

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei Commends the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip for Their Heroic Steadfastness in the Face of the Israeli Regime's Ferocious 15-Months-Long War of Genocide

IRAN NEWS

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Reduction of Fossil Fuel Usage Must Be Prioritized



TEHRAN - The President emphasized the need to minimize the use of fossil fuels, stating that solar panels should be implemented in government buildings, sports facilities, and schools to reduce energy waste. He pointed out that between \$120 to \$150b of energy is wasted annually.

In a meeting with governors at the Ministry of Interior, President Masoud Pezeshkian highlighted the importance of delegation of authority, noting that clear, defined powers are essential for effective decision-making. "Authority has meaning only when matched with performance. We must specify clear objectives to avoid chaos," he stated.

The President also addressed the ongoing issues at border provinces, proposing the formation of a committee to identify and resolve border region challenges. This would involve consultations with relevant ministers, businessmen, academics, and religious scholars to devise a clear set of guidelines.

Pezeshkian praised the existing collaboration between the executive, legislative, and judiciary branches, adding, "We have received significant assistance from the heads of the legislative and judiciary branches. We must ensure coordination across all levels of government to resolve issues more efficiently. If we work together, we can overcome sanctions more easily, and if necessary, find ways to support our industrial and manufacturing sectors."

He reiterated the importance of shifting toward renewable energy sources to address the energy deficit, stating that discussions on this matter are ongoing at the highest levels of government. "There isn't a session where we don't discuss energy solutions with ministers of oil, industry, power, and economy," he remarked.

Regarding the energy sector, Pezeshkian revealed that due to the gas imbalance, the government had to burn mazut (heavy oil) in power plants this year, but assured that this would not happen in the next year. He stressed the urgent need to prioritize the use of solar panels, wind energy, and energy conservation.

On the issue of border regions, he acknowledged that while borders could be a source of income, they have unfortunately become areas of poverty and struggle. He called for the establishment of a "border committee" to revitalize these areas and unlock their potential.

Gaza Ceasefire Deal Must Become Sustainable Solution



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN has commended the Palestinian nation and their resistance against Israel after the ceasefire agreement came into effect in Gaza, emphasizing, however, that the deal must be converted into a permanent solution.

"While a welcome step, the ceasefire must be transformed into a permanent and sustainable solution. This demands the full withdrawal of Israeli forces, the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid, and a robust, comprehensive reconstruction plan for Gaza," Amir Saeid Iravani said on Monday as he addressed the Security Council during a session to discuss the Israeli regime's war crimes against Palestinians.

"Israel's unwillingness to fully withdraw and its insistence on maintaining control over Gaza's security undermines these efforts and perpetuates instability," he added.

The Iranian diplomat called on the Security Council to take a united and strong position in "defending Gaza's territorial integrity."

He also urged the international community to prioritize safeguarding the mandate of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), and ensure predictable, sustained funding to support displaced Palestinians.

"Equally critical is addressing the escalating violence in the West Bank, including the surge in settler attacks, which poses a serious threat to peace and security and requires immediate, decisive action," Iravani pointed out.



Supreme Leader Stresses the Role of the Private Sector in National Progress

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has emphasized that the only path to the country's advancement is the full utilization of the private sector's capabilities. During a visit to the "Pioneers of Progress" exhibition on Tuesday, he urged the government and its officials to address the concerns of the private sector, asserting that the nation's development hinges on empowering private enterprises.

The exhibition, which showcased the achievements and capabilities of Iran's private sector, spanned a diverse range of industries. These included communications and information technology, satellite equipment manufacturing, artificial intelligence, aircraft maintenance tools, mining and geology, oil, gas and petrochemical industries, steel and aluminum production, home appliances, marine industry, carpet manufacturing, water and electricity sectors, textiles, medical and hospital equipment, pharmaceutical production, agricultural and livestock industries, as well as handicrafts and tourism.

During the event, private sector companies presented their concerns regarding the challenges and obstacles they face. In response, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed the ministers present, stressing that the government must take proactive steps to remove these barriers. "The progress of the country is dependent on creating space for the private sector," he stated. "The only way forward is to tap into the potential and capabilities of private enterprises."

In a conversation regarding Iran's water and electricity sectors, the Supreme Leader listened to explanations provided by the Minister of Energy about efforts to address power shortages. While

acknowledging the minister's comments as "good and correct," Ayatollah Khamenei insisted that these statements must lead to concrete actions. "The issue of power shortages and proposed solutions has been discussed for several years, yet we still remain far from the ideal resolution," he noted.

One of the major issues raised by private sector representatives was the prolonged and complex process of obtaining licenses and permits. In response, Ayatollah Khamenei highlighted the importance of streamlining these procedures. "The issue of permits is crucial," he stated. "The government and relevant agencies must seriously work to eliminate the obstacles to issuing permits quickly."

The Supreme Leader's comments reflect a growing recognition of the critical role that the private sector can play in driving economic growth. By fostering an environment that supports private enterprise, Ayatollah Khamenei believes that Iran can unlock its full potential and achieve long-term prosperity.

His remarks come at a time when the country faces numerous economic challenges, including inflation, unemployment, and sanctions. Strengthening the private sector is seen as a key strategy to alleviate these issues and boost national resilience.

As the government prepares for further policy adjustments, the private sector's call for reform in bureaucratic processes and greater access to resources may become an area of focus for future legislative action.

Shifting the Capital Won't Happen Overnight

TEHRAN - The Vice President of Iran, Mohammadreza Aref, addressed discussions regarding the potential relocation of the capital, emphasizing that it is not a decision that could be implemented overnight. Speaking at the 30th anniversary ceremony of Iran Newspaper, Aref made it clear that the shift of the capital is a long-term project that involves complex mechanisms and thorough studies.

"It is not the case that by tomorrow morning, people will wake up to find the capital moved," Aref stated on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. He explained that this is a multi-year initiative, with intricate processes and evaluations that need to take place.

Aref, who had earlier mentioned the Makran region as a possible destination for the capital shift, expressed his appreciation for those who have voiced critiques, whether constructive, suppressive, or appreciative. He emphasized the importance of addressing these issues to ensure that opinions are heard and serious decisions are made.

The Vice President further discussed the role of media in reflecting government actions impartially. He acknowledged the dual nature of Iran Newspaper, which is government-owned yet maintains independence. Aref commended the paper for not forcing a specific ideology upon its readers but instead earning its place in the media through its credibility.

"Media outlets must be free to reflect performance without bias," Aref stated. "While Iran Newspaper is government-backed, it has found its rightful place among the public and has maintained its independence over the years."

He also touched on the paper's evolution over the past three decades, noting moments when he personally felt disinclined to read it. However, he clarified that these reflections were from the perspective of a reader wanting to see their own thoughts and concerns represented in the media, not from a political standpoint.

Aref stressed the need for Iran to adopt a more culturally focused perspective. He pointed out that the country has often overlooked cultural priorities, which should be central to the nation's discourse, especially in the media. "A media outlet's primary focus should be cultural," he affirmed.



He expressed concern over the current social and economic disparities in the country. While the economic imbalance is widely acknowledged, Aref warned that the social and cultural consequences of these imbalances might become more evident in the future. He also raised concerns about how well the media, including Iran Newspaper, has engaged the younger generation, urging that the paper should be a vehicle for drawing in youth.

The Vice President also highlighted the government's commitment to fostering national unity. He cited President Raisi's focus on consensus-building, emphasizing that true unity must be enacted through action, not just words. "Unity was the slogan of the Islamic Revolution, and today it manifests as 'consensus,'" Aref noted.

He added that the administration seeks to implement this ethos through practical measures, not empty promises, and emphasized that the government's approach should be transparent and open to critique.

Aref concluded by underscoring the media's role in creating a sense of hope and alleviating concerns. He reminded the public of the challenges the revolution faced from its inception and how the resilience of the Iranian people had carried the country forward.

"Despite the serious threats from adversaries who sought to bring down the revolution, the Iranian people have persevered," Aref said. "The media must manage this narrative of hope, showing the public that progress is being made."

He expressed confidence that with unity and collaboration, the country could overcome its challenges, particularly in economic and social sectors, and continue to move forward with development. Aref called for constructive criticism from media outlets to help guide the government's actions and ensure that the administration is accountable to the people.

In conclusion, he reiterated the importance of a collective effort in addressing the needs of the population, ensuring that every branch of government and the media is prepared to meet the public's demands.

Iran Army Ready to Thwart Terrorist Threats



TEHRAN (PressTV) - A senior commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army says the country's armed forces are fully ready to thwart any hostile actions against the country "at any scale or level."

"The country's Armed Forces will shatter the enemy's delusion of grandeur," Commander of the Army's Ground Force, Brigadier General Kioumars Heidari said on Monday, on the sidelines of two-day drills in the northwestern city of Mashhad. Heidari noted that "a very large number of troops and weapons" were taking part in the anti-terrorism drills.

"The Armed Forces have exemplary strength and readiness, and will cut off the hands and feet of those who breach the country's security," he warned.

Stressing the importance of regional and international counter-terrorism efforts, Heidari called on friendly and neighboring countries in the region to cooperate with each other to protect the security of the region.

On Monday, the Iranian Army's Ground Force launched extensive security, offensive and counter-terrorism drills near the country's borders and beyond. The forces enlisted a vast array of military hardware.

The drills have featured successful nabbing of ringleaders and senior members of presumed terrorist outfits, and preemptive attack against terror groups' positions across the country's borders.

The Islamic Republic's Armed Forces, including the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), have been continuously enhancing their military hardware and combat readiness in line with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's directives.

The forces have vowed to defend the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of the threats that are posed by the Iranian nation's enemies.

Meanwhile a senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the Israeli regime will never be able to eliminate the military and ideological power of the Resistance Front in Palestine, Lebanon and Yemen.

Iran to Participate in Int'l Naval Drills Hosted by Pakistan



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's top military official has said the country would participate in international naval exercises that would be hosted by the Pakistani Navy and is scheduled to go underway next month.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri made the remarks on Monday concerning the AMAN (Peace)-25 multinational naval drills that would take place in the Pakistani port city of Karachi from February 7 to 11.

"Iran has been invited to partake in the international drills in Pakistan, and we will participate in this event," he said.

The event has garnered significant international attention, especially with expectations of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLA Navy) of China actively participating in the drills.

Baqeri made the remarks after meeting with Pakistan's Army Chief General Asim Munir in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, to which the former has traveled at the head of a high-ranking military delegation.

The officials underlined that the countries had to pursue a serious fight against terrorism to protect sustainable security in common border areas.

Baqeri also said the nations had succeeded in enabling remarkable growth in bilateral consultations, particularly in the military and defensive sectors.

He added that "fundamental" measures had been taken to close borders so that traffic between the countries could take place only through formal crossings.

The official pointed to Pakistan's firm determination to battle the Pakistan-based Jaish al-Zulm (Army of Brutality) terrorist group and noted that coordination in border areas and swift exchange of intelligence would help the countries conduct swift operations against terrorists.

IRAN NEWS



Iran's Exports to Afghanistan Double Those to 15 Other Countries

TEHRAN (Dispatches) - Exports from Iran to Afghanistan have reached a level double that of Iran's total exports to 15 other countries, according to the head of the Khorasan-e-Jonubi Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture, Alireza Khomehjad.

Khomehjad explained that Iran's exports to Afghanistan have consistently ranged between \$2 billion and \$3 billion in recent years, making Afghanistan the Islamic Republic's primary economic partner in the region.

He also noted that Iran has maintained a positive trade balance with Afghanistan, always ranking first in exports to the country. The commercial relationship with Afghanistan continues to favor Iran, which sees Afghanistan as a crucial market for expanding its economic and trade relations.

Iran's Exports to Europe Grow by 5%



TEHRAN - According to Eurostat data, trade between Iran and the European Union reached €4.15 billion in the first 11 months of 2024, marking a 3% decrease compared to the same period last year. Of this amount, EU exports to Iran accounted for €3.37 billion, reflecting a 4% decline, while Iran's exports to Europe grew by 5%, reaching €773 million.

In November 2024, Iran-EU trade volume amounted to €377 million, representing a 19% decline compared to €467 million in the same month last year. European exports to Iran fell by 22%, dropping from €383 million to €299 million. Conversely, Iran's exports to Europe increased by 7% compared to the same month last year, rising from €84 million to €78 million.

The leading export category from Iran to the EU, based on the SITC classification, was food and livestock, which experienced a 20% increase and reached a value of €270 million. Meanwhile, the primary EU export category to Iran—vehicles and industrial machinery—declined by 7%, amounting to €1.18 billion.

Germany remains Iran's top trading partner in Europe, followed by Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium.

Iran Imports 30 Tons of Gold from Africa Despite Challenges in Trade Relations



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Masoud Barahman, the head of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce, spoke with ILNA about the ongoing challenges and opportunities in trade between Iran and the African continent. He highlighted issues related to shipping, financial transactions, necessary bank guarantees for participating in tenders, and the lack of direct flights to Africa, which continue to complicate trade relations.

One of the key challenges in trade between Iran and Africa is the lack of regular shipping routes. Currently, Iran's maritime transport to Africa is limited to East Africa, with ships mostly heading to Zanzibar and occasionally stopping at Mombasa in Kenya. Iranian shipping companies only operate along these routes when the cargo hold is full, which leads to irregular shipping schedules. Barahman explained that this lack of consistency hampers Iranian traders, as they are unable to fulfill export commitments and risk damaging their reputations.

Barahman also criticized the Iranian Maritime Shipping Company (IRISL) for refusing to dispatch ships unless they are fully loaded, arguing that such a policy is counterproductive. He pointed out that, in contrast, countries like Turkey and China have implemented more strategic solutions to maintain a steady flow of trade. He suggested that consistent maritime shipments would not only improve trade but also help Iranian companies meet their export targets more effectively. However, the current instability in Iran's shipping regulations, such as sudden export bans, has discouraged private shipping companies from taking on Iranian cargo, further exacerbating the problem.

In terms of overall trade volume, Barahman noted that Iran's non-oil exports amount to about \$50 billion annually, while the country's potential export capacity stands at \$350 billion. This suggests that Iran is only utilizing one-seventh of its export potential.

Discussing trade with Africa, Barahman revealed that in the past year, trade between Iran and the continent amounted to approximately \$1.3 billion, with \$1 billion worth of Iranian exports and \$300 million in imports from Africa. He emphasized the growing economic potential of African nations, especially Ethiopia, which has seen rapid growth.

Ethiopia, with a population of 125 million, offers significant opportunities for Iranian businesses. South Africa also stands out as a strong partner for Iranian exports, particularly in sectors such as technology and telecommunications. It is noteworthy that South Africa holds a 50% stake in the Iranian mobile network operator, Irancell.

Despite Africa's status as the world's least developed continent, Barahman pointed out that its economic growth rate outpaces the global average. Africa's trade with the rest of the world amounted to \$500 billion in the first half of the current year, with China accounting for \$143 billion of that total. This indicates the continent's increasing integration into the global economy, offering promising opportunities for Iranian businesses.

Barahman also addressed the issue of air transport, noting that there are no direct flights between Iran and Africa. Although there were initial agreements with South Africa and Nigeria to establish direct flights, no concrete steps have been taken. He emphasized that Iran lacks a unified roadmap for its trade with Africa. Despite efforts from various government agencies, such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Trade Promotion Organization, and the Chamber of Commerce, there is no coordinated strategy, leading to fragmented efforts and missed opportunities.

Reflecting on the trade potential, Barahman emphasized that African markets hold strong demand for a wide range of Iranian products, from plastic goods and imitation jewelry to home appliances, carpets, pharmaceuticals, and agricultural machinery. In return, Iran imports minerals from Africa, including phosphate, bauxite, manganese ore, cocoa, coffee, and tea. With 15 oil-producing countries, Africa also offers significant energy resources for Iran.

In a final note, Barahman disclosed that last year, Iran imported approximately 30 tons of gold from Africa, underlining the ongoing importance of the African market for Iranian trade.

The challenges of trade with Africa remain significant, but with more strategic planning and collaboration, there is substantial potential for growth in economic ties between the two regions.

Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber and Tehran Chamber Sign Cooperation Agreement



TEHRAN - The Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber and the Tehran Chamber of Commerce have signed a cooperation agreement. During the signing ceremony, Amir Abedi, President of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Chamber of Commerce, proposed a sisterhood agreement between the Tehran Chamber and the Astana Chamber. Referring to the recent abolition of the 15-day visa requirement between the two countries, he stated that the Iranian private sector is seeking to extend this period to 30 days to facilitate cooperation in tourism and the export of technical and engineering services, among other sectors.

Abedi highlighted the Iran-Kazakhstan trade roadmap and the target of achieving a three-billion-dollar trade volume within three years. He emphasized that achieving this goal requires economic stability and consistent foreign exchange and monetary policies within Iran. Another key factor is the establishment of a cohesive financial system for commercial transactions between the two countries.

He also mentioned the formation of the Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Commission in the remaining months of the year, along with the Eurasia Trade Exhibition and Conference, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran in early March. According to Abedi, these upcoming events could mark the beginning of a new phase in the economic relations between the two countries.

Mahmoud Najafi-Arab, President of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, noted that the current economic relations between the two countries do not align with their full potential. He described Iran's observer membership in the Eurasian Economic Union as a turning point in Iran's economic relations with member states, including Kazakhstan. Najafi-Arab affirmed that the Tehran Chamber is ready to leverage its capabilities and those of the private sector to expand economic cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan.

Ontalap Onalbayev, Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Iran, referred to a cooperation document signed between the two countries in 2023. He stated that some provisions of this document, which outline the economic cooperation roadmap, fall under the responsibilities of both countries' chambers of commerce. The implementation of this document could contribute significantly to strengthening economic ties between the two nations.

Onalbayev also highlighted Kazakhstan's strategic geographical access and developed infrastructure, making it a suitable gateway to major markets in Russia and China. He noted that the Kazakh government has introduced favorable facilities and capacities to attract foreign investments.

India Becomes Largest Importer of Bitumen from Iran



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Davood Mohammadi, President of the Iranian Bitumen Association, stated during a press conference at the 15th International Exhibition of Bitumen, Asphalt, Concrete, Cement, and Related Machinery that the exhibition will be held from February 1 to 4, with the participation of 130 domestic and foreign companies, primarily from China.

He further mentioned, "Iran is the world's largest exporter of bitumen, and last year we broke an export record. Iran's bitumen exports in the past year totaled 7.5 million tons, generating \$2.35 billion in revenue."

Mohammadi emphasized that this year will see even more growth. "We have already exported 4.86 million tons of bitumen this year, and we expect this figure to increase."

Regarding the destinations for Iranian bitumen exports, he said, "India is the largest importer of Iranian bitumen. Additionally, strong markets have been established for Iranian bitumen in China, Kenya, and Tanzania."

When asked about the allocation of export earnings from bitumen in the commercial foreign exchange market (the "negotiated" market), Mohammadi stressed: "From today, we must bring export revenue into the commercial currency market, but exporters should be allowed to sell their currency at the real exchange rate. The government must recognize that people's livelihoods depend on the Istanbul crossroads dollar rate, and exporters, who have worked hard to ship their products, should be allowed to sell their foreign currency at the free market price."

Mohammadi added, "I want to emphasize that we do not receive any subsidies for importing raw materials, and we buy export-quality bitumen through the Commodity Exchange at the highest possible price. We do not receive any government dollars for raw materials."

He also clarified that there is no such thing as "free bitumen." "This year, 2 million tons have been used for rural roads, school renovation, the Housing Foundation, rural municipalities, and city municipalities. Essentially, there is no such thing as free bitumen, and contractors must provide a guarantee for the bitumen they receive."

In response to a question regarding the production and export of counterfeit and low-quality bitumen in Iran, Mohammadi explained, "Counterfeit bitumen is produced in small illegal workshops, and its production must be stopped by the Ministry of Industry, Mine, and Trade. However, the volume of counterfeit bitumen has decreased, as it was previously produced in large quantities using stone powder. Now, its production is limited, and its export has been blocked."

He concluded, "Currently, our main issue is the export of Iraqi bitumen at lower prices. India has shown interest in this bitumen, and Iraq is selling it \$20-\$30 less than Iranian bitumen, though its quality is inferior to that of Iran's."

Petrochemical Exports Reach \$10.3b in First Nine Months of the Year



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Davood Madadi, Chairman of the Board of the Renewable Energy Association of Iran and Vice President of the Iranian Electricity Industry Federation, emphasized the fundamental role of energy in driving the country's economy. He stated: "Without electricity, industry cannot function, and the economy cannot progress as planned." It was anticipated that Iran would see an 8% economic growth this year, yet reported figures are around 2.4% to 2.3%. He also pointed out that the country is grappling with a deficit of fossil resources, essential for electricity generation.

Madadi noted that for about nine years, there have been continuous calls from the Ministry of Energy regarding renewable energy, which is both environmentally beneficial and utilizes God-given resources such as wind and sunlight to generate needed electricity in the country. He mentioned that renewable electricity significantly supports the country and industry during peak demand times, which poses a major challenge. Predictions suggest that by 2041, an additional 200,000 megawatts of electricity will be required at a growth rate of 5% per year, while the current installed capacity stands at 94,000 megawatts. This creates a significant gap that could lead to substantial economic losses if unaddressed.

He further explained that according to official announcements, the industry faced over 200 trillion rials in opportunity costs this year due to energy shortages, compared to around 80 trillion rials the previous year. Madadi attributed electricity generation and consumption imbalances primarily to the state-controlled economy, calling for the removal of Tavanir (the national power distributor) from the electricity purchase and sale cycle. He criticized the current system where electricity generated is sold to consumers without timely payments to producers, saying: "If the foundation is wrong, why continue along this path?" He attributed the underdevelopment of renewable energy in the country to the lack of budget allocation for fuel costs within the ministry's framework.

According to Madadi, Article 61 of the Consumption Pattern Reform Law requires the government to guarantee a 20-year buyback price for those wishing to invest in renewables. However, he lamented

that the government has resisted implementing this law and failed to allocate a budget for it. He stressed that the government should step away from the intermediary role in the electricity market, stating, "As long as this process continues, we should not expect improvements in the electricity sector."

Madadi noted that the private sector is tasked with developing renewable energy solutions. He pointed out that in recent years, a significant portion of foreign investment targeted renewable energy, with companies from Germany, France, Italy, and South Africa establishing power plants. However, these developments were halted due to non-payment by the government. He expressed a strong conviction that a state-led economy cannot foster the growth of renewable energy and criticized government intervention in creating a "Green Exchange" for renewables.

Ardehsir Dadras, Chairman of the CNG and Related Industries Association, highlighted the importance of energy economics, noting that 85% of Iran's economy depends on energy, primarily natural gas. He emphasized the need to adopt global standards and patterns in energy development, advocating for the use of frameworks outlined by the International Energy Agency regarding pricing, storage, and reducing energy waste.

Hassanali Taghi-Zadeh Landeh, Chairman of the Syndicate of Electricity Producers, criticized the management of electrical economics by the Ministry of Energy and Tavanir, asserting that government presence in the electricity trade hinders the growth of power plants and breeds inefficiency in the electricity economy. He called for the government to exit the electricity market and hand over operations to the private sector to alleviate shortages. He expressed skepticism about finding a solution for electricity imbalance as long as the government remains involved in electricity trading.

In summary, increased interventions by the government in the electricity sector, the lack of adherence to international standards, and rising costs are leading to significant challenges in Iran's electricity production, as industry leaders urge for a shift towards privatization and a market-driven economy.

Necessity in Holding the Iran-Indonesia Joint Commission



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Seyed Sattar Hashemi, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, met with Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro, the Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran, on Monday afternoon. During the meeting, Hashemi highlighted the history of interactions between the two countries and expressed hope for enhanced bilateral relations with the commencement of Indonesia's new government.

As the head of the Iran-Indonesia Joint Economic Cooperation Commission, Hashemi emphasized the efforts of the Ministry of Communications in advancing issues related to the commission and called for the follow-up on previously signed agreements between the two nations.

Hashemi also elaborated on the missions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Communications, mentioning key achievements in various sectors such as content production, e-commerce, transportation, and smart energy management. He described these areas as suitable fields for sharing experiences with Indonesia.

He identified electronic banking as a promising area for cooperation, noting that such services are expanding domestically and being introduced in BRICS member countries. He expressed hope that mutual cooperation could further develop these services.

The minister also acknowledged Indonesia's significant role in ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), recognizing it as an influential player within the union and expressing expectations for expanded cooperation leveraging this capacity.

EU Takes China to WTO Over High-Tech Patent Royalties

BRUSSELS (Dispatches) - The European Commission filed a complaint at the World Trade Organization on Monday against what it said was China's "unfair and illegal" practice of setting worldwide royalty rates for EU standard essential patents without the patent owner's consent.

The Commission, which oversees the trade policy of the 27-nation European Union, said China had empowered its courts to set worldwide rates for high-tech EU companies, notably in the telecoms sector.

"This pressures innovative European high-tech companies into lowering their rates on a worldwide basis, thus giving Chinese manufacturers cheaper access to those European technologies unfairly," it said in a statement.

China's commerce ministry said it regretted the EU's decision to complain and that China would handle the matter in accordance with WTO rules while safeguarding its legitimate rights and interests.



Macron Warns Europe It Can't Depend Only on U.S. Weapons



PARIS (Dispatches) - French President Emmanuel Macron warned on Monday that the billions of euros of taxpayer money spent on Europe's military budgets should not be used to buy only American weapons, pushing for more investment in home-grown defense industries.

Speaking minutes before the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump, who has complained that Europeans do not pay enough for their defense, Macron said the continent should spend more.

But he added, in a New Year address to military top brass: "We can't raise debt together, spend more for our defense to subsidize the industry, wealth and jobs of other continents.

"When we say 'let's spend more for our armies', in many countries it means, way too often, 'buy more American materiel'."

France, which has a large defense industry, has often complained when other European Union members have opted to buy U.S. weapons when French or European alternatives exist.

Germany's decision in 2022 to launch the "European Sky Shield" air-defense system with U.S. and Israeli hardware, ignoring a Franco-Italian alternative, particularly angered Macron.

Such concerns have long been dismissed as self-serving by countries that have relied on the U.S. security umbrella since at least World War Two. But Trump's more aggressive stance has made EU members more receptive.

Macron said Europeans should also simplify the European defense industry. Europe has 47 different industrial platforms for its naval industry while the U.S. has only six, he said.

He called for more joint European weapons development, even without French companies in the lead, adding: "We won't always be the European champions. But at least we'll be sure the European champions have a global reach."

Macron said France now had "Europe's most efficient army" and met NATO's military budget target of 2% of GDP, but could not rest on its laurels at a time when the U.S. might withdraw troops from Europe.

After Taking Office, Trump Pardons 1,500 Jan. 6 Defendants

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - Donald Trump pardoned about 1,500 of his supporters who attacked the U.S. Capitol four years ago as he moved swiftly to impose his will on the U.S. government just hours after reclaiming the presidency on Monday.

After a day of ceremony, Trump signed a series of executive actions to curb immigration and roll back environmental regulations and racial and gender diversity initiatives. He did not take immediate action to raise tariffs, a key campaign promise, but said he could impose 25% duties on Canada and Mexico on Feb. 1.

His decision to pardon supporters who attacked the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, is sure to enrage police, lawmakers and others whose lives were put at risk during an unprecedented episode in modern U.S. history.

Roughly 140 police officers were assaulted during the attack, with some sprayed with chemical irritants and others struck with pipes, poles and other weapons. Four people died during the chaos, including a Trump supporter who was shot dead by police.

Trump ordered 14 leaders of the far-right Oath Keepers and Proud Boys militant groups, who were serving long prison sentences, released from prison early, but left their convictions intact.

Earlier in the day, Trump, 78, took the oath of office in the Capitol Rotunda, where a mob of his supporters had rampaged on Jan. 6 in an unsuccessful attempt to reverse his 2020 loss to Joe Biden.

At the ceremony, Trump portrayed himself as a savior chosen by God to rescue a faltering nation. His inauguration amounts to a triumphant return for a political disruptor who survived two assassination attempts and won election despite a criminal conviction and a prosecution stemming from his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss.

"I was saved by God to make America great again," he said.

Trump is the first president in more than a century to win a second term after losing the White House and the first felon to occupy the White House. The oldest president ever to be sworn in, he is backed by Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress.

Trump moved quickly to clamp down on illegal immigration, a signature issue since he first entered politics in 2015. Shortly after he took the oath of office, U.S. border authorities shut down a program that allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants to enter the U.S. legally by scheduling an appointment through a smartphone. Existing appointments were canceled. Nearly 1,660 Afghans who had been cleared by the U.S. government to resettle in the U.S., including family members of

active-duty U.S. military personnel, were having their flights canceled under a Trump order suspending U.S. refugee programs, a U.S. official and a leading refugee resettlement advocate said on Monday.

At the White House, Trump signed an order that declared a national emergency at the U.S.-Mexico border, which would unlock funding and allow him to dispatch troops there. He signed an order that would end a policy that confers citizenship to those born in the United States, which is certain to trigger a lengthy court fight. Another executive order designated Mexican drug cartels as terrorist organizations.

Trump once again withdrew the United States from the Paris climate deal, removing the world's biggest historic emitter from global efforts to fight climate change for the second time in a decade.

"We're getting rid of all the cancer ... caused by the Biden administration," Trump said as he signed a stack of executive orders in the Oval Office.

Other orders revoked Biden administration policies governing artificial intelligence and electric vehicles. He also imposed a freeze on federal hiring and ordered government workers to return to the office, rather than working from home. He also signed paperwork to create a "Department of Government Efficiency," an outside advisory board headed by billionaire Elon Musk that aims to cut large swaths of government spending.

In the State Department, more than a dozen nonpartisan senior diplomats were asked to resign as part of a broader plan to replace nonpartisan civil servants with loyalists.

He also said he would issue orders to scrap federal diversity programs and require the government to recognize only genders assigned at birth.

While Trump sought to portray himself as a peacemaker and unifier during his half-hour speech, his tone was often sharply partisan. He repeated false claims from his campaign that other countries were emptying their prisons into America and voiced familiar grievances over his criminal prosecutions.

With Biden seated nearby, Trump issued a stinging indictment of his predecessor's policies from immigration to foreign affairs.

"We have a government that has given unlimited funding to the defense of foreign borders, but refuses to defend American borders, or more importantly, its own people," Trump said.

Colombia's President to Declare State of Emergency



BOGOTA (Dispatches) - Colombian president Gustavo Petro said on Monday that he will declare a state of emergency, following a spate of guerrilla attacks in the country's northeast that has killed dozens of people and forced thousands to flee their homes.

In a message on X Petro said that he will "declare a state of internal commotion," a measure that enables the executive branch to pass certain kinds of legislation without congressional approval for three months. The measure will go into effect after a decree is signed by the President and his Cabinet, but it can also be invalidated by Colombia's constitutional court.

Internal commotion decrees were used in the early 2000s by the administration of then-President Álvaro Uribe to increase financing for the military through a special war tax. According to Colombia's constitution, this emergency measure cannot be used to suspend congress or eliminate civil rights. "I hope the judicial system supports us," Petro wrote on X.

Earlier on Monday Petro had warned that his nation's military will take offensive actions against the National Liberation Army after the rebels, known as the ELN, unleashed a wave of attacks in Colombia's Catatumbo region, in which at least 80 people have been killed.

Gazans Begin Searching for People Under Rubble on Day Two of Ceasefire

GAZA (Dispatches) - Palestinians began searching for thousands of Gazans believed still buried under rubble, as residents expressed shock at the devastation wrought by 15 months of war on the enclave on the second day of a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

The truce in the 15-month-old conflict, which has laid waste to the Gaza Strip and inflamed the Middle East, took effect on Sunday with the release of the first three hostages held by Hamas and 90 Palestinians freed from Israeli jails.

Now attention is starting to shift to the rebuilding of the coastal enclave which the Israeli military has demolished in retaliation for a Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

That assault killed 1,200 people with around 250 hostages taken into Gaza, according to Israeli tallies. In the subsequent conflict, more than 47,000 Palestinians have been killed, Gaza's health ministry says.

"We are searching for 10,000 martyrs whose bodies remain under the rubble," said Mahmoud Basal, spokesperson of the Palestinian Civil Emergency Services.

At least 2,840 bodies were melted and there were no traces of them, he said. Displaced Gazan Mohamed Gomaa lost his brother and nephew in the war.

"It was a big shock, and the amount (of people) feeling shocked is countless because of what happened to their homes - it's destruction, total destruction. It's not like an earthquake or a flood, no, no, what happened is a war of extermination," he said.

With a growing flow of aid into the Palestinian enclave, residents flocked into markets, with some expressing happiness at the lower prices and the presence of new food items like imported chocolates.

"The prices have gone down, the war is over and the crossing is open to more goods," said Aya Mohammad-Zaki, a displaced woman from Gaza City, who



has been sheltering in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza Strip.

The deal requires 600 truckloads of aid to be allowed into Gaza every day of the initial six-week ceasefire, including 50 carrying fuel. Half of the aid trucks would be delivered to the north, where experts have warned famine is imminent.

Residents and medics in Gaza said that for the most part the ceasefire appeared to be holding, although there were isolated incidents. Medics said eight people had been hit by Israeli fire since Monday morning in the southern city of Rafah, without giving details of their condition.

The Israeli military said it fired warning shots against suspects who approached troops deployed according to the ceasefire agreement.

One of the Israeli women hostages released on Sunday, Emily Damari, posted a message on Instagram on Monday.

"I have returned to life, my loved ones," she wrote, "I am the happiest in the world, to just be," said Damari, a British-Israeli citizen.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, where most of the freed Palestinian detainees returned, Nidaa Zaghebi was finally able to embrace her three children who she had left behind after her arrest by Israeli forces.

Zaghebi's daughters Sadan and Cilla were in tears as they hugged their mother when she arrived at their home, wearing a crown of flowers and wrapped in a traditional Palestinian scarf.

"I used to dream of them every night, and imagine what they were doing. I know the family here were very supportive and took good care of them, but motherhood overcomes all other feelings," she told Reuters.

Billions of dollars will be needed to rebuild Gaza after the war. A U.N. damage assessment released this month showed that clearing over 50 million tonnes of rubble left in the aftermath of Israel's bombardment could take 21 years and cost up to \$1.2 billion.

A U.N. report from last year, said rebuilding Gaza's shattered homes could take at least until 2040, but could drag on for many decades. The debris is believed to be contaminated with asbestos, with some refugee camps struck during the war known to have been built with the material.

A U.N. Development Programme official said on Sunday that development in Gaza has been set back by 69 years as a result of the conflict.

Israel said its goal in the war was to eradicate Hamas and destroy the tunnel network it built underground.

Davos Climate Activists Paint Amazon Base Green, Disrupt Helicopters

DAVOS (Dispatches) - Climate activists sprayed green paint over Amazon's base in Davos on Monday and disrupted helicopter landings at the start of the World Economic Forum's annual meeting.

Swiss police swarmed to close down both protests as global business and political leaders descended on the mountain resort on the opening day of the meeting, where demonstrations over fossil fuels and climate change have become a regular feature.

Demonstrators protesting over fossil fuel subsidies daubed orange symbols on the shop front where Amazon has set up a temporary base on the main street in Davos, as well as splattering green paint over the plate-glass windows.

Greenpeace, which briefly blocked the heliport in Davos, said in a statement that it had taken the action to call for "a fair tax on the richest people, to fund environmental protection and invest in a fair and sustainable



future for humanity".

Police moved in to remove around 10 protesters who were blocking two vehicles at the heliport entrance with bright yellow banners saying "TaxTheSuperRich".

"So far we have blocked 10-20 helicopters in one and a half hours. Over the course of the day we are expecting around a hundred helicopters arriving here," Greenpeace activist Clara Thompson told Reuters.

High-profile politicians and business leaders often use the helicopter pad to land in the Swiss Alpine resort. Security is tight for the WEF meeting, where one of the main themes for discussion this week is "safeguarding the planet".

The WEF said on its 2025 programme that it is "crucial for businesses, governments, and civil society to work together to find common solutions and take decisive action".



Allen Pushes Bills Past Ravens, Into AFC Championship Game

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - The Buffalo Bills feel disrespected, and what occurred Sunday night will only add to the chips on their collective shoulders.

As Buffalo celebrated a 27-25 victory over the Baltimore Ravens to reach next weekend's AFC Championship Game, the overwhelming sentiment was that the Bills advanced primarily because Baltimore's Mark Andrews dropped a two-point conversion pass with 1:33 left to prevent the Ravens from tying the score.

Those three forced turnovers and huge defensive plays by Buffalo's Terrel Bernard and Von Miller were suddenly minimized.

"All year, this team has heard, 'We've got no talent. We're too small. We can't stop the run. We're not good enough to compete,'" Bills quarterback Josh Allen said. "We just put our heads down and work hard. I'm so proud of our defense, our offense and special teams. What a complete win."

Allen rushed for two touchdowns and Ray Davis rushed for one as the second-seeded Bills defeated the third-seeded Ravens in cold and icy conditions at Orchard Park, N.Y. The temperature was 19 degrees, but it felt like 12 at kickoff.

Buffalo will visit the top-seeded Kansas City Chiefs in the AFC title game next Sunday. It is a rematch of the 2021 AFC title game, where the Chiefs posted a 38-24 victory over Buffalo.

Lamar Jackson completed 18 of 25 passes for 254 yards and two touchdowns for the Ravens but also was responsible for two turnovers (one interception, one lost fumble). Baltimore's Derrick Henry rushed for 84 yards and a touchdown and Rashod Bateman and Isaiah Likely had scoring receptions.

Allen completed 16 of 22 passes for 127 yards while getting the victory over Jackson. The two are the leading NFL MVP candidates.

"It wasn't pretty," Allen said of the victory. "These playoff games, you got to win by one. That's all that matters."

Jackson finished strong by driving the Ravens 88 yards on eight plays and hitting Likely on a 24-yard touchdown catch to bring Baltimore within two with 1:33 left. On the two-point play, Jackson rolled right and tossed the ball to a wide-open Andrews, who dropped it at the goal line.

"I'm just as hurt as Mark. It's a team effort," Jackson said when asked about Andrews' drop. "I'm not going to put it on Mark. He was battling and doing all the great things he did all season. It don't always go our way."

Ravens coach John Harbaugh didn't wish to entertain any suggestions that Andrews was at blame for the loss.

"There's nobody that has more heart and cares more and fights more than Mark," Harbaugh said. "We wouldn't be here without Mark Andrews."

Buffalo's Rasul Douglas recovered the ensuing onside kick, and Ty Johnson cemented the victory with a 17-yard run.

Baltimore trailed by 11 points at halftime before controlling the third quarter.

Justin Tucker kicked a 47-yard field goal to bring the Ravens within 21-13 with 9:47 left in the third quarter.

Henry scored on a 5-yard rush with 1:37 remaining in the third. The Ravens went for a game-tying two-point conversion, but Buffalo's Matt Milano tipped away Jackson's pass.

Tyler Bass made a 51-yard field goal to increase the Bills' lead to 24-19 with 12:04 left in the game.

Later, Jackson hit Andrews for 16 yards to get to the Buffalo 44-yard line. But Bernard punched the ball out of Andrews' hands and jumped on it at the Bills 46 with 8:41 remaining.

"He found a soft spot in the zone," Bernard said of Andrews. "We rallied to the ball and I saw him cut back and really all I saw was the ball and tried to get it out. ... I was lucky enough to get it out of there."

Chelsea Back in Top Four



LONDON (Dispatches) - Chelsea overcame a howler from goalkeeper Robert Sanchez to beat relegation-threatened Wolves 3-1, ending a five-game winless run to climb back into the Premier League's top four.

Enzo Maresca's team were just two points behind leaders Liverpool in mid-December, raising hopes of an unlikely title challenge before losing their way.

Now they are back on track to qualify for next season's Champions League after second-half goals from Marc Cucurella and Noni Madueke spared Sanchez's blushes.

The Spanish goalkeeper had dropped the ball moments before half-time, allowing Matt Doherty to cancel out Tosin Adarabioyo's opener.

Maresca said Chelsea had dominated the first 40 minutes before problems that have haunted them in recent weeks returned.

"We lost a little bit of confidence, we conceded a goal and we started to struggle a little bit and then the second half I think we started quite well and then after the second and third goals the game was in control," he told Sky Sports.

He added: "In the past five games we didn't win but I said many times that the performance was there. We created many chances, we didn't score and tonight finally we scored three goals."

Chelsea's top-scorer Cole Palmer, a doubt before the game, was fit to start as Maresca made five changes from last week's draw against Bournemouth including bringing in centre-back Trevoh Chalobah, recalled from his loan spell at Crystal Palace.

The home side dominated possession in the early stages and Palmer had a couple of early efforts, curling one wide and forcing Jose Sa into a diving save.

The home side were rewarded for their dominance midway through the first half when Adarabioyo fired home for his first Premier League goal for the club.

Sinner Toughs It Out as Tien Hobbles Out



MELBOURNE (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner battled through illness and reached the quarter-finals of the Australian Open but the physical demands of Grand Slam tennis proved too much for French veteran Gael Monfils and American teenager Learner Tien.

Iga Swiatek was in excellent shape as she continued her bid for a maiden title at Melbourne Park and sixth major by downing lucky loser Eva Lys 6-0 6-1, but Elena Rybakina could not shake off a back problem and fell 6-3 1-6 6-3 to Madison Keys.

Monfils, 38, was forced to retire with his own back issue while trailing American young gun Ben Shelton 7-6(3) 6-7(3) 7-6(2) 1-0, ending an inspired run at the year's first Grand Slam after his Auckland triumph.

The stifling heat did not help defending champion Sinner when he started struggling physically in the second set of his fourth-round clash with Dane Holger Rune on a steamy afternoon at Rod Laver Arena.

The top seed did not want to go into detail on what was ailing him but admitted to having dizzy spells before a lengthy medical timeout in the third set that proved a turning point in his 6-3 3-6 6-3 6-2 victory.

"I wasn't feeling really well," said 23-year-old Sinner, who equalled the Italian record set by Nicky Pietrangeli by reaching his 10th Grand Slam quarter-final. "I think we saw that today, I was struggling physically."

Sinner will next face home hope Alex de Minaur after he beat rising American Alex Michelsen 6-0 7-6(5) 6-3 to reach the

Australian Open quarter-finals for the first time.

"There is nothing I want more than to play well here in Australia. Glad I finally made it to the quarter-finals here but yeah let's go for bigger and better things, come on!" eighth seed De Minaur said after the Rod Laver Arena night match.

Unseeded Lorenzo Sonego made it two Italians in the quarter-finals when he defeated hobbling 19-year-old American qualifier Tien 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-1, having also taken out Brazilian young gun Joao Fonseca in the second round.

"I'm so sad that he had a problem," said the 29-year-old Sonego, who has never previously gone so deep at a Grand Slam and will face

Shelton next. "It's not the right way to win."

Tien, who was bidding to become the youngest man to reach the quarters since Goran Ivanisevic did it as a 17-year-old in 1989, stretched his strapped right thigh after a double fault and never looked comfortable physically.

Ivanisevic was part of Rybakina's team at Melbourne Park with her coach Stefano Vukob for the tournament by the WTA for a potential code of conduct breach.

The former Wimbledon champion said it was hardly an ideal situation and she was still feeling a back issue but was making no excuses after her loss to Keys in a roller-coaster match on Margaret Court Arena.

"I had some opportunities, but it is what it is," the disappointed sixth seed said. "I need to work better."

Keys was delighted to be back in the last eight at Melbourne a decade after the first of her two runs to the semi-finals.

"It's hard to believe that it was 10 years ago," she said.

"But really proud of myself ... to be out here and still playing some good tennis all these years later, I'm happy."

Keys will next play a familiar foe in Elena Svitolina, who brought a "little light" to war-torn Ukraine by beating Russian Veronika Kudermetova 6-4 6-1 in the opening singles match.

The 30-year-old Ukrainian was 4-1 down in the first set but rallied for a comfortable victory before writing the message "the Spirit of Ukraine" on the camera before she left the court.

Svitolina was back on Margaret Court Arena later to cheer on her husband Monfils, but there was no double delight.

Liverpool Yet to Prove They Are Europe's Best



LONDON (Dispatches) - Liverpool manager Arne Slot believes it is far too early to call his side the best team in Europe as they prepare for the Champions League game at home to in-form French side Lille.

Premier League leaders Liverpool beat Brentford 2-0 on Saturday with stoppage time goals from Darwin Nunez which led host manager Thomas Frank to give them that accolade.

"I think it's far too early to say these things. We (are yet) to face a lot of teams," Slot said of Frank's remark.

"But it's always nice to get compliments from a manager who has proved himself in the Premier League."

Liverpool top the Champions League table by three points, having won all six of their games, while Bruno Genesio's Lille are eighth on 13 points in the final automatic qualifying spot.

"When we go out there we want to win a game, you would think as number one it is the best position to end up at but it is such a strange league table," Slot told reporters on Monday.

"Because every week, I think even if you face team lower down the table, they are the hardest team to face (because you have not faced them before). You cannot judge the table and say who is the best right now, we haven't (played) the same teams."

Lille are unbeaten in 21 games in all competitions.

Slot said the French side, who beat Atletico Madrid 3-1 away and Real Madrid 1-0 at home in their last two Champions League games, have not been a surprise but they have impressed him.

"They have deserved every single point ... they drew with Juventus, beat Atletico Madrid, Real and now they face us and then my former club Feyenoord. They haven't been lucky with the fixtures and that's the reason I'm so impressed."

The Dutchman confirmed that while forward Diogo Jota and defender Joe Gomez are not ready for the Lille game their return from injury is a matter of "weeks rather than months".

Slot added that the 25-year-old Nunez, who has six goals with four assists in all competitions after securing the win at Brentford, must still perform more consistently.

"The next step for him will be to go into that group of seven or eight players in the world who can perform at that standard every three days," he said of the striker.

Nunez signed for Liverpool in 2022 in a club record deal reportedly worth up to 85 million euros (\$88.36 million).

After hosting Lille, Liverpool's next Champions League game is away to PSV Eindhoven on Jan. 29.

Celtics Deal Warriors Worst Home Loss in 40 Years

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jayson Tatum led six Boston players in double figures with a game-high 22 points on Monday as the Celtics steamrolled the Golden State Warriors 125-85 in San Francisco as part of the NBA's Martin Luther King Jr. Day slate.

Kristaps Porzingis chipped in 18 points and Jaylen Brown scored 17 for Boston, which for the fourth straight season dropped the season-series opener to Golden State before getting even - and then some - in the rematch.

Golden State had not lost by 40 at home since Jan. 15, 1985.

The 40-point margin was similar to the 140-88 pounding the Celtics dealt the Warriors last March after Golden State had won 132-126 in overtime three months earlier. This time around, the Warriors surprised the defending champs on their home floor with a 118-112 win on Nov. 6.

Tatum also found time for a game-high nine rebounds to go along with seven assists and two steals. Payton Pritchard paired his game-high nine assists with 14 points.

Sam Hauser added 11 points and Jrue Holiday tallied 10 for the Celtics, who have alternated wins and losses in their last nine games. Derrick White had three of Boston's nine blocks to complement eight points, five rebounds and five assists.

Boston dominated the rematch on both ends of the court.

Led by Brown, who was 8-for-14 from the floor, and Holiday, who made two of his three 3-point attempts, the Celtics shot 53.3 percent overall and 41.7 percent from beyond the arc, making 20 of 48.

The Warriors, meanwhile, were held to 34.8 percent shooting



overall and 26.4 percent from deep, connecting on just 14 of 53 tries. Andrew Wiggins especially struggled for Golden State, missing all four of his 3-point tries and finishing just 1-of-11 from the floor in a four-point effort.

Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 18 points but was just 4-of-12 from 3-point range.

Moses Moody added 13 points for Golden State, which was missing Draymond Green, Jonathan Kuminga, Brandin Podziemski and Kyle Anderson due to injury.

Moody also posted six rebounds and a team-high five assists, while Kewon Looney snatched a team-high seven rebounds for the Warriors.

The Celtics led 54-39 at halftime before taking control in the third quarter. Tatum scored 12 points in the third as Boston hit 16 of 24 shots, including eight threes, to open up a 34-point lead entering the fourth.

Meanwhile Donovan Mitchell erupted for 33 points as the Cleveland Cavaliers cooled off the visiting Phoenix Suns with a 118-92 victory on Monday.

Mitchell also had five rebounds and five assists for Cleveland, which seemed unaffected by the absences of Evan Mobley (calf), Caris LeVert (wrist) and Isaac Okoro (shoulder). The Cavaliers led by as many as 32 and put on a clinic from 3-point range, hitting 19 of 46 attempts from distance (41.3 percent).