

Figures by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Show That Loading of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products in the Iranian Ports Reached Just More Than 46.075m Metric Tons (mt) in the Seven Months to October 21

IRAN NEWS

One Jeish al-Adle linked Terrorist Has Been Arrested Over a Terror Act That Took Place in the Southeastern Iranian Province of Sistan and Baluchestan on Saturday, Police Say

2 DOMESTIC



Tehran, Tashkent Eye on Boosting Trade to Over €1b

> SEE PAGE 2

3 INTERNATIONAL

Georgia's Ruling Party Wins Pivotal Election, Early Results Show

> SEE PAGE 3



Iran Urges UNSC to Condemn Deadly Terrorist Attack on Police Convoy



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has called on the Security Council to vehemently condemn the recent deadly terrorist attack on a police convoy in the country's southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Amir Saeid Iravani made the remarks in a letter to the UN chief and the Security Council's president on Saturday, hours after the so-called Jaish al-Adl terrorist group killed 10 Iranian police officers in an ambush on their vehicles in Sistan and Baluchestan's Taftan county.

He said that the foreign-backed terrorist group with close links to Daesh has a long record of attacks on innocent Iranian civilians and policemen, and thus its acts of terror require immediate and unequivocal denunciation by the international community.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns this heinous act of terrorism in the strongest terms and reaffirms its resolve to bring those responsible to justice, ensuring they face full accountability for their crimes," he added. "We call on the Security Council to issue a resolute press statement that unequivocally condemns this heinous terrorist attack."

"The so-called Jaish al-Adl, based in Pakistan, has in recent years claimed responsibility for several terror assaults across the border province of Sistan and Baluchestan."

On September 13, the notorious group targeted the vehicle of Iranian border guards at a gas station in Sistan and Baluchestan's Mirjaveh county, killing an officer and two conscripts.

The envoy expressed Iran's "unwavering" commitment to safeguarding its nation from "the ruthless threat posed by these violent terrorist organizations."

As a country that has borne the catastrophic impact of terrorism, Iran stands firm in its mission to combat and eliminate the scourge in all its forms and manifestations, he emphasized.

Hezbollah Strongly Condemns Israeli Aggression Against Iran



BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah has condemned the latest Israeli aggression against Iran, calling the move a "dangerous escalation."

The Israeli regime announced on Saturday that it had carried out a wave of air attacks on Iran, claiming it hit the Islamic Republic's missile manufacturing facilities, surface-to-air missile arrays and other aerial capabilities across several areas of the country.

Hezbollah in a statement on Saturday, said the "treacherous Zionist aggression" against the Islamic Republic of Iran was conducted with "full support" from the US.

"Hezbollah strongly condemns the treacherous Zionist aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran and considers it a dangerous escalation at the level of the entire region," the statement read.

It added that the offensive reflected "the aggressive nature of the occupying entity that commits massacres and causes tragedies and destruction with the explicit and full support of the United States of America, which bears full responsibility for the massacres, tragedies, and pain."

It reiterated that the attack on Iranian national sovereignty and the "dear Islamic Republic of Iran" will never affect its firm and explicit position and its full support at various levels for the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

It also commended the success of the Iranian armed forces in all their specialties and units in successfully confronting this treacherous attack.

"We offer our condolences to the leadership of the Republic and its honorable people for the martyrs on the path to Al-Quds, and we ask Allah to grant the wounded a speedy recovery and the Islamic Republic victory and steadfastness," it added.

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK



Israeli Aggression Should Not Be Exaggerated or Downplayed, Says Leader

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, emphasized that the recent aggressive actions by the Israeli regime should neither be exaggerated nor downplayed. He stated that the miscalculations of the Israeli regime must be disrupted.

In a meeting with thousands of families of security martyrs at the Imam Khomeini (RA) Hosseiniyeh, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution made several key points:

"The second matter pertains to the malicious act that took place here two nights ago. Well, they made a mistake, and they are also exaggerating it. Their exaggeration is incorrect; however, it is equally wrong to downplay it. To say, 'No, it was nothing, it wasn't important' is also incorrect."

"The Israeli regime is experiencing a miscalculation regarding Iran. They do not understand Iran, its youth, or its people. They have yet to grasp the power, capabilities, innovation, and will of the Iranian nation. We must make them understand this."

"Our officials must recognize the nature of this work and correctly comprehend what is in the best interest of this country and its people. The Zionists must know who the Iranian people are, what the youth of Iran are like, and the spirit, motivation, bravery, and readiness that exists today within the Iranian nation—this alone is a source of security, and we must preserve it."

"In terms of security, maintaining the psychological security of society is crucial. Instilling fear and doubt in the hearts of the people is unacceptable, and the Quran is clear on this matter."

"Some individuals, in various analyses, believe that if we want the country to be secure, we must avoid the sensitive tools of power; for instance, they question the necessity of possessing missiles with a certain range, thinking that this is how they can secure the country. This perspective—

believing that to ensure security, one must remain weak and refrain from acquiring power—is incorrect."

"What preserves a country's security is its national power—being strong in all respects; strong in knowledge, economy, defense capabilities, and armaments. These factors ensure the security of the country."

"Whenever we turned away from pursuing tools of power due to the poor policies of our rulers, the enemy gained dominance over us. The calamities that befell our nation during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras were due to the lack of efforts to strengthen the people. As a result, even during the First and Second World Wars, which had no relation to Iran, our country was occupied despite declaring neutrality."

"When a country lacks the ability to defend itself, this is the outcome. The unforgivable sin of incompetent leaders—some incompetent and others traitors dependent on foreign powers—is to weaken the nation so that it cannot defend itself, leading to the inevitable loss of its security."

"There is a significant failure occurring globally regarding the wicked Israeli regime. Governments, particularly global organizations like the United Nations, are truly failing in addressing the issue of combating the Israeli regime."

"The actions the regime has taken in Gaza and Lebanon are among the most barbaric war crimes. War, of course, is undoubtedly harsh, but it also has rules, regulations, and limits. It is not acceptable for one party in a conflict to trample all these boundaries, as the criminal gang ruling over occupied Palestine does."

Iraqi Resistance Carries Out Drone Strikes in Golan Heights, Eilat

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) -

Fighters from Iraqi anti-terror groups have launched a series of attacks on strategic sites at the strategic Golan Heights and elsewhere in the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the Tel Aviv regime's relentless brutalities against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and its bloody onslaught on Lebanon.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, said in a statement that its fighters conducted the Sunday morning attack on a "vital target" in the Golan Heights, using bomb-laden unmanned aerial vehicles.

The group stated that the strike was part of its ongoing resistance against the occupying Israeli regime, in support of Palestinians in Gaza and Lebanese people, and in retaliation for the Israeli massacre of unarmed civilians, including women, children and the elderly.

The coalition also vowed to continue targeting strategic installations across the Israeli-occupied territories.

Earlier, the Iraqi resistance alliance had reported a drone strike on another key Israeli position in the same occupied strategic region.

"The fighters of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, today, Sunday 27-10-2024, attacked a



vital target in the occupied Golan with drones," it said in a statement.

The group emphasized that the strike was in retaliation for Israeli acts of aggression, including massacres of women, children, and the elderly in the occupied Palestinian territories and Lebanon. The Iraqi resistance also vowed to continue its operations against Israeli targets with increasing intensity.

Also on Sunday, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a key Israeli target at the Port of Eilat in the southern part of the occupied territories.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has stepped up attacks targeting Israeli positions as the regime's military intensifies its assaults on Gaza and Lebanon. The alliance has been conducting numerous

operations against sensitive targets lying across the occupied territories since October 7 last year, when the Israeli regime began waging a genocidal war in the Gaza Strip.

At least 42,924 Palestinians, most of them women and children, have been killed in the brutal Israeli military onslaught so far.

The coalition has also carried out retaliatory attacks against the US occupation bases across Iraq and neighboring Syria due to Washington's unbridled political, military, and intelligence support for Israel's atrocities in Gaza.

U.S. Complicit in Israeli Aggression Against Iran



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Permanent Mission to the United Nations has said the United States has enabled the Israeli regime to carry out airstrikes against Iran by allowing Israeli fighter jets to use Iraqi airspace to launch missiles at Iranian military and radar sites.

In a statement released on its official account on X (formerly Twitter) on Saturday, the Iranian mission noted that Israeli fighter jets conducted the attacks from Iraqi airspace, approximately 70 miles from the Iranian border.

"The Iraqi airspace is under the occupation, command, and control of the U.S. military," the statement asserted. It concluded that "U.S. complicity in this crime is certain."

1. The Zionist regime's warplanes attacked several Iranian military and radar sites from Iraqi airspace, approximately 70 miles from Iran's border.

2. Iraqi airspace is under the occupation, command and control of the U.S. military.

The Iranian Air Defense Forces said early Saturday morning that the country's integrated air defense system successfully intercepted and countered the Israeli strikes targeting military locations in Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam provinces.

The attacks caused limited damage in some locations and the dimensions of the incident are under investigation, the statement added.

In a separate statement on Saturday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry condemned the Israeli airstrikes as a blatant violation of international law and the UN Charter, reiterating the country's right to defend itself against foreign acts of aggression.

Meanwhile Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said Iran knows "no limits" in defending its national interests and territorial integrity following the Israeli regime's act of aggression against Iranian military installations.

"I think we have proved that our determination to defend ourselves knows no limits. We have proved this during eight years of war with [former Iraqi dictator] Saddam Hussein and in the face of the US hostilities over the past years," Araqchi said in an interview with the official website of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

Iran Will Definitely Respond to Israeli Act of Aggression



TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf denounced the Israeli regime's recent attack against a number of military centers in the country, stating that the Islamic Republic's response to the act of aggression will be "definite and calculated."

Speaking at a session of the parliament on Sunday, Qalibaf urged the United States, Israel's traditional ally, to force Israel to accept a ceasefire in Gaza and Lebanon, where the Zionist-led genocidal war has killed and displaced tens of thousands of people.

"Even though the Zionist regime's military action against Iran was all out of despair and turned into another defeat for the entity, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself entitled to self-defense within the framework of the inherent right of legitimate defense and under Article 51 of the UN Charter," he noted.

"The response to this act of aggression will be definite and calculated," the parliament speaker warned.

"The U.S., the main ally of Israel and complicit in all its atrocities and war crimes, must restrain the illegitimate Zionist entity and compel it to accept a sustainable ceasefire to stop the massacre of innocent people in Gaza and Lebanon, and prevent instability and insecurity from spreading across the West Asia region," he added.

According to Qalibaf, a comparison between Operation True Promise II and the usurping regime's latest action attests to the deterrence power of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The vigilance of devoted warriors in air defense divisions of the Iranian Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) demonstrated that the apartheid Zionist regime continually makes a mockery of itself globally whenever it faces the proud nation of Iran in any confrontation," Qalibaf highlighted.

The top Iranian legislator also extended his gratitude to neighboring countries for condemnation of the aggressive and unlawful actions of the occupying Zionist regime.

IRAN NEWS



1.7m Phones Imported into Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) - According to customs data from the Islamic Republic of Iran, 6,720,659 mobile phones have been imported into the country through commercial and passenger channels in the first seven months of this year. Reports from IRNA and Iran Customs indicate that the total value of these imported phones amounts to \$1,497,533,000. This report highlights a 16.5% decrease in the number of phones imported and a 9% drop in value compared to the same period last year. Of these, 6,521,446 phones worth \$1,391,871,000 were imported commercially, while 199,213 phones valued at \$105,662,000 were brought in by passengers. The data further shows a 15.8% decrease in the number of commercial phone imports and a 6% drop in their value. Meanwhile, passenger-imported phones saw a 34.6% decrease in quantity and a 38% decrease in value.

Iran-Venezuela Free Trade Talks in Progress



TEHRAN - Mohammad Sadegh Ghanadzadeh, Deputy for International Business Development at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, announced recent discussions between Iranian and Venezuelan officials aimed at establishing a free trade agreement between the two countries. He emphasized that the government and the Trade Promotion Organization are focused on expanding free trade agreements, and since the administration began, efforts to sign such agreements have accelerated. Last week, an Iranian delegation traveled to Venezuela, where promising progress was made. It is expected that after two more rounds of negotiations on a list of mutually agreed items, a conclusive agreement for free trade between the two countries will be reached.

Ghanadzadeh added that during a recent Iranian delegation's visit to Pakistan, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade met with his Pakistani counterpart. They agreed to complete the required technical work over the next two months to advance a free trade agreement with Pakistan, aiming to finalize this agreement during the upcoming visit of Pakistani officials to Iran.

He also noted that the preferential trade agreement between Iran and Indonesia has already been approved by the Iranian Parliament and conveyed by the government, meaning there are no further obstacles to its implementation.

Discussing achievements from recent visits between Iranian and Uzbek officials, Ghanadzadeh explained that Uzbekistan's Minister of Industry and Investment recently visited Iran. During this visit, both sides nearly finalized a list of items for a preferential trade agreement with Uzbekistan. Previously, during an Iranian delegation's visit to Uzbekistan, it was revealed that Uzbekistan is planning the construction of a new city and invited Iranian contractors and engineering firms to participate. However, challenges in banking, financial transactions, and guarantees were discussed, and steps are being taken to resolve these issues.

Ghanadzadeh emphasized efforts to establish banking and guarantee systems that can support Iranian contractors' participation in Uzbek projects, aiming to facilitate direct or intermediary-based issuance of necessary guarantees for Iranian exporters.

The Deputy also referred to the free trade agreement between Iran and Syria, signed in the 1990s, which has yet to significantly impact trade growth. During a recent visit to Syria, agreements were reached to address barriers hindering the effectiveness of this agreement. This matter is currently being reviewed in Parliament, where the government is advocating for the agreement's implementation.

He further noted that the 14th administration, alongside its efforts to expand Iran's free trade, is also considering global trade accords, including the World Trade Organization (WTO). Recent government reports indicate that progress is being made in Iran's trade development efforts.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



Tehran, Tashkent Eye on Boosting Trade to Over €1b

TEHRAN - In a joint meeting held in Tehran, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade, Seyyed Mohammad Atabak, met with Uzbekistan's Minister of Investment, Industry, and Trade, Laziz Kudratov. This meeting aimed to discuss and strengthen economic, technical, and commercial ties between the two nations, following recent agreements made between the Presidents of Iran and Uzbekistan.

Addressing the event, Atabak highlighted the collaborative efforts made during the meeting to support a preferential trade framework between Iran and Uzbekistan. Both countries dispatched specialized teams to negotiate preferential trade agreements, which included an initial list of goods that would qualify for reduced tariffs. Additionally, a free trade list of items, which will be decided on in future sessions, was drafted to further bolster bilateral trade.

Atabak emphasized the extensive opportunities in the mining sector for both countries, sharing that joint cooperation in mining and mineral industries was a focal point of the discussion. He expressed Iran's intention to extend its technical expertise in the mining industry to Uzbekistan, potentially paving the way for enhanced bilateral investment in steel production and related sectors.

To streamline economic exchanges, Atabak proposed an innovative economic cooperation model, which was met with enthusiasm by the Uzbek delegation. The model includes establishing a joint committee to coordinate banking transactions. Atabak expressed confidence that most of the issues discussed during the meeting had reached actionable agreements, anticipating a significant step forward in Iran-Uzbekistan trade relations.

He further stated that Iran looks forward to seeing trade volumes with Uzbekistan surpass €1 billion in the near future, with a longer-term target of exceeding €5 billion.

Uzbekistan's Minister Laziz Kudratov also spoke optimistically about the meeting's outcomes, stressing that both countries are committed to enhancing trade ties. The agreements reached will provide mutual benefits, he said, adding

that Uzbekistan has been working toward a comprehensive agreement with Iran for some time. This recent meeting, he noted, marks a pivotal point in formalizing those plans.

Kudratov announced that Uzbekistan would soon adopt a preferential tariff regime for Iranian products. This measure will reduce tariffs, taxes, and customs duties on Iranian goods exported to Uzbekistan by 50%, benefiting Iranian exporters and producers. Additionally, the discussion extended to other aspects of bilateral trade, and both parties agreed to increase the overall trade volume between the two nations.

The two ministers agreed to establish a regular meeting structure, forming a working group involving deputy ministers from both countries. These specialized sessions will occur every three months to review and expedite progress on agreements and to identify new avenues for cooperation. Kudratov noted that a joint commission on economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Uzbekistan would be organized in Tehran soon, with further plans for a trade fair and an exhibition to showcase Uzbekistan's industrial capabilities to Iranian businesses.

The Uzbek minister concluded by emphasizing Uzbekistan's commitment to strengthening economic ties with Iran. To build on the progress made, a business conference and trade fair are planned to be held in Tehran, with the participation of major employers and industrial representatives from both countries. These events aim to facilitate direct interactions between companies and investors, fostering long-term partnerships in key sectors.

During his visit, Kudratov and his delegation met with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref, underscoring the high-level support for expanding bilateral relations. This visit has set a solid foundation for further strategic economic partnerships, indicating a promising future for Iran-Uzbekistan relations.

Around 400 Tons of Saffron Expected to Be Produced This Year



TEHRAN - Hosein Zeinali, head of the Medicinal Plants Project at Iran's Ministry of Agriculture, announced that saffron production in Iran is expected to reach approximately 400 tons this year. This prediction comes after efforts to increase the average yield per hectare from 3.5 kilograms to 9 kilograms.

According to ISNA, around 127,000 hectares of land are currently dedicated to saffron cultivation across Iran, with 23 provinces actively growing saffron bulbs. Over 93% of the nation's saffron production comes from the greater Khorasan region, with more than 70% specifically from Khorasan Razavi.

Zeinali highlighted that the increase in average saffron yield per hectare is the result of improved farming practices and technology transfer to the fields in recent years. In leading farms, saffron yields have reached up to 30 kilograms per hectare, he noted.

Saffron harvesting in the colder provinces, such as East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, and Lorestan, began in October and is expected to continue until the end of December. Zeinali emphasized that transferring research and technical knowledge to the fields has been critical for improving both the quantity and quality of saffron production. Over the last three years, "model saffron farms" and farms optimized for saffron bulb production have been set up with the support of research, extension, and operational sectors. These farms adhere strictly to scientific principles, and their fertilizer needs have been met.

136m Tons of Cargo Handled in Iranian Ports Over Seven Months



TEHRAN - The Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran has announced that cargo throughput at both proprietary and government-owned ports reached a total of 135,555,142 tons in the first seven months of this year.

According to the report from the organization, oil cargo unloading amounted to 16,233,516 tons, while non-oil cargo unloading reached 30,184,795 tons. Combined, the total unloaded oil and non-oil cargo stood at 46,418,311 tons for this period.

In the same timeframe, oil cargo loading at the organization's ports amounted to 46,075,476 tons, with non-oil cargo loading reaching 43,061,354 tons. Altogether, a total of 89,136,830 tons of oil and non-oil cargo was loaded during these seven months.

The combined total of oil cargo loading and unloading was 62,308,992 tons, while non-oil cargo handling totaled 73,246,149 tons. In all, the total volume of cargo handled across both categories was 135,555,142 tons.

Container operations also saw substantial growth, with a total of 1,831,960 TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units) handled, marking a 16% increase compared to the 1,576,884 TEUs managed during the same period last year.

55% Increase in Gas Consumption Following 12-Degree Temperature Drop



TEHRAN - The Ministry of Oil has reported a significant increase in daily gas consumption in Iran, which has surged by 100 million cubic meters compared to the same period last year. Saeed Tavakoli, Managing Director of the National Iranian Gas Company, attributes this rise to a Scandinavian cold front that has swept across the country.

This cold spell has brought snow and rain to more than 11 provinces, with temperatures dropping by as much as 12 degrees Celsius. As a result, northern regions of Iran have already taken on a winter-like appearance. Tavakoli noted that this early-November cold snap is unprecedented in the last five years, bringing conditions more typical of December.

IME Witnesses Weekly Trade of 3.3m Tons



TEHRAN - Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) last week witnessed trade of 3,377,632 tons of commodities with a total trading value of nearly \$820m on its physical market.

According to a report by the IME's International Affairs and PR, the exchange saw on its metals and minerals trading floor trade of 2,889,242 tons of commodities valued at almost \$574m.

On this floor the IME sold 1,283,717 tons of cement, 865,000 tons of iron ore, 500,410 tons of steel, 220,600 tons of sponge iron, 10,720 tons of copper, 7,120 tons of aluminum, 1,300 tons of zinc and 260 tons of molybdenum concentrate.

Based on this report, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 403,656 tons of commodities worth more than \$225m.

Commodities traded on this floor included 127,809 tons of bitumen, 109,076 tons of polymeric products, 92,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 37,404 tons of chemicals, 26,000 tons of lube cut, 4,427 tons of oil, 3,370 tons of sulfur, 3,000 tons of slops wax and 570 tons of feedstocks.

The IME also traded within the same week 6,734 tons of goods on its side market.

Minister Expresses Readiness to Expand Cooperation With China in Renewable Energy Sector



TEHRAN - During the 24th International Electricity Exhibition, Iran's Minister of Energy, Abbas Aliabadi, addressed reporters on Iran's approach to enhancing renewable energy partnerships with China. Aliabadi clarified that his recent visit to China aimed at participating in a summit, not signing agreements. "We presented our perspectives on renewable energy and extended invitations to Chinese investors interested in Iran's market," he stated.

He noted that Iran has held discussions with numerous companies and is awaiting proposals, emphasizing a commitment to mutually beneficial partnerships.

Aliabadi also addressed recent visits to Russia and China, saying, "Russia is a key trade partner. We'll pursue cooperation with whichever country offers the best proposal."

On domestic fuel for power plants, Aliabadi highlighted that as Iran's economy grows and industrializes, electricity demand will rise. However, energy consumption remains inefficient. "This is concerning, as we consume more electricity per unit of GDP," he said, adding that power plants have the flexibility to use various fuels—gas, diesel, and mazut—but may face challenges in winter due to fuel supply constraints.

Aliabadi confirmed Iran's goal of significantly expanding renewable energy sources. Despite nuclear energy contributing only a small

fraction of Iran's electricity, he said the government plans to add over 30,000 megawatts of renewable and diverse energy capacities, including new plants similar to the Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant, within five years.

He underscored the urgency of increasing renewable energy, as "the planet is under serious strain, and all nations must work to protect it." Renewable energy plants, he noted, offer considerable savings, producing approximately 1,800 kilowatt-hours annually per kilowatt installed. This move, he emphasized, would also improve Iran's environmental conditions.

Aliabadi addressed Iran's efforts to secure its water rights from the Helmand River, a matter under international negotiation. "We are pursuing the nation's rightful claims," he asserted.

He added that Iran's regulatory power sector is managed by the Ministry of Energy, and while no specific legislative proposals have been submitted to parliament, discussions continue.

Currently, renewable energy constitutes less than 10% of Iran's total energy output, with hydroelectric power being significant but not classified as renewable. With a mere 1,000 megawatts of renewable capacity against a thermal power capacity of around 100,000 megawatts, Aliabadi stressed the need to boost renewable sources.

Thousands Protest in Lisbon Against Police Violence

LISBON (Dispatches) - Thousands of people took to the main avenue of downtown Lisbon to protest police violence, several days after a policeman shot a Cape Verde-born Portuguese resident, triggering a wave of unrest. Rights group Vida Justa, which called the protest, changed the route to avoid clashes with supporters of the far-right anti-immigration party Chega, which held a separate smaller rally also in central Lisbon in support of the police. Violence had broken out on the multi-ethnic outskirts of the capital after Monday's shooting of Odair Moniz, a 43-year-old chef, in the Amadora suburb. Demonstrators shouting "justice for Odair" carried posters bearing slogans such as "Stop killing us" and "Who to call when the killer is the police?"



China Vows Countermeasures After \$2b U.S. Arms Sale to Taiwan



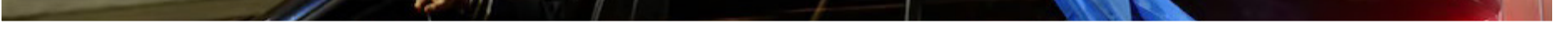
BEIJING (Reuters) - China will take "countermeasures" to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity, the government said, lambasting a \$2 billion arms sale package by the United States to Taiwan. The United States is bound by law to provide Chinese-claimed Taiwan with the means to defend itself despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties, to the constant anger of Beijing. On Friday, the Pentagon said the United States had approved a potential \$2 billion arms sale package to Taiwan, including the delivery for the first time to the island of an advanced air defence missile system battle-tested in Ukraine. In a statement late Saturday, China's foreign ministry said it strongly condemns and firmly opposes the sales and has lodged "solemn representations" with the United States. China urges the United States to immediately stop arming Taiwan and stop its dangerous moves that undermine peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, it added. "China will take resolute countermeasures and take all measures necessary to firmly defend national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity," the ministry said, without elaborating. China has over the past five years stepped up its military activities around democratically governed Taiwan, whose government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, including staging a new round of war games earlier this month. Taiwan's government has welcomed the new arms sale, the 17th of the Biden administration to the island. "In the face of China's threats, Taiwan is duty-bound to protect its homeland, and will continue to demonstrate its determination to defend itself," Taiwan's foreign ministry said, responding to the arms sale.

Lithuania Opposition Seeks to Cement Election Win in Run-Off Votes



VILNIUS (Dispatches) - Lithuanians headed to the polls on Sunday to decide a parliamentary election dominated by concerns over the cost of living and potential threats from neighbouring Russia, with the opposition Social Democrats ahead after the first-round vote. The Baltic country of 2.9 million people has a hybrid voting system in which half of parliament is elected by popular vote. The rest is decided in district-based run-off votes between the top two candidates, a process which favours the larger parties. Polling stations opened at 7 a.m. (0400 GMT) and closed at 8 p.m. (1700 GMT). Results were expected at about midnight local time (2100 GMT). If the left-leaning Social Democrats (SD) succeed in forming a government, they are expected to maintain Lithuania's hawkish stance against Russia and hefty defence spending. Lithuania will spend about 3% of GDP on its armed forces this year, according to NATO estimates, making it the military alliance's sixth-biggest spender. The SD won 20% of the vote in the election's first round on Oct. 14, making it the largest party ahead of the ruling Homeland Union with 18% and the anti-establishment Nemunas Dawn with 15%. Prime Minister Ingrida Simonyte's centre-right three-party coalition has seen its popularity eroded by high inflation that topped 20% two years ago, deteriorating public services and a widening gap between rich and poor.

Georgia's Ruling Party Wins Pivotal Election, Early Results Show



TBILISI (Dispatches) - Georgia's most powerful man won a parliamentary election on Saturday, according to early official results, a victory which opposition politicians refused to recognize, alleging "falsification". The ruling Georgian Dream party's billionaire founder Bidzina Ivanishvili, the opposition, and foreign diplomats had cast the election as a watershed moment that would decide if Georgia moves closer to the West or leans back towards Russia amid the war in Ukraine. If confirmed, Georgian Dream's victory would prove a blow to those Georgians who hope for closer integration with Europe in a vote billed as a choice between the West and Russia. Early official results with 70% of precincts counted, representing the majority of votes cast, showed the ruling party had won 53% of the vote, the electoral commission said. The results do not include most ballots cast by Georgians living overseas. Opposition parties contested the election results at a news briefing held in the early hours of Sunday and said they would not accept them. "This is a constitutional coup," said Nika Gvaramia, leader of the Coalition for Change opposition party, according to the Interpress news agency. "The Georgian people have cast a vote for the European future of this country, and therefore we will not accept these falsified results published by the CEC (Central Election Commission)," said Tina Bokuchava, leader of the opposition United National Movement. "We Vote", a Georgian coalition of electoral observers, said it believed the results "do not reflect the will of the citizens of Georgia", citing multiple reports of voter intimidation and vote buying. "We will continue to demand the annulment of the results," it said. Rival exit polls gave sharply different projections for the election: The Georgian Dream-supporting Imedi TV channel showed the ruling party winning 56%. Exit polls by the pro-opposition channels showed major gains for the opposition parties. Ivanishvili, Georgian Dream's reclusive billionaire founder and onetime prime minister, claimed victory and praised the Georgian people. "It is a rare case in the world that the same party achieves such success in such a difficult situation - this is a good indicator of the talent of the Georgian people," Ivanishvili told cheering supporters. Though Georgian Dream lost out to the combined opposition in parts of the capital, Tbilisi, it won margins of up to 90% in some rural areas. The Georgian opposition initially also celebrated victory and some monitors reported election violations. But a parallel count

operated by one of the opposition parties showed Georgian Dream in a strong position to win a majority. Party representatives told Reuters they would be analysing the results in the coming hours, but stopped short for the moment of alleging any falsifications. Ivanishvili, who made his fortune in Russia in the 1990s, came to power in 2012 advocating pro-Western views, alongside a pragmatic policy towards Russia. He has since soured on the West, accusing a "Global War Party" of seeking to drag Georgia into war with Russia, even as he insists Georgia is on course to join the EU. If victory for Ivanishvili's party is confirmed, it would be a blow to the EU's hopes of bringing more former Soviet republics into its orbit. Moldova on Oct. 20 voted by a very slim majority to support EU accession. Russia had repeatedly signalled it wanted Georgian Dream to win, while accusing Western countries of undue interference in Georgian politics. "The Georgians won. Well done!" said Margarita Simonyan, the editor of Russian state media outlet RT, which the United States has accused of trying to influence its own presidential election. There was no immediate comment from the EU. Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili - a one-time ally of the ruling party turned fierce critic whose powers are mostly ceremonial - and independent domestic election monitors had alleged Georgian Dream was engaged in widespread vote-buying and other forms of electoral abuse in the lead-up to the vote. The International Society for Fair Elections and Democracy (ISFED), an independent Georgian electoral monitoring group founded in 1995, said it had documented numerous violations and instances of violence outside multiple polling stations. Video circulated on social media showing a man stuffing multiple ballots into a voting box in Marneuli, a city of some 25,000 south of Tbilisi. The votes were later declared invalid, a Central Election Commission spokesperson said, according to the Interpress news agency. Giorgi Kalandarishvili, the chairman of the electoral commission, said the vote was peaceful and free, and said the election had taken place in accordance with international standards. Some opposition-minded Georgians told Reuters they were disappointed by the results. Voter Irakli Gotsiridze said: "I'm very disappointed that these are the results. I don't want to believe it." Georgia was once one of the most pro-Western states to emerge from the chaotic aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse. The road leading from Tbilisi's airport is named after former U.S. President George W. Bush.

WHO Chief Says North Gaza in Catastrophic Danger

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The World Health Organization chief warned yesterday of a disastrous situation in the north of war-ravaged Gaza, with "intensive military operations unfolding around and within healthcare facilities". "The situation in northern Gaza is catastrophic," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on X, warning that "a critical shortage of medical supplies, compounded by severely limited access, are depriving people of life saving care." He highlighted Kamal Adwan, northern Gaza's last functioning hospital, which was stormed by Israeli forces on Friday, according to Gaza's health ministry. The ministry charged that the raid on the facility in the Jabalia camp, where Israel launched a major operation earlier this month, left two children dead. It accused Israeli forces of detaining hundreds of staff, patients and displaced people during the raid. The Israeli military said its forces were operating around Kamal Adwan, but was "not aware of live fire and strikes in the area of the hospital". Tedros said that the Gaza health ministry had informed WHO, which had temporarily lost contact with its staff at the hospital, that the siege had ended. "But it came at a heavy cost," he said. Late Friday, WHO said three health workers and another employee were injured in the assault and that dozens of health workers were detained at the hospital, where around 600 patients, health workers and others were sheltering. "Following the detention of 44 male staff members, only female staff, the hospital director, and one male doctor are left to care for nearly 200 patients in desperate need of medical attention," Tedros said yesterday.



"Reports of the hospital facilities and medical supplies being damaged or destroyed during the siege are deplorable," he said. Medical charity MSF meanwhile said that one of its surgeons at the hospital was missing. "We are deeply concerned for the safety and whereabouts of Dr Mohammed Obeid, an MSF orthopaedic surgeon who was sheltering and working in Kamal Adwan Hospital," MSF said on X, adding that it had not had contact with him since Friday. "We are trying to get in touch with our colleague and are urgently seeking information about his whereabouts," it said. "We call for his safety and protection, as well as to all medical staff in Gaza." Tedros lamented that "the whole health system in Gaza has been under attack for over a year", since Hamas's October 7, 2023 attacks inside Israel sparked the war. That attack resulted in the deaths of 1,206 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of Israeli official figures. Dozens of hostages are still held by militants in Gaza. Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed 42,924 people in Gaza, the majority civilians, according to figures from the Hamas-run territory's health ministry which the United Nations considers reliable. "WHO cannot stress loudly enough that hospitals must be shielded from conflict at all times," Tedros said, saying that "any attack of healthcare facilities is a violation of international humanitarian law". "The only path to safeguarding what remains of Gaza's collapsing health care system is an immediate and unconditional ceasefire."

Russian Forces Advance Toward Ukraine's Strategic Pokrovsk

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian forces have advanced further into several eastern Ukrainian towns, bringing them closer to capturing the strategic city of Pokrovsk, Russian and Ukrainian bloggers said. "The enemy advanced in Selydove," DeepState, a group with close links to the Ukrainian army that analyses combat footage, wrote on the Telegram messaging app late on Saturday. It posted a map indicating Russian troops in the town's southeast. Russian forces have been storming the coal mining town of Selydove in Ukraine's Donetsk region for the past week. Capturing it would pave the way for a Russian advance on the logistical hub of Pokrovsk 20 km (12 miles) northwest. The Russian news outlet SHOT said on Telegram that Moscow's troop control 80% of Selydove. The Russian-installed head of Donetsk region, Denis Pushilin, said Russian forces had hoisted their unit's flag on the roof of one of the buildings in the town of Hirnyk, some 14 km south of Selydove, Russia's state news agency RIA reported. Russian military bloggers also reported that Russian forces were close to taking over the town of Kurakhove, just southwest of Hirnyk. Reuters could not independently verify the reports. Ukraine has not commented on them. Ukraine's Armed Forces said in its evening report on Saturday that Kyiv forces had repelled 36 Russian attacks along the Pokrovsk frontline in the previous day, including in the area of Selydove, while several battles were still ongoing. After Moscow's full-scale invasion in Ukraine in February 2022 failed to seize the capital Kyiv and win a decisive victory, President Vladimir Putin scaled back his war



ambitions to taking the old industrial heartland in Ukraine's east known as Donbas, which covers the Luhansk and Donetsk regions. Meanwhile Russian missile strikes killed five people including a child in the Ukrainian city of Dnipro last night, while a teenager and another person died in attacks on Kyiv and the surrounding region, officials said Saturday. The strikes came less than 48 hours after Russia finished hosting a three-day summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies in the city of Kazan, where President Vladimir Putin faced calls from world leaders to end the conflict. "After everything that was said in Kazan, Russian murderers returned to their usual business," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Saturday. "This proves once again that aggression cannot be stopped by talking, but only by decisive actions in defence of the state," he added. The strikes on Dnipro late Friday killed five people and damaged multiple buildings including a hospital, authorities said. More than a dozen other people were wounded in the city, including children, Dnipropetrovsk region governor Sergiy Lysak said on Telegram. Images shared by the governor showed rescuers working over a pile of rubble, while another showed what appeared to be a hospital room with its windows blown out. Separate night attacks on the capital Kyiv and surrounding region left two people dead, including a teenage girl who was killed in a drone strike on an apartment building, according to regional authorities. Ukrainian cities including Kyiv have been subjected to deadly drone and missile attacks throughout Russia's invasion.

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Haaland Fires City to the Top as Villa Denied in Stoppage Time Drama

LONDON (Dispatches) - Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League as the striker sealed a 1-0 win against Southampton, while third-placed Aston Villa were frustrated by Bournemouth's last-gasp leveller.

Haaland had gone three league games without a goal but he ended that mini drought in the first half at the Etihad Stadium.

That was enough to lift Pep Guardiola's side into first place, two points ahead of second-placed Liverpool, who can regain pole position if they win today's blockbuster clash with title rivals Arsenal.

City have not lost a league game at the Etihad for two years, a run encompassing 35 games, and bottom-of-the-table Southampton, who have only one point from nine games this season, were never likely to shatter that impressive streak.

With Jack Grealish and Jeremy Doku ruled out, Guardiola made four changes to the team that thrashed Sparta Prague in the Champions League on Wednesday.

Haaland had scored an audacious goal against Sparta and while his effort to kill off Southampton was more prosaic, it was arguably far more valuable given the context of a tense title race.

Matheus Nunes' cross reached Haaland in the fifth minute and the Norwegian showed strength and desire to get to the ball ahead of his marker for a close-range strike.

City spurned several chances to increase their lead but Haaland's 14th goal in all competitions this season gave the unbeaten champions seven wins from nine league matches as they chase a fifth successive title.

"The way Southampton played, they are so demanding. Big credit to them, it was not because we were sloppy or flat. I don't have that feeling," Guardiola said.

"We created chances and unfortunately couldn't score the second. I think we were there and sometimes they are good. We have to accept that."

Aston Villa's hopes of pushing for the title suffered a setback as Bournemouth snatched a 1-1 draw at Villa Park.

Villa are unbeaten in the Champions League, sitting top of the table after seeing off Young Boys, Bayern Munich and Bologna.

But they couldn't follow their latest European success with a domestic victory despite taking the lead in the 76th minute.

Ian Maatsen crossed and Leon Bailey teed up Ross Barkley to hook in his first goal for the club.

But Evanilson rescued Bournemouth with a headed equaliser six minutes into stoppage-time.

Brentford beat fourth-bottom Ipswich 4-3 in a thrilling clash in west London.

Ipswich's Sam Szmodics produced a fine finish from 15 yards in the 28th minute before George Hirst clipped a composed strike past Mark Flekken three minutes later.

But Yoane Wissa netted in the 44th minute and Harry Clarke's own goal seconds later hauled Brentford level.

Sainz Snatches Mexico Pole as Verstappen Fights to Catch Up



MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Carlos Sainz seized pole position for the Mexico City Grand Prix with a consummate performance for Ferrari in the qualifying session, outpacing Red Bull's defending champion Max Verstappen.

The Spaniard, who leaves the team at the end of the season, clocked one minute and 15.946 seconds to beat series leader and three-time champion Verstappen, whose first and fastest lap in the top 10 shoot-out was deleted, by 0.225 seconds.

This left McLaren's Lando Norris, who is 57 points behind Verstappen in the drivers' title race, to take third ahead of Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and the Williams of George Russell and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton.

It was Sainz's sixth career pole and completed a run of qualifying fourth, third and second in the last three Mexican events.

"I am very happy with that and to be on pole," said Sainz, who is set to leave Ferrari for Williams next year, having been replaced for 2025 by Hamilton.

"I had a great couple of laps and it is very difficult here with lots of sliding. My laps were almost identical and perfect. It is such a tricky circuit!"

Verstappen, who had an engine change on his car following problems on Friday, said: "I felt under pressure and I was playing catch-up especially after losing my first lap time."

"That just gave more pressure and I am very happy to be on the front row. I didn't think it was possible. This is one of the hardest tracks to get things right."

Norris said he was satisfied with third.

Lewandowski Double as Barca Shred Madrid in La Liga Clasico

MADRID (Dispatches) - Robert Lewandowski struck twice in three minutes as Barcelona crushed rivals Real Madrid 4-0 on Saturday, inflicting the Spanish champions' first La Liga defeat in over a year.

Teenage winger Lamine Yamal and Raphinha completed the rout, while Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe had two goals ruled out for offside on a frustrating first Clasico appearance for Los Blancos, who now trail league leaders Barcelona by six points.

France captain Mbappe was consistently outwitted by the visitors' high defensive line to the chagrin of the exasperated Santiago Bernabeu crowd, whose mood darkened as Barcelona hit four second half goals.

Barcelona snapped Madrid's 42-match unbeaten streak in La Liga, one game short of the Catalan giants' all-time record, adding further shine to their triumph.

Hansi Flick has whipped Barcelona into shape in just a matter of months and in ending a run of four Clasico defeats, his young side made a statement victory to show how far they have come.

Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti opted for more muscle in midfield by selecting Eduardo Camavinga over Luka Modric, with his team's game-plan clear -- defend in numbers and try to spring Mbappe or Vinicius with a long ball into the space behind Barcelona's high defensive line.

It led to an intense but repetitive first half, with Barcelona's defense catching Madrid offside on eight occasions.



Mbappe hit the side-netting and lobbed over but was offside on both occasions, while Jude Bellingham forced a superb save from Barcelona goalkeeper Inaki Pena, but it would also have been disallowed for offside.

At the other end Barcelona's teenage star Yamal sent a soft effort at Andriy Lunin when put through on goal by a superb Lewandowski flick.

Raphinha fired over and Lunin also saved from the Brazilian winger, but Barcelona were not playing with the fluidity they have demonstrated in recent weeks, culminating in the impressive 4-1 Champions League win over Bayern Munich on Wednesday.

Mbappe thought he had broken the deadlock when he got in behind and produced a fine dinked finish over Pena, but yet again the forward was marginally offside and his celebration was cut short.

Despite the feeling they were constantly menacing Barcelona, Madrid only produced one legal shot in the first half, with Vinicius dragging into the side-netting when he tried to catch Pena out at the near post.

Eager for more control Flick replaced Fermin Lopez with Frenkie de Jong at half-time and Barcelona soon took the lead.

Casado slipped Lewandowski through and with Madrid defender Ferland Mendy a step behind his team-mates, the Pole was onside.

The 36-year-old slotted low past Lunin to silence the Bernabeu, and two minutes later he pounced again.

Di Lorenzo's Late Strike Sends Napoli Five Points Clear in Serie A



NAPLES (Dispatches) - Giovanni Di Lorenzo made sure Napoli will stay top of Serie A this weekend after firing the winner in 1-0 win over Lecce to move his team five points clear.

Captain Di Lorenzo bundled home the only goal of a scrappy game in Naples after Scott McTominay's header from a corner was saved by Lecce goalkeeper Wladimir Falcone, giving Napoli their fourth win in as many matches.

The Italy full-back's third goal of the season for Napoli came after he was denied in the first half when his close-range finish was rightly ruled out for offside.

Napoli are comfortably ahead of second-placed Inter Milan, who host Juventus late today in the biggest match to date of their league title defence.

"It was a really important match for us, we tried in every way possible to score and in the end we managed to do it," said Di Lorenzo to DAZN.

Antonio Conte's side created little else against spirited Lecce, who remain second from bottom on five points after a fourth straight defeat, as Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and Matteo Politano started on the bench.

Romelu Lukaku fluffed Napoli's best chance of the match when he skied over from inside the six-yard box nine minutes after half-time, and the hosts' were panicky in the final minutes as Lecce pushed for a leveller.

Lecce came into the match on the back of last weekend's 6-0 home hammering at the hands of Fiorentina which put coach Luca Gotti's job at risk but went toe-to-toe with Napoli and on another day could have easily left with a point.

"I don't like to lose, even with our heads held high," said Lecce coach Luca Gotti.

"But I'll take the attitude of our players today, let's hope we can take it into the coming matches."

On Tuesday, Napoli travel to the San Siro to face AC Milan, who sit fifth and will not play this weekend after yesterday's match at Bologna was postponed due to torrential rain and flooding.

Bologna and its surrounding areas are still reeling from a massive downpour over last weekend which claimed the life of a 20-year-old man.

Swaths of the Emilia-Romagna region in northern Italy, much of which is fertile agricultural flatland, were left under water following a second round extreme weather in a matter of weeks.

Tatum Scores 37 Points and Celtics Beat Stubborn Pistons 124-118

DETROIT (AP) — Jayson Tatum scored six of his 37 points in the final 65 seconds and the Boston Celtics held on for a 124-118 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

The Celtics led by as many as 23 points in the first half, but trailed for much of the third quarter. Jrue Holiday tied the game with back-to-back 3-pointers, and Tatum put the Celtics up 116-114 by hitting a pair of free throws with 1:05 left.

The Pistons missed two shots on the ensuing possession and Tatum's jumper made it 118-114 with 29 seconds left.

Malik Beasley's 3-pointer pulled Detroit within one, but Derrick White hit two free throws and Boston clinched the game from the line.

Jaylen Brown had 24 points and 10 rebounds for Boston. Jaden Ivey had 26 points for Detroit while Cade Cunningham finished with 21 points and 10 assists.

Boston started the game looking like they would break the NBA record of 29 3-pointers they tied on Tuesday against the Knicks. They had 15 in the first 18 minutes of the game, building a 64-44 lead. In the next 18 minutes, they went 4 of 14 on 3s.

A young team could have rolled over



when they were getting blown out by the defending champions, but Detroit outshot Boston 59.1% to 33.3% in a 31-point third quarter. But they couldn't create good shots down the stretch.

After cutting Detroit's lead to 110-106 with 8:16 left, the Celtics failed to score on their next six possessions until Holiday hit a 3-pointer with 3:32 to play. However, the Pistons only scored two points in the stretch.

Meanwhile Jalen Green scored 22 points and six other Houston players scored in double figures in the Rockets' 128-108 win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Dillon Brooks added 18, Alperen Sengun and Fred VanVleet both had 16, Jabari Smith Jr. had 14 points and 16 rebounds, Tari Eason had 13 and Cam Whitmore had 11.

Ja Morant scored 24 on 8-of-17 shooting to lead Memphis. Desmond Bane added 17 points, and Scottie Pippen Jr. and Zach Edey both had 13.

The Rockets trailed 65-59 at halftime but outscored Memphis 39-18 in the third quarter to take control of the game.

Memphis was outrebounded 64-43. Edey, the Grizzlies 7-foot-4 rookie, led the way with nine rebounds. The Grizzlies were missing 6-11 center Jaren Jackson Jr., who was sidelined with a left hamstring strain.