

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Said That the Director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Rafael Grossi Is Proposing Requirements, Which Are Not Consistent With Iran's Commitments, as Well as the Provisions of the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement

IRAN NEWS

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Power Is Different From Other Countries; So, the United States Is Not Capable of Carrying Out Any military Attack on the Country, an Official with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Force Said

2 DOMESTIC



Oil Minister, Turkmen President Discuss Further Cooperation

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Israel Bombs Gaza as Disagreements With U.S. Simmer

> SEE PAGE 3



Terrorists in Kerman Bombings Killed, Arrested



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Intelligence Ministry says its forces have killed two terrorists and arrested some others linked to the recent Daesh-claimed terrorist attack on the fourth martyrdom anniversary of top anti-terror commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani in the southeastern Iranian city of Kerman. The Ministry said in a statement on Friday that the terrorists had been involved in the "orchestration and implementation" of the deadly blasts in Kerman on January 3, during which 94 people lost their lives and 211 others sustained injuries. The statement said the two Daesh Takfiri terrorists, who entered Iran a few days after the criminal incident in Kerman to conduct another operation in the city, were besieged by the Ministry forces and were both killed in fire exchanges. The Intelligence Ministry said the two terrorists were "non-Iranian nationals" and had planned a two-stage scenario involving an armed attack on one of the police stations in Kerman and setting a "booby trap" on the way of police reinforcements, both of which were foiled. According to the statement, the Ministry discovered and seized with the neutralized terrorists "two very strong homemade bombs" weighing 20 kilograms, 10 electric detonators, four non-electric detonators, one US MP4 machine gun with eight magazines and 278 cartridges, one AK-47 machine gun with five magazines and 181 cartridges, seven hand grenades, two normal and night vision cameras, two transceivers, three remote controllers, 12 meters of wire with gunpowder and electric fuses as well as significant amounts of other related equipment. The Ministry also announced the apprehension of Mohammad Imran Tanvir, nicknamed "Abu Imran", a bomb-making specialist and one of the leaders of Daesh-Khorasan, which is affiliated with the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group. The Intelligence Ministry forces also said they had arrested "Mahtab", another ring leader of the terrorist group, who is currently under interrogation and entered the country under the guise of a worker. The statement also said several other terrorists had been arrested, among them were Daesh leaders planning to stage acts of terror in various parts of the country, including the holy city of Mashhad. The Intelligence Ministry said Mohammad Adel Aref, known as "Adel Panjshiri", had also been tracked down and identified during the latest intelligence operation. Being at large in the present time and suspected to have holed up in a neighborhood in western Tehran, Adel was charged with a suicide bomb attack at the Kabul University in Afghanistan, among other convictions.

Iranian Forces Drill Fighting Electronic, Cyber Attacks

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian armed forces have successfully drilled operations against electronic and cyber attacks on air defense systems on the second day of specialized joint air defense exercises. They "practiced different methods and tactics of electronic warfare and cyber warfare in order to deal with an electronic invasion", said Brig. Gen. Abbas Farajpour, the spokesman for the Guardians of Velayat Skies 1402 drills, on Friday. The exercises are held in an area spanning 583 km, which stretches from the southern coast strip to 400 km deep inside the country and up to air surveillance areas. Farajpour said one of the important features of the drills is a coordinated and powerful use of indigenous electronic warfare systems. "In this stage of the exercise, the stability, survivability and continuity of the operation of radars as one of the main components of air defense in an environment contaminated with electronic warfare was evaluated," he said. Intelligence satellites, unmanned aircraft and information detection and collection systems and air defense radars of the country were used to detect and identify targets and monitor the exercise area under the electronic warfare environment. "The electronic jamming on the attacking drones and taking control of the aircraft in order to prevent infiltration into the exercise area were among other exercises which were carried out successfully in this phase," Farajpour said. On the second day of the exercise, various low-altitude targets were also shot down by short-range 9-Dey missile defense system of the IRGC Aerospace Force. "The use of various air defense equipment in the Army and the IRGC Air Force under the direction of the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Joint Base in this exercise shows the strength and capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of air defense, which has been able to defeat the arrogant powers with decisiveness and ability at different times over the past years," Gen. Farajpour said. On Thursday, Iranian forces successfully launched a new air defense method that uses drones to intercept and target hostile targets. Upgraded domestically-developed Karrar combat drones, armed with homegrown air-to-air missiles, successfully intercepted and destroyed hostile aircraft during the drills. The jet-powered unmanned aerial vehicles launched Majid air-to-air missiles, with a range of eight kilometers (4.9 miles), at the simulated enemy's aircraft, destroying some and forcing the rest to leave the exercise area, said Gen. Farajpour. He noted that Iran had successfully developed a new concept of unmanned aerial defense, in addition to the conventional ground-based and manned methods. The method was employed for the first time during a large-scale drone drill, which the Islamic Republic of Iran Army staged over the strategic waters of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, all four corners of the country and its central part back in early October last year, he added. Listing the benefits of the concept as increasing the defense depth, enhancing the tactical air defense capacities, changing the conflict zone from ground to air, protecting the wartime economy, improving the mobility of air defense units, and reducing the potential risks to servicemen, he noted that the new method, known as "Rasoul Plan" has been formulated by experts at Army's Air Defense and Defense Ministry. Farajpour described as "very complex" the interception and engagement of hostile aircraft by means of drones. "One of the positive features of such an achievement is that we can engage enemy helicopters, drones and fighter jets at any altitude," Farajpour pointed out. The drill began with the participation of the Air Defense Force of the Army, the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Navy of the IRGC, and parts of the Army's ground forces under the operational control of the Khatam al-Anbia Joint Air Defense Base.

FM Spox Slams Arab League FMs Statement on Erbil Incident



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani has condemned the Arab League foreign ministers' statement on Iraq's Erbil incident, noting that the Islamic Republic of Iran's action was based on the legitimate right to confront terrorist elements affiliated with the Zionist regime who threatened Iran's national security and its citizens. In reaction to the issued statement by the Arab League foreign ministers, Kanaani rejected its provisions on Friday, saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate to deter the sources threatening its national security, as well as defend the security of its citizens and punish criminals. Respecting Iraq's sovereignty, territorial integrity and good neighborliness is one of the fundamental policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kanaani noted that accordingly, in the past years, especially since the beginning of the Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group invading Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran with its responsible approach to preserving the security, sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country has been with all its power, along with the Iraqi government, nation, and armed forces. He added that the Iraqi government is expected to commit to the security agreement signed between the two countries last year and fully implement its provisions. Iran and Iraq's relations are strong, all-out, and based on joint interests, he said, adding that it is expected that the Arab League will devote its political, legal, and international efforts and capabilities to stop the brutal and genocidal attacks of the Zionist regime in the Gaza Strip, and the lifting of the 75-year occupation of Palestine land and supporting its oppressed nation. On Wednesday, the Arab League foreign ministers reacted by issuing a joint statement on Iran's recent strikes targeting terrorists in Syria and one of the headquarters of the Israeli spy agency Mossad located in the Iraqi Kurdistan region. According to the statement posted on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iraq, the ministers condemned the attack on Iraqi soil, calling it an aggression.

Iran Slams U.S. for Blacklisting Yemen's Ansarallah Movement



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani strongly condemned the U.S. government's decision to once again designate Yemen's popular Ansarallah movement as a "terrorist" organization. Kanaani said this action by the U.S. reflects its "persistent unwillingness to rectify misguided and destructive policies in the region." "The Ansarallah movement being designated as terrorist by the U.S. highlights once again their (Washington's) reluctance to correct misguided policies in the region," stated the spokesperson. Kanaani condemned the U.S. government's inclusion of Ansarallah in the list of "terrorist" organizations, describing it as a provocative act aligned with Washington's support for the Zionist regime's atrocities against the children of the Gaza Strip. "Ansarallah and the people of Yemen face US anger solely due to their support for the oppressed people of Palestine," he emphasized. The spokesman expressed confidence that the non-constructive action taken by the US would not impact the determination of the Yemeni people to stand in solidarity with the oppressed in Gaza. Describing the U.S.' unwavering support for the Zionist regime as the most destabilizing factor in the West Asia region, he urged Washington to reconsider its stance, stating, "If the US genuinely cares about stability and security in the region, it should refrain from supporting the war crimes and genocide of the Zionist regime in Gaza." "Questioning the moral legitimacy of the US government, Kanaani argued that it lacks the authority to judge others. "The U.S. government must be held accountable globally as a supporter of the war crimes of the terrorist Zionist regime." "The U.S. government remains part of the problems and instabilities in the region by refusing to rectify its misguided and destructive policies."

Iran Calls on Brotherly Pakistan to Check Terrorist Bases on Its Soil

TEHRAN - Iran has addressed "the friendly and brotherly government of Pakistan" after a tiff over Islamabad's drone attack on an Iranian village near their border, calling on the neighboring state to prevent the establishment of "terrorist bases" on its soil. In a statement issued on Thursday, Iran's Foreign Ministry said it "condemns the unbalanced and unacceptable action of Pakistan in the drone attack on non-Iranian citizens in a village on the border wall of the two countries". Nine people, including four children, were killed after Islamabad admitted attacking a village in Saravan in Iran's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan province, characterizing it a response to Tehran's operation against terrorist bases inside Pakistan. "While the Islamic Republic adheres to the policy of good neighborliness and brotherhood between the two nations and the two governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan and does not allow the enemies to darken the good and fraternal relations between the two countries, it considers the security of the people and the territorial integrity of the country as its red line," the ministry statement in Tehran said. "And it strongly expects the friendly and brotherly government of Pakistan to adhere to its commitments in preventing the establishment of bases and armed terrorist groups on Pakistan's soil," it added. Iran said on Tuesday it had hit bases of Jaish al-Adl inside Pakistan to prevent another attack after 11 Iranian policemen were killed by the terrorist group in its hit-and-run raid on a police station in the city of Rask last month. On Thursday Iran's condemned Pakistan's attack on the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan and summoned the Pakistani chargé d'affaires in protest against the incident. The Pakistani diplomat was summoned to the ministry

on Thursday in the absence of the country's ambassador to Tehran for an explanation regarding several explosions in different areas around the city of Saravan in Sistan and Baluchestan province, close to the border with Pakistan earlier in the day. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani later condemned the attack and confirmed that the Pakistani chargé d'affaires had been summoned by the ministry to convey Tehran's protest to Islamabad and provide an explanation about the attack. Deputy governor of the province Alireza Marhamati said nine non-Iranian nationals, including two men, three women and four children, were killed in the attack. He added that Iranian security officials are investigating the issue. Iranian Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi confirmed the figures later in the day. Meanwhile, an informed source strongly condemned the attack and said Iran has demanded Pakistan's "immediate explanation" about the attack. In a press release on Thursday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry confirmed that the country undertook "a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes against terrorist hideouts" in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province. Pakistani President Arif Alvi said on Thursday that Pakistan and Iran were brotherly countries and should resolve issues through dialogue and mutual consultation. In a statement, Alvi added that terrorism was a common challenge that should be eliminated through global efforts. He said that Pakistan fully respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states and expects the same from other nations. The president, however, emphasized that Islamabad would not compromise its national security and territorial integrity and would take all necessary measures to defend its soil.



Tehran Urges NAM to Renew Solidarity With Palestine



TEHRAN - Iran called on members of the Non-Aligned Movement to renew their solidarity with the Palestinian nation, as the Israeli regime's onslaught on Gaza continues to claim innocent Palestinian lives in the besieged coastal territory. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Reza Najafi, made the remarks addressing the 19th Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) foreign ministers in Kampala, Uganda. "The message of the Non-Alignment Movement must be loud and clear so as to show that the movement stands with the Palestinian nation," Najafi stated. The Iranian diplomat further said that the summit shows the solidarity between NAM members and the promotion of cooperation between them to protect their nations' interests. Najafi pointed out that the emerging challenges facing the world require concerted efforts by NAM members to be resolved in an effective and appropriate manner. "The Non-Aligned Movement has to have an active role in forming the new world order," he said, adding that solving global issues requires global solutions. He further explained that strengthening solidarity between NAM members and making joint progress toward resolving global issues require the true political will of all Non-Alignment Movement members. Elsewhere in his remarks, Najafi rebuked unilateral US sanctions as a "tool of Western hegemony," urging NAM members to firmly oppose the sanctions. Najafi also called for an immediate and unconditional end to the Israeli regime's genocide of Palestinian people, highlighting the NAM's support for South Africa's filing of a genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ). On January 11, the ICJ began hearings over a charge that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. South Africa, in an 84-page suit filed against Israel at the top UN court on December 29, asked the top court to urgently declare that the regime has breached its responsibilities under international law since October 7, 2023, when it launched hostilities in the besieged territory. The 19th NAM Summit under the leadership of Uganda is being held under the theme "Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence" and brings together more than 120 developing countries on a platform of crucial historic significance.

IRAN NEWS



IRGC Operations Is a Warning to Zionists

TEHRAN (IP) - The Friday prayers Leader in Tehran considered the operations of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps to the headquarters of the terrorists in the region as a warning against the threats of the Zionist regime. In the past few days, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps targeted terrorist headquarters in Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan. "Kazem Sediqi", the Friday prayers Leader in Tehran, referring to the attacks of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps on the headquarters of terrorists in the region, said: "This action was a warning to the Zionist regime so that it realizes that the missiles of the Islamic Republic of Iran are capable of targeting them. Therefore, it should not allow itself to continue terrorist activities." Sediqi considered the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps as the arm of the people to protect the security of Iran and emphasized that this IRGC move was done on behalf of the zealous people of Iran and it was a warning to all ill-wishers to realize that if they commit these crimes, they will be punished. There is no safety for them under this sky and anywhere in the world.

Turkey Ready for Iranian President's Imminent Visit to Ankara



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan says Turkey is ready to host Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in the near future after seeing the trip cancelled twice for different reasons. President Raisi's visit to Ankara to attend the 8th meeting of their Supreme Council of Economic Cooperation is a response to his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan's trip to Tehran in July 2022. In his phone talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Thursday, Fidan touched on the recent developments, saying it is necessary to maintain and strengthen brotherly relations between the countries of the region. Earlier in the day, Fidan advised against further escalation and urged restoration of calm after Iran and Pakistan launched airstrikes against "terrorists" in each other's territory. Turkey will continue to do whatever is necessary to reduce the tension, he said after holding talks with Amir-Abdollahian and Pakistani Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani. "Both sides expressed that they do not desire the escalation of tension and that they have it under control," Fidan said in a news conference in the Jordanian capital. "The security of the countries of the region is interconnected and the joint and decisive fight against terrorist groups is the common responsibility of all the countries of the region," Amir-Abdollahian said, according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. He also emphasized the unchanging approach of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to expand relations with neighboring countries with the aim of securing the interests of the people of the region, it added. Amir-Abdollahian also reiterated the determination of the Iranian government to advance relations with Turkey. He hoped that President Raisi's visit to Ankara in the near future would play an effective role in increasing relations, especially in the economic and commercial area, and improving regional security.



Oil Minister, Turkmen President Discuss Further Cooperation

TEHRAN (Shana) - Oil Minister Javad Owji and Turkmenistan's President Serdar Berdimuhamedov and high-ranking officials held talks on the expansion of bilateral cooperation in Ashgabat on Thursday. Heading a delegation during his two-day visit, Owji and the top Turkmen officials exchanged views on gas trade and exports of oil products, technical-engineering services, and equipment. Majid Chegeni, the deputy oil minister of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) managing director, Ahmad Asadzadeh, Iran's deputy oil minister for international affairs and trade, and Payam Kehtari, the adviser to the minister and the head of the Ministerial Office, are accompanying the oil minister. Carrying a message from Iran's President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi to his Turkmen counterpart Berdimuhamedov, Owji also talked to Turkmenistan's

Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and Deputy Prime Minister for Oil and Gas Batyr Amanov. On December 19, 2023, Raisi, in his phone talks with Berdimuhamedov, expressed his satisfaction with the considerable growth of bilateral relations, particularly the increase in the two nations' trade volume, in recent years. The Iranian president also stressed the need for speeding up the implementation of the energy, transport, and transit agreements reached between the two countries during Iran-Turkmenistan Joint Economic Cooperation Commission meeting. Berdimuhamedov, for his part, expressed his gratitude to Iran for its active participation in the joint commission and side exhibitions, saying Turkmenistan is ready to broaden cooperation with Iran and put bilateral energy, transport, transit, and cultural agreements into action.

Five Big Petrochemical Projects to Come on Stream Within Two Months

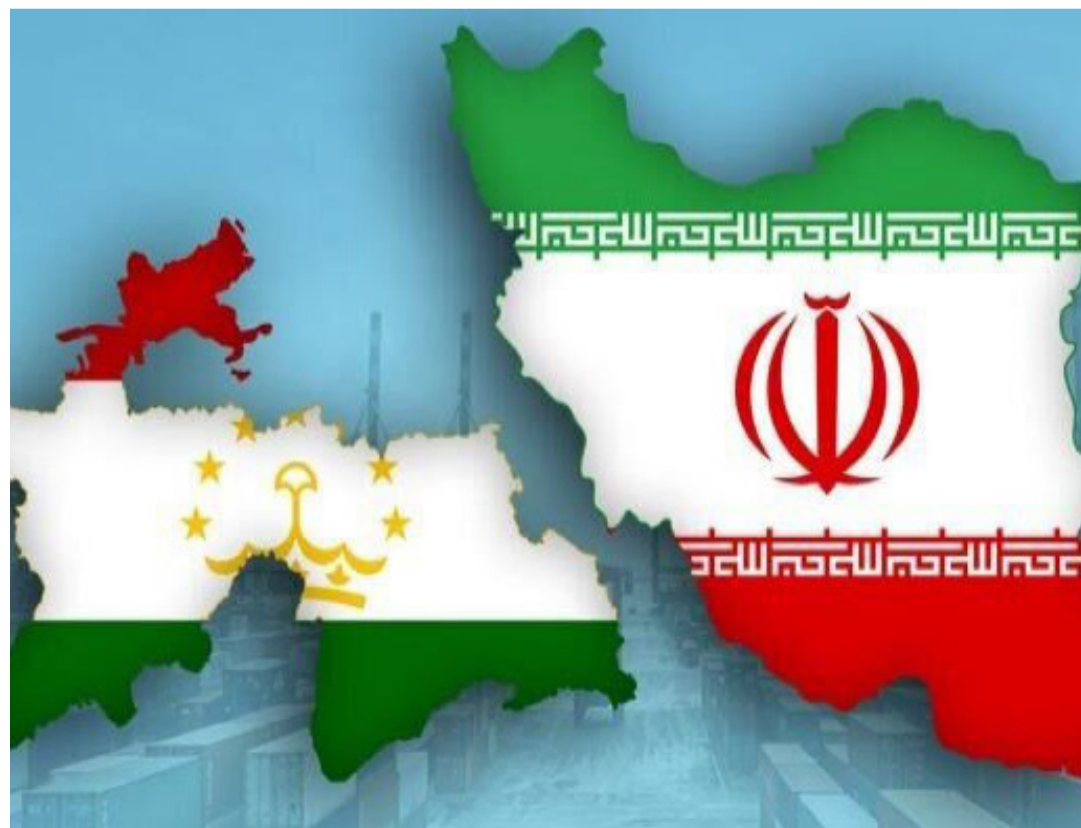


TEHRAN (Shana) - Iran's Oil Minister Javad Owji said five big petrochemical projects will become operational by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 19, 2024). The minister added, "In addition to the five projects, several projects suspended since 2004 and 2006 were decided and their implementation resumed." The project of Hamedan Ibn Sina Petrochemical Company, which was approved during a visit of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to the western province in 2004, had been left undecided, explained Owji, saying the project is now in progress as the incumbent government allocated \$1 billion to it. In spite of the public investment made by 98,000 people, Zanzan Petrochemical Company had been among the pending projects since 2006, the top official recalled and added the project operations restarted and its progress has reached 53 percent from 18 percent. Golestan, Torbat Heidarieh, and Boroujen petrochemical projects were among underway projects the minister named. Owji said the three projects will help prevent the sale of raw materials, generate revenues in foreign currency, and create job opportunities.

Tehran Enjoys Cooperation Among Nations

TEHRAN (IP) - The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, participated and gave a speech at the meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Friendship and Cooperation Center on the topic of "Strengthening friendship and cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization family by expanding the dialogue of cultures." During the meeting, which was attended by Zulfia Dolatzadeh, the Minister of Culture and other relevant officials of Tajikistan, as well as the ambassadors of the member countries of this organization, the Ambassador of Iran said that the Islamic Republic of Iran, has thousands of years of civilization. Haghigian added: Iran has rich traditions, literature, poetry and art that reflect the beauty and depth of culture. Iran emphasizes educational and academic exchanges and the creation of scholarships and joint research programs in

the Shanghai Organization to encourage students and researchers and is ready to cooperate in these fields. The Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran added: Considering that economic cooperation is another way to exchange cultures, Iran, with its dynamic economy and strategic position, is eager to participate in economic projects within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Iranian diplomat added: Iran, with its rich heritage and diversity of ethnicities and cultures, can help to expand friendship and harmony in this organization. He stated: By strengthening cultural exchange, promoting linguistic diversity, supporting artistic endeavors, and investing in education and economic cooperation, we can build a future where the people of the region grow together in a peaceful life and mutual understanding.



FM Calls for Joint Anti-Terror Efforts With Pakistan

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's foreign minister held a phone conversation on Friday with his Pakistani counterpart, calling for closer cooperation in various fields including fighting terrorism. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Iran attaches importance to brotherly relations with Pakistan in line with its neighborhood-first policy. "It is appropriate to seriously follow security and military cooperation that was agreed upon and stressed by the two countries' authorities in the past," he said. Stressing Tehran's respect for Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Amir-Abdollahian added, "Cooperation of the two countries to neutralize and destroy terrorist camps in Pakistan is essential." The top Iranian diplomat said the need for unity among Muslim countries is "felt more than ever" amid the genocidal Israeli onslaught on Gaza. Amir-Abdollahian touched on the recent Iranian operation against the Jaysh al-Adl terrorist group in Pakistan, saying the operation was quickly carried out to neutralize an imminent terrorist threat. He said Iran's intelligence showed at the time that over fifty terrorists were preparing for anti-Iran terror attacks in Pakistan. "Iran's security forces in their operational bases confront any terrorist operation at the very beginning and do not allow terrorists to take operational action."

Iran Steel Export Tops 9m Tons in 9-Month Period



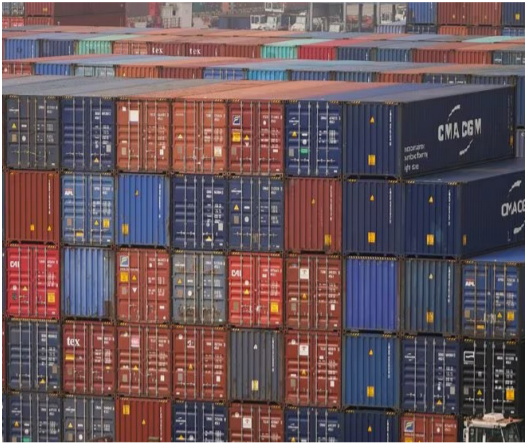
TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) said the volume of steel exports has exceeded nine million tons in the first nine months of the current Iranian year, registering a new record in this sector. ISPA announced in its latest report that Iran's export of semi-finished steel products from March 21 to December 22, 2023, has registered a 7.6 percent hike compared to the same period last year. In this period, the export of steel products also showed a 4% growth compared to the last year's corresponding period. Meanwhile, the export of iron ore concentrates, including iron ore pellets and sponge iron, have increased by 92.7 and 97 percent, respectively, IRNA reported. The report added that over 1.21 million tons of sponge iron and more than 7.24 million tons of iron ore pellets have been exported from Iran in the 9-month period. The ISPA put the total volume of steel exports, including semi-finished and steel products, from March 21 to December 22, 2023, at 8.98 million tons.

NATO to Hold Biggest Drills Since Cold War With 90,000 Troops

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - NATO is launching its largest exercise since the Cold War, rehearsing how U.S. troops could reinforce European allies in countries bordering Russia and on the alliance's eastern flank if a conflict were to flare up with a "near-peer" adversary. Some 90,000 troops are due to join the Steadfast Defender 2024 drills that will run through May, the alliance's top commander Chris Cavoli said on Thursday. More than 50 ships from aircraft carriers to destroyers will take part, as well as more than 80 fighter jets, helicopters and drones and at least 1,100 combat vehicles including 133 tanks and 533 infantry fighting vehicles, NATO said. Cavoli said the drills would rehearse NATO's execution of its regional plans, the first defense plans the alliance has drawn up in decades, detailing how it would respond to a Russian attack.



Red Sea Shipping Attacks Pressure China's Exporters



SHANGHAI (Dispatches) - For Chinese businessman Han Changming, disruptions to Red Sea freight are threatening the survival of his trading company in the eastern province of Fujian. Han, who exports Chinese-made cars to Africa and imports off-road vehicles from Europe, told Reuters the cost of shipping a container to Europe had surged to roughly \$7,000 from \$3,000 in December, when Yemen's Houthi movement escalated attacks on shipping. "The disruptions have wiped out our already thin profits," said Han, adding that higher shipping-insurance premiums are also taking a toll on Fuzhou Han Changming International Trade Co Ltd, the company he founded in 2016. The rupture of one of the world's busiest shipping routes has exposed the vulnerability of China's export-reliant economy to supply snarls and external demand shocks. In a speech at the World Economic Forum in Davos on Tuesday, Premier Li Qiang emphasised the need to keep global supply chains "stable and smooth", without referring specifically to the Red Sea. Some companies, such as U.S.-based BDI Furniture, have said they are relying more on factories in places such as Turkey and Vietnam to mitigate the impact of the disruptions, adding to recent moves by Western countries to reduce dependence on China amid geopolitical tensions. At stake for China now is the danger that other firms will follow suit and reassess their de-risking strategy, opting potentially to shift production closer to home, an approach known as "near-shoring". "If it's permanent, and it could be permanent, then the whole mechanism will be re-adjusted," said Marco Castelli, founder of IC Trade, which exports Chinese-made mechanical components to Europe. "Some (companies) may also consider moving more production to India, which is one week closer to Europe. Companies need to re-evaluate everything." Further Red Sea disruptions would pile pressure on a struggling Chinese economy already contending with a property crisis, weak consumer demand, a shrinking population and sluggish global growth. With Europe and Africa trade accounting for 40% of Han's overall business, he said he had been pleading with suppliers and customers to shoulder some of the additional costs to keep his company afloat. Shipping times for some orders were delayed by up to several weeks, he said.

Israel Bombs Gaza as Disagreements With U.S. Simmer

GAZA STRIP (Dispatches) - Israel bombarded southern Gaza on Friday after it publicly sparred with its main ally the United States over the possibility of a Palestinian state, the creation of which Washington sees as the only pathway to a lasting peace. Witnesses reported gunfire and air strikes early on Friday in Khan Yunis, the main city in the south of the Gaza Strip, where Israel says many members and leaders of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas are hiding. The Palestinian Red Crescent reported "intense" artillery fire near the Al-Amal hospital, while Gaza's Hamas-run health ministry said 77 people were killed and dozens injured overnight. The Israeli military said its Givati Brigade was fighting as far south as its troops had reached so far in the campaign. "The soldiers eliminated dozens of terrorists in close-quarters combat and with the assistance of tank fire and air support," it said. The United Nations says the war, which began with the unprecedented Hamas attacks on Israel on October 7, has displaced roughly 85 percent of Gaza's 2.4 million people. Many are crowded into shelters where they struggle to get food, water, fuel and medical care. UN agencies say improved aid access is needed urgently as famine and disease loom. The World Health Organization (WHO) said overnight it had counted 24 cases of hepatitis A and "thousands" of cases of jaundice likely linked to the spread of the viral liver infection. A woman gives a baby a bath inside a tent at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. The inhumane living conditions -- almost no drinking water, clean toilets or ability to keep the surroundings clean -- will allow hepatitis A to spread further, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X, formerly Twitter, describing the health crisis as "explosive". "We will not be

satisfied with anything less than total victory," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a news conference on Thursday, warning that "victory will take many months". Total victory meant "the elimination of terrorist leaders, the destruction of Hamas's operational and military capabilities, the return of our hostages to their homes", as well as the demilitarisation of Gaza, he said. Washington supports Israel's campaign in Gaza, but despite otherwise close ties, the two allies publicly aired differences again this week over the way forward. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken used the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to renew his call for a "pathway to a Palestinian state". But Netanyahu again flatly rejected the suggestion on Thursday. "Israel must have security control over the entire territory west of the Jordan River," he said. "This is a necessary condition, which contradicts the idea of (Palestinian) sovereignty." Netanyahu maintained that "a prime minister in Israel should be able to say no, even to our best friends". Washington believes that the creation and recognition of a viable Palestinian state is necessary to achieve security for Israel. "We obviously see things differently," National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said when asked about Netanyahu's comments. Responding to Netanyahu's remarks, the official spokesperson for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, said that without an independent Palestinian state "there will be no security and stability in the region". "The entire region is on the verge of a volcanic eruption due to the aggressive policies pursued by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people and their legitimate rights," Nabil Abu Rudeineh said, according to the official Wafa news agency.

North Korea Claims It Tested Underwater Nuclear Weapon System



SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea said Friday that it had tested an "underwater nuclear weapon system" in response to joint naval exercises by Washington, Seoul and Tokyo that involved a US nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. The drills were "seriously threatening the security" of the North, so in response, Pyongyang "conducted an important test of its underwater nuclear weapon system 'Haeil-5-23' under development in the East Sea of Korea," according to a statement from the defence ministry carried by state news agency KCNA. Early last year, Pyongyang said it had carried out multiple tests of a purported underwater nuclear attack drone -- a different version of the Haeil, which means tsunami in Korean -- claiming it could unleash a "radioactive tsunami". Analysts have questioned whether Pyongyang has such a weapon. Earlier this week, South Korea, the United States and Japan carried out joint naval drills in waters off southern Jeju Island, which they said were in response to North Korea's Sunday launch of a hypersonic missile. The drills involved nine warships from the three countries, including the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson. Pyongyang said Friday the drills "constituted a cause of further destabilising the regional situation, and they are an act of seriously threatening the security" of the North, the defence ministry spokesman said, according to KCNA. North Korea's own test -- the exact date of which was not given -- ensured "our army's underwater nuke-based countering posture is being further rounded off and its various maritime and underwater responsive actions will continue to deter the hostile military maneuvers of the navies of the US and its allies," the spokesman said. Recent months have seen a sharp deterioration in

long-tense ties between the two Koreas, with both sides jettisoning key tension-reducing agreements, ramping up frontier security, and conducting live-fire drills along the border. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last week declared the South his country's "principal enemy", jettisoned agencies dedicated to reunification and outreach and threatened war over "even 0.001 mm" of territorial infringement. The new announcement on the underwater test "is a clear sign of Haeil drones deployment to its navy fleets for use", said Hong Min, a senior analyst at the Korea Institute for National Unification in Seoul. "The North's statement illustrates Pyongyang's stance that it will respond in proportion to military exercise by the South, Japan and the US," he said, adding that the North didn't appear to be trying "to cross the line so as to provoke an armed conflict." Ahn Chan-il, a defector-turned-researcher who runs the World Institute for North Korea Studies, told AFP that it was "difficult to determine the exact capabilities" of North Korea's purported underwater nuclear weapons systems. "Considering North Korea's defense science level and the fact that the weapon is still in a developing stage, it is not yet at a stage to pose a significant threat," he said. At Pyongyang's year-end policy meetings, Kim threatened a nuclear attack on the South and called for a build-up of his country's military arsenal ahead of armed conflict he warned could "break out any time". On Sunday, the North launched a solid-fuel hypersonic missile, just days after Pyongyang staged live-fire exercises near the country's tense maritime border with South Korea, which prompted counter-exercises and evacuation orders for some border islands belonging to the South.

Somalia Rejects Mediation Efforts With Ethiopia Over Port Deal



NAIROBI (Dispatches) - Somalia rejected any discussions with Ethiopia about Addis Ababa's agreement to lease a port in the breakaway region of Somaliland, as regional heads of state gathered on Thursday to try to defuse a growing diplomatic crisis. Under a memorandum of understanding signed on Jan. 1, Ethiopia would consider recognizing Somaliland's independence in return for gaining access to the Red Sea, partly through the port lease. Somaliland declared independence from Somalia in 1991 but has not won recognition from any country and the port lease deal, which would be a boon to landlocked Ethiopia, has enraged Somalia. An escalating war of words, including threats by Somalia to go to war to prevent the deal from going through, led the African Union to call on Wednesday for restraint and "meaningful dialogue". "There is no space for mediation unless Ethiopia retracts its illegal MOU and reaffirms the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Somalia," Somalia's ministry of foreign affairs said in a statement on Thursday. Under the deal, which still has to be finalized, Ethiopia would lease 20 km (12 miles) of coastland around the port of Berbera, on the Gulf of Aden, for 50 years for military and commercial purposes. Ethiopia's current main port for maritime exports is in the neighbouring country of Djibouti. Heads of state from a regional group, the eight-member Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), met in Entebbe, Uganda, on Thursday to seek a peaceful solution. Those in attendance included the presidents of Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan as well as the leader of the Sudanese paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The U.S. special envoy for the Horn of Africa, Mike Hammer, who attended as an observer along with the European Union, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, said the MOU threatened to further undermine regional security and had been weaponized by Al Shabaab militants.



Ukraine Buys Six French Caesar Howitzers, France to

PARIS (Dispatches) - Ukraine has bought six Caesar howitzers, France's defence minister said on Thursday, adding that Paris would send 50 precision-guided missiles a month to Kyiv to aid its fight against Russia's invasion. Speaking to France Inter radio, Sebastien Lecornu said Caesar manufacturer Nexter had managed to halve the production time of the howitzer to 15 months meaning that some 78 units would be available this year. In Ukraine's first purchase of French-made weapons since the start of the war, Lecornu said Kyiv had bought six for between 3 million and 4 million euros (\$3.3-\$4.4 million) each. Ukraine currently has 49 Caesar self-propelled howitzers gifted by France and Denmark. Lecornu later told reporters that France would also spend 50 million euros from a fund it had created for Ukraine to buy a further 12 Caesar canons which it would then send to Kyiv. He said he hoped allies would buy 60 Caesars for around 285 million euros. "We want to share the bill and enable European countries to share the financial burden," Lecornu said. Ukraine's defence minister had been due in Paris on Thursday for a conference on improving artillery supplies to Kyiv, but the visit was cancelled at the last minute. "Shortage of ammunition, shell hunger, is a very real and pressing problem that our Armed Forces are facing at present. We need to find a way to address this together," Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov told the gathering by video conference. Separately, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Thursday he had thanked French President Emmanuel Macron in a phone call for Paris committing to the production of dozens of Caesar howitzers and ammunition this year.

Gangs in Haiti Attack Port au Prince Neighborhood, Torching Homes

PORT AU PRINCE (Dispatches) - Gang members have raided a key community in Haiti's capital that is home to numerous police officers and has been under siege for four days in an ongoing attack, with residents fearful of the violence spreading throughout Port-au-Prince. The pop of automatic weapons echoed throughout Solino on Thursday as thick columns of black smoke rose above the once peaceful neighbourhood where frantic residents kept calling radio stations asking for help. "If police don't come, we are dying today!" said one unidentified caller. Lita Saintil, a 52-year-old street vendor, told The Associated Press that she fled Solino on Thursday with her teenage nephew after being trapped in her house for hours by incessant gunfire. The homes around hers were torched by gangs, and she recalled seeing at least six bodies as she fled. "It's very scary now," she said. "I don't know where I'm going." Another resident, Nenel Volme, told the AP that he was chatting with a friend near his house on Sunday when gunfire erupted and a bullet struck a bone in his right hand. "I don't have the means to go to the hospital," he said as he lifted his injured hand, which was wrapped in gauze. It wasn't immediately clear who organized and was participating in the attack on Solino. The community, which is home to thousands of people, was once infested by gangs before a UN peacekeeping mission drove them out in the mid-2000s. The attack could mark a turning point for gangs, which are now estimated to control up to 80% of Port-au-Prince and have been suspected of killing nearly 4,000 people and kidnapping another 3,000 last

year, overwhelming police in the country of nearly 12 million people. If Solino falls, gangs would have easy access to neighbourhoods such as Canape Vert that have so far remained peaceful and largely safe. "Life in Port-au-Prince has become extremely crazy," Saintil said. "I never thought Port-au-Prince would turn out the way it is now." On Thursday evening, Haiti's National Police released a statement saying officers were deployed to Solino "with the aim of tracking down and arresting armed individuals seeking to sow panic among the civilian population." Police also released a nearly three-minute video showing in part officers on a rooftop in Solino exchanging fire with unidentified gunmen who did not appear on screen. Nearby communities spooked by the ongoing violence in Solino began erecting barricades on Thursday using rocks, tires and even banana trees to prevent gangs from entering. One man near a barricade in Canape Vert said that he had been following the protests organised earlier this week by supporters of former rebel leader Guy Philippe, who has pledged a revolution to drive out gangs. "It's more misery," the man, who declined to identify himself, said of Haiti's ongoing crisis. "We are suffering. The country is gangsterized." Amid concerns that the violence in Solino could spill over into other neighborhoods, parents rushed to schools across Port-au-Prince to pick up their children. Haiti is awaiting the deployment of a foreign armed force led by Kenya to help quell gang violence that was approved by the UN Security Council in October.





Tsitsipas Pleased With Passion in Australian Open Center

MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Stefanos Tsitsipas said he was delighted with the passion and determination he showed Friday to sweep into the Australian Open fourth round in straight sets. The Greek seventh seed dropped the first set in both of his opening two matches but managed to avoid the same fate against France's Luca Van Assche on Rod Laver Arena, cruising home 6-3, 6-0, 6-4. It lined him up with a tough clash next with American 12th seed Taylor Fritz, who ground past Hungary's Fabian Marozsan 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2. "I had a little bit more experience under my belt today and I am delighted with the win. It means a lot to me," said Tsitsipas, who made the final last year, losing to Novak Djokovic. "I felt like I had a poor start in both (previous) matches and felt like I wanted something different this time. It's not easy always having to fight back and show your best tennis in the second set. I wanted to go out here today and show that passion and determination from the very beginning and I'm happy that things worked out. I was constantly trying to push myself and exceed my own expectations. I'm happy things worked out and it went smoothly after the first set." Meanwhile a rejuvenated Amanda Anisimova ended former world number two Paula Badosa's injury comeback Friday at the Australian Open, admitting she could not believe how well she was playing after a long break. The former teen prodigy, returning from eight months on the sidelines due to burnout and mental health issues, ground past the Spaniard 7-5, 6-4 to sweep into a fourth-round clash with defending champion Aryna Sabalenka. "It's quite unbelievable after taking some time off, but I'm really feeling good," said the 22-year-old, who reached the semi-finals at Roland Garros and won her first WTA title aged 17, sparking sky-high expectations. "The most important thing is I'm enjoying my time out here. Taking a step away and just really being at home, just

resetting myself, it just gave me a different perspective going into these tournaments and I'm really trying to be present when I am here and enjoy every second." When Anisimova stepped away from the sport, she wrote on Instagram that it had become "unbearable being at tennis tournaments." "At this point, my priority is my mental wellbeing and taking a break for some time. I've worked as hard as I could to push through it," she said. Now, back and refreshed, she rallied from 4-1 down in the first set before breaking Badosa in the seventh game of the second set to power home. "The first set took a lot out of me. It was a very tough tie, Paula is a tough competitor and I had to really dig deep there," she said. Meanwhile defending champion Aryna Sabalenka described Friday's 6-0, 6-0 demolition of Lesia Tsurenko at the Australian Open as "perfection", but said she could get even better in a chilling warning to her rivals. The Belarusian world number two has dropped just six games in her three matches at the tournament so far. The 25-year-old, who won her maiden Grand Slam crown in Melbourne last year, is seeking to become the first woman to retain the title since compatriot Victoria Azarenka completed the feat in 2013. Sabalenka, wearing vivid red, bristled with intent from the start against the Ukrainian 28th seed on Rod Laver Arena, cantering home in just 52 minutes. "I think today's performance was really, yeah, was perfection," she said. "I'm happy with the level I played today." But she added: "There is always something to improve, you know. That's why you just can't be happy with the level you are at right now so you always have to keep moving, keep improving." The draw is opening up for Sabalenka, with third seed Elena Rybakina, fifth seed Jessica Pegula and sixth seed Ons Jabeur already ousted, but she cautioned against complacency.

Egypt Draw With Ghana But Lose Salah to Injury



ABIDJAN (Dispatches) - Egypt face an anxious wait on the extent of Mohamed Salah's injury sustained in a lively 2-2 draw with Ghana at the Africa Cup of Nations, while Nigeria defeated hosts Ivory Coast 1-0. Mohammed Kudus struck twice for Ghana on his tournament debut but record seven-time champions Egypt rescued a point with goals from Omar Marmoush and Mostafa Mohamed after Salah went off late in the first half in Abidjan. "We don't know yet what is the problem (with Salah). I hope not a big problem. It is too early to say something," said Egypt boss Rui Vitoria. After twice falling behind at the Felix Houphouet Boigny Stadium, Egypt showed great resilience without their superstar forward and took advantage of two Ghana mistakes to earn another point following an opening 2-2 draw with Mozambique in Group B. The Black Stars, who have now won just one of their past 11 AFCON games, are in danger of a second consecutive group-stage exit despite the return of Kudus from injury after a surprise 2-1 loss to Cape Verde in their first outing. "Of course it's very frustrating because I felt we deserved to win the game," said Ghana coach Chris Hughton. "The dressing room is a very disappointed dressing room at the moment because this was a very good opportunity for us to get three points. Egypt are only one point better off and with still work to do in their final game, but the immediate concern for the Pharaohs will be the health of Liverpool striker Salah. In Group A, Nigeria captain William Troost-Ekong converted a penalty 10 minutes into the second half to secure his team victory over Ivory Coast after a foul on Victor Osimhen was picked up following a VAR check. The Super Eagles then held on in front of a frenzied crowd at the Ehimpe Olympic Stadium in Abidjan to claim their first win after beginning their AFCON bid with a 1-1 draw against Equatorial Guinea. "Our team was better and for that we won, but Ivory Coast is a good team. They lost the match because that can happen," said Nigeria coach Jose Peseiro. "Today I said to my players it is normal that you score at least one goal, so if you don't suffer a goal, you win."

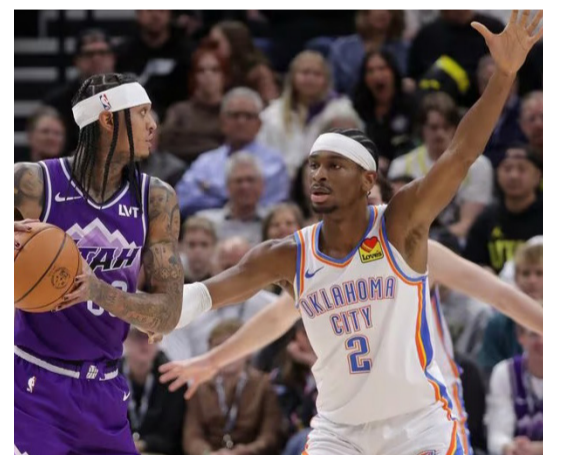
Atletico Defeat Real Madrid, Barca Scrape Past Third-Tier Rivals

MADRID (Dispatches) - Antoine Griezmann and Rodrigo Riquelme's extra-time strikes earned Atletico Madrid a 4-2 win over rivals Real Madrid and passage to the Copa del Rey quarter-finals on Thursday. Earlier Barcelona secured an unconvincing 3-1 win at third-tier Unionistas de Salamanca to scrape through their last 16. Atletico edged an entertaining battle at the Rojiblancos' Metropolitan stadium, the second of three Madrid derbies in under a month, to inflict Los Blancos' second defeat of the season in all competitions. Madrid twice pegged back Atletico to take the game to extra-time, with Jan Oblak's own goal cancelling out Samuel Lino's opener, and Joselu netting late on after Morata had put the hosts in front again. In extra-time Griezmann broke down the right and finished with aplomb and Riquelme struck at the death to settle the game and avenge Atletico's 5-3 defeat by Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup semi-final last week. Defeat snapped Madrid's 21-match unbeaten run. "I don't think (Atletico have the measure of us), because we beat them a few days ago," Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti told reporters. "We played a complete game, even, hard-fought, against a strong rival." Once again, the match flowed end-to-end. Jude Bellingham hit the crossbar for Madrid before Atletico took the lead when Lino finished from close range. However the Spanish Super Cup winners levelled before the break when Luka Modric's crossed free-kick drew Oblak out of his goal. The Slovenian, leaping to reach the ball but unable to grab it, ended up getting the final touch as it span into his own net. Real Madrid winger Vinicius Junior celebrated the equaliser more fiercely than anyone, with no love lost between the Brazilian and Atletico's supporters. The home fans were jubilant early in the second half when Morata sent Atletico back ahead, after Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin failed to gather the ball, and it fell invitingly into the striker's path. Real Madrid hit the woodwork a second time through Rodrigo before Joselu equalised with 10 minutes to go. After Vinicius slipped in Bellingham, the England international cleverly sliced the ball across for the target man to nod home and send the match to extra-time. Griezmann cut through a tense first additional period with a brilliant solo run down the right wing, escaping Vinicius and finishing lethally across Lunin into the top corner to send Atletico ahead. Substitute Dani Ceballos levelled for Madrid in the 111th minute but the goal was ruled out for offside, with Riquelme tucking home to settle the match. "We had the patience to wait for our moment, Griezmann scored

maybe his best goal and (Riquelme) finished well on the counter," said Atletico coach Diego Simeone. Victory meant a lot to Atletico, off the pace in La Liga and hurt by the prior Madrid defeat, and they celebrated wildly with their supporters. "The games lately have been really nice for fans, at high speed, decided in extra-time and today it was our turn to win it," Atletico skipper Koke told TVE.



Thunder Stop Jazz Winning Streak at Six



NEW YORK 9 (Dispatches) - Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points and the visiting Oklahoma City Thunder snapped the Utah Jazz's six-game winning streak with a 134-129 win in Salt Lake City. Jalen Williams hit 11 of 14 shots for 27 points and added eight assists, and Josh Giddey contributed 20 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as the Thunder bounced back after two losses in Los Angeles. Collin Sexton boosted Utah with 31 points and seven assists and Lauri Markkanen totaled 26 points and 10 rebounds, but Utah couldn't complete a comeback after falling behind big early. John Collins chipped in 21 points. This was only the Jazz's second loss in 11 games. Cason Wallace hit a career-high four 3-pointers to score 16 and Chet Holmgren had 15 points, five rebounds, five assists and four blocks for the Thunder. Oklahoma City, which never trailed, shot a blistering 55.8 percent overall -- 43.8 percent (14-for-32) from 3-point range -- while also dishing out 36 assists. The Jazz fell behind by 19 points in the first quarter and trailed by a dozen midway through the fourth quarter. Sexton and Markkanen sparked a late surge to make it a four-point game in the final two minutes. Gilgeous-Alexander then hit a long jumper and Wallace made a key 3 with 52 seconds left. Jordan Clarkson, who scored 18 points, hit a 3 to make it a two-possession game, but the Thunder proceeded to secure the road win. Utah had chances to make it a one-possession game in the final 20 seconds but couldn't convert. The Thunder used a 9-0 run to snag a 19-9 lead. That momentum continued as OKC went up by 19 before settling on a 39-27 edge after one quarter. Holmgren put Oklahoma City ahead 76-67 with a last-second 3-pointer to end the first half. Utah chipped away at the Thunder's lead in the third quarter, eventually pulling even at 91-91 when Walker Kessler capped a 7-0 spurt that began with a Sexton 3-pointer. Isaiah Joe ended Oklahoma City's cold snap with a 3. The Thunder rushed back ahead in the fourth quarter, taking a 113-102 lead after Williams hit a 3-pointer. During that decisive stretch, the Thunder scored 15 points in just over three minutes.

Palestine Target Asian Cup History After UAE Draw

DOHA (Dispatches) - Makram Daboub told his Palestine team to make "history" by reaching the Asian Cup knockout stage for the first time following a 1-1 draw with 10-man United Arab Emirates on Thursday. A thrilling game in Qatar took place against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war in the Palestinian territory of Gaza. Some of the Palestinian players have lost loved ones or have family trapped in Gaza, and the team have been forced to train and play matches overseas. A brief moment's silence was held before kick-off. Most of the crowd of over 40,000 in Doha roared their support for Palestine, but the UAE opened the scoring midway through the first half through Sultan Adil's header. The game completely changed when Palestine were awarded a penalty in the 37th minute and UAE defender Khalifa Al-Hammadi was sent off. Tamer Seyam saw his spot-kick saved by Khalid Eisa but Palestine deservedly equalised five minutes into the second half when UAE defender Bader Nasser headed into his own goal. Palestine could not go on to claim their first ever win at the Asian Cup, with Eisa denying them with a series of crucial saves. But Daboub is confident that they can progress to the last 16 when they play minnows Hong Kong in their final group match on Tuesday. "The match against Hong Kong will be historic, not only for the players and fans but for all the Palestinian people," said the coach, whose team began their campaign with a 4-1 loss to Iran. "Our message is not only a sporting message, it will mean a lot for the people given what is happening there. We hope that we can make history." Daboub said his team were unlucky not to win the game after creating a string of second-half chances. But they came up against an inspired performance by Eisa, whose saves also kept the UAE on course for a place in the last 16. "The reason why I played well is my calmness, my psychology and my connection with my teammates," said the goalkeeper. "We have an amazing atmosphere in the team." UAE coach Paulo Bento was sent off late in the game after collecting two yellow cards. His team beat Hong Kong 3-1 in their opening match and play their final group game against Iran. Palestine made a positive start amid a brief rain shower, but UAE

burst their bubble with the opening goal in the 23rd minute. Ali Saleh swung in a cross from the right and Adil headed it past Palestine goalkeeper Rami Hamada. The goal seemed to suck the energy out of Palestine but they

regrouped and won a penalty after a VAR check. Hammadi was adjudged to have dragged down Oday Dabbagh in the box, and the replay also brought a red card for the UAE defender.

