

President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi Stressed the Government's Support for the People-Based Cultural Movement at Different Practical Levels to Become Active Against the Cultural Attack of the Enemies

IRAN NEWS

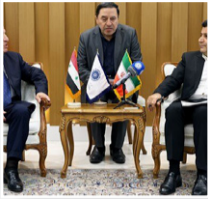
Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait and the Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Held Talks Over Expanding the Bilateral Ties Between the Two States at All Levels, Especially in Trade

VOL. XXIX, No. 7879 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

MONDAY DECEMBER 11, 2023 AZAR 20, 1402

2 DOMESTIC



Iranian, Syrian Private Sectors Keen to Establish Joint Ventures

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Palestinians Report Israeli Battles in Khan Younis

> SEE PAGE 3



Iran in Talks With 20 States to Develop Air Transport Cooperation



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The head of the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) said negotiations have been held between Iran and 20 countries on the development of air transportation cooperation on the sidelines of the 15th ICAO Air Services Negotiation Event (ICAN2023). Speaking on the occasion of commemorating International Civil Aviation Day, Mohammad Mohammadbakhsh pointed to organizing the 15th edition of the ICAN Summit in Saudi Arabia and said constructive talks were held with 20 countries regarding the development of the flight network. He also said the realization of the two components of safety and security, emphasized in the Chicago Treaty, is given serious attention in Iran's aviation transport industry. The Iranian Civil Aviation Organization has gained eye-catching achievements in this industry, especially in recent years, he further emphasized. Despite the economic war the US and its allies have waged against Iran over the past 43 years, the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization has so far stood on its own feet in the field of repair and maintenance, design and construction of planes using the technical know-how and experience of knowledge-based companies, Mohammadbakhsh stated. In the ceremony of commemorating International Civil Aviation Day, the memorial stamp of the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization was unveiled. Back in April, Mohammadbakhsh said his organization has taken giant strides in the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2023) to develop the air transportation fleet and to boost the flight network. He went on to say that the CAO has inked memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 30 countries over the past one and a half years, adding that the country has launched direct flights to 60 destinations worldwide.

Majlis Passes Bill on InfoSec Cooperation Deal With Russia



TEHRAN (MNA) – The Iranian parliament has approved a bill that calls for a cooperation agreement between the Islamic Republic and the Russian Federation on information security. The Iranian parliament put on the agenda of its Sunday open session a report by the legislative body's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission on the agreement between Tehran and Moscow, with lawmakers approving the generalities and details of the bill. Based on the single-clause bill, the Tehran-Moscow cooperation agreement is comprised of an introduction, nine articles and one attachment. The bill also allows the exchange of documents between the two sides. The generalities of the bill were approved by 180 votes in favor of the agreement and 27 votes against it. Lawmakers in favor of the agreement deemed it necessary to further deepen ties between Iran and Russia as the two countries have already signed a 20-year comprehensive deal to expand cooperation in various fields. Abolfazl Amouei, the spokesman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said that the information security agreement provides methods to confront cyber threats facing Iran and Russia.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

Karrar Drones Equipped With Majid Missiles Join Air Defense Force



TEHRAN - Dozens of home-grown Karrar drones, equipped with air-to-air Majid missiles, have joined Iran Army's Air Defense Force. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) was unveiled during a ceremony at Khatam Al-Anbia Air Defense Academy in Tehran on Sunday in the presence of a group of military commanders and officials. The Karrar drones armed with Majid missiles are capable of intercepting and engaging any flying objects and hostile targets. They successfully performed operations during a large-scale drone drill by the Islamic Republic of Iran Army in October. Speaking at the event, Chief Commander of the Iranian Army Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi said that the development demonstrated "another stage [in the process] of upgrading the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Defense Force." "Today, the [Iranian] Army meets its own needs through the cooperation of its scientists with the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade, and knowledge-based cores. This is because strengthening the defense power across land, sea and air borders is an inseparable principle of the Army," he added. Mousavi also advised the enemies to reconsider their air-to-air combat strategies, especially in the field of UAVs, noting that Iran Army's Air Defense Force has the upper hand in aerial combats. "Enemies oppose Iran's power... Experience has proven that our power drives the enemy to despair," he said. Meanwhile, Commander of the Iranian Army's Air Defense Force Brigadier General Alireza Sabahifard described Karrar drone as "a great achievement made by our country's youth." He said that the achievement was gained after one year of round-the-clock research and scientific works by Iran Army's Air Defense Force and the Defense Ministry. "Unmanned aircraft and drones are not comparable to manned ones in terms of price, and we can perform the operations that a manned aircraft does with completely Iranian and indigenous drones and use its capabilities at a much lower price," Sabahifard added. Meanwhile Commander of the Iranian Army's Aviation, Brigadier General Yousef Ghorbani, has described the army's air force as an undisputed power in the West Asia region, which does not allow enemies to approach the country's territory. The army's Aviation possesses one of the largest and powerful helicopter fleets in West Asia, the commander said, adding that the force destroys enemies in long distances using long-range and precision weapons. Brigadier General Ghorbani made the comments on Sunday during a ceremony in Tehran that commemorated martyred pilot Ahmad Keshvari. Ghorbani said that the army today conducts drills in the dark and bad weather conditions, making Western spy services urge caution that "we should be careful so that the Iranian Army's helicopters do not land on our vessels in the Persian Gulf." He also said that the Aviation Force conducted 500,000 hours of military operations during the imposed war by the former Iraqi regime in the 1980s, which is a record in the world.

U.S., Israel Clueless on How to Continue Gaza War, or Negotiate Ceasefire



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian of Iran says the United States and Israel are clueless about how to either continue the war in the besieged Gaza Strip or negotiate a ceasefire. "The U.S. and Israel neither have a strategy on how to maintain the [Gaza] war nor do they know how to achieve a ceasefire," Amir-Abdollahian addressed a group of university students at Tehran University on Saturday. "Resistance factions have declared they have so far mobilized between 10 and 12 percent of their forces, and are fully prepared for a prolonged war with Israel." The Iranian minister said Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, launched by the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance groups against the Tel Aviv regime on October 7, not only shattered Israel's security apparatus, but the very structure of the occupying entity. "Seven security agencies were working round-the-clock at the time, and had employed sophisticated devices. Still, Hamas poured cold water on all the schemes," Amir-Abdollahian stated. The minister said even US Secretary of State Antony Blinken had acknowledged Israeli officials' shock and bewilderment when he visited Tel Aviv on October 13. Those who once claimed Israel has the fourth strongest military in the world can't get over the shock from the Hamas operation, the top Iranian diplomat said. Amir-Abdollahian also highlighted that resistance groups have announced that they will keep rocket and drone strikes against bases housing US occupation forces across the region over Washington's support for the Israeli regime's unrelenting onslaught on Gaza. The minister said Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was purely Palestinian and that Americans have urged Iran in private messages to call upon resistance groups to stop attacks on US military installations in Iraq and Syria. Amir-Abdollahian said Iran has, in return, responded that these groups operate independently and make their own decisions.

U.S., UK, Canada Must Be Held Accountable for Complicity in Israeli War on Gaza

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesman says the US, British and Canadian governments must be held to account for their complicity in the Israeli genocidal war on Gaza and their unflinching support for the Tel Aviv regime. Nasser Kanaani made the remarks on Sunday in repose to a groundless move by the three Western governments to impose sanctions on a number of Iranian nationals across the world over what they claimed to be "human rights violations." "Condemning the move in the strongest terms, Kanaani said, "Countries that have a black track record of colonial history and systematic abuse of human rights... with such biased and sham measures, are seeking to divert the world's public opinion from their anti-human rights actions and their full cooperation with the inhumane crimes of the child-killing Zionist regime." Kanaani censured the three Western governments as the so-called human rights advocates and said their "double-standard" approach had done "grave injustice" to the elevated concepts and values of human rights. He pointed to the three countries' scandalous participation in the Israeli war crimes across the besieged Gaza Strip since early October and said they are "not whatsoever" in a position to judge and comment on the human rights situation in other countries. "The governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada, given their historic and continuous support to the Israeli regime and their publicly political, military, intelligence and media support for the regime's war crimes in Gaza over the past two months, should be held to account as accomplices in the crimes," Kanaani underlined. According to the UN, around 80 percent of the inhabitants of Gaza are displaced and more than 1.1 million are seeking refuge in UN Palestine refugee agency (UNRWA) shelters.

Syria Resistance Foiled U.S., Israeli Plots

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi says Syria's resistance in the face of the US and Israel thwarted their plots and defeated terrorist-Takfiri groups. Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with visiting Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Arnous in Tehran on Saturday. "The enmity of the US and Zionist regime towards Syria was rooted in resistance of the Syrian government and nation and the defeat of their plots, particularly regarding the collapse of the terrorist-Takfiri groups," the Iranian president said. He added that the Palestinian resistance groups succeeded in disgracing Israel and its main accomplice -- the United States -- over the past 60 days despite lack of air and sea forces. The Israeli regime failed to achieve any of its goals except for the killing of innocent women and children, he noted. "If it were not for the intelligence, military, security, financial and media assistance of the US, the Zionist regime would have collapsed by now," Raisi emphasized. He said the unprecedented wrath and hatred towards Israel and its allies in the world public opinion proved Iran's right stance over the past 43 years on the fake and criminal nature of the regime. The Iranian president emphasized that the Palestinian resistance movement

Hamas' operation against Israel -- known as Operation Al-Aqsa Storm -- has expanded the borders of the resistance front from the region to the whole world. "We have no doubt that just as the nations of Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Lebanon achieved victory against the United States and its allies, the Palestinian people will also emerge victorious in this battle," Raisi pointed out. Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi pointed to deep-rooted and strategic relations between Tehran and Damascus and stressed the importance of accelerating the implementation of bilateral agreements. Iran and Syria enjoy broad capacities to further expand bilateral cooperation in the economic, commercial and political fields, he said, expressing hope that the two sides would draw plans to make use of their potential as soon as possible. The Syrian prime minister, for his part, described his current visit to Tehran as a turning point for bilateral strategic ties. Arnous said the agreements signed between Tehran and Damascus during his trip, particularly in the financial, banking, energy, tourism and trade sectors, showed that the two sides are determined to further improve cooperation.

IRAN NEWS



Iran Has Special Attention to Cooperation With Africa

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Deputy President for Science, Technology and Knowledge-based Economy Ruhollah Firouzabadi Dehghani has said that the country attaches great importance to Africa and the opportunities for cooperation in the continent. Firouzabadi Dehghani made his remarks in a meeting with the special envoy to the president of Senegal Cheikh Kante in Tehran on Saturday. Referring to the religious and political closeness between Iran and Senegal, Firouzabadi Dehghani said Tehran is willing to activate scientific cooperation with Dakar. Senegal will have a bright future, the official added. For his part, the Senegalese official said he will make use of all potential available to promote scientific and technological cooperation with Iran. Once Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei had said that the key to progress is science and technology.

Pakistani Envoy, Iranian Diplomat Hold Meeting in Tehran



TEHRAN (MNA) - Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, Ambassador of Pakistan in Tehran had a fruitful meeting with Rasoul Mousavi, DG (South Asia), Iran's seasoned diplomat on Saturday. During the meeting, the Pakistani envoy underscored it was an honor to be Pakistan's Ambassador to Iran. The two sides stressed the need to deepen & widen the ties between Iran and Pakistan to contribute to regional peace, prosperity, and stability. They also stressed that the two countries are determined to elevate their historical ties to new levels.



Iran Envoy Stresses Stepped-Up Cooperation With Turkmenistan

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iranian ambassador to Turkmenistan has stressed the need for expansion of bilateral relations with the neighboring country of Turkmenistan. Ali Mojtaba Roozbahani, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Turkmenistan, and Yaqub Ali Nazari, Governor of Khorasan Razavi, held a meeting at the governor's office in Mashhad on Saturday afternoon. After the meeting, the ambassador said that the most important issues that were discussed in the meeting were the expansion of cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, the place of Khorasan Razavi in those ties, facilitation of transportation and transit in trade, gas etc between the two sides. Roozbahani expressed hope that "soon we will be able to plan the visit of the governor of Khorasan Razavi to Merov province of Turkmenistan so that we can closely monitor some of the cooperation between the two countries from the direction of Khorasan Razavi province."

Iran to Rebuild 2nd Extraterritorial Refinery in Syria's Homs

TEHRAN (MNA) - The coordination manager of the repair and maintenance department of Iran's extraterritorial refineries said the second extraterritorial refinery of the country will be rebuilt in Syria's Homs province. The 120,000-barrel refinery unit in Syria's Homs province will be reconstructed by Iran with a contract similar to that of Venezuela's El Palito Refinery, Ali Shahverdi maintained. He said the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi has taken the issue of shareholding in extraterritorial refineries into serious consideration to own refinery units overseas to export its oil to other countries. These refinery units will be set up in like-minded countries whose policies are in line with the policies of Iran, he said, adding that the extraterritorial refineries, in addition to selling the crude oil, will contribute to the export of Iran's technical and engineering services abroad. Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to El Palito Refinery as Iran's first extraterritorial refinery in Venezuela with the capacity of producing 1.3 million barrels of oil. Shahverdi put the physical progress of the El Palito refinery project at about 87 percent. Nicaragua, Cuba, Central Asian states, and South Africa have also requested Iran to build refinery units in these countries, he added. Back in October, a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked between Iran, Venezuela, and Syria for building a new refinery in the Arab country as clear proof of Iran's ability to cooperate with these countries in the oil sector despite the US sanctions.



Iranian, Syrian Private Sectors Keen to Establish Joint Ventures

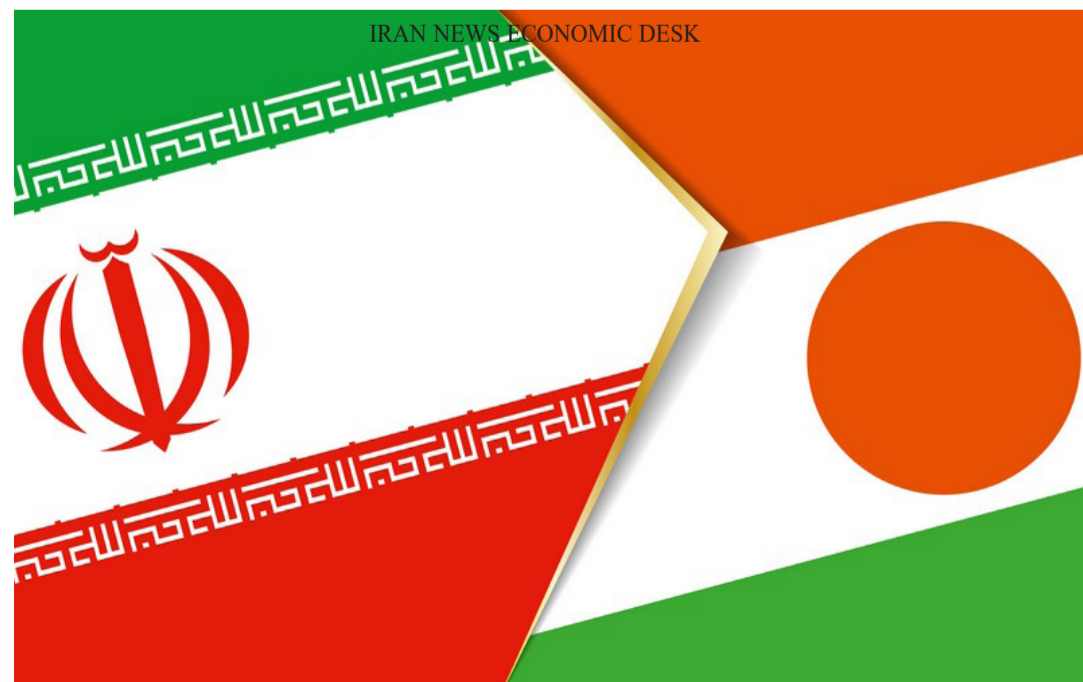
TEHRAN - Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi in meeting with Chairman of the board of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce Mohamed Abou el-Hoda el-Lahham, at the place of the ICCIMA in Tehran, the two sides emphasized that the private sectors of the two countries are ready to establish joint ventures to boost trade exchanges. The officials noted that the mentioned joint companies can be formed in various fields including energy, food, and agriculture industries, as well as technical and engineering services. The ICCIMA portal reported. Speaking in this meeting, Selahvarzi said the low level of trade between Iran and Syria is due to the non-implementation of the free trade agreement between the two countries, as well as sanctions and the lack of banking relations between the two sides. Considering the recent agreements reached between the governments of the two countries most of the mentioned

obstacles have been removed and the condition is ripe for increasing trade between the two sides, he said. Iran and Syria signed six memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on economic and trade cooperation on Saturday. The MOUs were inked by Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and Syrian Prime Minister Hussein Amous in a ceremony at the end of the meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee in Tehran. As reported, Iran's ministers of industry, mining and trade, energy, finance and economic affairs, sport and youth, agriculture, oil, and culture, as well as the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) were present in the signing ceremony of the mentioned MOUs. Iran and Syria are accelerating operational measures to implement bilateral accords, he said, proposing the formation of a permanent joint energy committee between the two countries to follow up agreements concerning gas and electricity cooperation.

Non-Oil Exports to Nigeria Reach \$46.5m

TEHRAN - Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at \$46.5 million to Nigeria during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the spokesman of Trade Development Committee of Iran's House of Industry, Mining and Trade announced. Ruhollah Latifi said that among the African trade partners of Iran in the first seven months of this year, Nigeria was the fourth export destination of the Iranian products, and the 15th source of import to the country, he added. As the official has announced, Iran exported 1.205 million tons of non-oil commodities valued at \$434 million to Africa during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year. Latifi said that the country's seven-month export to Africa fell 53 percent in value, and 33 percent in weight, year on year. The official also announced that Iran imported 38,122 tons of goods valued at \$47.434 million from Africa in the first seven months of the present year, with 21 percent drop in worth and 42 percent fall in weight, as compared to the same period of time in the past year. Over the past 40 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has never given up on its principled policy towards Africa

due to political and cultural commonalities, despite the sanctions, pressure and disruptions of the West, and has always maintained itself alongside the people and countries of Africa. As reported, during the Iranian calendar years 1384 and 1385 (March 2005-March 2007), the relations between Iran and the African continent increased in terms of trade, but since 1386, the economic relations between Iran and Africa have decreased due to the economic crisis and cruel sanctions against Iran. Surveys show that in the past years, due to the lack of restoration of economic relations with Africa, the amount of trade with the countries of this continent has remained at the level of \$1.2 billion, but according to Mohammed-Sadeq Qanadzadeh, the director general of the Africa Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), facilitating the trade route with Africa is happening now and it is expected that the trade figure with this continent will reach \$10 billion in the next three years. In fact, good steps have been taken to use Africa's capacity, and Africa can be a suitable market for Iranian goods, Qanadzadeh stated.



Transit Between Iran, Russia 30% Up



TEHRAN (MNA) - During the visit of the Iranian delegation to Moscow, Russian transport officials informed of increased transit from Russia to Bandar Abbas. Iran Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Mehrdad Bazr-Pash, who accompanied Iran's President, Ebrahim Raisi, to Moscow on December 7 upon the invitation of his Russian counterpart, informed of mutual negotiations with Russian transport officials during this visit. The agenda included follow-ups on the latest status of transit agreements, the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), the Rasht-Astara Railway Project, and issues related to the aviation industry and maritime transport agreements. The transport relations between Iran and Russia have been rising. This is evident in the transit records through Iran's territory according to the reports of the President of Russian Railways. As per this report, the records of transit increased by 30 percent and the time of freight transit has decreased from 49 to 20 days from Russia to Bandar Abbas. Additionally, it was decided that a joint committee would examine transit nodes along the route to further reduce the time. Pointing to this growth which indicates the role of Iran in regional corridors, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development stated that Iran is a safe country in the region for transit and facilitating freight transit through Iran's territory should be further promoted. The visit of the President and the delegation comes after Vladimir Putin visits Persian Gulf states including the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

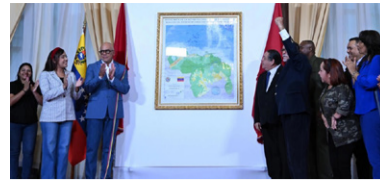
Major Petrochemical Projects to Go Operational in Mahshahr Soon



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The head of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) has said two major petrochemical projects are going to go operational in southwestern Mahshahr port, Shana reported. Morteza Shahmirzaei, who was visiting some petrochemical projects in Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone, said: "With the efforts made in the current year, the Ethylene Oxide Unit of Maroon Petrochemical complex and Nakh-e Asmari Petrochemical project will soon be put into operation." According to Shahmirzaei, the Ethylene Oxide Unit of Maroon Petrochemical complex is now ready for operation with more than 99 percent physical progress and it is expected to be officially inaugurated during the Ten-Day Dawn (February 1-11, 2024, which marks the anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Iran). The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports. According to Shah-Mirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years. In this regard, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji said that more than 100 petrochemical projects with a total investment of about \$70 billion have been defined and will be implemented across the country. Owji noted that the country will also be completely self-sufficient in producing the catalysts used in the petrochemical industry by the end of the current government administration's incumbency (August 2025).

Guyana, Venezuela Presidents to Meet Thursday on Border Row

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his Guyanese counterpart, Irfan Ali, will meet Thursday on their countries' growing dispute over the oil-rich region of Essequibo, amid mounting international warnings against escalating the row. The meeting will be held in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, according to the Caribbean country's Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves, who said Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva had also been invited at both sides' request. Gonsalves, whose country currently chairs the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, said in a letter to Maduro and Ali that the meeting would be held under the auspices of that organization and another regional body, the Caribbean Community. There is an "urgent need to de-escalate the conflict and institute an appropriate dialogue, face-to-face," Gonsalves said. "Both of you have concurred with this assessment in the quest of peaceful coexistence, the application and respect of international law, and the avoidance of the use or threats of force."



Erdogan Accuses the West of Barbarism and Islamophobia in the War in Gaza



ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan used a speech on human rights Saturday to accuse the West of "barbarism" for its stance on the Israel-Hamas war and what he alleged was its toleration of Islamophobia. "Israel has carried out atrocities and massacres that will shame the whole of humanity," Erdogan told a packed hall in Istanbul the day before the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "All the values relating to humanity are being murdered in Gaza. In the face of such brutality, international institutions and human rights organizations are not taking any concrete steps to prevent such violations," the Turkish leader said. The human rights declaration, proclaimed by the U.N. General Assembly in Paris on December 10, 1948, enshrines a standard for human rights and freedoms for all people. Referring to Friday's U.S. veto of a United Nations resolution calling for a humanitarian cease-fire in Gaza, Erdogan said a fairer world was possible "but not with America because the USA stands with Israel. ... From now on, humanity won't think the USA supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights." On Saturday, the president defined Islamophobia and xenophobia, which he said "engulf Western societies like poison ivy," as the greatest threats to human rights. He told the cheering audience that the only value "the West holds on to is its barbarism. We have seen this example of the West's barbarism in all those unfortunate events that they either supported or perpetrated." Erdogan cited the 2019 attack on mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, in which a gunman killed 51 people, as an Islamophobic attack that was "legitimized" and "even encouraged" by the West. "According to their understanding, non-Westerners don't have the right to enjoy those universal human rights ... they overlook Islamophobic attacks and they show the twisted perception and mentality of the West," he said. In October, Erdogan told a massive protest crowd in Istanbul that his government was preparing to declare Israel a "war criminal" due to its actions in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli government said in response that it would reassess its diplomatic relations with Turkey.

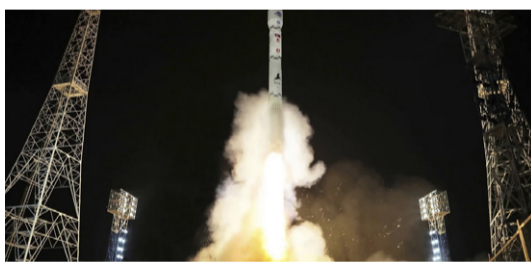
Palestinians Report Israeli Battles in Khan Younis



GAZA (Dispatches) - Israel ordered residents out of the center of Gaza's main southern city Khan Younis and pounded the length of the enclave overnight, after the United States wielded its U.N. Security Council veto to shield its ally from a demand for a ceasefire. Since a truce with Hamas in the two-month-old war collapsed on Dec. 1, Israel has expanded its ground assault into the southern half of the Gaza Strip, pushing into Khan Younis, where residents reported fierce battles. Both sides reported a surge in fighting in the north. Israel said its campaign was making progress. National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi said Israeli forces had killed at least 7,000 Hamas militants, without saying how that estimate was reached, and military chief Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi told soldiers "we need to press harder". An official toll of deaths in Gaza from the Palestinian health ministry in the Hamas-run enclave exceeded 17,700 on Saturday, with many thousands missing and presumed dead under the rubble. The ministry has said about 40% of deaths were of children under 18. Israel launched its campaign to annihilate Gaza's Hamas rulers after their fighters burst into Israeli towns on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking 240 hostage, according to Israeli tallies. Some 137 hostages remain in captivity, and thousands of Israelis rallied in Tel Aviv on Saturday to demand their release. A soldier who fought on Oct. 7 died from his wounds, the Israeli army said early on Sunday, adding four other soldiers died fighting in southern Gaza. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have been forced from their homes, often several times. As fighting rages across the territory, residents and U.N. agencies say there is effectively nowhere safe to go, though Israel disputes this. Israeli forces say they are limiting civilian casualties by providing maps showing safe areas, and blame Hamas for harming civilians by hiding among them, which the fighters

deny. Palestinians say the campaign has turned into a scorched-earth war of vengeance against the entire population of an enclave as densely populated as London. Israel's Arabic-language spokesperson on Saturday posted a map on X highlighting six blocks of Khan Younis to evacuate "urgently". Some residents reported hearing tank shelling and fierce gun battles between Israeli forces and Palestinian fighters, and a series of air strikes as Israeli forces attempted to advance further west. "We try to put the children to sleep and we stay up fearing the place would be bombed and we'll have to run carrying the children out," said Zainab Khalil, 57, displaced with 30 relatives and friends near Jalal street where evacuations were ordered. "During the day begins another tragedy, and that is: how to feed the children?" With food and medical supplies scarce, a senior U.N. World Food Programme official said a new system could bring more aid into Gaza through the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel, but Israel has not yet agreed to open it. In central Gaza, Israeli tank shelling resumed on Bureij and Maghazi refugee camps, residents said, while Palestinian health officials reported an Israeli air strike in Bureij killed seven Palestinians. In Khan Younis, the dead and wounded arrived through the night at the overwhelmed Nasser hospital. A medic ran out of an ambulance with the limp body of a small girl in a pink tracksuit. Inside, wounded children wailed and writhed on the tile floor as nurses raced to comfort them. Outside, bodies were lined up in white shrouds. Footage obtained by Reuters inside the Jaffah hospital in Deir al-Balah showed extensive damage from a strike on a mosque next door that shattered the medical facility. Medical workers in northern Gaza, where some of the heaviest fighting is taking place, accused Israel of targeting hospitals and ambulances.

U.S., South Korea, Japan Calls for Stronger Int'l Push to Curb North Korea's Nuclear Program



SEOUL (AP) — The national security advisers of the United States, South Korea and Japan called for a stronger international push to suppress North Korea's development of nuclear weapons and missiles, its cyberheft activities and alleged arms transfers to Russia. The meeting in Seoul came as tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest in years, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accelerating the expansion of his nuclear and missile program and flaunting an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons. The United States and its Asian allies have responded by increasing the visibility of their trilateral partnership in the region and strengthening their combined military exercises, which Kim condemns as invasion rehearsals. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo have also expressed concerns about a potential arms alignment between North Korea and Russia. They worry Kim is providing badly needed munitions to help Russian President Vladimir Putin wage war in Ukraine in exchange for Russian technology assistance to upgrade his nuclear-armed military. Speaking after the meeting, U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Washington is working with Seoul and Tokyo to strengthen defense cooperation and improve its response to North Korean missile testing and space-launch activities, including a real-time information sharing arrangement on North Korean missile launches that the countries plan to start at an unspecified date in December. He also said the countries have agreed to new initiatives to more effectively respond to North Korean efforts to bypass U.S.-led international sanctions that aim to choke off funds for its nuclear weapons and missile program. "This will be a new effort with respect to cryptocurrency and money laundering and how we disrupt North Korea's capacity to gain revenue from the hacking and stealing of cryptocurrency and then laundering it through exchanges," he said. Sullivan declined to share detailed U.S. assessments on the types and volume of North Korean arms being shipped to Russia and didn't comment on the specifics of his discussions with South Korean and Japanese officials over the issue, but insisted that "there's no daylight among us in terms of the types of weapons transfers that we are seeing. And those continue and they represent a grave concern for us." South Korean intelligence and military officials have said North Korea may have shipped more than a million artillery shells to Russia beginning in August, weeks before Kim traveled to Russia's Far East for a rare summit with Putin that sparked international concerns about a potential arms deal. Both Moscow and Pyongyang have denied U.S. and South Korean claims. In a joint news conference after Saturday's trilateral meeting, Cho Tae-yong, South Korea's national security office director, said the three security advisers reaffirmed North Korea's obligations under multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions that call for its denuclearization and ban any weapons trade with other countries, and agreed to strengthen coordination to ensure that is implemented. Takeo Akiba, Japan's national security secretariat secretary general, said the "unprecedented frequency and patterns" of North Korean ballistic missile launches necessitate a deeper and more effective partnership between Washington, Seoul and Tokyo. South Korea, the U.S., Japan and Australia have also announced their own sanctions on North Korea over its spy satellite launch last month. North Korea argues it has the right to launch spy satellites to monitor U.S. and South Korean military activities and enhance the threat of its nuclear-capable missiles. During his conversation with reporters, Sullivan said the allies are preparing for the possibility that North Korea will up the ante of its weapons demonstrations and threats in 2024, possibly including the country's seventh nuclear test.

Philippines, China Trade Blame for Collision in Disputed Waters



MANILA (Dispatches) - A Philippine boat and a Chinese Coast Guard ship collided near a hotly contested reef on Sunday, with both countries trading blame for the latest such confrontation in the disputed South China Sea. The incident happened during a Philippine resupply mission to a tiny garrison on Second Thomas Shoal in the Spratly Islands, which is a flashpoint for Manila and Beijing. It comes a day after the Philippines accused the Chinese coast guard of using water cannons to "obstruct" three government boats delivering provisions to Filipino fishermen near Scarborough Shoal, off the main island of Luzon. Longstanding tensions between Manila and Beijing over the sea have flared in recent months following multiple incidents involving Philippine and Chinese vessels, including two previous collisions. China claims almost the entire South China Sea, including waters and islands near the shores of its neighbors, and has ignored an international tribunal ruling that its assertions have no legal basis. It deploys boats to patrol the busy waterway and has built artificial islands that it has militarized to reinforce its claims. The Philippines said Sunday that "China Coast Guard and Chinese Maritime Militia vessels harassed, blocked, and executed dangerous maneuvers on Philippine civilian supply vessels". One of two boats carrying provisions was "rammed" by a Chinese coast guard ship, the National Task Force for the West Philippine Sea said in a statement. A Chinese ship also used water cannon against the two supply boats and a Philippine Coast Guard vessel escorting the mission, the multi-agency task force said. That caused "severe damage" to the engine of one of the supply boats and damaged the mast of the coast guard vessel, it said. The China Coast Guard, however, accused the Philippine boat of "deliberately colliding" with the Chinese vessel after "disregarding our multiple stern

warnings". The Philippine boat "changed direction suddenly in an unprofessional, dangerous manner, deliberately colliding with our Coast Guard Vessel 21556, which was on a normal law enforcement route, and caused a scrape", the China Coast Guard said in a statement. "The responsibility lies entirely with the Philippine side," it said. Hours before the latest incident, a civilian convoy involving 100 Filipino fishermen embarked on a trip that would pass Second Thomas Shoal as part of a mission to deliver Christmas cheer and provisions to remote outposts. The organizers said they were "still proceeding with the agreed upon route" despite Sunday's confrontation. Second Thomas Shoal is about 200 kilometres (124 miles) from the western Philippine island of Palawan, and more than 1,000 kilometres from China's nearest major landmass, Hainan island. A handful of Filipino troops are stationed on the crumbling BRP Sierra Madre, which the Philippine Navy grounded on the reef in 1999 to check China's advance in the waters. The troops depend on the resupply missions for their survival. One of the supply boats was able to deliver its cargo on Sunday, while the one involved in the collision was being towed by a Philippine Coast Guard vessel to Palawan, the task force said. The Philippines and China have a long history of maritime incidents in the contested South China Sea, through which trillions of dollars of trade pass annually. Relations between Manila and Beijing have deteriorated under President Ferdinand Marcos, who has sought to improve ties with traditional ally Washington and push back against Chinese actions in the South China Sea. Marcos warned last month that the situation in the waters had become "more dire". Last Sunday, the Philippines reported more than 135 Chinese vessels "swarming" a reef off its coast, describing the boats' growing presence as "alarming".



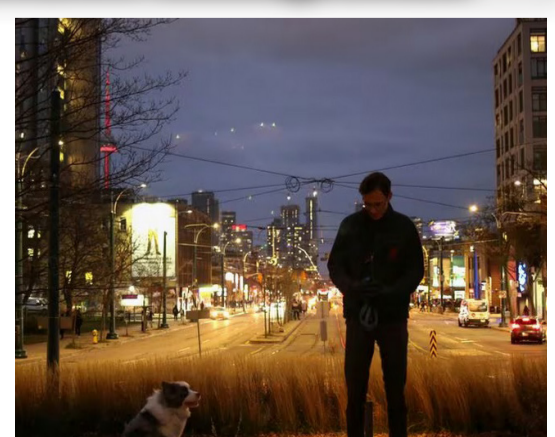
Hundreds Still Stranded, Plants Closed in India's Flood-Hit Chennai

CHENNAI (Dispatches) - Volunteers waded through stagnant water to hand out food and supplies, and some manufacturing plants remained shut in India's southern tech-and-auto hub district of Chennai, four days after cyclone Michaung lashed the coast. At least 14 people, most of them in Chennai and its state of Tamil Nadu, have died in the flooding, triggered by torrential rains that started on Monday. The cyclone itself made landfall further north in Andhra Pradesh state on Tuesday afternoon. Authorities said some low-lying areas of the state were still inundated and government officials and volunteers were taking supplies to people stuck in their homes in slums and other areas. The larger Chennai area is home to the Indian units of several global firms including Hyundai Motor, Daimler and Taiwan's Foxconn and Pegatron which do contract manufacturing for Apple. While many of them including Pegatron and Foxconn resumed operations within a day or two of the cyclone making landfall, some plants of the TVS group located in the worst-affected areas are yet to open, industry sources said. Adani Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh, said on Friday the cyclone had "very badly affected" its operations and it was declaring a force majeure period starting Dec. 3. Force majeure is a notice used to describe events outside a company's control, such as a natural disaster, which usually releases it from contractual obligation without penalty. State-run Madras Fertilizers (MDFTNS) notified stock exchanges that its Chennai plant has been shut and is tentatively expected to resume operations within two to four weeks. Information technology (IT) services providers told staff to work from home for the week, while schools and colleges closed. A few schools and colleges were converted into temporary shelters. This week's floods in Chennai brought back memories of the extensive damage caused by floods eight years ago which killed around 290 people. In Andhra Pradesh, the damage from the cyclone was relatively contained, with roads damaged and trees uprooted as big waves crashed into the coast. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Chennai on Thursday and announced New Delhi will release a second instalment of 4.5 billion rupees (\$54 million) to Tamil Nadu to help manage the damage. The federal government has also approved a 5.6 billion-rupee project for flood management in Chennai, he said.

Canada's Surging Cost of Living Fuels Reverse Immigration

TORONTO (Dispatches) - The dream of making it big in Canada is turning into a battle for survival for many immigrants due to the high cost of living and rental shortages, as rising emigration numbers hint at newcomers being forced to turn their back on a country that they chose to make their adopted home. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has made immigration his main weapon to blunt Canada's big challenge of an aging and slowing population, and it has also helped fuel economic growth. That drove Canada's population up at its fastest clip in more than six decades this year, Statistics Canada said. But now a reversal of that trend is gradually taking hold. In the first six months of 2023 some 42,000 individuals departed Canada, adding to 93,818 people who left in 2022 and 85,927 exits in 2021, official data show. The rate of immigrants leaving Canada hit a two-decade high in 2019, according to a recent report from the Institute for Canadian Citizenship (ICC), an immigration advocacy group. While the numbers went down during pandemic lockdowns, Statistics Canada data shows it is once again rising. While that is a fraction of the 263,000 who came to the country over the same period, a steady rise in emigration is making some observers wary. For a nation built on immigrants, a rising trend of people leaving Canada risks undermining one of Prime Minister Justin

Trudeau government's signature policies, which granted permanent residency to a record 2.5 million people in just eight years. Reuters spoke with a half a dozen people who have either left the country or are preparing to do so, because of the high cost of living. Cara, 25, who came to Canada in 2022 as a refugee from Hong Kong, now pays C\$650 (\$474) in monthly rent for a single-room basement apartment in Scarborough in eastern Toronto, which is about 30% of her monthly take-home salary. To be sure, emigration as a percentage of Canada's overall population touched a high of 0.2% in the mid 1990s, and currently stands at about 0.09%, according to official government data. While the numbers are small now, lawyers and immigration consultants warn that a pick-up could cast a shroud over Canada's appeal as one of the favoured destinations for newcomers. "There's a real importance in creating positive experiences in those early years" so that people decide to stay, said Daniel Bernhard, CEO of ICC. Immigrants blame the sky-rocketing housing costs as the biggest reason for their decision to consider a new country. On average in Canada about 60% of household income would be needed to cover home ownership costs, a figure that rises to about 98% for Vancouver and 80% for Toronto, RBC said in a September report.



Switchboard: (+98) (21) 44253448
Public Relations Tel: (+98)(21) 44253450
Editorial Board: 44253449
Public Relations Fax: (+98)(21) 44253395
Advertising Department:

Tel/Fax: (+98) (21) 44253335-9/44253234
Website: <http://www.irannewsdaily.com>
E-Mail Address: info@irannewsdaily.com
ISSN 1024-6053 P.O. Box: 15875-8551
Address: No 13, Pajouhesh St., Golestan II St, Golestan

St.Marzadaran Blvd., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran Distributed by:
Cities of Iran Cultural and
Artistic Institute
Managing Director: *Fereydoon Taherpour Asl*



Bayern Thrashed by Merciless Frankfurt in Bundesliga

BERLIN (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich suffered a jolt to their title defense, losing their first league game of the season 5-1 in Frankfurt while RB Leipzig triumphed 3-2 at 10-men Borussia Dortmund. In a wet and wild contest in Frankfurt, the hosts raced into an extraordinary 3-0 first-half lead, with Omar Marmoush, Junior Dina Ebimbe, and Hugo Larsson scoring the goals as Dino Toppmøller's side outmuscled a timid Bayern. Joshua Kimmich dragged Bayern back into the match just before half-time but French midfielder Ebimbe had other ideas, capping a scintillating counter-attack after a mistake by Dayot Upamecano to make it four. Ansgar Knauff added a fifth to put the game out of reach for Thomas Tuchel's side to complete a memorable performance for Frankfurt, who become the first team to score five goals against Bayern in the first 60 minutes of a league game since Frankfurt themselves, in 1975. A stunned Tuchel said after the game that his side were punished by a Frankfurt team who were calm in front of goal. "We didn't defend consistently and were punished mercilessly today," Tuchel told German broadcaster ARD. "That's why this result is very difficult to digest on the scoreboard. We deserved to lose. Not 5-1, but we deserved to lose.

That is the bottom line. Leaders Bayer Leverkusen retain their three-point cushion and travel to third-place Stuttgart on a weekend when six of the Bundesliga's top seven face each other. In a game contested between two sides in the chasing pack, Leipzig beat Dortmund in an absorbing contest at Signal Iduna Park. Dortmund were dealt an early blow with Mats Hummels' red card, which denied the visitors a penalty but they went on to take the lead in the 32nd minute through a Ramy Bensebaini own goal. Ten-man Dortmund clawed their way back into the contest through Niklas Süle's close-range finish on the stroke of half-time - but Leipzig's Austrian forward Christoph Baumgartner tapped in to put Leipzig back in front early in the second half. Yussuf Poulsen struck as the clock ticked into injury time to make it three goals and three points, keeping Leipzig fourth and opening a gap of four points to fifth-placed Dortmund, despite Niclas Füllkrug's late header briefly giving Dortmund hope. "These were important three points today. Very hard-earned. Really hard for the coach too. It's difficult to analyse emotionally," Marco Rose, formerly the coach of Dortmund, and now in charge of Leipzig, told ARD.

Shiffrin Captures World Cup Win 91 in St. Moritz Downhill



ST MORITZ (Dispatches) - American Mikaela Shiffrin claimed a record-extending 91st alpine skiing World Cup victory when she won the downhill at St. Moritz. The twice Olympic gold medallist recorded a two-run time of one minute 28.84 seconds for her fourth career World Cup downhill win and first at the Swiss resort, putting her hand over her mouth in surprise when she slowed to a stop. Shiffrin edged Italy's Sofia Goggia, who finished 0.15 behind after a ski buckled briefly near the end of her second run. "It was so much fun, I don't know if you can hear it in the video but I'm going down the course like: 'Weeeee! Woo-hoo! Oh no!' I think the commentary might be pretty funny. At least in my head, I'm just like freaking out the whole way down," said Shiffrin. "Winning World Cup races is hard and I never take it for granted," the 28-year-old added. "Especially this season, there's so many athletes who can win and I never expect to be in front of somebody. Every time I race I know I have to really earn that if I want to be on the podium and winning, and today is no different." It was Shiffrin's first World Cup downhill win since March 2022 and her third win this season after two slalom victories. Italian Federica Brigone rounded out the podium. There was a long delay when Austrian Elisabeth Reisinger was taken off the course on a stretcher with an apparent leg injury. The race was cut short five skiers later due to conditions and so 21 skiers did not start.

Thunder Get Past Warriors in OT

BOSTON (Dispatches) - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 38 points to lead the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 138-136 overtime win over the visiting Golden State Warriors. The Thunder have won three of their last four and nine of their last 12, while the Warriors have dropped 10 of their last 14. Jalen Williams scored 28 points for Oklahoma City on 12-of-15 shooting while Chet Holmgren scored 21. Oklahoma City jumped out to a 10-point lead with less than two minutes remaining in overtime, before Golden State made one final push, cutting the deficit to two on Stephen Curry's 3-pointer with 29.7 seconds left. But Luguentz Dort's layup on the other end with 10.2 seconds remaining put the game away for good as the Thunder beat the Warriors for the third time in four meetings this season. Curry led Golden State with 34 points - 10 in overtime. Luka Dončić recorded 32 points, 10 assists and six rebounds to help Dallas Mavericks notch a 125-112 victory at Portland Blazers. Dante Exum scored a season-high 23 points and added seven assists for the Mavericks on a night when Kyrie Irving departed with a right foot injury late in the first half. Irving had 11 points in 13 minutes before exiting. Anfernee Simons had 30 points and eight assists in his third game of the season for the Trail Blazers. He missed 18 games due to a right thumb injury. Shaedon Sharpe registered 24 points and nine rebounds. Coby White poured in 24 points and hit 5 of 7 attempts from beyond the arc as visiting Chicago Bulls came back from a 13-point deficit to beat San Antonio Spurs 121-112 for its fourth straight win. Chicago won its second road game of the season while the Spurs dropped their 16th straight game overall, tying a dubious team record set last season. Nikola Vučević added 21 points and 16 rebounds for the Bulls. Victor Wembanyama, 19, led the Spurs with 21 points and 20 rebounds, becoming the youngest player in NBA history to have a 20/20 game. Keldon Johnson added 20 points. Fred VanVleet had 26 points. Jalen Green scored 25 and visiting Houston Rockets beat Denver Nuggets 114-106. Alperen Şengün had 17 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists and Dillon Brooks scored 16 for the Rockets, who survived a furious rally to earn their first road win of the season. Nikola Jokić had 23 points and 16 rebounds, Jamal Murray finished with 21 points, Michael Porter Jr. added 20 for the Nuggets, who took their first home loss of the campaign. 76ers 125, Hawks 114. Joel Embiid had 38 points, 14 rebounds and four blocked shots to lift host Philadelphia 76ers past Atlanta Hawks 125-114. Tyrese Maxey put up 30 points, De'Anthony Melton scored 15 and Tobias Harris contributed 13 for the Sixers, who have won two straight. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 11 points off the bench. De'Andre Hunter scored 24 points and Bogdan Bogdanović and Dejounte Murray each had 20 for the Hawks, who played without star guard Trae Young because of an illness. Saddiq Bey scored 16 and Clint Capela had 15 points and 16 rebounds for the Hawks, who have lost three in a row.



Arsenal Lose, Man United Humiliated by Bournemouth



LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool climbed atop the Premier League after Mo Salah scored his 200th goal for the club in a 2-1 win at Crystal Palace before Aston Villa beat Arsenal 1-0 for a 15th straight home league win to stop the Gunners retaking first place. Storm clouds returned to Manchester United as they lost 3-0 at home to Bournemouth. Bottom club Sheffield United beat visiting Brentford 1-0 for only their second win of the season while fellow strugglers Burnley and Nottingham Forest both drew. Liverpool were fully extended by a dogged Palace side who went ahead at Selhurst Park from the penalty spot in the 57th minute after a lengthy VAR review found that Jean-Philippe Mateta had been fouled by centre-back Jarell Quansah. Mateta then stroked the ball home from the spot. Liverpool had not managed an effort on target but the game swung when Palace's Jordan Ayew was sent off in the 75th minute after two innocuous yellow cards. Just over a minute later Salah equalised to join an elite list of Liverpool players to notch a double century of goals for the Reds, the others being Ian Rush, Roger Hunt, Gordon Hodgson and Billy Liddell. Liverpool then laid siege to the Palace goal and Harvey Elliott produced a stunning strike in the first minute of stoppage time to seal a sixth win in eight league games for Jürgen Klopp's side who have 37 points from 16 games. "I'm a very happy manager in this moment, but I know we were lucky as well," Klopp said. "If you only win your really good games you have no chance to be really successful, that's how it is, and obviously today was not a really good game from us. Aston Villa's captain John McGinn scored in the seventh minute and they held on to beat Arsenal three nights after they shocked champions Manchester City by the same scoreline at Villa Park in what McGinn called a "monumental week." Their 15th successive home win set a club record. Liverpool lead the standings on 37 points, a point above second-placed Arsenal with Villa up to third on 35. City, who visit lowly Luton Town on Sunday, have 30 points. Arsenal thought they had equalized in added time before VAR determined Kai Havertz had handled the ball while firing it past keeper Emi Martínez from a goalmouth scramble. Manchester United had earlier put in a shambolic display against Bournemouth at a soggy Old Trafford. Any hope of Erik Ten Hag's side following up a midweek win over Chelsea never looked likely as they were outplayed by the south coast club who posted a first win away to United thanks to goals by Dominic Solanke, Philip Billing and Marcos Senesi. United remain in sixth place but they are now 10 points behind Liverpool after a fourth home defeat in the league this season. After a must-win Champions League game against Bayern Munich, United travel to Liverpool next weekend. "Of course, annoyed, disappointed, definitely," Ten Hag said. "I expected something different. I hoped before the game you can build on from the performance and result from Chelsea, so it's very disappointing, the way we started the game. After the 2-0, we broke down so we have to do things better."

Odermatt Wins Giant Slalom Opener in Val d'Isere

VAL-D'ISERE (Dispatches) - Marco Odermatt made it a hat-trick of wins in the giant slalom at Val d'Isere, while Joan Verdu, in third place, gave Andorra its first podium finish in the competition. Swiss ace Odermatt, who also won the event in 2021 and 2022, notched his 25th World Cup victory as he set the pace in the opening giant slalom of the season. "It's amazing to start the season with another victory here for the third time in a row," said Odermatt. "It's not easy to ski here, but I still love this hill. It's always a tough race and a difficult hill. At the start, I didn't feel 100 percent, but for me it's always a good hill." The win underlined Odermatt's dominance of the discipline. He is the current Olympic and world champion and has won 13 of 19 giant slalom races over the past two seasons, making the podium in all but one of those. In snowy conditions, he clocked the quickest time on the first run and, despite making a few mistakes, did enough in the second run to finish 0.98 seconds ahead of the Austrian Marco Schwarz. "The visibility was very flat and I struggled a bit at the top with many little mistakes," said Odermatt. "I knew I had to push hard from the middle to the bottom and I think it worked." It was an emotional moment for Verdu who was cheered on by his father and brother as he finished 1.32sec behind Odermatt in third to give Andorra its first ever podium. "It's crazy, I really don't believe it," said Verdu. "We've worked so hard for this. There has been a lot of hard moments and injuries. I am really proud to represent Andorra at this level. I just want to inspire all the Andorran little guns to

believe and to push hard." Henrik Kristoffersen, who was second on the opening run 0.65sec behind Odermatt, struggled badly on the second run coming home 24th for an eighth-placed finish. Schwarz leads the overall standings, 36 points clear of Manuel Feller with Odermatt 60 points behind in third. It was only the second completed men's race of the season, with six of the previous seven cancelled since racers took back to the snow at the end of October. Only a slalom in Gurgl, Austria, had gone ahead. The season giant slalom opener in neighbouring Soelden was cancelled, before two downhill in Zermatt-Cervinia (Switzerland/Italy) were also scratched. Last weekend's races at the American resort of Beaver Creek -- two downhills and a super-G -- were wiped out by heavy snowfall and high winds.

