

President Ebrahim Raisi on Monday Met and Held Talks With the Head of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq Nechirvan Barzani Who Arrived in Tehran on Sunday for Talks With Senior Iranian Officials

IRAN NEWS

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi Arrived in Tehran on Monday Morning to Hold Consultations With Iranian Officials and to Participate in an International Nuclear Conference in Isfahan

2 DOMESTIC

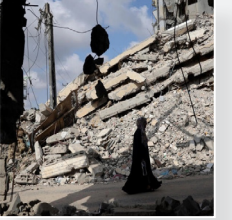


Isfahan Hosting Iran Int'l Nuclear Conference

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Israel Attacks Rafah After Hamas Claims Responsibility for Deadly Rocket Attack



> SEE PAGE 3

World Witnessing Conflict Between Current of Honor, Evil



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Ebrahim Raisi has characterized the growing student protests against the Israeli regime in the United States and Europe as a clash between two currents of "honor" and "evil" in the West. Addressing a cabinet session on Sunday, Raisi expressed deep regret over the crackdown on student protests at campuses across the United States and some Western countries in support of the Palestinian people. He added that the West has concealed its "authoritarian and anti-human rights" face behind deceptive slogans and claimed to defend such values. However, he emphasized, that Israel's war on Gaza during the last seven months lifted the veil on the West's facade. Raisi said the U.S. and West failed to respect university students, professors, scientific and research centers as well as freedom of expression and the press and violated human rights. Such incidents exposed the true nature of the Western civilization to the world and proved the correctness of Iran's position on the West's false claims about defense for human rights and freedom, he noted. The Iranian president expressed confidence that the wise presence and resistance of the American and Western students will have effective deterrence in the face of Israel's crimes and the U.S. support. He reiterated that Iran pursues a supportive approach to the scientific and cultural currents' moves against the Israeli regime. Raisi hoped that the message of solidarity and support of the Iranian students and professors would cause more motivation among the U.S. and Western students to protect the rights of the oppressed Palestinian people. The American students began their protests on April 18, raging against the war and Washington's generous support for the brutal military onslaught that has so far claimed the lives of at least 34,683 Palestinians, mostly women and children. Cracking down on the demonstrations, the U.S. police have so far arrested about 2,400 people during pro-Palestinian protests at 47 college campuses across the country. Many reputable Iranian universities have offered to provide favorable educational circumstances to students who have been expelled from U.S. colleges for protesting over the ongoing U.S.-backed Israeli genocide against the Gaza Strip.



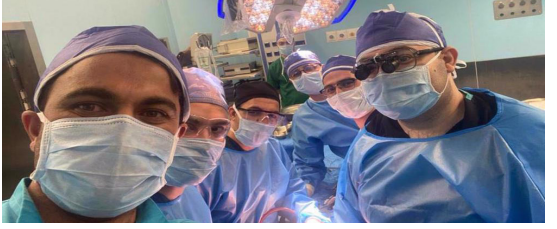
This Year's Hajj "Disavowal of Israel, Supporters"

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the Israeli regime's savage attacks in the Gaza Strip and the resistance of the people of Palestine are clear signs showing the way forward. The Leader made the remarks in a Monday meeting with Iranian officials in charge of Hajj pilgrimage affairs and people who will travel to Saudi Arabia's holy cities of Mecca and Medina to perform the annual rituals. What is happening in Gaza today will remain in history, Ayatollah Khamenei said in a meeting with officials in charge of Hajj pilgrimage affairs on Monday. The brutal attacks of Zionists, the oppression, at the same time the resistance of the people of Gaza, each is a huge sign in history, he said. What is happening in Gaza is an indicator that will show the way forward, he noted. The Leader highlighted: "What is happening today in Gaza and Palestine, these barbaric attacks by Zionist elements, on the one hand, and the oppression and at the same time the resistance of the Muslim people of Gaza, on the other hand, each is a great sign and an indicator that remains in history. These are important indicators that will show the path to the future of humanity." Would the Zionist regime have the strength and courage to do these barbaric behaviors if it

were not for the U.S.'s help?, the Leader said, adding that it is not possible to deal kindly with the accomplice of murder and the supporter of murder. Ayatollah Khamenei said the strange and huge developments that are underway in Gaza, which have revealed the true face of the "vampire" created from within the Western civilization, will be recorded for posterity. "These are not issues of interest for today and these days, but rather, they will remain in history," he said. He also said that Iran has not waited and will never wait for others, but the firm support of Muslim countries and nations will stop the continuation of the lamentable situation of the Palestinian people. Ayatollah Khamenei said that the Hajj rituals this year should be held beyond annual ceremonies in the light of the verses of the Holy Qur'an and the memory of the blessed Prophet Ibrahim (AS). This year's Hajj rituals should be a disavowal of the Zionist criminal enemy of Muslims and its supporters, the Leader stated. He said: "These events that are happening in Gaza and this strange, huge event, namely this revealing of a blood-thirsty nature of a set of nations that arose from Western civilization, should be paid attention to not just today or these days but these will remain in history."

Iranians Carry Out First Organ Transplantation Surgery From Brain Dead Patient



TEHRAN (PressTV) - In a groundbreaking development, Iranian doctors have successfully transplanted the organs of a patient who died from cardiac arrest caused by fatal pulmonary embolism to three recipients for the first time in the world. Doctors at the Organ Procurement Unit of Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS) have successfully transplanted the organs of the dead donor to three recipients in Tehran's Firouzgar Hospital. Racing against time, a team of over 20 healthcare professionals managed to perform the procedure. Dr. Yahya Zarghami, an abdominal organ transplant surgeon, explained that the main challenges were time and the health of the organs. "In this kind of surgery, we should take much more consideration to the health of the organ," he said. The Donation after Brainstem Death (DBD) is quite common but the same procedure after a cardiac death, which is called DCD, is complicated and challenging and in some cases simply out of the question. Dr. Sam Zeraatian-Nejad Davani, head of the IUMS Organ Procurement Unit, explained how this new technique can affect the number of donors. Zeraatian-Nejad and his team specialize in DCD operations but this time they made an impossible possible when they carried out the operation. He said the team started to work on this project some four years ago. "After the donation of 14 patients, in the final patient, we were successful to proceed with impossible and to do that impossible thing and donate organs of a patient with pulmonary embolism and cardiac arrest" for more than 60 minutes, Zeraatian-Nejad added. Thanks to his novel techniques performed for the first time in the world, all the recipients were healthy and those who received kidney transplants were able to leave the hospital in just three days. Zeraatian-Nejad expressed confidence that the technique can decrease the transplantation waiting list by about 22 percent.

Iraq's Islamic Resistance Hits Two Israeli Military Bases With Drones



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - The Islamic Resistance in Iraq says it has targeted two Israeli military bases in the occupied Palestinian territories using drones. The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, which is an umbrella group of the country's anti-terror movements, made the announcement in separate statements early Monday. "The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, on the morning of Monday, 06-05-2024, targeted a military facility of the Zionist occupation in our occupied lands by drone," the first statement said. "The fighters of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, on the morning of Monday, 06-05-2024, targeted a military air base for the Zionist occupation in "Eilat," Umm Al-Rashrash, in our occupied lands by drone," the group said in its second statement. The Iraqi resistance noted that the new anti-Israeli operations came "in support of our people in Gaza and in response to the massacres committed by the usurping entity against Palestinian civilians, including children, women, and the elderly." It also affirmed that the resistance fighters will continue to strike the enemy's strongholds. The new operations came just a day after the Iraqi resistance said it had launched a missile strike against a strategic target in the port of Haifa in the occupied territories using an advanced Arqab cruise missile. Earlier, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq had claimed responsibility for three operations, two of which were against Israeli targets in Tel Aviv and Beersheba -- both within the occupied lands -- and one against an Israeli interest in the Dead Sea area. The attack on Tel Aviv, the first of its kind, targeted the Gilot intelligence center linked to the Israeli Mossad spy agency.

EU Naval Mission Says Most Powerful Systems Fail to Confront Yemenis

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The operational commander of the European Union's Aspidos naval mission has admitted to Yemen's military capabilities in the Red Sea region, a report says. In a confidential meeting with EU diplomatic representatives in Brussels last week, the Greek rear admiral Vasileios Gryparis, the mission's operational commander, expressed his concerns over the capabilities of the Yemeni forces that have been carrying out anti-Israeli retaliatory operations in support of Palestine. He warned that "the danger" posed by Yemeni forces remains "acute", Tasnim news agency reported, citing the German weekly Spiegel. The commander noted that the Yemeni forces managed for the first time to "overcome the mission's air defenses with a swarm of drones and damage a merchant ship" on April 29. He said, "But with a whole swarm of drones, even the most powerful systems gave up at some point." In solidarity with the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, the Yemeni armed forces have targeted ships in the Red Sea with owners linked to Israel or those going to and from ports in the occupied territories. In December last year, the United States formed a coalition to stop Yemen's anti-Israeli attacks. Alongside the U.S.-led operation, the EU's Aspidos reportedly aims to protect shipping in the Red Sea region. The U.S. and the UK have also been carrying out numerous attacks against Yemen as a means of trying to pressure the country into stopping a series of operations that it has been conducting in support of Gazans. Yemen has been conducting operations against the British and American warships that have been dispatched to the Red Sea to confront the Yemeni strikes. Gryparis said the EU's mission deploys modern defense systems, but he stressed that even the strongest systems surrender amid the flight of a swarm of drones. Referring to the withdrawal of the German frigate Hessen, he said the mission now could experience "bottlenecks" as he would only have three frigates available for the next few months. According to his remarks, this would mean that he would no longer be able to fully fulfill the mission. Gryparis stressed that at least ten warships and air support from a drone or reconnaissance aircraft would be needed. A high ranking Yemeni official has warned the United States against any hostile action against the Arab country. Israel waged its genocidal war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group carried out Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Abadan Oil Refinery Now Profitable



TEHRAN (Shana) - Oil Minister Javad Owji says that the Petroleum Ministry has managed to change Abadan Oil refinery into a profitable one. Owji said that Abadan oil refinery's second phase of development had been completed by relying on the capabilities of domestic contractors, experts and manufacturers, so that currently the refinery was one of the most profitable oil refining facilities in the country, with a 12 thousand billion rials, Iranian currency, profit last year. "This profitability happens while the former minister of petroleum, in 2015, had announced the refinery as a loss-making business which should be transferred for free.", minister of petroleum told in his report to the cabinet. Owji said: Gasoline production at Abadan oil refinery has gone up from 8 million liters per day at the beginning of 13th administration in office in August 2021 to 15 million liters now, while gasoil output has risen to 19 million liters, up by 4 million liters when compared with its production when current administration took office. According to him, the oil refinery sat on top of the list of oil products exporters at Energy and Commodity Exchange last year. He further noted that the hydrocracker unit of the refinery will come online over the next two months which will increase the value of its euro-5 gasoline production by another 3 million euros. Since taking office in August 2021, the number of Abadan oil refinery's oil derived products has reached 34 items while three years ago it produced only 21 oil derived products amid creation of 1300 job opportunities over the last year and the potential to deploy another 600 workforce this year, the minister of petroleum concluded.



IRAN NEWS



FM Assesses Avenues to Boost Ties With Tunisia

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in a short meeting with the regional director and in-charge of ceremonies of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, has discussed the fields to enhance relations between Tehran and Tunis. Amir-Abdollahian, on his way back from the Gambian capital Banjul after attending the 15th summit of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, made a stopover at Tunis International Airport where he met with the Tunisian foreign ministry official who is in-charge of official ceremonies as well as Mir Massoud Hosseinian, the Iranian ambassador to Tunis. In his conversation, the top Iranian diplomat discussed avenues to develop relations between the two countries, report said. Amir-Abdollahian, while greeting Iran's ambassador and other diplomatic staff, was also informed about the latest developments in the North African Arab country and efforts to build and expand relations with Tunisia in different fields.

Iran Reviews Economic Ties With Northern Neighbors



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Foreign Economic Relations Coordination Committee has held its third meeting to assess the latest status of bilateral economic projects with neighboring countries such as Azerbaijan, Armenia, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, Mehdi Safari presided over the meeting on Sunday. While explaining the importance of developing relations with Caucasian and Central Asian countries, Safari emphasized the need for cooperation between all relevant institutions and the private sector in order to take maximum advantage of the capacity for developing relations, especially in the field of export of technical and engineering services, transit, export of knowledge-based products, energy, industry, mining, and exchange of professors and students. The latest status of plans and projects with these countries, obstacles and ways to solve them as well as facilitate the process of finalizing and implementing those projects were discussed in the meeting. Deputies and managers of executive bodies, staff and representatives of the private sector were present during the meeting held at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



TEHRAN - The International Conference on Nuclear Science and Technology 2024 was to be kicked off in Iran's central city of Isfahan last evening, with the participation of hundreds of domestic and foreign researchers, scientists and officials. The conference was officially to open on Monday evening in a ceremony to be attended by Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami. It will run until May 8. The AEOI's deputy chief said over 500 scientific articles have been submitted to the conference, which includes 16 specialized panels, round-table meetings, and an exhibition. Around 100 academic speakers, including over 50 foreigners, will take part in the conference in person or via videoconference to expound on the latest scientific achievements in the nuclear industry, Javad Karimi Sabet said. Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency Rafael Grossi is also scheduled to partake in the conference, which also celebrates the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. In comments in February, Eslami hailed the growing coordination between Iran and the IAEA, expressing hope that the course of cooperation would continue to enable Iran to shatter the atmosphere the enemies seek to create against its nuclear industry. ICNST2024 is

co-sponsored by the Nuclear Society of Iran (NSI), Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), the Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute (NSTRI) and other universities. It is one of the leading international conferences for presenting novel and fundamental advances in the fields of Nuclear Science. It also serves to foster communication among researchers and practitioners working in a wide variety of scientific areas with a common interest in improving Nuclear Science related techniques. The conference events are anticipated to be a community for these partners both inside and outside the country. At last, from the discussions that have been built, it is trusted that it can open up touches of knowledge in moving forward the capabilities and future prospects for the part of NST in making great developments that will advantage the country in specific and the world community in common. During the ICNST2024 conference, keynote speakers who will pass on the critical focuses of the accomplishments of NST will do presentations from around the world. These presentations are anticipated to open insights and provisions, particularly for young generations who have started to research and know more about nuclear science and the utilization of NST for peaceful purposes and improving the welfare of society.

Foreign Transit From Iran Continues to Grow



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Foreign transit from Iran was still on an upward trajectory in the calendar month to late April, according to a recent report by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA). The IRICA report says that some 1.6 million tons of goods were transited from Iran in the one-month period which shows a 47% growth compared to the same month of last year. Parvizkhan customs on Iran's western borders with the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Shahid Rajaei customs in southern country and Bashmaq customs which connects Iran to Iraq, registered the largest foreign transit in the one-month period respectively. Some 486,000 tons of goods were transited through Parvizkhan customs, with 377,000 tons of goods being transited through Shahid Rajaei customs and another 203,000 tons going through Bashmaq customs, the report said.

IME Witnesses Weekly Trade of Over 3.1m Tons of Commodities



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 3,098,794 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$787m on its physical market. According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor, trade of 2,554,052 tons of commodities valued at nearly \$538m. On this floor the IME sold 1,308,024 tons of cement, 689,500 tons of iron ore, 364,216 tons of steel, 165,600 tons of sponge iron, 13,045 tons of copper, 11,865 tons of aluminum, 1,590 tons of zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 12 tons of precious metals concentrate. Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 539,256 tons of commodities worth more than \$247m on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor. Items traded on this floor included 194,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 149,160 tons of bitumen, 95,376 tons of polymeric products, 47,172 tons of chemicals, 43,000 tons of lube cut, 5,370 tons of sulfur, 4,647 tons of oil and 430 tons of feedstocks. Last was the IME's side market on which the exchange traded 5,486 tons of goods.

Iran to Become Regional Space Hub in Ten Years

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Eissa Zarepour says that the country will become the space hub of the region within ten years. With the efforts of Iranian experts, Iran would become self-sufficient and would turn into the space hub of the region according to the country's 10-year space industry plan, Zarepour said on Monday morning. He said that the country is focusing on marketing its space services at the global level, especially in the field of light launchers and small satellites. "Iran has the ability to manufacture small satellites under 100 kg, and currently there are customers worldwide

for this type of satellites." By holding space exhibitions and events, the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks to attract international partners and develop cooperation in this field, he added. Back in March, Zarepour said that the year 1402 (March 21, 2023-2024) was the most brilliant year in the country's space development, noting that 6 satellites were launched and numerous satellites were put into orbit. He said that Iran managed to resume its life in the space program after 10 years of closure, pointing out that the construction of the country's largest space base began and its first phase will be implemented next year.



Iran's Int'l Tech Exhibition Set to Kick Off

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran will open today the 13th edition of the International Innovation and Technology Exhibition, known as INOTEX, which will bring together hundreds of companies and investors at one of the country's most prestigious events in the tech sector.

The four-day exhibition is held at Pardis Technology Park, the largest of its kind in West Asia and known as Iran's Silicon Valley near the capital Tehran.

More than 450 tech companies and over 150 investors will participate in the exhibition, which will showcase their services and products including tens of new ones that will be unveiled for the first time.

INOTEX aims to promote investment by connecting domestic and foreign investors with companies and startups. It also aims to boost cooperation between Iranian tech companies and their foreign counterparts, among other goals.

On the sidelines of the exhibition, over 400 business-to-business (B2B) sessions and some 20 events including Fare - the Fellows Award for Research Excellence - will be held as well.

The Manowin event, which is aimed at introducing Iran's cultural and soft industries, will also be held on the sidelines of INOTEX.

Last year, some 100,000 people visited INOTEX. The number is expected to go up this year.

Mulino Wins Panama Presidential Race

PANAMA CITY (Dispatches) - Jose Raul Mulino, the protégé of a graft-convicted former head of state, was declared Panama's president-elect after elections Sunday. Mulino, 64, won the single-round, first-past-the-post race with more than a third of votes cast, the Central American country's electoral tribunal said. Moments earlier, runner up Ricardo Lombana had conceded defeat. The election came as the country grapples with deep-rooted corruption, a severe drought that has hobbled the economically critical Panama Canal, and a stream of US-bound migrants passing through its jungles. There were lines at many polling stations as eligible voters in the Central American nation of 4.4 million people cast their ballots for a new president, parliament and local governments to tackle those pressing issues over the next five years.



Trump Accuses Biden of Running Gestapo Administration



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump accused Democratic rival President Joe Biden of running a "Gestapo administration" in a private address to donors in which he also attacked prosecutors involved in his criminal indictments, according to a recording heard by U.S. media outlets. Trump, whose own rhetoric has drawn accusations of fascist tendencies from civil rights groups and other critics, made the comparison with the Nazi police in Germany's World War Two regime at a donor retreat Saturday night at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida. The comments came after Trump reprised his complaint that the multiple indictments against him were politically motivated. He had just concluded 11 days of a New York hush money trial in which he is charged with falsifying business records to cover up a \$130,000 payment made to a porn star. "These people are running a Gestapo administration," Trump said, according to an audio recording heard by the New York Times and the Washington Post. "And it's the only thing they have. And it's the only way they're going to win, in their opinion, and it's actually killing them. But it doesn't bother me." The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment on the reported remarks. In a statement, White House spokesman Andrew Bates sought to contrast Biden's conduct in office with Trump's latest remark, accusing the former president of echoing fascist rhetoric, "lunching with neo-Nazis and fanning debunked conspiracy theories that have cost brave police officers their lives." "President Biden is bringing the American people together around our shared democratic values and the rule of law - an approach that has delivered the biggest violent crime reduction in 50 years," said Bates. Trump, who held office from 2017 to 2021, faces an array of legal troubles in criminal and civil cases while he seeks to regain the presidency in the Nov. 5 election. He denies wrongdoing in all the cases.

Thousands Protest Against Hungary's Orban in Ruling Party Stronghold



DEBRECEN (Dispatches) - Thousands of Hungarians protested against nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban at a rally on Sunday weeks ahead of European Parliament and local elections due in early June. Peter Magyar, a former government insider seen by some observers as the first serious threat in years to Orban, staged the rally attended by around 10,000 people in the eastern town of Debrecen, a stronghold of the ruling Fidesz party. Fidesz candidates have carried the town since the late 1990s with the ruling party winning about 60% of the vote at the last election compared with around a third for opposition parties. Addressing flag-waving supporters, Magyar took aim at one of Orban's core policies, criticising what he called the extremely low level of child support allowances in Hungary. "If you tell this story anywhere in Europe, no one is going to believe you," Magyar said. Orban says that among EU countries Hungary is spending the largest share of its economy on supporting families. "We need an entirely new system where social support is indeed targeted based on social needs," Magyar said. He said Hungary was ruled by what he called a well-connected elite, which he would seek to end if elected. International watchdogs say Orban has channelled European Union funds to businessmen close to Fidesz to entrench himself in power. Orban says Hungary is no more corrupt than other countries. The watchdog tasked with overseeing EU funds says it lacks the proper authority to expose possible wrongdoing and has called for additional powers.



Israel Attacks Rafah After Hamas Claims Responsibility for Deadly Rocket Attack

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Three Israeli soldiers were killed in a rocket attack claimed by Hamas armed wing, near the southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah, where Palestinian health officials said at least 19 people were killed by Israeli fire on Sunday. Hamas's armed wing claimed responsibility on Sunday for an attack on the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza that Israel said killed three of its soldiers. Israel's military said 10 projectiles were launched from Rafah in southern Gaza towards the area of the crossing, which it said was now closed to aid trucks going into the coastal enclave. Other crossings remained open. Hamas' armed wing said it fired rockets at an Israeli army base by the crossing, but did not confirm where it fired them from. Hamas media quoted a source close to the group as saying the commercial crossing was not the target. More than a million Palestinians are sheltering in Rafah, near the border with Egypt. Shortly after the Hamas attack, an Israeli airstrike hit a house in Rafah killing three people and wounding several others, Palestinian medics said. The Israeli military confirmed the counter-strike, saying it struck the launcher from which the Hamas projectiles were fired, as well as a nearby "military structure". Hamas denies it uses civilians as human shields. Just before midnight, an Israeli air strike killed nine Palestinians, including a baby, in another house in Rafah, Gaza health officials said. They said the new strike increased the death toll on Sunday to at least 19 people. Israel has vowed to enter the southern Gaza city and flush out Hamas forces there, but has faced mounting pressure to hold fire as the operation could derail fragile humanitarian efforts in Gaza and endanger many more

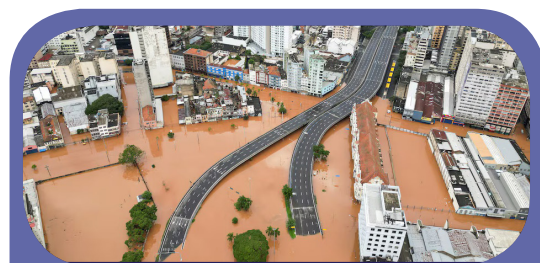
lives. Sunday's attack on the crossing came as hopes dimmed for ceasefire talks under way in Cairo. The war began after Hamas stunned Israel with a cross-border raid on Oct. 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and 252 hostages taken, according to Israeli tallies. More than 34,600 Palestinians have been killed, 29 of them in the past 24 hours, and more than 77,000 have been wounded in Israel's assault, according to Gaza's health ministry. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attacked those accusing Israel of carrying out a genocide against the Palestinians, claiming that Israel was doing everything possible to ensure the entry of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip. The 24-hour memorial period began after sundown on Sunday with a ceremony at Yad Vashem, Israel's national Holocaust memorial, in Jerusalem. There are approximately 245,000 living Holocaust survivors around the world, according to the Claims Conference, an organisation that negotiates for material compensation for Holocaust survivors. Approximately half of the survivors live in Israel. On Sunday, Tel Aviv University and the Anti-Defamation League released an annual Anti-Semitism Worldwide Report for 2023, which found a sharp increase in anti-Semitic attacks globally. It said the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States doubled, from 3,697 in 2022 to 7,523 in 2023. While most of these incidents occurred after the war erupted in October, the number of anti-Semitic incidents, which include vandalism, harassment, assault, and bomb threats, from January to September was already significantly higher than the previous year.

UN Accuses Israel of Denying Gaza Aid Access



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - A top U.N. official on Sunday accused Israel of continuing to deny the United Nations humanitarian access in the Gaza Strip, where the U.N. food chief warned a "full-blown famine" has taken hold in the north of the enclave of 2.3 million people. While not a formal famine declaration, World Food Programme Executive Director Cindy McCain said - in an NBC News interview broadcast on Sunday - that based on the "horror" on the ground: "There is famine, full-blown famine, in the north, and it's moving its way south." Israel has continued to enhance its efforts to boost aid to Gaza, said COGAT, an Israeli Defense Ministry agency tasked with coordinating aid deliveries into Palestinian territories. "In talks between Israeli and UN representatives, including @WFP, none of the entities indicated a risk of famine in northern Gaza," COGAT said in a post on X. "Noting the improved situation, int'l orgs stated last week that the volume of goods transported to northern Gaza must be reduced since the quantities are too high in relation to the population." The head of the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, on Sunday accused Israel of continuing to deny the U.N. aid access in Gaza as it tries to avert famine. "Only in the past 2 weeks, we have recorded 10 incidents involving shooting at convoys, arrests of UN staff including bullying, stripping them naked, threats with arms & long delays at checkpoints forcing convoys to move during the dark or abort," Lazzarini posted on

X. Lazzarini also called on "Hamas and other armed groups to stop any attacks on humanitarian crossings, refrain from aid diversion and make sure assistance reaches all those in need." The militants claimed responsibility on Sunday for an attack that shut down the main humanitarian aid crossing into Gaza. A U.N.-backed report in March said famine was imminent and likely by May in northern Gaza, and could spread across the enclave by July. Famine is assessed as at least 20% of the population suffering extreme food shortages, with one in three children acutely malnourished and two people out of every 10,000 dying daily from starvation or from malnutrition and disease. U.N. officials say that generally by the time a famine is formally declared somewhere it is too late to save many people. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said last week that the most vulnerable in northern Gaza "are already dying of hunger and disease." The U.N. has complained about a lack of humanitarian aid access throughout the seven-month-long war between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas in Gaza. Guterres has said the U.N. is trying to avert "an entirely preventable, human-made famine" in northern Gaza. As the occupying power, the U.N. human rights chief has said Israel is obligated to ensure the provision of food and medical care to the population and to facilitate the work of humanitarian organizations trying to deliver aid.



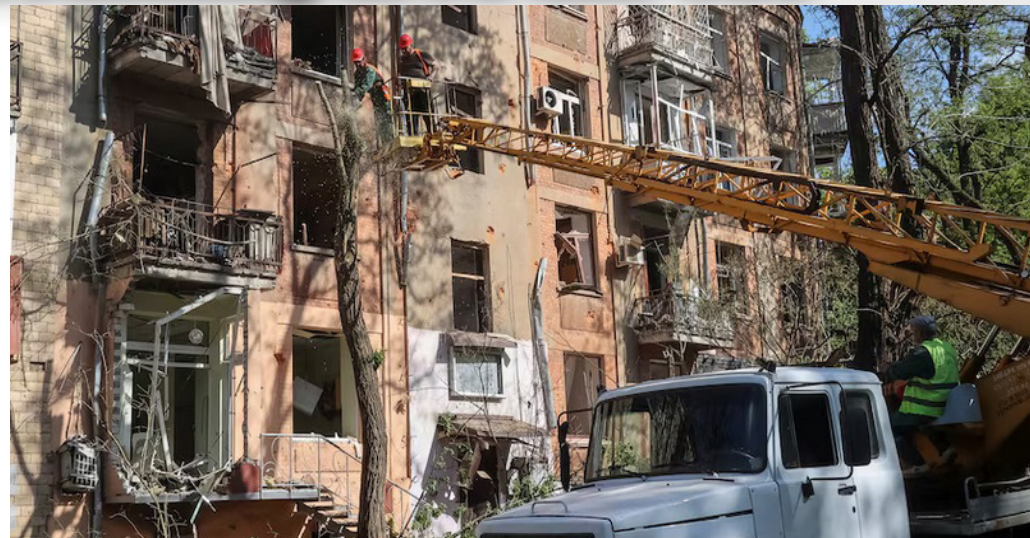
Death Toll From Southern Brazil Rainfall Rises to 78

PORTO ALEGRE (Dispatches) - The death toll from heavy rains that have caused flooding in Brazil's southern state of Rio Grande do Sul has risen to at least 78, local authorities said on Sunday, with more than 115,000 people displaced. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrived in Rio Grande do Sul on Sunday morning with most members of his cabinet to discuss rescue and reconstruction efforts with local authorities. "Bureaucracy will not stand in our way, stopping us from recovering the state's greatness," Lula said at a press conference. "It is a war scenario, and will need post-war measures," state governor Eduardo Leite added. Volunteers using boats, jet skis - and even swimming - have assisted in ongoing rescue efforts. In the state capital Porto Alegre, Fabio Saldanha said he and three friends have used jet skis to save about 50 people from flood waters since Friday in islands that are part of the city. "The only thing we hear when we enter a street is 'help,' 'help,'" Saldanha said. The death toll could still substantially increase as 105 people were reported missing on Sunday, up from about 70 the prior day, according to the state civil defense authority. It also said it was investigating whether another four deaths were related to the storms. Flooding from storms in the past few days has affected more than two thirds of the nearly 500 cities in the state, which borders Uruguay and Argentina, leaving more than 115,000 people displaced, according to authorities. Floods have destroyed roads and bridges in several cities. The rains also triggered landslides and the partial collapse of a dam at a small hydroelectric power plant.

Russian Attacks on Kharkiv, Surrounding Area Kill One

KHARKIV (Dispatches) - Russian attacks on Orthodox Easter Sunday killed a woman buried under rubble and injured 24 in Ukraine's northeastern city of Kharkiv and the surrounding region, regional officials said. Regional Governor Oleh Synyehubov, writing on the Telegram messaging app, said six people were injured in an overnight drone attack on the Osnovyanskyi district of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. Prosecutors in Kharkiv region said 15 more were hurt in an attack later in the day by aerial bombs on the city center. "The next time it could hit my house. Why did it hit here? Just who is here? And on such a holy day. How? I cannot grasp it at all..." Natalia Avilova-Patrikeyeva said outside an apartment building with shattered balconies and windows blown out. "I thought that at least on this day it would remain calm. At four in the morning there also was a strike. I don't sleep, I don't sleep at all." After midnight, public broadcaster Suspilne reported power cuts in parts of Kharkiv region. It also said there had been power cuts in adjacent Sumy region after reports of drone attacks and explosions. Kharkiv withstood a weeks-long Russian onslaught in the early days of the February 2022 Russian invasion and has been a frequent target of attacks in recent weeks. Russia says it does not target civilian sites, but attacks have hit apartment blocks, schools and medical institutions. Stunned residents milled about

the courtyard outside a block of flats or surveyed debris in apartments or in stairwells. Forensic experts combed the ground for pieces of shrapnel. "The explosion wave kicked out the door and I hid under the table. When I realised what was happening, there was smoke everywhere," said resident Roza Kuzmenko. "One woman from our block was wounded, the ambulance took her. Thank God, I only have a scratch (on my arm)." Synyehubov also reported the death of an 88-year-old woman in the shelling of the village of Monachynivka, east of Kharkiv. Her body was recovered from the rubble of a house. Prosecutors said three people were injured. Vadim Filashkin, head of the military administration in Donetsk region, focal point of Russia's slow advance through eastern Ukraine, said two people were killed by shelling in the town of Pokrovsk. Two were injured in Chasiv Yar, west of the Russian-held town of Bakhmut and cited by Ukraine as Moscow's next target in its campaign.





Norris Wins Miami Grand Prix for Maiden F1 Win

MIAMI GARDENS (Dispatches) - McLaren's Lando Norris won the first Formula One race of his career with a shock victory over world champion Max Verstappen in the Miami Grand Prix on Sunday. Breathing life into an F1 season that risked becoming a one-man story again, Norris, in his 110th race for McLaren, beat Verstappen by over seven seconds with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finishing third. Verstappen, who began on pole, had won four of the opening five races of the season and leads the world championship standings. It looked like business as usual with the Dutchman, who had won the previous two Miami races, leading until lap 24 when he pitted and Norris's McLaren team-mate Oscar Piastri took over the lead. Australian Piastri himself went into the pits four laps later, allowing Norris to grab the lead and the British driver never looked back. Crucially, Norris was able to pit during a safety car on lap 30, earning him a valuable time advantage which he never relinquished. The safety car came after Kevin Magnussen clipped Logan Sargeant, sending the American Williams driver into the wall, bringing a yellow flag. Norris, who had 15 podiums before his first win, took full advantage of the safety car and with Verstappen struggling to catch up, he secured his maiden victory. It was the first time Verstappen has been beaten on track, when he finished the race, since Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won in Singapore in September last year. Norris was hoisted in the air by the McLaren mechanics as his long wait for a victory in the sport came to an end. "About time huh?"

said Norris, "I knew on Friday that we had the pace...today we managed to put it together. We had the perfect strategy, it all paid off," he added. "I guess a lot of people doubted me along the way. I've made a lot of mistakes over the last five years, my short career, but today we pulled it all together, so this is all for the team. I stuck with McLaren because I could believe in them and I did believe in them and today proved exactly that," he added. The nearest Norris had come previously to winning a Grand Prix was in Sochi, Russia in 2021 when he led in the latter stages before failing to make a tyre change early in rain, costing him dearly. Verstappen, who had complained about lack of grip in qualification and during Sunday's race, said his Red Bull had been unable to keep up with Norris once the McLaren driver switched to hard tyres. "They just had more pace, Lando was flying. It was incredibly difficult for us, but on the bad days P2, I'll take it right?" "I'm very happy for Lando, it's been a long time coming and it's not going to be his last one. He definitely deserves it," said the Dutchman. Leclerc echoed those sentiments. "Very often he ran very close it but for one reason or another he didn't make it. But today he did an incredible job and the whole weekend he has been on it," said the Ferrari driver. Sainz finished fourth with Verstappen's Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez in fifth place but the pair swapped places after stewards imposed a post-race penalty of five seconds on the Spaniard for his collision with Piastri.

Mitchell Rallies Cavs for Series-Clinching Game 7 Win Over Magic



LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Donovan Mitchell and the Cleveland Cavaliers silenced the young guns of Orlando, beating the Magic 106-94 in game seven of their NBA playoffs first-round series Sunday to book a meeting with Eastern Conference top seeds Boston. It was another magisterial performance from Mitchell, who scored 39 points two days after pouring in 50 in the Cavs' game six defeat. This time he had plenty of scoring support from teammates as the Cavs erased an 18-point second-quarter deficit to clinch a series in which the home team won every game. Caris LeVert scored 15 points off the bench and Max Strus scored 11 of his 13 points in the third quarter, when the Cavs out-scored the Magic 33-15 to take charge. Evan Mobley scored 11 points with 16 rebounds and five blocked shots to help Cleveland withstand a 38-point performance from Paolo Banchero. The Cavs, with starting center Jarrett Allen sidelined a third straight game with bruised ribs, moved on to the second round a year after a stinging first-round loss to the New York Knicks. "I didn't want to go home," Mitchell said of the mindset that saw him score 17 points in the third quarter as he virtually willed Cleveland to the lead. The Magic delivered a strong first punch, Banchero scoring 10 points in the first period as Orlando grabbed a 24-18. In the face of Orlando's suffocating defense the Cavs connected on just six of 22 shots in the first quarter and didn't make a three-pointer until Sam Merrill drilled one midway through the second quarter. The Magic pushed their lead to as many as 18 points in the second quarter before the Cavs clawed back to cut the lead to single digits.

Rublev Downs Auger-Aliassime to Win Madrid Open Title

MADRID (Dispatches) - Andrey Rublev overcame an opening set wobble to beat Felix Auger-Aliassime 4-6 7-5 7-5 in the final of the Madrid Open to win his second Masters 1000 title. Auger-Aliassime was chasing his first ever Masters title and looked well set for victory before a resurgent Rublev, who had been struggling with a fever during the tournament, recovered to prevail in a little under three hours. The 26-year-old Russian had come into the tournament in Madrid in poor form having lost his previous four matches on the tour but dropped only two sets en route to the title. "No words, if you knew what I've been through in the last nine days, you wouldn't imagine that I would be able to win a title... Last six weeks I was losing in the first rounds," Rublev said. "I was (close to pulling out) because there were few issues I couldn't fix, but I have to give full credit to the doctors. They were magical and did some tricky things... Somehow I was able to play. I've never seen this in my life. I would say this is the most proud title of my career. I didn't sleep well the last three-four days." Auger-Aliassime had moved into the final when three of his five opponents in Madrid gave him walkovers - including top seed Jannik Sinner who pulled out with an injury before their quarter-final clash. Meanwhile in women's event, world number one Iga Swiatek



edged Aryna Sabalenka 7-5 4-6 7-6(7) in a gripping and gruelling Madrid Open final to win the title for the first time in what was a repeat of last year's summit clash at the WTA 1000 claycourt tournament. Sabalenka had won the 2023 final in three sets but it was Swiatek who triumphed this time after saving three championship points to secure her 20th career title and deny the Belarusian a third title on the red clay of the Spanish capital. The match was the first contest of the season between the top two in the women's rankings and it lived up to expectations, going down as the longest encounter between the two Grand Slam champions at three hours and 11 minutes. Victory improved Swiatek's record over her Belarusian rival to 7-3 as the three-times French Open champion bagged the only major claycourt title that was missing on her glittering resume. "Aryna, to many more finals! It's always a challenge playing you. Thanks for always motivating me and forcing me to be a better player," Swiatek said at the trophy presentation. In the opening set, Sabalenka used her powerful forehand to great effect, firing winners past Swiatek that had the crowd roaring their approval, but the Belarusian struggled to convert break points against the world number one.

Bangladesh Cruise to Six-Wicket Win Over Zimbabwe



CHITTAGONG (Dispatches) - Towhid Hridoy top-scored with 37 as Bangladesh cruised to a six-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the second Twenty20 international in Chittagong on Sunday, taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. The hosts eased their way to 142-4 in 18.3 overs, defying rain and some inspirational bowling from Zimbabwe after restricting the visitors to 138-7. Bangladesh seemed to be coasting when opener Liton Das (23) and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (16) took them to 56-1 before rain intervened for the second time in their innings to halt the momentum. Luke Jongwe (2-35) dismissed Najmul and Liton in the next over after the rain break to put Bangladesh under some pressure, which increased following Jaker Ali's dismissal by Richard Ngarava for 13. But Hridoy and 38-year-old Mahmudullah Riyad, 26 not out, put on 49 runs for the fifth wicket to prevent a further slide and deny Zimbabwe. Debutant Johnathan Campbell earlier top scored for Zimbabwe with 45 off 24 balls after the visitors were asked to bat first -- the highest ever score by a Zimbabwean appearing for the first time in a T20 international. Campbell, the son of former Zimbabwean captain Alistair Campbell, put on 73 runs with Brian Bennett to help Zimbabwe recover from a precarious 42-5 after they were asked to bat first. Bennett stayed unbeaten on 44, facing 29 balls and hitting three sixes alongside two fours. Bangladesh wicketkeeper Jaker Ali dropped Campbell on just one off Mahedi Hasan. Campbell used his luck to hit four fours and three sixes before Shoriful Islam removed him.

Liverpool Shatter Spurs' Top Four Bid

LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool shattered Tottenham's hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four with a 4-2 win that left Aston Villa on the brink of Champions League qualification despite their 1-0 defeat at Brighton on Sunday. Needing a win at Anfield to close the gap on fourth-placed Villa, Tottenham slumped to a fourth successive league loss for the first time since 2004. Villa are seven points ahead of fifth-placed Tottenham, who have a game in hand but will miss out on the top four if Unai Emery's men win one of their remaining two matches. With their Champions League hopes in tatters, Tottenham boss Ange Postecoglou said: "We paid the price for the mistakes we made and that is what is going to happen at this level. It is disappointing obviously when you lose but at least today, I can hold on to the fact that we looked more like ourselves." Mohamed Salah was back in the Liverpool team after being dropped for last weekend's draw at West Ham. The Egypt forward had argued with Klopp before being introduced as a substitute at the London Stadium and fanned the flames afterwards when he said there would be "fire" if he spoke about the clash. Klopp, in the final weeks of his nine-year reign, was celebrating in the 16th minute when Salah notched his 25th goal in all competitions this term with a clinical header from Cody Gakpo's cross. Andrew Robertson scored Liverpool's second on the stroke of half-time as

the Scotland left-back finished from close-range after Salah's shot was saved by Guglielmo Vicario. There was worse to come for woeful Tottenham as Gakpo headed in

a 50th-minute cross from Harvey Elliott, who netted the fourth in the 59th minute with a superb curler from 20 yards.

