

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Quds Base Has Arrested Four Terrorists and Taken Down Four Others Involved in an Attack in the Country's Southeastern Province of Sistan and Baluchestan

IRAN NEWS

South Africa Is Set to Submit a Detailed Memorial Against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Aiming to Substantiate Its Case That Israel Is Committing Genocide in Palestine

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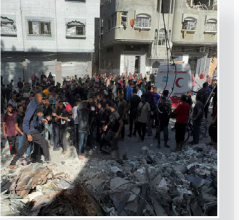


Iran Boosts Share in Joint Oil Fields by Developing Drilling Industry

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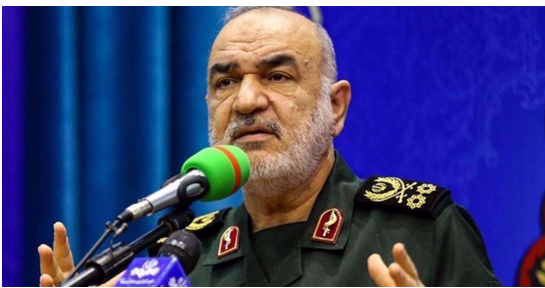
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Egypt Proposes Short Gaza Truce With Small Hostage-Prisoner Exchange



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Israel's Aggression Has Unimaginable Consequences



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Israel's recent act of aggression against the Islamic Republic, which was thwarted by the country's air defenses, indicates the occupying regime's miscalculation and frustration in the face of the resistance front.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks on Sunday, a day after Iran's air defenses intercepted and successfully confronted Israel's recent act of aggression.

The Israeli regime attacked several Iranian military facilities early Saturday, killing four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian. Iran's Air Defense Base said some limited damage was caused in some areas, the dimensions of which are being investigated.

"The illegitimate and illegal action of the child-killing Zionist regime, which failed to achieve its ominous goals because of the readiness of the country's air defense, shows miscalculation and frustration of this regime on the battlefield" against resistance fighters in Gaza and Lebanon, Salami said.

He further warned that the attack will have "bitter, unimaginable consequences" for the Israeli regime.

Salami also mourned the four army servicemen who were "courageously" martyred in the Israeli act of aggression on Iran.

Iran Calls on UNSC to Condemn Israel's Act of Aggression



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has called for an urgent United Nations Security Council meeting to condemn the recent Israeli act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Araqchi made the request in a letter to UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UN Security Council President Pascale Christine Baeriswyl on Sunday, a day after the Israeli regime attacked several Iranian military facilities.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran requests the President of the Security Council to convene an urgent meeting to address this severe violation and unlawful actions and ensure accountability of this criminal regime," he said.

He added that the Israeli regime's unlawful and aggressive actions constitute a serious violation of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity and a flagrant breach of international law and the United Nations Charter.

"In light of the consequences of the Israeli entity's ongoing and systematic aggression, the Islamic Republic of Iran urges the United Nations Secretary-General and the Security Council to take a firm stance and condemn the Israeli regime for committing these acts of aggression strongly and unequivocally," the top Iranian diplomat said.

He added that the world bodies should demonstrate to the international community that such egregious violations of international law and the UN Charter "will not go unanswered."

He warned that Israel's airstrike against Iran, which came along with the regime's genocide in Gaza and its warmongering in Lebanon, also "constitute a grave threat to international peace and security and further destabilize an already fragile region."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, in alignment with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and under international law, reserves its inherent right to give a legal and legitimate response to these criminal attacks at the appropriate time," Araqchi emphasized.



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Ismail Baghaei, addressed the media in a weekly briefing on Monday, providing updates on Iran's stance and recent diplomatic activities in response to rising tensions with Israel.

Baghaei began by offering condolences to the families of four Iranian servicemen killed in recent Israeli attacks. He also expressed sorrow for Iranian border guards killed in a separate terrorist attack in eastern Iran, which he attributed to a notorious terrorist group operating in the area.

In the past week, Iran's diplomatic activities have been intensive, with Iranian officials visiting Bahrain and Kuwait, and participating in the BRICS summit. This was Iran's first appearance in the BRICS summit as a permanent member, marking a new phase in its international engagement. Baghaei highlighted the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, accusing the United Nations of failing to uphold its principles in the face of what he called a "genocide" in Gaza. He also criticized the United States for its role in supporting Israel, saying this support has emboldened Israel to escalate the violence. Baghaei expressed dismay at the continued violence, noting the deaths of 150 Palestinians within the past 24 hours, including journalists.

In response to inquiries about Israel's actions, Baghaei stated that Iran's military was prepared and acted decisively to counter any Israeli aggression. "Iran will not relinquish its right to respond," he affirmed, emphasizing that Tehran's response would be decisive regardless of external diplomatic exchanges or messages conveyed through allies.

Baghaei reaffirmed Iran's position against nuclear weapons, citing a religious decree (fatwa) from the country's highest leader that strictly prohibits nuclear weaponization.

According to Baghaei, Iran is working closely with regional countries to prevent the escalation of hostilities, emphasizing the importance of regional dialogue as a means to counteract violence and establish peace. This strategy aligns with Iran's ongoing efforts to mobilize the international community against Israel's actions in Gaza and Lebanon.

When questioned about potential external support for Iran's defense capabilities, Baghaei stressed Iran's reliance on its own resources and capabilities, asserting that despite enduring severe sanctions, Iran remains self-sufficient in ensuring its security.

On regional diplomacy, Baghaei confirmed ongoing talks with Egypt, focusing on stabilizing regional security. Additionally, he clarified that Iran has received assurances from neighboring countries that they will not allow their territory to be used for attacks on Iran.

Reflecting on Iran's membership in BRICS, Baghaei underscored the organization's role in promoting global peace, security, and cooperation. He noted that BRICS, representing a coalition of independent economies, is positioned to create an alternative platform for international dialogue beyond Western influence.

Regarding an upcoming United Nations Security Council meeting to address Israeli actions against Iran, Baghaei urged the Council to uphold its duties and respond appropriately to Israel's violations.

In closing, Baghaei asserted that Iran will remain vigilant and respond firmly to any threats against its sovereignty, reaffirming Iran's commitment to peace and stability while standing ready to defend itself as necessary.

U.S. Will Pay Price for Opening Iraqi Airspace for Israeli Attack on Iran

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Iraqi anti-terror resistance group Kata'ib Hezbollah has warned that the United States will pay the price for providing a space corridor for the Zionist regime to carry out airstrikes against several military installations in neighboring Iran.

"The U.S. should be held accountable for its recklessness regarding controlling airspace over Iraq. It will pay the price for the matter," Kata'ib Hezbollah (Hezbollah Brigades) in a statement on Sunday.

"With God's help, this will be in the right place and at the right time. Zionists are no exception," the statement added.

According to Iran's General Staff of the Armed Forces, Israeli fighter jets used US-controlled airspace over Iraq to launch missiles at Iranian military sites.

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi reiterated on Sunday that the United States' complicity in Israel's act of aggression against the country is "quite clear" as it has provided the regime with military equipment and airspace to carry out the airstrike.

Kata'ib Hezbollah slammed the Israeli attack on Iran as "a dangerous precedent," emphasizing that "several precarious factors must be addressed."

"The most daunting challenge is the use of Iraqi airspace to launch strikes on Iranian facilities, which happened repeatedly over the course of several hours.

"After they (Israeli forces) dared to attack Iran, they will definitely dare to attack Iraq if they do not pay a hefty price for their aggression," the Iraqi resistance group said in its statement.

"Kata'ib Hezbollah went on to say that there are indications suggesting that Saudi Arabian



and Jordanian airspace was used in the Israeli attack on Iran.

"The assault could not have happened without a prior agreement and premeditation by Americans, who control the Iraqi skies," it highlighted.

Kata'ib Hezbollah underscored that the latest Israeli strike on Iranian military sites was carried out by "a rogue entity that is out of control and alien to the region."

It highlighted that the assault constitutes a blatant violation and a serious transgression that must not go unpunished under any circumstances.

"If this attack goes unanswered, it will become permissible and this rabid enemy will repeat it again," the statement read.

Iran's Air Defense Base said in a statement on Saturday that the country's air defenses have successfully confronted the Israeli acts of aggression.

Iran's air defenses intercepted and successfully confronted the acts of aggression, it said, adding that some limited damage was caused in some areas, the dimensions of which are being investigated.

Loud sounds were heard by some people in the vicinity of Tehran in the wee hours of Saturday, which Iranian security sources said were due to the activation of air defense systems. Four Army servicemen were martyred in the military attacks by the Israeli regime early Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq, an umbrella group of anti-terror fighters, said it had used drones to attack key Israeli positions in the occupied territories.

The group said in a statement that its fighters conducted the Monday morning attack on a "vital target" north of Tiberias city, using bomb-laden unmanned aerial vehicles.

Iran Will Give Appropriate Response to Israeli Attack



TEHRAN (PressTV) - President Masoud Pezeshkian says Iran is not looking for war but will give an "appropriate response" to Israel's latest act of aggression.

"We do not seek war, but we will defend the rights of our nation and country. We will give an appropriate response to the aggression of the Zionist regime," Pezeshkian said at a cabinet session on Sunday.

He warned that the continuation of Israel's acts of aggression and crimes will escalate tensions, and added that the US provokes Israel into committing such crimes.

Pezeshkian made the statement a day after the Israeli regime attacked several Iranian military facilities, killing four servicemen of the Armed Forces and one civilian.

The Iranian nation and the Islamic establishment proved over the past 45 years that they will never give in to any aggressor, he added.

It has been proved to the world that the Israeli regime is committing crimes, he said.

The Iranian president criticized the supporters of Israel, particularly the United States, for claiming to defend human rights and freedom while remaining silent in the face of the massacre of tens of thousands of Palestinian women and children by the regime.

"Today, awakened consciences in the world hate the Zionist regime and the crimes of this brutal regime," Pezeshkian emphasized.

He expressed hope that Iran would successfully overcome all crises.

Iran's Air Defense Base said in a statement on Saturday that the country's air defenses successfully confronted the Israeli attack.

Iran's air defenses intercepted and successfully confronted the acts of aggression, it said, adding that some limited damage was caused to some sites, the dimensions of which are being investigated.

Earlier on Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi called for an urgent United Nations Security Council meeting to condemn the Israeli act of aggression, asserting Tehran's inherent right to give a legal and legitimate response to these criminal attacks at the appropriate time.

UK Urged to Sop Israel Support



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi asserts that Iran will not hesitate to exercise its inherent and legal right to defend its territorial integrity and national sovereignty against potential acts of aggression.

The top diplomat made the remarks on Sunday during a phone call with his British counterpart David Lammy.

Araqchi outlined the Islamic Republic's position concerning the Israeli regime's recent attacks against defensive targets across Tehran, Khuzestan, and Ilam Provinces, which were successfully thwarted by the country's Air Defense Force.

He referred to Iranian authorities' promise of retaliation against the atrocities, saying Iran's potential response would fit within the accepted principles of the international law and the United Nations Charter.

Araqchi laid emphasis on the need for the international community and institutions, especially the UN, to immediately condemn the aggression, which he identified as, continuation of the regime's atrocities in the Gaza Strip and Lebanon.

He urged adoption of drastic measures aimed at holding the regime's ringleaders accountable for the aggression and cause it to stop its war of genocide on Gaza and deadly escalation against Lebanon.

The regime has claimed the lives of tens of thousands of people since last October, when it embarked on the atrocities against the coastal sliver and Lebanon.

As means of stemming the aggression, the foreign minister urged cessation of ongoing military and political support for the Israeli regime.

For his part, Lammy considered the circumstances in the West Asia region to be inflammatory, stressing the need for self-restraint on the part of all concerned parties towards fulfillment of underway efforts at de-escalation of tensions and prevention of expansion of warfare and instability in the region.

IRAN NEWS



New Power Generator Comes Online in Strategic Greater Tunb Island

BANDAR ABBAS (Dispatches) - The manager of the Hormozgan Power Plant has announced the installation and commissioning of a power generator on the Greater Tunb Island to ensure optimal electricity supply and distribution for the region. Amir Qobadi said on Sunday that the new generator, with a production capacity of 1,500 kilowatts, has been brought online to provide stable electricity amid the sensitive conditions facing the country, particularly the unique circumstances of the three Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. He noted that the generator had been idle for approximately four years, but essential repairs have been completed and the generator was finally put into operation.

Improving Preparedness Is Key to Enhancing Deterrent Power



TEHRAN - Brigadier General Gholamreza Jalali highlighted the country's preparedness to confront a range of threats, referencing the robust response of the country's air defense system against a recent Israeli aggression as an example of readiness to counter any hostile actions.

General Jalali spoke at the "Passive Defense Red Crescent Conference," attended by Dr. Pirhossein Kolivand, the President of the Iranian Red Crescent, alongside other government and military officials.

Honoring the memory of martyrs, especially the recent ones from the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army and other defense forces, General Jalali emphasized the recent tensions between Iran and Israel, citing new forms of threats that Iran is facing.

He further explained the new law establishing the country's Passive Defense Organization, focusing on key aspects: the formation of a High Council or Permanent Passive Defense Committee, including seven ministers, five members from the Armed Forces Command, the head of the National Security Commission of the Iranian Parliament, and the Attorney General. The resolutions of this council are legally binding for all state entities, with enforcement supported by criminalization and alignment with Islamic Penal Law.

The law also requires several government sectors to participate in developing the statute of the Passive Defense Organization, a milestone achieved last month. This statute defines executive bodies' duties, agreement processes, financial resources, and organizational hierarchy within the country.

Additionally, a new mission has been assigned to the Passive Defense Organization to coordinate and establish broad defense lines within civilian sectors in response to threats, ensuring heightened readiness.

The President's Special Assistant on Passive Defense emphasized the organization's primary mission: protecting the people and their assets. In this regard, the Red Crescent Society stands as a frontline service provider.

General Jalali cautioned that Israel operates without adherence to international agreements and protocols, often disregarding legal boundaries. He cited examples of attacks on consulates, targeting of hospitals and medical facilities, and the use of communication pagers, typically emergency alert tools, as weapons. This demonstrates that within the enemy's aggressive doctrine, almost anything can be weaponized, and vigilant, precise responses are required.

Jalali outlined two key approaches in the organization's directives: "National Preparedness and Vigilance" and "Comprehensive Enhancement" to counter potential threats. He stressed the importance of infrastructure readiness and the need for operational plans to respond to any threat scenario.

He added that eight operational passive defense guidelines, approved by the National Security Council and now in action, aim to implement defensive measures, reduce vulnerabilities, manage risks, and ultimately increase national resilience.

General Jalali also announced the development of a multi-layered cyber defense protocol named after Martyr Major General Ali Zabeti, with operational teams active within executive bodies to support its implementation.

He outlined a general directive for executive agencies and a Supreme Council resolution that assigns tasks to reduce vulnerabilities and risks. Provincial-level initiatives, including the "Ahmad Kazemi Plan" for provincial administrations and the "Martyr Engineer Mehdi Bakri Plan" to protect critical infrastructure, have also been implemented.

Iran Boosts Share in Joint Oil Fields by Developing Drilling Industry



TEHRAN - The Chairman of the Board of Directors at the Oil Exploration Operations Company emphasized that the Minister of Oil in Iran's new administration must prioritize increasing production from joint oil fields. He stated that with the expansion of the drilling industry, there is complete readiness for enhanced extraction from these shared fields.

According to the Ministry of Oil, Heydattollah Khademi considers drilling as the foundation for the growth of the oil industry and, consequently, the economy. He highlighted the importance of improving collaboration with employers to remove existing obstacles as a key priority.

Khademi described the Oil Exploration Operations Company as a growing entity, noting that all eight of its drilling rigs are operational. The company is actively expanding and upgrading its fleet to meet the needs of new clients, marking the second half of 2024 as the beginning of a new chapter in drilling operations in the country.

Khademi reiterated that the Oil Ministry's top priority should be to boost production from joint fields. He noted that with available human resources and the necessary expertise, if long-term contracts are secured with the National Iranian Oil Company, the firm is prepared to lead the development of certain shared fields. This, he stated, would help increase Iran's share in joint fields to safeguard national interests and address resource shortages.

He further stressed the importance of continuous professional training for young staff, both domestically and internationally, which, combined with the experience of senior personnel, boosts organizational decision-making confidence.

Reflecting on the company's performance in 2023 and the first half of 2024, he shared that 100% project completion contributed approximately 3

trillion rials (about \$70 million) in revenue, yielding a net profit of around 3 billion rials.

In this regard, Deputy of Operations Mohammad Moeini Pourhosseini highlighted the company's strengths, including synergy, alignment, and a young yet experienced drilling fleet and management team. He noted that recent drilling projects were completed ahead of schedule—31 days early in the Azadegan oil field, 70 days in the Bibi Hakimeh oil field, and 45 days in the Mansourabad oil field—resulting in substantial savings.

He reported that these expedited projects saved over 1.4 trillion rials for public and private clients, creating a competitive advantage for the company, which has now set a new benchmark in the drilling sector.

Pourhosseini credited teamwork, optimal resource management, effective maintenance, and timely decision-making at various levels as key factors contributing to the company's success.

He added that they currently operate four rigs in southern oil-rich regions, two rigs in 28-reservoir projects, and two rigs in the EPD project in the South Azadegan shared field, all functioning seamlessly per schedule.

Pourhosseini highlighted drilling support services as a significant competitive advantage, which has established the company as the second-largest after the National Iranian Drilling Company. The range of services provided includes mobile drilling, acid stimulation, nitrogen lifting, well logging, surface and downhole testing, layer testing, casing and tubing running, cementing, directional drilling, coring, and MPFM well testing, all delivered with top-notch operational and support quality.

Export Restrictions to Five Countries Threaten National Trade



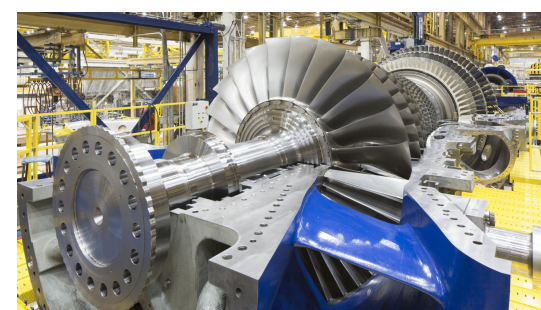
TEHRAN - Samad Hasanzadeh, the President of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, spoke at the second National Economic Security Conference, highlighting the challenges facing the nation's economic sector due to Western policies. Hasanzadeh noted that for several years, restrictive policies have created a difficult environment for Iranian businesses, with limited banking connections and strained international relations adding to the obstacles.

Hasanzadeh stated that these countries are actively working to destabilize Iran's production and employment sectors. However, he emphasized that the Iranian people have consistently demonstrated their resilience, adding that Western countries are concerned about Iran's potential and infrastructure.

"The world knows our nation, with proper planning and logical support from leadership, can achieve remarkable feats even with existing, older technology," Hasanzadeh asserted.

He urged national leaders to create a united front to guide the country toward prosperity, stating, "All officials must come together to foster the national unity that is one of the President's goals, aiming for a peak in national development."

Export of 880 Generators to Germany and Neighboring Countries



TEHRAN - In a press briefing held on the sidelines of the 24th International Electricity Exhibition, Reza Meshkat Razavi discussed developments in Iran's power generation sector, recalling that before the Islamic Revolution, all power plant equipment was imported from the UK. He stated, "We are the first Iranian diesel power company, and we have established 180 diesel power plants to support the country's regional electricity grid."

Kashmir Black Day Observed at Embassy in Tehran



TEHRAN - The Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran organized an event to commemorate the Kashmir Black Day to express support of Pakistan government and the nation for the Kashmiri people in their just struggle against the continued Indian illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir. Members of Pakistani community including students, media persons and senior officers of Embassy participated in the event. On the occasion, the messages from the President, Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan were readout.

Ambassador of Pakistan in Tehran, H.E. Muhammad Mudassar Tipu, highlighted that for the past more than seven decades, Kashmiris are victims of India's state sponsored terrorism, including gross and systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. He also reiterated the commitment of Pakistan to continue political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiri brothers.

The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's call to the world leaders, international community including the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to urge India to halt the brute use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people and resolve the Kashmir Dispute as per the charter of the United Nations and various UNSC Resolution. The Ambassador thanked the Iranian leadership and civil society for their continued support to the Kashmir cause and the Palestinians.

Speakers in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the India occupation forces in IIOJK. Photo exhibition was also organized in the Chancery, which depicted sufferings of oppressed people of IIOJK.

At the end, a special prayer was held for the alleviation of suffering of innocent Kashmiris and for their freedom from barbaric and illegal India rule.

Flavours of Malaysia in Tehran



TEHRAN - Malaysia's vibrant cuisine took center stage in Tehran this weekend as the Embassy of Malaysia and Nakaya Asian Restaurant co-hosted Flavours of Malaysia, a two-day culinary event that invited Iranians to experience the country's rich flavors and warm hospitality.

The event was a celebration of taste, culture, and connection, drawing local food enthusiasts, members of the diplomatic community, and curious newcomers, all eager for a taste of Malaysia's diverse culinary traditions.

The evening began with starters that hinted at the depth of Malaysia's flavors: Curry Noodles, with its fragrant coconut base, offered a gentle spice, while Karipuff, a delicate pastry filled with spiced potatoes, brought warmth to the autumn evening. Chef Hamidah binti Dapi, from the Embassy of Malaysia, infused each dish with authentic techniques and flavors. The main courses, Beef Dendeng (a tender, marinated beef dish), Nasi Goreng, and Chicken Satay, all beautifully showcased Malaysia's unique blend of spices and textures.

Ambassador Khairi bin Omar expressed his hope that the event would spark greater interest in cultural and culinary collaborations. "I am hopeful that this exchange will inspire further opportunities,



whether in tourism, culinary arts, or business ties," he said. "We're also exploring ways to facilitate easier travel between Malaysia and Iran, strengthening the connections we already share."

Flavours of Malaysia also opened its doors to the public, allowing locals to purchase tickets for a chance to experience the event. Among the diverse crowd were food lovers and diplomats, all united by a love of rich, flavorful cuisine and the joy of discovering new cultures. Many attendees lingered long after their meals, savoring the dishes and discussing travel dreams to Malaysia's tropical landscapes and bustling city markets.

The Embassy of Malaysia is optimistic that Flavours of Malaysia will pave the way for future collaborations, and perhaps even spark a newfound passion for Malaysian cuisine in Tehran's vibrant dining scene. This initiative highlights how culinary diplomacy can bridge cultural divides, allowing each dish to tell a story and each flavor to inspire a deeper understanding between nations.

For Iranians who missed this weekend's event, it was clear from the buzz in the room that this may be just the beginning of Malaysian gastronomy's influence in Iran. As guests left Nakaya with satisfied smiles and lingering flavors on their palates, the stage was set for a flavorful future, where diplomacy tastes as good as it feels.

10% Growth in Iran's Exports to West Asia



TEHRAN - Abdolamir Rabehi, Director of the West Asia Office at Iran's Trade Promotion Organization, reported a 10% increase in Iran's exports to West Asia during the first six months of the current year.

Rabehi stated that Iran's exports to countries in the West Asian region reached a total of \$12 billion in this period, marking a 10% rise in value compared to the same period last year.

He highlighted that Jordan saw the highest growth among West Asian countries, with a 708% increase in imports from Iran. Exports to Jordan jumped from \$2 million to approximately \$13 million.

Rabehi also noted the export growth figures for other West Asian countries. Lebanon followed Jordan with an increase from \$9 million to \$18 million, Bahrain from \$4 million to \$6 million, Kuwait from \$87 million to \$114 million, Oman from \$638 million to \$782 million, Iraq from \$4.554 billion to \$5.196 billion, the UAE from \$3.028 billion to \$3.399 billion, and Qatar from \$58 million to \$64 million. These countries respectively experienced export growth rates of 89%, 46%, 31%, 23%, 14%, 12%, and 12%.

Ratings Agency Downgrades France to Negative Credit Outlook

PARIS (Dispatches) - Ratings agency Moody's downgraded France's outlook, opening the door to a potential credit rating cut as it cited concerns over the country's finances.

The shift reflects "increasing risk that France's government will be unlikely to implement measures that would prevent sustained wider-than-expected budget deficits and a deterioration in debt affordability," said Moody's Ratings. It changed France's outlook from "stable" to "negative."

In the same statement, the agency affirmed France's credit rating at Aa2, saying this was supported by its "large, wealthy and diversified economy."



Japan's Ruling Party Fails to Win Majority in Snap Election



TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japan's scandal-hit ruling party fell short of a majority for the first time since 2009 in snap elections on Sunday, media projections showed, in a blow to new Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba.

Worse still, it was touch and go whether Ishiba's conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) could secure a parliamentary majority with its long-term coalition partner, the Komeito party.

"We are receiving severe judgement," Ishiba told national broadcaster NHK late Sunday.

Voters "expressed their strong desire for the LDP to do some reflection and become a party that will act in line with the people's will," he said.

Former defence minister Ishiba, 67, called the election after being narrowly selected last month to lead the LDP, which has governed Japan for almost all of the past 70 years.

But voters in the world's fourth-largest economy have been rankled by rising prices and the fallout from a party slush fund scandal that helped sink previous premier Fumio Kishida.

Footage from the LDP headquarters after the polls closed on Sunday showed gloomy faces as the projections based on exit polls said Ishiba's justice and agriculture ministers were likely to lose their seats.

Ishiba, a self-confessed security policy geek who likes making model planes, had said his target in the election was for the coalition to win a majority.

Missing this goal would seriously undermine his position in the LDP and mean finding other coalition partners or leading a minority government.

"If we are unable to obtain a majority as a result of severe public judgement, we will ask as many people as possible to cooperate with us," the LDP's election chief Shinjiro Koizumi told reporters.

In Japan's last general election in 2021, the LDP won a majority in its own right, with 259 seats in parliament's powerful lower house. Komeito had 32.

On Sunday, national broadcaster NHK projected that the LDP would win between 153 and 219 seats -- short of the 233 needed for a majority in the 465-seat parliament.

Egypt Proposes Short Gaza Truce With Small Hostage-Prisoner Exchange



CAIRO (Dispatches) - Egypt has proposed an initial two-day ceasefire in Gaza to exchange four Israeli hostages of Hamas for some Palestinian prisoners, Egypt's president said on Sunday as Israeli military strikes killed 45 Palestinians across the enclave.

Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah el-Sisi made the announcement as efforts to defuse the devastating, more than year-long war resumed in Qatar with the directors of the CIA and Israel's Mossad intelligence agency taking part.

Speaking alongside Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune during a press conference in Cairo, Sisi also said that talks should resume within 10 days of implementing the temporary ceasefire in efforts to reach a permanent one.

There was no immediate comment from Israel or Hamas but a Palestinian official close to the mediation effort told Reuters: "I expect Hamas would listen to the new offers, but it remains determined that any agreement must end the war and get Israeli forces out of Gaza."

Israel has said the war cannot end until Hamas has been wiped out as a military force and governing entity in Gaza.

The U.S., Qatar and Egypt have spearheaded negotiations to end the war that erupted after Hamas fighters stormed into southern Israel on Oct. 7 last year, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, by Israeli tallies.

The death toll from Israel's retaliatory air and ground onslaught in Gaza is approaching 43,000, Gaza health officials say, with the densely populated enclave in ruins.

An official briefed on the talks told Reuters earlier on Sunday that negotiations in Doha will seek a short-term ceasefire and the release of some hostages being held by Hamas in exchange for Israel's release of Palestinian prisoners.

The objective, still elusive after multiple mediation attempts, is to get Israel and Hamas to agree to a halt in fighting for less than a month in the hope this would lead to a more permanent ceasefire.

At least 43 of those killed in Gaza on Sunday were in the north of the enclave, where Israeli troops have returned to root out Hamas fighters who it says have regrouped there.

The United Nations said the plight of Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza was "unbearable" and the conflict was being

"waged with little regard for the requirements of international humanitarian law".

"The Secretary-General (Antonio Guterres) is shocked by the harrowing levels of death, injury and destruction in the north, with civilians trapped under rubble, the sick and wounded going without life-saving health care, and families lacking food and shelter, amid reports of families being separated and many people detained," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

Israeli authorities were hampering efforts to deliver food, medicine and other essential humanitarian supplies, putting lives at risk, he said. The devastation and deprivation resulting from Israeli military operations in the north were making life there untenable.

Israel says its forces operate in accordance with international law. It says it targets Hamas operatives who conceal themselves among the civilian population which they use as human shields, a charge Hamas denies.

It denies blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza, blaming international organisations for problems distributing it and accusing Hamas of stealing from aid convoys.

Earlier on Sunday, 20 people were killed following an airstrike on houses in Jabalia, the largest of the Gaza Strip's eight historic refugee camps, which has been the focus of an Israeli military offensive for more than three weeks, medics and the Palestinian official news agency Wafa said.

Another Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinian families in Shati camp in Gaza City, killed nine people and wounded 20 others, with many in critical condition, medics said.

Footage circulated on Palestinian media, which Reuters could not immediately verify, showed people rushing to the bomb site to help evacuate the casualties. Bodies were scattered on the ground, while some carried wounded children in their arms before loading them in a vehicle.

The Israeli military said it was looking into the report on the strike on the school.

Bulgaria's Center Right GERB Leads in Snap Elections, Falls Short of Majority



SOFIA (Dispatches) - The conservative party of former premier Boyko Borisov came first in Bulgaria's seventh general election in less than four years on Sunday, according to early results, but analysts warned that the lack of a majority meant lingering uncertainty.

Borisov's GERB party won about 25 percent of the vote, according to projections published by polling institutes with 80 percent of votes counted.

The reformist coalition PP-DB and the pro-Russia ultra-nationalist Vazrazhdane party were in a close race for second place, gaining around 13 percent to 15 percent of the ballots.

"We are again waiting at the same bus stop to see whether GERB and PP-DB will reach an agreement" to isolate the far-right Vazrazhdane, said analyst Andrey Raichev on television.

The European Union's poorest member country has been at a political standstill since 2021 after massive anti-corruption protests in 2020 triggered the downfall of one Borisov-led cabinet.

Six votes since then have failed to yield a stable government.

Late Sunday, Borisov pledged to work on forming another government, adding he was willing to "compromise" despite securing a "categorical victory", but excluded working with the far right.

Georgian President Calls for Protests After Ruling Party Wins Disputed Election

TBILISI (Dispatches) - The Georgian opposition on Sunday called for protests and the European Union demanded an investigation into "irregularities" after a disputed legislative vote that showed a win for the ruling party accused of moving towards Russia's orbit.

Pro-Western President Salome Zurbashvili accused Moscow of being behind the election fraud, calling it a "Russian special operation".

Amid angry opposition claims over the result, Zurbashvili called for a rally on Monday. Jailed former president Mikheil Saakashvili also called for mass protests.

The European Union had warned that Saturday's vote, seen as a crucial test of democracy in the Caucasus country, could determine Tbilisi's chances of joining the bloc.

EU council president Charles Michel wrote on X that Georgian authorities should "swiftly, transparently and independently investigate and adjudicate electoral irregularities and allegations thereof."

"These alleged irregularities must be seriously clarified and addressed," he said.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken also said he supported calls for investigations into "election-related violations", citing reports from international and local observers of "vote buying and voter intimidation".

After meeting with opposition leaders in Tbilisi, Zurbashvili said there had been a "total falsification of the election".

"We are witnesses and victims of a Russian special operation, a modern form of hybrid war against the Georgian people," she said.

International observers said Saturday's election was "marred by an uneven playing field, pressure and tension".

An EU parliament mission also expressed concern about "democratic backsliding", saying it had seen instances of "ballot box stuffing" and the "physical assault" of observers.

Saakashvili, who spearheaded the bloodless Rose Revolution in 2003, said on Facebook that opposition lawmakers should renounce their parliamentary seats.



"Now is the time for mass protests. We must show the world that we are fighting for freedom and that we are a people who will not tolerate injustice," he said.

Official tallies from more than 99 percent of precincts showed the ruling Georgian Dream party winning 54 percent of the vote, with the main pro-Western opposition coalition on 37.5 percent.

The result gives Georgian Dream 91 seats in the 150-member parliament -- enough to govern but short of the supermajority it had sought to pass a constitutional ban on all main opposition parties.

"Our victory is impressive," Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze said in a statement, accusing the opposition of "undermining the country's constitutional order" by questioning his party's victory.

The government said that Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, an ally of the ruling party and current holder of the EU's rotating presidency, would visit Georgia on Monday and Tuesday.

Orban rushed to congratulate Georgian Dream for an "overwhelming victory" on Saturday after one exit poll showed the government in the lead and before preliminary results had been published.

Another exit poll by US pollster Edison Research had projected an opposition victory by an 11-percent margin.

Opposition parties lined up to denounce the vote.

"This is an attempt to steal Georgia's future," said Tina Bokuchava, leader of Saakashvili's United National Movement (UNM).

Nika Gvaramia, leader of the liberal Akhali party, called the way the vote was held "a constitutional coup" by the government.

Analyst Gela Vasadze of the Georgian Strategic Analysis Centre said the country was plunging "into political instability for an indefinite period" and that its EU hopes had "dimmed".

He said, however, that the opposition lacked "charismatic leaders who could channel popular anger into a protest wave capable of bringing about political change."

Trump Leads New York Rally as Allies Attack Harris With Racist Remarks

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump headlined a rally at New York's Madison Square Garden on Sunday that began with a series of vulgar and racist remarks by allies of the former president.

Trump, a New York celebrity for decades, hoped to use the event at the iconic venue known for Knicks basketball games and Billy Joel concerts to deliver his closing argument against

Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, even though the state last backed a Republican presidential candidate in 1984.

"I'd like to begin by asking a very simple question. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?" Trump said at the start of his speech. The crowd shouted: "No."

He went on to promise that he would stop an "invasion of criminals coming into our country" if he wins the Nov. 5 election and called Harris a "very low IQ individual."

The list of at least 20 opening speakers varied widely from former pro wrestler Hulk Hogan to former NY Mayor Rudy Giuliani to Trump's sons Eric and Don Jr.

Some of Trump's introductory speakers used racist and misogynistic language in warming up a capacity crowd.

Rudy Giuliani, the one-time New York City mayor and a former personal lawyer to Trump, falsely claimed that Harris was "on the side of the terrorists" in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and wanted to bring Palestinians to the United States.

Comedian Tony Hinchcliffe used crass language in joking that Latinos "love making babies" and called the Caribbean US territory of Puerto Rico a "floating island of garbage."



Puerto Rican singer Ricky Martin posted a clip of the comments on his Instagram and wrote, in Spanish, "This is what they think of us."

While Puerto Ricans are US citizens, those living on the island cannot vote in US general elections. However, millions of Puerto Ricans who have moved to the mainland United States can fully participate in elections, and many have taken up residence in the battleground state of Pennsylvania.

Harris earlier on Sunday visited a Puerto Rican restaurant in Philadelphia in the must-win state of Pennsylvania to encourage people to vote. She posted a video on social media promising to "invest in Puerto Rico's future" as president.

Harris's campaign in an email said the Madison Square Garden rally was "mirroring the same dangerously divisive and demeaning message" as Trump.

Trump's 2016 presidential opponent, Democrat Hillary Clinton, has accused him of "re-enacting" a pro-Nazi rally that was held at Madison Square Garden in 1939 on the eve of World War Two.

Trump's critics have long accused him of empowering white supremacists with dehumanising and racist rhetoric.

Trump rejected the comparison to the 1930s. "This is called Make America Great Again, that's all this is," he said on Friday.

"Today this is Donald Trump's house," said the wrestler Hulk Hogan in a speech at the New York event on Sunday, later rejecting accusations that Trump is a fascist: "I don't see any Nazis in here."

Sainz Claims victory in Mexico City GP



MEXICO CITY (Dispatches) - Carlos Sainz cruised to an emotional victory for Ferrari ahead of McLaren's Lando Norris in Sunday's incident-filled Mexico City Grand Prix as Red Bull's series leader Max Verstappen was handed two 10-second penalties on his way to sixth.

The stewards took a dim view of Verstappen's aggressive driving, the Red Bull driver twice forcing his title rival Norris off the track.

Norris grabbed second from Charles Leclerc in the other Ferrari near the finish as the Briton enjoyed a major boost in his quest to deny Verstappen a fourth consecutive world championship.

The McLaren driver cut 10 points off the gap to Verstappen which now stands at 47 with four race weekends remaining.

Verstappen paid a heavy price for his show of ruthlessness with Norris commenting: "I knew what to expect from Max. I respect him a lot as a driver and I expected it but it was not very clean driving in my opinion."

"It was a very tough race and I spent a lot of it just trying to avoid crashes."

It was the second week in succession that the two title-chasers had clashed following a penalty for Norris at the United States Grand Prix.

McLaren boss Zak Brown described this latest example of Verstappen's aggressive streak as "ridiculous". "Enough is enough. Let's just have some good clean racing moving forwards. I think the stewards are on it, I think that's clear by the penalties that were given. The stewards did a good job this weekend."

Asked about his drivers' crown prospects Norris said: "I'm just keeping my head down, we're doing good job as a team, focus on ourselves, that's all I can do for now."

Sainz meanwhile is ensuring he leaves Ferrari with his head held high as he switches next season to Williams to make way for seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton.

"Gracias Mexico!" said a beaming Sainz.

"It is incredible to see this crowd. I have felt their support all week and it gave me a lot of strength — I said I wanted one more win with Ferrari and to do it here with this mega-crowd is incredible."

It was Ferrari's first victory in Mexico since Alain Prost triumphed in 1990 — enabling them to move ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' championship — and Sainz's second win of the season and fourth of his career.

Hamilton finished fourth ahead of his Mercedes team-mate George Russell.

Kevin Magnussen finished behind Verstappen in seventh to deliver Haas's best result in Mexico ahead of Oscar Piastri in the second McLaren, who started from the back end of the grid, Nico Hulkenberg in the second Haas and Alpine's Pierre Gasly.

The race began in a festive atmosphere with Verstappen winning the start from pole-sitter Sainz to lead the run to the first corner where RB's Yuki Tsunoda crashed out after making contact in the midfield squeeze.

The race was yellow-flagged to retrieve the debris. Replays showed he collided with Alex Albon's Williams going into the braking zone. Albon retired.

Verstappen accelerated as racing resumed on lap six with Sainz soon showing Ferrari's potential and then sweeping inside him to lead on lap nine at Turn One.

Draper Fends Of Comeback, Wins Vienna Title



VIENNA (Dispatches) - No. 7 seed Jack Draper clinched the first ATP 500-level title of his career when the Brit defeated Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-4, 7-5 in the final of the Erste Bank Open in Vienna, Austria.

Draper found himself trailing in the second set when Khachanov fought out of a 4-0 hole by winning five consecutive games. Draper took back control from there by tying the match 5-5, breaking Khachanov's serve in the 11th game and rallying from a 15-40 margin in the 12th game.

Draper hit 30 winners to Khachanov's 16; Draper was also far better at the net, winning 14 of 16 points there compared to 8 of 14 for Khachanov.

Draper, 22, had only one previous win on tour, which came in June in Stuttgart, Germany. Khachanov was eyeing his second title this month after prevailing in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard became the lowest-ranked player to win the title in Basel since the tournament became a tour-level event as he knocked out sixth seed Ben Shelton 6-4, 7-6 (4) in Switzerland.

Neither player broke serve in the second set until the ninth point of the tiebreaker, when Mpetshi Perricard took control of the match for good. He finished the day with 22 aces (Shelton offered up 10) and won 33 of his 39 first-serve points (84.6 percent).

Mpetshi Perricard, 21, entered the week No. 50 in the ATP rankings. His breakthrough ATP title came back in May at the Lyon Open in France.

Liverpool Hold Arsenal in Premier League Title Clash

LONDON (Dispatches) - Mohamed Salah's equaliser salvaged Liverpool a 2-2 draw at Premier League title rivals Arsenal on Sunday, while Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag suffered another damaging defeat at West Ham.

Cole Palmer inspired Chelsea to a 2-1 victory over Newcastle and Tottenham were beaten 1-0 at Crystal Palace.

Liverpool began the weekend on top after winning 11 of their opening 12 games in all competitions under Arne Slot.

But a draw sees the Reds fall one point behind Manchester City at the top of the table, with Arsenal now five points adrift of the leaders in third.

"We're in the business where you can be on top one week and then not," said Liverpool captain Virgil van Dijk.

"We are in October and let's see what it brings us at the end of the season. Enjoy the ride."

Bukayo Saka recovered from a hamstring injury to start for Arsenal and gave the home side the perfect start with a stunning touch and finish from Ben White's pass on nine minutes.

Van Dijk quickly levelled from a corner, but Arsenal led again before half-time through Mikel Merino's header.

Liverpool improved after the break and got their reward when Darwin Nunez teed up Salah for his eighth goal of the season.

"Credit to Liverpool. We feel like we didn't play the full 90 minutes," said Saka.

"First half we showed our qualities, gave them nothing and they scored from a set piece. I can't think of another chance they had.



Second half we weren't at our best."

Ten Hag was left to rue a familiar lack of ruthlessness as a 2-1 defeat at the London Stadium will spark further speculation on how long he will be given to turn the Red Devils' fortunes around.

The visitors should have been out of sight by half-time.

Alejandro Garnacho hit the woodwork inside two minutes and Edson Alvarez also headed off his own crossbar.

But it was Diogo Dalot who missed the biggest chance when the Portuguese international somehow fired over with the goal gaping after rounding Lukasz Fabianski.

Under-fire West Ham boss Julen Lopetegui showed his disgust with the Hammers' first-half display by making three substitutions at the break.

Crysencio Summerville was one of those introduced and he slid in to open the scoring against the run of play on 74 minutes.

Casemiro brought United level nine minutes from time with a header from point-blank range.

But there was late drama when VAR intervened for a foul on Danny Ings by Matthijs de Ligt.

Jarrod Bowen smashed in the resulting spot-kick to take West Ham above United, who sink to 14th in the table.

"We created so many chances, played so good football, especially in the first half," said Ten Hag.

"Overall I had not so many criticisms of my team, apart from not scoring."

Chelsea moved up to fifth thanks to another match-winning display from Palmer.

The England international was the creator for the opening goal, despite not being credited with the assist, as his sumptuous ball over the top freed Pedro Neto, who picked out Nicolas Jackson to slot in his sixth goal of the season.

Newcastle are now winless in five league games as the pressure mounts on Eddie Howe ahead of a rematch against Chelsea in the League Cup on Wednesday.

The Magpies did get back on level terms before half-time as Alexander Isak tapped in Lewis Hall's cross at the end of a well-worked move.

But Palmer took just two minutes into the second period to make the decisive impact with a driving run forward and powerful finish that beat Nick Pope at his near post.

Inter and Juve Share Spoils in Eight-Goal Thriller



MILAN (Dispatches) - Piotr Zielinski converted two penalties for Inter Milan as they played out a thrilling 4-4 draw with Juventus, for whom Kenan Yildiz scored a late brace, in Serie A.

The high-intensity match marked the first time in Serie A history that five goals were scored in the first half between Inter and Juve, who remain unbeaten in the league this season.

Inter are second in the standings with 18 points, four points behind Napoli. Juve are third with 17 points.

The five-goal opening half began when Marcus Thuram got to the ball ahead of Danilo, who inadvertently kicked him on the ankle instead of clearing it which prompted the referee to point to the penalty spot. Zielinski converted after 15 minutes to give Inter the lead.

Juve equalized five minutes later when Weston McKennie provided a pass for Dusan Vlahovic, who side-footed it in on the bounce from a short distance.

After 26 minutes, Juve took the lead when Francisco Conceicao worked his way into the box, creating space before rolling a pass across to an unmarked Timothy Weah, who had little trouble turning the match around for the visitors.

Inter's Henrik Mkhitaryan made it 2-2 10 minutes before halftime with a left-footed strike into the bottom corner from the edge of the box.

The goal fest continued when Zielinski again put Inter ahead from the penalty spot after Pierre Kalulu tripped Denzel Dumfries, handing the champions a 3-2 lead going into the break.

The second half began intensely as Dumfries found the net from a corner, sending the ball through the crowded Juve defence to extend Inter's lead to two goals.

Turkish striker Yildiz, 19, fired a low shot from a tight angle after making a run into the box during a counter-attack, reducing Juve's deficit in the 71st minute.

Eight minutes before full-time he controlled a cross inside the box to unleash a shot that went into the net to secure the spectacular draw.

"We could have done more to avoid Juventus' goals, it was too easy for them," Zielinski told reporters.

"We could have all done something more, especially on the third goal. We should have recovered the ball more quickly. We left too much space for them. We know Juventus have strong players; they are quick and can score goals."

Keeper Michele Di Gregorio said Juve's determination to keep fighting till the final whistle paid off.

"Until the end is our motto, and today we proved it. I said it would be a beautiful match, and it was; I'm happy with the team's reaction. It sends us a strong signal to start again. Our team strength was evident; we told each other not to give up," he said.

LeBron James Records Triple-Double in 131-127 Win Over Kings

LOS ANGELES (Dispatches) - LeBron James had a triple-double with 32 points, 14 rebounds and 10 assists, and Anthony Davis added 31 points and nine rebounds to lead the Los Angeles Lakers to a 131-127 victory over the Sacramento Kings.

The Lakers are undefeated at 3-0 under new coach JJ Redick, and Davis has scored at least 31 points in each game this season.

Los Angeles was up by as many as 15 points in the first half but the Kings cut the lead to 64-60 by halftime and had built a 7-point lead in the third quarter. James helped the Lakers come roaring back with 16 points in the fourth quarter.

Davis had a big 3-pointer with 37 seconds left in the game to give the Lakers a 128-123 lead after the Kings had cut it to two.

Domantas Sabonis also had a triple-double in the loss. He scored 29 points on 10 of 14 shots and added 12 rebounds and 10 assists.

Redick has found success early as an NBA coach. He has Los Angeles off to a 3-0 start.

Meanwhile Buddy Hield scored 27 points, Steph Curry added 20 and the Golden State Warriors overpowered the Utah Jazz 127-86.

Hield had 24 points in the first half, hitting 6 of 7 3-pointers, to help the Warriors improve to 2-0. The Jazz dropped to 0-2.

From the early first quarter to the early third, the Warriors outscored the Jazz 68-32. Trayce Jackson-Davis' inside shot made it 74-47 with 8:15 left in the third.



John Collins led Utah with 14 points. The Jazz opened with a 15-6 lead, but the Warriors took a double-digit lead early in the second quarter.

Utah shot 31.5%. The Jazz are 0-26 in games shooting below 33%.

Golden State had its second straight blowout win over a team that may be battling for lottery position after beating Portland 140-104 in the opener. The Warriors employed a trapping defense to force the Jazz into turnovers and crisp passing to get Hield and Curry open jumpers. Curry and most of the starters sat out the fourth quarter.

After a competitive loss to Memphis, the Jazz couldn't shoot or handle the pressure from the Warriors. Simple rotations were bungled and the Jazz misfired from the 3-point line all the way to the lane.

Hield came off the bench midway through the first quarter with the Warriors trailing by nine and immediately hit a 3-pointer off a pass from Curry and followed it with a layup. Hield then became a facilitator and found Curry for a 3 and Gary Payton II for a layup to give the Warriors a 22-21 lead.

Hield has made 12 of 16 3-pointers in his first two games, the most in NBA history for a player with a new team.