

A Senior Iranian Railway Company (IRIR) Official Says the Country Has Added 300 New Wagons to Its Railway Fleet Using Resources Generated Through Oil Barter Arrangements With Other Countries

IRAN NEWS

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi Deplores the United States' Hostility Towards Independent Countries, Particularly Its Threats Against Venezuela

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Division Among Muslims Serves Global Zionism



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian says division and discord among Muslims are exactly what the enemies of Islam desire.

Pezeshkian told a group of Sunni clerics and religious scholars of Iran's western Kordestan province in Sanandaj on Thursday that only through unity, faith, and a return to Islamic brotherhood can the Islamic world confront the conspiracies of the United States, Israel, and global Zionism.

The president warned that internal divisions serve the interests of hostile powers.

"These rifts are what Israel, the United States, and global Zionism seek — to keep the Islamic nation preoccupied with internal disputes while they commit any aggression they wish," he said.

The president described Israel "a small entity established through aggression" that has been able to survive and cause problems for the Islamic world due to divisions among Muslims.

"If unity and cohesion prevail among us, no power will dare to covet Islamic lands," he said, adding that internal discord lies at the root of many of the Muslim world's misfortunes, and "only by returning to faith, brotherhood, and adherence to the divine rope can we overcome this cycle."

The president lamented that the principle of brotherhood — the foundation of religion and morality — has been forgotten, enabling enemies to exploit this weakness.

Strong Iran-Saudi Ties Bring Positive Regional, Global Impact



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's deputy foreign minister for international and legal affairs has underscored the strategic importance of the renewed relationship with Saudi Arabia, saying that growing cordial relations between Tehran and Riyadh are not just beneficial bilaterally but are a powerful force for regional stability and global peace.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks in an X post following a visit to Saudi Arabia aimed at deepening cooperation and coordination between the two regional heavyweights.

The deputy foreign minister stressed that Iran and Saudi Arabia, bound by many shared interests and mutual respect, are well-positioned to serve the common good of their peoples and advance regional peace.

Gharibabadi detailed his meeting with Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs, Abdulrahman al Rassi.

He said the discussions focused on bolstering collaboration within international, regional, and multilateral organizations, as well as advancing key areas like human rights and legal and judicial cooperation.

The officials also exchanged views on strengthening the pivotal role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Iran Forced U.S., Israel to Shift From Unconditional Surrender to Unconditional Ceasefire

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister has hailed the country's resilience in the face of recent 12-day US-Israeli aggression, saying this resilience forced an enemy who demanded unconditional surrender to plead for an unconditional ceasefire.

Speaking at an administrative council meeting in Hamedan province on Thursday evening, Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi declared that the enemy utterly failed in all its objectives during the 12-day conflict.

Araqchi detailed the enemy's miscalculation, noting their assumption that Iran would quickly capitulate under sudden strikes.

He stated that it is a reality that "the enemy failed to achieve all its goals in this 12-day war."

The foreign minister recalled the early days of the war, when they sent messages demanding negotiations for surrender, with American President Donald Trump famously urging "unconditional surrender" in a social media post.

"Their goal in starting the war was surprise and sudden strikes, and they thought Iran would raise its hands in surrender within 2-3 days," he said. "But such a thing was not realized with the prudence of the Leader (Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei) and the rapid replacement of military commanders and the rebuilding of the armed forces and the serious entry of the government into crisis management and securing the country's needs."

Araqchi affirmed the effectiveness of Iran's decisive response, highlighting the indigenous power that forced the enemy's retreat.

He noted that the correct, timely, and "powerful and comprehensive reaction of our armed forces to the enemy's aggression" was also critical in their failure.

Addressing Western claims, he remarked, "I told the heads of states during my meeting with them that many claimed that the skies of Iran were in the hands of Israeli planes during the 12-day war, but they do not mention the part that the sky of the Zionist regime was in the hands of Iran's missiles, and that despite the multi-layered defense with American and European aid, they could not prevent the landing of Iranian missiles."

The accuracy and impact of Iran's deterrent power were undeniable, according to the minister.

"Our missiles, for the first time in a war, hit the enemy's territories more accurately and firmly every day by removing their weak points."

He stressed that the domestic production of this military capability proved decisive, leading to a monumental shift in the enemy's demands.



"The result was that those who said on the first days of the war 'unconditional surrender' said on the twelfth day of the war 'unconditional ceasefire,'" he said. "This is the difference of a nation that can resist with its capabilities and triumph over the enemy."

The minister credited the victory not only to military might and leadership but also to the unwavering support of the Iranian populace.

"Besides the prudence of the Leader and the authority of the armed forces and the efforts of the government and the diplomacy team, the national cohesion and steadfastness of the people were another important factor in the victory over the enemy in the 12-day war."

He cautioned the public to remain vigilant against

divisive tactics.

"The enemy is intensely trying to undermine the cohesion that we witnessed being strengthened during the 12-day war, which was one of the factors of our authority and victory."

Araqchi also detailed the diplomatic victory that accompanied the military success, stating that the foreign policy apparatus worked hard "to defend the righteousness of the system and the Iranian people," leading "120 countries in the world [to] condemn the American and Israeli attack on the soil of the Islamic homeland and express support for the Iranian nation."

Araqchi emphasized that the path to security and progress lies in following the Leader's repeated guidance that "our progress and the way to our survival and our dignity is in becoming strong."

"We must become strong. This is a reality in the international arena that any country that is strong makes way for itself, and the weaker ones are suppressed. We must strengthen ourselves from all sides to remove the shadow of war, threats, and sanctions from ourselves."

Pointing to the performance of the armed forces in the recent war, the minister declared a return to, and even surpassing of, previous military strength.

"Our armed forces spared no effort in this regard, and today I can say with knowledge that the capability of the armed forces, our defensive capability, and our missile capability have returned to before June 13th, and are even stronger."

Araqchi concluded by underscoring that what deters enemies is the "readiness for war."

"The enemies started the war with their miscalculations, but now they know that the Islamic Republic is more ready than ever to defend itself, and all of this has caused the tension of war to decrease, and it has become certain for them that in no war against the people of Iran will they achieve their goals."

Increased Economic Ties, Exchanges Top on Iran-Pakistan Agenda

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf says the development of economic relations and increasing the volume of trade are among the main priorities of Iran and Pakistan.

In a meeting with Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad, Qalibaf hailed the Pakistani people's support for the Iranian nation in the face of the Israeli regime's 12-day war in mid-June.

"Undoubtedly, Iran and Pakistan can stand together against the excessive demands of the Zionist regime (Israel) and its supporters due to their numerous common interests," he said.

Qalibaf added that the two countries can cooperate with each other in many political, economic, and cultural fields, noting that his current visit to Islamabad is aimed at exploring possible ways to deepen mutual ties.

Sadiq, for his part, said Pakistan has condemned Israel's acts of aggression against Iran as the Tel Aviv regime is the common enemy of both nations.

He added that members of Iran-Pakistan friendship groups would devise new strategies to promote mutual ties, while senior parliamentary officials of the two countries would discuss the issue in detail.

Pakistani Chairman Senate, Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani, on Thursday stressed the importance of enhancing synergy and cooperation with Iran.

In a meeting with Qalibaf, Gilani reiterated Pakistan's commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the region.

The parties discussed the latest developments pertaining to bilateral cooperation, parliamentary interactions, future opportunities and challenges, particularly an increase in mutual trade volume.

Pakistan, Iran's most populous neighbor with bilateral trade exceeding \$3 billion, has joined Iran in expressing a determination to boost trade volume to \$10 billion through targeted planning and by removing existing barriers.

During the official two-day visit of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian to Pakistan in August, Tehran and Islamabad signed 12 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in various sectors.

The agreements cover a wide range of areas, including tourism, agriculture, judicial and legal cooperation, industry, science and technology, transportation and transit, cultural heritage, and commercial and economic cooperation.

Meanwhile during Qalibaf's visit to Islamabad, Iran and Pakistan took a significant step toward



strengthening their cultural and media partnership by signing five cooperation agreements covering radio, television, film, and technical collaboration.

The accords were finalized during a visit by a high-ranking Iranian media delegation to Islamabad, led by Ahmad Norouzi, Deputy Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and Chief of its World Service.

The agreements were signed between IRIB and Pakistani institutions, including Pakistan Television (PTV), Sub TV, Cinepax Media, and Vsh TV, encompassing program exchanges, joint productions, training, technical collaboration, and participation in cultural festivals.

A key feature is Iran's technical and educational contribution to the planned Punjab Film City project, aimed at enhancing cinematic infrastructure and fostering cultural exchange.

At the signing ceremony, the Iranian delegation described the accords as a practical step in advancing Iran's media diplomacy in South Asia and laying the groundwork for sustainable cultural and media cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad.

In his speech, Norouzi said Iran would not forget friends who stood by it during wartime, referencing Pakistan's expressions of solidarity during the 12-day US-Israeli aggression against Iran in June 2025.

Norouzi highlighted the resilience of Iranian media workers during the war, singling out Sahar Emami, a young IRIB journalist who became a symbol of steadfastness by continuing to broadcast under direct Israeli bombardment.

"What was seen of Sahar Emami's steadfastness and perseverance, along with that of all my colleagues in IRIB, was only a glimpse of the endurance and faith of the Iranian nation during the time of war," Norouzi stated.

Pakistan's Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Attaulah Tarar hailed the agreements as a milestone in bilateral relations, saying that Iran-Pakistan media cooperation would strengthen Islamic unity, counter Western distortions, and enhance cultural interaction between the two nations.

On November 3, during a visit to the Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation (PBC), the Iranian delegation and Pakistani counterparts emphasized expanding technical and content cooperation between their national broadcasters, exploring joint channels, and exchanging radio programming.

Both delegations underscored the role of radio in advancing cultural diplomacy and countering Western media narratives.

U.S., Europe Urged to Show Sincerity to Rebuild Trust With Iran



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian has urged the United States and Europe to demonstrate sincerity if they wish to rebuild trust with Iran.

In a phone call with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Pezeshkian said they must respect Iran's rights and stop raising excessive demands.

Iran has always welcomed dialogue and engagement, Pezeshkian reiterated, but said the burden of proof now lies with the West.

"It is not Iran that must prove its honesty and build confidence. Rather, it is the United States and Europe that must prove their sincerity and earn the trust of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Iranian president pointed to the country's consistent position on its nuclear work, rooted in the fatwa of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and Iran's defensive doctrine, which holds that Tehran never seeks nuclear weapons.

Despite this, he said, Iran continues to face baseless accusations and escalating sanctions under the false pretext of pursuing a nuclear arsenal. Pezeshkian emphasized that problems can only be resolved through logic and dialogue, not through coercion or threats.

"Where misunderstandings can be addressed through reason, the use of force only deepens differences and divisions."

For his part, Macron thanked Pezeshkian for the steps taken to implement past agreements and expressed his intention to work toward a new framework for negotiations between Iran and Western states.

He said continued dialogue was essential to build transparency and trust, to lift sanctions, and improve bilateral relations.

Iran, Resistance Axis Warn Over Dangerous Israeli Escalation in Lebanon



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has condemned Israel's new wave of escalating aggression against Lebanon, reminding the international community and regional countries of their obligation to confront Tel Aviv's warmongering, and hold the regime accountable and punish it.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Friday, one day after Israeli warplanes conducted a wave of airstrikes on the southern Lebanese towns of Kfar Dounin, Zawtar al-Sharqiyyah, Ayt al-Jabal, Taybeh, and Tayr Debba, killing at least one person and injuring nine others.

The ministry warned about the dangerous consequences of Israel's impunity and the continuation of its belligerent and expansionist policies on regional peace and security.

"The Zionist regime's attacks against Lebanon, which have martyred and wounded over a thousand innocent civilians since last year's ceasefire and destroyed infrastructure and residential areas, are a blatant violation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the independent country and amount to a heinous crime against international peace and security," it added.

"These criminal attacks, which are undoubtedly planned and carried out with the United States' full support and partnership, are yet another indication of the criminal, terrorist, and hegemonic nature of the Zionist regime. Their sole aim is to undermine Lebanon's sovereignty and security and to obstruct the country's reconstruction and development."

IRAN NEWS



Iran, Russia Hold Talks to Boost Maritime Transport Cooperation

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran and Russia have engaged in discussions aimed at expanding cooperation in maritime transport. Saeed Rasouli, Iran's Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Head of the Ports and Maritime Organization, met Wednesday in Moscow with Russian officials ahead of a joint maritime transport meeting in Makhachkala.

The meeting, held at the Iranian Embassy, included talks with Dmitry Zverev, Russia's Deputy Transport Minister, and Tarasenko, Head of the Federal Agency for Maritime and River Transport. According to the Iranian Embassy in Moscow, the two sides reviewed the current state of cooperation and explored ways to enhance multimodal and maritime transport through the Caspian Sea.

Charitable and Humanitarian Efforts: A New Area of Cooperation Between Iran and Malaysia



IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRA - In a meeting between the Chairman of Malaysia's Islamic NGOs Consultative Council and the Head of Iran's Interests Section in Cairo, both sides expressed readiness to expand cooperation, discussing proposals for sharing experiences and organizing joint programs in the fields of charity and humanitarian work.

According to IRNA, the Malaysian delegation, led by Mohammad Aziz Abdul Hamid, Chairman of the Islamic NGOs Consultative Council of Malaysia, met on Wednesday, October 30, 2025, with Mojtaba Ferdowsipour, Head of the Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Cairo.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations, the latest activities of the Malaysian council, and ways to strengthen cooperation in humanitarian and Islamic affairs.

Abdul Hamid expressed appreciation for Iran's continued support of the oppressed people of Gaza and voiced hope that the Islamic world would witness greater unity and solidarity.

He also welcomed the establishment of a ceasefire in Gaza and expressed hope that broad humanitarian assistance could soon reach the people of the region, emphasizing the need for joint efforts in reconstruction and relief operations.

Ferdowsipour, for his part, highlighted Malaysia's important position in the Islamic world and the active role of its NGOs in charitable and humanitarian activities. He reiterated Iran's readiness to enhance cooperation with the Malaysian council and presented several proposals for experience-sharing and the organization of joint initiatives.

The Islamic NGOs Consultative Council of Malaysia is an umbrella organization comprising over 200 non-governmental organizations, established in 2016 to strengthen, coordinate, and promote the activities of Malaysia's Islamic NGOs in areas such as education, healthcare, humanitarian aid, and social development.

Resumption of Pakistan-Turkey Freight Train Via Iran Announced



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - After years of suspension, the freight train service connecting Pakistan and Turkey through Iran is set to resume operations on December 31, marking a renewed chapter in regional rail connectivity.

Originally launched over 16 years ago as a trial route between Islamabad and Istanbul via Tehran, the service was halted due to poor management, repeated delays, and infrastructure challenges. The planned relaunch aims to address past inefficiencies, enhance transport capacity, and strengthen regional trade links, according to ISNA (Iranian Students' News Agency).

The service had previously faced interruptions due to flooding, administrative delays, communication issues, and infrastructure damage in Pakistan. Despite a revival attempt in December 2021, operations continued only until August 2022, before being suspended once again. Officials now say the upcoming relaunch will ensure smoother and more reliable rail services across the three nations.

Speaking at Pakistan Railways Headquarters, Federal Minister for Railways Muhammad Hanif Abbasi stated: "We initially intended to restart the Islamabad-Tehran-Istanbul (ITI) service earlier, but regional instability — particularly the ongoing conflict involving Israel — caused delays. Our trade ministers are now finalizing the list of goods to be transported between Pakistan and Turkey, and we have set December 31 as the target date for resumption."

The rail line spans over 2,000 kilometers, linking Islamabad to Tehran via the Taftan border, and continues along the North-South transport corridor. Due to differences in track gauge, cargo will be transferred at Zahedan, Iran, before proceeding through Central Asia, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. The entire 8,000-kilometer route is expected to take 20 to 25 days for transit — roughly half the time required by sea routes.

Iran, China Urged to Strengthen Private Sector Economic Relations

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Iran Trade Development Center in Shanghai officially opened its doors this week, marking a new chapter in Iran-China economic cooperation. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Mahmoud Najafi Arab, President of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, and Fereydoun Verdi-Nejad, the Chamber's Secretary-General. Also present were Alaeddin Boroujerdi, former Iranian ambassador to China and head of the Iran-China Friendship Group, Ali Mohammadi, Iran's Consul General in Shanghai, along with a group of Iranian and Chinese business leaders.

During the ceremony, Fereydoun Verdi-Nejad, who previously served as Iran's ambassador to China, emphasized the urgent need to strengthen private sector economic relations between the two nations.

Verdi-Nejad highlighted the global context in which Iran and China now operate, noting that "intense international competition and Western—particularly American—efforts to diminish the role of Asia in global value chains make it essential for Iran and China to collaborate on securing regional and global supply chains."

He urged Iran to develop joint projects with China in key sectors such as advanced agriculture, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, mining, modern infrastructure, and food industries. By leveraging its logistical advantages, transit routes, and untapped natural reserves, Iran could become a key technological partner in major regional initiatives such as China's Belt and Road Initiative and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), he said.

The Tehran Chamber's Secretary-General presented a number of practical proposals for enhancing bilateral trade and investment. He emphasized the importance of Iran and China joining international and regional coalitions that resist unilateral sanctions and promote multilateralism and rule-based trade systems.

Verdi-Nejad also called for the creation of a regional dialogue forum aimed at ensuring the security of energy production and supply chains and strengthening transit corridors across Asia. To that end, he proposed forming a joint operational task force to oversee the implementation of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement between Iran and China, with a clear timetable and regular progress reports.

One of his more innovative suggestions was the creation of a digital platform to monitor bilateral and multilateral cooperation. This would include a digital barter system allowing trade in goods using Iranian rials and Chinese yuan, backed by the two countries' central banks.

Verdi-Nejad also urged enhanced cooperation within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization to address legal and cyber threats to national economies. "Joint scientific and practical collaboration is essential to counter sanctions and organized cyber and physical attacks on productive assets," he said.

The former ambassador proposed establishing joint financial institutions and insurance mechanisms to facilitate trade, along with mutual transport companies in the road and rail sectors. Such ventures could link western China through Iran to Europe, extending as far as the Netherlands—further advancing the Belt and Road



vision.

He underscored the need for preferential and supportive tariffs to enhance market competitiveness and attract Chinese investment in renewable energy, suggesting "a cooperative business model" to structure these partnerships.

Verdi-Nejad also called for stronger cooperation between the private sectors and chambers of commerce of both countries, saying Iran must create "legal, commercial, and transport infrastructure" to actively integrate into regional value chains. Private sector participation in platforms such as the Boao Forum for Asia and other Asian and Eurasian dialogues would, he argued, give Iran a stronger presence in the evolving Asian economic

architecture.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the Iran-China Friendship Group and current member of parliament, echoed these views in his remarks. He said Iran, as one of the world's largest oil and gas producers, possesses vast untapped potential that must be realized through concrete action. "The 25-year cooperation roadmap between our two countries is a vital framework," he said, adding that it is now the responsibility of Iranian officials—particularly diplomats in China—to implement it.

Boroujerdi also stressed the central role of Iran's people and private sector in overcoming the country's challenges. "Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian people have been key to solving national problems," he said. "In today's economic arena, the private sector, represented by the Chamber of Commerce, must play a leading role in advancing trade and development."

He urged the Iranian government to empower private enterprises by transferring operational responsibilities for commercial and economic affairs from state institutions to private hands.

Ali Mohammadi, Iran's Consul General in Shanghai, referred to the centuries-old ties between Iran and China dating back to the ancient Silk Road. He noted that the bilateral relationship is "founded not merely on economic interests but on mutual respect and strategic cooperation."

He described the new trade development center as a platform that could strengthen collaboration in high-tech industries, knowledge-based production, and the supply of industrial raw materials.

"The Consulate stands ready to assist business leaders from both nations," Mohammadi said. "We will use every diplomatic and administrative resource available to help the private sectors of Iran and China expand their cooperation in a secure and efficient environment."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, Ebrahim Yousef-Nejad, head of the newly established Iran Trade Development Center in Shanghai, presented plaques of appreciation to Fereydoun Verdi-Nejad, Alaeddin Boroujerdi, and Ali Mohammadi for their contributions to strengthening Iran-China relations.

As a symbolic gesture, Mahmoud Najafi Arab and Fereydoun Verdi-Nejad signed a commemorative poster marking the opening of the center—signaling a renewed commitment to deepening economic ties between the two nations, with the private sector taking the lead in a new era of cooperation.

13% Growth Target for Iran's Mining Sector Requires \$30b Investment

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's mining sector will need \$30 billion in new investment to achieve the 13% growth target set under the country's Seventh Development Plan, according to Somayeh Kholousi, Deputy for Planning and Empowerment at the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Speaking at a coordination meeting between members of the Iranian Parliament's Industry and Mining Commission and IMIDRO officials, Kholousi said achieving this goal could add \$15 billion in foreign currency revenues to the national economy.

She noted that the mining and mineral industries generated over 330 trillion tomans in revenue last year and provided jobs for more than 500,000 people.

Kholousi added that the attractiveness of investment in this sector has led to mining industries accounting for 24% of the total value of Iran's capital market, while the value of exports in the mining and mineral chain has exceeded \$13 billion.

According to IMIDRO data, the total value of production in the mining and mineral sector is estimated at \$35 billion, of which \$14 billion represents non-oil exports—reflecting a decrease in dependence on imported raw materials for other industries.

Kholousi outlined several new strategic priorities for IMIDRO, including: Completing the value chain by focusing on semi-finished projects; Developing advanced and smart technologies; Strengthening energy infrastructure; and Playing a more active role in removing production barriers.

She reported that in the current year (1403 in the Iranian calendar), projects worth \$3 billion were commissioned, with another \$2.9 billion in projects planned for completion in 1404.

On exploration, Kholousi said that from 2013 to 2024, over 3 million meters of exploratory drilling had been carried out with 10 trillion tomans in investment, leading to the discovery of reserves valued at \$30 billion.

She also highlighted that the total value of IMIDRO's subsidiary company divestments since 2021 has reached 571 trillion rials, of which 70%—equivalent to 40 trillion tomans—should be reflected in the 2026 national budget as IMIDRO's receivable income.

Kholousi emphasized that legal and administrative constraints have hindered IMIDRO's developmental missions and called for the



organization to be managed in accordance with its original statute to maximize its contribution to the economy.

In the same meeting, Mohammad-Masoud Samieinejad, Chairman of IMIDRO's Board and Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine, and Trade, stressed that the development goals of the mining and mineral industries can only be achieved if IMIDRO returns to its founding statute, as approved by the Iranian Parliament.

He noted that Iran's progress in steel, copper, aluminum, gold, and lead-zinc industries had occurred during periods when IMIDRO operated under its original mandate. However, changes in laws and regulations in recent years had diverted the organization from its path, stalling development.

Citing the Supreme Leader's concerns about this sector, Samieinejad reaffirmed the need to strengthen the mining sector's role in the national economy, given its potential for job creation, foreign currency generation, and balanced regional development.

Following remarks from parliament members expressing readiness to cooperate with IMIDRO, Samieinejad said that close collaboration between the government and Parliament is essential for achieving the Seventh Development Plan's objectives.

He added that over the past decade, the imposition of non-statutory regulations had weakened IMIDRO's effectiveness as a national development body, despite the efforts of its previous executives under difficult conditions.

Samieinejad emphasized that "we are all in the same boat", calling for joint efforts to promote national development and elevate Iran's economic position.

He also acknowledged that some of the sector's challenges stem from the current Mining Law, which needs revision. "We must restore IMIDRO to its original track," he said, "or no significant progress will be achieved."

Highlighting IMIDRO's new operational priorities, Samieinejad said the organization will intensify exploration activities, describing exploration as the engine of growth for mining and mineral industries.

He also warned of a potential shortage of raw materials for the country's mineral industries in the coming years and urged action to secure resources from foreign mines, particularly in neighboring countries.

Roadmap for Reviving Trade Cooperation With Kuwait Drafted



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN – After 12-year hiatus, the 13th Joint Trade Commission between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait concluded its work with the goal of strengthening economic, commercial, and investment cooperation between the two neighboring countries. The three-day meeting was hosted by Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

According to the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait, the final agreement of the session was signed by Marwa Baddah Al-Juaidan, Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry of Kuwait, and Mohammad Dehghan Dehnavi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mohammad Toutounchi, Iran's Ambassador to Kuwait, along with a number of customs and port officials from both countries.

In her closing remarks, Al-Juaidan stated that the discussions focused primarily on food security and the safety of food products, aiming to ensure a sustainable supply chain and enhance the safety of food goods exchanged between the two nations.

She added that talks also covered the development of cooperation in trade, economy, investment, and transport sectors—including land, air, and sea transportation. In addition, both sides emphasized the need to strengthen industrial cooperation, professional training, and the exchange of expertise in developing skilled human resources.

Al-Juaidan noted that these discussions have opened new horizons and practical foundations for deepening bilateral cooperation and paved the way for collaboration between the public and private sectors of both countries.

Iran, Kenya Explore New Avenues for Economic Cooperation



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya in Tehran met with Masoud Barahman, President of the Iran-East Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce, to discuss strategies for expanding economic, trade, and technological cooperation between the two countries.

According to Iran Chamber Online, citing the public relations office of the Joint Chamber, both sides emphasized the need to strengthen trade relations and joint investments. They identified six key areas of cooperation: trade and investment, agriculture and food industries, construction projects, technology and the digital economy, financial and logistics routes, and tourism and cultural exchanges.

Trade and Investment: Proposals included forming a Joint Iran-Kenya Economic Committee under the Iran-East Africa Chamber to follow up on bilateral projects, reducing customs tariffs on selected goods, and establishing a permanent exhibition center for Iranian products in Nairobi.

Agriculture and Food Industries: Both parties discussed expanding cooperation in the export of agricultural machinery, processing of agricultural products such as tea, coffee, and dairy, and the establishment of joint farms and packaging factories.

Construction and Infrastructure: Iranian companies specializing in construction, infrastructure, and energy were introduced for participation in Kenya's development projects, including housing and road construction.

Technology and Digital Economy: The sides explored collaboration in renewable energy, fintech, and artificial intelligence, along with the creation of a joint Iran-Kenya Innovation Center to foster technology transfer and joint ventures.

Sudan's RSF Agrees to U.S. Proposal for Humanitarian Ceasefire

KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces agreed to a proposal from the United States and Arab powers for a humanitarian ceasefire and is open to talks on a cessation of hostilities, it said in a statement.

Both the RSF and the Sudanese army have agreed to various ceasefire proposals during their two-and-a-half-year-old war, though none have succeeded. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has said it was working towards ending fighting in Sudan.

The announcement, which the Sudanese army did not immediately respond to, comes less than two weeks after the RSF took over the famine-stricken city of al-Fashir, consolidating its control over the vast, western region of Darfur.



UNSC Removes Sanctions on Syria's President, Interior Minister



UNITED NATIONS (Dispatches) - The United Nations Security Council has removed sanctions on Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who is due to meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

The U.S.-drafted resolution on Thursday also lifted sanctions on Syrian Interior Minister Anas Khattab. It received 14 votes in favor, while China abstained.

Washington has been urging the 15-member Security Council for months to ease Syria sanctions. Trump announced a major U.S. policy shift in May when he said he would lift U.S. sanctions on Syria.

"I think he's doing a very good job," Trump said later on Thursday of Sharaa. "It's a tough neighborhood, and he's a tough guy, but I got along with him very well. And a lot of progress has been made with Syria."

"We did take the sanctions off Syria in order to give them a fighting shot," he told reporters in Washington.

After 13 years of civil war, Syria's President Bashar al-Assad was ousted in December in a lightning offensive by insurgent forces led by the Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS).

Formerly known as the Nusra Front, HTS was al Qaeda's official wing in Syria until breaking ties in 2016. Since May 2014, the group has been on the U.N. Security Council's al Qaeda and Islamic State sanctions list.

U.S. Senate Blocks Resolution That Would Have Kept Trump From Striking Venezuela



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. Senate Republicans blocked a resolution on Thursday that would have prevented President Donald Trump from attacking Venezuela without congressional authorization, a day after administration officials told lawmakers that Washington is not currently planning strikes on Venezuelan territory.

The Senate voted 51 to 49, largely along party lines, against a measure that would have brought the war powers resolution up for a vote.

Only two of Trump's fellow Republicans joined Democrats in backing the measure, in a show of the party's support for Trump's military buildup in the southern Caribbean after two months of deadly strikes against boats off Venezuela.

The Trump administration says that, since early September, U.S. forces have launched at least 16 strikes against such vessels in the Pacific and southern Caribbean, killing more than 65 people.

The prolonged campaign has heightened concern that Trump will launch an attack on Venezuela itself, which prompted the introduction of the bipartisan resolution. Its lead sponsors were Democrats Tim Kaine of Virginia and Adam Schiff of California, and Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky.

China's Exports Suffer Worst Downturn Since Feb as Tariffs Hammer U.S. Demand

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Chinese exports unexpectedly fell in October after months of frontloading U.S. orders to beat President Donald Trump's tariffs, in a stark reminder of the manufacturing juggernaut's reliance on American consumers even as it woos buyers elsewhere.

The world's second-largest economy has pushed hard to diversify its export markets since Trump won last November's presidential election, bracing for a resumption of the trade war that dominated his first term in office, and seeking closer trade ties with Southeast Asia and the European Union.

But no other country comes close to matching China's sales of more than \$400 billion in goods to the U.S. each year, a loss that economists estimate has cut China's export growth by around 2 percentage points, or roughly 0.3% of GDP.

The October customs data on Friday underlined that point, as China's outbound shipments shrank 1.1%, the worst performance since February, reversing from an 8.3% rise in September, and missing a forecast for 3.0% growth in a Reuters poll.

"Last month's weakness was driven by a broad-based slowdown in shipments to non-U.S. markets," said Zichun Huang, China economist at Capital Economics, adding that while shipments to the U.S. fell sharply, a rise in exports to transit hubs such as Vietnam suggested producers were still trying to beat the duties and move inventory to the U.S.

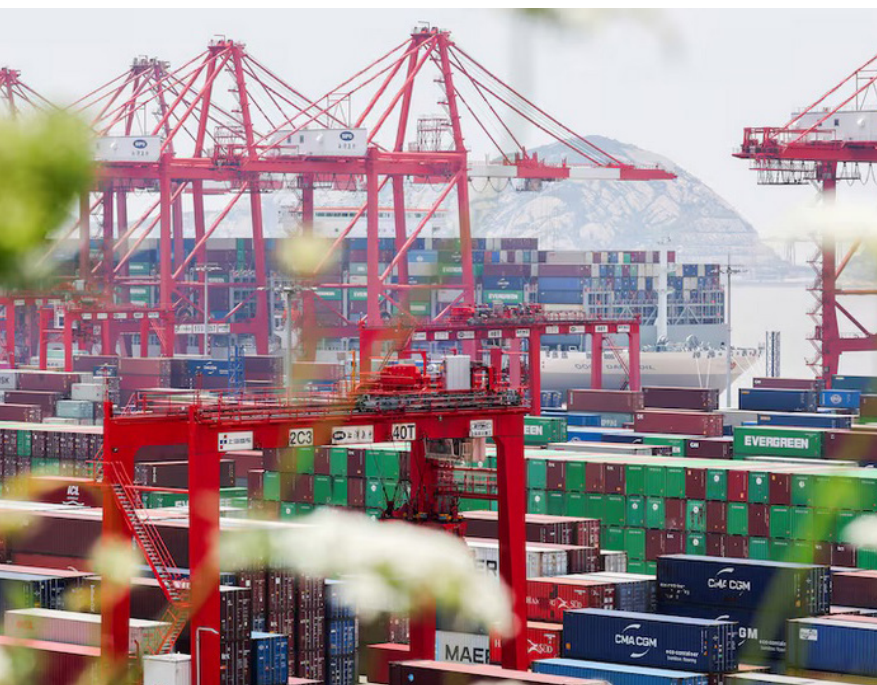
To be sure, the latest figure was affected by a high base from last October when exports grew at their fastest pace in over two years, as factories began rushing inventory to major markets in anticipation of Trump making a comeback to the White House.

However, most analysts largely agreed Chinese manufacturers had pushed as many goods into the world as possible for now.

"Exports through Vietnam to the U.S. will decelerate once the frontloading is over, and we're there. So I think it's going to be much tougher for China in the fourth quarter, which means it's going to be tougher in the first half of 2026 as well," said Alicia Garcia-Herrero, chief economist for the Asia-Pacific at Natixis.

Chinese exports to the U.S. tumbled 25.17% year-on-year, the data showed, while those to the European Union and Southeast Asian economies - big trading partners with whom policymakers have sought to bolster ties amid tariff tensions with Washington - grew by just 0.9% and 11.0%, respectively.

"I think the PMI was already warning us that Chinese exports cannot continue to grow forever, and it's not only because



of the U.S. but because the global economy is slowing," Garcia-Herrero said.

The official purchasing managers' index fell to a six-month low, with factory owners reporting a marked drop in new export orders.

Woei Chen Ho, economist at UOB Singapore, said the U.S.-China trade truce struck by the two leaders earlier this month would stabilise the outlook in the near-term, but forecast that "both countries will try to reduce their interdependence and we're going to see the U.S. share of China trade, especially exports, drop."

Tensions between China and the U.S. unexpectedly spiked in early October, after Trump threatened 100% levies on Chinese goods in response to Beijing dramatically expanding its export controls on rare earth metals.

The mood eased after Trump met with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week in South Korea, when both sides agreed to extend their trade truce - previously scheduled to expire on November 10 - for another year.

Still, U.S.-bound Chinese goods will face an average tariff rate around 45%, above the 35% level that some economists say wipes out Chinese manufacturers' profit margins.

China's trade surplus came in at \$90.07 billion in October, from \$90.45 billion a month prior, and missing a forecast of \$95.6 billion.

Insufficient domestic demand remains a hurdle, however.

That was underlined by the data on imports, which expanded at their slowest pace in five months, up 1.0% compared to 7.4% growth in September and a 3.2% forecast rise.

Officials said last month China will aim to raise the percentage of household consumption of GDP "significantly" over the next five years, after a key conclave of the ruling Communist Party's Central Committee mapped out economic and policy goals for 2026-2030.

"Now that export momentum has weakened, China may need to rely more on domestic demand," said Zhang Zhiwei, chief economist at Baoyin Capital Management. "Fiscal policy is expected to be more aggressive in the first quarter of 2026."

China's imports of soybeans, crude oil, and iron ore rose in October from a year earlier, with record soybean purchases from South America attributed to crushers rushing to buy before potential price spikes in Brazil caused by missed China-U.S. shipments, while energy imports were supported by competitive prices.

But copper purchases, key to the construction sector, dropped as consumers shied away from restocking due to high prices for the metal and as a prolonged property downturn continues to crimp demand.

Trump Says Kazakhstan to Join Abraham Accords



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Kazakhstan will join the Abraham Accords to have normalized relations between Israel and Muslim-majority nations.

The announcement came after Trump said he had held a call with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

"We will soon announce a Signing Ceremony to make it official, and there are many more Countries trying to join this club of STRENGTH," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The Kazakh government said in a statement that the matter was in the final stage of negotiations.

"Our anticipated accession to the Abraham Accords represents a natural and logical continuation of Kazakhstan's foreign policy course — grounded in dialogue, mutual respect, and regional stability," it added.

Kazakhstan already has full diplomatic relations and economic ties with Israel, meaning the move would be largely symbolic, something Secretary of State Marco Rubio pushed back against on Thursday.

"It's an enhanced relationship beyond just diplomatic relations," he said.

"It is... with all the other countries that are part of the accord. You're now creating a partnership that brings special and unique economic development on all sorts of issues that they can work on together."

Trump met with Tokayev alongside four other Central Asian leaders from

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan at the White House on Thursday as the U.S. seeks to gain influence in a region long dominated by Russia and increasingly courted by China.

"Some of the countries represented here are going to be joining the Abraham Accords... and those announcements will be made over the next little while," Trump said.

U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff said earlier at a business forum in

Florida that he would be returning to Washington for the announcement, without naming the country.

Axios first reported that the country would be Kazakhstan.

A second source familiar with the matter said the United States hopes that Kazakhstan's entry will help reinvigorate the Abraham Accords, the expansion of which has been on hold during the Gaza war.

Trump has repeatedly said he wants to expand the accords that he brokered during his first term in the White House.

The United Arab Emirates and Bahrain established ties with Israel in 2020 under the Trump-brokered Abraham Accords. Morocco established ties with Israel later the same year.

Trump has been upbeat about the prospects that regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia will finally join the accords since a ceasefire went into effect in Gaza last month, but Riyadh has shown no willingness to move ahead without at least a pathway to Palestinian statehood.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is expected to visit the White House on November 18.

Other Central Asian countries such as Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan, both of which have close ties with Israel, have also been seen as potentially joining the Abraham Accords, which is considered a signature foreign policy achievement of Trump's first term.

Peru Declares Sheinbaum Persona Non Grata as Asylum Case Heightens Tensions

LIMA (Dispatches) - Peruvian lawmakers said Mexico's president was unwelcome in the country, escalating a diplomatic row as it weighs whether to grant safe passage to Mexico to an opposition politician holed up at the Mexican embassy in Lima.

Peru's Congress voted to declare President Claudia Sheinbaum a "persona non grata" days after its government severed diplomatic ties with Mexico for granting asylum to Betssy Chavez, the last prime minister for Peru's ousted and now jailed former President Pedro Castillo.

Mexico's government said in a statement it rejected the declaration and had offered Chavez asylum in strict accordance with international law, and rejected Peru's allegation that it constituted an "unfriendly act".

Peruvian Foreign Minister Hugo de Zela told Reuters that legal experts are urgently reviewing the "1954 Caracas Convention," which Mexico invoked to justify the asylum.

"It's an analysis we've asked to be done quickly, but with the necessary care to do it well," said De Zela, who was tapped as foreign minister last



month by Peru's new President Jose Jeri after assuming office.

Relations between the two countries have been strained since Mexico granted asylum to Castillo's wife and children following his arrest. Castillo is awaiting sentencing.

De Zela said a final decision on Chavez is expected by the end of the week.

Chavez is facing charges of conspiracy for her alleged role in Castillo's 2022 attempt to dissolve Congress. Prosecutors are seeking a 25-year prison sentence for her.

Mexico is also facing tensions with Peru's neighbor Ecuador. It granted asylum to a former prime minister last year but Ecuadorean security forces stormed the embassy to arrest him, causing Mexico to break off diplomatic relations.

Peru said it broke relations with Mexico due to the "unfriendly act" of the northern country granting asylum to Chavez.

"We are interested in having good relations with all countries in the region... provided it is clearly understood that there cannot be interference in internal affairs," De Zela said.



Djokovic, Musetti on Athens Collision Course

ATHENS (Dispatches) - No. 1 seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia and No. 2 seed Lorenzo Musetti of Italy advanced to the semifinals of the Hellenic Championship on Thursday in Athens.

Djokovic hit nine aces and saved both break points he faced in a 7-6 (1), 6-4 victory over Portuguese sixth seed Nuno Borges. Musetti, who must win the title in Athens to leapfrog Canada's Felix Auger-Aliassime for the eighth and final berth in the Nitto ATP Finals, swept past French fifth seed Alexandre Muller 6-2, 6-4.

Djokovic will face Yannick Hanfmann in the semis after the German qualifier beat Marcos Giron 7-6 (3), 6-4. Musetti's opponent will be Sebastian Korda, who fired 13 aces without a double fault during a 6-3, 6-2 triumph over Serbia's Miomir Kecmanovic that required just 58 minutes.

Ukrainian lucky loser Vitaliy Sachko continued to make the most of his second chance in Metz, France, as he beat France's Clement Tabur in three sets to reach the semifinals.

Sachko had nine aces and saved 6 of 7 break points en route to beating Tabur 6-4, 3-6, 6-4. Sachko's next opponent will be Learner Tien, who came back to beat Italy's Matteo Berrettini 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

The only seeded player still standing is No. 7 Cameron Norrie of Great Britain, who survived French lucky loser Kyrian Jaquet 4-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4. Norrie will meet Lorenzo Sonego in the semifinals after the Italian topped Daniel Altmaier of Germany 6-4, 7-6 (6).

Meanwhile Aryna Sabalenka roared back from a slow start to beat Coco Gauff 7-6(5) 6-2 and clinch a semi-final spot at the season-ending WTA Finals, sending the defending champion packing and assuring Jessica Pegula of a place in the last four.

The world number one, who is seeking a maiden trophy in the event since a run to the final three

years ago, finished top of the Steffi Graf Group and next takes on Amanda Anisimova in a rematch of their U.S. Open title clash.

"She always makes me work hard, always great battles against her," Sabalenka said about Friday's showdown.

"I enjoy playing against her and I enjoy the fights so I'm excited to play her. I hope it's going to be a great match."

American Pegula meets the in-form Kazakh Elena Rybakina, who qualified for the semi-finals as the best player from the Serena Williams Group to continue her own bid for a maiden trophy in the season finale in Saudi Arabia.

Gauff's erratic serve had been a concern after her opening defeat by Pegula, but it was the 21-year-old's aggressive return game that stood out against Sabalenka as she broke to start the match and went 4-2 up at the King Saud University Sports Arena.

Sabalenka let out a scream after she saved break points and held for 3-4 in the rematch of the French Open title clash that she lost, and the fired-up Belarusian soon broke to draw level at 5-5 with a neat forehand winner.

"I probably wouldn't put myself in that situation (again)," Sabalenka said about being 4-5 and 0-30 down.

"I was just trying to stay aggressive and trying to find my rhythm. I was working for the second set already, but magically I was able to turn things around.

"I'm super happy with the performance and super happy to get this win in straight sets."

Villa Cruise to Win Over Maccabi While Forest Fail to Break Sturm Graz



BIRMINGHAM (Dispatches) - Aston Villa had little trouble securing a 2-0 home win against Maccabi Tel-Aviv thanks to goals from Ian Maatsen and Donyell Malen, while Nottingham Forest were held to a 0-0 draw at Sturm Graz, where Morgan Gibbs-White saw a first-half penalty saved.

Maatsen gave Villa the lead in first-half stoppage time, steering the ball in from a tight angle. Malen then sealed the result from the penalty spot a minute before the hour mark after Elad Madmon had fouled Ezri Konsa.

Many pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli protesters gathered outside Villa Park before the match. Local police made six arrests.

In Austria, Sturm's Maurice Malone briefly lifted the home crowd just before the half-hour mark when he found the net, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

Forest had the chance to break the deadlock from the penalty spot in the 33rd minute after Emanuel Aiwu handled a cross in the box, but Gibbs-White's effort was saved as Sturm goalkeeper Oliver Christensen went the right way.

The second half produced little in the way of chances, and the score remained unchanged at the final whistle.

In Denmark, Celtic suffered a humbling 3-1 defeat by Midtjylland, who struck three times in the space of eight first-half minutes to take control of the match.

Celtic scored a consolation when Reo Hatate converted from the penalty spot in the 81st minute.

The Danish side have four wins from four in the Europa League and top the standings on 12 points. Celtic have four points and are outside the playoff places.

Nice took the lead at home against Freiburg through Kevin Carlos in the 25th minute. However, Johan Manzambi equalised four minutes later, before Vincenzo Grifo, from the penalty spot, and Derry Scherhant secured a comfortable 3-1 victory for the German side.

Austrian forward Marko Amautovic was the hero for Red Star Belgrade, securing a 1-0 home win over Lille from the penalty spot five minutes from time after Berke Ozer had fouled Mirko Ivanic.

Barcelona Held at Club Brugge, Man City Beat Dortmund

LONDON (Dispatches) - Inter Milan remained among the teams with a perfect record by beating Kairat 2-1 in the Champions League, while Barcelona was held at Club Brugge and Erling Haaland extended his scoring streak in Manchester City's 4-1 home win over Borussia Dortmund.

Lautaro Martinez and Carlos Augusto scored a goal in each half for last year's runner-up Inter, which joined Bayern Munich and Arsenal as the only teams with four victories from four matches — the league phase's halfway point.

Kairat, the Kazakhstan club that remains among the winless teams in the league phase, equalized with Ofri Arad early in the second half before Augusto gave the hosts the victory.

"We knew we had to win the first four games, and did it," Inter defender Federico Dimarco said. "We have to think game after game, every match is tough in the Champions League."

Barcelona came from behind three times in its draw at Club Brugge, with Lamine Yamal being decisive in the team's comeback in Belgium. He scored in the 61st and it was his shot in the 77th that led to an own-goal by Club Brugge



midfielder Christos Tzolis for the 3-3 score.

Phil Foden netted twice for Man City, while Haaland scored his 27th goal in 17 matches for club and country this season. He has scored in five consecutive Champions League games for three different clubs, having also done it with Salzburg and Dortmund.

"Every time I come to a press conference, they give him another record," Man City coach Pep Guardiola said.

The Norway striker has scored 14 times in his last nine games. Only twice he failed to score in a game this season.

José Mourinho's Benfica lost 1-0 at home to Bayer Leverkusen for its fourth straight loss in the league phase. Ajax also picked up its fourth consecutive loss after a 3-0 defeat to ninth-place Galatasaray at home. Victor Osimhen converted two penalties in his hat trick for the visitors to reach six goals and overtake Haaland, Harry Kane and Kylian Mbappé — who have five goals each.

Ajax has one win in its last seven matches across all tournament.

Green Shines as Suns Thump Clippers 115-102

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Jalen Green made a triumphant season debut for the Phoenix Suns on Thursday, scoring 29 points in a dominant 115-102 NBA victory over the short-handed Los Angeles Clippers.

Green, a former number two overall draft pick acquired in the blockbuster off-season trade that sent Kevin Durant to the Houston Rockets, injured a hamstring in training camp and missed the Suns' first eight games.

But the 23-year-old hit the ground running, connecting on 10 of 20 shots from the floor. His six three-pointers set a record for a Suns debut.

Green added three rebounds and three assists in 23 minutes on the floor.

"It felt good to be back," a beaming Green said in an



on-court interview. "I was telling everybody on my team, I was like I couldn't even take my nap fully I was so anxious to get back on the floor.

"It was a lot of hard work," he added. "Shout out to the training staff and everybody for working with me. I'm happy to be back out there."

Green said he's still working to get back to his best form. "We're still working on it," he said. "Today was a great step ... It's a great city, great team and hopefully there's many more wins and many more records to break to come."

Devin Booker added 24 points as the Suns, a disappointing 0-4 on the road, improved to 4-1 at home.

Hamilton Seeks More FIA Transparency After Mexico Penalty



SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Lewis Hamilton called for more "transparency and accountability" from Formula One's governing body after questioning on Thursday why he had been given a penalty at last month's Mexico City Grand Prix.

The seven-times world champion was handed a 10 second penalty after he cut across the grass at turn four while others who cut corners before that escaped sanction.

"There isn't any clarity," the Ferrari driver told reporters at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix when asked if he understood more clearly the reasoning behind the decision.

"I think that's probably part of the bigger issue of transparency and accountability. And also kind of that secrecy, that decisions are made in the background.

"I think it's something that definitely needs to be tackled," added the Briton.

Hamilton had qualified third in Mexico, with his first podium with Ferrari looking a real possibility before the sanction. He finished eighth at the chequered flag.

The Briton, who lost what would have been a record eighth title in 2021 after a controversial late change to the safety car rules went against him during the final race, said such in-race decisions carried a big responsibility.

"I don't know if they're aware of the weight of their decisions," he said. "They ultimately steer careers and can decide results of championships, as we've seen in the past. So some work needs to be done there, I'm sure."