

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Has Strongly Condemned the Israeli Aerial Aggression Against Iran Last Month, Calling It a Serious Breach of the Country's Sovereignty

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh Congratulated the Launch of Two Satellites Made by Iran and Explained Their Functions

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Iran Showed Only Small Fraction of Its Power to Israel



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Iran's recent retaliation against Israel exhibited only a small fraction of the country's power.

"The potential defeat of the Zionist regime is very close to becoming a reality," Major General Hossein Salami said in northeastern city of Mashhad on Friday.

Operation True Promise II, he said, not only demonstrated a "portion" of the overwhelming power of Iranian missiles but also proved that Iran supports resistance even in difficult conditions.

Iran's retaliation came in response to Israel's assassinations of Hamas's chief Ismail Haniyeh, Hezbollah's leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and IRGC commander Abbas Nilforoushan.

"In the course of Operation True Promise II, we even attacked the Zionists' base at Netzarim in the heart of Gaza... What matters is that all these territories are Muslim lands even if they might have been besieged by belligerent powers, and recognized by certain mercenary states," Salami said.

He described Israel as another state of the United States that is serving Washington's critical interests in West Asia.

Noting that 98% of the regime's economy is seaborne, Salami said attacks on Israeli ports and instability of the Mediterranean Sea would result in the collapse of the regime.

"Records say America's support for the survival of its vassal regimes has always been belated and insufficient. History has proven this fact. The fact today is that the Israeli military is a drained force. Its officials are depressed, its economy is in tatters and the US is managing everything."

"On the other hand, Islamic Iran is invincible and no one can defeat it," Salami said.

The enemies, Salami added, have utilized all capabilities at their disposal, while Iran has employed only a minimal amount of its capacities.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salami pointed to the U.S. presidential election, saying the results showed that the resistance in Gaza is "even capable of changing a warmongering American administration."

He said as U.S. Democrats fully supported the Israeli genocide war in Gaza, American voters decided not to cast their ballots for those who "armed the Zionists' killing machine."

Now the only change before the new U.S. statesmen is to scale down aid to Israel, Salami said, adding Washington knows that the expansion of war will only further harm its credibility, power and interests.

Iran Considers National Day for three Persian Gulf Islands



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Iranian government is contemplating a proposal to designate as a national day the anniversary of the British withdrawal from the Persian Gulf islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb, and Lesser Tunb.

Niknam Hosseinpour, head of the Public Relations Department of Iran's Culture Ministry, announced that the Public Culture Council has placed this proposal on its agenda.

He noted that the decision follows a social media campaign advocating for December 1 to be recognized as the national day of the islands.

The three islands, Abu Musa and the Greater and Lesser Tunbs are located in the Persian Gulf between mainland Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The islands have historically been part of Iran for many centuries, proof of which can be found and corroborated by countless legal, historical and geographical documents in Iran and other countries.

But the UAE has questioned Iran's sovereignty over the islands over the past decades.

Iran has time and again stressed that the three islands are an "integral part of Iran's territory", and advised the Arab country not to take positions undermining bilateral friendship.

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK



Hezbollah's Exceptional Development Indebted to Nasrallah

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Hezbollah's extraordinary evolution is beholden to Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, who was assassinated in an Israeli strike on Beirut outskirts in late September.

"Hezbollah turned from a small group of fighters into a huge organization with such power that it can force the enemy ... to retreat and defeat it," he told members of the Assembly of Experts in Tehran Thursday.

"Thanks to the bravery, tact, patience and faith of Sayyed Nasrallah, Hezbollah attained extraordinary evolution in such a way that the enemy equipped with all kinds of material and propaganda weapons could not and by God's grace will not be able to overcome this wonderful phenomenon," he added.

Dismissing rumors about Hezbollah's loss of strength after the martyrdom of its leaders, Ayatollah Khamenei said, "Some people in Lebanon and elsewhere think that Hezbollah has weakened and have begun to criticize its actions. They are mistaken and have illusions. Hezbollah is strong and continues to fight."

Ayatollah Khamenei paid tribute to Nasrallah and Hezbollah's senior official Seyyed Hashem Safieddine as well as Hamas leaders Ismail Haniyeh and Yahya Sinwar, and Iranian military commander Abbas Nilforoushan who were assassinated by Israel in September and October.

The resistance martyrs, the Leader said, bestowed upon Islam dignity and honor in addition to strength and power.

"During these many years and nearly 40 years, Hezbollah once forced the Zionist regime to retreat from Beirut, once from Saïda, once from the city of Tyre, and once from southern Lebanon and entirely from the cities, villages and highlands of Lebanon, which means its capability has increased over time," the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei also praised Hamas, saying the Palestinian resistance group's continued fight against Israel indicates the regime has been defeated.

"The Zionist regime intended to eliminate Hamas but has been unable to do so after massacring so many people, and showed their ugly face to the whole world, and proved their wickedness to everyone."

"They think they have martyred Hamas and resistance leaders, and that Hamas is finished but Hamas is still fighting and resisting. This means the failure of the Zionist regime," the Leader added.

In a meeting following the second session of the sixth Assembly of Experts, Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized the Assembly's critical role within the Islamic governance framework, describing it as one of the most revolutionary institutions due to its function of selecting the Supreme Leader.

Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the primary objective of the Islamic Revolution as "realizing monotheism," which he defined broadly as the establishment of Islamic principles within the country and in people's lives. He explained that the Supreme Leader's role is to ensure the nation's and system's progression toward this fundamental goal.

Referring to external efforts to hinder the creation of a monotheistic society, Ayatollah Khamenei warned that some parties aim to halt the progress of the revolution and, if possible, revert to regressive practices, even if disguised under modern appearances.

Drawing parallels with historical revolutions, like the French Revolution and the Soviet Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei noted that the risk of backsliding exists for all major people's movements. Citing multiple warnings in the Qur'an about the danger of regression, he added that divine scripture cautions against obedience to non-believers, which could lead to a return to pre-Islamic practices.

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed the necessity of preventing deviation or regression within any system. In the Islamic framework, he assigned this significant responsibility to the Supreme Leader, with the Assembly of Experts tasked with selecting this essential figure.

He further explained that the Assembly of Experts plays a vital role by ensuring the continuity of leadership without interruption, as it can swiftly appoint a new leader if needed. This continuity underscores that the system is not dependent on any single individual and can continue on its path even without specific figures.

Referring to a warning in the Qur'an, Ayatollah Khamenei cited an admonition from God to the early Muslim community, questioning if they would abandon their path if the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) were to pass away. This, he argued, reinforces the notion that the system is designed to transcend individual leaders.

Ayatollah Khamenei concluded by emphasizing the Assembly's duty to exercise utmost diligence in selecting a leader, ensuring that the chosen individual is fully committed to the revolution's ideals and possesses the resilience and dedication required for ongoing, tireless leadership.

Hezbollah Strikes Naval Base Near Haifa for Second Time in 24 Hours

BEIRUT (Dispatches) - Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraqi fighters have launched fresh attacks on Israeli targets in the occupied territories in retaliation for the regime's aggression on the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

On Friday, Hezbollah said it fired a barrage of missiles at the "Stella Maris" naval base northwest of the city of Haifa. It was the second such attack in less than 24 hours.

The movement said the strike came "in response to the attacks and massacres committed by the Israeli enemy."

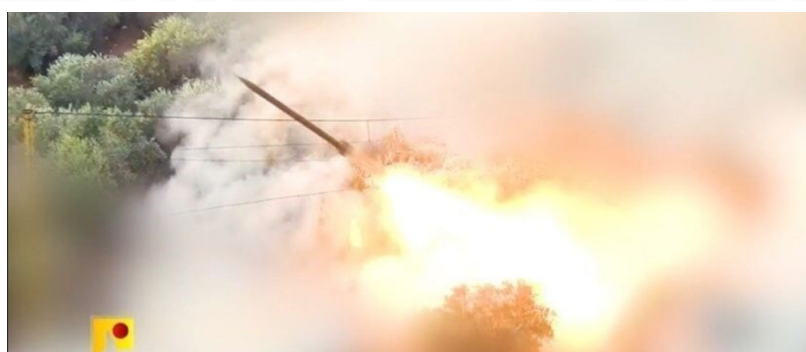
Also on Friday, Hezbollah said it targeted Ramat David airbase southeast of Haifa with a barrage of missiles.

Another barrage of missiles targeted Kiryat Shmona settlement in the northern part of the occupied territories this morning, according to Hezbollah.

Hezbollah's retaliatory strikes came as Israel continues to conduct attacks on various areas of Lebanon, including Harbata Village in the Baalbek-Hermel Governorate, and Shebaa, Kfar Melki, Kfar Hatta, Kfar Dajjal, Shehbiye, and Kfar Tebnit in southern Lebanon.

The Israeli attacks killed two people in Kfar Tebnit and a paramedic on Deir Qanoun road in southern Lebanon on Friday.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, announced that it conducted a third drone attack in the northern part of the occupied territories on Friday.



The attack hit a military target, according to the group.

Earlier on Friday, the group announced that it conducted two separate drone attacks on two Israeli military targets.

The Islamic Resistance in Iraq noted that the attacks came "in solidarity with our people in Palestine and Lebanon."

Since early October 2023, Israel has been waging brutal two-front aggression that has killed more than 43,469 people in the Gaza Strip and at

least 3,103 others in Lebanon so far.

In support of Palestinians in Gaza, resistance groups have launched retaliatory attacks on Israeli targets and vowed to keep fighting until the Gaza onslaught ends.

Since late September, Israel has escalated its strikes against Lebanon's Hezbollah, assassinating its leader Hassan Nasrallah and a number of its senior figures.

Hezbollah has been responding to the aggression with numerous retaliatory operations, targeting the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Israeli military on Friday announced that one of its soldiers succumbed to injuries he sustained in Southern Lebanon two weeks ago.

The military said that the soldier, identified as Guy Shabtay of the Alon Brigade's 8207th Battalion, was wounded in an exchange of fire with Hezbollah fighters in a village in Southern Lebanon on October 26. According to the statement, five other soldiers were killed and over a dozen were injured in the incident.

It Makes No Difference to Iran Who Won U.S. Election



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - President Masoud Peshkian says it does not make a difference to Iran who wins the U.S. presidential election because the Islamic Republic relies on its inner strength as an honorable nation.

"It makes no difference to us who won the U.S. presidential election, as our country and establishment rely on their inner power as well as an honorable and dignified nation," Peshkian said at a ceremony in the capital Tehran on Thursday.

He emphasized that Iran sees "no limits to the development and expansion of relations with other countries."

"Expansion of ties with Muslim and neighboring countries is among Iran's top priorities. We deeply believe in the promotion of unity and solidarity among Muslim countries," he said.

"Had all countries of the Muslim world shown fraternity and been united, the Zionist regime would not have dared to commit crimes against oppressed Palestinian and Lebanese peoples in cold blood," Peshkian underlined.

For his part, Iran's Vice President for Strategic Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif stated that U.S. voters, including the majority of Muslims, explicitly expressed their resentment to Washington's shameful year-long complicity in Israeli atrocities across Gaza and massacres in Lebanon.

"We hope the incoming administration of [Donald] Trump and [JD] Vance will honor their campaign promises about stopping wars, and learn the important lesson that the U.S. public taught concerning ending wars and preventing new ones," Zarif said.

He stated that Iran, which has well shown its determination and ability to deal with any kind of aggression, is not cowed by threats.

Ebrahim Azizi, head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee at the Iranian parliament, said Trump's election will neither impact Iran's strategic policies towards the United States nor prevent the country's decisive and crushing response to the recent Israeli act of aggression.

Iran Urges UN General Assembly to Suspend Israel's Membership



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's ambassador to the United Nations has urged the world body's General Assembly to suspend the Israeli regime's membership in response to Tel Aviv's ongoing crimes against Palestinians, including its banning the operations of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

Amir Saïd Iravani made the remarks on Thursday before a UN meeting held to hear a briefing on the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA).

"Iran calls on the international community to take serious action in response to Israel's actions and to suspend Israel's membership in the United Nations General Assembly due to its blatant violations of the UN Charter and international law," he said.

Iravani cited the example of the regime's informing the UN on Monday of its banning the operations of UNRWA, a move that terminated the body's decades-long crucial relief practices across the Palestinian territories and put millions of lives at risk. He denounced the move as an attempt to deprive Palestinians of essential services such as education, healthcare, and humanitarian aid.

"Support for UNRWA and the protection of the rights and security of Palestinian refugees must be a priority for the international community," the envoy said, asserting that Iran remained committed to supporting the humanitarian agency.

The ambassador also pointed to the regime's October 2023-present war of genocide in the Gaza Strip, where it has killed nearly 43,400 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and other war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians.

The regime's actions "represent not only gross violations of human rights, but also deliberate use of hunger as a weapon, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis and creating an unbearable situation for the Palestinian people," he said.

IRAN NEWS



Iran, Turkmenistan Discuss Cooperation in Int'l Organizations

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – The foreign ministers of Iran and Turkmenistan weighed plans for closer cooperation between the two neighbors in regional and international organizations.

In a telephone conversation on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and his Turkmen counterpart Rashid Meredov talked about the latest status of cooperation between Tehran and Ashgabat as well as a series of regional issues. They also stressed the two countries' determination to expand relations comprehensively in various political, economic, scientific, and cultural fields.

The two ministers also explored ways to expand economic and commercial relations and continue cooperation between the two countries in the regional and international organizations.

Tehran, Tashkent to Expand Agricultural Cooperation



TEHRAN - Minister of Agriculture, in a meeting with Uzbek Ambassador Fariddin Nasriev, highlighted Iran's readiness to share expertise in fields such as animal breeding and advanced irrigation technology. These capabilities, including technical and engineering services, education, and research, could significantly benefit agricultural collaboration with Uzbekistan.

Gholamreza Nouri praised the initiative by the presidents of Iran and Uzbekistan to boost bilateral relations. He emphasized the importance of economic relations between the two countries, citing their shared cultural, religious, and historical ties as a foundation for expanded trade and economic cooperation.

Nouri pointed out Iran's achievements in agricultural technology and global engineering services, listing Iran's strengths in building affordable greenhouses, constructing storage facilities for agricultural products, developing processing industries, and disinfecting agricultural products as potential services for Uzbekistan.

He acknowledged that the current level of economic exchange does not reflect the potential or the shared interests between the two nations, suggesting that the target of \$2 billion in trade, set during recent talks between the two presidents, could stimulate economic ties between Tehran and Tashkent. The minister also prioritized establishing air routes and enhancing rail connections between the two countries to facilitate trade.

Uzbek Ambassador Nasriev expressed gratitude for Iran's hospitality and noted that Uzbekistan's Agriculture Minister is keen to strengthen collaboration with Iran in seven key agricultural areas. These include advanced irrigation techniques, cultivating drought-resistant plants like pistachios, setting up modern greenhouses, producing agricultural tools and equipment, and partnerships in poultry and livestock feed production, as well as scientific research and knowledge exchange in livestock and aquaculture sectors.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - At the Inox Exhibition, Sajjad Siyahkarzadeh, CEO of Anzali Free Zone, highlighted the region's export growth and ongoing efforts to attract foreign investment and establish the Anzali corridor as a viable trade route between Russia, Eurasia, and India.

Siyahkarzadeh reported that the Anzali Free Zone has seen significant export growth since the beginning of this year, with exports reaching €18 million, up from €15 million for all of last year. This increase, he noted, is partly due to the expansion of the Anzali Free Zone, which has allowed for more efficient export of locally produced goods.

The Caspian Port, a key infrastructure in the region, has also been more active. Since June, when it was connected to Iran's national railway system, the port has seen a surge in cargo traffic. For example, over 15,000 tons of cement were transported from Russia through this route to Eurasia, demonstrating the Caspian Port's growing importance for trade logistics.

In terms of foreign investment, Siyahkarzadeh detailed that 135 investment packages, valued at approximately 20 trillion Iranian toman, were prepared and presented. With the exhibition's focus on innovation, an additional 20 packages were introduced, totaling 155 investment opportunities worth 40 trillion toman. These packages are aimed at attracting investors from a variety of sectors and showcasing Anzali's strategic advantages.

Despite the infrastructural upgrades, Siyahkarzadeh acknowledged that Russia has yet to fully leverage the Caspian route for its trade with India. He pointed out that only 10% of Russia's trade activities currently pass through the Caspian Sea, due to Russia's strategic focus and the time required to adjust its infrastructure.

Siyahkarzadeh emphasized that Iran is fully prepared to operate the North-South Corridor and has introduced incentives to make this route more appealing. He expressed that Iran is open to Russian investment in Anzali, which could further strengthen trade links between the two countries. Although he noted that Russia has been slow to integrate Iran's trade routes into its regional trade strategies, he remained optimistic about future collaboration. According to Siyahkarzadeh, with ongoing negotiations, there is a strong likelihood that Russia will increase trade through Iran, though he believes

further steps must be taken at an international level.

As part of the efforts to attract foreign investment, Siyahkarzadeh revealed that the Anzali Free Zone is planning to expand its area, which will allow for more industrial land to be available for potential investors. Plans include the construction of three new industrial parks. Additionally, the integration of Sardar-e-Jangal Rasht Airport with the Anzali Free Zone adds another logistical advantage, positioning the area as an attractive hub for international business.

In addition to the initiatives in Anzali, Hossein Gharosi, CEO of the Maku Free Zone, announced positive trade results for the region. He reported a trade surplus and noted that exports from Maku Free Zone totaled approximately \$1.45 billion, with \$160 million from locally produced goods.

Gharosi discussed ongoing negotiations with foreign investors, particularly from Turkey and India, as well as efforts to attract Iranian expatriate investors. He mentioned that incentives are being offered to both foreign and expatriate investors, with the goal of attracting between \$4 billion and \$20 billion in investment. Even if only 10% of this target is met, he believes it would significantly enhance the region's economic prospects.

Currently, Maku Free Zone has signed a \$50 million contract with a Turkish investor, with an additional \$60 million commitment secured recently.

Looking ahead, Gharosi announced that a joint offshore bank with ECO (Economic Cooperation Organization) countries is in the works, expected to soon be operational. This bank aims to facilitate financial transactions for member countries and boost economic integration within the ECO region.

Both Anzali and Maku Free Zones are pursuing aggressive development plans to establish Iran as a key player in regional trade. While the slow uptake of the Caspian route by Russia has presented challenges, Iranian officials remain optimistic about future cooperation, bolstered by continued investment in infrastructure and incentives designed to make Iran an attractive trade partner. The expansion of free zones, coupled with improved logistics and planned international banking initiatives, underlines Iran's strategic push to become a central trade hub in Eurasia and beyond.

Iran and Sudan Agree to Expand Economic and Trade Cooperation



TEHRAN - In a recent meeting, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance met with Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, where both countries agreed to strengthen economic and trade ties.

According to a report from Iran's Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance, Gabriel Ibrahim Mohamed Fadi, Sudan's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning, led an economic delegation to Tehran and met with his Iranian counterpart on Wednesday evening (November 6). Both parties expressed satisfaction over the reestablishment of diplomatic relations and voiced optimism that this renewed relationship would foster economic and trade growth.

During the meeting, both ministers emphasized the willingness of their governments to deepen bilateral cooperation. Sudan's Minister of Finance highlighted his country's fertile soil and agricultural production capabilities, including crops like oilseeds, sesame, peanuts, and livestock, as well as its abundant underground resources, presenting Sudan as an attractive investment opportunity.

He also conveyed the desire of Sudan's government and people to develop economic relations and cooperation with Iran.

Sudan, with an area of 1,886,000 square kilometers and a population of 45 million—of which over 97 percent are Muslim, including a strong Sufi community—is strategically positioned along the Red Sea in Northeast Africa. With the resources of the Nile River, Sudan possesses fertile land, rich livestock products, and substantial underground resources, particularly in gold.

Efforts Underway to Replace Sanctioned Flights



TEHRAN - In a briefing with reporters following the cabinet meeting, Iran's Minister of Roads and Urban Development, Farzaneh Sadeghi Malvajerd, addressed the impact of sanctions on Iranian airlines. She acknowledged the challenges these sanctions pose, saying, "The difficulties from these unjust sanctions persist, but we are working to arrange replacement flights. However, this process requires some time."

When asked about the progress of National Housing Movement projects and whether they had been halted, Malvajerd responded, "You ask me this question every time, and my answer remains the same: no, the projects have not been stopped."

Regarding the number of housing units delivered by the previous administration to the current one, Malvajerd declined to provide specific figures but emphasized that the ministry is committed to fulfilling its obligations. "Approximately 800,000 commitments have been made. Half of these are tied to banking facilities, while the other half still lack such support. We are holding extensive discussions with the Central Bank and the Ministry of Economy to address this."

Malvajerd expressed optimism about securing additional funding, noting that financial resources have already been injected into the project. She also mentioned that, according to recent reports, around 20,000 housing units were delivered over the past five years, with other units in various stages of construction.

In her closing remarks, Malvajerd highlighted the importance of ensuring funding under the Seventh Development Plan and noted that the parliamentary commission on infrastructure is actively working to expedite the allocation of necessary resources.

Over 510,000 Vehicles Produced by Major Iranian Automakers



TEHRAN (IRNA) - A review of the production and sales figures of Iran's major automakers on the Coda platform reveals that in the first seven months of this year, the country's three largest car manufacturers produced approximately 510,672 passenger vehicles, of which 492,763 were sold.

Financial reports from Iran Khodro, Saipa, and Pars Khodro show a 5% decline in both production and sales compared to the same period last year. Production dropped by about 23,532 vehicles, while sales decreased by 22,778 units. Automakers attribute this decline to issues like power outages in the first half of the year, though they are working to make up for this shortfall and increase production to meet annual goals of over one million vehicles.

Financial reports from Iran Khodro indicate that the company produced 289,977 vehicles in the first seven months of this year, a 3% drop from the 298,605 vehicles produced in the same period last year. The company sold 284,239 vehicles during this period, reflecting a 2% decrease from the previous year's 287,275. Additionally, Iran Khodro produced 4,484 vehicles that have not yet reached the commercial stage.

Within this period, Iran Khodro produced 102,944 Peugeot models, 62,505 Surenas, 49,548 Denas, 9,822 Ranas, 39,077 Taras, 8,839 Haima SUVs, and 17,242 other models.

Another major state-owned automaker, Saipa, produced 161,193 passenger vehicles (excluding the 151 pickup model) and sold 151,941 units in the first seven months of this year. Compared to the same period last year, this marks a 6% decrease in production and an 8% decrease in sales.

The Coda report also shows that Saipa produced 30,699 Shahin models and sold 29,505, reflecting an increase of about 2,713 units in production and 2,632 in sales over last year.

However, Saipa's largest production decline was seen in the X200 family (models including Tiba, Quick, and Saina), with 120,007 units produced this year, down from last year's 141,353 units.

In addition, 41,342 units of the 151 pickup model were produced, with 37,540 units sold, marking growth compared to last year's 31,312 units produced and 31,295 sold. Saipa also produced 10,487 units of other models, selling 5,923 units in the same period.

This update provides a clear view of Iran's auto production landscape, highlighting both the challenges and efforts by major manufacturers to meet production targets despite setbacks.

Zanjan Chamber, Russian Organization for the Development of International Cooperation Sign MoU

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - In the meeting between the Zanjan Chamber of Commerce and the Russian National Coordination Center for Development of International Cooperation (NCC) in Iran, a bilateral cooperation agreement was signed. This agreement aims to expand economic and trade relations and establish actionable strategies for enhancing trade between Zanjan province and Russia. Previously, in October 2023, a similar cooperation agreement was signed between the Zanjan Chamber and the Astrakhan Chamber of Commerce during a visit by a Russian trade delegation to Zanjan.

Samad Yousifi-Asl, President of the Zanjan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, emphasized the importance of the Russian market, noting that identifying Russia's needs and meeting them based on Zanjan's production capacity is a priority. He highlighted the Chamber's commitment to bolstering trade, especially for exports to Russia, through systematic economic planning and organized activities. Yousifi-Asl underscored the role of such agreements in streamlining trade processes, improving operational efficiency, and building valuable connections with key Russian stakeholders. He asserted that this partnership with NCC will undoubtedly provide Zanjan traders with notable benefits and advantages.

Yousifi-Asl also pointed out Zanjan's manufacturing strengths, including its position as the largest producer of zinc ingots in Iran,

exports of rainbow trout from Mahneshan (which are particularly popular in Russia), Golrang Company's detergent products, and various electronic parts—all of which are already being exported to the Russian market.

Yavar Mansouri, the NCC representative in Iran, outlined the potential of the Russian market for Iranian products, particularly in agriculture, food industries, and industrial goods. He noted that due to severe sanctions, many international brands have left the Russian market, creating a unique opportunity for Iranian businesses to enter with lower costs and establish a presence more effectively. Mansouri advocated for the creation of a specialized task force and a dedicated office, complete with a showroom, in Russia. He also emphasized the need for regular engagement by Zanjan Chamber representatives in Russia, noting that Russian buyers generally prefer direct, face-to-face interactions with sellers, as it helps them gain a better understanding of the products they purchase.

Furthermore, Mansouri stressed that both Russia and Iran possess extraordinary potential in industry, agriculture, and tourism, but share a challenge in underutilizing media to promote their capacities and market needs. He pointed out that neither country has successfully leveraged media to serve economic interests or adequately showcase their strengths.

More Families Stream out of North Gaza

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Israeli forces stepped up bombardment across the Gaza Strip and ordered more evacuations, creating a fresh wave of displacement from northern Gaza, to which Palestinians fear they will not be able to return.

Palestinian health officials said at least 10 people had been killed and several others wounded in an Israeli air strike on a school housing displaced families in Shati refugee camp in Gaza City.

The Israeli military said the strike targeted a Hamas command center embedded inside the compound that previously served as a UN-run school. It accused Hamas of exploiting civilian facilities for military purposes, which the group denies.

As Israeli tanks advanced in Beit Lahiya, a month into a new push on northern Gaza, dozens of families streamed out. They arrived at schools and other shelters in Gaza City with whatever belongings and food they could bring.



Susie Wiles Picked as First Female White House Chief of Staff



WEST PALM BEACH (Dispatches) - President-elect Donald Trump announced that Susie Wiles, one of his two campaign managers, will be his White House chief of staff, entrusting a top position to a political operative who helped the Republican win election.

The appointment was the first of what is expected to be a flurry of staffing announcements as Trump gears for a return to the White House on January 20.

As gatekeeper to the president, the chief of staff typically wields great influence. The person manages White House staff, organizes the president's time and schedule, and maintains contact with other government departments and lawmakers.

The low-key Wiles, 67, will be the first woman to serve as White House chief of staff. "Susie is tough, smart, innovative, and is universally admired and respected," Trump said in a statement. "I have no doubt that she will make our country proud."

Trump has been secluded at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida, since defeating Democrat Kamala Harris in Tuesday's election.

He is considering a wide array of people for top jobs in his administration, many of them familiar figures from his 2017-2021 presidency, four sources said.

Wiles, a long-time Florida-based political strategist, and fellow campaign manager Chris LaCivita are credited with running a more disciplined operation for Trump's third presidential bid compared with his past campaigns.

Trump thanked them both during his victory speech early on Wednesday. "Susie likes to stay in the back, let me tell you," Trump said, as she stood toward the back of the stage. "We call her the ice maiden."

Several people who have worked with Wiles said in interviews on Thursday that she would provide stability and sage counsel to Trump in the White House.

Trump ran through four chiefs of staff — an unusually high number — during his 2017-2021 term as they struggled to rein in the famously undisciplined president.

"Susie is a strong woman and a true leader with a proven track record of getting things done," said Florida-based Republican consultant Ford O'Connell.



European Leaders Make Plea for Trump to Support Ukraine and Avoid Trade Wars

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - European leaders meeting in Budapest urged Donald Trump from afar to avoid trade wars, maintain support for Ukraine and to refrain from unsettling the global order following his victory in the US presidential election.

Trump's win is a major challenge for Europe, opening an era of huge uncertainty at a time when the continent is already grappling for unity and its two biggest powers, Germany - whose government just broke apart - and France, are weakened.

Trump's relationship with his European peers was tense and rocky for much of his first term, and his return to power brings uncertainty over US backing for Ukraine against Russia's invasion, the US commitment to the NATO military alliance and the prospect of tariffs on exports to the United States.

"I trust the American society," European Council chief Charles Michel said as he and others urged Trump to continue to support Ukraine, as they arrived at a meeting of nearly 50 European leaders in Budapest.

"They know it is in their interest to show firmness when we engage with authoritarian regimes. If the United States were weak with Russia, what would it mean for China?"

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said it was now up to the European Union to be united. No EU member state on their own can manage the upcoming challenges, she said.

On Ukraine, she said: "It is in all our interests that the autocrats of this world get a very clear message that is not the right of might, that the rule of law is important."

Many of the leaders said they were looking forward to working with Trump. The summit host, Hungary's rightwing nationalist Prime Minister Viktor Orban, is one of Trump's few close allies among

European leaders, and has said he would pop champagne corks if Trump won. Diplomats have speculated that Orban might arrange for Trump to address the European leaders by video link.

But others were blunt about concerns, including over trade and Trump's brusque treatment of allies.

"President Trump is known sometimes for a degree of unpredictability, a degree of volatility, so we need dialogue,"

Luxembourg Prime Minister Luc Frieden said. "We will seek dialogue, but we will not give up our principles."

Finland's Prime Minister Petteri Orpo said he was concerned about the prospect of a trade war: "It should not be allowed to happen," he said. "Let's now try to influence the US and Trump's future policy so that he understands the risks involved."

Adding to the uncertainty hanging over the Budapest gatherings, Germany's three-party government broke apart on Wednesday evening as Chancellor Olaf Scholz sacked his finance minister and paved the way for a general election.

"One thing is for sure, Europe is not strong without a strong Germany," European Parliament President Roberta Metsola said.

The summit will first include a meeting of leaders of the wider European Political Community which includes non-EU states such as Britain, expected to renew their commitment to support Ukraine, before sessions on migration and economic security.

Mark Rutte, head of NATO, said it was important to see Ukraine as a problem that extends beyond Europe, describing Russia's partnership with North Korea as "a threat, not only to the European part of NATO, but also to the US."

In the evening the EU's 27 leaders will weigh transatlantic relations, as well as Georgia, where the ruling Georgian Dream party, seen as increasingly pro-Russian, claimed victory in a disputed October 26 election. The EU has frozen Georgia's membership bid over concerns about democratic backsliding.

South Korea Not Ruling Out Sending Weapons Directly to Ukraine



SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korea is not ruling out providing weapons directly to Ukraine, President Yoon Suk Yeol said, signaling a possible shift in Seoul's stance on the issue.

Yoon also revealed he had discussed North Korea with US president-elect Donald Trump in a phone conversation that laid the groundwork for a meeting in the "near future".

South Korea has a long-standing policy of not providing weapons to countries in conflict but indicated that could change in light of Pyongyang's deployment of troops to Russia to aid its war efforts in Ukraine.

"Now, depending on the level of North Korean involvement, we will gradually adjust our support strategy in phases," Yoon said at a press conference in Seoul.

"This means we are not ruling out the possibility of providing weapons."

North Korea has become one of the most vocal and important backers of Russia's full-scale offensive in Ukraine.

Seoul and the West have long accused Pyongyang of supplying artillery shells and missiles to Moscow for use in Ukraine.

Putin Praises Trump, Saying Russia Is Ready for Dialogue

SOCHI (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday congratulated Donald Trump on winning the US election, praised him for showing courage when a gunman tried to assassinate him, and said Moscow was ready for dialogue with the Republican president-elect.

In his first public remarks since Trump's win, Putin said Trump had acted like a real man during an assassination attempt on him while he was speaking at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania in July.

"He behaved, in my opinion, in a very correct way, courageously, like a real man," Putin said at the Valdai discussion club in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi. "I take this opportunity to congratulate him on his election."

Putin said remarks Trump had made during the election campaign about Ukraine and restoring relations with Russia deserved attention.

"What was said about the desire to restore relations with Russia, to bring about the end of the Ukrainian crisis, in my opinion this deserves attention at least," said Putin.

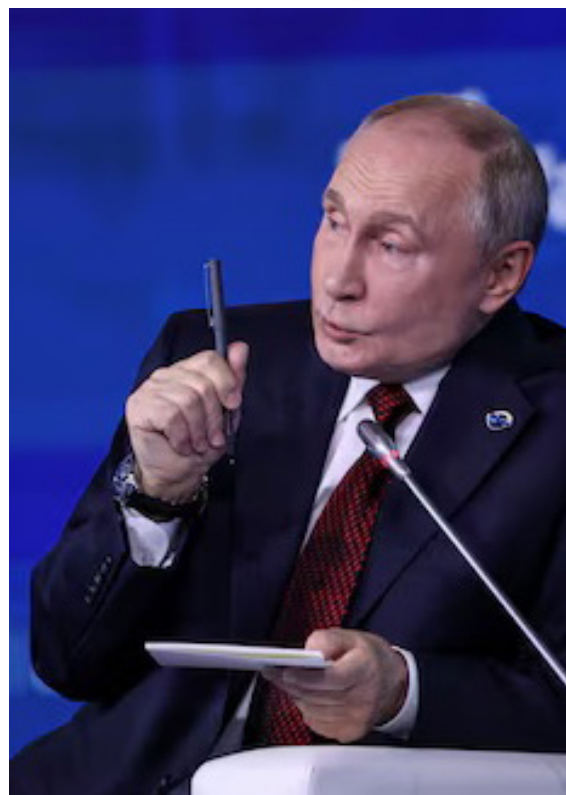
Trump said during campaigning that he could bring peace in Ukraine within 24 hours if elected, but has given few details on how he would seek to end the biggest land war in Europe since World War Two.

The 72-year-old Kremlin chief gave just one note of caution: "I do not know what is going to happen now. I have no clue."

When pressed by a questioner what he would do if Trump called to suggest a meeting, Putin said he was ready to resume contacts if a Trump administration wanted that, and was ready for discussions with Trump.

Russia and Trump have repeatedly dismissed as nonsense some claims in Western media that Trump was a sort of Russian agent of influence. Russian officials say that during his first term, from 2017 to 2021, Trump was tough on Russia.

US Special Counsel Robert Mueller investigated allegations of collusion between Trump's campaign and Russia in the 2016 US presidential election, but said in a 2019 report that he found no evidence of conspiracy.



Moscow has also repeatedly denied US assertions that Russia meddled in the 2024 and other presidential elections and had spread disinformation in an attempt to sow chaos.

The 2-1/2-year-old war in Ukraine is entering what some Russian and Western officials say could be its final — most dangerous — phase after Moscow's forces advance at their fastest pace since the early weeks of the conflict and the West ponders how the war will end.

Putin on June 14 set out his terms for an end to the war: Ukraine would have to drop its NATO ambitions and withdraw all of its troops from all of the territory of four regions claimed by Russia.

Russia controls Crimea, which it annexed from Ukraine in 2014, about 80% of the Donbas — a coal-and-steel zone comprising the Donetsk and Luhansk regions — and more than 70% of the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions.

Speaking for several hours on Thursday, Putin railed against the "adventurism" of Western leaders whom he accused of pushing the world to a "dangerous line" by seeking to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia in Ukraine.

"It is useless to put pressure on us. But we are always ready to negotiate with full consideration of mutual legitimate interests," Putin said, just seconds after scolding the West for promising Ukraine and Georgia eventual NATO membership in 2008.

He said that the West had never accepted Russia as an equal partner since the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union, treating it as a defeated power and enlarging the US-led NATO military alliance eastwards towards Russia.

Russia, Putin said, was ready to restore relations with the United States but the ball was in Washington's court. Putin also said that China was Russia's "ally".

Asked about Kamala Harris' warning that Putin would eat Trump for lunch, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said with a chuckle: "Putin does not eat people."

Germany Gov't Collapses, Scholz Under Pressure

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German opposition parties and business groups on Thursday urged Chancellor Olaf Scholz to trigger a new election quickly to minimise political uncertainty after his rocky three-way coalition collapsed.

The coalition fell apart on Wednesday when years of tensions culminated in a row over how to plug a multi-billion-euro hole in the budget and revive Europe's largest economy, headed for its second year of contraction.

The break-up creates a leadership vacuum at the heart of the European Union just as it seeks a united response to Tuesday's election of Donald Trump as U.S. president on issues ranging from possible new U.S. trade tariffs to Russia's war in Ukraine and the future of the U.S.-led NATO alliance.

The chancellor said he would hold a confidence vote in January, which he would probably lose, triggering a new election by the end of March - six months ahead of schedule.

Friedrich Merz, leader of the opposition conservatives, who are leading in nationwide polls, called for a vote of confidence "by the beginning of next week at the latest", in comments echoed by other opposition parties.

An election could take place in late January, he said. "We simply cannot afford to have a government without a majority in Germany for several months now, followed by an election campaign for several more months and then possibly several weeks of coalition negotiations," Merz told reporters.

German industry, reeling from high costs and fierce Asian competition, also urged Scholz's government on Thursday to arrange an election as soon as possible.

The uncertainty caused German borrowing costs to jump, with the benchmark 10-year yield rising as much as 10 basis points to its highest since July. A key market gauge that



signals debt risk as it falls dropped to its lowest on record.

Scholz delayed his departure for Thursday's European Union summit in Budapest due to the crisis at home and cancelled his attendance at the next United Nations climate change summit.

Scholz, of the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), said he had fired his finance minister, Christian Lindner of the fiscally conservative Free Democrats (FDP), for obstructing a resolution of budget disputes.

The last straw was his opposition to Scholz's plan to ease debt limits in order to increase support for Ukraine in the 2025 budget by 3 billion euros (\$3.25 billion).

Lindner's dismissal led to the FDP quitting the coalition, leaving Scholz's SPD and the Greens running a minority government and relying on cobbled-together majorities to pass any substantial measures in parliament.

A meeting between Scholz and Merz on Thursday failed to solve the impasse, a government source said.

Joerg Kukies, a top official in the chancellery and close SPD ally of Scholz, will be named finance minister.

The crisis comes at a critical juncture for Germany, with a flatlining economy, ageing infrastructure and an unprepared military. It is likely to deal another blow to consumption and investment in coming months even as Trump's return threatens to dampen exports, economists said.

The FDP's exit is likely to spell the departure of the government's transatlantic coordinator, who has spent months cultivating ties with senior U.S. Republicans in preparation for a possible Trump return to the White House.



Man United Earn First Win, Spurs Suffer First loss

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) - Manchester United earned their first Europa League win with a 2-0 victory over PAOK, Tottenham Hotspur's perfect start ended with a 3-2 loss at Galatasaray and Lazio top the standings after a 2-1 victory over Porto on Thursday.

Ajax strolled to a 5-0 win over Maccabi Tel Aviv, Athletic Bilbao came from behind to beat Ludogorets 2-1 and Anderlecht were denied joining Lazio on top as a late own goal left them with a draw in Latvia at RFS.

A brace from Amad Diallo gave United their first success in this season's competition, coming under interim manager Ruud van Nistelrooy after they had drawn the previous three games with Erik ten Hag was in charge.

Amad's first came five minutes after the break when he met a Bruno Fernandes cross with a looping header which found the far corner, and he added a solo second 13 minutes from time.

United have six points in the standings, three behind Spurs who despite going down to 10 men almost made a dramatic comeback in Istanbul where Victor Osimhen scored twice for the hosts and Will Lankshear grabbed his first goal for Spurs before being sent off.

Yunus Akgun gave Galatasaray an early lead with a stunning half-volley but Spurs levelled when Brennan Johnson's layoff across the goal left Lankshear with a simple tap-in.

Radu Dragusin was caught napping at the back in the 31st minute and was dispossessed by Mauro Icardi. The ball fell to Dries Mertens who slipped a pass to Osimhen and the Nigerian striker found the bottom

corner.

Osimhen struck again six minutes from the break and Lankshear received his second booking on the hour mark, but 10-man Tottenham pulled a goal back when substitute Dominic Solanke back-heeled Pedro Porro's cross into the net.

Lazio made it four wins from four to take control at the top of the standings thanks to an added-time goal from Pedro.

The Italian side went ahead at the end of the first half through Alessio Romagnoli's header but Porto drew level through Stephen Eustaquio.

It looked like Lazio would have to settle for a draw but with time running out Pedro turned a cross from Gustav Isaksen into the net.

Anderlecht could have joined them on 12 points, with Mario Stroeykens putting them ahead five minutes from time but RFS snatched a draw deep into added time when Moussa N'diaye put the ball into his own net.

Bilbao moved on to 10 points with their comeback win in Bulgaria against Ludogorets after Inaki Williams and Nicolas Serrano scored second-half goals in quick succession.

Ajax are also on 10 after cruising to victory over Maccabi with goals from Bertrand Traore, Kenneth Taylor, Mika Godts, Brian Brobbey and Kian Fitz-Jim.

Doncic Leads Dallas Mavericks Past Chicago Bulls



DALLAS (Dispatches) - Luka Doncic had 27 points and 13 assists, Kyrie Irving scored 17 points and Daniel Gafford also scored 17 playing a season-high 24 minutes as the Dallas Mavericks beat the Chicago Bulls 119-99.

The defending Western Conference champions scored the first 13 points of the second half and led by as many as 30 while improving to 2-2 on a five-game homestand.

Nikola Vucevic had 14 points and 10 rebounds while sitting out the fourth quarter to lead the Bulls, who have lost three straight games. Rookie Matas Buzelis, who had five total points this season going into play, had 13 points and nine rebounds.

Dallas played without starting forward P.J. Washington because of a right knee sprain and without Dereck Lively II, who averages the most center minutes as Gafford's backup, because of a right shoulder sprain.

The Bulls played their second consecutive game without leading scorer Zach LaVine, who has a right adductor strain.

On a night when Dallas lacked two of its regular big men, the Bulls were on pace for their most 3-point shots this season at halftime with 27 - but shooting 18.5%. They finished 12 of 42 for 28.6%.

Doncic, Klay Thompson and Irving hit consecutive 3-pointers during a 17-0 run in the first period that gave Dallas a 22-9 lead.

Meanwhile Russell Westbrook scored 29 points, Peyton Watson blocked a shot in the closing seconds after missing a pair of free throws at the other end and the injury-riddled Denver Nuggets rallied to beat Oklahoma City 124-122 to hand the Thunder their first loss of the season.

Nikola Jokic finished with 23 points, 20 rebounds and 16 assists as the Nuggets rebounded from a 16-point deficit in the third quarter. Christian Braun added 24.

Michael Porter Jr. came up big after a slow start, scoring 21 of his 24 points in the second half. The short-handed Nuggets were without power forward Aaron Gordon (strained calf) and point guard Jamal Murray (concussion protocol).

Watson had a chance to seal the game at the line with 16 seconds left but missed both free throws. He made up for it by swatting the shot of a driving Shai Gilgeous-Alexander just before the buzzer sounded.

Jalen Williams led the Thunder with 29 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists while Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points.

Meanwhile Ja Morant scored 20 points before leaving in the third quarter with a right hamstring injury and the Memphis Grizzlies used their 3-point shooting to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 131-114.

Djere, Medjedovic Set for All-Serbian Clash

LONDON (Dispatches) - One wild card from Serbia is guaranteed to advance to the finals of the Belgrade Open, as Laslo Djere and Hamad Medjedovic won and advanced to face each other in the semifinals.

Djere, ranked No. 141 in the world, took down Hungary's Fabian Marozsan 6-4, 6-2, by firing 12 aces and saving the only break point he faced. Medjedovic, ranked No. 156, also prevailed 6-4, 6-2 over No. 3 seed Francisco Cerundolo, as the home underdog hit five aces, controlled his first serves and broke the Argentine's service four times.

The other semifinal will pit Czech fourth seed Jiri Lehecka against Canadian qualifier Denis Shapovalov. Lehecka rallied past Slovakia's Lukas Klein 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3, while Shapovalov downed Australian Christopher O'Connell 6-2, 6-2.

No. 8 seed Alex Michelsen charged back to defeat China's Yunchaokete Bu 6-7 (6), 6-2, 6-4 in the quarterfinals in Metz, France.

The 20-year-old American saved 7 of 9 break points and had 10 aces among his 40 winners to defeat Bu, despite also committing more unforced errors (43 to 37).



Michelsen, who has three career runner-up finishes on the ATP Tour without a victory, is the only seeded player left standing.

He will face French qualifier Benjamin Bonzi, who defeated countryman Quentin Halys 6-3, 7-6 (1). Great Britain's Cameron Norrie outlasted Belgium's Zizou Bergs 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-1. In the semis, Norrie will face France's Corentin Moutet, who was a walkover when No. 1 seed Andrey Rublev withdrew earlier this week to tend to an injury before the Nitto ATP Finals.

Meanwhile defending WTA Finals champion Iga Swiatek was eliminated from the season-ending championship after Barbora Krejckova's 7-5 6-4 win over Coco Gauff meant the Polish world number two failed to advance to the last four.

Gauff was already guaranteed to make the semis, but five-times Grand Slam champion Swiatek needed the American to beat eighth-seeded Czech Krejckova who required a victory herself to progress.

Man United Players Want Van Nistelrooy to Stay on



LONDON (Dispatches) - Interim manager Ruud van Nistelrooy's future at Manchester United is up in the air ahead of the arrival of Ruben Amorim but goalkeeper Andre Onana said the players are keen for the Dutch coach to remain with the club.

Van Nistelrooy stepped into the role following the sacking of Erik ten Hag and is unbeaten in his three games in charge, guiding United to a 2-0 win over PAOK in the Europa League on Thursday - their first win in Europe in over a year.

A former United striker, Van Nistelrooy has said he would like to remain part of the club's restructured management team after his interim stint ends on Sunday with a Premier League home game against Leicester City.

Asked if United's players wanted the same, Onana told TNT Sports: "100%. He's a very good guy, a very good coach."

"He has so much experience and he advises us a lot. It's fantastic what he's doing and the players are happy. But at the end of the day, it's not something we can decide. The club make the decision and we have to accept it."

Van Nistelrooy said his sole focus was preparing the team for his last game in charge. "I'm only busy with one thing in my mind," he said.

Calhanoglu's Penalty Lifts Inter Over Arsenal

PARIS (Dispatches) - A Hakan Calhanoglu penalty gave Inter Milan a 1-0 victory over Arsenal in the Champions League, while a 93rd-minute winner ensured Atletico Madrid left Paris with all three points.

The Italian champions remain undefeated in the competition this season and sit fifth on 10 points at the midway point of the new league phase format.

"I think we played a great game against a strong side who play with great intensity," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi.

Arsenal, on the other hand, experienced defeat for the first time in Europe this season and lie three points and seven places behind their opponents.

The match at the San Siro looked set to go into the break goalless until a penalty was signalled against Mikel Merino after Mehdi Taremi's flick deviated the ball into the Arsenal player's raised hand from close range.

"We were very harshly done by," Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta told TNT Sports. "There is no deflection, nothing you can do in the box, so can he get away from it?"

Calhanoglu stroked home the resulting spot-kick three minutes into first-half injury time.

Yann Sommer and Denzel Dumfries combined on the line to deny Gabriel Magalhaes a leveller shortly before the hour.

Arsenal cranked up the pressure in the second half but were unable to break down Inter's solid defensive block as the Premier League side fell to a second defeat in four days.

Barcelona beat Red Star Belgrade 5-2 in Serbia to claim sixth spot in the standings.

The Catalans took the lead on 13 minutes via a stooping header by defender Inigo Martinez.

But Red Star struck back just prior to the half-hour when Silas Mvumpa sprang the Barca offside trap and lifted the ball past Inaki Pena.



Robert Lewandowski effectively ensured Barca stayed in the automatic qualification spots with a quick-fire double either side of the break.

Raphinha and Fermin Lopez then netted, before Felicio Milson curled in a late consolation for the hosts.

Atletico stunned PSG 2-1 in the French capital as Angel Correa's stoppage-time winner gave the Spaniards a second Champions League win this term.

"Paris played very well, they attacked the whole match, but we were confident, we worked hard in defence and as a team, and we got our goal at the end to claim victory," Correa said to Movistar.

The loss means the French champions sit in the elimination zone with one win and a draw from four, with matches against Manchester City and Bayern Munich to come.

Warren Zaire-Emery sent PSG ahead with a dinked finish past Jan Oblak on 14 minutes, before Nahuel Molina drilled in an equaliser four minutes later.

The home team pressed as the match wore on but left themselves exposed as Oblak's throw found Antoine Griezmann on the break and the Frenchman's pinpoint pass landed at the feet of Correa, who cut in and finished past Gianluigi Donnarumma.

Jamal Musiala struck in the 67th minute to get Bayern Munich's stuttering campaign back on course with a 1-0 win at home to Benfica.

The six-time winners' record of two wins and two defeats leaves them mid-table with four matches remaining.

Aston Villa's 100 per cent record in the Champions League ended with a 1-0 defeat at Club Brugge, sparked by a bizarre penalty conceded by Tyrone Mings.