

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Has Warned That Any Acts of Adventurism Against the Islamic Republic's Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity Will Not Go Unanswered

IRAN NEWS

A meeting Between Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency IAEA Rafael Grossi Will Be Held in the Future Under a Protocol

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Iran Says Warned U.S. Against Interference During Missile Operation Against Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi says the country warned the United States against any interference during the Islamic Republic's retaliatory operation against Israel, stressing that any potential response by the Israeli regime and its supporters will be met with a more severe one.

Araqchi made the remarks in a TV interview on Wednesday hours after Iran launched a barrage of long-range ballistic missiles at the occupied Palestinian territories with at least 90 percent of them hitting the designated targets.

Iran issued the warning after a spokesman for the US State Department said on Tuesday afternoon that the Biden administration's support for Israel's security remains "ironclad".

"We will continue to stand with the people of Israel at this critical moment," Matthew Miller told reporters.

Iran's 'Operation True Promise-II' came in response to the assassination of top resistance leaders, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah and Ismail Haniyeh, as well as Abbas Nilforoushan, a senior IRGC commander, by the Zionist regime.

"After the [retaliatory] response, a warning was relayed to Switzerland to convey to the Americans indicating that it was our right in terms of defense and we do not intend to continue it. We also warned the US to stand back and not interfere," Araqchi said.

He went on to say that the missile attack was "a stabilizing measure" as it could "restore geopolitical deterrence" to the region amid escalating tensions.

The Iranian foreign minister noted that the country's Armed Forces are ready for any potential actions by the Israeli regime, warning that "any new action by the regime and its supporters ... will be met with a tougher response from Iran."

"I see the future days bright. There is a possibility of conflict, but our forces stand fully prepared. Last night, we only targeted military and security targets, and unlike the Israelis, but did not hit civilian targets. We expect to gradually see some kind of stability in the region in the coming days," he said.

Araqchi also held phone conversations with his counterparts from Germany, France, and the United Kingdom regarding the Islamic Republic's retaliatory attack on Israel.



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

Presence of U.S., European States "Root Cause" of Problems in Region

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the root cause of the West Asia region's problems is the presence of the United States and a number of European countries falsely claiming to advocate peace.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian elites, scientific talents and top ranks at the country's university entrance exam, in the capital Tehran on Wednesday. The meeting took place hours after the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) fired a massive barrage of long-range missiles at the Israeli-occupied territories in reprisal for the illegal entity's recent assassination of the top leaders and commanders of the resistance front.

"In our region, the root cause of problems, which leads to conflicts, wars, concerns and hostilities and such like, results from the presence of the same people who claim to advocate peace and tranquility in the region; that is America and some European countries," the Leader said.

"If they get themselves out of this region, beyond a shadow of doubt, these conflicts, these wars, these clashes will come to a complete halt, and the countries of the region will be able to govern themselves, govern their region, and live together in peace, blessing and prosperity."

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that he would in the near future address the issues regarding the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

The United States and its western allies have been providing Israel with unstinting support in the realms of finance, logistics and intelligence since October last year, when the occupying regime launched a merciless war on Palestinians in Gaza.

The Leader then said: "As I mentioned, I will, God willing, address the issues of Gaza and Lebanon if life permits. I will just say one thing: the root of the problem in our region—the conflicts, wars, concerns, and hostilities—stems from the presence of those who claim to promote peace in the region, namely the United States and some European countries. If they remove their malevolence from this region, without a doubt, these conflicts, wars, and confrontations will completely disappear, and the countries of the region will be able to govern themselves and live together in peace, security, and harmony."

He added: "One day they incite a country, like how they provoked someone like Saddam, which led to such difficult and bitter events. When he's no longer there, and neither are his supporters, the bond between two countries can become as strong as the Arbaeen pilgrimage, which you witnessed firsthand. The same applies to other countries. The presence of those who today claim to promote regional tranquility, and who are lying, is the main source of the problems in this region."

The Leader further said: "We hope, with God's help and the high resolve of the Iranian nation, through inspiration from the Islamic Revolution and cooperation with other nations, to reduce the malevolence of the enemies in this region. God willing."

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei then pointed to the role of elites and intellectuals in the country and said: "The most important duty of intellectuals is to initiate a new scientific movement and uprising."

"Operation True Promise II" More Than 90% Successful

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's defense minister says the Islamic Republic's retaliatory operation against the Israeli regime, dubbed Operation True Promise II, has been more than 90% successful.

Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh made the remarks on the sidelines of a cabinet session on Wednesday, after Iran launched a barrage of long-range ballistic missiles towards Israel.

"Operation True Promise II was carried out with more than 90% success and was fully compliant with international laws," he said.

Nasirzadeh went on to say that this countermeasure was carried out based on the United Nations Charter, stressing that Iran took military objectives into consideration.

"High-tech missiles with the ability to pass through the enemy's defense systems are aimed at the regime's military targets," he added.

The Iranian defense minister also pointed to the previous notification about this operation, noting that intelligence centers were also used in this regard.

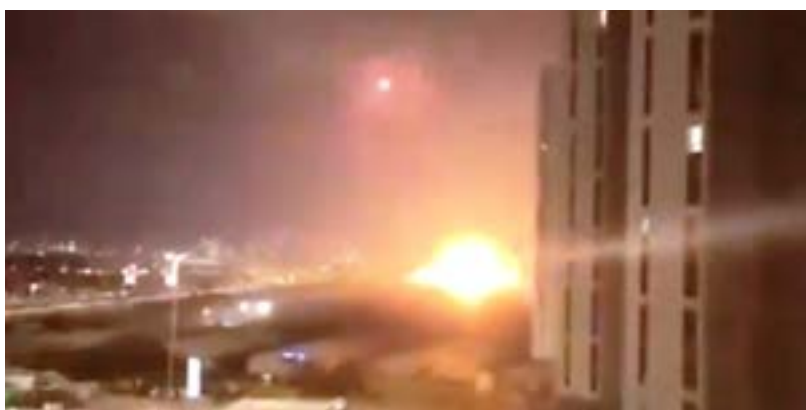
No civilian sites were among Iran's targets, he said, adding that three military bases and one intelligence and spying base of the Israeli regime were hit.

On Tuesday, Iran launched a barrage of missiles toward the Zionist entity's military and intelligence and spying bases in a retaliatory attack which set off sirens all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

Flares and missiles were seen in the Tel Aviv sky and explosions could be heard in the occupied al-Quds, while "direct hits" were reported in Negev, Sharon, and other locations.

Meanwhile Iran's top military general said the country exercised self-restraint after the Israeli regime's aggression against the country in July but ran out of patience following its assassination of Hezbollah's secretary general and a top Iranian commander.

Chief of General Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri made these remarks on Wednesday following Operation True Promise II.



The regime assassinated Ismail Haniyeh, former chief of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, during a targeted killing in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31.

"After Martyr Haniyeh's assassination, Iran went through a tough period of self-restraint amid repeated requests by the Americans and Europeans, who would ask us to exercise self-restraint so they would establish a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip (where the Israeli regime has been waging a genocidal war)," Bagheri said.

"However, after Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah's and [Brigadier] General [Abbas] Nilforoushan's martyrdom, the situation was no longer tolerable," he added.

The Hezbollah leader and the Iranian commander were assassinated during intense Israeli airstrikes on the southern suburb of Beirut on Friday.

Meanwhile Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said the country exercised "self-defense" under Article 21 of the United Nations Charter by targeting military sites in the occupied territories on Tuesday.

In a statement posted on X, formerly Twitter, the top Iranian diplomat said the Iranian armed forces "solely targeted" the Israeli regime's military sites responsible for genocide in Gaza and Lebanon.

Iranian military launched hundreds of long-range ballistic missiles on Tuesday evening at the occupied Palestinian territories with at least 90 percent of them hitting the intended targets.

"We did so (the missile strikes) after exercising tremendous restraint for almost two months, to give space for a ceasefire in Gaza," Araqchi stated.

He said the Iranian response has concluded unless the regime "decides to invite further retaliation."

"In that scenario, our response will be stronger and more powerful. Israel's enablers now have a heightened responsibility to rein in the warmongers in Tel Aviv instead of getting involved in their folly."

President Warns Zionist Regime Over Its Adventurism



TEHRAN - President Masoud Pezeshkian says "In the meetings and discussions we will have in Qatar, we are seeking to create a common language and perspective among all countries so that, through joint action, we can force the Zionists to cease their crimes. If they attempt otherwise, they will naturally face harsh reactions."

He noted: "We will strive to create a consensus in Qatar against the Zionists' crimes. If the Zionist regime does not stop its crimes, it will face a harsh reaction."

Pezeshkian, on Wednesday and before departing for Doha on an official visit to the country and to attend the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit, spoke about the goals and significance of the trip, stating: "This trip is taking place at the official invitation of the esteemed Emir of Qatar for a bilateral visit and to attend the Asia Cooperation Dialogue Summit."

The President, noting that the Asia Cooperation Dialogue provides a platform for discussions among Asian countries and that this trip pursues two main goals, added: "One goal is to engage in talks with the Qatari government on economic, cultural, investment, and social interactions, and cooperation agreements will also be signed there."

Pezeshkian continued: "During this trip, we will also discuss the regional situation and how Islamic countries should cooperate. Naturally, in the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, which comprises Asian countries, we will also discuss the regional crisis, the crimes committed by the Zionist regime in the region, their disregard for international laws, and the targeting of innocent people, women, children, hospitals, and schools."

The President stated: "In these discussions, we aim to create a common language and perspective among all countries so that, through joint action, we can force the Zionists to stop their crimes. If they attempt otherwise, they will naturally face harsh reactions."

Pezeshkian expressed hope that, through the meetings with the Emir of Qatar and other officials present, a shared understanding and language could be achieved. He emphasized: "The foreign ministers of Asian countries will also meet there to discuss security issues in the region and the agreements that need to be reached. I hope these discussions will lead us to unity and cohesion, deterring the enemies from seeking to stir up unrest and chaos in the Middle East and keeping them discouraged."

Iraq Resistance Attacks Israel With Advanced Cruise Missiles



BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - The Islamic resistance in Iraq says it has targeted three areas in the heart of the Israeli-occupied territories using many advanced cruise missiles.

The umbrella group for Iraqi resistance fighters said in a statement that the fighters of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq on Tuesday "attacked targets in three areas in the heart of the entity, using a number of Al-Arqaq advanced cruise missiles."

The Iraqi resistance said that the operation was carried out in support of Palestinian and Lebanese people.

The strike was also in response to the massacres committed by the usurping Israeli regime against civilians, including women, children, and the elderly across the occupied territories.

In recent months, the group has performed many operations against US bases in Iraq and neighboring Syria over Washington's unbridled support for Israel's crimes in Gaza.

On Tuesday morning, the Iraq Resistance launched a series of rockets targeting a US base in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Multiple Katyusha rockets were fired near Baghdad International Airport, two Iraqi military officials told Reuters.

Three rockets were fired at a base, housing US troops at Baghdad International Airport.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq has been launching attacks on Israeli targets ever since the occupying regime started the genocidal war on Gaza in early October.

The resistance has also been hitting American military bases in Iraq and neighboring Syria in retaliation for Washington's support for the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

Israel has been waging an atrocious onslaught against the Gaza Strip, targeting hospitals, residences, and houses of worship after Palestinian resistance movements launched a surprise attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, on October 7.

Iran Will Serve Further Israeli Aggression With Harsher Response



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has warned that the Islamic Republic would serve potential further aggression by the Israeli regime against the country with a "harsher response."

Speaking on Wednesday, Amir Saecid Iravani said that in the event the regime repeated its illegal actions against the country, "Iran's response will be expedient, decisive, and harsher than the past."

"Iran will not hesitate in this regard," he added.

His comments echoed those made by Defense Minister Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh, who said earlier that the country would serve the regime with a "far more severe" reprisal if it chose to respond to the Islamic Republic's retaliation.

On Tuesday, the country launched hundreds of missiles toward the Zionist entity's military and intelligence bases in a retaliatory attack dubbed Operation True Promise II, which set off sirens all over the occupied Palestinian territories.

Flares and missiles were seen in the Tel Aviv sky and explosions could be heard in the occupied al-Quds, while "direct hits" were reported in Negev, Sharon, and other locations.

Iravani reminded that Iran's response took place in line with its right to legitimate self-defense and came after a long period of self-restraint, noting that this pointed to the Islamic Republic's responsible approach towards the issue of regional and international peace and security.

IRAN NEWS



Int'l Electricity Industry Exhibition to Be Held From November 3 to 6

TEHRAN (ILNA) - The largest commercial and economic event of Iran's electricity industry will start on Thursday, November 3, 1403 (October 24-27), at the permanent location of Tehran's international exhibitions, and will continue for 4 days.

At the specialized exhibition of Iran's electricity industry, products in the fields of production, transmission, distribution, high, medium, and low-voltage electrical equipment, various electrical panels, lighting equipment, smart technologies, diesel generators, electric motors, batteries and UPS, earthing and cathodic protection systems, transformers, wires and cables, industrial automation, instrumentation and measurement tools, contractors, consultants, research and academic centers, power transmission lines and related equipment, high, medium, and low-voltage substations, renewable energies, and related equipment will be showcased.

16% Growth in Iran's Exports to 5 Eurasian Countries



TEHRAN - The head of the Customs Administration of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that exports to the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) have increased by 16% in the first five months of this year compared to the same period last year.

Mohammad Rezvani provided a report on the export status to the member countries of the EAEU, stating that the volume of exports to these countries reached 2.2 million tons, reflecting a 35% increase compared to the same period last year.

He added that the value of exports to the five member countries of the EAEU during this period was \$748 million, which represents a 16% growth compared to the same period last year.

The head of the customs administration emphasized that the highest growth in exports was to Kyrgyzstan.

According to IRNA, in January 2024, the Eurasian Economic Union signed a free trade agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which requires approval from the parliaments of the member countries and the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran for implementation. The parties will fully eliminate tariffs on 87% of goods traded between them.

Previously, the parliaments of Belarus, Russia, and Kyrgyzstan had approved this agreement. Armenia and Kazakhstan, the other two members of the Eurasian Union, along with Iran, must also complete the legal approval process for the free trade agreement to take effect.

Signing of a Barter Agreement Between Iran and Armenia



TEHRAN - The barter mechanism is one of the solutions to overcome restrictions caused by sanctions. In this regard, Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, during his visit to Armenia, signed a cooperation agreement for trade through the exchange of goods and services between Iran and Armenia to facilitate trade processes.

Sepideh Akbarpour Tajrishi, Iran's commercial counselor in Armenia, said: According to the terms of this agreement, both parties are expected to introduce companies as operators after three months. These companies will then determine the list of goods eligible for barter and lay the groundwork for the implementation of the agreement.

She mentioned that the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran will be responsible for selecting the operator companies and overseeing the implementation of this agreement.

In response to a question about how effective the barter mechanism can be in facilitating trade during sanction conditions, Akbarpour Tajrishi stated: The difficulties in financial transactions under sanctions have led us to turn to alternative mechanisms such as barter. Armenia has welcomed the signing of the barter agreement with Iran.

Akbarpour Tajrishi also referred to the opening of Iran's trade center in Armenia, noting: "Armenia is Iran's gateway to Eurasia, and with the presence of Mohammad Eslami, the Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade, and the Minister of Economy of Iran, the trade center of Iran in Armenia was inaugurated, covering an area of over 18,000 square meters with 107 booths. It seems that this center's opening could mark the beginning of enhanced economic relations between the two countries."

In conclusion, she announced the upcoming visit of Iran's First Vice President to Yerevan and added that Mohammad Reza Aref would speak at the meeting of the heads of the governments of the Eurasian Economic Union, followed by meetings between the Iranian delegation and the prime ministers of Armenia, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

It is worth mentioning that Mohammad Eslami, Minister of Industry, Mines, and Trade, and Mohammad Ali Dehghan Dehnavi, head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, traveled to Yerevan, Armenia, to participate in the major Iran-Eurasian Economic Union trade meeting.

IRANNEWS ECONOMIC DESK



India Eyes Boosting Economic Ties With Iran

TEHRAN - The governor of Hormozgan, emphasizing the need for the development of trade and economic relations and utilizing India's experiences in various fields, stated that the relationship between Indian private sector activists, traders, and Hormozgan must be strengthened.

Mehdi Dosti, in a meeting with Rudra Gaurav Shrestha, the Indian ambassador to Iran, and commanders of the Indian Navy's fleet, said: "The relationship between Iran and India goes beyond formalities, as these two countries have, at times, shared history, language, and culture."

Expressing satisfaction with the agreement between the Islamic Republic of Iran and India for investment in Chabahar Port, he said, "We hope this agreement will be implemented swiftly, and we witness deepened relations between the two countries in all sectors."

The top representative of the government in Hormozgan emphasized that half of the Makran region is located in Hormozgan province, and we are ready to start effective activities centered on this region.

He added, "We must strive to strengthen the relationship between the private sectors and traders of Iran and India, as through this, we can strengthen the people's economy, as emphasized by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution."

Referring to the launch of a banana production project in Hormozgan with the collaboration of India's private sector, Dosti said, "We are keen to benefit from India's agricultural growth experience, considering the similarities in climate and temperature with Hormozgan, to further develop the province's agriculture."

He introduced India as one of the leading countries in rural development and stressed, "We are also ready to use India's experiences in implementing development projects, increasing people's income, and improving the quality of rural life in the province's villages."

Dosti also announced developmental projects in Shahid Rajaei Port and stated that it is possible to allocate the lands of Shahid Rajaei Port to friendly countries through agreements or contracts. Additionally, we can utilize India's capabilities in operating this port.

He also emphasized the need for increasing joint collaborations in fish farming in cages and defining joint projects in ship scrapping.

The Indian ambassador to Iran, Rudra Gaurav Shrestha, while expressing pleasure at meeting the Hormozgan governor again, said, "The hospitality of Iranians is admirable at a global level, and perhaps no other country can welcome and host foreign guests at this level."

He added, "India is very interested in expanding its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and utilizing the advantage of the North-South corridor for trade and commerce with Eurasian countries."

The Indian ambassador emphasized that the Makran region is of great importance to India, and as such, we are keen to strengthen our relations with the provinces in this region.

Welcoming the Hormozgan governor's suggestion to utilize India's rural development experiences, Shrestha noted, "More than 65% of India's population lives in villages, and the city of Hyderabad has a cultural similarity with Iran. This city also hosts the National Institute of Rural Development, with which cooperation can be established."

He also welcomed the enhancement of interactions between Indian and Hormozgan traders and said, "If there are exhibitions or programs in Hormozgan, Indian traders can be invited."

The Indian Navy's Peace and Friendship Fleet, consisting of three combat training destroyers, including the "Tir," "Shardul," and "Vira," docked on Monday at the first Imam Navy base in Bandar Abbas, greeted by commanders of Iran's strategic navy.

This fleet has come to the first Imam Naval Base of Iran's Strategic Navy in Bandar Abbas to enhance combat and training relations and exchange naval experiences.

Meetings with Hormozgan's government and military officials, diplomatic sessions on Iranian and Indian destroyers, holding sports competitions between the Indian and Iranian Navy personnel, and visits to cultural and commercial sites in Bandar Abbas are part of the Indian fleet's four-day stay in the city.

At the end of the Indian Peace and Friendship Fleet's stay in Bandar Abbas, a joint naval combat exercise will be held with the presence of combat vessels from the Iranian Navy and Indian combat ships in the northern Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

Iran is a Safe Country for Foreign Tourists



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The first international tourism industry conference was held with the presence of the Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. Various experts, university professors, specialists, and researchers from both Iran and abroad presented their ideas, suggestions, and specialized articles on the tourism industry.

Roshandel Arbatani, Dean of the School of Management at the University of Tehran, highlighted the significance of the tourism industry in his speech, stating: "Tourism accounts for 5% of global exports and has captured 10% of the global GDP. Given the country's existing capacities, we should witness more growth in Iran's tourism industry."

He added: "We rank 5th in natural attractions and 10th in historical attractions. Meanwhile, four competing countries in the region—Qatar, the UAE, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia—combined, do not possess even half of our natural and historical attractions. In this context, we must pay attention to universities and academic education. Globally, universities have supported the tourism industry by training skilled personnel, contributing to its growth."

Arbatani expressed his appreciation for the presence of the Minister and officials from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts. He emphasized the need for increased cooperation between universities and the ministry, hoping that today's conference would establish significant collaborations, initiating actionable plans.

Seyyed Hossein Hosseini, President of the University of Tehran, also spoke at the event, noting: "Experts in tourism are participating in this conference and will discuss related topics with the attendees. This industry is crucial, and the University of Tehran, as an educational hub, is ready to collaborate with the tourism sector."

He continued: "Tourism plays an important role in culture and has a significant position in the economy and revenue generation. Fortunately, Iran has exceptional or even unparalleled opportunities in tourism, and we must address the challenges associated with utilizing

these opportunities."

Hosseini stressed that one of the most critical factors for the growth of tourism is well-trained personnel. He acknowledged existing challenges in this area and emphasized the need for higher education institutions to support the tourism industry. The University of Tehran is fully prepared to collaborate with both the public and private sectors. He added that the strategic tourism plan, as part of Iran's higher-level national documents, assigns various tasks to different sectors, including higher education. The university is ready to fulfill its responsibilities in this regard.

In his closing remarks, Hosseini highlighted the numerous opportunities available at the University of Tehran, a comprehensive institution that can significantly contribute to the growth of the tourism industry.

Davood Hoomanian, Dean of Tehran's Faculty of Tourism, also spoke at the event, explaining the goals of the conference: "This event, coordinated with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, and with the participation of industry representatives and ambassadors from various countries, demonstrates the significance of this important international conference."

He emphasized: "Tourism is one of the most important industries worldwide. Today, this sector serves as a bridge between cultures and nations and can promote global peace. For tourism to advance in any country, it needs key components such as infrastructure. Without proper infrastructure, tourism cannot develop in any country."

Hoomanian added: "Another important factor for tourism development is diplomacy. Thankfully, today Iran is one of the safest countries in the world, and we are seeing foreign tourists visit Iran without any concerns because the country is entirely safe for them. Fortunately, President Dr. Pezeshkian is committed to strengthening diplomacy and peace."

Utilizing Investment Opportunities in Iran's Cooperative Sector



TEHRAN - The head of the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives emphasized the development of economic and trade relations between Iran and Eurasian countries, as well as the utilization of investment opportunities in Iran's cooperative sector.

According to a report from the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, Bahman Abdollahi, who was speaking on behalf of Iranian cooperatives at a special Iran-Eurasia dialogue, introduced Iran's cooperative sector as an important economic pillar of the country. He highlighted the position of the cooperative sector in successful countries around the world, especially stressing the importance of developing economic and trade relations between Iran and Eurasian countries, along with leveraging the existing investment opportunities in Iran's cooperative sector.

He stated that the trade volume between Iran and Armenia has increased from \$400 million to \$800 million, and there are many opportunities to further expand this trade volume.

Abdollahi noted that this goal can undoubtedly be achieved through the cooperation of Armenian and Iranian companies, as well as third countries in Eurasia and Europe.

According to the report, a trade delegation from the Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, which traveled to Yerevan (the capital of Armenia) to attend the 3rd Eurasian Economic Forum, participated in the first day of the forum in specialized sessions on various topics, including agriculture, industry, logistics and transportation, as well as trade and investment.

Based on an agreement, the annual rotating economic forum of this union is held in one of its member countries each year.

Armenia is hosting this year's event within the framework of the Eurasian Economic Union. The 2024 Eurasian Economic Forum will also be hosted by Yerevan, the capital of Armenia.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is a special guest at this forum, and a dedicated program titled "Iran-Eurasia Trade Dialogue" has been planned for this purpose.

Increase in Import Tariffs to Iraq Weakens Iranian Traders' Competitiveness



AHVAZ (IRNA) - A member of the Board of Directors of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, referring to the increase in import tariffs to Iraq, stated that this situation will lead to a reduction in the competitiveness of Iranian traders in the Iraqi market. Therefore, the intervention of diplomatic institutions is necessary to address the challenges of the private sector in this regard.

On Tuesday, Shahla Amouri said: The Iraqi government has increased the import tariffs on some goods to their country by up to 30%, which will certainly reduce trade activities with this country.

She continued: The Embassy of the Republic of Iraq in Tehran, in an announcement, conveyed the new directive of the Iraqi government regarding the imposition of a 30% customs duty on aluminum cans for carbonated drinks, juices, and energy drinks.

Taiwan Shuts Down for Typhoon Krathon

KAOHSIUNG (Dispatches) - Taiwan shut down on Wednesday, grounding hundreds of flights and closing schools, offices and financial markets ahead of the arrival of a weakening Typhoon Krathon, forecast to lash the coast with storm surges and torrential rain.

Officials in the key port city of Kaohsiung, set to be in the eye of the storm, told people to stay home and avoid the sea, rivers and mountains, warning of a repeat of 1977's Typhoon Thelma that killed 37 and devastated the city of 2.7 million.

Although the typhoon has weakened, the threats from a storm surge, strong winds and rain remain as it slowly makes its way towards Taiwan's coast, weather forecasters said.

The typhoon would lose power once it hit land, said Kaohsiung mayor Chen Chi-mai, but would still bring intense winds and rain.

"But if it moves north, the winds will strengthen again, so the threat to Kaohsiung will continue to exist, and people cannot take this lightly," he told reporters.

All the island's cities and counties declared a day off, shutting financial markets



New NATO Boss Rutte Pledges Support for Ukraine, Plays Down Trump Fears



BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - NATO's new chief Mark Rutte voiced strong support for Ukraine on Tuesday and said he was not worried about the upcoming U.S. election as he could work with former President Donald Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris.

Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister, took over from Jens Stoltenberg as NATO secretary general just weeks before the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential vote that pits Democrat Harris against Republican Trump, who has been highly critical of NATO.

Trump has also declined to say whether he wants Ukraine to win the war against Russia's invasion.

But Rutte played down concerns within the transatlantic alliance about the vote in NATO's predominant power, telling reporters at NATO headquarters: "I'm not worried."

"I worked for four years with Donald Trump. He was the one pushing us to spend more (on defence), and he achieved - because ... we are now at a much higher spending level than we were when he took office," Rutte said.

NATO estimates that 23 of its 32 members will meet its target of spending at least 2% of GDP on defence this year, compared to just three countries a decade ago.

Officials say some of that is down to Trump but much of it was propelled by Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Rutte said Trump had also been right to push NATO to focus more on China. He repeated a NATO assertion that China has become a "decisive enabler" of Moscow's war effort in Ukraine by supplying Russia with important technology.

Rutte also praised Harris, saying she had a "fantastic record as vice president" and was a "highly respected leader".

On the war in Ukraine, he avoided a direct answer when asked whether Kyiv was winning. NATO members provide the vast majority of weapons and ammunition supplied to Ukraine.

Rutte said the situation on the battlefield was "difficult" and Russia had made "limited" gains this year but at a high cost. He said he had seen estimates that 1,000 Russian soldiers were recently being killed or wounded every day.

Russian Troops Reach Center of Ukrainian Bastion Vuhledar



KYIV (Dispatches) - Russian troops have reached the center of Vuhledar, a bastion on strategic high ground in eastern Ukraine's industrial Donbas region that had resisted Russian assaults since Moscow's full-scale invasion, a regional Ukrainian official said on Tuesday.

Footage posted to social media showed Russian soldiers waving a flag from atop a bombed-out multi-storey building and unfurling another flag on a metal spire on a roof. Reuters determined the footage matched street patterns of Vuhledar.

Other images showed smoke rising over the ruins of the once small mining town, now a deserted and devastated battlefield where Ukrainian units had held off previous armoured Russian assaults through 2-1/2 years of war.

"The enemy is already nearly in the center of the city," Vadym Filashkin, governor of the Donetsk region that makes up part of the broader Donbas historical area, told Ukrainian TV, describing the situation as very difficult.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian military did not comment on Tuesday on the situation in Vuhledar. It was unclear whether Russian forces controlled the whole town.

"Vuhledar... the city we all fought for, the city where soldiers from different units laid down their lives, the city where I met the war with a weapon in hand," Stanislav Buniatov, a Ukrainian military blogger and a volunteer soldier said on the Telegram messaging app.

Combat footage by the popular war blog DeepState showed Russian forces throughout Vuhledar. Ukraine's public broadcaster Suspilne quoted soldiers fighting there as saying they had not received an order to leave.

Kremlin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that President Vladimir Putin "regularly receives direct information from the military" including on Vuhledar, but there was no official comment from Moscow that the town was taken.

Russian military bloggers, including a group of military analysts who ran the prominent Rybar Telegram channel, touted the capture of the city, which could speed up the advance of Russian forces in Donbas.

Vuhledar has strategic significance because of its high ground and its location near the junction of the two main fronts, in eastern and southern Ukraine. Russian forces reached the outskirts last week and have since intensified their push.

Earlier, Andriy Nazarenko, commander of a drone battalion of the 72nd Mechanized Brigade, said they were outgunned and outmanned in Vuhledar.

"The situation in Vuhledar is very difficult, it is the hardest because assaults have been going on for more than six months and the enemy is constantly rotating its ranks with fresh, trained forces," Nazarenko told Reuters.

Speaking from an undisclosed location during a Zoom interview, Nazarenko said his unit was doing everything possible to maintain "a window" for the infantry to be able to retreat from the town.

Since August, Moscow's troops have advanced at their fastest rate for more than two years in eastern Ukraine, despite Ukrainian forces mounting a surprise incursion into Russia's Kursk region.

Oleksandr Kovalenko, a Ukrainian military analyst, said that about 2,000 to 3,000 Russian troops were in the town, attacking from three different directions.

"We will not be able to hold on in Vuhledar in these conditions," Kovalenko told Reuters, saying the decision to retreat from Vuhledar should be taken quickly.

Full control over Vuhledar would help Moscow's troops to improve their logistics by using railways more actively, easing their further advance in the region and giving them positions on heights from which to fire artillery.

Filashkin, urging people to leave, said that about 350,000 people remained in government-held parts of the region, down from about 1.9 million before the war. Only 107 civilians remained in Vuhledar, which had a pre-war population of about 14,000, he said.

The Donetsk region, where Russian proxy forces launched a revolt in 2014, is one of four Ukrainian provinces that Moscow claimed to have annexed in late 2022. Moscow says capturing the rest of the province is one of its principal war aims.

Ukraine drove back Russian forces from the outskirts of Kyiv and recaptured territory in a counter-offensive in 2022. But another Ukrainian counter-offensive last year was a failure and Russian forces have mostly had the battlefield initiative since.

China's Xi Tells Putin Ready to Expand Ties



BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday told Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin he was ready to "expand" cooperation, as the two leaders exchanged congratulations on the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations, state media said.

Xi said China was "ready to join Putin to constantly expand all-round pragmatic cooperation between (our) two countries", state news agency Xinhua said.

"Permanent good-neighbourly friendship, comprehensive strategic coordination, and mutually beneficial cooperation," Xi told Putin, according to Xinhua.

Putin has looked to the Chinese leader for support since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with the allies boosting trade to record highs as Moscow faces heavy economic sanctions from the West.

Moscow and Beijing both rail against "Western hegemony", particularly what they see as US domination of global affairs, and declared a "no limits" partnership shortly before Russia launched its offensive in Ukraine.

Xi is set to attend a meeting of the BRICS countries in the southwestern Russian city of Kazan this month, where he is expected to meet Putin.

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Israeli airstrikes killed at least 37 people in Gaza on Tuesday, local medics said and fighting ramped up, as the Israeli military said it had been targeting command centers used by its Islamist militant foe Hamas.

Palestinian health officials said at least 13 people, including women and children, were killed in two Israeli strikes on two houses in Nuseirat, one of the enclave's eight historic refugee camps.

There has been no immediate comment by the Israeli army on the two strikes.

Another strike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in the Tuffah neighbourhood of Gaza City killed at least seven people, medics added.

The Israeli military said in a statement the air strike targeted Hamas militants operating from a command center embedded in a compound that had previously served as Al-Shejaia School.

It accused Hamas of using the civilian population and facilities for military purposes, which Hamas denies.

Later on Tuesday, two separate Israeli attacks killed five Palestinians in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip and in the Zeitoun suburb of Gaza City, medics said.

In Khan Younis, in the south of the enclave, six Palestinians were killed in an Israeli air strike on a tent housing displaced people, medics said.

Hours later, an Israeli airstrike on a car in western Khan Younis, killed six Palestinians, medics said. Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters could not immediately authenticate, showed a mangled, burnt-out vehicle.

The armed wings of Hamas, the Islamic Jihad, and other



smaller militant factions said in separate statements that their fighters attacked Israeli forces operating in several areas of Gaza with anti-tank rockets, mortar fire, and explosive devices.

The renewed surge in violence in Gaza comes as Israel began a ground operation in Lebanon, saying its paratroopers and commandos were engaged in intense fighting with Iran-backed Hezbollah. The conflict follows devastating Israeli airstrikes against Hezbollah's leadership.

The operation into Lebanon represents an escalation of the conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Iran-backed militants that threatens to suck in the U.S. and Iran.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel almost a year ago, in support of its ally Hamas in the war in Gaza, which began after the militant group staged the deadliest assault in Israel's history on Oct. 7.

The assault, in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed and more than 250 taken hostage, triggered the war that has devastated Gaza, displacing most of its 2.3 million population and killing more than 41,600 people, according to Gaza health authorities.

Some Palestinians said they feared that Israel's shift in focus to Lebanon could prolong the conflict in Gaza, which marks its first anniversary next week.

"The eyes of the world now are on Lebanon while the occupation continues its killing in Gaza. We are afraid the war is going to go on for more months at least," said Samir Mohammed, 46, a father of five from Gaza City.

"It is all unclear now as Israel unleashes its force undeterred in Gaza, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and God knows where else in the future," he told Reuters via a chat app.

U.S. VP Rivals Defend Trump and Harris in Polite Debate

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - U.S. vice presidential contenders J.D. Vance and Tim Walz faced off in a surprisingly civil debate Tuesday, despite tense moments on the hot topics of migration, abortion and the threat of war in the Middle East.

Republican Vance and Democrat Walz dug into policy and avoided the bitter personal attacks that presidential candidates Donald Trump and Kamala Harris exchanged during an often heated clash in September.

But the shadow of their bosses hung over the CBS debate, with Walz attacking Trump as a threat to democracy and unfit to lead America on the world stage, and Vance slamming Harris's record on the economy and illegal migration as part of President Joe Biden's administration.

A key moment came near the end, when Vance refused to say whether he backed Trump's false claims to have won the 2020 election against Biden.

Minnesota governor Walz accused him of a "damning non-answer" and blasted Trump over the January 6, 2021 attacks on the US Capitol by pro-Trump supporters.

There was also a fiery moment when Vance, who mostly restrained his persona as Trump's attack dog, had his microphone briefly muted when the moderators tried to factcheck him on migration.

Walz said false stories spread by Vance and Trump about migrants in the town of Springfield, Ohio "dehumanize and villainize other human beings."

Another tough exchange was over abortion, a key issue since a Supreme Court packed with judges picked by Trump overturned the national right to abortion in 2022.

Vance accused Democrats of taking a "very radical pro-abortion stance" who



backed what he called "barbaric" laws. Walz hit back saying he was "pro-women."

But the debate, which is likely to be the last before the November 5 vote, featured a mostly respectful tone despite the deep ideological differences between the two men.

Vance, 40, and Walz, 60, who both claim folksy roots in the US Midwest, said several times that they agreed with each other during the debate, and shook hands at the beginning and the end.

The usually ebullient Walz had a nervy start and stumbled several times, but became more confident, while Vance gave a smooth performance.

Their fire was trained instead on their opposite running mates.

Trump came up again as the "veep" rivals took on the crisis in the Middle East after Iran's missile attack on Israel.

Walz slammed Trump's foreign policy record, accusing the ex-president for a "turn towards" Russia's Vladimir Putin and his withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

"As much as Governor Walz just accused Donald Trump of being an agent of chaos, Donald Trump actually delivered stability in the world," Vance countered.

Walz faced some awkward questions, particularly when he was forced to admit he "misspoke" about whether he had been in Hong Kong during the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests in China.

Trump praised his protege after the debate, saying on his TruthSocial network: "GREAT JOB JD — We will MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!"

History suggests vice-presidential debates rarely move the dial much. But in an election campaign that has seen Harris step in for President Biden unprecedentedly late in the game, Tuesday's contest may have added significance.

Arsenal Beat PSG, Dortmund Demolish Celtic



LONDON (Dispatches) - Arsenal beat Paris Saint-Germain 2-0 in their heavyweight Champions League duel on Tuesday, while last season's beaten finalists Borussia Dortmund gave Celtic a brutal reality check with an emphatic 7-1 win in Germany.

Dortmund were the biggest winners on a night which also saw Barcelona, Manchester City and Inter Milan claim one-sided victories and Champions League debutants Brest won 4-0 at Red Bull Salzburg.

The clash between Arsenal and French champions PSG in London was the big game of the day as the second round of matches in the new format of European football's elite club competition got underway.

The Gunners were worthy winners with Kai Havertz heading in from a Leandro Trossard cross to open the scoring on 20 minutes and Bukayo Saka doubling their lead before half-time as his free-kick delivery from the right evaded everybody on its way in.

PSG saw Nuno Mendes strike the outside of the post from range in the first half while Joao Neves hit the woodwork after the break, but the visitors could not get back into the game.

It is a first win in the Champions League this season for Mikel Arteta's Arsenal, who drew 0-0 away to Atalanta on matchday one two weeks ago.

"Really, really happy with the performance," Arteta told broadcaster Amazon Prime. "The Champions League brings different demands but I think we handled it really well."

Dortmund are currently on top of the 36-team league after they followed a 3-0 win at Club Brugge in their first game by trouncing Scottish champions Celtic in Germany.

Karim Adeyemi scored a hat-trick in the first half for Dortmund, who were 5-1 ahead at half-time. Emre Can opened the scoring from the penalty spot before Daizen Maeda equalised, but Adeyemi then took centre stage.

Serhou Guirassy netted a penalty before the interval and made it 6-1 midway through the second half, with substitute Felix Nmecha wrapping up the victory late on.

It is Dortmund's biggest winning margin in the Champions League alongside a 6-0 win away to Legia Warsaw in 2016.

"There's no such thing as a perfect game, but it was very, very good," said Can. "This has to be the standard we aim to set."

Barcelona beat Swiss champions Young Boys 5-0 to bounce back from a 2-1 loss at Monaco a fortnight ago and their first defeat of the season in La Liga last weekend at Osasuna.

Robert Lewandowski scored twice either side of goals by Raphinha and Inigo Martinez before a late Mohamed Ali Camara own goal wrapped up the victory.

"We knew after the game against Monaco in the Champions League we had to give a quick reply in the next game, which was this one, and we did that well," Raphinha told broadcaster Movistar.

Winners of the Champions League in 2023, Pep Guardiola's City were comfortable 4-0 winners away to Slovan Bratislava in Slovakia, with Ilkay Gundogan, Phil Foden, Erling Haaland and James McAtee getting the goals.

Inter, who lost to City in the final in Istanbul two seasons ago, won by the same scoreline at home to Red Star Belgrade.

Hakan Calhanoglu set Inter on their way with a stunning early free-kick before Marko Arnautovic, Lautaro Martinez and Mehdi Taremi all netted in the second half, the latter from a penalty.

German champions Bayer Leverkusen got their second straight win in this season's competition as a Victor Boniface goal early in the second half allowed them to beat AC Milan 1-0.

Meanwhile Brest, the French Champions League newcomers, also made it two wins out of two with a remarkable 4-0 victory away to Salzburg in Austria.

Senegal striker Abdallah Sima, the forward on loan from Brighton who got their winner against Sturm Graz two weeks ago, scored twice.

Mahdi Camara and Mathias Pereira Lage also found the target with Brest scoring three of their goals in the space of 10 second-half minutes.

Salzburg, Slovan Bratislava and Young Boys are the bottom three in the early standings.

VfB Stuttgart and Sparta Prague drew 1-1 with Enzo Millot putting the German side ahead and Finnish international Kaan Kairinen equalising before the interval.

PSV Eindhoven and Sporting Lisbon also drew 1-1. Jerdy Schouten's opener for the Dutch champions was cancelled out by Daniel Braganca's late leveller.

Taremi Insists Inter Aiming to Reach Champions League Final



MILAN (Dispatches) - Mehdi Taremi was 'so glad' to get his first competitive Inter goal and said their aim must be to at least reach the Champions League Final this season.

The Nerazzurri made short work of Crvena Zvezda, sweeping the Serbians aside 4-0 at San Siro this evening.

Hakan Calhanoglu opened the scoring with what was surprisingly his first direct free kick goal for the club, then Taremi's high press won back the ball twice to set up Marko Arnautovic and Lautaro Martinez goals, before the Iranian converted the late penalty himself.

Taremi named Man of the Match after 4-0 victory

"I am glad to score tonight, to play good, thanks to my teammates. It was great," Inter's Iranian striker Taremi told Sky Sport Italia.

It was his first competitive goal for the Nerazzurri and he was deservedly named Man of the Match by UEFA.

"I am so excited, it took a while for me to score, but I always tried to do my best in training, I fought for this moment and managed to get the goal tonight."

They are the reigning Champions of Italy after winning the Scudetto last term and famously reached the Champions League Final in 2023, losing narrowly to Manchester City, so what does Taremi believe their target is this time around?

"Our goal as a big club is to reach the Final, as Inter must try to win every game. We will take it step by step."

Steph Stresses Importance of Extension, Staying Warrior for Life



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Steph stresses importance of extension, staying 'Warrior for life' originally appeared on NBC Sports Bay Area

Plenty has changed over the past few seasons for the Warriors and franchise legend Steph Curry.

Longtime Splash Brother Klay Thompson is with the Dallas Mavericks, former general manager Bob Myers no longer is with the organization and Curry now enters his 16th NBA campaign.

But Curry's goals have remained the same, as evidenced by signing a one-year contract extension this offseason that will keep him with Golden State through the 2026-27 NBA season.

The four-time NBA champion has maintained his desire to remain with the team for his entire career; his extension further cements Curry's future in the Bay Area. During Warriors Media Day on Monday, Curry explained why that deal was important for him.

"No secret... it always has been and still is a goal of mine to be a Warrior for life, to stay competitive throughout that process," Curry told reporters. "I know it's kind of unheard of, the short list of guys that have been in that position."

Curry's early extension has deeper value than simply securing his own legacy, though. He's intentional about the more practical effects of the deal, which he hopes will prevent any needless speculation.

"Honestly, the ability to kind of let that be known with the decision to extend and not let that be a distraction or be a talking point all year long," Curry continued, "no matter what really happens throughout this season, throughout next season, the third year after that, all of my energy is spent on preparing myself to play at a very high level, to do my part and be part of this team to win, and everything else will reveal itself as time goes on. That's kind of the way I want to approach it."

Golden State didn't have the flashy offseason that many hoped for after Thompson's departure and months of rumors around potential trades. But that doesn't appear to have deterred Curry's belief that he and the Warriors can succeed in the near future.

"I'm very confident in the fact that being here and being a relevant winning team is possible," Curry concluded. "Until I'm proven otherwise, that's the way I'm moving forward."

Sinner-Carlos Alcaraz Set for Beijing Blockbuster

BEIJING (Dispatches) - World No. 1 Jannik Sinner and No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz will clash in the China Open final in Beijing.

The top-seeded Sinner advanced with a 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory over home favorite Bu Yunchaokete and No. 2 seed Alcaraz held off No. 3 Daniil Medvedev 7-5, 6-3 in Tuesday's semifinals.

Sinner struck 11 aces and saved all three break points in the 2-hour, 5-minute match. The Italian recorded twice as many winners (31-15) and recorded the only service break to go up 4-2 in the first set.

Sinner, the defending champion, brings a 15-match winning streak into the showdown with Spain's Alcaraz, who needed only 88 minutes to defeat Russia's Medvedev. Alcaraz has a 5-4 lead in his series with Sinner.

Meanwhile Arthur Fils battled gamely despite a left ankle injury to defeat fellow Frenchman Ugo Humbert 5-7 7-6(6) 6-3 in the Japan Open final to claim the third ATP title of his career.

The 20-year-old grew in confidence through the three-hour contest after losing the first set and saved a match point before clinching his first victory over Humbert after defeats in their previous four meetings, including twice this year.



"After 5-5 in the first set, I was feeling I was going to be dead on the court. He was playing unbelievable shots... I could have lost today," Fils said in his post-match interview.

Fils broke early to go 3-2 up in the first set but struggled on serve, handing Humbert a break in the next game with back-to-back double faults. But Fils then put pressure on world number 19 Humbert, who had to save four break points to hold twice.

It was Humbert who found the break though as he took the first set, with Fils struggling due to his injury.

The world number 24 received some treatment in the second set as Humbert looked to break and take a 5-4 lead, going 40-0 up. But Fils dug deep to save all three break points, landing measured shots near the lines as the set went to a tiebreak.

Humbert went 6-5 up in the breaker and was serving for the match but Fils, now moving more easily, saved a match point with a spectacular backhand passing shot and won the next two points to take the set.

Fils pushed hard in the third set and Humbert saved two break points before his fellow countryman finally prevailed, taking a 5-3 lead before sealing the title with an ace.

"I am super happy, super proud of you," Humbert told Fils.

Al Hilal Enjoy AFC Champions League Romp After Neymar Boost

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Former Fulham striker Aleksandar Mitrovic was on target as Al Hilal, buoyed by Neymar returning to training this week, swept past Al Shorta 5-0 in the AFC Champions League Elite late Tuesday in Riyadh.

Brazil superstar Neymar announced his return to club training with the Saudi champions on Monday after a year out with a left knee injury.

Al Hilal took the lead in the 11th minute against their Iraqi opponents through Marcos Leonardo with Mitrovic adding the second four minutes later.

Salem Al Dawsari, Nasser Al Dawsari and Mohammed Kanno completed the romp in the second half.

Neymar, 32, moved from Paris Saint-Germain in August 2023 but ruptured his meniscus and anterior cruciate ligament on international duty in October 2023.

"Happy to be back in the group," Neymar posted on Instagram, with pictures of him running and kicking the ball, watched by Al Hilal's Portuguese coach Jorge Jesus.

Al Hilal have not yet registered Neymar for the current Saudi Pro League season which began in August but he has been included in their AFC Champions League squad.



Neymar could make his competitive return in Al Hilal's next Champions League Elite match against title holders Al Ain on October 21 in the UAE.

Al Ain have made a stuttering start to their Champions League title defence.

Hernan Crespo's side have just one point from two West Zone games after being beaten 4-2 by Al Gharafa in a rollercoaster match at the Al Bayt Stadium in Qatar on Tuesday.

Former Real Madrid and Newcastle United striker Joselu put Al Gharafa ahead on the stroke of half-time before doubling the lead with a header three minutes after the break.

Al Ain got one back through Kaku Romero's penalty on 56 minutes, before Soufiane Rahimi equalised with a smart finish 10 minutes later.

Pedro Martin's side quickly hit back to regain the lead through Seydou Sano in the 72nd minute before Yacine Brahimi secured their first win in the competition four minutes later.