

Iran's Foreign Ministry Summoned the British Chargé d'Affaires in Protest Against London's Sanctions Against the Islamic Republic's Shipping Company and Airliner

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Parliament's Budget Committee Approved a Government Proposal to Reduce Tariffs on Cars Imported Into the Country Amid Efforts to Contain Soaring Prices in the Domestic Market

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Iran Warns Against Anti-Tehran Resolution After commitments Verified by IAEA



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The Iranian foreign minister has censured the new European sanctions against the country's airlines and shipping, stressing that any anti-Tehran move at the upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will further complicate the situation regarding the Islamic Republic's peaceful nuclear program.

Abbas Araqchi made the statement in a phone conversation with his French counterpart Jean-Noël Barrot on Wednesday as they exchanged views on nuclear negotiations and latest regional developments.

The top Iranian diplomat strongly condemned as "unjustified and provocative" the move by the European countries to have levied new sanctions against the Islamic Republic over what they claimed to be Tehran's supply of military equipment to Moscow to be used in the Ukraine war.

Araqchi also vehemently rebuked the decision of the three countries of Germany, France and the United Kingdom to present an anti-Iran resolution at the meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors on Wednesday. "This measure by the three European countries is in blatant contravention of the positive atmosphere created in the interaction between Iran and the Agency," the Iranian foreign minister said. "It will only make matters more complicated."

Pointing to the regional developments and the continuation of the Israeli onslaught on Lebanon and the regime's genocide in Gaza, Araqchi censured support for Tel Aviv's atrocities and called for an urgent action by the influential parties to force Israel to stop the aggression.

The phone conversation comes as a senior Western diplomat, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, confirmed to the AP that the United Kingdom, France and Germany, with support from the US, are going ahead with a resolution against Tehran at this week's IAEA Board of Governors meeting.

The resolution will take to task Iran for what it claims to be lack of cooperation with the IAEA in the country's nuclear program.

"It is possible that the commitments made by Iran during the IAEA's chief visit may not stand in case a resolution is passed," a senior diplomat said, stressing that Iran has in the past responded to resolutions by the IAEA Board of Governors through further enhancing its nuclear program.

IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi visited Tehran last week at the head of a delegation to negotiate with top Iranian nuclear and political officials.

Iran Censures EU, UK's Double Standards on Arms Exports



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran has condemned the double-standard approach by Western powers in their dealings with Tehran after the European Union and Britain imposed sanctions on the country's shipping over accusations of supplying ballistic missiles to Russia.

"The EU and the UK, without presenting any evidence, have accused Iran of supplying ballistic missiles to Russia and imposed sanctions on our airlines and shipping," Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi wrote on social media platform X on Tuesday.

The comment came a day after the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, imposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) and several other entities and individuals, accusing them of being involved in transfer of ballistic missiles, drones and related technologies to Russia for use in the Ukraine war.

Iran has maintained its policy of impartiality toward the conflict and categorically rejects the unfounded accusations made by the US and its European allies.

The EU and the UK, without presenting any evidence, have accused Iran of supplying ballistic missiles to Russia and imposed sanctions on our airlines and shipping.

Acting in parallel, Britain also announced fresh sanctions against Iran Monday, freezing the assets of IRISL as well as national airline Iran Air over the same allegation.



FM Emphasizes Unwavering Support for Syrian People, Gov't

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has a strong will to expand cooperation with Syria in various fields and it will continue to stand by the Syrian nation and government, according to the country's foreign minister.

In a joint press conference with his Syrian counterpart Bassam Sabbagh following their meeting in Tehran, Abbas Araqchi said they had 'very positive' discussions on the war in Gaza and Lebanon and the "strategic and solid" relations between the two countries.

"We welcome Syria's stability and unity, and condemn any attempts to destabilize the country," he said.

Araqchi condemned Israel's repeated aggressions against Syria and also Lebanon, saying they show the regime's hostile and expansionist nature.

He urged the international community and the United Nations to condemn these aggressions and end their inaction.

On Israeli and Western threats against Iran, he asserted that Iran has demonstrated its resolve against any threats, particularly from Israel, stating that Iran reserves the right to respond to such aggressions as part of its defensive policy.

"I think Iran has proven its strategy to the Israeli regime and anyone who covets to threaten Iran; we will not allow any aggression against Iranian territory to go unanswered," he said.

Araqchi noted that Iran makes decisions based on wisdom and careful consideration rather than haste or emotional reactions.

"Iran has proven that it always makes wise decisions based on wisdom and insight, and we neither rush nor procrastinate, and we avoid emotional decisions. We respond at the appropriate time," he said.

He said the strategy of maximum pressure from the US has failed, as evidenced by Iran's resilience.

"The policy of pressure does not work, and we have demonstrated in practice that when they adopted a maximum pressure strategy, Iran implemented maximum resistance, and US officials

have admitted that their policy has failed."

He suggested that instead of pursuing maximum pressure, the Americans must adopt a policy of maximum rationality and this would likely yield different results.

The Syrian foreign minister stated that the escalation of Israeli tensions in the region is part of an American and Zionist project aimed at redrawing the map of the area, with Israel serving as a tool for this objective.

Sabbagh said while they have succeeded in driving out many terrorist groups, some remain concentrated in northern Syria, where the government has been actively fighting.

"The Israeli regime has failed to achieve its goals and seeks to keep Syria preoccupied within its own territory, but they will not be distracted by these issues," he said.

Regarding bilateral agreements, he said the Joint Economic Commission will soon begin meetings in Damascus.

He expressed satisfaction with bilateral relations but acknowledged that more work needs to be done.

He suggested that Iran and Syria must work to create mechanisms to mitigate the harmful effects of the Western sanctions.

Sabbagh said the region is reeling from the crimes of Israel, being committed against Palestine and extended to Lebanon and even Syria. He said there must be a halt to the crimes before any effective delivery of humanitarian aid.

"The Israeli regime should be punished," he said, adding that Syria opposes any form of occupation and supports Iran's right to respond to any crime.

The Syrian foreign minister emphasized the need to end the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights and reiterated commitment to bilateral cooperation against terrorism.

He said certain countries are taking destructive actions against the Syrian sovereignty and expressed hope for deeper coordination to confront these actions.

Yemeni Armed Forces Target Israel-Bound Ship in Red Sea

SANAA (Dispatches) - The Yemeni armed forces say they have launched a missile attack on another ship sailing in the Red Sea in retaliation for the Israeli regime's savage wars in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

Brigadier General Yahya Saree, the spokesman for Yemen's armed forces, made the remarks in a statement on Tuesday, saying the country's forces used ballistic and naval missiles in the attack against the ship "Anadolu S" in the Red Sea, adding that "the hit was accurate and direct".

Saree went on to say that the operation was carried out after the ship refused to respond to warnings that had been issued by the Yemeni naval forces.

He also noted that the vessel was targeted because the shipping company that owns it violated the ban of entry into the ports of occupied Palestine.

Saree further reiterated that Yemeni armed forces will continue their anti-Israel operations until the Tel Aviv regime halts its onslaught against Gaza, lifts the siege on the besieged enclave and ends the aggression on Lebanon.

The Yemeni forces have been conducting hundreds of strikes against Israeli targets inside the occupied Palestinian territories in retaliation for the regime's October 2023-present genocidal war and concomitant siege on the Gaza Strip and deadly escalation against Lebanon.

The brutal military onslaught and the escalation have respectively claimed the lives of more than 43,900 Palestinians, mostly women and children, and upwards of 3,500 Lebanese.

The Yemeni forces have been targeting Israeli ships as well as vessels heading towards or away from the occupied territories as a means of piling up economic pressure on the regime.



Meanwhile Lebanon's resistance movement Hezbollah said it has attacked Israel's military intelligence base near Tel Aviv with a barrage of missiles.

Hezbollah said in a statement on Tuesday that its fighters fired "a salvo of missiles" at the Gilot military base in the Tel Aviv suburbs.

They also targeted Israeli troops in four locations including near the Lebanese town of Khiam, it said. Reports said Hezbollah fighters continue to battle Israeli forces on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese town.

On Monday, the fighters of Hezbollah successfully thwarted Israeli attempts to advance in the towns of Khiam and Chama in south Lebanon.

Hezbollah said that its fighters targeted Monday a group of Israeli forces in rocket and drone strikes in southern Lebanon.

The resistance fighters caused casualties among Israeli forces when they targeted a house on the northern outskirts of the Lebanese village of Maroun al-Ras with a guided missile.

Israel's military admitted Tuesday that a soldier "was killed during combat in southern Lebanon." Three other soldiers were wounded.

Hezbollah also shot down an Israeli Hermes 450 drone over the town of Taybeh with a surface-to-air missile.

Israel's illegal settlements and military bases in northern occupied territories were also targeted by a barrage of missiles launched from southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah has been conducting rocket and drone strikes on northern occupied territories in support of its Palestinian ally Hamas, following the start of the genocidal war in Gaza last October.

Tehran, Riyadh Reaffirm Commitment to China-Brokered Détente



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran and Saudi Arabia have reaffirmed their commitment to the China-brokered détente and to further consolidation of relations during a meeting of the Saudi-Chinese-Iranian Joint Tripartite Committee.

The meeting, held on Tuesday in Riyadh to follow up on the 2023 détente deal, was chaired by Saudi Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Waleed Elkhereiji and included delegations led by Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi and China's Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Deng Li.

A statement issued by the three sides at the end of the meeting said Saudi Arabia and Iran welcomed the continued positive role played by China and the importance of its support and follow-up on the implementation of the Beijing Agreement that was signed in March 2023.

China underscored its readiness to continue to support and encourage the steps taken by Saudi Arabia and Iran to develop their relationship in various fields.

The three countries welcomed the continued progress in Saudi-Iranian relations and the opportunities it provides for direct communication between the two countries at all levels.

They noted the great importance of these contacts, meetings, and mutual visits between senior officials from the two countries, especially in light of the current regional tensions and escalation that threaten the regional and global security.

The officials welcomed the progress of consular services between the two countries, which allowed more than 87,000 Iranian pilgrims to perform the Hajj and more than 52,000 Iranians to perform the Umrah during the first ten months of 2024.

They welcomed the first meeting of the Saudi-Iranian Joint Media Committee and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies and the Institute of Political and International Studies of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Saudi Arabia and Iran additionally expressed readiness to sign a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA).

Millions of Afghans Use Heavily Subsidized Services, Goods in Iran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Millions of Afghan refugees living in Iran are benefitting from the country's heavily subsidized energy and goods supply system, a report shows.

The Tuesday report by the Fars news agency said that more than 4.7 million Afghan refugees are living in Iran, including some 2 million who have entered the country illegally in recent years.

It said Afghan refugees in Iran have been using energy and basic goods at a heavily subsidized price just like the Iranian citizens.

It said that the issue has put a heavy burden on Iran's budget, causing the country to spend billions of dollars to subsidize basic goods like bread, electricity, and gas for the refugees.

The report said Afghans have a bread consumption per capita that is seven times higher than the Iranians, adding that refugees have in fact been the main beneficiaries of Iran's massive subsidies for flour.

Its estimates showed that subsidized energy given to illegal Afghan migrants in Iran is worth some \$3 billion per year.

It said other countries in the region, including Turkey which is home to more than 4 million Syrians displaced by the war in their country, have a much different system for provision of basic services and goods to refugees.

It said Turkey charges market prices for energy supplied to Syrian refugees while Jordan only offers limited quotas to Palestinian refugees living in the country.

An immigration expert said that Afghan refugees living in Iran have a right to benefit from the country's subsidy system.

Peyman Haghghat Talab said Afghans living in Iran are responsible for \$5 billion worth of the country's gross domestic product due to services they provide in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

"It is wrong to only see them as consumers of subsidies," he said.

However, Yaghoob Andayesh, a university professor of economics, said subsidies are intended to create welfare for Iran's own citizens.

IRAN NEWS



Iranian, Chinese Deputy FMs Hold Talks in Riyadh

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Majid Takht Ravanchi who has traveled to the Saudi capital, met and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Deng Li on Tuesday.

Takht-Ravanchi and Deng met in Riyadh where the two diplomats headed their delegations for the second joint tripartite committee meeting between Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China to follow up on the Beijing-brokered rapprochement deal between Tehran and Riyadh. In the meeting, Takht Ravanchi referred to the recent meeting of Chinese and Iranian presidents on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia, and their consensus on deepening the comprehensive strategic partnership, implementing existing agreements, and continuing consultations on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Iran's Military Achievements Are a Source of Pride



TEHRAN - Pakistan's Defense Minister praised Iran's participation in the International Defence Exhibition in Karachi, describing it as valuable. He emphasized, "In Pakistan, we take pride in Iran's advancements and achievements in the defense and military sectors."

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 12th International Defence Exhibition and Seminar (IDEAS 2024) in the port city of Karachi on Tuesday, Khawaja Muhammad Asif, the special guest of the event, visited the Iranian Armed Forces pavilion. The Governor of Sindh province, Kamran Khan Tessori, also accompanied him during this visit.

The delegation welcomed Khawaja Asif, including Brigadier General Mojtaba Ramazanzadeh, head of the Iranian military delegation; Reza Amiri-Moghaddam, Iran's ambassador to Pakistan; Hassan Nourian, Iran's consul general in Karachi; and Colonel Mohammad Mohsen Shahabi, Iran's military attaché in Pakistan.

In a statement, Khawaja Asif highlighted the historical, cultural, and social ties between Pakistan and Iran, saying, "We consider Iran's military achievements and progress in the defense sector a source of pride." He also emphasized the strong partnership between the two nations, adding, "Iran and Pakistan stand together and will achieve even greater success in the defense domain."

The minister noted the importance of bilateral relations with Iran, mentioning recent high-level exchanges between the two countries. He expressed confidence that this collaboration would continue to grow stronger.

The inauguration of Pakistan's largest defense and arms exhibition took place at the Karachi Expo Center, with participation from Khawaja Muhammad Asif and various delegations from participating countries.

Tehran-Moscow Trade Balance Set to Double



TEHRAN - The head of Iran's National Standard Organization announced that trade exchanges between Iran and Russia amounted to over \$1.7 billion last year. He further predicted that this figure would at least double in the coming year following the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two nations' inspection companies.

According to a report by the National Standard Organization, Iran's Quality and Standard Inspection Company and Russia's ROSTEST signed a memorandum of cooperation. The agreement, supervised by Iran's National Standard Organization (INSO) and Russia's Technical Regulation and Metrology Agency, aims to boost trade efficiency.

The signing ceremony was held virtually on Tuesday, with participants including members of Iran's Parliament and private sector representatives.

Mojtaba Eslam-Panah, head of Iran's National Standard Organization, emphasized the significance of strengthening bilateral ties on the international stage. He described the partnership as a strategic move aligned with the economic goals of the two nations' leaders. Eslam-Panah highlighted both nations' membership in global alliances like BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and Eurasian Economic Union as symbols of their deepening economic interactions.

He stated that the new agreement would streamline and expedite trade processes, aiming to counter and neutralize the effects of international sanctions. "The determination of both nations to bypass and mitigate the impact of oppressive sanctions will pave the way for economic growth and development," he added.

In his remarks, Shalaev, the head of Russia's Standardization Organization, underscored the importance of the memorandum in fostering economic ties. He stressed the need for collaboration beyond standardization, aiming to deliver practical benefits for businesses and traders in both countries.

He noted the consistent growth in trade relations between Iran and Russia and expressed confidence that the agreement would further accelerate this trend.

Olga Valerovna, CEO of ROSTEST, commended the support of both countries' standardization leaders. She emphasized that the agreement was a testament to the shared commitment to expanding trade relations.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



Preferential Trade and Visa Waiver Essential for Iran-Tajikistan Trade Growth

TEHRAN - The President of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, Samad Hasanzadeh, has emphasized the vast untapped potential in trade between Iran and Tajikistan. Speaking during a meeting with Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, Nizomiddin Zohidi, Hasanzadeh pointed out the shared cultural and linguistic ties between the two nations as a significant asset for expanding bilateral trade.

"Iran has notable capabilities in knowledge-based industries, engineering services, food production, oil and petrochemicals, construction materials, tourism, and information technology," he said. Hasanzadeh added that Iran is ready to address Tajikistan's needs in these sectors.

The Chamber of Commerce aims to enhance awareness among business communities in both countries about mutual opportunities. Initiatives like trade delegations and specialized exhibitions are being planned, with support from the Tajik Embassy in Iran to streamline communication and facilitate connections.

Highlighting the high quality of Iranian goods, particularly in the food sector, Hasanzadeh called for closer cooperation between trade officials from both nations to introduce their respective markets' potentials.

He further proposed a comprehensive visa waiver program, noting that the current visa exemption applies only to flights between Tehran and Dushanbe. Extending the waiver to cover other flight routes, such as the upcoming Shiraz-Dushanbe connection, could significantly enhance trade and tourism. Additionally, Hasanzadeh suggested creating joint industrial zones to foster stronger economic ties.

Tajikistan's ambassador to Iran, Nizomiddin Zohidi, emphasized the critical role of the Iran Chamber of Commerce in establishing sustainable trade relations. He noted that cultural and linguistic similarities provide an excellent foundation for collaboration.

Zohidi acknowledged the modest scale of current trade but highlighted significant progress in recent years, with trade volume increasing nearly tenfold

since 2020. "There is potential to raise bilateral trade to \$1 billion," he stated.

Inviting Hasanzadeh to lead a trade delegation to Tajikistan, Zohidi assured continued efforts to share information about Tajik trade fairs and facilitate the participation of Iranian businesses.

The ambassador also stressed the need for a comprehensive visa waiver, stating that it would bolster tourism and trade. "While the Tehran-Dushanbe route benefits from visa-free travel, other cities like Mashhad do not. Expanding this to all routes is essential for fostering economic and cultural ties," Zohidi said.

Mohammad-Hossein Roshanak, head of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Chamber of Commerce, voiced concerns about high tariffs on Iranian goods in Tajikistan. He highlighted disparities in import duties, with Tajikistan imposing significantly lower tariffs on goods from Uzbekistan compared to Iran.

"This has led some Iranian products to reach Tajikistan via Uzbekistan, inflating their costs," Roshanak said, adding that Tajikistan's recent tariff hikes, particularly on Iranian food products, have further strained competitiveness.

Roshanak called for resolving these tariff issues, which he believes could double bilateral trade. In response, Ambassador Zohidi suggested formalizing a preferential trade agreement between the two countries, similar to Tajikistan's agreement with Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, Zohidi announced the appointment of Hossein Gholamzadeh as the official representative of the Tajik Chamber of Commerce in Iran. This move aims to foster closer collaboration between the chambers of commerce and private sectors of both nations.

The discussions underscore the mutual interest in deepening trade ties between Iran and Tajikistan. Key measures, such as reducing tariffs, expanding visa-free travel, and establishing preferential trade agreements, are essential to unlocking the potential of bilateral trade. With both countries committing to these steps, the prospect of achieving the ambitious \$1 billion trade target seems increasingly attainable.

Iranian Exports Confederation Head Highlights the Importance of Joining FATF

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK



TEHRAN - The President of the Iranian Exports Confederation, Mohammad Lahouti, has emphasized the necessity of separating the issue of joining the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) from unilateral U.S. sanctions on Iran. He argued that failing to join FATF significantly hinders Iran's ability to engage in international trade.

Speaking at a press conference, Lahouti stated, "Iran must strive to join FATF because this matter is distinct from the unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States. If the government can secure the necessary domestic approval for joining FATF, it will boost trade with key export destinations." He further noted that adherence to FATF could strengthen Iran's commercial ties with countries such as Russia and China, as these nations have been constrained in expanding trade with Iran due to FATF restrictions.

Lahouti highlighted that the lack of FATF compliance has deterred foreign investors, who are unable to repatriate their profits due to Iran's blacklisted status. This has made the Iranian market less attractive for potential investments, despite its economic potential. He expressed hope that the Minister of Economy could address ambiguities surrounding this issue, noting, "Iran imposes some of the world's strictest regulations on money laundering and financial transactions, more stringent than neighboring countries."

Addressing Iran's trade performance, Lahouti revealed a 16% growth in exports over the past seven months. However, he noted a

significant trade deficit, with a negative balance of over \$6 billion compared to past years when the deficit was only \$1 billion.

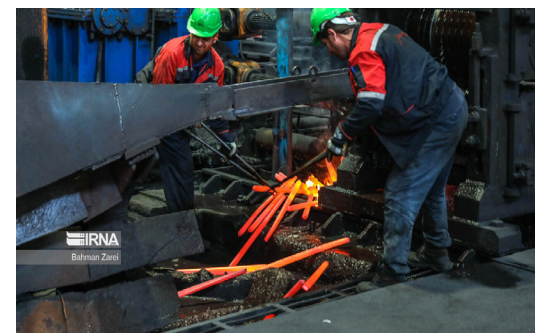
He attributed part of the issue to the Central Bank's directive policies, such as the fixed exchange rate system, which he said discourages exporters. "Exporters do not oppose repatriating export revenues. It is a fundamental part of sustaining production. However, the imposition of fixed rates undermines competitiveness," he said.

Lahouti criticized the Central Bank's interventionist approach, including the imposition of mandatory currency sales on platforms like NIMA (Integrated Forex Management System). For instance, steel exporters faced a 20% decline in exports in the first half of this year due to such policies. Although a recent policy adjustment allowed reinvestment within the steel industry's supply chain, boosting exports, other sectors, such as bitumen producers, continue to face challenges due to discrepancies in exchange rate policies.

He called for greater flexibility and transparency in currency exchange mechanisms, cautioning against policies that could undermine trust in the emerging currency exchange centers.

Lahouti urged the revival of the High Council for Exports and called for strengthening the Trade Promotion Organization by elevating its authority within the government. "The Trade Promotion Organization should be positioned at the level of a vice presidency to ensure all governmental entities comply with its decisions," he argued.

Steel Production Reaches 12.847m Tons



TEHRAN - The Steel Producers Association announced that the total production volume of steel products from the beginning of this year until the end of October reached 12.847 million tons.

According to a report, the total share of long steel products was 6.881 million tons, while flat steel products accounted for 5.966 million tons.

The production of beams reached 877,000 tons, showing a 3.1% growth compared to the same period last year. Additionally, rebar production reached 5.513 million tons.

Angles, channels, and other sections in the long steel products chain accounted for a total of 6.881 million tons.

Production of hot-rolled sheets was reported at 5.645 million tons, cold-rolled sheets at 1.522 million tons, and coated sheets at 1.010 million tons in the flat steel products category.

Intermediate steel production during the first seven months of this year reached 17.340 million tons, including 10.582 million tons of billet and bloom and 6.758 million tons of slabs.

Sponge iron production increased by 15.2% compared to the same period last year, reaching 25.478 million tons.

Iron ore concentrate production grew by 7% year-on-year, reaching 41.839 million tons.

Pelletized iron ore production stood at 37.794 million tons.

Iran, Russia Strengthen Power Sector Collaboration With Major Electric Network Plans



TEHRAN - A high-level meeting between Iranian Minister of Energy Abbas Aliabadi and Russian Energy Minister Sergey Tsvirlyov marked a pivotal step in strengthening ties in the electricity sector. The discussions focused on two critical areas: the construction of the Sirik Power Plant and the establishment of an interconnected electrical network between Iran and Russia.

Aliabadi emphasized the strategic importance of Iran-Russia collaboration, citing Russia as a key regional neighbor. "This meeting was very important because Russia is a significant neighbor, and strengthening ties with them holds special value," he said.

Iran has existing electricity connections with neighbors such as Turkey, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan. However, a direct and stable electrical connection with Russia has not yet been achieved. Proposals for such a link, potentially facilitated through Azerbaijan, have been under consideration for some time.

"Both Iran and Russia possess extensive electrical networks. Connecting these could create a major regional power hub that other countries could also benefit from," Aliabadi noted.

The Sirik Power Plant, a joint initiative between Iran and Russia, was another focal point. Aliabadi confirmed that a formal agreement is in place and expressed eagerness to overcome technical challenges to ensure its timely execution. "This is a signed contract with an implementation plan, and we are determined to resolve any obstacles," he stated.

Russia has shown a willingness to collaborate with Iranian companies to advance the project, signaling mutual commitment to achieving significant milestones.

The meeting also explored opportunities in renewable energy and advanced power systems. Aliabadi outlined Iran's plans to enhance its renewable energy capacity, smart grid development, and high-voltage transmission infrastructure. Russia expressed readiness to cooperate, particularly in transferring gas turbine technology to Iran. A joint working group is set to be established to address this and other initiatives.

Aliabadi highlighted Iran's interest in upgrading its 400-kilovolt grid to reduce transmission losses and support regional power exchanges. "We aim to strengthen our electricity grid to play a more active role in the regional energy economy," he remarked.

The two sides agreed to develop a "technological cooperation roadmap" in the electricity sector. A working group has been formed to lay the groundwork for future agreements.

Toxic Smog Persists Over India's North

NEW DELHI (Dispatches) - Residents in India's northern states woke up to another day of poor air quality on Tuesday, as a layer of dense fog shrouded most of the region and pollution in the capital Delhi remained severe.

India battles air pollution every winter as cold, heavy air traps dust, emissions, and smoke from farm fires started illegally in the farming states of Punjab and Haryana.

The air quality index (AQI) touched a peak of 491 in Delhi on Monday, forcing the government to restrict vehicle movement and construction activities, and urge schools to conduct classes online.

In contrast, air quality improved in the Punjab province of neighbouring Pakistan, prompting authorities in the worst-affected Lahore and Multan cities to reopen schools from Wednesday, after more than a week of being closed due to hazardous pollution levels.



Washington Recognizes Opposition Leader Gonzalez as Venezuela's President-Elect



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States said Tuesday it recognises opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia as president-elect of Venezuela -- the first time it called him that -- four months after a disputed election in which incumbent Nicolas Maduro claimed victory amid accusations of fraud.

The statement from Secretary of State Anthony Blinken prompted a furious reaction from Caracas, which dismissed it as "ridiculous."

"The Venezuelan people spoke resoundingly on July 28 and made (Gonzalez Urrutia) the president-elect," Blinken wrote in a post on X. "Democracy demands respect for the will of the voters."

Read more>Venezuela opposition candidate Gonzalez arrives in Spain after month in hiding

The statement marked the first time the United States has referred to Gonzalez Urrutia with that title, although President Joe Biden has previously said he won the election.

Responding on X, Gonzalez Urrutia said he was grateful for the US recognition. "This gesture honors the change in our country and the civic feat that we carried out together this past July 28."

Maduro claimed victory in the election and defied intense domestic and international pressure to release detailed polling numbers to back up the assertion. Amid an outcry at home and abroad, the former bus driver handpicked by the late Hugo Chavez is now serving his third term in the oil-rich country whose economy is a shambles, as Venezuelans endure acute shortages of food, medicine and other basic goods.

Maduro is accused of leading a harshly repressive leftist regime, with a systematic crackdown on the opposition.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ivan Gil reacted to the Blinken declaration in a message on Telegram, describing him as an "avowed enemy of Venezuela."

Gil referenced Washington's support in 2019 of the National Assembly Speaker Juan Guaido as acting president after Maduro's contested reelection in 2018.

Pressure Grows on Germany's Scholz Over Bid for Second Term



BERLIN (Dispatches) - Pressure is piling on Germany's unpopular Chancellor Olaf Scholz to let someone else lead his Social Democrats into the upcoming snap election to give the party now languishing in third place in polls a better shot of catching up.

The SPD leadership has so far stood firmly behind Scholz's bid to run for a second term as chancellor in the national election, which was brought forward to February 2025 after his fractious three-way coalition collapsed on Nov. 6.

But there are growing calls in the SPD for Scholz to step aside in favour of his more popular defence minister, Boris Pistorius. Two federal lawmakers from Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia, on Monday became the most prominent SPD politicians to date to question his candidacy.

"In the centre is the question of what the best political line-up is now for this election," said Dirk Wiese and Wiebke Esdar.

"We are hearing a lot of compliments for Boris Pistorius. It is clear that ultimately the party committees will decide on the question of the candidacy for chancellor, and that is also the right place for it."

A formal decision of the SPD leadership on the chancellor candidacy had been expected at the end of the month but could come earlier if deemed necessary to end a debate that could further harm the party.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G20 summit in Brazil, Scholz did not directly answer questions about whether he would be the SPD's candidate - striking a more defensive stance on the issue than in previous briefings.

Ukraine Hits Russia With U.S. ATACMS Missiles for First Time

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine used U.S. ATACMS missiles to strike Russian territory on Tuesday, taking advantage of newly granted permission from the outgoing administration of U.S. President Joe Biden on the war's 1,000th day.

Russia said its forces shot down five of six missiles fired at a military facility in the Bryansk region. Debris of one hit the facility, starting a fire that was swiftly put out and caused no casualties or damage, it said.

Ukraine said it struck a Russian arms depot about 110 km (70 miles) inside Russia, an attack that caused secondary explosions. Ukraine's military did not publicly specify the weapons used, but a Ukrainian government source and a U.S. official confirmed it had used ATACMS.

A U.S. official said Russia intercepted two of eight missiles and that the strike was at an ammunition supply point.

Biden gave approval this week for Ukraine to use ATACMS, the longest-range missiles Washington has supplied, for such attacks inside Russia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said the use of ATACMS was a clear signal the West wanted to escalate the conflict.

Moscow has said such weapons cannot be launched without direct U.S. operational support and their use would make Washington a direct combatant in the war, prompting Russian retaliation.

The attacks came as Ukraine marked 1,000 days of war, with a fifth of its territory in Russian hands and doubts about the future of Western support as U.S. President-elect Donald Trump heads back to the White House.

Russia's Defense Ministry also said air defense units destroyed 42 Ukrainian drones in at least eight southern and central regions between 9 p.m. and 11.55 p.m. (1800 to 2055 GMT) on Tuesday, including 32 in Bryansk region.

Ukraine has long deployed drones to hit targets deep inside Russian territory, including airfields and sites associated with energy. But the use of dozens dispatched over a short period of time was unusual.

At the United Nations in New York, Ukraine's U.N. ambassador, Sergiy Kyslytsya, read a statement from his country and 42 others and the European Union, rejecting Russia's "attempted illegal annexation" of Ukrainian territory and demanding immediate withdrawal.

"One thousand days is a tragic reminder of the need to remain resolute in ensuring ... that international law prevails, not just in Ukraine, but wherever it is challenged," he said.

A map showing the range of ATACMS missiles to strike areas within Russia and the town of Karachev, where a Russian arsenal was reportedly attacked.

Military experts say using the U.S. missiles can help Ukraine defend a pocket of captured Russian territory in the Kursk region as a bargaining chip, but was not likely to have a decisive impact on the 33-month-old war, in part as the move comes far too late.

The missile's range of up to 300 km is much shorter than some that Moscow has used to strike Ukraine, including its hypersonic Kinzhal weapon with a reported range of up to 2,000 km.

On Tuesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a new nuclear doctrine that appeared intended as a warning to Washington. It lowers the threshold under which Russia might use atomic weapons to include responding to attacks that threaten its territorial integrity.

Washington said the update to the nuclear doctrine was no surprise and rejected "more of the same irresponsible rhetoric from Russia".

Zelenskiy said the step showed Putin had no interest in peace: "Especially on this day ... they presented (a) nuclear weapons strategy. Why? They didn't present (a) peace strategy. Did you hear it? ... Putin wants war."

The Pentagon said the U.S. State Department has approved another potential \$100 million sale of military equipment and services to Ukraine, while Denmark said it was making a new donation of about \$138 million for development of Ukraine's arms industry.

Trump has criticized the scale of U.S. aid to Kyiv and said he will end the war quickly, without saying how. Both sides appear to anticipate his return in two months will be accompanied by a push for peace talks, which are not known to have taken place since the war's early months.

The warring sides have been escalating to try to secure a stronger position at any negotiations. Zelenskiy says Kyiv must do everything for the war to end diplomatically next year.

"At this stage of the war, it is being decided who will prevail. Whether us over the enemy, or the enemy over us Ukrainians ... and Europeans. And everyone in the world who wants to live freely and not be subject to a dictator," he told parliament.

Dozens of civilians and soldiers gathered for a moment's silence at a candle-lit commemoration in the evening in Kyiv. Some sobbed.

"My life has been turned upside down. There is no life for me. I only want victory and to return home. I am grateful to all the men defending our country," said Yulia, from the city of Mariupol which was captured by Russia in 2022.

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric cited data from the UN Human Rights Office that more than 12,000 civilians had been killed and nearly 27,000 injured in Ukraine over the past 1,000 days, with more than 2,400 child casualties.

Over six million Ukrainians live as refugees abroad and the population has fallen by a quarter since Putin ordered the invasion that began Europe's biggest conflict since World War Two.

Military losses are huge, although casualty figures remain secret. Public Western estimates based on intelligence reports say hundreds of thousands have been wounded or killed on each side.

French Farmers Threaten Chaos Over EU Trade Deal With South America's Mercosur

PARIS (Dispatches) - French farmers stepped up their protests Tuesday against a proposed trade pact between the European Union and four South American countries, blocking a key motorway on the border with Spain and vowing to sow "chaos."

The French government is leading resistance against ratification of the trade agreement with the Mercosur bloc of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay that would create the world's largest free-trade zone.

The new wave of action comes after farmers across Europe, including France, mounted rolling protests last winter over a long list of burdens they say are squeezing revenue.

Dozens of farmers backed by Coordination Rurale (CR), a hard-line farming union, set up a roadblock on the A9 motorway at the southern town of Le Boulou, close to the border with Spain, blocking lorries but allowing cars through, an AFP journalist saw.

"We're going to block the A9, as well as fuel depots, ports and purchasing centres," said Serge Bousquet-Cassagne, a CR representative in the southwest.

"We want to cause chaos and food shortages," he said, adding that the blockade could last several days, pointing to "a river of fruit and vegetables arriving from Spain".

The A9 motorway is a crucial trade route between the Iberian peninsula and the rest of Europe.

In the southwestern town of Agen, demonstrators dumped tyres in front of the prefecture.

The FNSEA and Jeunes Agriculteurs ("Young Farmers"), the more moderate unions that together represent most farmers in France, also backed the protests.

According to the authorities, more than a dozen protests



were under way just before noon, bringing together nearly 900 farmers and more than 300 pieces of farm machinery.

On Monday, farmers staged more than 80 protests across the country, setting up mock gallows and wooden crosses to symbolise the death of French agriculture.

They also blocked the Bridge of Europe, which links France and Germany, to protest against the European Commission's plan to conclude the Mercosur treaty following two decades of talks.

In Bordeaux, on the banks of the Garonne, several dozen farmers burned uprooted vines on Monday evening.

France's political class is unusually unanimous in its opposition to the Mercosur deal.

On Tuesday, government spokeswoman Maud Bregeon said the government would propose a parliament debate followed by a vote, to "reinforce the position of the president and the prime minister."

Bregeon said the government would "continue to fight as long as necessary" with the European Commission to oppose the treaty.

French farmers complain about excessive bureaucracy, low incomes and poor harvests.

They say they have been waiting for the authorities to deliver on the promises of support made by the government before President Emmanuel Macron dissolved parliament's lower house in the summer, sparking a political crisis.

The proposed Mercosur pact has provoked fresh anger.

Farmers fear any agreement would open European Union markets to cheaper meat and produce from South American competitors, who are not forced to adhere to strict EU rules on pesticides, hormones, land use and environmental measures.

Lula Cuts G20 Discussion Short on Ukraine, Irking Europeans

RIO DE JANEIRO (Dispatches) - European delegates at the G20 summit in Brazil were unhappy with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva's decision to end talks and issue the group's final statement a day early to curtail prickly discussion on the war in Ukraine, sources said.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Tuesday he regretted that the G20 communique did not underscore Russia's responsibility in starting the Ukraine war, particularly on the 1,000th day of its full-scale invasion.

"It is too little when the G20 cannot find the words to make it clear Russia is responsible," he said at the end of the two-day summit of the Group of 20 major economies in Rio de Janeiro.

Wording on Ukraine has been thorny at G20 meetings since the war began, because Russia and its allies are sitting at the table. Russian President Vladimir Putin did not attend the Rio summit but was represented by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The communique is usually issued at the end of the summit, but Lula decided to approve the text while wrapping up Monday's plenary session - at a moment the leaders of France, Germany and the United States were not in the room, diplomats said.

"The communique was closed by President Lula. It fell short of the position we could have had," French President Emmanuel Macron told reporters on Monday night, adding



that the text would have benefited from being more explicit on the war.

"This does not change anything in France's position: it is a war of aggression launched by Russia against Ukraine and our priority today is to obtain a lasting peace," Macron added.

A European official called Lula's maneuver "brutal" but his country decided to respect the prerogative of the summit host to decide when to issue the joint statement.

Brazil hastened approval of the communique on Monday night to avoid the risk of the summit ending without a final declaration, even though the Europeans were asking for stronger language on Russia's role in the war, three Brazilian diplomats who were present at the talks told Reuters.

Brazil's Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Sherpas had reached agreement on the final statement early Sunday morning after intense negotiations, but that afternoon France and Germany began to put pressure on Brazil to reopen the text in light of major Russian air strikes on Ukraine. Brazil refused.

French diplomats could have asked on Monday to delay approval of the text until Macron was in the room, but did not, to the relief of the Brazilians.

"To reopen the text would have jeopardized the entire effort of a week of negotiations," a Brazilian official told Reuters.

No Fairytale Ending as Nadal's Career Ends in Defeat



MALAGA (Dispatches) - Rafa Nadal could not conjure the fairytale ending his career deserved as the Spanish 22-times Grand Slam champion bowed out with defeat in the Davis Cup on an emotionally-charged and tearful night in Malaga on Tuesday.

The 38-year-old's legs and mind were as willing as ever but the magic was missing as he lost 6-4 6-4 to Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp in what proved to be his final competitive match.

Spain's new tennis king Carlos Alcaraz levelled the quarter-final tie beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6(0) 6-3 and had Alcaraz and Marcel Granollers then beaten Wesley Koolhof and Van de Zandschulp, Nadal would have got another chance in a semi-final on Friday against Germany or Canada.

But it was not to be as Koolhof, also playing the last event of his career, played out of his skin to rip up the script and inspire the Dutch to a 7-6(4) 7-6(3) victory.

Nadal willed the Spanish duo on from the sidelines, barely sitting down, but looked crestfallen as the reality that it was all over began to sink in.

The Mallorcan, who featured in four Davis Cup winning teams for Spain, was tearful as the anthem was played before the tie.

And after a long speech on court in front of his adoring fans, family, friends and team mates, the tears flowed again as video montage of his stupendous career was played.

"I was just a kid from a small village that had luck because my uncle was a tennis coach and had a family who supported me," Nadal said.

"A lot of people work hard but I am one of the lucky ones that life gave me the opportunity to live

unforgettable experiences because of tennis. I just want to be remembered as a good person and a kid that followed their dreams."

Nadal had won 29 of his previous 30 singles in the team event, his only previous loss in his first tie in 2004.

Last month he announced he was ending his career at the Davis Cup Final Eight, raising the possibility of one last addition to a career that was etched on the Parisian clay on which he won a record 14 French Open titles.

Selected for the singles by captain David Ferrer, Nadal showed flashes of his former brilliance but in what was only his 24th match since the start of 2023, the rust showed and he struggled to hold off the powerful Dutchman who admitted afterwards he would have been cheering for Nadal had he not been required to face him on the court.

When French Open and Wimbledon champion Alcaraz levelled the tie by defeating Griekspoor he said he had "done it for Rafa". But he could not inspire a Spanish win in the doubles as the Dutch duo proved party poopers.

Nadal had been philosophical after his singles defeat -- his first in the event since losing to Jiri Novak in 2004.

"In some ways it is good, maybe, if that was my last match because I lost my first match in the Davis Cup and I lost my last one. We close the circle," he said.

Celtics Hand Cavaliers First Loss of Season



BOSTON (Dispatches) - The defending NBA champions held off the league's hottest team on Tuesday night, with Jayson Tatum scoring 33 points and adding 12 rebounds to lead the Boston Celtics to a 120-117 victory over Cleveland and hand the Cavaliers their first loss after 15 straight wins to open the season.

Cleveland cut a 21-point deficit to two in the third quarter, and Donovan Mitchell hit a rainbow 3-pointer with 24 seconds left to make it a four-point game. Tatum sank one of two free throws, and then clobbered Mitchell at the other end, leaving the Cavaliers guard on the floor in need of medical attention.

Mitchell eventually stepped to the line and sank both free throws, but Boston inbounded the ball without trouble and passed it downcourt for an easy Al Horford dunk to clinch it.

Tatum sank six of Boston's 22 3-pointers, and added seven assists for Boston's third straight win.

Mitchell scored 35 points, and Evan Mobley had 22 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who were the fourth team in NBA history to open the season with 15 wins in a row. The 15-game winning streak was longest in Cavaliers franchise history.

Cleveland was an early surprise as the top team in the Eastern Conference, but it knows it will not be easy to get past Boston, should they meet in the playoffs.

The Celtics scored 19 of the last 26 points in the second quarter to turn a five-point lead into a 65-48 advantage at the break. Cleveland cut a 21-point deficit to two points in the third.

Meanwhile Norman Powell scored 23 points and the Los Angeles Clippers held off the Golden State Warriors 102-99 to win their fifth in a row at home.

Gerson Held by Uruguay; Argentina Win

SALVADOR (Dispatches) - Brazil drew 1-1 with Uruguay in South American qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday after Gerson's brilliant strike cancelled out Federico Valverde's opener for the visitors.

Five-times World Cup winners Brazil are fifth in the CONMEBOL standings on 18 points, one point behind Colombia and Ecuador, after picking up their second straight draw.

Uruguay are second on 20 points, five behind leaders Argentina.

The top six will automatically qualify for the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

After a tight first half, Real Madrid midfielder Valverde opened the scoring in the 55th minute when he curled a fine long-range low shot into the far corner.

Gerson brought the hosts level seven minutes later, the Flamengo midfielder scoring his first international goal with a terrific volley after a poor clearance by the Uruguayan defence.

"I'd actually swap my goal for the win," Gerson told Brazil's Globo TV. "We knew it was a tough game and we wanted to win. We conceded the goal and got the equaliser.

"We'll just have to keep working at our clubs and next year when there's another international break we can go for it. We just have to keep working and trust in our work."

Brazil pushed for a winner but late efforts from Luis Enrique and Raphinha went wide as boos from home fans at the Arena Fonte Nove rang out at the final whistle.

"I think the booing is more about the result, because in my



opinion we gave it all," Raphinha said.

"I'm proud of those who played and even those on the bench. We did everything we could to get the result. We played a lot of football and we have to leave with our heads held high."

Meanwhile a second-half strike from Lautaro Martinez gave Argentina a 1-0 home win over Peru in South American qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup on Tuesday, with the striker's goal moving him into a tie with Diego Maradona as the country's fifth all-time scorer.

Martinez notched his 32nd international goal 10 minutes after the break, capitalising on a fine cross from Lionel Messi to fire home a half-volley into the top-right corner.

"I'm happy because my whole family came and I always want to give my best. This year was very positive and luckily we closed it with a victory," Martinez told local TV.

"It was a spectacular year in terms of performance, goals, games played. We have to keep playing and improving day by day.

"Everyone wants to beat us. Argentina's national team are always the main characters. There are things to improve but we have to continue on this path."

The World Cup holders lead the CONMEBOL standings with 25 points, five clear of Uruguay. Peru are bottom of the 10-team table with seven points after 12 games.

The top six qualify automatically for the World Cup in the United States, Mexico and Canada.

"We are Copa America champions, we are first in the qualifiers. We have to be proud," Argentina goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez said.

Kane Eyes England Future Beyond 2026 World Cup



LONDON (Dispatches) - England captain Harry Kane says he is performing at his highest ever level as he dismissed suggestions the 2026 World Cup should be his international swansong.

Thomas Tuchel will take over as England manager in January with his first matches not until World Cup qualifiers start in March's international break.

Interim boss Lee Carsley guided the Three Lions to promotion from the second tier of the Nations League with five wins from his six games in charge.

That included a 3-0 win away at Greece last week, where Carsley took Kane to the bench.

The 31-year-old striker admitted he had been shocked by that call, but scored in Sunday's 5-0 thrashing of the Republic of Ireland on his return to the starting line-up.

At of Euro 2024 last summer, Kane often looked laboured and was substituted in all four knockout games as England reached the final.

But the Bayern Munich striker has scored 20 times for club and country in 21 appearances this season.

"I think there's a perception when you get to your thirties that you're coming to an end but for me I'm performing at the highest level I've ever performed and feel as good as I've ever felt," Kane told the Press Association.

"I don't like to look too far ahead and in my career I never have, the World Cup is going to be exciting.

"In America it will be an incredible occasion and ultimately it's about trying to win that, looking at where you are, where to improve and it will be no different in a couple of years."

Kane was speaking at the unveiling of a statue of him at the home of his former youth team Ridgeway Rovers in east London.

Already England's all-time record goalscorer with 69 goals in 102 games, Kane could easily also surpass Peter Shilton's record of 125 caps.

But he believes he must help end his nation's wait for a major tournament victory since 1966 to emulate World Cup winning captain Bobby Moore and be honoured with a statue at Wembley.

Kane previously worked with Tuchel at Bayern and is positive about the impact the German can make when he becomes the third foreign manager to take charge of England.

"I think we need to win a major tournament," he added. "We've come close on a couple of occasions and the next step is for me and the other boys to win.

"We have a new coach coming in March. He'll be great for us, he has vast experience in the big competitions, he'll bring a great energy to the team and he'll put his own stamp and identity on the way we play tactically."

Germany, Netherlands Held in Final Group Matches

BUDAPEST (Dispatches) - Already-qualified Germany conceded a stoppage-time equaliser after conceding a penalty and had to settle for a 1-1 draw away to Hungary in their final Nations League group match.

Hungary's Dominik Szoboszlai scored from the spot with the last kick of the game to cancel out Felix Nmecha's 76th minute goal. The hosts already had a place in the League A/B playoffs.

Germany had sealed top spot in Group A3 with Saturday's 7-0 demolition of Bosnia and Herzegovina so coach Julian Nagelsmann rotated heavily with nine changes to his lineup in Hungary.

"I don't really don't want to talk too much about today's game. We did some things right and some other things not," said Nagelsmann.

"After winning 7-0 (against Bosnia) and with nine changes, we took some time to get organised. But you have to look at the big picture. If you see how Hungary celebrated the equaliser then it is a compliment to our team," he added.

Germany, who finished top on 14 points and advance to the quarter-finals with the Netherlands, who also drew 1-1 away to Bosnia and Herzegovina, lacked the explosiveness of the previous match and did not easily find spaces against the Hungarians.

Instead it was the hosts, without assistant coach Adam



Szalai who is recovering after collapsing during Saturday's match against the Netherlands, who set the pace and tested Alexander Nuebel with shots from Andras Schaefer and Zsolt Nagy.

The four-times world champions, with their sights already on the 2026 World Cup co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico, improved after the break and hit the post through Kai Havertz in the 63rd minute.

But visiting goalkeeper Nuebel had to come to the rescue once more by palming Barnabas Varga's effort from point-blank range wide before Nmecha, in his first Germany match as a starter, stabbed in following a goalmouth scramble.

Szoboszlai then bagged the last-gasp penalty for the hosts, who finished third in the group, in the ninth minute of added time. Bottom side Bosnia were already relegated to League B.

Germany, who last won the World Cup in 2014, will kick off the qualification competition in March following December's draw and, after more than decade without any tournament success, they are desperate to restore their international reputation.

"I am overall satisfied with our year if you exclude the Euros and what we could have potentially achieved there," Nagelsmann said. "I have never felt a 'we' feeling like I have here. The team has developed really well.

"In 2026 I feel we will be better prepared than we were in 2024," he said.