

The United Nations Security Council Has Deplored the Recent Terrorist Attack on a Police Convoy in Iran's Southeastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province That Killed 10 Law Enforcement Personnel

IRAN NEWS

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IRGC Vows Unimaginable Response to Israel



TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps warned the Zionist regime that it will receive such a great response for its recent act of aggression against Iran that it cannot conceive.

Addressing a cultural event in Iran's southern province of Fars on Thursday, Major General Hossein Salami pointed to the Zionist regime's attack on Iran on October 26, saying the Israelis are mistaken to think that they can change the history by launching a number of missiles.

He then reminded the Israeli regime of the retaliatory True Promise II operation that Iran carried out on October 1, saying the Zionists have not forgotten how the Iranian missiles streaked across the sky, while the Israeli air defense missile systems failed to counteract.

The IRGC commander then warned Israel that it will be given "an unimaginable response" for its act of aggression against Iran.

On October 1, Iran responded to the Israeli assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah Secretary General Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC general Abbas Nilforoushan by launching as many as 200 ballistic missiles toward the Zionist regime's military and intelligence bases all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

In the early hours of October 26, the Zionist regime attacked a number of military sites in Iran, which resulted in the martyrdom of four servicemen and a civilian.

In remarks on October 27, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei emphasized the necessity of disrupting the flawed calculations of the Zionist regime regarding Iran.

"They're making a miscalculation with respect to Iran... our officials should be the ones to assess and precisely apprehend what needs to be done and do whatever is in the best interests of this country and nation. They (the enemy) must be made to realize who the Iranian people are and what the Iranian youth are like," the Leader added.

Iran, Russia to Sign Partnership Agreement in Near Future



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has announced that his country will sign a strategic partnership agreement with Iran "in the near future."

"The treaty is being prepared for signing in the near future," Lavrov said at a Eurasian security summit in Belarus on Thursday.

"It will affirm both parties' commitment to closer defense cooperation and collaboration for regional and global peace and security," he added.

His remarks came as Russian President Vladimir Putin last month approved a proposal forwarded by the country's foreign ministry for the signing of a strategic partnership agreement with Iran.

Last week, Putin invited Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to visit Russia to ink a comprehensive cooperation agreement.

Putin has called Moscow-Tehran ties a "priority" for his country.

Iran and Russia, as two close and strategic allies, have over the past years deepened their relations in various fields, despite being under heavy Western sanctions.

The countries signed a 10-year deal, dubbed the Treaty on the Basis of Mutual Relations and Principles of Cooperation between Iran and Russia, in 2001. Upon the conclusion of its period, the agreement was extended for two five-year terms, extending its expiration date until 2026.

Speaking to Putin on the sidelines of BRICS summit in Russia's Kazan on October 23, President Masoud Pezeshkian termed Tehran-Moscow ties as "strategic and highly beneficial" for both sides.



Shiraz: A Blend of Faith, Valor, and Art

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei emphasized that Shiraz, and the wider Fars Province, best exemplifies the integration of faith, valor, and art in Iran. He remarked on the unique cultural fusion in this region during his meeting with organizers of the Fars Province Martyrs Congress.

Ayatollah Khamenei praised Iran's ability to unite faith, heroism, and art—elements often separated in other parts of the world. "In many places, religion, art, and valor stand apart," he said. "But in Islamic Iran, these elements are woven together, a tradition rooted in the very essence of Islam."

He cited the Qur'an, which combines messages of love and devotion to God with powerful imagery and guidance. "The Qur'an itself is an artistic work that transcends spiritual teachings, portraying the beauty of God's love and the strength of standing for justice," he added.

For Ayatollah Khamenei, nowhere in Iran embodies this blend more than Shiraz. From the shrine of Imam Ahmad ibn Musa to the renowned Persian poet Hafiz, Shiraz has long been a center where art, spirituality, and bravery meet. Hafiz, revered for his poetic talent, was a Hafiz, or memorizer, of the Qur'an, embodying a seamless blend of religious devotion and artistic expression. He famously stated that his work was a product of the divine inspiration he received from the Qur'an. "What I have is from the Qur'an," he wrote, illustrating a bond between artistic creativity and spiritual depth.

The history of Shiraz includes more than just poetry and mysticism. According to Ayatollah Khamenei, it has a legacy of bravery. The leader referenced figures such as General Abbas Doran, who fought heroically for Iran, and the scholar-activist Mirza Shirazi, who led the "Tobacco Protest" against British colonial influence. This 19th-century movement was a milestone in nonviolent resistance and a precursor to similar protests worldwide.

In addition to past figures, Ayatollah Khamenei noted recent examples, such as the martyrdom

of figures like Ms. Masoumeh Karbasi, who was martyred just days ago. Her sacrifice adds to Fars Province's record of devotion and resistance, he explained, with 15,000 martyrs in the region symbolizing a shared commitment to the nation.

Highlighting these connections, Ayatollah Khamenei urged Congress organizers to share this integrated heritage with Iran and the world. "For a forward-thinking nation, it's crucial to harmonize faith, valor, and artistry," he said. "Art should serve faith, faith should inspire heroism, and heroism should empower national progress."

While advocating for cultural preservation, he also warned against attempts to strip art of its spiritual meaning, likening such efforts to those in Iran's past aimed at transforming Shiraz's cultural identity. He argued that these influences have sought to isolate art from spirituality and heroism, an approach he described as deeply flawed.

He also encouraged monitoring the impact of the Congress on young Iranians. "The youth need to know the proud history of this land, including recent decades tied to the Revolution," he said, expressing concern about the dissemination of accurate historical narratives, from the occupation of the American embassy to the start of the Iran-Iraq war.

In his concluding remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed the current geopolitical situation, specifically conflicts in West Asia. He interpreted resistance from groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah as a historic blow to Western powers and their influence in the region. He argued that, despite significant casualties and Western intervention, the resistance continues to stand firm, marking a symbolic defeat not only for Israel but for the principles upheld by Western civilization.

As Shiraz prepares for the Martyrs Congress, the leader hopes that its unique heritage of faith, valor, and artistry will resonate, offering a reminder of the nation's enduring cultural and spiritual strength.

New Gov'ts in Iran, Indonesia Will Open New, Prosperous Chapter in Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says the inauguration of the new administrations in Iran and Indonesia opens a new and prosperous chapter in the long-standing relations between the two Muslim countries.

Araqchi made the remarks in an opinion published by the Jakarta Post on Thursday on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Iran and Indonesia, which he described as a "milestone" that coincides with the early tenure of the newly inaugurated administrations in both nations.

"Shared cultural heritage rooted in Asian traditions, a predominantly Muslim populace, non-alignment with the Eastern and Western blocs, sovereign and independent foreign policies, advocacy for decolonization, and, most significantly, unwavering support for the oppressed Palestinian people, are salient factors that have long forged and fortified the bonds between the peoples of Iran and Indonesia," he wrote.

He added that unjust and unilateral sanctions by the United States and its allies have failed to undermine ties between Tehran and Jakarta.

"On the contrary, these adversities have bolstered the resolve of both nations to diversify and deepen their relations, particularly in light of Iran's strides toward self-sufficiency and progress in fields such as medicine, nanotechnology, biotechnology, nuclear science, aerospace and beyond," the top Iranian diplomat emphasized.

He pointed to the conclusion of 11 memoranda of understanding in various fields between the two sides during the historic visit of the late Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi to Indonesia on May 23-24, 2023 and noted that the promotion of ties with Eastern and Southeast Asian countries remains a priority for the diplomatic agenda of the administration of President Masoud Pezeshkian.

Araqchi reiterated that the main part of the foreign policy of the new Iranian administration is to open new vistas of cooperation and to broaden comprehensive and friendly relations with all nations based on dialogue, collaboration, equality and mutual respect.

and strategic role in managing the global order by easing conflicts and fostering stability in their respective regions.

The top diplomat said Iran and Indonesia have robust and effective cooperation within the framework of various international organizations and institutions.

"Indonesia's principled stance on impartiality, non-selectivity, universality and resistance to politicization, particularly in matters of global concern such as human rights, provides a solid foundation for the enhancement of Iran-Indonesia relations at the international level," he added.

He emphasized that the two countries have a common stance on fostering a balanced global order and can further strengthen their partnership through South-South cooperation, thereby instrumentally empowering the Global South.

Referring to the significant issue of Palestine, the minister noted that the positions and actions of Iran and Indonesia are deeply rooted not only in Islamic principles but also in the constitutional mandates of both nations.

Araqchi asserted that Iran's unwavering support for Palestine and Indonesia's commitment to eradication of colonialism have ensured both countries' comprehensive support for the oppressed Palestinian people.

He urged Iran and Indonesia to further consolidate their efforts in support of Palestinian independence in light of the Zionist regime's intensifying atrocities against the people of Palestine over the past year.

Israel waged a genocidal Gaza onslaught on October 7, 2023, after Hamas-led resistance groups carried out a historic operation against the usurping entity in retaliation for its intensified atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Iran Summons German Envoy to Protest Unjustified Closure of Consulates



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has summoned German charge d'affaires in Tehran in protest against the European country's "irrational" decision to shut the missions of the Islamic Republic and deprive Iranians of consular services.

The director of the First Department for Western Europe at the Iranian Foreign Ministry called in the diplomat on Thursday to relay Tehran's "strong protest" and condemn Berlin's "destructive approach" towards the Iranian people, including those residing in Germany.

It came hours after German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock announced that the Iranian consulates in the cities of Frankfurt, Hamburg and Munich are to be closed over the execution of German-Iranian convicted terrorist Jamsheed Sharmahd.

"The decision by the German government to stop the activities of the consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Germany is an unjustified act," the Iranian foreign ministry's said in a press release.

The move, it added, "deliberately deprives Iranians of the benefit of consular facilities and services" while "causes unnecessary trouble for Iranians residing in Germany and violates their basic rights."

On Monday, Iran's Judiciary executed Sharmahd, the ringleader of a US-based terror group behind a series of deadly attacks against the Iranian nation.

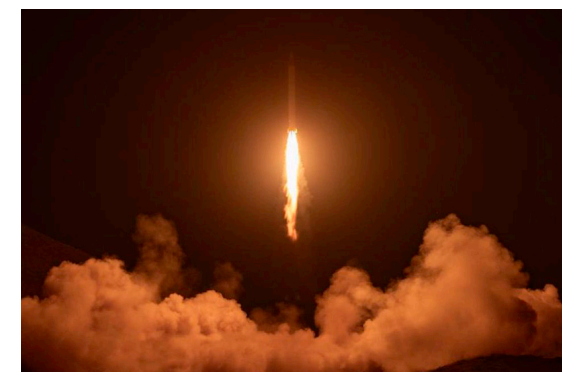
Germany protested to Iran by recalling its ambassador to Tehran and summoning the Iranian charge d'affaires in Berlin.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said granting a German passport to an individual does not provide impunity, let alone a terrorist criminal.

Announcing the closures of the Iranian consulates, Baerbock said, "We repeatedly made it crystal clear to Tehran that the execution of a German national would have serious consequences."

In its press release, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said Baerbock's "meddlesome" and "unprofessional" statement lacks decency and legal value, noting that Berlin's "unconstructive and confrontational approach is a major miscalculation, and the German government will be responsible for its consequences."

Iran Will Not Hesitate to Defend Its Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva have severely censured the latest Israeli strikes against the country's military sites, stating that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to exercise its legitimate right and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In a note addressed to the member states of the Conference on Disarmament on Thursday, Iran's diplomatic mission enumerated a series of the Israeli regime's actions and adventurism that run contrary to international laws and have targeted Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The mission said actions included the attack on the consular section of the Iranian embassy in Damascus, the assassination of Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh who was in Tehran to attend the inauguration ceremony of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, and the attack on several military installations in Iran.

The mission noted that such moves constitute flagrant violations of the fundamental principles of international law, diplomatic and consular immunities besides Article 2, Clause 4 of the UN Charter and United Nations resolutions, emphasizing that Iran reserves its inherent right to defend its nationals, interests and national security under Article 51 of the Charter.

It went on to refer to Iran's retaliatory operations against Israel, dubbed Operation True Promise I and II, stating that the Islamic Republic conducted limited and precise military operations against many Israeli military centers following a period of self-restraint as well as noticeable and disgusting inaction of the Security Council to deal with Israel's atrocities and crimes against Iran's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security, nationals and national interests.

IRAN NEWS



Pakistan Navy Rescues 23 Iranian Fishermen in Gulf of Aden

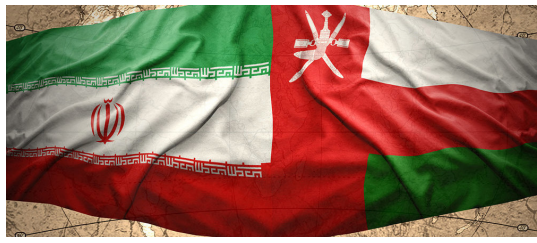
TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Pakistani Army has announced that its naval ship stationed in the Gulf of Aden successfully rescued 23 fishermen and crew members from an Iranian vessel after receiving an emergency call.

According to a statement released by the Pakistan Army's public relations office on Thursday night, a Zulfiqar-class warship of the Pakistani Navy was conducting maritime security patrols when it received a distress signal from the Iranian ship named Al Mohammadi.

The statement noted that the Iranian vessel encountered technical difficulties with its engine and had an injured crew member 12,000 miles from Pakistan's territorial waters.

In response, the Pakistan Navy promptly deployed to the area in the Gulf of Aden to provide assistance.

Possibility of Undersea Power Exchange with Oman



TEHRAN - Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi discussed the current state of electricity exports and imports. He stated that Iran currently exports approximately 600 to 700 megawatts and imports about 500 megawatts, with these figures fluctuating during the summer months.

Regarding electricity exports to Oman, he noted that establishing electrical connections with countries sharing maritime borders is part of the Ministry of Energy's study plans. Oman and Qatar are among these nations; however, electricity exchange with Oman is still in the study phase, with no implementation work yet completed.

Rajabi Mashhadi, CEO of Tavanir Company, mentioned that Iran has the capacity for a 2,000-megawatt electricity exchange with Oman, which would occur through an undersea cable.

On the subject of electrical connections with Turkmenistan, he indicated that there is a new 400-kilovolt line, and the possibility exists for an additional 500 megawatts of electricity transit to that country.

He also highlighted potential electricity transit with Russia, stating that Iran can facilitate a 1,000-megawatt transit through thermal power plants in both countries. However, he acknowledged that technical measures need to be established in both nations' electrical networks.

Regarding the transmission of 200 megawatts, he stated there are no significant issues, and discussions have already taken place for finalizing the 1,000-megawatt agreement, although technical aspects still need to be addressed.

Rajabi Mashhadi emphasized the plan to export 300 megawatts of renewable energy, indicating that if the private sector takes action in development, it is expected that 50 megawatts will be sent to Pakistan, 50 megawatts to Afghanistan, and 100 megawatts to Turkey.

He further discussed the development of renewable energy, stating that the goal is to reach 12,000 megawatts of renewable electricity production by the end of the current development plan, aiming to increase the share of renewables in electricity production to 10% during the seventh development plan period.

Tehran and Riyadh Begin Negotiations on Engineering Services Exports



TEHRAN - Bahman Javid Salehi announced that talks are underway with Saudi Arabia to export Iran's engineering and technical services to the Kingdom. Salehi noted that Iranian contracting firms have been in discussions with the Saudi ambassador, who welcomed the idea of Iranian contractors playing a more active role in Saudi development projects and expressed interest in importing Iranian engineering services.

Salehi emphasized that Saudi Arabia, being a large country with substantial financial resources, presents a low-risk opportunity for Iranian contractors, making it a strong target market. He added that while Iranian companies recognize Saudi Arabia's potential, private sector involvement often hinges on political relations, as government stability is key to fostering sustainable economic ties.

Reflecting on Iran's experience with Iraq after the war and with other regional neighbors like Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Oman, Salehi noted that neighboring countries offer Iran excellent market opportunities, with Saudi Arabia standing out among them.

The Secretary of the Iranian Association of Engineering Services Exporters observed that although Iran and Saudi Arabia's relationship has had fluctuations, recent changes in Saudi leadership may signal a new chapter. The current Saudi administration appears more development-focused, potentially opening the way for a "spring of relations" beneficial to private Iranian companies.

Salehi cautioned that while commercial sectors respond swiftly to diplomatic changes, sectors like engineering services often take a year or more to see results. However, he expressed hope that stable relations will allow Iranian companies to establish a lasting presence in Saudi Arabia.

Regarding competition, Salehi pointed to Turkey's recent \$2 billion contract with Saudi Arabia in the contracting sector, noting that this figure represents only a fraction of Saudi Arabia's multi-billion-dollar development plans. Despite challenges within Iran's own engineering export sector, Salehi believes that Iran could secure a larger market share than Turkey if it can gain access to Saudi markets.

Salehi stressed that while state support could expedite private sector negotiations, he expressed doubt about reliance on governmental assistance, noting that private firms will independently pursue discussions with the Saudi ambassador in the coming days.

IRANNEWS/ECONOMIC/DESK



Iran's Capital Contribution to the IMF Set to Increase by \$1.783b

TEHRAN - The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran announced that Iran's capital in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will increase by \$1.783 billion, with 25% of this increase financed from Iran's funds held in other countries.

In a session of the Majlis, Mohammad Reza Farzin defended the bill that allows for an increase in the Islamic Republic of Iran's quota in the IMF. He stated, "We plan to increase our capital in the fund by approximately \$1.783 billion. The World Bank has indicated that anyone can contribute up to a 50% increase in their capital."

Farzin explained that to secure this amount of money, 75% would come from domestic currency and securities, while 25% would be transferred from unused foreign currency held in other countries into the fund as capital. He highlighted that the IMF generates profit, noting that \$5 billion could potentially grow to \$7 billion due to interest, making it available for future use.

The Central Bank Governor emphasized that if Iran does not contribute to the fund, other countries will increase their investments, thereby overtaking Iran's leadership position in the organization. "Why should we lose our leadership after 50 years?" he questioned.

Responding to criticism from parliament members regarding the IMF's

performance, Farzin acknowledged the criticism but asserted the need to maintain Iran's active role in the fund. "Being critical doesn't mean we should relinquish our position; we need to stay active and maintain our previous status, which requires increased capital."

He noted that Iran holds funds in Iraq and Turkey that do not yield any returns. "We can transfer this money to the IMF, where we can earn interest, preventing it from being frozen or misappropriated," he added.

In addressing complaints about the IMF not assisting Iran during the COVID-19 pandemic, Farzin stated that he raised this issue with the IMF's Bulgarian president, who replied that his own country had not received funds either. "Moreover, we are under sanctions and face strict measures; however, our funds in the IMF are counted as part of the country's foreign reserves," he said.

Following the discussion, the representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Economic Commission's report on the bill to increase the Islamic Republic of Iran's quota in the IMF, with 181 votes supporting the proposal.

As a result, Iran's share in the IMF will rise by \$1.783 billion, increasing its Special Drawing Rights (SDR) from the current 5.350 billion SDR to a total of 3.567 billion SDR.

Tajikistan Welcomes Joint Investment With Iran

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC/DESK



TEHRAN - In a positive assessment of a two-day visit by a Tajik trade delegation to North Khorasan Province, the head of the Bojnord Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, Abbas Kazemi, stated that the province's construction materials have export potential to Tajikistan. Kazemi emphasized the importance of facilitating conditions for this export to the Persian-speaking nation.

Kazemi shared that the Tajik delegation, during their visit to North Khorasan, explored the province's investment potentials and expressed openness toward expanding economic relations. He noted that facilitating trade delegations is part of the Chamber's mission, aimed at easing trade processes for businesspeople and economic stakeholders.

Highlighting Tajikistan's mineral resources, Kazemi suggested that North Khorasan traders could import essential minerals from Tajikistan to support growth in Iran. He mentioned that Tajik officials visiting local production units recognized the construction material manufacturing facilities as valuable for trade relations, as some of Tajikistan's needs could be met by this province.

Kazemi underscored that the local construction industry provides a promising basis for trade expansion with Tajikistan, noting the delegation's satisfaction with product quality. He also pointed to the shared language, religion, and culture between the two countries as factors that could strengthen commercial ties.

Musa Fazluddin, Deputy of Finance at the Dushanbe Chamber of Commerce and Industry, stressed the economic and tourism potential

of Tajikistan's capital and highlighted the city's interest in mutual investment with Iranian businesses.

Fazluddin stated that cultural and linguistic commonalities have facilitated trade relations, with Tajik traders eager to capitalize on these opportunities. Tajikistan's rich mineral reserves present an import opportunity for North Khorasan traders, potentially fulfilling the region's raw material needs. Additionally, Fazluddin noted Tajikistan's cotton production, a potential supply source for North Khorasan's agricultural needs.

During their visit, the Tajik delegation observed North Khorasan's factories, finding that the region's industrial products, including building materials, could meet Tajikistan's needs. Fazluddin affirmed Tajikistan's interest in deepening economic relations with North Khorasan and noted significant potential for increased trade.

Kazem Shirdel, Vice President of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, reported a 33% rise in Iranian exports to Tajikistan over the first half of this year compared to the same period last year. Shirdel attributed this increase to the high quality of Iranian products, which has been well received by the Tajik market.

Shirdel underscored the shared language and religious ties between the two nations as cultural advantages that could bolster economic exchanges. He pointed out that economic interactions between Iran and Tajikistan have grown in recent years, advocating for the continuation of this positive trend to enhance trade.

Trade Exchanges Between Iran and the Kurdistan Region Increase



AHVAZ - The president of the Union of Importers and Exporters of the Kurdistan Region announced that annual trade exchanges between Iran and the Kurdistan Region are reaching \$6 billion. Efforts are underway to increase this figure through enhanced communications and the signing of additional memorandums of understanding.

Mustafa Abdulrahman Abdullah made these remarks during a comprehensive seminar on business and investment opportunities between Khuzestan and the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in Ahvaz. He emphasized that the relationship between Iran and the Kurdistan Region is not solely commercial but also cultural and social, stating, "We never feel estranged in Iran and consider this country our second home."

Abdullah characterized the relationship between the Kurdistan Region and Iran as longstanding, noting that the development of these connections has always been regarded as a significant vision. He highlighted the active role of the Union of Importers and Exporters of the Kurdistan Region in this regard.

He further explained that the Kurdistan Region of Iraq shares a historic border with Iran, having 12 official and semi-official border crossings through which trade and economic exchanges occur.

The president of the union referenced the signing of several cooperation agreements with economic institutions in various Iranian cities. He pointed out that despite the considerable distance between the Kurdistan Region and Khuzestan, a recent memorandum signed at the Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce facilitates the improvement of trade relations with this province.

Currently, 15 traders and economic activists from the Kurdistan Region, including the head of the exporters' branch and the vice presidents of the branches in Kirkuk and Sulaymaniyah, are accompanying him on this trip, with hopes of enhancing bilateral relations over time.

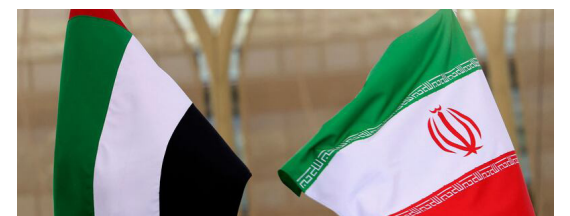
Abdullah reminded attendees that the Union of Importers and Exporters of the Kurdistan Region has over 10,000 members, some of whom own factories and large commercial companies. He emphasized the friendly connections between economic activists within the union and Iranians residing in Sulaymaniyah and Erbil. He expressed optimism that the recently signed memorandum with the Ahvaz Chamber would lead to expanded economic cooperation with Iran.

Additionally, Abdullah noted that the union has established 33 cooperation agreements with global unions, 11 of which pertain to Iran.

He also extended an invitation to economic activists and members of the Ahvaz Chamber to travel to the Kurdistan Region as part of trade delegations to continue mutual cooperation.

The business delegation from the Kurdistan Region of Iraq arrived in Khuzestan on Saturday at the invitation of the Ahvaz Chamber of Commerce to explore and become familiar with the province's economic capacities.

Growth of Trade Between Iran and UAE Amid Sanctions and Regional Tensions



TEHRAN - Erfan Shakri discussed the current state of trade between Iran and the UAE. He noted that as direct exchanges with many parts of the world have become challenging for Iranian traders due to sanctions, the UAE has emerged as a valuable trading partner. Over the past decade, trade between the two countries has seen a consistent upward trend, increasing annually.

According to customs reports, the value of trade between Iran and the UAE has surpassed \$16 billion from the beginning of the year to the end of October. In the same period last year, Iran's exports to the UAE were valued at \$3.7 billion, while imports from the UAE reached \$11 billion. This means the total trade value increased from \$14.7 billion in the first seven months of last year to \$16 billion in the same timeframe this year.

Shakri explained that some Iranian exports are consumed within the UAE market, while others are re-exported to the region.

When asked about the impact of recent tensions between the two countries on trade, Shakri stated that these issues have not yet affected their trade relations. He emphasized that the commercial relationship has remained strong, benefiting from mutual cooperation. He also mentioned a recent meeting between the Iranian president and the UAE prime minister in Russia, which aimed to de-escalate tensions. Additionally, the foreign ministers of both nations have held separate discussions, indicating government efforts to reduce conflict.

Spain's Deadliest Floods Leave 158 Dead

VALENCIA (Dispatches) - Spain mourned at least 158 deaths on Thursday and authorities told people in flood-stricken regions to stay at home as rescuers raced to find survivors in the rare disaster.

An exceptionally powerful Mediterranean storm from Tuesday unleashed heavy rains and torrents of mud-filled water that swept away people and wrecked homes, with the eastern Valencia region hit hardest.

The body coordinating rescue work in the Valencia region announced 155 bodies had been recovered there by Thursday afternoon.

Officials in Castilla-La Mancha and Andalusia had announced a combined three deaths in their regions on Wednesday.

But "dozens and dozens" of people remain missing two days after the start of the catastrophe, government minister Angel Victor Torres told reporters, raising fears the toll could rise further.

Some rural areas also remain inaccessible to rescuers.



Partial Recount Confirms Ruling Party Won Georgia Election



TBILISI (Dispatches) - A partial ballot recount in Georgia's contested parliamentary election confirmed the ruling party won, electoral officials said Thursday, after opposition parties alleged violations and Washington and Brussels demanded an investigation.

Georgia plunged into political uncertainty following last Saturday's election as the pro-Western opposition said the vote was "stolen" by the ruling Georgian Dream party and refused to recognise its results.

Pro-European President Salome Zurbishvili -- at loggerheads with the governing party -- has declared the election results "illegitimate", alleging election interference by a "Russian special operation".

The central election commission told AFP that the recount at some 12 percent of polling stations, involving 14 percent of the vote, "didn't lead to a significant change to previously announced official results".

"Final tallies only slightly changed at some nine percent of recounted polling stations," a spokeswoman said.

Tens of thousands took to the streets on Monday to protest against alleged fraud.

International observers, the European Union and the United States have denounced electoral irregularities and demanded a full investigation.

Georgia's interior ministry said two were arrested following alleged ballot stuffing at a provincial polling station, while prosecutors said they had opened 47 criminal cases over alleged electoral violations.

On Wednesday, Georgian prosecutors said they had summoned Zurbishvili for questioning, because she "is believed to possess evidence regarding possible falsification".

But the figurehead president refused the summons, saying that plenty of evidence of electoral fraud was already available and prosecutors should focus on their investigation and "stop political score-settling with the president".

Opposition parties have said they will not enter the new "illegitimate" parliament and demanded "fresh" elections.

North Korea Launches Intercontinental Missile, Escalating Threat to U.S. Mainland

SEOUL (Dispatches) - North Korea launched a new intercontinental ballistic missile in its first test in almost a year of a weapon designed to threaten the U.S. mainland and occurring days ahead of the U.S. election.

North Korea leader Kim Jong Un ordered the missile test and was at the launch site, calling the launch "an appropriate military action" to show North Korea's resolve to respond to its enemies' moves that has threatened the North's safety, according to its Defense Ministry.

The United States, South Korea and Japan had also identified the weapon as an ICBM and condemned the launch as raising tensions. The launch came as Washington warned that North Korean troops in Russian uniforms are heading toward Ukraine, likely to augment Russian forces and join the war.

North Korea confirmed the launch hours after its neighbors detected the firing of what they suspected was a new, more agile weapon targeting the mainland US. The statement was unusually quick since North Korea usually describes its weapons tests a day after they occur.

"I affirm that the DPRK will never change its line of bolstering up its nuclear forces," Kim said, according to a North Korean Defense Ministry statement carried by state media. DPRK stands for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said North Korea could have tested a new, solid-fueled long-range ballistic missile. Missiles with built-in solid propellants are easier to move and hide and can be launched quicker than liquid-propellant weapons.

JCS spokesperson Lee Sung Joon said the launch was possibly timed to the US election in an attempt to strengthen North Korea's future bargaining power. He said the North Korean missile was launched on a high angle, apparently to avoid neighboring countries.

Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani told reporters the missile's flight duration of 86 minutes and its maximum altitude of more than 7,000 kilometers (4,350 miles) exceeded corresponding data from previous North Korean missile tests. Lee, the South Korean military spokesperson, said South Korea has a similar assessment on Thursday's launch.

KCNA said the flight characteristics of this launch exceeded those registered for its previous missile launches but did not detail

the differences.

US National Security Council spokesperson Sean Savett had called the launch "a flagrant violation" of multiple UN Security Council resolutions that "needlessly raises tensions and risks destabilizing the security situation in the region." Savett said the US will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and its South Korean and Japanese allies.

Both South Korea and Japan condemned the North Korean launch for posing a threat to international peace and they said they're closely coordinating with the US over the latest North Korean weapons test. Lee said that South Korea and the US plan "sufficient" bilateral military exercises and trilateral ones involving Japan in response to North Korean threats.

Lee said the missile may have been fired from a 12-axle launch vehicle, the North's largest mobile launch platform that it disclosed in September. The vehicle's unveiling had prompted speculation North Korea could be developing an ICBM that is bigger than its existing ones.

North Korea has made strides in its missile technologies in recent years, but many foreign experts believe the country has yet to acquire a functioning nuclear-armed missile that can strike the U.S. mainland. They say North Korea likely possesses short-range missiles that can deliver nuclear strikes across all of South Korea.

One of the technological hurdles North Korea still faces is for its weapons to be capable of surviving the harsh conditions of atmospheric reentry. South Korean officials and experts earlier said North Korea may test-launch a ICBM on a normal angle to verify that capability.

Lee said a high-angle launch like Thursday's test cannot examine a missile's reentry vehicle technology. He said that more analysis is required to find why North Korea didn't conduct a standard-trajectory launch on Thursday.

South Korea's military intelligence agency told lawmakers Wednesday that North Korea was close to test-firing a long-range missile capable of reaching the United States and has also likely completed preparations for its seventh nuclear test.

North Korea last test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile in December 2023, when it launched the solid-fueled Hwasong-18.

Beirut's Southern Suburbs Rocked by Israeli Strikes

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - At least 10 strikes hit Beirut's southern suburbs at dawn on Friday, Lebanon's official news agency said, after the Israeli army issued evacuation orders for buildings in the area.

AFP TV footage showed explosions followed by clouds of smoke that rang out in the city's suburbs after the Israeli army ordered several buildings in Hezbollah's stronghold to evacuate.

"The raids left massive destruction in the targeted areas, as dozens of buildings were levelled to the ground, in addition to the outbreak of fires," the National News Agency (NNA) said.

Israeli warplanes carried out 10 raids targeting the suburban areas of Ghobeiry and Al-Kafaat, the Sayyed Hadi Highway, the vicinity of the Al-Mujtaba Complex, and the old airport road, it added.

The Israeli military has repeatedly bombarded south Beirut in recent weeks, while also carrying out deadly strikes elsewhere in the capital and across Lebanon.

Friday's strikes come a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met visiting US officials to discuss a possible deal to end the war in Lebanon, with the death toll mounting on both sides of the border.

At least 1,829 people have been killed in Lebanon since Israel began an air campaign targeting Hezbollah strongholds on September 23, according to an AFP tally of Lebanese health ministry figures, though the real toll is likely higher.

Meanwhile at least 46 Palestinians were killed in Israeli military strikes across the Gaza Strip on Thursday, mostly in the north where one attack hit a hospital, torching medical supplies and disrupting operations, the enclave's health officials said.

Israel's military has accused the Palestinian group Hamas of using Kamal Adwan Hospital in Beit Lahiya for military purposes and said "dozens of



terrorists" have been hiding there. Health officials and Hamas deny the charge.

Later on Thursday, an Israeli airstrike on two houses in the Nusairat camp in central Gaza killed at least 16 Palestinians, medics at Al-Awda Hospital in the camp told Reuters. The dead included a paramedic and two local journalists, they added.

Northern Gaza, where Israel said in January it had dismantled Hamas' command structure, is currently the main focus of the military's assault in the enclave. Earlier this month it sent tanks into Jabalia, Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya to flush out militants it said had regrouped.

Eid Sabbah, director of nursing at Kamal Adwan — which is in Beit Lahiya — told Reuters some staff suffered minor burns after the Israeli strike hit the third floor of the hospital.

There were no reports of any casualties at the hospital, which Israeli forces stormed and briefly occupied last week. Israel said it had captured around 100 suspected Hamas militants in that raid. Israeli tanks are still stationed nearby.

The health ministry in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip called for all international bodies "to protect hospitals and medical staff from the brutality of the (Israeli) occupation".

The Israeli military has said its forces are operating in the hospital area based on intelligence about the presence of terrorists and terror infrastructure in the vicinity.

"During the operation, it was found that dozens of terrorists were hiding in the hospital, with some even posing as hospital staff," said the military in a statement following Thursday's strike.

Medical charity Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that one of its doctors at the hospital, Mohammed Obeid, had been detained last Saturday by Israeli forces. It called for the protection of him and all medical staff who "are facing horrific violence as they try to provide care".

UN Chief Calls for Peace Among Ourselves to halt Earth's Existential Crisis at COP16



CALI (Dispatches) - UN chief Antonio Guterres called yesterday for "peace among ourselves" in order to save the planet, as devastating wars rage in Ukraine, Gaza, Lebanon and Sudan.

"We need peace with nature and we need peace among ourselves," Guterres told journalists in Cali, Colombia, where he attended a UN summit that is seeking ways to "halt and reverse" humankind's destruction of Earth's bountiful resources.

"We need to make peace among ourselves because wars... have some of the most devastating impacts on biodiversity, on climate and on pollution," the secretary general said.

He reiterated calls for a "just peace" in Ukraine and an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, with "massive" humanitarian aid to the people there and the release of all hostages held by Hamas since its attack on Israel more than a year ago.

Guterres also underlined the need for a peace in Lebanon "that respects Lebanese sovereignty and Lebanese territorial integrity and paves the way for a political solution," after Israel expanded its military offensive into that country.

IMF Warns of Risks to Asia's Economy as Trade Tensions, Soft China Growth Bite

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Risks to Asia's economy have increased from escalating trade tensions, China's property sector woes and the potential for further market turbulence, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Friday.

Persistent downward price pressures from China can "provoke trade tensions" by hurting sectors in neighboring countries with similar export structures, the IMF said, urging Beijing to take steps to achieve a more demand-driven recovery for its economy.

"A longer and larger-than-expected slowdown in China would be harmful for both the region and the global economy," the IMF said in its regional economic outlook report for Asia.

"China's policy response is critical in this context," it said, calling on the need for steps to facilitate property sector adjustment and strengthen private consumption.

In its latest forecast, the IMF expects Asia's economy to expand 4.6% in 2024 and 4.4% in 2025 with looser monetary policy across the globe seen boosting private demand next year.

The projections for 2024 and 2025 were both revised up by 0.1 percentage point from the IMF's forecasts made in April, but lower than the 5.0% expansion in 2023.

Risks were "tilted to the downside" as past monetary tightening steps and geopolitical tensions could hurt global demand, increase trade costs and jolt markets, the IMF said.

"An acute risk is the escalation in tit-for-tat retaliatory tariffs between major trading partners," which would aggravate trade fragmentation and hurt growth in the region, it said.

While low growth, high debt and escalating wars topped the official agenda at last week's International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings, finance leaders



spent much of their energy worrying about the potential impacts of a return of Donald Trump to power in the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential election.

Trump has vowed to impose a 10% tariff on imports from all countries, and 60% duties on imports from China, which would hit supply chains throughout the world, analysts say.

"It's clear tariffs, non tariff-barriers and domestic content provisions are not the right solutions, since they distort trade investment flows and undermine the multilateral trading system," Krishna Srinivasan, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department, told a news conference on Friday.

"At the end of the day, these kind of measures will lead to higher prices being paid by consumers and investors," he said.

The IMF said recent market turbulence could also foreshadow future bouts of volatility as markets price in additional, large interest rate cuts by the U.S. Federal Reserve, and gradual rate hikes by the Bank of Japan.

"Sudden changes in expectations of these policy paths could cause exchange rates to adjust sharply, with spillovers into other financial market segments," the report said.

"Although volatility by itself would not necessarily be harmful, it could undermine consumer confidence and investment," it said.

The IMF expects China's economy to expand 4.8% in 2024, up 0.2 point from its forecast in April but slower than last year's 5.2% increase. The country's growth is expected to slow further to 4.5% in 2025, the IMF said.

China is targeting growth of roughly 5.0% for 2024.



Spurs' Victor Wembanyama Tallies 5x5 vs. Jazz

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Victor Wembanyama bounced back from one of his worst NBA outings with a rare 5x5 to lift the San Antonio Spurs to a 106-88 victory over the Utah Jazz in Salt Lake City. A night after scoring a career-low six points in a loss at Oklahoma City, Wembanyama amassed 25 points, nine rebounds, seven assists, five blocks and five steals. It was the second time the 20-year-old had accomplished the so-called 5x5 (five of each category), and Wembanyama joined Hakeem Olajuwon and Andrei Kirilenko as the only NBA players ever to do it more than once. Olajuwon did it six times, Kirilenko three. Chris Paul contributed 19 points, 10 assists, seven rebounds and two steals for San Antonio. Collin Sexton put up a team-high 16 points for Utah, which played without leading scorer Lauri Markkanen (back spasms). Devin Booker scored a season-high 40 points as Phoenix Suns rallied from a 21-point third-quarter deficit to beat Los Angeles Clippers 125-119 in Inglewood, Calif. Royce O'Neale added 21 points, Kevin Durant scored 18, rookie Ryan Dunn had 16 in his second career start and Jusuf Nurkic put up 11 as the Suns won for the second time in two weeks at the Clippers' new \$2 billion Intuit Dome. Phoenix made 15 consecutive shots to open the second half, sparking a rally that extended its winning streak to three games. James Harden produced 25 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds while Norman Powell added 23 points as the Clippers fell to 0-3 in their new building. Harden became the 20th player in NBA history to pass 26,000

career points. Ivica Zubac scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds. Jalen Green scored a team-high 23 points and Houston Rockets fended off a fourth-quarter comeback to win in Dallas Mavericks 108-102. Green buried a 3-pointer with 1:12 remaining to stabilize the Rockets and answer Luka Doncic's 3-pointer that had pulled Dallas to within 100-97. Dillon Brooks and Alperen Sengun scored 17 points apiece for the Rockets, who got a combined 25 points and eight rebounds from Amen Thompson and Tari Eason off the bench. Sengun matched Green with a game-high 12 rebounds. Doncic scored 15 of his game-high 29 points on 6-for-8 shooting in the fourth quarter. Kyrie Irving (28 points, eight rebounds, seven assists) kept the Mavericks afloat before Doncic and Klay Thompson (eight fourth-quarter points) fueled the frantic fourth-quarter rally. Klay Thompson finished with 12 points. Ja Morant recorded 26 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds to carry short-handed Memphis Grizzlies over visiting Milwaukee Bucks 122-99. The Grizzlies, who snapped a two-game losing streak, also got 19 points and nine rebounds from Santi Aldama. Jaylen Wells and Scotty Pippen Jr. scored 16 points apiece, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 13 points, Jake LaRavia had 11 points and 10 rebounds, and Zach Edey produced 10 points and eight boards. The triple-double was the 12th of Morant's career. Giannis Antetokounmpo paced the Bucks with 37 points and 11 rebounds. Brook Lopez scored 12 points, and Bobby Portis had 11.



Verstappen's Driving Same as in 2021 Title Battle

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Max Verstappen's driving style has been heavily criticised of late but Lewis Hamilton said little had changed since they fought for the title down to the last lap of the 2021 Formula One season. Red Bull's reigning champion, who denied Hamilton an eighth title in a season full of incidents, was twice penalised in Mexico last Sunday for forcing his McLaren title rival Lando Norris wide and going off and gaining an advantage. "All you have to do is just go and look back and listen to some of my radio comments back in the day," Hamilton told reporters when asked about Norris saying the triple world champion was "dangerous". "I don't think you're seeing much difference across the years from 2021 to now. It's pretty much the same," added the Briton, speaking ahead of Sunday's Sao Paulo Grand Prix. Championship leader Verstappen hit back at critics, saying in a separate press conference he knew what he was doing. "I've heard that before in my career," Verstappen said when asked about whether he would change his driving style. "It's my 10th year in Formula One, I think I know what I'm doing." Sao Paulo's Interlagos circuit saw one of the memorable 2021 battles between Hamilton and Verstappen, when both went off track while fighting for the lead in a race won by the Mercedes driver as they fought neck-and-neck for the title. Verstappen ended up winning the championship after overtaking Hamilton on the last lap of the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi, claiming his first world title.

Alcaraz Exits Paris Masters in Thriller

PARIS (Dispatches) - French Open and Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz failed to reach the Paris Masters quarter-finals after a thrilling 6-1 3-6 7-5 defeat to local favourite Ugo Humbert. The Frenchman, ranked 18th in the world, wrapped up the first set in 26 minutes as Alcaraz struggled to find his rhythm. Spain's world number two refused to go quietly and took a 5-2 lead before closing out the second set with a hold to love. But Humbert, buoyed by the home crowd, managed to overpower Alcaraz in the third set and become the first Frenchman to beat a top-five player at the Paris tournament since 2019 when his coach Jeremy Chardy downed Daniil Medvedev in the second round. "I have to congratulate Ugo. I think his performance has been really high. You know, the way he hits the ball is unbelievable. It's amazing," Alcaraz told a press conference. The four-times Grand Slam winner added that the speed of the court was a surprise and one of the main



factors for his poor performance, saying it had changed a lot from previous years. "It is the fastest court in the Masters 1000, probably on the tour right now. Probably the fastest one in the last 10 years in this tournament. I play the Davis Cup indoor court, and the court was way slower than this one," Alcaraz said. Earlier, third seed Alexander Zverev defeated 20th-ranked Frenchman Arthur Fils 6-4 3-6 6-3 after recovering from a second-set wobble to set up a clash with Stefanos Tsitsipas. The 10th-seeded Greek came back from a tight first set to ousted Argentine Francisco Cerundolo 6-7(1) 6-4 6-2. Ninth seed Alex de Minaur of Australia also managed to come from behind to beat Britain's Jack Draper 5-7 6-2 6-3. His compatriot Jordan Thompson reached the last eight with a 7-5 7-6(5) victory over Frenchman Adrian Mannarino. However, Australia's Alexei Popyrin failed to join his countrymen as he fell to Karen Khachanov 7-6(5) 6-4.

Musiala Hits Hat-Trick as Bayern Cruise Into German Cup Last 16



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Jamal Musiala hit a first-half hat-trick as Bayern Munich won 4-0 at Mainz to move into the last 16 of the German Cup. Harry Kane set up Musiala's first just two minutes in, finding him 10 metres out from goal for the 21-year-old to hammer home. Musiala tapped in a rebound from a Kane header to score his second, the England-raised Germany forward was offside, but there is no VAR in the German Cup until the next round. Former Manchester City winger Leroy Sane made it three just ahead of half-time and Musiala then pounced on a loose ball in the box to score his third, and Bayern's fourth, just before the break to claim his first hat-trick. "Even without his goals, he can make the difference," Joshua Kimmich said of Musiala. The most successful team in German Cup history — Bayern have 20 titles compared to next best Werder Bremen's six — the German giants have struggled in recent years. Bayern were eliminated at this stage in four of the past five seasons, including by third division Saarbruecken last season. Third division Arminia Bielefeld beat Union Berlin 2-0 at home to become the only third division side in the hat for the last 16. A brace from Jakob Lemmer was not enough for the other remaining third division side, Dynamo Dresden, who lost 3-2 to Darmstadt in extra time, with Aleksandar Vukotic, Tobias Kempe and Isac Lidberg getting the goals. Earlier, Eintracht Frankfurt forward Omar Marmoush kept up his stellar recent form, scoring the winner in a 2-1 defeat of Borussia Moenchengladbach. Frankfurt were reduced to 10 men when Arthur Theate was sent off for a handball outside the box just 15 minutes in. French forward Hugo Ekitike put the five-time winners in front in first-half stoppage time but Gladbach's Ko Itakura levelled things up at the start of the second. With 20 minutes remaining, Marmoush put the undermanned Eagles back in front, his 11th goal in 13 matches in all competitions this season. "It was a lot of fun — even with 10 men on the pitch we worked hard." The Egyptian celebrated with a Halloween mask explaining "I don't actually watch horror movies but I found it in the dressing room and said 'I'll take that with me'." A Matthias Ginter goal and a penalty from Vincenzo Grifo, both in the first half, fired Freiburg to a 2-1 home win over three-time winners Hamburg, who scored through Jonas Meffert in the second half.

Man United' Win; City Crash out of League Cup

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Ruud van Nistelrooy enjoyed a winning start as interim Manchester United manager by beating Leicester 5-2 to reach the League Cup quarter-finals on Wednesday as Manchester City crashed out 2-1 to Tottenham. Arsenal and Liverpool were among the other sides to book their place in the last eight, but Chelsea were beaten 2-0 at Newcastle. A United legend as a player, Van Nistelrooy was thrust into the role of caretaker boss after the Red Devils sacked Erik ten Hag on Monday following a dreadful start to the season. Sporting Lisbon coach Ruben Amorim is the man the English giants have targeted to take over but are still in negotiations with the Portuguese champions to agree compensation for the 39-year-old. According to reports in Portugal, Amorim will remain at Sporting for the next three matches before completing his move during the November international break. "I came here as an assistant to help the club. I'm helping as long as I'm needed and in the future, in any capacity, I'm here to help the club build towards the future," said Van Nistelrooy. "The reaction of the players was excellent. They deserve the credit for a good win and I'm happy the crowd goes home with a nice night of football." The Dutchman said before the game that United "can be unstoppable" when "players, staff and supporters pull together" and they cut loose by scoring four times in a thrilling first 45 minutes. Casemiro's stunning effort into the top corner opened the scoring before Alejandro Garnacho swept home



Diogo Dalot's cross to please a jubilant Van Nistelrooy on the touchline. Bilal El Khannouss quickly pulled a goal back for the much-changed Foxes. Bruno Fernandes' deflected free-kick restored United's two-goal cushion before Casemiro slammed home his third goal in two games. Conor Coady grabbed another consolation for Leicester but United were not to be denied just a second win in nine games. Fernandes rounded off the scoring when he pounced on a short back-pass to round Danny Ward and fire home. United's reward is a trip to Tottenham in the last eight after they eliminated a City side without Erling Haaland. Timo Werner slotted home his first goal since March from Dejan Kulusevski's inviting cross to open the scoring. Pape Sarr's long-range strike doubled Spurs' lead before Matheus Nunes got an injury-hit City back into the tie in first-half stoppage time. But they could not find an equaliser and Pep Guardiola showed where his priorities lie as Haaland remained on the bench for the full 90 minutes. Cody Gakpo was the match-winner for Liverpool in a 3-2 win at Brighton to continue Arne Slot's excellent start to life with the Reds. Gakpo has not scored in the Premier League or Champions League this season but now has four goals in two League Cup games.