

President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Speaking at a Youth Population Event in Tehran, Emphasized the Importance of Population Growth for National Security, and Announced More Government Support Needed for Families Desiring More Children

IRAN NEWS

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Nasser Kanaani Condemned the Friday Terrorist Attack in the City of Bamiyan, Afghanistan, Against Foreign Tourists and Civilians Where Four Foreign Nationals and Three Afghans Were Killed

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Iraqi PM offers condolences over Raisi martyrdom



TEHRAN, May 20 (MNA) – The Iraqi Prime Minister offered his condolences to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the government, and the Iranian people over the martyrdom of Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani offered his condolences to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Iranian governmental nation over the martyrdom of Iran's president Ebrahim Raisi during the helicopter crash that occurred on Sunday. He also expressed his support to the friendly and brotherly nation of Iran and other officials of the country following this painful tragedy. A helicopter carrying President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian crashed in a dense forest area in East Azarbaijan on Sunday. The helicopter's passengers, including Ebrahim Raisi, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's East Azarbaijan Province Governor Malek Rahmati, and Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to East Azarbaijan Province, along with several other people were martyred in the incident.

Iran president, FM killed in tragic helicopter crash



Martyrdom in the line of duty

TEHRAN – In a tragic helicopter crash, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, alongside other officials, lost their lives en route to the provincial capital city of Tabriz. A helicopter carrying Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi made a "tough landing" on Sunday during a visit to the country's northwest, the national TV reported. The incident occurred as a result of dense fog in the region, which is making conditions difficult for rescue teams, the TV said. The helicopter crashed close to a copper mine called Sungun. It's located in between Jolfa and Varzaqan in the East Azarbaijan province of Iran and it's roughly between 70km (43 miles) to 100km (62 miles) away from the city of Tabriz, one of the largest cities in Iran and also the city that the president of Iran and foreign minister were headed toward. Since Sunday afternoon, 40 separate rescue teams have been dispatched to the forested and mountainous area. Harsh weather has made the region accessible only by ground teams, as aerial approaches are unfeasible. The mountainous terrain and natural obstacles rendered communication with the president's entourage nearly impossible. An Iranian television reporter said that as it got darker and colder, the crews approaching the site were avoiding travel by car, due to the roads in the area not being paved, and rain making the ground muddy. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, governor of East Azarbaijan Province Malek Rahmati, and Friday prayer leader of Tabriz Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem were also aboard the copter. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali

Khamenei, expressed concern about the missing helicopter in a meeting with families of IRGC personnel. "We hope that God returns the honorable president and his companions to the arms of the nation." "All must pray for the health of this group of civil servants. The Iranian nation must not be concerned or worried, there will be no disruption in the work of the country," the Leader said. Mohammad Bagheri, the chief of staff of the Iranian armed forces, issued an order on Sunday afternoon for all the equipment and capacity of the army, the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) and law enforcement forces to be used to find the helicopter. People in various cities of Iran gathered to pray for President Raisi and his companions. Raisi was traveling in East Azarbaijan Province. The incident happened near Jolfa, a city on the border with the Republic of Azerbaijan, some 600 kilometers (375 miles) northwest of Tehran. Raisi had been in East Azarbaijan early Sunday to inaugurate a dam with Ilham Aliyev, the president of the Republic of Azerbaijan. According to the TV, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has said the helicopter was forced to make a tough emergency landing due to the bad weather condition. National Security Council did not hold emergency meeting on Raisi. An informed source reported that the Supreme National Security Council has not held a meeting regarding the accident involving the helicopter carrying the President of Iran and his companions. The source added that the rumors circulating on social media about the council holding an emergency meeting were incorrect.

Maduro reacts to martyrdom of President Raisi



TEHRAN, May 20 (MNA) – Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro reacted to the martyrdom of his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi. In his remarks on Monday, Maduro said that he was shocked by the tragic news about the loss of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that he was very sorry to say goodbye to an outstanding person and a great human being, a defender of the sovereignty of the Iranian people and an unconditional friend of his country. A helicopter carrying President Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian crashed in a dense forest area in East Azarbaijan on Sunday. The helicopter's passengers, including Ebrahim Raisi, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, Iran's East Azarbaijan Province Governor Malek Rahmati, and Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem, the representative of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution to East Azarbaijan Province, along with several other people were martyred in the incident.



In the Name of Alllah

President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi's soul joined the Heavens.

He was a man of the revolution material; of the material of the virtuous people; of the material of those committed to Allah.

Since his childhood, he had dedicated whatever he owned to Islam and Revolution. He was not attached to the worldly issues and he was a pious man and was not indebted to any current.

The promise of Allah to him was exactly it that to invite him to the Heaven and to offer him a very well-bred and good-natured deal.

He deserved martyrdom and martyrdom is Allah's gift to those who are committed to His path and the Late Raisi has given his heart to Allah and had traded with Him.

This martyrdom may be blessed to him, his comrades and all of us who have missed the path of martyrdom, and deep condolences.

Hamid Reza Naghashian

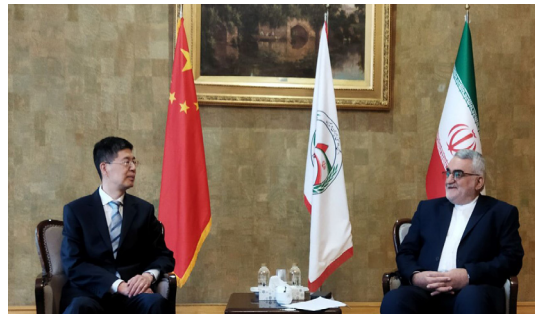
IRAN NEWS



Protecting Security, Investors, Entrepreneurs Prosecutor's Responsibility

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Prosecutor General Mohammad Kazem Movahhedi Azad has said that creating security and legal and judicial protections for investors and entrepreneurs is one of the duties of prosecutors. Addressing the 5th Meeting of Attorneys/Prosecutors General of the ECO Member States in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Movahhedi Azad said that technical, legal, and judicial cooperation between ECO members can pave the way for developing political, commercial, and economic cooperation of the members. Comprehensive and coherent strategies between countries can prevent the growth of organized crimes and, in the long run, alleviate them, he noted. He added that the mechanism of legal and judicial cooperation between ECO member states requires two preconditions: first, the development of a comprehensive legal framework, including the approval of criminal and procedural regulations in the field of judicial assistance and the extradition of criminals and the transfer of convicts, which fortunately has been approved by some members; second, establishment of an efficient law enforcement institution to have coordinating systems in the implementation of approved agreements, as well as to explain methods for the development of judicial cooperation is necessary.

25-Year Cooperation Deal Strong Basis for Iran-China Ties



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The president of the Iran-China Friendship Association says the 25-year cooperation document between Iran and China is a strong foundation for strengthening and developing bilateral relations, reiterating that Iran is committed to taking "practical measures" in that regard. Alaeddin Boroujerdi made the remarks during a two-hour meeting with Cong Peiwu, the new Chinese ambassador to Iran, on Saturday. He emphasized the need to further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries, and described the 25-year cooperation agreement, signed in Tehran by Iranian and Chinese officials in 2021, as a strong foundation for the enhancement of relations. Cong Peiwu sat down for talks with Boroujerdi and other officials from the Iran-China Friendship Association and the Chinese embassy in Tehran a day after submitting a copy of his credentials to Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian. A wide range of issues related to bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting. China's new envoy said the Iran-China Friendship Association can play an important role in strengthening cooperation and bilateral relations in various fields. "China is trying to play a constructive and active role in strengthening stability in the region, and also attaches great importance to Iran's role in regional developments and stability," he added.

Minister Urges Media to Create Hope for Future Days



TEHRAN - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Mehdi Esmaili says that the media activists should make hope for the coming days amid foes' attempt to target Iranians' hope and belief. Esmaili made the remarks on Sunday at the closing ceremony of the First National Hope Media Cup in Tehran, noting that the enemies have targeted the belief and hope of the Iranians. He called on the correspondents to pen down reports to criticize the current government. Try not to harm the national interest in your works, he said, adding that giving hope to Iranians must be pursued in the news stories. He also referred to Iran's recent missile and drone attack on the Zionist regime - Known as "True Promise Operation" - and said that the Iranian nation agrees with the punitive measure as the polls have indicated. The enemy's main plan is to use false publicity, or propaganda, as they call it. The way to overcome propaganda is with "clarification." Clarifying the truth [must be

done] by different people, with different voices, with different interpretations, and using new forms, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has said. "Jihad of clarification must be taken seriously, by everyone, in the seminars, in the universities, and in particular on radio and television, in the printed media, in all the places where you are, all around you." In the face of the foes' scheme, Ayatollah Khamenei considers it to be the duty of the elite to engage in the jihad of clarification and to nullify the doubts and uncertainties created by the ill-wishers. The First National Hope Media Cup which started on Saturday at the Comprehensive University of Islamic Revolution in the capital city will wrap up today. The national festival served as a platform where reporters and photojournalists covered the speeches delivered by high-ranking officials and experts on various topics within 36 hours in the country.

UN Official Hails Iran's "Exemplary" Services to Immigrants



SHIRAZ (IRNA) - Lalini Veerasamy, who heads the UN International Organization for Migration's office in Tehran, has hailed Iran's services to immigrants as exemplary. She made the remarks during a meeting on Saturday with Behrang Qorbani, the director of the Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrant Affairs of Iran's southern Fars Province. Veerasamy said that she and her colleagues have served the immigrants in different countries, but they have never seen the vastness of Iran's services to immigrants in any other country. She appreciated Iran's exemplary services to immigrants in spite of the limitations facing the country. The Iranian official, for his part, said that the foreign immigrants residing in Iran are offered the same health, medical and educational services provided to the Iranian people and there is no discrimination in this regard. He called on the UN official to pave the way for the voluntary return of the immigrants to their home countries, noting that concurrent with offering welfare services to the immigrants, they have to become empowered so as to be able to go back home.

Weekly Trade on IME Up by 13%



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 3,589,000 tons of commodities with a total trading value of more than \$891m, posting growths of 13% and 36% in volume and value of trades compared to the week before that. According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 3,139,725 tons of commodities valued at more than \$668m. On this floor the IME sold 1,305,530 tons of cement, 837,500 tons of iron ore, 504,368 tons of steel, 476,900 tons of sponge iron, 8,105 tons of copper, 6,380 tons of aluminum, 1,280 tons of zinc, 300 tons of coke, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 12 tons of precious metals concentrate. Moreover, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 348,862 tons of commodities worth nearly \$183m. Commodities traded on this floor included 134,571 tons of bitumen, 88,648 tons of polymeric products, 49,150 tons of vacuum bottom, 31,555 tons of chemicals, 25,000 tons of lube cut, 15,650 tons of sulfur, 3,998 tons of oil and 190 tons of feedstocks. The IME also traded within the same week 22,415 tons of goods on its side market.

Tehran, Tatarstan Chambers of Commerce Ink Cooperation MoU

MOSCOW (IRNA) - Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIA) and the Union Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tatarstan have signed a cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kazan. On the sidelines of the 15th edition of the "Russia-Islamic World: KazanForum 2024" on Saturday, Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki, Vice-President of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, and Shamil Ageev, President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tatarstan, signed a cooperation Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Kazan. Elaborating on the details of the signed MoU, Sadeghi Niaraki stated that the agreement was aimed at developing cooperation in the field of information exchange, facilitating delegation visits,

showcasing capacities, and promoting bilateral trade. He mentioned that Tehran province contributes significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and has ample potential for expanding exports of goods and services, noting that the Republic of Tatarstan, with its capacities, particularly in the industries and heavy vehicles sector, also has special capabilities to enhance cooperation and boost bilateral trade. Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum 2024 aims to strengthen trade, economic, scientific, technical, educational, social, and cultural ties between the regions of the Russian Federation and the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Russia - Islamic World: KazanForum 2024 was officially kicked off in Kazan on May 16 and will conclude on May 18.



Iran Unveils 16 Knowledge-Based Products in Medical Equipment Field

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Sixteen knowledge-based and technological products in the health sector including medical equipment and machinery were unveiled at a ceremony attended by Iran's Vice-President for Science and Technology Rouhollah Dehqani and the head of Iranian Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The products were unveiled Saturday on the sidelines of the inaugural ceremony of the 25th International Exhibition of Medical, Dental, Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Equipment dubbed "Iran Health Expo 2024". Digital radiology device, quantitative luminance kit, disposable elastomeric injection pump, ventilator, cardiac femoral, non-reinforced aorta cannula, anesthesia machine, pulsed suction, hard medical contact lens, smart cuff device, infant humidifier chamber, household electrocardiograph (ECG) and addiction diagnostic kits are the knowledge-based products unveiled in this exhibition. More than 700 companies including 200 foreign guests are taking part in the exhibition within the framework of the business, technological, scientific and academic delegations. Holding more than 60 specialized meetings in the field of interaction between businesses and showcasing the latest technological and innovative achievements of companies in the health sector are among the main programs in this exhibition. The Iran Health Expo 2024 will run until May 21.

Russian Court Seizes Millions of Euros Worth of German Bank Assets

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - A Russian court has ordered that Deutsche Bank's and Commerzbank's assets, accounts, property and shares be seized in Russia as part of a lawsuit involving the German banks, court documents showed. The banks were among the guarantor lenders under a contract for the construction of a gas processing plant in Russia with Germany's Linde, which was terminated due to Western sanctions. The lawsuits were filed by St Petersburg-based RusChemAlliance, a joint venture 50% owned by Russian gas giant Gazprom which is the operator of the project. The St Petersburg arbitration court has barred Deutsche Bank from exercising its 100% interest in the authorised capital of its Russian subsidiary, as well as Deutsche Bank Technology Center LLC. The court has also imposed the seizure of up to 238.6 million euros (\$259 million) in securities, real estate and bank accounts of Deutsche Bank, as well as its Russian subsidiary and Deutsche Bank Technology Center.



Ukraine Says Russian Shelling Targets Civilians in Kharkiv Region



KHARKIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine said Russian shelling targeted civilians in two cities in the northeastern region of Kharkiv on Saturday while President Volodymyr Zelenskyy reported successes by troops fighting a renewed Russian assault there. Ukrainian prosecutors said they were investigating as a potential war crime a Russian air strike on a residential area of the regional capital Kharkiv in which six civilians were wounded, including a 13-year-old girl, 16-year-old male and an eight-year-old. Moscow denies deliberately targeting civilians but thousands have been killed and injured since its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. About 70 km (45 miles) to the northeast in Vovchansk, a city just 5 km (three miles) from the Russian border, prosecutors said Russian shelling killed a 60-year-old woman and injured three other civilians. A 59-year-old man was also injured in the village of Ukrainke, they said. Across the border in Russia's Belgorod region, Moscow's defence ministry said its forces shot down a Tochka-U missile fired by Ukraine. A similar missile caused a Belgorod apartment building to collapse last week, killing at least 15 people, Russia said. Late on Saturday Belgorod regional governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said a Ukrainian drone attack injured a woman and a man in the village of Petrovka. They were treated for shrapnel injuries in Belgorod, he wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address that Ukrainian forces were on surer footing, particularly in Kharkiv region.

Sonia Gandhi Makes Emotional Appeal to Voters on Behalf of Son



NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Sonia Gandhi, the leader of India's Congress party, made an emotional appeal to voters in the family borough, asking them to vote for her son in a region that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his party have dominated in the last ten years. Standing on stage with her children Rahul and Priyanka, Gandhi, the party's former chief and former lawmaker from Raebareli in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, said her family had a special connection with the constituency. Raebareli, which goes to the polls in the fifth phase of India's seven phase-long general election, has returned a Congress candidate in 17 of the 20 elections held there since 1952, mostly members of the Gandhi family. Sonia Gandhi decided not to contest the seat in the current election and her son, Rahul, was announced as the candidate for the region. "I am handing over my son to you. Just as you made me yours, please treat him as one of your own. He will not disappoint you," Gandhi said, to loud cheers from the crowd. Gandhi, the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, will also contest from Wayanad in Kerala state in the south, which has already voted. India allows candidates to contest multiple constituencies but they can represent only one.

Israeli Strikes on Jabalia Camp in Northern Gaza Kill More Than 10



GAZA (Dispatches) - Israeli troops and tanks pushed on Saturday into parts of a congested northern Gaza Strip district that they had previously skirted in the more than seven-month-old war, killing and wounding dozens of Palestinians, medics and residents said. Israel's forces also took over some ground in Rafah, a southern city by the Egyptian border that is packed with displaced people and where the launch this month of a long-threatened incursion to crush hold-outs of Palestinian Islamist militant group Hamas has alarmed Cairo and Washington. Exposing further cracks in Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's government, Benny Gantz, a centrist member of the war cabinet, threatened to resign if the right-wing leader does not agree by June 8 to a day-after plan that would include how Gaza might be ruled after the war with Hamas. In what Israeli media said was the result of intelligence gleaned during the latest incursions, the military announced the recovery of the body of a man who was among more than 250 hostages seized by Hamas in a cross-border rampage on October 7 that triggered the war. Ron Binyamin's remains were located along with those of three other slain hostages whose repatriation was announced on Friday, the military said without providing further details. There was no immediate comment from Hamas. Israel has conducted renewed military sweeps this month of parts of northern Gaza where it had declared the end of major operations in January. At the time, it also predicted its forces would return to prevent a regrouping by the Palestinian Islamist group that rules Gaza. One site has been Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps. On Saturday, troops and tanks

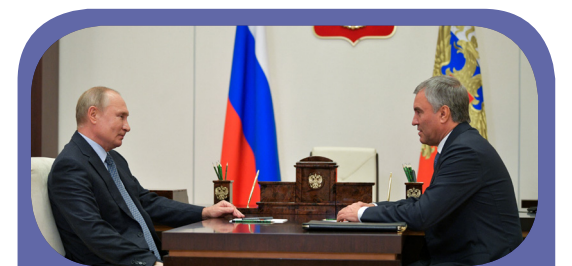
edged into streets so far spared the ground offensive, residents said. In one strike, medics said 15 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded. The Gaza health ministry and the Civil Emergency Service said teams received dozens of calls about possible casualties but were unable to carry out any searches because of the ongoing ground offensive and aerial bombardment. "Today is the most difficult in terms of the occupation bombardment, air strikes and tank shelling have going on almost non-stop," said one resident in Jabalia, Ibrahim Khaled, via a chat app. "We know of dozens of people, martyrs (killed) and wounded, but no ambulance vehicle can get into the area," he told Reuters. The Israeli military said its forces have continued to operate in areas across Gaza including Jabalia and Rafah, carrying out what it called "precise operations against terrorists and infrastructure". "The IAF (air force) continues to operate in the Gaza Strip, and struck over 70 terror targets during the past day, including weapons storage facilities, military infrastructure sites, terrorists who posed a threat to IDF troops, and military compounds," the military said in a statement. Netanyahu has faced criticism at home and abroad for failing to articulate an endgame more than seven months into the war. In a news conference, Gantz said he wanted the war cabinet to form a six-point plan in the next three weeks and that if his expectations are not met he would withdraw his centrist party from Netanyahu's emergency coalition. Gantz said his proposal would include creating a temporary US-European-Arab-Palestinian system of civil administration for Gaza while Israel retains security control.

Georgian President Zurabishvili Vetoes Controversial Law



TBILISI (Dispatches) - Georgian President Salome Zurbishvili on Saturday put a mostly symbolic veto on the "foreign influence" law that sparked unprecedented protests and warnings from Brussels that the measure would undermine Tbilisi's European aspirations. Ruling Georgian Dream party lawmakers voted through the legislation this week in defiance of protesters, who are worried the ex-Soviet republic is shifting away from a pro-Western course back toward Russia. The move has sparked a wave of protests unprecedented in the recent history of the Black Sea nation, where according to opinion polls more than 80 percent of the population wants to join the European Union and NATO, and is staunchly anti-Kremlin. "Today I set a veto... on the law, which is Russian in its essence, and which contradicts our constitution," she said in a televised statement, speaking about the bill that critics describe as resembling Russian legislation used to silence dissent.

Brussels has said the measure is "incompatible" with Georgia's bid for EU membership, which is enshrined in the country's constitution. Georgian Dream has enough lawmakers in parliament to override her veto. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze has signalled his party's readiness to consider Zurbishvili's proposed amendments to the law, should she lay them out in her veto document. But figurehead president Zurbishvili - at loggerheads with the ruling party - has ruled out the prospect of entering "false, artificial, misleading negotiations" with Georgian Dream. The bill requires NGOs and media outlets that receive more than 20 percent of their funding from abroad to register as bodies "pursuing the interests of a foreign power". Georgian Dream insists it is committed to joining the EU, and portrays the bill as aimed at increasing the transparency of NGO funding.



Putin Ally Says EU Is Hypocritical for Ban on Russian Media

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - The speaker of Russia's parliament scolded the European Union on Saturday for banning the distribution of four Russian media outlets and said it showed how the West refused to accept any alternative point of view and was destroying freedom of speech. The European Union said on Friday it was suspending the distribution of Voice of Europe, RIA Novosti news agency and newspapers Izvestia and Rossiyskaya Gazeta on the grounds that they "have been essential and instrumental in bringing forward and supporting Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine". Russia has said that the move will result in a harsh response against Western media in Moscow, but has yet to announce which media organisations it will affect. "The EU leadership can only talk about freedom of speech, but in fact it does not tolerate it," said Vyacheslav Volodin, the speaker of the State Duma, who is a close ally of President Vladimir Putin and a member of Russia's Security Council. "They block any alternative point of view, destroy freedom of speech, violate the right to free dissemination and receipt of information." Western leaders portray Russia as an autocracy that is the biggest nation-state threat to the global order, accuse Moscow of seeking to undermine Western democracies and say that Putin's invasion of Ukraine shows that Moscow may invade a NATO member.

Slovakia's Fico Further Stabilized After Assassination Attempt

BRATISLAVA (Dispatches) - Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico remains in serious condition and still faces risks of complications but has stabilised, officials said on Saturday, following Wednesday's assassination attempt. The prime minister, 59, was shot at five times at point-blank range in an attack that sent shockwaves through Europe and raised concerns over the polarised state of politics in Slovakia, a central European country of 5.4 million people. "We have not won yet, that is important to say," Deputy Prime Minister Robert Kalinik said, giving an update on Fico's condition in front of the hospital in the town of Banka Bystrica where the prime minister is being treated. The Slovak Specialised Criminal Court ruled on Saturday that the suspect, identified by prosecutors as Juraj C., would remain in custody after being charged with attempted murder. Interior Minister Matus Sutaj Estok has said the suspected attacker, who was detained on the spot, acted alone. The suspect had previously taken part in anti-government protests, he said on Thursday. Kalinik said there was no need to formally take over Fico's official duties while some communication with the premier was taking place. Fico underwent a two-hour operation on Friday that improved prospects for his recovery. "We are succeeding in



gradually nearing a positive prognosis," Kalinik said. "In the initial hours, the prognosis was very, very bad, you know that shots into the abdomen are basically fatal, in this case (the doctors) managed to overturn this state and further stabilise the condition." Fico still faced a "big risk" of complications, Kalinik said. "The body's reaction to a shooting wound is always very serious and brings (the risk of) a number of complications, which lasts for 4-5 days, which is today and tomorrow." He said it was unlikely Fico could be transferred to the capital, Bratislava, in coming days. About 100 Fico supporters, some carrying flowers, gathered on Saturday outside the F.D. Roosevelt University Hospital where the premier was being treated. Local news media say the suspect is a 71-year-old former security guard at a shopping mall and the author of three collections of poetry. The court ruled he would remain in custody pending an investigation because of the risk of escape or criminal activity. The decision is subject to appeal. Since returning for a fourth time as prime minister last October, Fico has shifted policy quickly in what opposition critics called a power grab. His government has scaled back support for Ukraine in its war with Russia, and is revamping the public broadcaster amid concern from critics about media freedom.



Dallas Rally to Down Thunder, Reach NBA Western Conference Finals

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - Luka Doncic posted a triple-double and P.J. Washington drilled the deciding free-throws as the Dallas Mavericks erased a 17-point deficit to beat Oklahoma City 117-116 to reach the NBA Western Conference finals on Saturday. The Mavericks beat the top-seeded Thunder 4-2 in the best-of-seven conference semi-final series to reach the conference finals for the second time in three years. They'll face either the defending champion Denver Nuggets or the Minnesota Timberwolves, who faced a deciding game seven in their series on Sunday. "Being down 17 in a closeout game isn't a position you want to be in," said Dallas star Kyrie Irving. "We had to respond the way we've responded all season, just playing hardnosed basketball on the defensive end, getting out in transition and just trusting that our pace would get us back in the game. "It definitely feels good to get the series done." Doncic scored 29 points with 10 rebounds and 10 assists. Irving and Derrick Jones Jr. scored 22 points apiece and Dereck Lively added 12 off the bench for the Mavs. Washington scored all nine of his points in the fourth quarter -- including two free-throws with 2.5 seconds remaining that lifted the Mavs to victory. "I think he was just waiting for his moment," Irving said. It came after a controversial call in the waning seconds with the Mavs down 116-115. Doncic drove into the lane then passed to Washington in the corner, but

Washington was fouled on his three-point attempt by Thunder star Shai Gilgeous-Alexander. Oklahoma City challenged the call but it stood. Washington made the first two free throws before intentionally missing the third, the Thunder grabbing the rebound but unable to make a shot from beyond halfcourt. "If I had the moment back I wouldn't have fouled him, let him make or miss the shot," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "Basketball -- you win some, you lose some. You make mistakes." Gilgeous-Alexander, like Doncic a finalist for the Most Valuable Player award won by Denver's Nikola Jokic, scored 36 points to lead the Thunder, who led by 16 at halftime and pushed the advantage to 17 early in the third before the Mavericks stormed back in front of a frenzied home crowd. A three-pointer by Washington tied it at 105-105 with 4:11 remaining and they traded the lead three times from there, Thunder rookie Chet Holmgren throwing down a dunk to put Oklahoma City up 116-115 with 20.4 seconds left. Facing elimination, the Thunder burst out of the gate and led by seven after one quarter. Doncic gave the Mavs their first lead of the game with less than five minutes left in the second quarter. The Thunder responded with a vengeance as back-to-back dunks from Chet Holmgren and Jalen Williams restored their lead. Oklahoma City finished the second quarter on a 24-6 run to lead 64-48 at halftime.

Fury Unsure on Rematch After Usyk Inflicts His First Defeat



RIYADH (Dispatches) - Tyson Fury was undecided about a rematch with Oleksandr Usyk after losing his unbeaten record in one of the biggest fights in boxing history on Sunday. Britain's Fury dominated the early rounds of their undisputed heavyweight clash but lost a split decision to the Ukrainian maestro, who nearly sent him to the canvas in the ninth round. It was the only loss in 36 professional bouts for Fury, who was contesting the first heavyweight unification fight since 1999 and the first in the four-belt era. There was a rematch clause in the contract for the fight, which took place in the early hours in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and saw Usyk crowned as undisputed heavyweight champion. Afterwards Fury, who gave up his WBC belt to Usyk who held the IBF, WBA and WBO titles, said he would discuss the potential rematch, loosely scheduled for October, with his wife and children. "I'll have a holiday, go home, put it to the wife and kids I'll see what I want to do," the self-styled 'Gypsy King' told reporters. "I'm 36 in a few months. I've been boxing since I've been a child so it is what it is," he added. "Where does it all end? A hundred fights and brain damage, in a wheelchair? I'm not sure." But the one thing is, all the time I'm still loving the game -- and I was having fun in there, I was really enjoying myself -- then I'll continue to do it."

Bayern End Poor Season in Third Place After Hoffenheim Loss

SINSHEIM (Dispatches) - Bayern Munich squandered a two-goal lead to slump to a 4-2 loss at Hoffenheim courtesy of an Andrej Kramaric hat-trick in the Bundesliga finale on Saturday, ending a disappointing season in third place as coach Thomas Tuchel bowed out. Saturday's performance was indicative of Bayern's first season without a trophy in over a decade, having played outstandingly to reach the Champions League semi-finals, but also falling prey to weaker opponents, including third-tier Saarbruecken who beat them in the German Cup. Early goals from Mathys Tel and Alphonso Davies put the injury-depleted Bavarians 2-0 up after six minutes. They were without leading striker Harry Kane, back in England to treat an injury ahead of Euro 2024, as well as Serge Gnabry, Kingsley Coman, Jamal Musiala and Leroy Sane. Hoffenheim did not give up and pulled a goal back through German international Maximilian Beier two minutes later and the hosts gradually took some of the early pace out of the game. Croatia international Kramaric delivered a stunning 19-minute hat-trick with the Bayern defence in ruins, to send them down to third place in the standings on 72 points. Tuchel was told in February he would be leaving at the end of the season, a year earlier than his contract. He confirmed there had been talks last week to potentially reverse that decision, but no agreement

was reached. Bayern are struggling to find his successor after several other coaches, including Bayer Leverkusen's Xabi Alonso, Ralf Rangnick and Julian Nagelsmann, opted to remain in their current jobs.



Murray Beaten at ATP Challenger Event in Bordeaux

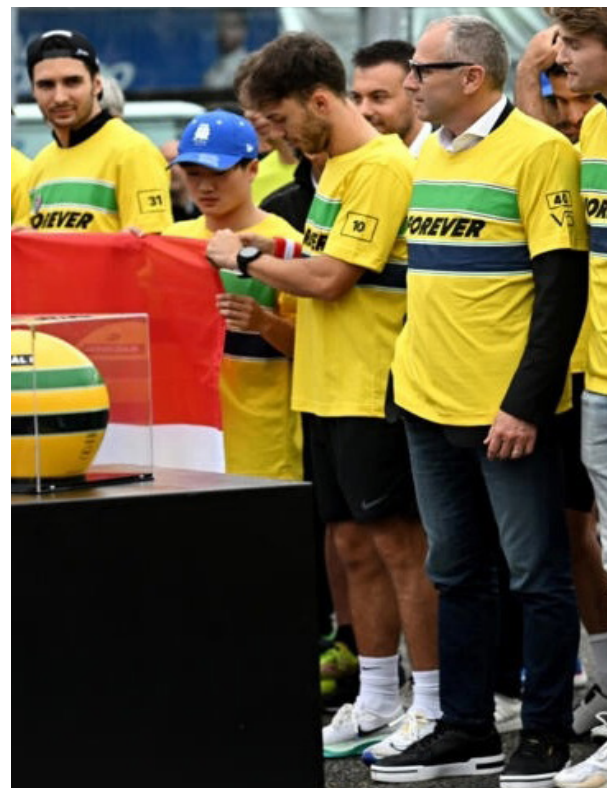


LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray was beaten 6-4 6-2 as he was knocked out of a clay-court ATP Challenger event in Bordeaux by Gregoire Barrere. Murray went 5-0 down in the first set and, despite recovering to 5-4, Frenchman Barrere then held his serve to take the opener. The Briton, who is 77th in the rankings, was broken to love in the third game of the second set and, after failing to take two break points in the next game, went 3-1 down. Barrere, ranked 115 in the world, went on to lead 5-2 before serving out to win the match in one hour 27 minutes. Overall, Murray took three of six break points, while his opponent converted six from seven. The tournament was 37-year-old Murray's first since he ruptured ankle ligaments suffered at the Miami Open in March and he came through a first-round match after opponent Kyrian Jacquet retired when trailing in the second set. Three-time Grand Slam champion Murray has previously said he does not plan to "play much past this summer" but has not announced where his final tournament will be. Briton Dan Evans is also taking part in the competition and won 6-3 7-6 (7-3) against Frenchman Harold Mayot to progress to the quarter-finals. Meanwhile Novak Djokovic, who accepted a wild card into the Gonet Geneva Open, will play former No. 1 in the PIF ATP Rankings Andy Murray or German Yannick Hanfmann in the second round. Djokovic won his opening match in Rome against Corentin Moutet, but then won just five games in a loss to eventual semi-finalist, in-form Chilean Alejandro Tabilo.

F1 Pays Tribute to Senna, 30 Years After Tragic Death

IMOLA (Dispatches) - Thirty years after he perished during the opening laps of the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix, Ayrton Senna's name, reputation and legacy continued to reverberate at the beautiful Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari on Saturday. Remembered for his bold aggressive racing and reflective humanity, Senna continued to stand as an inspirational example for the current grid of Formula One drivers and the many fans of the sport who flocked to the circuit for the Emilia Romagna Grand Prix. Most of those who still revere him were not born when he died including three-time world champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull and both McLaren drivers Lando Norris and Oscar Piastri, the trio who topped Saturday's qualifying times in Imola. Yet they and many others turned out in the rain on Thursday evening to run a lap of the tragic track, where popular Austrian rookie Roland Ratzenberger also died, just 24 hours before the three-time champion Brazilian speared into the wall at Tamburello. A special event to pay tribute to both Senna and Ratzenberger had been organised this weekend by four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, now retired, but still seen by many as a leading figure of consciousness in the sport. His invitation to the drivers to join him in marking the occasion was accepted unanimously. The lore of the tragedy of Imola '94, of its shock, the reaction and the legacy of improved safety conditions was known and understood. The modern drivers stood respectfully by the two helmets of their predecessors, mingled with members of the Senna family and posed with the flags of Austria and Brazil. For some, it prompted bleak memories of that black day, May 1, 1994, when seasoned

veterans of the newsroom, reporters of long years of experience, were unable to hold back their tears or file their



stories. It was a weekend of horrors with spectacular collisions on every afternoon, each more shocking than the one before. For F1, it was the end of one era that accepted the sport's dangers and fatalities as part of the job and the start of a new time for safety-consciousness. Senna, who had always campaigned for driver, car and circuit safety, paid for the progress with his own life. A man with an infinite eye for detail, who remembered the first name of a reporter's son after being requested to dedicate an autograph to him at a prize-giving 12 months previously, Senna had a rare sense of care and humanity. And this was why Vettel and his organising team gave out t-shirts and wristbands to remember him and Ratzenberger -- and why fans packed into see the statue of Senna inside the track at a dedicated area of memorial where flags and messages from all over the world were on display. Vettel made a speech, gave padlocks to the drivers so each one could think of an appropriate Senna memorial image and then put it in place in the nearby catch-fencing. Further round the lap from Tamburello, Vettel led another ceremony to remember Ratzenberger, who died in his car at the Variante Villeneuve. Even after 30 years, the emotions rise again. When Ratzenberger died, the paddock was stunned and many drivers were conflicted about racing on in that Saturday's qualifying session. One was Damon Hill who, having lost a close friend on Saturday, lost his Williams team-mate Senna on Sunday. He had the mental strength to survive and thrive, winning the drivers world championship for Williams in 1996. This weekend, he was back as a commentator for television