

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Confirms Its 58-Year-Old Military Advisor Brigadier General Abbas Nilfroushan Has Been Martyred in an Israeli Airstrike in Beirut

IRAN NEWS

President Masoud Pezeshkian Says the International Community Will Not Forget That the Order for Israel's Terrorist Act to Assassinate Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah Was Issued From New York

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30 Countries Express Readiness to Invest in Iran



TEHRAN - The organizer of the exhibition introducing investment opportunities in Iran stated that 107 representatives and investment delegations from 30 countries have expressed their readiness to invest in Iran. After conducting assessments, we concluded that there is an interest in investing more than \$7.2 billion from other countries in Iran.

According to the Iranian Trade Development Organization, the Iran Investment Opportunities Conference, a pre-event for Iran Invest Expo, was held with the presence of Mahmoud Bazari, Director General of the Trade Promotion Office of the Iranian Trade Development Organization, Mohammad Reza Ghaderi, the organizer of the investment opportunities exhibition, and a number of responsible officials and representatives of the exhibition's strategic council at the Persian Gulf Hall of the Permanent International Exhibitions of Tehran.

At this conference, Bazari referred to the postponement of the Iran Investment Opportunities Exhibition, stating that the organization of this exhibition coincided with the government transition and changes in managers and companies, which impacted the execution of the event.

He expressed hope that the Iran Investment Opportunities Exhibition will be held in early Esfand (February-March) of this year with the presence of domestic and foreign investors.

This official continued, stating that in recent years, various economic sectors have faced challenges in financing; therefore, the 14th government has prioritized attracting foreign investments as part of its programs, and we hope to facilitate investment opportunities during this government.

The Director General of the Trade Promotion Office noted that about 60 exhibitions are held annually in the international exhibition complex, emphasizing that one of the main challenges for Iranian producers is financing and attracting capital. Therefore, the Iran Investment Opportunities Exhibition was designed with this goal in mind, and the necessary permits were issued.

Another speaker at this conference, Mohammad Reza Ghaderi, the organizer of the exhibition, pointed to the difficulties in attracting investment in the economy, stating that unjust sanctions have increased the risks of foreign investment in Iran. However, positive actions have been taken in recent years to reform laws and grant some facilities, resulting in a growing trend in capital attraction in Iran.

Iran Calls for Emergency UNSC Meeting to Address Israel Aggression



TEHRAN - Iran calls on the UN Security Council (UNSC) to convene an emergency meeting to address the Israeli regime's ongoing deadly aggression across the region, which recently led to the assassination of Hezbollah's Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah.

Amir Saad Irvani, the Islamic Republic's permanent ambassador to the United Nations, made the request in a letter addressed to the council on Saturday. A day earlier, the regime embarked on intense airstrikes against Lebanon's capital Beirut, causing the martyrdom of the leader of the Lebanese resistance movement alongside many others.

The assassination came amid the Israeli regime's October-present escalation against Lebanon and genocidal war on the Gaza Strip, which have respectively claimed the lives of hundreds of Lebanese and at least 41,586 Palestinians. Women and children comprise the majority of the victims.

Irvani denounced the unbridled aggression as "war crime and crime against humanity." He said the UNSC had to convene the meeting "to address Israel's terrorist aggression and the continuous atrocities perpetrated by the warmongering Israeli regime in Lebanon and across the region."

"These brazen acts of aggression...pose a grave threat to regional and international peace and security, pushing the entire region into an all-out catastrophe," he cautioned. The envoy, meanwhile, reminded that attacks on Beirut had been carried out "using United States-supplied thousands-pound bunker busters."

He also denounced the US for preventing the council from taking "an effective decision" against the regime, thus providing Tel Aviv with "complete impunity."

"The Security Council must compel Israel to immediately cease its acts of aggression and crimes in Gaza and Lebanon, and comply with relevant UNSC Resolutions."

Irvani reminded that the regime's regional aggression saw it targeting the Iranian Consulate in the Syrian capital Damascus in April, causing the martyrdom of a commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), his deputy, and five of their accompanying officers.

He asserted that the Islamic Republic "will not tolerate any repeat of such aggression." "Iran will not hesitate to exercise its inherent rights under international law to take every measure in defense of its vital national and security interests."

Retaliating against the April attack, the IRGC targeted the occupied Palestinian territories with a barrage of drones and missiles, inflicting damage on Israeli military bases there.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said the recent martyrdom of Secretary General of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah will be followed by further invigoration of the regional Axis of Resistance.

"Undoubtedly, the blood of this great man will further strengthen the already robust resistance," the top diplomat said during a telephone conversation with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Rashid Bou Habib on Saturday.

Araqchi hailed Nasrallah as a "courageous personality and an influential scholar," who served an unparalleled role in stabilizing and developing the school of resistance against the oppressive and occupying Zionist regime.

The resistance leader was assassinated during the most recent stage of the regime's escalation against Lebanon that saw it conducting dozens of airstrikes against the southern suburbs of the country's capital Beirut.

The Iranian official expressed condolence on the part of the country's people and administration to the Lebanese nation and government, considering Nasrallah's martyrdom to be a great loss for the people of Lebanon, the region, and the world.

He described the assassination as a "cowardly" and "bestial" war crime that featured egregious violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Araqchi laid emphasis on the need for informing the international public opinion about the "ignominious atrocity" and documenting it at international and legal organizations.

The Islamic Republic's diplomatic apparatus at home and abroad was prepared to help communicate the various aspects of this "sinister crime" as well as the aspects of the martyr's significant personality to the international community, he concluded.

Resistance Will Deal More Crushing Blows to Decaying Body of Israel



TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the resistance front will deal more crushing blows to the "dilapidated and decaying body" of the Zionist regime.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the statement in a message of condolences on Saturday over the martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, who was assassinated in a massive Israeli airstrike in southern Beirut on Friday.

The Leader declared five days of national mourning following the martyrdom of the Hezbollah chief.

The Leader said the foundation that Nasrallah established in Lebanon and provided direction to other centers of power will not disappear with his loss but will be strengthened by blood of the Hezbollah chief and other martyrs of the Beirut attack.

Ayatollah Khamenei described Nasrallah as a great fighter, the bearer of the resistance in the region, a religious scholar and a wise political leader who was martyred in the last night events in Lebanon.

The Leader stated that Nasrallah was martyred as he was planning to defend the defenseless people living in the Dahiyeh area in the south of Lebanon's capital Beirut and their destroyed homes.

Nasrallah fought for decades to defend the oppressed Palestinian people, their occupied cities and villages, destroyed homes, and their slaughtered loved ones, Ayatollah Khamenei added.

"The blessing of martyrdom was his undeniable right after all these efforts," the Leader emphasized.

"The Muslim world lost a great personality, the resistance front lost a prominent flag-bearer, and Lebanon's Hezbollah lost a unique leader," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader, however emphasized, the blessings of decades of Nasrallah's prudence and jihad will never be lost.

Strikes Hit U.S.-Run Base in Eastern Syria



DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - A military facility housing US occupation forces in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr has reportedly come under attack.

Citing filed sources, Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news channel reported on Sunday that a barrage of rockets and drones targeted the American-run base at the Conoco gas field and achieved direct hits.

Meanwhile, Syrian media said that explosions were heard at the US military installation.

However, there were no immediate reports about the extent of damage at the facility, and possible casualties.

Citing a security source, Shafaq News Agency reported that Iraqi resistance forces had attacked the US base "by a single drone," which was brought down without any losses.

Also on Sunday, several explosions were reported in Dayr al-Zawr's al-Bukamal region near the Syrian border with Iraq.

The airstrikes targeted the headquarters of the Sayyed Al-Shuhada Brigades of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, wounding a person, said the Resistance News Network Telegram channel.

American warplanes carried out three airstrikes near Dayr al-Zawr following Sunday's operation by the resistance, according to some reports.

Iraqi resistance forces have conducted numerous strikes on the US-run bases in both Iraq and Syria in support of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip amid a Washington-backed Israeli genocide.

With the US green light, Israel has in recent weeks escalated its acts of terror and aggression in both Gaza and Lebanon.

On Friday, Israel assassinated Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime leader of the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement, in southern Beirut using American-supplied bunker-buster bombs.

Meanwhile fighters from the Iraqi anti-terror resistance groups have launched two drone strikes against strategic targets in the southern part of the Israeli-occupied territories in retaliation for the Tel Aviv regime's devastating war on Gaza and its bloody onslaught against Lebanon.

Russia's PM to Visit Tehran for High-Level Talks



MOSCOW (IRNA) - Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin is expected to visit Tehran in the coming days for high-level talks with Iranian officials.

Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali told IRNA on Saturday that the planned trip by Mishustin is aimed at enhancing bilateral relations and following up on existing agreements between the two sides.

"This visit is very important and could create significant momentum in Iran-Russia economic relations," he emphasized.

Asked about the outlook for Tehran-Moscow relations under President Masoud Pezeshkian, Jalali said the current government's approach towards relations with Russia remains consistent with past policies.

"We will witness an expansion of ties with Russia," the ambassador added.

Jalali highlighted joint efforts in the energy sector, referring to last week's visit by the CEO of Russia's state gas company Gazprom to Tehran, where cooperation in the gas sector was discussed.

Regarding the comprehensive long-term cooperation agreement between Iran and Russia, he said the Russian foreign ministry has already referred the matter to President Vladimir Putin, who has expressed his willingness to sign the pact.

Jalali added that similar processes have been completed in Tehran and that Iranian leaders are also prepared to sign the agreement.

Zionist Regime Resorting to Terror to Survive and Prevent Its Decline

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says that the Zionist enemy has failed to achieve its objectives in the field and has turned to terror in a bid to survive and prevent its collapse.

Qalibaf said in the open session of Majlis on Sunday in his pre-agenda speech: "The martyrdom of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of resistance martyrs and the brave and wise leader of the resistance front, has deeply saddened Muslims and freedom seekers around the world, once again reviving the painful memory of Martyr Soleimani's loss."

He added: "This time, too, the most vile of people have carried out the assassination of one of God's servants, who, through his lasting and effective fight against the greatest enemies of humanity, offered the most service to humanity."

He emphasized: "We extend our congratulations and condolences on the martyrdom of the top student of Imam Khomeini's school of thought to the great teacher of this school, the wise leader of the revolution, and we pray to Almighty God that we too may achieve the rank of martyrdom in this school."

Qalibaf reminded: "We hope that Martyr Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah and Martyr General Qassem Soleimani will once again play a direct role in the final victory of the truth front over falsehood with the appearance of the Imam Mahdi (A.J). We also pray to Almighty God to unite other commanders and oppressed martyrs of the resistance in Lebanon with the leader of resistance martyrs."

The head of the legislature continued: "In the past year, we have witnessed a rabid dog that has shown no trace of humanity, shamelessly committing various human crimes that history has not yet witnessed, without fear of any serious international reaction. Despite showing no respect for human boundaries, this criminal enemy has failed to achieve its goals on the ground and has been defeated."

He added: "Thus, they have entered a new stage of complex hybrid warfare, trying to combine assassination operations and psychological warfare to eliminate the leaders of the resistance and destroy the mental foundations and public support for the resistance front, hoping to turn their defeat into victory."



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Qalibaf emphasized that a complete understanding of the enemy's complex design and precise hybrid planning against it, which will, God willing, lead to the enemy's defeat, is necessary. He clarified: "It's essential to note that contrary to what some may think, the Zionist regime does not hold the upper hand. On the contrary, due to significant defeats, the regime's existence is in danger, and out of desperation and to compensate for its strategic failures, it has turned to the tactical methods of terror and psychological operations."

Referring to the weaknesses of the Zionist regime, the Speaker said: "The sense of security is vital for the survival of this regime because it is built on promises of prosperity and comfort to the residents of the occupied territories. Without a sense of security, investment, progress, and welfare are unimaginable."

He emphasized: "The Al-Aqsa Storm operation has caused the illusion of security that the Zionist regime had built for the residents of the occupied territories to collapse. Through media propaganda about elements like the Iron Dome, security walls, and intelligence capabilities, this regime had created a false sense of security for its residents, making them believe they would never be at risk in their own land. However, the Al-Aqsa Storm operation dealt a critical blow to all their strategic foundations, rendering all their security claims invalid and turning the illusion of security into a constant fear for the residents of the occupied territories, thus putting the regime's survival at serious risk."

Qalibaf reminded: "What has been said indicates the regime's failure in military war and its reliance on assassinations and psychological operations, but it has made a miscalculation that will undoubtedly lead to its next defeat. This miscalculation lies in the fact that the resistance front is based on deep Qur'anic principles and faith in divine traditions."

He emphasized: "The image of victory in the enemy front will soon collapse, and it will become clear that while the resistance may be hit by assassination operations, these temporary and tactical victories cannot replace the regime's strategic defeats, and the lost security will not be restored. The residents of the occupied territories will lose hope for the future even more than before, accelerating the regime's decline."

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14% Growth in Iran's Non-Oil Trade with OIC Member Countries

TEHRAN (ILNA)—According to a report, out of the total non-oil trade between Iran and the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), 38.4 million tons, valued at \$15.6 billion, were allocated to exports. In terms of weight, this marks a 1% increase, and in terms of value, a 10% rise.

Regarding imports from OIC member countries in the first half of 1403 (Iranian calendar), the report states that during this period, 10.4 million tons of goods valued at \$16.6 billion were imported. This reflects a 16% growth in weight and an 18% rise in value.

35% Growth in Iran's Exports to Oman



TEHRAN - The Director General of the West Asia Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, while emphasizing the importance of signing preferential agreements to boost foreign trade, announced the formation of a preferential trade committee between Iran and Oman.

According to the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, Abdolamir Rabihavi said that during the 20th Joint Commission between the two countries last year, it was agreed that the issue of preferential trade between Iran and Oman would be put on the agenda of the Deputy Ministers of Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT) and Oman's Ministry of Commerce and Investment.

He continued: To implement this decision, the first round of negotiations was held in July this year in Muscat with the presence of representatives from Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, and the second round will be held from October 6 to 8 in Tehran, attended by deputy ministers of both countries and an Omani delegation.

According to the Director General of the West Asia Office of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, the implementation of preferential trade between Iran and Oman will pave the way for the development and increase of trade volume between the two countries. Rabihavi concluded by emphasizing that Oman is one of Iran's key trade partners among neighboring countries, and according to existing statistics, Iran's exports to Oman grew by 35% in the first five months of 2024 compared to the same period last year.



Georgia Ready for Any Kind of Cultural Cooperation With Iran

TEHRAN - During the visit of the Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts to Georgia, senior officials of the country emphasized comprehensive cultural cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to the public relations office of the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization, Seyyed Reza Salehi Amiri, the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, met and talked with the acting Minister of Culture of Georgia at the ministry's headquarters in Tbilisi.

Salehi Amiri referred to the structure of the ministry, which was created from the merger of three independent organizations, and emphasized Georgia's civilizational background, its significance in the Caucasus region, and the shared heritage between Iran and Georgia, especially in light of the new government relations and the recent visit of the Georgian Prime Minister to Iran.

He pointed out Iran's 28 globally registered works and 24 intangible cultural heritages in UNESCO, highlighting Iran's rank as ninth in the world, and reminded that the presence of people of Georgian descent in Iran is another aspect of the cultural and heritage connections between the two countries.

The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts stated: "In the field of restoration of cultural objects and artifacts, the Cultural Heritage Research Institute is ready to cooperate for training and restoration. In the second part, regarding Georgia's heritage, which is also considered Iran's cultural pride, we are prepared to collaborate in archaeology, where we have over a century of experience. In the third part, we are ready to organize museum exhibitions, as we are currently doing with Shanghai."

Yuseb Baghaturia, the acting Minister of Culture of Georgia, referred to the cultural and civilizational importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and expressed readiness for any kind of cooperation.

He further stated that to establish mechanisms for cooperation and coordination with various sectors, a cultural cooperation agreement is needed, and the proposed text from the Iranian side will be sent for expert review, after which coordination for its signing will take place.

By: F. Taherpoor



Embassy of Malaysia Celebrate National Day With Hosting "Baleh Makan" Event

TEHRAN - The Embassy of Malaysia in Tehran hosted a vibrant cultural event titled "Baleh Makan" on Saturday, September 28, in celebration of Malaysia Day. The event, held at the Malaysian Embassy, showcased Malaysia's rich culinary traditions and performing arts, highlighting the cultural connections between Malaysia and Iran.

The name "Baleh Makan" is a blend of Malay and Farsi languages, symbolizing the unity between the two cultures. "Baleh" draws from the Malay word "Boleh" meaning "can," while in Farsi, "Bale" translates to "yes." "Makan," meaning "eating" in Malay, set the tone for an evening focused on food, friendship, and cross-cultural understanding.

The event was hosted by His Excellency Khairi bin Omar, Ambassador of Malaysia to Iran, and featured a distinguished Malaysian chef who prepared a variety of authentic Malaysian dishes. The culinary spread offered guests a taste of Malaysia's diverse gastronomic heritage, featuring iconic dishes such as:

*Nasi Tomato (Tomato Rice): A festive dish often served during weddings and special occasions.

*Ayam Masak Merah (Sweet & Sour Chicken): A flavorful Johor specialty.

*Briyani Kambing (Lamb Briyani): A mild yet fragrant dish of spiced lamb.

*Ikan Masak Sos Lemon (Fried Fish with Lemon Sauce): A Nyonya Peranakan dish with caramelized trout.

*Sambal Udang (Hot & Spicy Shrimp): A spicy shrimp dish tempered with tamarind and tomato.

*Acar Timun (Vegetable Pickles): Refreshing cucumber pickles with onions and green chilies.

*Kuih Agar Agar Santan Gula Melaka: A coconut milk pudding sweetened with traditional Melaka brown sugar.

In addition to the culinary delights, guests were treated to a unique Wayang Kulit (shadow puppet) performance. In a remarkable display of cultural fusion, Iranian artists who had studied this ancient Malaysian art form performed the Iranian folk tale of Siavash. This collaboration between Iranian narratives and Malaysian puppetry underscored the strong cultural ties and mutual respect between the two nations.

Ambassador Khairi bin Omar emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy, stating, "Malaysia and Iran have a long-standing relationship built on shared values and mutual respect. Events like 'Baleh Makan' allow us to celebrate our friendship and deepen our understanding of each other's cultures through food and art. Tonight's Wayang Kulit performance, with its Iranian narrative, beautifully represents the interconnectedness of our traditions."

The event was attended by diplomats from various embassies, business leaders, academics, and cultural figures. Among the notable guests were Mr. Mohammadi, Director General of Asia and Oceania Affairs, and Mr. Mohsen Afsharchi, the Governor of Zanjan. The Iranian community's participation further enriched the celebration, symbolizing the growing camaraderie between Malaysia and Iran.

"Baleh Makan" in Tehran offered a unique opportunity for the Iranian audience to experience Malaysian culture firsthand, as part of the annual Malaysia Day festivities held on September 16. The event celebrated the unity and diversity that define Malaysia while strengthening the bonds between the two nations.

Revival of Iran-Spain Agreements Must Be Prioritized

TEHRAN - The Spanish ambassador and trade counselor in Tehran met with the delegation from the Chamber of Commerce of Yazd. During the meeting, both parties discussed the existing challenges in Iran-Spain relations and emphasized the need to expand bilateral cooperation.

The head of the Yazd Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture highlighted Yazd's status as a UNESCO World Heritage city, not only known for its amazing architecture and historical structure but also as a symbol of peaceful coexistence among followers of different religions throughout history.

Mojtaba Dastmalchian continued by explaining that Yazd, historically a hub for commerce in Iran, has a long tradition in trade and business. Yazd is the fourth most industrially developed province in the country, producing over 800 types of goods. It ranks first in tile and ceramic production, second in textiles, and third in steel products nationwide.

Regarding relations with Spain, Dastmalchian noted that Yazd has had productive ties with Spain in various fields, including the tile and ceramic industry, which led to the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Yazd Chamber of Commerce and the Castellón Chamber of Commerce and Industry in 2010 to enhance economic relations. Additionally, Iran's Ceramic Technology Development Center signed an MoU with Spain.

Dastmalchian emphasized the need for further cooperation and the signing of an MoU between the Yazd Chamber of Commerce and one of the chambers in Madrid or Barcelona. He also requested assistance in facilitating visa issuance, participation in various exhibitions in Spain, and the sister-city partnership with Seville.

The Spanish ambassador expressed his happiness that Yazd was his first destination as Spain's ambassador, not only for its rich history and culture but also because Yazd is a dynamic industrial hub in Iran's economy.

Antonio Sánchez Benedito continued: "We both share many commonalities, being ancient nations with proud histories, making me feel at home. In Spain, through Andalusia, we have had connections with Islam and Muslims, and the peaceful coexistence of religions in Yazd can serve as a model for the world."

He added that Spain plays a key role in the global economy as the fourth largest economy in Europe and the second largest in tourism,



welcoming twice its population in tourists annually.

Referring to similar climatic conditions such as deserts, the ambassador noted that Yazd holds great potential, and many of the issues raised are related to production. He mentioned that sectors such as textiles, tiles and ceramics, water management, food, and renewable energy are common between the two countries and expressed a willingness to share experiences for mutual benefit.

He continued: "It is our responsibility, along with the trade counselor, to facilitate economic relations between the two countries. Our task is to expand and deepen relations. Although official statistics do not always reflect the full extent of trade relations, it is undeniable that our economic ties have declined. Reviving past agreements between Iran and Spain must be prioritized."

He also addressed the issue of visa issuance, noting that Spain, as a member of the European Union, has responsibilities regarding visa matters, but if the focus is on trade, efforts will be made to ease the process.

The Spanish embassy's trade counselor in Iran emphasized that this is just the beginning of the relationship, noting that conditions are ripe for industrial cooperation between the two countries.

Íñigo Gil Casares Armado added that the Spanish trade office in Iran will work to facilitate this connection and link the private sectors of both countries.

He also highlighted shared experiences, especially in water management, noting, "We believe, like you, that every drop of water is as precious as gold." He mentioned potential areas of collaboration in energy, multi-crop agriculture, and the sale of machinery.

He invited Yazd's industrialists to participate in two upcoming webinars in Spain regarding tile and ceramic machinery and mining machinery.

Expanding bilateral cooperation in greenhouse cultivation, water management, the tile and ceramic industry, petrochemicals, technology transfer, and expertise were the key topics emphasized by both parties.

The Spanish ambassador and trade counselor in Iran, during their two-day visit to Yazd, explored the city's potential and examined the possibilities for new partnerships.

Land Trade Route With Kuwait is Blocked

By: F. Taherpoor



TEHRAN - Amin Fartousi, a board member of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce, in response to question about why, despite Kuwait's annual imports of \$52 billion, Iran's share of this southern neighbor's market is only \$300 million, stated: The value of trade between Iran and Kuwait is much higher than these figures suggest. However, since a significant portion of trade between the two countries is conducted through informal routes using traditional boats (known as lenj), these exchanges are not accounted for in customs statistics. This method of trade has been ongoing between the two nations for a long time and is known as lenji trade—so much so that even Iranian fishermen take their catch directly from the sea to Kuwait and make transactions there.

He added: Kuwaiti customs are very strict when goods enter the country, ensuring that imported goods do not contain prohibited items, are not expired, and have not passed their sell-by date. Additionally, Kuwaiti customs only allow entry to boats made of fiberglass, preventing older, deteriorating boats from entering. However, there is no particular sensitivity in recording the weight and value of imported goods.

Fartousi further noted that Iranian merchants are determined to establish a land-based trade route with Kuwait. He explained that despite the fact that the distance from Khorramshahr to Kuwait is only about 70 kilometers—a journey that would take about an hour—there is still no possibility of overland trade between the two countries. Land transport could significantly reduce both the speed and cost of transporting goods. Currently, maritime transport is the priority in trade with Kuwait, though it is more expensive than land transport.

He also mentioned: In addition to maritime transport, there is also air freight and passenger service between Iran and Kuwait. There are two weekly flights from Ahvaz to Kuwait, which can carry around six tons of cargo.

The board member of the Iran-Kuwait Joint Chamber of Commerce clarified: The Iranian consulate in Basra has negotiated several times with Iraqi officials to enable the passage of Iranian commercial trucks through Iraq to Kuwait. However, there has been no success in gaining Iraqi approval, as relations between Iraq and Kuwait are not particularly friendly, and Iraqi officials lack the motivation to issue such permits. Establishing this trade route requires further negotiation by the Iranian consulate.

Fartousi noted: If overland trade between Iran and Kuwait becomes possible, Kuwait could serve as a re-export hub for Iranian goods.

He added: The political relations between Iran and Kuwait are also not very good, which has cast a shadow over economic relations. Iran is one of the few countries to which Kuwait does not issue visas. In addition to Iranians, Afghans, Syrians, Lebanese, and Iraqis have also not been able to obtain visas from Kuwait for years. As a result, Iranian merchants are unable to showcase their products in the Kuwaiti market, participate in trade events, or repatriate their money in case of a transaction—all of which increase the risks of doing business.

\$20b Investment Needed to Address Power Imbalance



TEHRAN - Chairman of the Renewable Energy Association Davoudi Madadi stated in a press conference that the country is facing a severe electricity and energy deficit, which has caused significant damage to the industrial sector. He noted that the Renewable Energy Association plans to hold a conference to examine the various aspects of this imbalance and the contribution renewable energy can make in addressing it.

He added that renewable energy stakeholders are grappling with numerous challenges, and this conference will seek to explore solutions to help resolve these issues.

The Chairman of the Renewable Energy Association noted that the electricity imbalance reached 12,443 megawatts in 2023, and this year it has increased to 18,000 megawatts, which requires a \$20 billion investment to resolve.

Nepal Flood Death Toll Rises to 101

KATHMANDU (Dispatches) - Low-lying neighbourhoods in Nepal's capital Kathmandu were inundated by surging floodwaters today after ferocious monsoon rains that police said had killed at least 101 people around the Himalayan republic.

Deadly rain-related floods and landslides are common across South Asia during the monsoon season from June to September, but experts say climate change is increasing their frequency and severity.

Large swathes of eastern and central Nepal have been inundated since Friday with flash floods reported in several rivers and extensive damage to the country's highways.

"The death toll has reached 101, and 64 people are missing," police spokesperson Dan Bahadur Karki told AFP.

"There is likely to be an increase in the death toll as our search and rescue mission proceeds in the affected areas," he added.

The Kathmandu valley recorded 240 millimetres (9.4 inches) of rain in the 24 hours to Saturday morning, the country's weather bureau told the Kathmandu Post newspaper. It was the highest rainfall recorded in the capital since at least 1970, the report said.



Shehbaz Sharif Likens People of Kashmir to Palestinians



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - India and Pakistan sparred over Kashmir at the UN General Assembly after Pakistan's prime minister Shehbaz Sharif drew parallels between the people of the Himalayan territory and Palestinians.

Kashmir is at the heart of a decades-old dispute between India and Pakistan, where both countries claim the region as theirs, but control only parts of it.

"Similarly, like the people of Palestine, the people of Jammu and Kashmir too, have struggled for a century for their freedom and right to self-determination," Mr Sharif claimed in his speech on Friday.

"Instead of moving towards peace, India has resiled from its commitments to implement the Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution adopted in 1948 called upon the governments of the new dominions of India and Pakistan to refrain in any way from aggravating the situation in Kashmir.

He claimed that to "secure durable peace" India must "reverse the unilateral and illegal measures it has taken" five years back. New Delhi must "enter into a dialogue for a peaceful resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN Security [Council] resolutions and the wishes of the Kashmiri people," Mr Sharif added.

The Indian government led by prime minister Narendra Modi scrapped the Muslim-majority region's semi-autonomous status and downgraded the former state to a federally governed territory. It was also divided into two federal territories, Ladakh and Jammu-Kashmir, ruled directly by New Delhi, allowing it to appoint administrators to run the territories.

Mr Sharif also accused India of extra-judicial killings, prolonged curfews, and other "draconian measures" in the region.

India used its right to reply at the General Assembly to hit back at Pakistan, calling Mr Sharif's speech a "travesty".

China Warns Against Expansion of the Battlefield in the Ukraine War

NEW YORK (AP) — Three days before his communist government turns 75, China's foreign minister warned fellow leaders Saturday against an "expansion of the battlefield" in Russia's war with Ukraine and said the Beijing government remains committed to shuttle diplomacy and efforts to push the conflict toward its end.

"The top priority is to commit to no expansion of the battlefield. ... China is committed to playing a constructive role," Wang Yi said. He warned against other nations "throwing oil on the fire or exploiting the situation for selfish gains," a likely reference to the United States.

Wang's speech appeared to break no new ground, as is generally China's recent practice at the U.N. General Assembly's annual meeting of leaders. In fact, his boss, Chinese President Xi Jinping, has not participated in the leaders' meeting since 2021 — and then only virtually, during the pandemic. Xi has not attended in person for several years.

On Friday, on the assembly sidelines, China and Brazil sought to build enthusiasm for their peace plan for Ukraine. They said about a dozen countries signed a communique that says they "note" the six-point plan. The plan calls for a peace conference with both Ukraine and Russia and no expansion of the battlefield, among other provisions.

Ukrainian officials have given the proposal a cold shoulder, but the countries that signed the communique are forming a group of "friends for peace" for their U.N. ambassadors to keep the conversation going among themselves. Ranging from Algeria to Zambia, the members are largely African or Latin American countries. Wang made sure to note Friday that the group doesn't decree individual countries' policies.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a news conference Saturday that Russia is ready to provide assistance and advice to the group, adding that "it's important for their proposals to be underpinned by the realities and not just be taken from some abstract conversations."

China has been an ally of Russia, a nation that has been accused of violating the U.N. Charter by Secretary-General António Guterres, the U.S. and many world nations. Moscow insists its so-called "special military operation" is in self-defense, which is allowed in the U.N. Charter.

China's continuing and vehement insistence on respect for other nations' sovereignty is not only a cornerstone of its foreign policy but a foundational ethos for the government of a nation that has traditionally struggled to maintain control at its edges — from Xinjiang and Tibet in the far west to Hong Kong and Taiwan off its east coast.

Wang also weighed in with China's positions on increasing Mideast tensions and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The latter has always been a key strategic priority for Beijing.

Saying that "the question of Palestine is the biggest wound in human conscience," Wang reiterated that China supports Palestinian statehood and full U.N. membership and insisted that a two-state solution is "the fundamental way out." He did not mention Israel by name or directly reference the war that began when Hamas fighters streamed across the Gaza border into Israel, killing hundreds and taking dozens hostage.

As is China's policy, Wang expressed support for a transition "from the armistice to a peace mechanism." The two Koreas technically remain in a state of war since a 1950-53 conflict separated the peninsula into north and south. China has been a longtime backer of North Korea while the United States is a close ally of the South. He offered a veiled warning about others trying to pull strings in East Asia: "We are firmly against the meddling of countries outside the region."

The Korean Peninsula broke into the U.S.-supported, capitalistic South Korea and the Soviet-backed, socialist North Korea after its liberation from Japan's 35-year colonial rule at the end of the World War II in 1945. The two Koreas have the world's most heavily fortified border.

Wang repeated China's usual talking points, saying that "no country should infringe on another's internal affairs in the name of human rights" and insisting that China had chosen its own way, which is just as legitimate as others'.

"We have found a path of human rights development that suits China's national condition," Wang said.

Other nations and international rights groups have long condemned Beijing's treatment of Tibetans, ethnic Uyghurs in the far-west region of Xinjiang and — more recently — activists in the "special administrative region" of Hong Kong.

Ukraine Says 10 Killed in Russian Strikes on Hospital

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky condemned Moscow for "waging war on hospitals" after Russian strikes on a hospital in the border city of Sumy killed 10 people Saturday.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Igor Klymenko wrote on Telegram that the first strike "killed one person" and damaged several floors of the hospital.

"During the evacuation of patients, the enemy struck again," he added.

Sumy lies just across the border from Russia's Kursk region, where Kyiv launched a surprise offensive on August 6, aimed in part at creating a "buffer zone" inside Russia.

"Russia hit one of the city's hospitals with Shahed drones," Zelensky wrote on Telegram.

The attack hit the St Panteleimon Clinical Hospital near the city centre, officials said, with a nurse among the dead.

The attack comes as Zelensky is pressing Kyiv's Western allies to allow the use of long-range precision weapons to strike deep inside Russia.

"Everyone in the world who speaks about this war must pay attention to what Russia is targeting. They are waging war on hospitals, civilian facilities and people's lives," the president said.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said the attack was "more evidence of Russia's war crimes".

Zelensky posted photos of smoke pouring from windows above the destroyed entrance to the hospital, rescuers carrying patients down the stairs and treating two policemen lying on the ground.

On Saturday morning, three drones attacked the regional capital city and two hit the hospital, Ukraine's air force said.

A first strike was followed by another around an hour later on Saturday morning, officials said, apparently targeting the rescue operation to maximise casualties.

Russia has destroyed or damaged at least 1,736 medical facilities in Ukraine since its February 2022 invasion, Human Rights Watch reported in July.

These have included a children's hospital in Kyiv in July and a



maternity hospital in Mariupol in March 2022.

Regional prosecutors said the first attack took place at around 7:35 am (0435 GMT) and the second about an hour later.

Images posted by officials showed body bags lying on the pavement outside the four-storey building with a destroyed entrance and the roof partially ripped off.

The hospital's director Volodymyr Potseluyev told Suspilne media outlet that the hospital's admission department, casualty department and fourth floor were destroyed.

He said seriously injured patients had been transferred to intensive care units at other hospitals.

Regional authorities said the strikes also hit a residential area and posted images of flats with broken windows.

Dobrobat, a volunteer group that helps repair damaged homes, wrote on Facebook that its volunteers were working at the scene when the second strike came.

It posted a video showing thick smoke, explosions and people rushing to take shelter as sirens wailed.

"People are just lying on the street dead," a volunteer said, filming himself on his phone.

Ukraine's air force reported shooting down 68 Russian attack drones out of 73 in multiple regions overnight, including Sumy, and two out of four cruise missiles launched overnight by Russia.

In the central city of Kryvyi Rig, rescuers pulled another body from the rubble of a police office building struck by a missile on Friday, regional governor Sergiy Lysak said, taking the toll to four.

A drone strike in a border village in the eastern Kharkiv region killed one man and wounding three women, regional governor Oleg Synegubov said.

In Russia's Belgorod border region, governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said a local resident was killed Saturday morning by a drone attack.

Closing his visit to the United States, Zelensky released a statement later Saturday thanking US President Joe Biden for the latest military aid package of \$8 billion, and the US Congress for its "unwavering" support.

Trump Labels Harris "Mentally Impaired"



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Donald Trump yesterday called Democrat Kamala Harris "mentally impaired" and said illegal immigrants are out to cut the throats of ordinary Americans in their own homes as he doubled down on the racially charged rhetoric fuelling his unprecedented bid to regain the US presidency.

Trump was seeking to strike back at Harris after she visited the US-Mexico border on Friday and vowed to do more to control asylum claims and undocumented migrant crossings.

The issue is one of the Democratic vice president's weakest in polling, as she runs neck-and-neck against Trump in the November 5 election.

Trump dismissed Harris's speech at the border, swearing and telling supporters in the small town of Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, that President Joe Biden and Harris are responsible for an "invasion" of violent criminals.

Anti-immigrant sentiment has been at the core of Trump's appeal in economically depressed, majority-white parts of the country ever since his 2016 presidential victory, but the rhetoric is turning ever more extreme as election day nears.

The 78-year-old businessman — the first major presidential candidate in US history to be a convicted felon and subject of multiple ongoing court cases — said former California prosecutor Harris, 59, is "dumb."

Lavrov Warns West Against Fight to Victory With a Nuclear Power

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) -Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the United Nations that it was senseless to ignore alternatives to Ukraine's peace proposals, warning the West of the danger of trying to "fight to victory with a nuclear power."

Addressing the U.N. General Assembly, Lavrov took aim at backers of Ukraine who support Kyiv's peace proposal.

Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Nine months later Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced a 10-point peace plan to bring a just end to the war on the basis of the founding U.N. Charter and international law. Moscow rejected the plan.

"I'm not going to talk here about the senselessness and the danger of the very idea of trying to fight to victory with a nuclear power, which is what Russia is," Lavrov said.

"Equally senseless, the Western backers of Kyiv swearing that there is no alternative to the negotiations based on the infamous peace formula."

Invoking Western allies' plans in the 1940s to "destroy" the Soviet Union, he accused the West of trying to deal a "strategic defeat" to Russia in Ukraine.

"The current Anglo-Saxon strategists are not hiding their ideas. For now they do, it's true, hope to defeat Russia using the illegitimate neo-Nazi Kyiv regime, but they're already preparing



Europe for it to also throw itself into this suicidal escapade," Lavrov said.

Russia is not increasing its nuclear arsenal and while it had suspended participation in the New START treaty with Washington, it would remain guided by the treaty until it expires in 2026, Lavrov said.

"We suspended our participation in it, but we did say that we will comply with the levels, and we will exchange some types of information with the Americans," he said.

Lavrov also challenged the United States over its support for Israel as the conflict with Lebanon's Hezbollah escalates and the war with Palestinian militants Hamas drags on in Gaza.

In a news conference at the U.N., he said the killing of Hezbollah's leader on Friday was a "political assassination" and raised concerns that Israel may be seeking to draw Iran into a direct conflict.

"My perception is that there are those who are looking to provoke Iran, to subsequently provoke the United States, and then to unleash a full blown war in the entire region there," Lavrov said.

Lavrov credited Iran's leadership for "behaving extremely responsibly" by not reacting to those provocations.

"It's important to just stop the bloodshed and stop using terrorist methods for political score settling," Lavrov said.



Liverpool, Arsenal and Chelsea Capitalize on Man City Dropping Points

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester City dropping points for the second consecutive week in the Premier League has opened the door in the title race and the teams behind them have taken advantage. Liverpool went away to Wolves winning 2-1, Arsenal needed a 94th-minute winner but they dispatched Leicester City 4-2 and Chelsea defeated Brighton 4-2 with all four goal coming from Cole Palmer. Under Arne Slot, the Reds were expected to have a learning curve as he got up to speed in the Premier League but his talented squad has picked up on minor tweaks quickly to keep the ball rolling.

Jurgen Klopp left Slot with a squad capable of challenging for a title so the Dutch manager hasn't had to reinvent the wheel at Anfield. His style is a marked difference from Klopp's looking to control the match via possession and it has led to impressive results. The Reds weren't at their best against Wolves but managed to hold them to only 0.56 xG on seven shots.

Liverpool will want to be better at taking their own chances but with a goal from Ibrahima Konate and another from Mohamed Salah, that'll be plenty to win most matches if the defense is up to snuff. So far in the Premier League season, no team has a better xG against than Liverpool's 4.45. They're underperforming their actual goals allowed slightly by only allowing two so far but it shows that Liverpool's strength is their defense.

Bolstered by a stout midfield and interchangeable attackers, this is a Liverpool side that will be in

the race all season even with Champions League commitments. Let's take a look at the rest of the top five.

Arsenal made things as hard as possible taking 37 shots for 4.98 xG but it wasn't until Leandro Trossard scored in the 94th minute of play that the Gunners took the lead after blowing a halftime 2-0 lead. It's a fair result after dominating Leicester City during the match but it's also a reminder of Arsenal's mentality. No matter how late it is, the Gunners feel like they'll get a winning goal to see out a match and they've been able to accomplish that.

Keeping pace with City is something that they've done for two seasons running so now is the time to get over the hump. When Arsenal face Liverpool on Oct. 27, that could be a match to show who is in the driver's seat for the title. Chelsea had an impressive performance to insert themselves in the conversation but defense could be their undoing over the course of a long season.

Being in the race while in European competitions is when the mental and physical demands of a title race truly test you. Liverpool and Arsenal have the depth but injuries are where Manchester City are beginning to struggle a bit. Kevin De Bruyne and Rodri are massive misses for City and it's something that they'll have to overcome in order to lift a fifth consecutive Premier title. In the case of Aston Villa, they have similar depth concerns but also lack the experience of a true title charge.

Kane's Late Injury Overshadows Bayern's 1-1 Stalemate With Leverkusen



MUNICH (Dispatches) - Harry Kane went off injured as Bayern Munich were held 1-1 at home by champions Bayer Leverkusen in the Bundesliga.

Robert Andrich put the visitors ahead after 31 minutes in Munich but Aleksandar Pavlovic pulled leaders Bayern level eight minutes later with an incredible long range shot.

England captain Kane, who was largely anonymous in front of goal, hobbled off with a foot injury with four minutes remaining after a collision with Leverkusen's Amine Adli.

Coach Vincent Kompany said it was "too early" to know the extent of the injury but he was hopeful Kane would be fit for Wednesday's Champions League clash at Aston Villa.

"I don't have the exact information but hopefully it's just a bit of pain and we'll get him back this week," said Kompany.

Bayern sporting director Max Eberl added: "When Harry leaves the field it means something because he's pretty tough.

"(The incident) doesn't look good, but we hope he's made out of strong English wood and nothing's broken."

Bayern's Serge Gnabry hit the woodwork twice in the second half, but Leverkusen held on for a draw.

"We deserved more, definitely," said Bayern captain Manuel Neuer.

"We were clearly the better team and had the better chances. The goal we conceded was frustrating."

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso was happy. "Against Bayern you need to be disciplined and make sacrifices," he said, adding "that was the style and manner we needed to play here today."

WADA Appeals, Seeks Ban After Sinner Cleared in Doping Case

MONTREAL (Dispatches) - The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) said Saturday that it has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in the steroid case of tennis world number one Jannik Sinner.

"WADA is seeking a period of ineligibility of between one and two years," it said in a statement, after the Italian twice tested positive for the banned substance clostebol in March but was cleared to carry on playing.

The 23-year-old Sinner, who recently won the US Open for his second Grand Slam title and is currently in action in Beijing, has denied doping.

Last month, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) said that Sinner had been cleared of any wrongdoing after twice testing positive earlier in the season.

The ITIA accepted his explanation that the drug entered his system when his physiotherapist used a spray containing it to treat a cut, then provided massage and sports therapy to the player.

WADA said in its statement that it lodged an appeal to CAS, the top court in sport, on Thursday.



"It is WADA's view that the finding of 'no fault or negligence' was not correct under the applicable rules," it said.

It added: "WADA is not seeking a disqualification of any results, save that which has already been imposed by the tribunal of first instance.

"As this matter is now pending before CAS, WADA will make no further comment at this time."

Clostebol is an anabolic agent prohibited at all times by WADA.

After winning the US Open, Sinner said that the controversy over his failed tests was still on his mind.

He defeated Taylor Fritz in straight sets to add the New York title to his Australia Open triumph in January.

"It was and it's still on my mind. It's not that it's gone, but when I'm on court, I try to focus about the game, I try to handle the situation the best possible way, communication with the team, in the practice courts," said the world number one.

"It was not easy, that's for sure, but I tried to stay focused, with which I guess I've done a great job.

Bagnaia Halves Martin's MotoGP Lead With Indonesia Sprint Win



LOMBOK (Dispatches) - Francesco Bagnaia won a dramatic Indonesia MotoGP sprint race on Saturday, capitalising on an early crash by championship leader Jorge Martin to halve the Spaniard's lead to 12 points at the top of the standings.

Pramac rider Martin slid off on the first lap to gift reigning champion Bagnaia the race lead in a blow to his championship hopes with Sunday's grand prix and five race weekends to go.

"Everybody knows how important it was to gain points, we gained 12 (points). So thanks to the mistake of Jorge, we are close again," Bagnaia told reporters.

Bagnaia's teammate Enea Bastianini finished second, while six-time MotoGP champion Marc Marquez of Gresini completed the podium in third.

Martin had secured pole position at the sweltering Mandalika track on Lombok island with a lap record in qualifying but could only claw his way back to 10th place after the costly incident.

A win in the sprint would have guaranteed Martin the championship lead leaving heading into next week's Japan MotoGP, the first of five remaining race weekends in the 2024 season.

Bagnaia can now overtake Martin in the championship depending on results in Sunday's GP.

Bastianini battled with Marquez for second place but held on to finish behind his teammate.

The Italian rider, who will be replaced by Marquez at Ducati's factory team next season, is 50 points behind Martin ahead of Sunday's GP.

"I am happy. After I bring my pace and levelled up, I was a bit faster. In the last lap I tried to catch Pecco (Bagnaia) but the gap was important. The second position is okay," Bastianini told reporters.

Marquez, who has pulled himself back into the title picture in recent weeks, made an incredible early surge from 12th to finish third after crashing twice in final qualifying earlier in the day and failing to register a lap time.

He is now 53 points behind Martin in the championship standings.

"The Q2 is a nightmare for me at the moment. But still we keep working and try to understand what is going on," the Spaniard told reporters.

Marco Bezzecchi, who survived a crash in qualifying to secure a front-row place on the grid, finished fourth.

Red Bull GasGas rider Pedro Acosta completed the front-row line-up but could only finish sixth.

Budimir Brace Helps Osasuna Stun Barcelona 4-2

PAMPLONA (Dispatches) - Croatian forward Ante Budimir scored twice to help Osasuna earn a shock 4-2 home win over leaders Barcelona and hand the visitors their first defeat of the LaLiga season on Saturday.

Barca manager Hansi Flick dropped regular starters Lamine Yamal, Raphinha and Inigo Martinez to the bench with an eye on Tuesday's Champions League match against Young Boys and Osasuna, roared on by a sold-out El Sadar Stadium, started aggressively.

They pressed high relentlessly and threatened with quick counter attacks that hurt their much changed rivals.

Bryan Zaragoza, on-loan from Bayern Munich, crossed to Budimir to open the scoring with a close-range header in the 18th minute and the 23-year-old winger extended Osasuna's lead with a strike from a quick counter-attack 10 minutes later.

Barca reduced the deficit thanks to a massive blunder by Osasuna goalkeeper Sergio Herrera who failed to keep out a weak strike by Pau Victor in the 53rd minute, but Budimir extended the hosts' lead from the penalty spot in the 72nd minute, after he was fouled inside the box.

Substitute Abel Bretones scored the fourth with a brilliant strike from long range in the 83rd minute, before substitute Yamal scored Barca's second with a shot from the edge of the box in the 89th.

Barca top the standings on 21 points, four ahead second-placed Real Madrid who have a game in hand and face local rivals Atletico Madrid. Osasuna are sixth on 14 points.

"We knew that Barcelona were a tough team, that they had won everything and that we had to go out and bite, and that's how we went out," Zaragoza told Movistar Plus.



"It is a special and beautiful game to play against Barca and I could stay all night here celebrating with the fans."

The pacey Zaragoza was a constant menace running up and down the left channel.

He dribbled past Jules Kounde before crossing for Budimir to score the opener and showed exquisite technique to run past the goalkeeper and tap the ball into the empty net for the second goal.

Barcelona dominated possession but looked out of ideas up-front until Flick brought Yamal and Raphinha off the bench late in the second half, after a double error from Herrera helped them reduce the deficit.

First the Osasuna keeper rolled the ball out to a Barca player then could not get back to keep out Victor's tame strike from the edge of the box that slipped through his hands and into the net.

Barca started to create more chances but were often exposed on the counter, with one such break leading to Osasuna's third goal.

Zaragoza recovered the ball and fired a long pass through that Jesus Areso took in his stride before sending a low cross to Budimir, who was tackled from behind by defender Sergi Dominguez to concede a penalty in the 71st minute that the Croatian despatched.

Bretones effectively made the game safe but after Yamal scored the visitors' second with a fine curling strike, Barca pushed for another with Ferran Torres hitting the post in added time, but it was too little too late.