his two glaring errors cost Erik ten Hag's men in a 3-3 draw at Galatasaray in midweek that could prove fatal to their chances of progression in the Champions League. But the Cameroonian made an important early save to deny Miguel Almiron finding the far corner. Newcastle also suffered Champions League disappointment in midweek as a controversial stoppage-time penalty denied them a famous victory at Paris Saint-Germain. Howe's lack of options meant he was forced to name the same side for a third consecutive game with 17-year-old Lewis Miley starting in midfield. But there was no sign of fatigue from the home side as United could not cope with Newcastle's energy on and off the ball. "It definitely makes the result more satisfying that we pulled through with the same team," said Gordon. "It's not just the lads that are injured, the ones that are playing have kicks and bruises. I'm limping. It's so satisfying because we know how hard we work for each other, so to get the win today is massive." Alexander Isak's effort was deflected inches wide by Harry Maguire before Trippier's free-kick came back off the underside of the bar as Newcastle were unfortunate not to make their dominance count before half-time. However, the deadlock was finally broken when Trippier was played in down the right and he picked out Gordon to tap home his sixth goal of the season at the far post. Ten Hag finally responded only after falling behind as the ineffectual Marcus Rashford and Anthony Martial were replaced by Rasmus Hojlund and Antony. "All over you have to say Newcastle deserved to win," conceded Ten Hag. "We will talk tomorrow with the team about it and move on to Wednesday (against Chelsea)." h,nb 1000.

