

IRGC Ground Force Smashed a Team of Militants Affiliated With the So-Called Ansar al-Furqan Terror Outfit in the Country's Southeastern Province of Sistan and Baluchestan, Close to the Border With Pakistan

IRAN NEWS

Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Said Cooperation Between Tehran and Islamabad Across Various Fields Strengthens Regional Peace and Stability, Highlighting Pakistan's Pivotal Role

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2 DOMESTIC

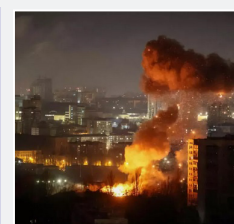


Positive Signal from South Korea to Isfahan's Economy

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Trump Deadline Looms as Ukraine and Russia Trade Deadly Strikes



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Iran-Pakistan Trade Path Should Reach \$10b Target



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council called for the removal of existing obstacles and the facilitation of economic interactions with Pakistan, describing the goal of increasing trade to \$10 billion as achievable.

Ali Larijani met in Islamabad with Muhammad Ishaq Dar, Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, for discussions.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the latest significant regional developments and emphasized the need for collective action by Islamic countries to address shared challenges. Both parties agreed that the Islamic world requires practical measures, broad coordination, and cohesive cooperation to manage regional crises—particularly addressing the threat posed by the Israeli regime to Islamic countries.

Referring to the longstanding ties between the two countries, Larijani described elevating Iran-Pakistan relations to a strategic level as a necessity. He noted that the economic capacities of the two countries could operate far beyond the current level. He called for removing existing obstacles and facilitating economic interactions, and considered the target of raising trade to \$10 billion achievable.

In another part of the talks, both sides identified Palestine as one of the main focal points for Islamic cooperation, emphasizing unity, convergence, and joint focus by Tehran and Islamabad in supporting the Palestinian people.

Assassination of Hezbollah Commander Exposes Israel's Weakness Against Resistance



TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says Israel's cowardly assassination of a senior Hezbollah commander exposes the regime's "weakness" in the face of the Resistance Axis.

The IRGC released a statement on Monday to strongly condemn Israel's assassination of Haytham Ali Tabatabai in the southern suburbs of the Lebanese capital of Beirut the previous day.

"The Zionist regime once again committed a clear terrorist crime by targeting one of the steadfast Hezbollah commanders," it said.

"This cowardly act, which took place during a supposed ceasefire that the Israelis have often broken, is not proof of strength but shows the enemy's weakness and helplessness against the will of regional nations and the Resistance Front."

The IRGC also expressed regret over the silence and inaction of international and human rights bodies in the face of Israel's genocide and acts of aggression, as well as the support that the usurping regime gets from the warmongering and terror-nurturing rulers at the White House.

Sanctions Cannot Stop Us From Supporting Scientists, Securing Global Maritime Routes

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, Commander of the Iranian Navy, stated that despite ongoing international sanctions, Iran remains fully committed to supporting its scientists and researchers in international waters, including the South Pole. Speaking at a press conference on the occasion of Iranian Navy Day, Irani emphasized that while Iran has no intention of establishing a military presence in Antarctica, the Navy will provide logistical and navigational support to ensure the safe passage of scientific teams.

Rear Admiral Irani opened the press conference by highlighting the historical achievements of the Iranian Navy, particularly during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war. He recalled the Navy's execution of complex operations, including the iconic Operation Pearl, which disrupted the enemy's maritime supply lines while securing Iran's economic lifelines. "From Operation Pearl until the end of the war, over 10,000 vessels were escorted by the Navy," he said. "Today, we carry forward that legacy by projecting Iranian maritime presence across the world's oceans with pride and authority."

He explained that the Navy currently operates across two strategic regions: the southern fleet, covering the Gulf of Oman, the Strait of Hormuz, and beyond into the oceans, and the northern fleet in the Caspian Sea. These deployments are part of Iran's broader maritime strategy, which includes safeguarding trade routes, ensuring national security, and supporting strategic development along the Makran coast.

"Our presence in international waters is essential to fulfilling these missions," Irani said. "Hundreds of commercial vessels are currently under the protection of our naval forces, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of goods and resources."

Addressing the impact of renewed United Nations sanctions and the so-called "snapback" mechanism, Irani insisted that sanctions have largely backfired on those imposing them. "The world is vast, and many nations continue to engage with us," he said. "Despite sanctions, Iranian-flagged ships continue to navigate international ports, transporting essential commercial goods. Sanctions have mostly targeted humanitarian areas, affecting patients with rare diseases, yet Iranian maritime activity persists."

He cited the example of the 86th Iranian Navy task force, which operated in the Pacific Ocean under formal sanction restrictions. Although barred from transiting the Panama Canal, the task force successfully docked at multiple foreign ports, demonstrating Iran's maritime capabilities and promoting Iranian-Islamic culture abroad. "Even under sanction, our Navy has showcased



professionalism and resilience in international waters," Irani added.

Irani stressed that Iran's engagement with Antarctica is purely scientific. "The South Pole is a domain for research, and our scientists are preparing for missions there," he said. "Our Navy provides logistical support, ensuring safe passage through international waters, but we have no military objectives in the region." He emphasized that this approach reflects Iran's broader commitment to scientific advancement and peaceful international cooperation.

The Admiral highlighted that the Iranian Navy has sent over 103 task forces to international waters, including two currently deployed off the east and south coasts of Africa. These missions are designed not only to secure maritime routes but also to advance Iran's diplomatic and defense cooperation with global partners. He underscored

that Iran's naval strategy combines security, diplomacy, and humanitarian assistance.

"The Navy operates in real-time coordination with maritime security centers across the Indian Ocean," Irani explained. "If needed, our forces can rapidly respond to any region requiring assistance." This capability ensures that Iranian maritime operations safeguard not only national interests but also global trade and safety.

Irani outlined plans to enhance the Navy's operational capacity with new vessels and equipment in the coming days, strengthening Iran's ability to operate effectively in distant oceans. He stressed that these updates are crucial for the continuity of operations and sustaining maritime security in the face of international challenges.

When asked about repeating the deployment of task forces like the 86th, Irani stated, "Task Force 86 set a benchmark in global navigation and operational excellence. While future missions will achieve extraordinary feats, none will replicate the pioneering accomplishments of Task Force 86."

Rear Admiral Irani concluded by reaffirming Iran's commitment to securing its maritime interests, supporting scientific exploration, and maintaining its international presence despite sanctions. "Sanctions cannot prevent us from fulfilling our duties," he said. "Iranian naval forces continue to protect commercial routes, support scientific endeavors, and operate globally with resilience, competence, and strategic foresight."

In his remarks, Irani highlighted that Iran's approach integrates national defense, economic security, scientific advancement, and humanitarian support, demonstrating that even under global pressure, the Iranian Navy remains a capable and adaptive force on the world stage.

Zelensky, Two Dead Ends

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

Volodymyr Zelensky, the President of Ukraine, has rejected Donald Trump's 28-point peace plan with Russia, calling it "a loss of national dignity." He emphasized that accepting this plan could mean sacrificing Ukraine's independence and honor.

In November 2025, Donald Trump presented a 28-point proposal to end the war between Ukraine and Russia. He exerted significant pressure on Kyiv to accept the agreement by Thanksgiving.

In his televised speech on November 22, Zelensky announced that the plan amounted to "a loss of national dignity," and he said he was not willing to trade his country's independence for external pressure. Zelensky warned that rejecting the plan might jeopardize U.S. support, but he stressed that Ukraine must choose between "honor" and "a key partner."

Reports indicate that Trump's team had previously conveyed a draft of the plan to Zelensky via a phone call rather than during an official meeting in Kyiv; this led Zelensky to say that the pressure to sign it placed Ukraine in one of the toughest moments in its history.

Zelensky's rejection of Trump's plan demonstrates prioritizing independence and national identity over short-term political benefits. He did not want to accept an agreement that could be interpreted as legitimizing Russia's occupation.

Trump, of course, sought to end the war quickly with an agreement and reduce economic and political pressure on the United States. But the short deadline and vague conditions of the plan made it unacceptable for Ukraine.

Zelensky's rejection of Trump's proposal may strain relations between Ukraine and the United States, but it simultaneously strengthens Zelensky's position as a leader standing firm against external pressure.

It seems this episode was less a genuine peace plan and more a test of Ukraine's political independence. By rejecting it, Zelensky sent a clear message that even in difficult circumstances, he is not willing to sacrifice national dignity.

Of course, it must be acknowledged that Ukraine is going through difficult days, and Russia has taken a humiliation that it will not easily let go.



More Iranian Oil Being Shipped to China Via Indonesia



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - A new report suggests that Iran has managed to export more oil to China via Indonesia, a tactic experts believe is used to evade US sanctions aimed at restricting Iranian oil shipments.

The Monday report by Reuters said Chinese buyers of Iranian crude have shifted to oil trans-shipped in waters off Indonesia rather than Malaysia, which was once the main hub for rebranding Iranian oil destined for China.

The report cited Chinese customs data showing that China's crude imports from Indonesia surged from less than 100,000 metric tons (mt) in 2024 to 9.81 million mt, equivalent to 235,570 barrels per day (bpd), in the year to October.

By contrast, China's oil imports from Malaysia have almost halved since July, dropping sharply from this year's peak of 8.5 million mt recorded in March.

Reuters reiterated claims from its earlier reporting that much of the crude China imports from certain South Asian countries is actually of Iranian origin. It said shipments are being rerouted through Indonesia due to increased scrutiny from banks over cargoes labeled as Malaysian.

Iranian authorities have never confirmed such claims or other reports alleging that the country uses tactics such as ship-to-ship transfers in South Asian waters to deliver oil to Chinese clients.

Resistance Is the Practice of Reason and Action

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf announced that the new method of distributing electronic commodity coupons (Kalabarg) has entered its implementation phase. He stated that the rollout of the new system—which is designed to keep consumer prices stable throughout the year—will begin soon.

Speaking during open parliamentary session, Qalibaf thanked the government for completing the groundwork necessary to execute the law under the new mechanism. He emphasized that both the Supreme Leader's directive and the President's request regarding the Kalabarg (coupon) policy have now been fulfilled and that the program will soon be operational.

According to Qalibaf, the first phase of the plan will cover three of the seven designated economic groups, and over time, the remaining groups up to the seventh income tier will also be included.

Referring to the recent fires in the Hyrcanian forests, he stated that the incident caused serious concern among the Iranian people, who are deeply attached to the country's natural and national resources. He noted that a large portion of the forested areas in the Elim region of Chalus was saved through continuous efforts by emergency responders, as well as helicopter and aircraft support from the IRGC Aerospace Force and Army Aviation.

He praised firefighters, Red Crescent teams, environmental officers, and local volunteers for their relentless efforts but stressed that Parliament will thoroughly assess how responsible agencies handled the crisis.

He assigned the Internal Affairs Commission and the Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Environment Commission to prepare a detailed report on the performance of all involved agencies, examining any negligence, misconduct, or delay. A transparent report will be presented to the public as soon as possible.

He added that equipment required for combating such fires must be strengthened and that special allocation will be considered in next year's budget.

Marking Basij Week and the anniversary of the founding of the Basij by Imam Khomeini, Qalibaf honored the late leader and saluted all Basij martyrs. He described the Basij as a dynamic, living



institution that entrusted the revolution to the youth, passing it from generation to generation to ensure continuous progress.

He said the Basij represents not only the active presence of the people in critical arenas but also a deep connection between divine faith and practical action. "The Basij is a blessing and an endless asset for the Islamic Republic," he noted.

Qalibaf called on the young generation to prepare Iran for a new future. Traditional methods of governance no longer solve today's issues, he said, adding that Basij youth must lead reforms in economic, cultural, and social structures.

He offered condolences on the assassination of Haj Abu Ali Tabatabai, a Lebanese Hezbollah commander, saying he devoted his life to resistance

and has now received his rightful reward.

He stressed that Hezbollah remains strong and committed, with leaders from past and future generations ready to continue its path. He accused Israel's prime minister of forming a "transnational criminal group" and adopting a strategy of "borderless crimes," stating that for Israel there is no difference between Tehran, Beirut, Doha, Islamabad, Khartoum, or Istanbul.

He condemned the global community's inaction in the face of Israeli aggression, warning that patience has limits. "Resistance is prudent but courageous; it calculates but acts decisively. It does not seek war, but it fights well," he said.

He declared that the only path to stability in the region is to sever Israel's aggressive reach, saying regional resistance movements will make thoughtful and united decisions, and will act bravely.

He urged the Iranian people to understand the nature of their adversary—one that has no humanity, respects no agreements, and seeks to expand aggression. He emphasized that only strength and courage can deter such an enemy and called for national unity and trust in responsible officials.

At the beginning of his speech, he also thanked religious speakers and organizers of Fatimiyya mourning ceremonies, stating that the love of the Iranian people for the household of the Prophet has been the country's spiritual protection. He prayed that Iran remains connected to this legacy until the end.

IRAN NEWS



Iran to Begin New Round of Raw Sugar Imports Next Week

TEHRAN (ILNA) - Ministry of Agriculture Jihad has announced that a new round of raw sugar import registrations will begin next week, starting December 8, 2025 (8 Azar 1404). The move is part of the ministry's planning to secure the country's sugar supply during the winter season. Importers of raw sugar may start submitting applications for import registration from the specified date. The ministry emphasized that each import license will carry a six-month validity period, allowing registered importers sufficient time to complete procurement and delivery operations.

Non-Oil Foreign Trade Records 2.8% Growth in Volume



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Newly released customs data show that Iran's non-oil foreign trade has expanded in physical volume during the first seven months of the current year, even as its dollar value has declined. According to figures published by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), overall trade in non-oil goods has grown by approximately 2.8% in weight, while its financial worth has contracted by 9.7% compared to the same period last year.

The report indicates that Iran exported 91.9 million tonnes of non-oil goods valued at \$32 billion between March and October 2025. During the same period last year, exports totaled 89 million tonnes, valued at \$32.64 billion. This means that export volume increased by 3.2%, while export value fell by 1.88%, reflecting a reduction in the price or value of exported goods on global markets.

Imports also followed a similar trend. In the first seven months of this year, Iran imported 22.3 million tonnes of goods worth \$34.2 billion. In comparison, imports during the same period a year earlier amounted to 21.94 million tonnes, valued at \$40.8 billion. While the weight of imported goods rose by 1.6%, their value dropped sharply by 16.07%, suggesting changes in pricing, a shift toward lower-cost goods, or reduced spending power in foreign currency.

Taken together, Iran's total non-oil trade volume during the seven-month period reached 114.24 million tonnes, worth \$66.27 billion. Last year, the figure stood at 111.04 million tonnes, valued at \$73.44 billion. The comparison highlights an overall rise in the physical exchange of goods, but a notable decline in trade value.

Analysts point out that fluctuations in global commodity prices, exchange-rate changes, and shifting trade priorities could be influencing this divergence between volume and value. Lower-priced bulk goods, particularly in exports, may be pushing up trade weight without increasing revenue. Similarly, reduced import value may reflect tighter government control over foreign currency use or a preference for cheaper goods.

Iran Expands Railway Fleet as Gov't Encourages New Investment



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's rail transportation sector is set for expansion as the government steps up support for private investment, according to Seyed Mohsen Tabatabaei, Director General for Passenger Services Oversight at the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways. Speaking Wednesday at the 65th meeting of the National Travel Services Coordination Headquarters, Tabatabaei announced that new cooperation agreements have been signed to increase the country's railway fleet and improve passenger services.

He emphasized that Iran's railway network serves both passenger and freight transportation along the same routes, making efficient use of infrastructure vital to meeting public expectations and safeguarding the economic interests of the rail organization. "Railways are firmly committed to providing passenger services, but optimal utilization of shared freight and passenger lines is necessary to satisfy both the organization and the people," he said.

Tabatabaei highlighted the government's strategy to promote rail tourism as a major priority this year. Since early 2025, Iran Railways has focused on launching and expanding tourism routes that cater to the growing demand for travel experiences administered by tour operators. He named popular rail tourism lines such as Sarakhs in Khorasan Razavi, the Golden Tourism Triangle (Isfahan-Shiraz-Yazd), and routes from Tehran to Kashan and Tehran to Rasht, all of which have seen increasing passenger interest.

Positive Signal from South Korea to Isfahan's Economy

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - A high-level business and investment meeting between representatives of Isfahan and South Korea has opened new horizons for economic, industrial, tourism, and cultural cooperation between the two sides. The session, held in Isfahan, focused on strengthening mutual understanding, expanding trade exchanges, developing technological partnerships, and creating new opportunities for tourism and investment.

The meeting emphasized that South Korea's advanced experience in digital transformation, combined with Isfahan's industrial capabilities and cultural heritage, can build a new model of international cooperation. Senior officials and business leaders from both sides described the dialogue as a promising step toward sustainable and strategic economic relations.

Amir Keshani, Chairman of the Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the unique features that define Isfahan's identity. Known for its rich history, artistic excellence, architectural landmarks, and deep-rooted cultural traditions, the city has also developed remarkable economic potential built upon hard work and local ingenuity.

Keshani noted that the long-standing business relationship between Iranian and South Korean companies continues to expand, citing examples such as food products, chemical materials, and steel exported from Isfahan to Korea. In return, Korea supplies paper products and medical equipment to Iranian markets. These exchanges, according to Keshani, reflect a stable foundation for even larger cooperation.

He further emphasized that the high level of participation by Isfahan's entrepreneurs in the meeting demonstrates a strong practical interest in forming deeper ties. "The Isfahan Chamber of Commerce stands fully prepared to host Korean trade delegations," he declared. He added that Korean companies should be introduced to Isfahan's exhibition events, where they can discover a wider array of partnership opportunities in industry, technology, and tourism.

South Korea's Ambassador to Iran, Kim Jun-Pyo, expressed excitement over his visit to Isfahan, describing the city as a "symbol of Iranian history, culture, and civilization." He said visiting Isfahan had long been one of his personal wishes, given its prominent role in Iran's economic development.

The ambassador noted that Isfahan has transformed from a textile hub to a major center for steel, petrochemicals, automotive manufacturing, and knowledge-based

industries. He pointed out that both Iran and South Korea have followed similar industrial paths, moving from traditional manufacturing toward advanced technologies.

Kim stated that integrating Isfahan's manufacturing potential with South Korea's experience in digital transformation could spark a new wave of globally competitive cooperation. While Korean companies have historically focused on working with Iranian government entities, he noted that greater familiarity and trust will likely encourage collaboration with Iran's private sector as well.

Mostafa Dolatir, head of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs representative office in Isfahan, stressed that the economic and trade capabilities of Isfahan are far greater than what has been revealed so far. He described the province as strategically positioned to expand its international trade partnerships.

Acknowledging that external political complications have posed challenges to Iran-Korea relations, Dolatir argued that many untapped opportunities still exist. He affirmed that Iran possesses strong social capital and an economic foundation conducive to sustainable cooperation.

He further emphasized that hands-on introduction to the province's economic realities is essential for Korean delegations. "Direct familiarity with Isfahan's potential will lead to the discovery of new opportunities and more extensive planning for future cooperation," he said.

Dolatir also highlighted the importance of academic collaboration. With world-class universities located in the province, he encouraged delegations to explore partnerships in science, research, and education. These fields, he said, should be prioritized in future visits to advance joint knowledge-based projects.

The presence of high-ranking business leaders from both Isfahan and South Korea indicates a shared commitment to strengthening diplomatic and commercial ties. With Isfahan's industrial power and South Korea's advanced technology capabilities, both parties see opportunities for collaboration in smart manufacturing, digital industries, tourism development, and educational exchange.

The message from the meeting is clear: by combining industrial strength with digital innovation, Isfahan and South Korea can build a new model of cooperation capable of influencing international economic networks—a partnership that blends economic goals with cultural and technological collaboration, signaling a positive outlook for the future of global engagement.

41st Havana Int'l Fair Opens with Active Iranian Participation

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The 41st Havana International Fair (FIHAV), Cuba's most prominent trade and investment exhibition, has officially opened with the participation of senior Iranian economic representatives and private sector companies. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Samad Hassanzadeh, President of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture; Ghadir Ghiyafeh, Vice President of the Iran Chamber; Zabihollah Naderi, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Havana; and Seyed Hamed Asgari, Deputy for International Affairs of the Iran Chamber.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has established a national pavilion at this year's fair, hosting several Iranian industrial and manufacturing companies seeking to expand their international trade presence. The fair provides a major platform for showcasing Iranian products and exploring business cooperation with Latin American and global partners.

A number of notable Iranian companies are participating in the 2025 exhibition, representing diverse sectors including petrochemicals, food production, industrial manufacturing, and consumer goods. Among the attendees are food producers Milad Noor Exhibitions Company, Tak Makaron, and Zar Macaron, alongside petrochemical producer Zagros Petrochemical Company, Pumpiran (a leading pump manufacturer), and several well-known Iranian footwear manufacturers.

Their participation illustrates Iran's increasing interest in diversifying export markets and strengthening trade relations beyond the Middle East and Asia. The fair is viewed as a gateway for Iranian producers to access Caribbean and Latin American markets, where demand for industrial goods, food products, and technology continues to grow.

Cuba, despite enduring decades of U.S. sanctions, maintains



trade relations with various global economic partners. It offers promising opportunities in agriculture, industry, mining and mineral resources, and tourism, sectors where international cooperation is both possible and welcomed.

China, Spain, Canada, Venezuela, and Russia are currently Cuba's main trading partners. Additionally, European countries such as Italy and the Netherlands

have also developed commercial ties with Cuba, demonstrating the island's ability to diversify partnerships despite international restrictions.

In this diplomatic and economic setting, participation by Iranian companies signals Tehran's intent to strengthen ties with Havana and broaden its reach in Latin America.

Trade relations between Iran and Cuba have increased steadily but remain below their full potential. In 2023, bilateral trade volume reached \$218 million, a significant jump compared to previous years. Nevertheless, Iranian and Cuban officials believe the figure could expand substantially with improved business engagement, trade missions, and sector-specific cooperation.

Iran exports a range of goods to Cuba, primarily oil derivatives, petrochemical products, construction materials, and food items such as rice, wheat, poultry, and oilseeds. In return, Cuba supplies Iran with pharmaceutical products, medical equipment, and specialized engineering and technical services, a sector in which Cuba enjoys a global reputation due to its advanced biotechnology and healthcare expertise.

Experts note that strengthening financial channels, establishing joint ventures, and expanding logistics infrastructure could dramatically increase trade volume in the coming years. With private sector engagement now more visible at events such as the Havana International Fair, both nations are laying the groundwork for deeper commercial cooperation.

Iran Targets 20 Million-Liter Boost in Daily Gasoline Production



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's daily gasoline output is expected to increase significantly as new refinery projects move toward completion, potentially adding more than 20 million liters per day to national production. However, government officials caution that the elimination of gasoline imports will only be possible if consumption growth is controlled.

Mohammad Sadegh Azimifar, CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC), outlined the plan in an interview with ILNA, highlighting three priority projects designed to expand refinery capacity and reduce supply imbalances. These include the Mehr Persian Gulf Refinery, the second phase of the Abadan Refinery, and the RFCC (Residue Fluid Catalytic Cracking) unit at the Isfahan Refinery.

According to Azimifar, these strategic projects are expected to be completed by the end of Iran's Seventh Development Plan, and collectively could boost the country's gasoline production by over 20 million liters per day. "This increase can help eliminate supply shortages and support the goals outlined in the Seventh Development Plan," he said.

Despite the anticipated boost in production, Azimifar warned that achieving zero imports depends heavily on controlling domestic consumption—not merely producing more fuel. He emphasized that consumption management falls largely outside the Oil Ministry's responsibility.

"Stopping imports will depend on managing consumption," he said. "If effective measures are implemented to reduce gasoline usage—which is not primarily the duty of the Oil Ministry—then import dependency may be eliminated." Azimifar pointed out that other government bodies, especially the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade (MIMT), must take active steps to regulate vehicle fuel consumption.

He also highlighted the importance of behavioral economics programs to change consumer habits, along with timely planning to prevent excessive demand growth. Without coordinated action, he warned, rising consumption could undermine supply gains.

Iran Participates in the 34th IMO Assembly in London



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The 34th session of the Assembly of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) officially commenced in London with the attendance of a high-ranking delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, led by the Managing Director of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization. The event marks another significant step in strengthening Iran's cooperation with the IMO and engaging in global maritime governance.

The opening ceremony brought together senior representatives from 176 IMO member states to discuss the organization's strategic direction, policies, and regulatory developments for the next two years. The Assembly, held every two years, serves as IMO's highest governing body responsible for reviewing work carried out by the organization and adopting its future resolutions.

During the inaugural session, IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez addressed the delegates, highlighting the key issues on the Assembly's agenda. He emphasized the organization's commitment to enhancing maritime safety, environmental protection, and the sustainable development of global maritime transport. Dominguez reflected on recent achievements, particularly the work undertaken by the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), acknowledging their substantial contributions over the past two years in improving shipping safety standards and reducing marine pollution.

U.S. Labels Another Venezuelan Group as Terrorist

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The United States on Monday formally designated Venezuela's Cartel de los Soles as a foreign terrorist organization, layering additional terrorism-related sanctions on the group it has said includes President Nicolas Maduro and other high-ranking officials.

Venezuela's government rejected what it called a "ridiculous" U.S. plan to designate the "non-existent" group. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said this month the U.S. would designate Cartel de los Soles, or Cartel of the Suns, as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO) for the network's alleged role in importing illegal drugs into the U.S.



Trump Order Targets Muslim Brotherhood Chapters in Middle East



WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order launching a process to designate specific branches of the Muslim Brotherhood as foreign terrorist organisations. The order singles out chapters in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan, and hands the task of completing the designation to top US diplomats and Treasury officials.

The order made specific mention of chapters in Lebanon, Egypt and Jordan. Those chapters "engage in or facilitate and support violence and destabilisation campaigns that harm their own regions, United States citizens, and United States interests," the order said.

The Muslim Brotherhood is a pan-Islamist organisation founded in Egypt in 1928 that later spread across the Arab world. Its founder, Egyptian schoolteacher Hassan al-Banna, argued that reviving Islamic principles in society could enable the Muslim world to resist Western colonialism.

A US designation as a foreign terrorist group allows Washington to take punitive measures such as freezing any assets the group might have in the United States and denying entry to group members.

It is now up to Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to complete the process of outlawing the branches named in the president's order.

French Poll Shows Far-Right Leader Bardella Winning Presidential Election



PARIS (Dispatches) - French pollster Odoxa predicted for the first time that 30-year-old far-right leader Jordan Bardella would win the next presidential election, scheduled in 2027, no matter who his opponents would be.

The current president of far-right National Rally (RN) party, and heir to long-time leader Marine Le Pen, would garner more votes than anyone else if a presidential vote was held this week, Odoxa found surveying 1,000 people on November 19 and 20.

Depending on his opponents in a first round, he would get either 35% or 36% of the votes, Odoxa said, while he would win against all the other candidates making it to the second round.

"Unfortunately for Jordan Bardella and his supporters, and fortunately for everyone else, being the overwhelming favourite in a presidential election several months before it takes place is no guarantee of success," Odoxa said in the report released with the poll results.

In the past, Marine Le Pen and her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, both faced broad political alliances that defeated them three times in the second round of presidential elections.

Marine Le Pen, 57, was barred from seeking public office for five years after a court found her and some members of her party guilty in March of misappropriation of funds.

She has appealed the ruling.

Bardella, whose popularity rating has surpassed his mentor's, is seen as the party's natural candidate if her ban is upheld.

Trump Deadline Looms as Ukraine and Russia Trade Deadly Strikes

KYIV (Dispatches) - Ukraine and Russia counted fresh casualties on Tuesday after trading heavy overnight strikes, as negotiators rushed to revise a US peace framework ahead of a Thanksgiving deadline set by President Donald Trump. Kyiv and its allies worked through the weekend to reshape a proposal they say initially mirrored Moscow's demands.

Ukraine and Russia counted casualties Tuesday after trading deadly overnight strikes, as negotiators scrambled to revise a framework to end the nearly four-year conflict ahead of a US-imposed deadline.

US President Donald Trump has given Kyiv until November 27 - the American holiday of Thanksgiving - to respond to his proposal to end the fighting, a timeline and blueprint that European leaders have balked at.

Kyiv and its allies nonetheless spent the weekend hammering away at Washington's 28-point plan, which initially hewed close to Russia's headline demands, requiring the invaded country to cede territory, cut its military and pledge never to join NATO.

An updated version, aiming to "uphold Ukraine's sovereignty", was in the works as the adversaries mounted battlefield pressure.

On Tuesday morning, Russia's acting governor of Rostov region said at least three people were killed by Ukrainian strikes.

"Tonight's enemy attack brought great grief," Yuri Slusar said. In the region's port city of Taganrog, which tallied one of the deaths, Mayor Svetlana Kambulova vowed "necessary response measures".

In the Krasnodar frontier region, Governor Veniamin Kondratyev called the overnight bombardment "one of the Kyiv regime's most sustained and massive attacks".

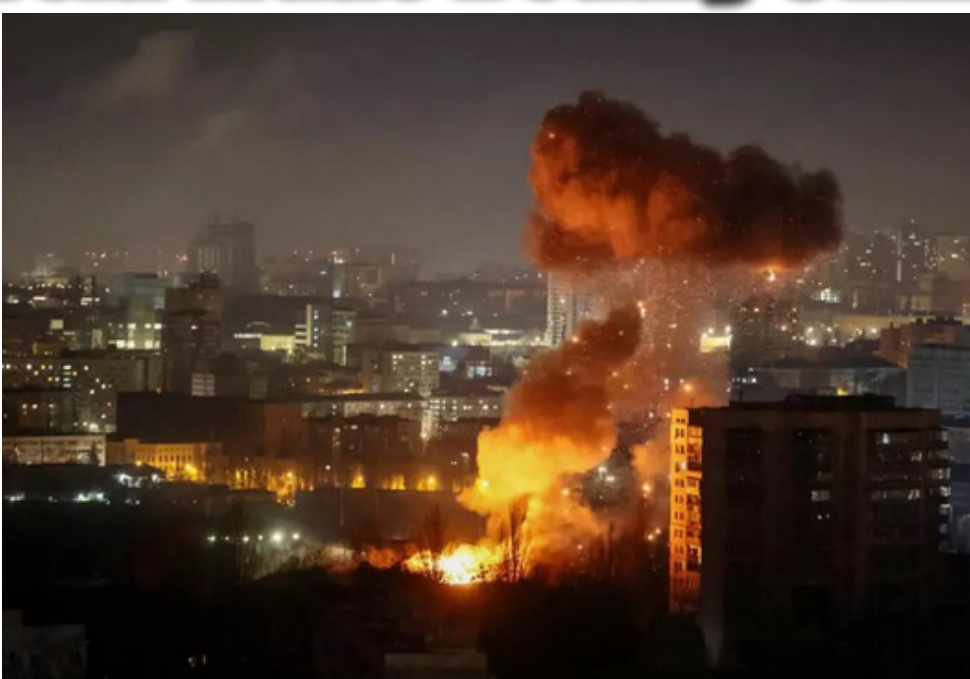
Across the border in the Ukrainian capital, AFP journalists heard powerful explosions and saw people running for shelters as air raid sirens blared.

Authorities in Kyiv said at least one person was killed and seven wounded in the capital, after a barrage of missiles and drones targeted the country's beleaguered energy sector.

"We must be cognisant that Russia will not ease its pressure on Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelensky said as his air force issued a countrywide missile warning.

Zelensky has described his country as being in a "critical moment", after last week saying Ukraine risked losing either its "dignity" or Washington as an ally.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who welcomed the original US plan, has threatened to seize more Ukrainian territory if Kyiv walks away from the negotiations.



Russia's military already occupies around a fifth of Ukraine - much of it ravaged by years of fighting.

Kyiv and its European allies say the war, the largest and deadliest on European soil since World War II, is an unprovoked and illegal land grab that has resulted in a tidal wave of violence and destruction.

Tens of thousands of civilians and military personnel have been killed since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Countries supporting Kyiv - part of the "coalition of the willing" - are due to hold a video call Tuesday following emergency talks in Geneva over the weekend between US, European and Ukrainian delegations.

A joint US-Ukrainian statement after the talks announced an "updated and refined peace framework".

While the latest draft has not been published, the White House hailed it as progress, and the joint statement affirmed "any future agreement must fully uphold Ukraine's sovereignty".

Kyiv's delegation said the latest draft "already reflects most of Ukraine's key priorities".

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz has thrown doubt on the ability to strike a deal by Trump's November 27 deadline, saying that discussions would be a "lengthy, long-lasting process".

The United States had bypassed Europe with the original plan, and many EU governments were unsettled by the prospect of the war ending on Moscow's terms.

The US plan, originally made up of 28 points, would see Ukraine effectively cede its eastern Donetsk and Lugansk regions to Russia and slash the size of its military - demands that Kyiv has described as unacceptable.

The White House has pushed back on criticism that Trump was favouring Russia in his efforts to end the war.

"The idea that the United States of America is not engaging with both sides equally in this war to bring it to an end is a complete and total fallacy," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters on Monday.

A senior official told AFP the United States had pressed Ukraine to accept the proposal.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Washington did not directly threaten to cut off aid if Kyiv rejected its proposals, but that Ukraine understood this was a distinct possibility.

The source said they did not understand why Washington was hurrying towards a deal, but that "everyone" was for an end to the war if there was a real opportunity to do so.

G20 Declaration in Defiance of U.S. Marks Rare Victory for Multilateralism

JOHANNESBURG (Dispatches) - Born of crisis but torn by years of tensions among its members, the Group of 20 major economies scored a rare victory this weekend for multilateralism after overcoming the boycott and objections of its most powerful member, the United States.

South Africa, this year's G20 president, rallied all but two member nations - the U.S. and Argentina - to issue a declaration, ignoring Washington's warnings and quelling questions about the G20's future - at least for now.

Many doubted Pretoria would secure a declaration, much less tackle issues such as helping poor nations cope with climate change and external debt.

That success strengthened a body which for years was struggling to reach meaningful agreements - and highlighted the power of multilateralism when it seemed in retreat, researchers and delegates said.

The outcome infuriated the United States, next year's G20 host. The White House accused South Africa of weaponizing its presidency to undermine the G20's founding principles on unanimous consensus. It said U.S. President Donald Trump would restore its "legitimacy" while hosting next year.

The White House had no immediate comment when asked if it planned to disinvite South Africa from next year's G20 events.

The declaration's final paragraph was carefully worded to commit to meeting in future G20 summits in Britain and South Korea, but only to "working together" under the U.S. presidency, a South African delegate said.

President Cyril Ramaphosa declined an American offer to hand over the rotating G20 presidency to a junior diplomat. That ceremony will now take place between equivalent diplomats this week.

The summit had seemed hopelessly overshadowed by Trump's boycott



over false allegations that South Africa's Black majority government mistreats its white minority.

A South African delegate at the summit, who declined to be named because they were not authorised to speak, said Friday's agreement on a draft caused a visible ripple of relief among negotiators.

"News of the G20's demise is greatly exaggerated," said Josh Lipsky, the Atlantic Council's international economics chair and ex-aide to former President Barack Obama.

"In a crisis ... it will be there - regardless of which leaders are present at any ... summit," he said.

The declaration tackled issues such as climate and renewable energy that often divide G20 members. It proposed the first global panel to address inequality.

"This is the first meeting of world leaders ... which put the inequality emergency at the centre of the international agenda," Nabil Ahmed, Senior Director of Economic Justice at international charity Oxfam, told Reuters.

Faced with Trump's ire, G20 leaders had a choice: "Do we butter him up or stand up to him?" said Michael Bociurkiw of American think tank Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center. They chose the latter.

"Leaders were getting fed up," he said. "This could set a new approach to dealing with Donald Trump," a view several delegates echoed.

Saturday's show of unity was aimed at supporting the hosts and decrying the United States' refusal to engage in the G20's first African summit, one said.

Another said U.S. actions brought together countries at odds with Trump, like India and South Africa, with others seeking to maintain good relations, like Britain and France.

But with the United States taking up the mantle, there is a risk much of the work in Johannesburg could be undone.

Washington is expected to narrow the G20's focus during its presidency, which coincides with the United States' 250th anniversary, to just the leaders' summit and financial forum, jettisoning other working groups and ministers' meetings on energy, health and the environment.

"The United States looks forward to emphasizing economic growth, deregulation, and energy abundance as key pillars of its 2026 G20 host year," a spokesman for the U.S. Treasury said. "A back-to-basics approach at the G20 is long overdue."

The International Monetary Fund and World Bank are still invited, but Washington plans to exclude United Nations organisations, a source familiar with the plans said.

Afghanistan Says at Least 10 Killed in Pakistani Airstrikes

KABUL (Dispatches) - Pakistan carried out air strikes inside Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least 10 civilians, according to the Taliban government, a day after a deadly suicide blast on a security compound in Peshawar intensified tensions between the neighbours.

"The Pakistani invading forces bombed the house of a local civilian resident ... As a result, nine children (five boys and four girls) and one woman were martyred" in Khost province, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid posted on X.

Air strikes targeting the border regions of Kunar and Paktika wounded another four civilians, he added.

Pakistan government officials and the military have not commented on the raids.

The bombardment follows a suicide attack that targeted the headquarters of Pakistan's paramilitary Federal Constabulary force in Peshawar, killing three officers and wounding 11 others.



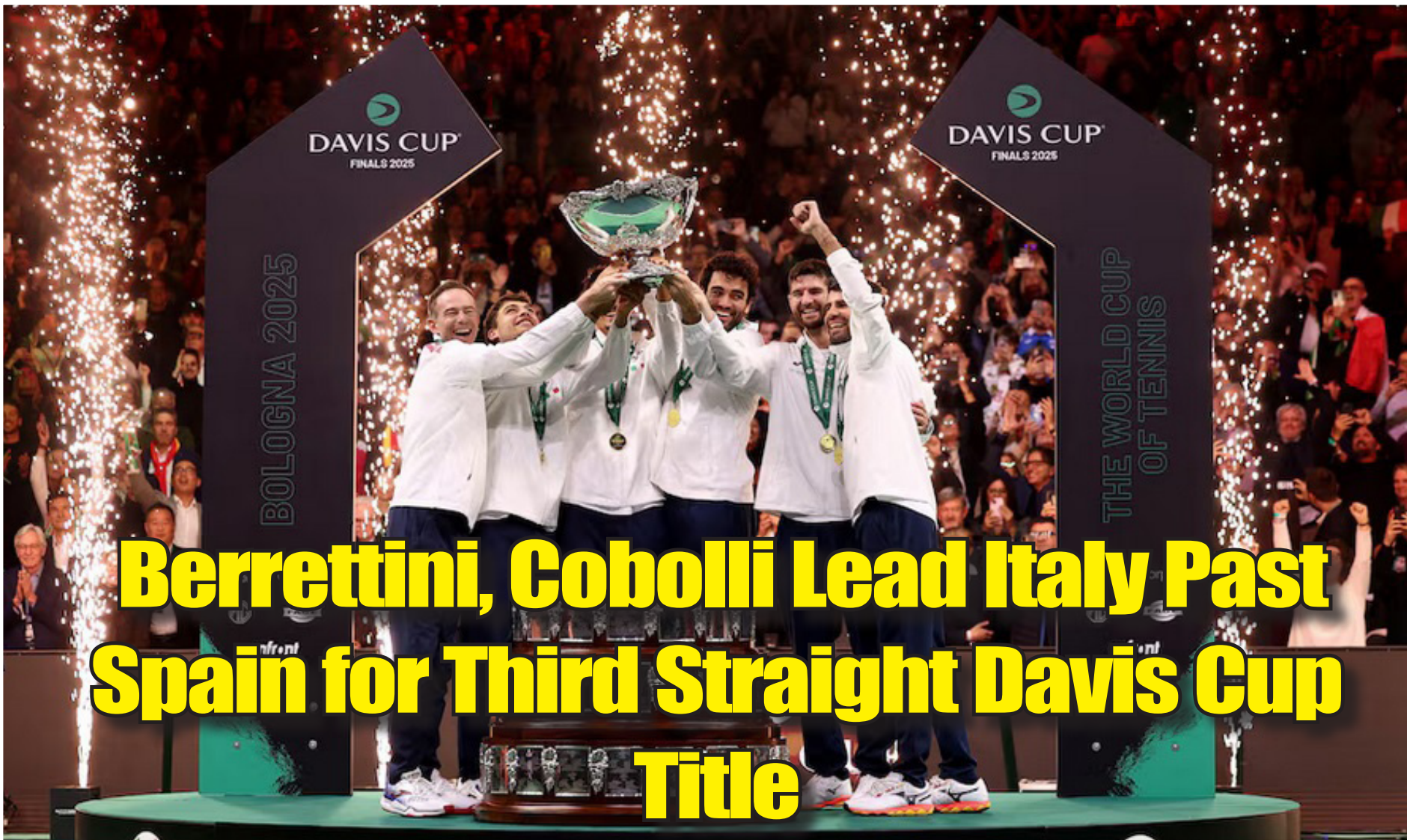
No group has claimed responsibility, but state broadcaster PTV reported the attackers were Afghan nationals, and President Asif Zardari blamed the "foreign-backed Fitna al-Khawarij" - Islamabad's term for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) militants it accuses of operating from Afghan soil.

Another suicide blast in the Pakistan capital Islamabad this month killed 12 people and was claimed by a faction of the Pakistan Taliban, which shares the same ideology as the Afghan Taliban.

Islamabad blamed a militant cell which was "guided at every step by the ... high command based in Afghanistan" for the capital attack.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been fraught since the Taliban swept back to power in 2021, and worsened after deadly border clashes in October that killed around 70 people on both sides.

The fighting ended with a ceasefire brokered by Qatar and Turkey, but talks in Istanbul failed to produce a lasting deal, with security issues - especially Pakistan's demand that Kabul curb TTP fighters - proving a sticking point.



Berrettini, Cobolli Lead Italy Past Spain for Third Straight Davis Cup Title

BOLOGNA (Dispatches) - Italy captured a remarkable third consecutive Davis Cup title with Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli winning their singles matches for a 2-0 triumph over Spain in the best-of-three tie in Bologna.

Inspired by loud support from the home crowd, Berrettini dispatched Pablo Carreno Busta 6-3 6-4 in the opening match before Cobolli overcame Jaume Munar 1-6 7-6(5) 7-5 to seal the triumph for Filippo Volandri's team.

The victory over six-times winners Spain marked Italy's fourth Davis Cup crown overall, following wins in 1976, 2023 and 2024. Italy also became the first nation to win three consecutive Davis Cup titles since the Challenge Round was abolished following the 1971 event.

Both teams were missing key players, with Spain deprived of Carlos Alcaraz and Italy without Jannik Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti.

But Berrettini and Cobolli rose to the occasion magnificently.

"It's the third consecutive one. I'm crying. I didn't cry for the first one. It's unbelievable. This is a big, big team. Some of them not even here: Sinner, Musetti, (Matteo) Amaldi," Volandri said.

After a series of tight service games to start the opener, Berrettini broke Carreno Busta for a 5-3 lead and closed out the set with ease in just over 30 minutes.

With the second set finely poised at 4-4, the 2021 Wimbledon runner-up struck again at the decisive moment, breaking for a 5-4 lead before serving out the match to love.

Berrettini, ranked 56th in the world, banged down 13 aces and unleashed 21 winners as the 29-year-old extended his Davis Cup singles winning streak to 11 matches.

"The team is big, we're guys who love each other, a big team. And now come on Flavio, go for it," Berrettini said after his win.

The former world number six was also key to Italy's Davis Cup success last year when he won all six matches he contested in the elite men's team competition.

Munar had raced to a double break and a 5-0 lead before Cobolli finally got on the board. The 28-year-old Spaniard, ranked 36th, remained composed under pressure, and from the baseline he was relentless, closing out the set 6-1.

Cobolli faced another early setback when he was broken in the opening game of the second set, but the 23-year-old Italian roared back, sending the home crowd wild with his spirited response.

Cobolli, ranked 22nd, eventually forced a decider after a gruelling second set that lasted 90 minutes. The Italian finally converted on his seventh set point, three of which came in the tiebreak.

The drama continued into the third set, where Cobolli earned the first break at 6-5 and then served out the match with remarkable composure to complete a stunning comeback.

His triumph was followed by jubilant celebrations as his Italian teammates embraced him on the court.

DeMar DeRozan, Kings Complete Stunning Rally, Top Wolves in OT



NEW YORK (Dispatches) - DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points and the Sacramento Kings recovered from a 10-point deficit late in regulation to post a 117-112 overtime victory over the visiting Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

Keegan Murray recorded 26 points and a career-best 15 rebounds and Malik Monk added 22 points off the bench for the Kings, who won their second straight game after an eight-game skid. Precious Achiuwa had 10 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento.

Minnesota's Anthony Edwards scored a season-high 43 points for his third 40-point outing of the campaign. He made five 3-pointers and also had seven rebounds and three steals.

Julius Randle produced 17 points and 10 rebounds, Donte DiVincenzo also had 17 points and Naz Reid registered 15 points and seven rebounds off the bench for the Timberwolves.

Rudy Gobert added 11 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, which collapsed late for the second straight game. The Timberwolves allowed the final nine points in a 114-113 loss to the Phoenix Suns on Friday.

Murray drilled a wide-open 3-pointer to give the Kings a 110-107 lead with two minutes left in overtime.

Edwards drove through the lane for a dunk as Minnesota moved within one with 21.9 seconds remaining.

DeRozan made three free throws - he was 15 of 15 for the game - and Sacramento held a four-point lead before Achiuwa intercepted Randle's inbound pass. DeRozan hit two more foul shots to make it a six-point lead with 10.7 seconds to play as the Kings closed it out.

DeRozan (25,629) moved into 24th place on the NBA's all-time scoring list, passing Hall of Famer Alex English (25,613).

Sacramento trailed 99-89 with under three minutes to play in regulation before rattling off 10 straight points.

Guardiola Ashamed Over Behavior at Newcastle



LONDON (Dispatches) - Pep Guardiola said he was "embarrassed and ashamed" of his behavior after confronting a cameraman following Manchester City's damaging 2-1 loss at Newcastle on Saturday.

The City manager reacted angrily after he was filmed close up following the final whistle, when he was involved in discussions with Newcastle player Bruno Guimaraes and match officials.

Guardiola had been angered by the decision to award what proved to be Newcastle's winning goal in the 70th minute at St James' Park, with City believing goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma had been fouled.

The City boss, speaking Monday at a press conference on the eve of his team's Champions League match against Bayer Leverkusen, said he had apologized for his behavior.

"I feel embarrassed and ashamed when I see it," he said. "I don't like it. I apologised to the cameraman after one second."

"I am who I am. Even after 1,000 games I'm not a perfect person. I made a huge mistake.... The reason why is I want to defend my team and my club."

City's fourth Premier League defeat of the season left them third in the table, seven points behind leaders Arsenal.

But Guardiola said the Newcastle reverse was "immediately forgotten" as he turned his attention to the Champions League.

City are fourth in the 36-team league phase after a strong start to their European campaign.

Midfielders Rodri and Mateo Kovacic are unavailable for Tuesday's match against Leverkusen.

Down 21-0, Cowboys Rally to Beat Eagles on Final Play

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Brandon Aubrey converted a 42-yard field goal as time expired and the Dallas Cowboys rallied from a 21-0 second-quarter deficit to beat the visiting Philadelphia Eagles 24-21.

Aubrey's kick, the second game-winner of his career, capped a nine-play, 49-yard drive in the final 1:35. The big play was Dak Prescott's 24-yard completion to George Pickens that got Dallas (5-5-1) to the Philadelphia 22 with 35 seconds left, forcing the Eagles to use their final timeouts and setting up the clutch field goal.

Prescott hit on 23 of 36 passes for 354 yards with two touchdowns and an interception. His 8-yard scramble with 11:40 left, complete with a somersault into the end zone, tied the game at 21. Pickens grabbed nine passes for 146 yards and a touchdown, while CeeDee Lamb had four receptions for 75 yards.

Jalen Hurts completed 27 of 39 throws for 289 yards and a touchdown while also running for two scores for the Eagles (8-3). A.J. Brown hauled in a season-best eight receptions for 110 yards and a touchdown. Saquon Barkley was held to a season-low 22 yards on 10 carries.

Meanwhile Matthew Stafford threw three touchdown



passes, Cobie Durant returned an interception for a score and Los Angeles Rams moved alone atop the NFC with a 34-7 victory over Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Inglewood, Calif.

Davante Adams had two TD receptions, Colby Parkinson added another and Puka Nacua had seven receptions for 97 yards as the Rams (9-2) earned their sixth consecutive victory. Stafford completed 25 of 35 passes for 273 yards and now has 25 TD passes with no interceptions over his past eight games. Kobie Turner and Jared Verse each had two sacks for Los Angeles.

Baker Mayfield completed 9 of 19 passes for 41 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions for the Buccaneers (6-5) before departing at halftime with a sprained left shoulder, coach Todd Bowles said after the game. Teddy Bridgewater completed 8 of 15 passes for 62 yards in the second half.

Meanwhile Harrison Butker kicked five field goals, including the decisive 27-yarder with 1:57 left in overtime, to give host Kansas City Chiefs a 23-20 victory over Indianapolis Colts.

Everton Shrug Off Bizarre Red Card to Beat Blunt Man United

MANCHESTER (Dispatches) - Everton survived an astonishing moment of madness at Old Trafford when Idrissa Gueye was sent off for slapping teammate Michael Keane to beat Manchester United 1-0.

Senegal midfielder Gueye was given his marching orders by referee Tony Harrington in the 13th minute after putting his hand to Keane's face following an angry altercation.

The home crowd anticipated waves of attack but United failed to take advantage, proving toothless against David Moyes' battling team.

Instead it was the 10-man visitors who seized the initiative, courtesy of a wonderful strike by Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall in the 29th minute.

Dewsbury-Hall received the ball midway inside United's half and surged towards goal, beating Bruno Fernandes and Leny Yoro before bending the ball into the top corner.



United, missing injured forwards Benjamin Sesko and Mathews Cunha, huffed and puffed but could not find an equaliser despite 25 shots on goal to Everton's three.

Goalscorer Dewsbury-Hall, addressing the red-card incident, said Gueye had apologised.

"It was just a moment of madness," he told Sky Sports.

"It was obviously avoidable. All I can say is Idrissa apologised to us all at half-time and said his piece."

Former United boss Moyes, celebrating his first win at Old Trafford as a visiting manager at his 18th attempt, said he was "incredibly proud" of his players.

"We've come close a lot of times, but not quite been able to go over the line," he said.

"But tonight, incredibly, we got over the line with 10 men, which was probably the hardest way to get a good result."