

Informed Security Sources Refutes Allegations and Confirmed Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Quds Force Brigadier General Esmail Qaani Is Safe

# IRAN NEWS

Issuing a Statement, the Israeli Military Claims That Hezbollah Secretary-General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah Was Assassinated in the Airstrike it Carried Out on Beirut on Friday

VOL. XXIX, No. 8090 TEHRAN Price 50,000 Rials

www.irannewsdaily.com

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 MEHR 08, 1403

2

DOMESTIC



## Iran's Ties With AIIB Should Be Strengthened

> SEE PAGE 2

3

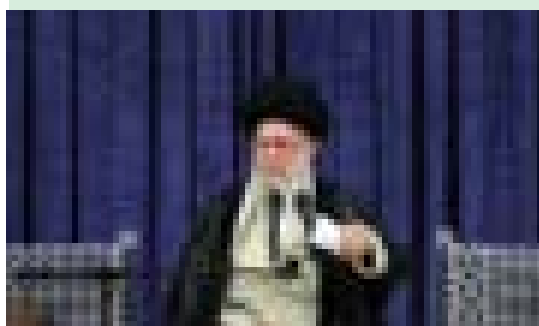
INTERNATIONAL

## More Than 20 Israeli Airstrikes Rock Beirut



> SEE PAGE 3

## Fate of the Region Will Be Determined by Hezbollah



TEHRAN – Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in a message regarding the recent events in Lebanon on Saturday hailed Hezbollah and reiterated the fate of the region will be determined by the group.

The text of the Leader's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, The massacre of defenseless people in Lebanon has once again revealed the savage nature of the rabid Zionist regime for everyone. On the other hand, it has proven the short-sightedness and foolish policies of the leaders of this usurping regime.

The terrorist gang ruling the Zionist regime did not learn a lesson from their year-long criminal war in Gaza. They failed to understand that the mass killing of women, children, and civilians cannot undermine the solid structure of the resistance or bring it down.

Now they are testing the same foolish policy in Lebanon. The Zionist criminals should know that they are far too insignificant to cause any significant harm to the strong structure of Hezbollah in Lebanon.

All the forces of resistance in the region stand by Hezbollah and support it. The fate of this region will be determined by the forces of resistance, led by the proud Hezbollah.

The people of Lebanon have not forgotten that, at one time, the soldiers of the usurping regime had occupied Beirut under their boots. It was Hezbollah that cut them off and made Lebanon honorable and proud.

Today as well, with the grace and power of God, Lebanon will make the wicked and disgraced invading enemy regret their actions.

It is obligatory for all Muslims to stand with the people of Lebanon and the proud Hezbollah, using their resources to confront and support them against the usurping, oppressive, and wicked regime.

Peace be upon the righteous servants of God.

Earlier on Wednesday and on the occasion of the Sacred Defense Week and in meeting with a number of veterans from the Sacred Defense and the Resistance, the Leader had said that Hezbollah and other resistance forces are so far the winners of the war, one reason of which is Israel's massacre of women and children in Palestine and Lebanon.

"If the evil Zionist regime had been able to defeat the fighting forces, whether in Gaza, the West Bank, or in Lebanon, it would not have needed to show its face to the world in such a dark and ugly way through committing crimes against homes, schools, hospitals, children, and women," Ayatollah Khamenei said

## Bloody Massacre in Beirut Changes Rules of Game



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Embassy in Lebanon has described Israel's Friday strikes on the outskirts of the capital Beirut as a serious game-changing escalation, warning that the occupying regime will face punishment over the bloody onslaught.

Israeli warplanes carried out more than 30 airstrikes on Friday, targeting residential buildings in the areas of Burj al-Barajneh, Kafaat, Choueifat, Hadath, al-Laylaki, and Mreijeh.

In an intense bombardment, the occupation laid waste to several building blocks in Beirut's Dahiyeh district under the pretext of striking a depot of missiles belonging to the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, with local media reporting upwards of 300 casualties as a result of the aggression.

"Once again, the Israeli regime is committing a bloody massacre, targeting densely populated residential neighborhoods and making false justifications in an attempt to cover up its brutal crime," the Iranian Embassy in Lebanon said in a post on its X account.

"There is no doubt that this reprehensible crime and reckless behavior represent a serious escalation that changes the rules of the game, and that its perpetrator will be appropriately punished and disciplined."

In a strong repudiation of the Israeli claims, Hezbollah's media office issued a statement and said the resistance movement "denies the Israeli occupation's false claims about the presence of weapons or weapons stores in the civilian buildings it targeted in the southern suburbs of Beirut."

## Hezbollah Confirms Martyrdom of Nasrallah on Israeli Strike on Beirut



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement has confirmed the assassination of its secretary general Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in massive Israeli airstrikes targeting residential buildings in southern Beirut.

The Lebanese Hezbollah movement announced moments ago in a statement that Nasrallah, along with his martyred comrades, has attained martyrdom after 30 years of struggle. It was Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah who led and commanded the resistance fighters from one victory to another, including victories such as the liberation of Lebanon from Israeli occupation in 2000, the victory in the 33-day war in 2006, and the battles supporting and backing Palestine and Gaza.

The statement also says: "We offer our condolences to the Owner of the Era and Time

(may God's blessing be upon him), to the Leader of the Muslims, His Eminence Sayyed Ali Khamenei (may his shadow endure), to the esteemed religious authorities, to the mujahideen, to the believers, and to the nation of resistance, our patient and fighting people, all Muslims, all the free and oppressed people of the world, and to his honorable and patient family. We congratulate Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah Rizwan, Secretary-General of Hezbollah, on his martyrdom on the path to Al-Quds and Palestine, and on receiving the Medal of Imam Hussein (the Medal of Martyrdom). We also offer congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of his comrades, who joined his pure and sacred convoy after the treacherous Zionist assault on the southern suburbs."

## Iran Calls for Effective Sanctions on Israel Under Chapter VII of UN Charter

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior Iranian diplomat says the United Nations Security Council should impose "effective" sanctions against Israel and all countries must cut trade with the regime amid the deteriorating situation in Palestine.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi made the statement in an address to the 6th Ministerial Meeting of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations in New York on Friday.

He said the UN Security Council has failed to stop the carnage in Palestine due to the United States' "unyielding" support to the Israeli regime.

The Iranian official added that Israel is aided and abetted by Washington in its atrocious crimes, emphasizing that both the United States and Israel shall "bear full responsibility for all their internationally wrongful acts and for each and every single life that is taken by the regime."

"The UN Security Council should impose effective sanctions against the Israeli regime under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations."

"It is also incumbent upon all states to desist and refrain from any form of aid and assistance or economic dealings with the regime so as to stop its genocidal attacks and end its occupation."

Gharibabadi pointed to Iran's "utmost restraint" against Israel's acts of provocation and said the regime, however, seems relentless in demonstrating its savagery.

The Iranian diplomat warned that Israel "is aiming now to expand its acts of aggression to Lebanon, propelling the region into a possibly irreversible escalation."



"Such provocations and brutality will not prevail our collective determination to stop the Israeli regime. One knows that restraint cannot be infinite," he said.

The Israeli regime escalated its attacks against Lebanon, killing more than 700 civilians since Monday, following the launch of Tel Aviv's war on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023.

Israel is committing heinous crimes amid the United States' continued unconditional political support for the regime.

As part of the support, Washington has traditionally used its veto power and influence as a permanent Security Council member to prevent the council from either holding the regime accountable or taking it to task for its atrocities.

Iran has repeatedly warned against Israel's plot to ignite a "full-scale war" in the West Asia region and emphasized that it will remain indifferent in this regard.

Elsewhere in his address, Gharibabadi warned against attempts to transform the very intergovernmental nature of the United Nations as well as from the egocentric unilateralism, in particular unilateral coercive measures.

"Unilateral coercive measures seek to infringe upon the sovereign and inalienable right of states to choose their economic system as well as their political, social, and cultural systems without outside interference, coercion, or threat in any form."

He underscored the importance of responding to such illegitimate purposes in an effective and commensurate manner and urged the Group's members to enhance coordination and cooperation as among their common objectives.

## FM Criticizes Netanyahu's UN Appearance, Calls for His Prosecution



TEHRAN - In a strong rebuke of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi stated that Netanyahu should have been prosecuted for his alleged crimes rather than allowed to address the United Nations. Speaking at a UN Security Council meeting focused on the "Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question," Araqchi condemned Netanyahu and his government, describing them as a "criminal gang" that should face justice for their actions.

Araqchi's comments reflect a deepening frustration with the international community's perceived inaction regarding the ongoing conflict in Gaza. He criticized the UN for allowing Netanyahu to speak, arguing that it is a "historic shame" for a leader accused of heinous crimes to stand before such a respected body. "Instead of being arrested and prosecuted for the most heinous crimes, he takes pride in his evil deeds," Araqchi stated.

During his address, Araqchi highlighted the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza, noting that there has been significant loss of life and widespread devastation. He remarked, "More than enough has been said about the horrors of ongoing genocide in Gaza, but not a single action is taken to stop it." He attributed the atrocities to what he described as the "Israeli criminal mafia," which he claimed has been emboldened by US support.

The Iranian Foreign Minister emphasized that U.S. military assistance plays a crucial role in enabling Israel's actions, stating, "Israel's warmongering relies on U.S. military support and political backing." He cited specific instances of US-supplied weaponry being used against civilian targets, such as reports of 5,000-pound bunker busters being dropped on residential areas in Beirut.

## Iranian Researchers Among World's Top 2% Scientists



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - A new Stanford University report places two researchers from Iran's Imam Reza International University among the top 2% of the world's most highly cited scientists, highlighting the growing presence of Iranian scholars in global scientific output.

A graduate from Imam Reza International University has been recognized as one of the world's most highly cited scientists.

According to updated information from the Scopus citation database, Dariush Abbasi Nejad, a Master's graduate in Information Technology from Imam Reza International University, was ranked in the top 2% of scientists globally.

This ranking was based on data published in 2024, following the latest evaluation conducted by Scopus, in collaboration with Elsevier and Stanford University.

In addition, Dr. Afshaneh Ghanizadeh, an Associate Professor in the English Department at the same university, was named among the top 2% of scientists for the second consecutive year.

The Stanford report, released in September 2024, shows a notable rise in the number of highly cited Iranian researchers.

Out of 223,152 international researchers, 2,327 scientists affiliated with the Islamic Republic of Iran made the list.

This marks an increase in both the number of recognized individuals and the global visibility of Iranian researchers compared to the previous year.

Stanford University, one of the world's leading institutions, collaborated with Elsevier's Scopus, the largest global citation database, to compile the list.

Scopus offers comprehensive data on article and book citations, making it an essential tool for researchers in various disciplines.

The top 2% list is based on multiple indicators, including the number of authored articles, citations, and other key scientific metrics.

# IRAN NEWS



## Iranian, Dutch FMs Discuss Bilateral Ties in New York

NEW YORK (IRNA) - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi met and discussed with his Dutch counterpart on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Araqchi and Dutch Foreign Minister Caspar Veldekamp met on Friday on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly at the organization's headquarters in New York and discussed bilateral, regional and international issues.

Araqchi has so far met with the foreign ministers of Iraq, Australia, South Korea, Brunei, Austria, Oman, Poland, Germany, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Cyprus and Burkina Faso.

The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly was held on Tuesday.

## Iran and Georgia Collaborate in Object Restoration, Archaeology, and Exhibition Activities



TEHRAN - The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, during a meeting with the Georgian Minister of Culture, emphasized enhancing cooperation between the two countries in three areas: object restoration, archaeology, and exhibition activities.

Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, during his visit to Tbilisi, met and held talks with the acting Minister of Culture of Georgia at the ministry's premises.

In this meeting, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts expressed readiness to cooperate with Georgia in the three fields of object restoration, archaeology, and exhibition activities, as well as sharing experiences.

Salehi Amiri also stated that increasing relations with the countries in the Caucasus region, including Georgia, is part of the ministry's plans.

In this meeting, Joseph Baghaturia, the acting Minister of Culture of Georgia, highlighted the cultural and civilizational significance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed his country's readiness to sign a cooperation agreement to enhance mutual activities.

According to the report, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, along with his delegation, traveled to Georgia to participate in the World Tourism Summit.



## 167 Projects to Be Launched with 10 Trillion Tomans Investment During Tourism Week

TEHRAN - Concurrent with Tourism Week, 167 national projects with an investment volume of over 10 trillion tomans will be inaugurated simultaneously in the presence of the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Ali Asghar Shalbafian, Deputy Minister of Tourism at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, stated during a press conference, that this year's World Tourism Day theme, "Tourism and Peace," aligns perfectly with the essence of tourism. National programs for Tourism Week in Iran are designed based on this theme.

Shalbafian mentioned the 15-point national program for Tourism Week, highlighting the key points such as religious coexistence, ethnic diversity, and tourism diplomacy, along with the government's approach towards "national unity" and tourism.

He announced that on Saturday, September 28, 167 projects with an investment volume of over 10 trillion tomans will be inaugurated in the presence of Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

Shalbafian emphasized the integration of tourism and cultural heritage, noting that this year's World Tourism Day, on September 27, coincides with October 6 in the Iranian calendar. He pointed out that tourism plays a crucial role in fostering peace, which is a significant need in today's world.

Shalbafian also highlighted the various aspects of tourism, explaining that each year, a new theme is chosen to emphasize a particular characteristic. This year, the focus is on "Tourism and Peace," following last year's "Green Tourism" theme.

He added that the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has explained the multidimensional aspects of peace, and the programs for Tourism Week are aligned with these principles.

Additionally, Shalbafian announced the launch of the second phase of the "Hello Iran" project, involving 20 influential foreign figures with over 30 million followers, and a review of last year's "Green Investment" theme, with a report to be presented on Sunday, September 29.

By: F. Taherpoor

IRANNEWS/ECONOMICDESK



## Iran's Ties With AIIIB Should Be Strengthened

TEHRAN - In a panel discussion with the members of the executive board of ministers of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Minister of Economy emphasized strengthening Iran's relations with the bank, stating: "To enhance the sustainability of collaboration in achieving shared goals, we offer our full commitment."

Iran's Economy Minister Abdolnaser Hemmati, in a meeting with the executive board of AIIB, referred to "enhancing cooperation and regional partnerships to address development challenges" as the main agenda of the AIIB. He stated that the bank's current investments in these sectors directly support the four sustainable development goals, and therefore, the bank's efforts and alignment with sustainable development strategies are highly commendable.

Criticizing the bank's financial support for not being evenly distributed across parts of Asia, he said: "Despite being members of the bank, some countries have been deprived of its facilities. For example, of the total approved financing by the bank up until the end of 2023, amounting to \$50.47 billion, they have not benefited."

The Minister traveled to Uzbekistan on September 24th to attend the 9th Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2024.

Attending the annual meeting of AIIB's finance ministers, participating in the official session of the executive board members, and holding bilateral meetings with officials from various countries are among the objectives of this trip.

Meanwhile the minister said: "The second and fifth largest economic powers in the world have both emphasized their governments' determination to expand economic cooperation with our country and invest in Iran."

Hemmati wrote on the social network X: "I had separate and productive meetings with the finance ministers of China and India, the two major Eastern economies, on the sidelines of the Asian Infrastructure Development Bank meeting."

He added: "Both the second and fifth largest economic powers in the world emphasized their governments' commitment to expanding economic

cooperation with our country and investing in Iran."

Meanwhile on the sidelines of the meeting of the ministers of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Hemmati held discussions with his counterparts from Qatar and Uzbekistan.

Hemmati continued his meetings in Uzbekistan, and on the sidelines of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank ministers' meeting, he met with the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Qatar.

In this meeting, the Qatari Minister of Economy emphasized that Iran is important to Qatar and stated that Iran has valuable experiences in various fields, especially in financial matters. He expressed his happiness that, in the near future, while hosting the President of Iran, the joint financial exchanges committee between the two countries would also be activated.

In continuation of the meeting, Hemmati said, "Qatar is a strategic partner for us," and expressed hope that during the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries, agreements would be reached to facilitate the use of mutual capacities.

Also, the Iranian Minister met and held discussions with "Jamshid Anvarovich Kuchkarov," Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Uzbekistan.

In this meeting, the agreements reached during the previous government were followed up, and the main topics of discussion between the ministers of the two countries included resolving monetary and banking issues between the two countries, developing transit relations, and increasing trade up to one billion dollars.

The meeting and discussions between the Iranian Minister of Economy and the Ministers of Economy of Uzbekistan and Qatar.

The Uzbek Minister of Economy stated that the purpose of holding and hosting the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank meeting in Uzbekistan was to introduce the culture of the country to the global community. He added that the approach of the Uzbek government is to deepen relations, and one of the goals of cooperation with Iran is to develop corridors.

## Iran Calls for Connecting Power Grids of Iran, Russia, UAE, and Saudi Arabia



TEHRAN - During the BRICS Energy Ministers' meeting in Moscow, the Iranian Minister of Energy proposed suggestions to enhance cooperation among BRICS member countries, including the connection of the power grids of Russia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Saudi Arabia.

Abbas Aliabadi emphasized the significant "geo-economic" importance of Iran, noting that the country holds the world's second-largest gas reserves and considerable oil resources, while sharing land and sea borders with 15 countries.

He stated that in addition to this, Iran plays a vital role in connecting international transit corridors leading to the Caspian Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the regions of Central Asia and the Caucasus, providing secure and cost-effective connections.

The Minister of Energy explained that Iran, in the electricity sector, aims to engage in electricity trade and transit by connecting its grid to all neighboring countries and leveraging temperature and time zone differences.

He proposed connecting Russia's power grid to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia through Iran, thereby reducing investments in power generation, significantly benefiting the environment and promoting regional security.

In the opening part of his speech, the Minister said that after World War II, the United States capitalized on the destruction of other global powers of the time to establish institutions in the political and economic arenas, advancing its political and economic objectives with an aggressive approach—an approach

that continues to this day.

He added that in recent years, some countries, especially in the Global South, such as China, Iran, Russia, and India, have sought to create similar institutions and play a key role in a new world order based on equality by forming and participating in international cooperation frameworks like the BRICS group.

Aliabadi continued by stating that today, BRICS energy ministers are seeking to utilize energy diplomacy as an effective tool for achieving their goals and preserving and enhancing their national interests in foreign policy with a human-centered approach.

The Inclusion of New Members and BRICS' Emergence as an Unparalleled Economic and Political Power

In another part of his remarks, the Minister referred to the inclusion of new countries in the BRICS group from the beginning of 2024 (January 2024). He highlighted the strategic importance of adding five countries: Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Ethiopia.

Aliabadi added that given the vast energy resources and the significant transit roles of these countries in the global political geography, this alliance could transform BRICS into an unparalleled economic and political power.

He reminded that in 2023, BRICS accounted for around 32% of the global economy, which is remarkable compared to the 30% share held by the G7, the world's seven largest industrial nations

## Iran Non-Oil Exports Soar to \$25.8b

By: F. Taherpoor



TEHRAN - The Head of Iran's Customs announced that the total non-oil exports of the country in the first six months of the current year increased by 6.5% to reach \$25.8 billion.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far, Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of Iran's Customs, added that the total weight of non-oil exports in the first six months of this year reached 70 million tons, marking a 3.5% increase compared to the same period last year.

Rezvani-Far mentioned that during this period, \$23.2 billion worth of oil and \$600 million in technical and engineering services were exported. He stated that the total exports of the country in the first half of this year reached \$49.6 billion.

Regarding imports, the Deputy Minister of Economy and Head of Iran's Customs said that the total value of imports, including \$2.5 billion worth of gold bars, reached \$32.6 billion during this period.

He added that the total trade volume of the country in this period amounted to \$82.2 billion. Regarding the trade balance, he said that in the first half of this year, the non-oil trade balance was negative by \$6.8 billion, while including oil and technical and engineering services, it was positive by \$17 billion.

Rezvani-Far stated that the average value of each ton of exported goods increased by 3% to \$366 in the first six months of this year.

He also noted that 28.1 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$11.3 billion were exported during this period, reflecting a 5% increase in weight and 7% increase in value.

Regarding the largest export destinations in the first six months of this year, Rezvani-Far explained: China with \$7.2 billion, Iraq with \$5.2 billion, the United Arab Emirates with \$3.4 billion, Turkey with \$2.4 billion, Afghanistan with \$1.1 billion, Pakistan with \$1 billion, and India with \$900 million were the major export destinations. These seven countries accounted for 81% of the total weight and 82% of the total value of Iran's exports.

As for the main countries of origin for imports, he said: the majority of imports came from the United Arab Emirates with \$10 billion, China with \$8.5 billion, Turkey with \$5.1 billion, Germany with \$1.2 billion, and both Russia and India with \$800 million each, followed by Hong Kong with \$600 million. These seven countries accounted for 77% of the total weight and 83% of the total value of imports during this period.

Rezvani-Far also highlighted that China with \$15.7 billion, the UAE with \$13.4 billion, and Turkey with \$7.5 billion were Iran's top three trade partners in the first half of this year.

## New BRICS Agreements in the Taxation Sector



TEHRAN - The heads of tax organizations from BRICS member countries, at their annual meeting, agreed on establishing a framework for joint cooperation in the taxation sector and welcomed the creation of a permanent secretariat.

At the meeting of senior tax officials from BRICS countries in Moscow, which was attended by Seyed Mohammad Hadi Sobhanian, head of Iran's Tax Affairs Organization, participants reached a consensus on creating a BRICS Tax Forum.

As per the agreement among the heads of tax organizations from BRICS countries, this forum will replace the annual meetings of tax experts and heads of tax organizations from member countries. It will ensure the continuous operation of working groups focusing on tax management development in the areas of individuals, data, and technology.

## Storm John Dumps Nearly One Meter of Rain on Mexican State

ACAPULCO (Dispatches) - Storm John started dissipating over Mexico's Pacific coast on Friday and was downgraded to tropical depression, but its remnants poured a deluge of almost 100 cm (39 inches) of rain on the southern state of Guerrero.

Four days of steady rain dousing the home state of major beach resort Acapulco have almost tripled the downpour from last year's devastating Hurricane Otis, Mexican authorities said. Images on social networks showed homes, businesses, roads and vehicles were damaged as rising waters flooded areas in Guerrero and the neighboring state of Michoacan.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) warned that "catastrophic flash flooding and mudslides will continue over portions of southern and south-western Mexico."

The head of Mexico's national meteorological service, Alejandra Mendez, said John had soaked Guerrero with more than 95 cm (37 inches) of rain since Monday, a Category 5 hurricane, had brought 35 cm (14 inches) of rain.

Otis, which last year killed more than 50 and caused damages of about \$15 billion, rapidly grew stronger as it neared Acapulco, while John moved much slower, oscillating between tropical storm and hurricane to saturate a wide swathe of coast.



## Former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba to Be Japan's Next PM



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Former defense minister Shigeru Ishiba will become Japan's next prime minister after winning the ruling party's leadership vote today, the official count showed.

Ishiba, 67, beat arch-nationalist Sanae Takaichi — who would have been the country's first ever woman leader — in a run-off.

After his victory was announced at the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) headquarters in Tokyo, Ishiba smiled and took off his glasses to wipe his teary eyes, bowing repeatedly as his associates congratulated him.

"I will do my utmost to believe in the people, to speak the truth with courage and sincerity, and to make this country a safe and secure place where everyone can live with a smile on their face once again," he said in a short speech.

Ishiba has come close to the top job before, including in 2012 when he lost to nationalist Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest-serving leader who was later assassinated.

The military model-maker with an affinity for 1970s pop idols says his experience tackling tough social issues, such as agriculture reforms, makes him qualified for the job.

As scandals fuel public discontent with the LDP, "the tide is in favour of Ishiba and his 'fair and square' attitude," Yu Uchiyama, a University of Tokyo politics professor, said ahead of the vote.

The conservative party has governed almost uninterrupted for decades and holds a majority, meaning Ishiba will be elected premier by parliament on Tuesday.

As prime minister he will need to face down regional security threats, from an increasingly assertive China and its deepening ties with Russia to North Korea's banned missile tests.

At home, Ishiba will be tasked with breathing life into the economy, as the central bank moves away from decades of monetary easing that has slashed the value of the yen.

In the first round of voting, a record nine candidates had been in the running after the LDP's long-powerful factions disbanded earlier this year over a funding scandal.

## Austrian Far Right Pledges to Win Sunday's Election



VIENNA (Reuters) - The leader of Austria's far-right Freedom Party (FPÖ), Herbert Kickl, pledged on Friday to win this weekend's parliamentary election in what would be a historic first, even as opinion polls show the race is now too close to call.

Doggedly keeping grievances about immigration in focus, Kickl's FPÖ has had a clear lead in polls for more than a year, helped by voters' frustration with inflation above the European Union average and Austria's misfiring economy.

Chancellor Karl Nehammer's conservative Austrian People's Party (ÖVP), however, has closed the gap to within the margin of error, as the ÖVP sought to present him as a statesman in contrast to the often abrasive and polarizing Kickl.

"The people are the wind at our backs and the system is our headwind and the people are always stronger than the system, and we will prove it on Sunday," the 55-year-old Kickl said in a typically populist address at a closing campaign event in front of St. Stephen's Cathedral in the heart of Vienna.

The two countries kept up the drive on Friday, leading a statement with other

emerging powers that calls for a "comprehensive and lasting settlement" through diplomacy.

But in a thinly veiled criticism of Putin's recent saber-rattling, the emerging powers called on all sides to refrain "from the use or the threat of weapons of mass destruction."

South Africa and Turkey were among the powers that also signed the statement.

Putin this week threatened to use nuclear weapons in the event of a major attack on Russian soil as Ukraine, looking to hit back against the invasion, seeks Western weapons to strike deeper across the border.

Since Blinken and Wang last met in July at a regional conference in Laos, China has pleased the United States by releasing an American pastor imprisoned for years, although other Americans are detained.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, during a summit in November 2023 with counterpart Joe Biden, agreed to key US demands of restoring military communication between the two powers.

He also agreed to take action against producers of ingredients in fentanyl, the painkiller behind an overdose epidemic in the United States.

But a wide range of disagreements remain.

Blinken said he warned Wang against Beijing's "dangerous, destabilizing actions" on the South China Sea, where tensions have risen sharply between China and US ally the Philippines.

On the disputed waterway, Wang urged the US to "stop stirring up trouble... and undermining the efforts of regional countries to maintain peace and stability".

Wang also slammed US "suppression" of China's trade, technology, and economy and told Blinken that Washington should pursue "dialogue with respect".

"Since the US has repeatedly expressed that it does not intend to confront China, it should establish a rational understanding of China at its core, create a proper way of coexistence, (and) engage in dialogue with respect," Wang told Blinken.

The latest meeting came ahead of the November 5 election in which Republican candidate Donald Trump has vowed to take a harder line on China.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, who is running against Trump, have said that they seek dialogue to avoid conflict between the two powers, although their administration has also taken a hard line.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.

"These are people who, primarily, have already been charged and convicted and served their time," Aaron Reichlin-Melnick of the American Immigration Council told AFP.

Reichlin-Melnick added that, under Trump, there were also millions of non-citizens living in the United States, including hundreds of thousands with criminal records.

mentally ill people, is "fanning the flames of fear and division."

"The American people deserve a president who cares more about border security than playing political games and their personal political future."

Harris earlier visited the border wall in Douglas, where she met with Border Patrol officials and was photographed holding the distinctive metal slats.

It was her first visit to the frontier since Joe Biden ceded the Democratic Party nomination to her, and Republicans have hammered her for staying away.

Arizona is one of the half-dozen battleground states expected to decide the agonizingly close November 5 election, and it is where polls show Harris may have to do the most work.

Hours before Harris spoke figures from the US Department of Homeland Security showed 425,000 non-citizens convicted of crimes are living in the United States, including more than 13,000 who have convictions for homicide.

Trump leapt on the news, saying these people had been "let out of jail, and they're roaming our streets."

Trump claimed -- wrongly -- that the numbers referred to people who had entered illegally under the Biden-Harris administration.

In fact, the figures give no details on how long these people have resided in the United States, and experts say many could have been in country for decades.



## Draper Through to Japan Open Quarters

TOKYO (Dispatches) - British number one Jack Draper progressed to the Japan Open quarter-finals with a straight-set victory over number two seed Hubert Hurkacz. The unseeded 22-year-old, who reached the US Open semi-finals earlier this month, took 84 minutes to beat the Pole 6-4 6-4 in Tokyo. Draper won two of seven break point opportunities and saved three of his own. The victory was the world number 20's third against a top-10 opponent in 2024 - his most in a single season. After becoming the first British man to reach the US Open final four since Andy Murray in 2012, Draper says he wants to continue to emulate the Scot. "I see it as a responsibility to be the person who's performing," said Englishman Draper. "Andy has had a lot of success over a long period of time, and my biggest respect for him was that he did that with a lot of pressure on his shoulders, especially around Wimbledon time. "I see it as a responsibility to achieve great things for myself and for British tennis." He will next play the winner of the match between France's Ugo Humbert and America's Brandon Nakashima. Hurkacz's exit means five of the eight seeded players have been knocked out, with Taylor Fritz, Casper Ruud, Stefanos Tsitsipas and Frances Tiafoe losing in the first round. Elsewhere, Katie Boulter progressed to the second round of the China Open with a straight-set win against Taylor Townsend. The British number one made a slow start in Beijing, failing to take three break points in the opening game and losing her first service game.

Boulter, playing for the first time since a second round exit at the US Open, recovered to win 6-4 6-4. She will face the winner between America's Coco Gauff and France's Clara Burel in the next round. Meanwhile Coco Gauff reached the third round of the China Open by beating Clara Burel 7-5, 6-3 in her first match since the U.S. Open. The No. 6-ranked Gauff, who saved a set point when trailing 5-4 in the first set, will play Katie Boulter of Britain, who advanced by beating American Taylor Townsend 6-4, 6-4. Gauff is playing in Beijing following her recent split from coach Brad Gilbert after more than a year and one Grand Slam title together. That break-up came shortly after Gauff's defense of the U.S. Open championship she won in 2023 ended in a fourth round loss against Emma Navarro. Earlier, No. 3-ranked Carlos Alcaraz withstood a heavy barrage from big-serving Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard to win 6-4, 6-4 in his opening match. Second-seeded Alcaraz took both of his break point opportunities, despite the No. 51-ranked Frenchman regularly sending down 140 mph (225 kph) serves. Mpetshi Perricard won 83% of the points behind his first serve but gave up costly errors at the beginning of each set, which Alcaraz was wily enough to capitalize on. "The plan was just to put as many returns in as I can," Alcaraz said. "Honestly it wasn't easy. He's a really powerful player. Big serve, big shots from the baseline. So I had to be really focused." Daniil Medvedev safely navigated a tricky first outing, 6-3, 6-4 against French veteran Gael Monfils. Roman Safullin, who made the main draw as a lucky loser in qualifying, beat three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka 6-3, 6-4 and will face top-ranked Jannik Sinner.

## FIFA Suspends Argentina Goalkeeper Martinez for Two Games



BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano "Dibu" Martinez has been suspended for two matches by FIFA for "offensive behaviour", the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said in a statement on Friday. Martinez will miss Argentina's next South American qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup against Venezuela and Bolivia in October. The Aston Villa goalkeeper has been suspended over incidents in matches against Chile and Colombia earlier this month. In the Chile game, his first since winning the Copa America in the United States, Martinez celebrated by making a lewd gesture with the trophy, as he did after winning the 2022 World Cup in Qatar. After the loss to Colombia, the 32-year-old hit a local television camera. "Damian Emiliano Martinez is being held responsible for his offensive behaviour and violation of the principles of fair play," the AFA said in a statement, adding that it disagreed with the FIFA Disciplinary Committee's decision.

## AC Milan Join Torino at Serie A Summit by Thumping Lecce

MILAN (Dispatches) - AC Milan joined Torino at the top of Serie A after Friday's convincing 3-0 win over lowly Lecce built on their derby victory over Inter Milan last weekend. Goals in five first-half minutes from Alvaro Morata, Theo Hernandez and Christian Pulisic sent Milan on their way to a third straight league win and moved them level on 11 points with Torino. Milan also have a superior goal difference to Torino, which would have put the seven-time European champions top if they hadn't played a game more. Paulo Fonseca's team, who had failed to win their first three league matches of the season, could have won by more as both Tammy Abraham and Ruben Loftus-Cheek struck the woodwork either side of half-time. The only sour note from the night was teenage defender Davide Bertesaghi being sent off for a rash challenge with 10 minutes remaining, just five minutes after replacing Hernandez.



"That's what makes football so great, things can change for the better or worse over 90 minutes," said Fonseca, who had been heavily criticised after his team were given a footballing lesson by Liverpool 10 days ago. "It was important to win after winning the derby... it was difficult to get our feet back on the ground but the players knew what needed to be done and won the match." Milan now travel to Germany to take on Bayer Leverkusen in the Champions League on Tuesday with their tails up and key attacking players in fine form. Pulisic's tap-in two minutes from the break was his fourth goal in as many matches for Milan while Hernandez was back to his rampaging best, swinging in the cross for Morata's opener and lashing home the hosts' brilliant second. Fonseca said on Thursday that Morata had been a doubt and he was taken off to keep him available for Leverkusen. "I didn't have a pre-season and have missed a lot of training sessions, so it just takes a bit longer (to get fully fit). I went off as a precaution," said Morata to Sky.

## Guirassy Sparks Dortmund Comeback Win Over Plucky Bochum



DORTMUND (Dispatches) - Borussia Dortmund came from two goals down to beat lowly Bochum 4-2 at home on Friday with 'super' Serhou Guirassy scoring twice. Summer arrival Guirassy got on the scoresheet alongside captain Emre Can, who scored a penalty, and Felix Nmecha. Dortmund now have ten points from five games while Bochum are one of three Bundesliga outfits, alongside St Pauli and Holstein, on a single point. "Serhou is super," Can told DAZN, adding "it's great to have a player up front who's always good for a goal." "We got hit early but we stayed clear in our minds. I don't know if I can say it, but I think we deserved to win," Dortmund coach Nuri Sahin said. "It's a process and we spoke about it. We concede a third and things go belly up pretty quick, but sometimes you need to suffer to learn." Dortmund came into the match with their local rivals stung by a 5-1 thrashing at the hands of Stuttgart last week for their worst start to a league season since 2014-15, when then manager Jurgen Klopp stepped down from the club. The hosts started brightly against a Bochum side yet to win in any competition this season but were behind after 16 minutes, Matus Bero scoring on the counter against the run of play. Just five minutes later, the home side were two down after a poor attempt to play out from the back laid the ball on a platter for Dani de Wit to slam home, giving Bochum a 2-0 lead after 21 minutes. After the match, Can told DAZN "I think nobody in the stadium could make sense of what happened early. "We were suddenly 2-0 behind and then your mind turns to last week and the loss in Stuttgart and you think 'it doesn't look good'." Sahin cradled his head in his hands while former manager Edin Terzic, who took the club to last year's Champions League final, watched on in the crowd. Shellshocked, Dortmund failed to spark to life and Bochum could have had a third when Monaco loanee Myron Boadu broke free on the counter but scuffed his shot wide. With Dortmund reeling, Guirassy struck just before half-time, heading in a Julian Brandt cross to draw the hosts closer at the break. Guirassy's movement troubled the visitors and he won the hosts a penalty after 61 minutes, going down in the box under attention from former Dortmund defender Felix Passlack.

## Ricciardo Bids Farewell

SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Daniel Ricciardo thanked fans on Friday for a "wild and wonderful" Formula One journey after being axed by the RB team and replaced by New Zealand prodigy Liam Lawson for the rest of the 2024 season. The 35-year-old's contract expired after the Singapore Grand Prix and he was dropped with six races to go, likely spelling the end of his long career in the sport. "I've loved this sport my whole life. It's wild and wonderful and been a journey," he said following the team's announcement. "To the teams and individuals that have played their part, thank you. To the fans who love the sport sometimes more than me, thank you. "It'll always have its highs and lows but it's been fun and truth be told I wouldn't change it." Lewis Hamilton and Max Verstappen led tributes to the Australian, who was one of the leading stars of the hit Netflix series 'Drive to Survive'. "It's been an honour to compete with you over the years," seven-time world champion Hamilton said on Instagram. "I'll never forget the battles, the laughs, and drinking out of your shoe. It was gross, but glad I got to do it with you bud. "There is so much more for you up ahead and I can't wait to see what you do next," he added. "Always here for you, man." Hamilton's Mercedes teammate George Russell praised Ricciardo for his impact on F1. "F1 won't be the same without you, mate. All the best on the next adventure." Current world champion Verstappen added: "Head up mate! Many more beautiful moments to come," with tributes also coming from Charles Leclerc, Fernando



Alonso, Oscar Piastri and Pierre Gasly, among others. Red Bull chief Christian Horner said he had left "an indelible legacy" on the team. "Thank you for the wins, smiles, songs (and I wish I could say the shoeys), you will always be a special part of the Red Bull Family," added Horner. Ricciardo was one of the most popular drivers in the paddock, with an infectious smile and wicked sense of humour. He spent 13 years on the grid, earning 32 podiums and eight victories from stints with Toro Rosso (later AlphaTauri and now RB), Red Bull, Renault and McLaren, scoring 1,329 points. The self-styled "Honey Badger", he introduced Aussie culture, in the form of the "shoey", to the podium as he guzzled champagne from his sweaty racing boot after each of his wins. After McLaren sacked him in 2022 in favour of Piastri, he made a return to the grid in the middle of last season with RB, with the rumour mill at one point suggesting he could rejoin Red Bull Racing as Verstappen's teammate. But the results did not go his way. Instead RB have opted for 22-year-old Lawson, who came in for five races last season when Ricciardo broke his wrist in a crash at the Dutch Grand Prix. The New Zealander, who came through Red Bull's young driver programme, will suit up alongside Yuki Tsunoda, starting at the United States Grand Prix at the Circuit of the Americas next month.