

**Health Ministry Announced on Tuesday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 125,519 With 156 More Iranians Killed by the Deadly Disease Over the Past 24 Hours**

# IRAN NEWS

**First Exhibition and Conference to Introduce Investment Opportunities in The Field of Oil, Gas, Petrochemicals, And Renewable Energy in Iran's Free and Special Economic Zones (IFEEX 2021) Opened on Kish Island**

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Iran, Turkmenistan to Sign Comprehensive Document of Cooperation



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## Human Rights Have Become a Political Tool

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Iran's Judiciary Deputy for International Affairs and the Secretary of High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi expressed regret that human rights have become a political good and instrument to exert pressure on countries like Iran.

In response to the report of the United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gharibabadi called the report a political and deflection, saying that the world was suffering from the injustice stemming from the policies of the so-called human rights defenders in the West and the U.S. and that Iran itself was a victim of human rights violation by those states.

Gharibabadi expressed regret that human rights have become a political good and tool to apply pressure over independent developing countries like Iran, making human a victim.

He slammed the so-called defenders of human rights for keeping silent on terrorist acts against the Iranian nation and its scientists and also the cruel sanctions which constitute a gross violation of human rights.

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## U.S., Regional Allies Going Downhill As Iranian Forces March Forward



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces says the United States and its regional allies are going downhill, all the while Iranian forces are boosting their readiness to counter any threats.

Speaking on Tuesday, Major General Mohammad Baqeri enumerated the US escape from Afghanistan, the beginning of the evacuation of

American troops from Iraq and parts of Syria, the reduction of advanced US air defense equipment along the Persian Gulf, and the transfer of US naval forces to territories in southern China as signs of the shift of power in the world.

"We thank God that after a difficult period of past threats, today we are witnessing a period of decline and weakness of the criminal US and its regional followers," he said.

"Of course, none of these means a decrease of threats or normalization of the situation in relation to the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The top Iranian general also warned that although direct military action has become difficult for Washington and Tel Aviv, they will never abandon conspiring against the Islamic establishment and will always create problems for Iran and its regional partners.

He stressed that the current situation requires the armed forces to remain vigilant more than ever.

"When the threats are obvious, clear, and direct, the method of dealing with them is a little simpler and smoother, but when the threats are accompanied by various complexities and layers, naturally our task is more serious and heavy," he noted.

"Therefore, our constant duty in the face of threats is to monitor the situation by intelligence services, improve the readiness and operational capability of all command and lower levels, and be prepared for any eventuality."

Separately on Tuesday, Brigadier General Gholam-Reza Jalali, head of Iran's Civil Defense Organization, said the Americans and the Israelis are currently in their weakest possible position as they have lost their cohesion.

"Today, the most vulnerable face of the United States and the Zionist regime is in front of us," he told a press conference.

Jalali further said that the Zionist regime, in full coordination with the Americans, has adopted a strategy of all-out pressure to the brink of war.

"Cyber warfare, acts of sabotage, infiltration, and terrorist operations are what the Zionist regime has defined as operations for itself. We are witnessing a confrontation with the Zionist regime at sea, on the ground, and in technical and industrial sectors," he added.

The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) also gave an account of the ongoing progress made by his forces in all military sectors with the aim of defending the country.

In the naval sector, Major General Hossein Salami said, "we are vastly expanding our maritime reach and power for the fight against great powers, given that they are mainly focused on [presence] at sea."

Salami then said the IRGC Ground Force is expanding its presence in border areas to establish security there while "truly depicting a glorious display of a defense force on the ground."

The Iranian general added that the IRGC Aerospace Force is also making progress in the fields of space, missile, air defense, drones, and electronic warfare, as occasionally witnessed by the people through military exercises and field tests.

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Tehran, Minsk Pursuing Revival of Joint Projects



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## ViewPoint

By: Hamid Reza Naghashian

## Zionists Concerned About Resumption of Tehran-Riyadh Ties

In recent days most of media outlets in their reports claim that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Saudi Arabia are set to restore ties and this has turned to a nightmare for the Zionist regime and it is trying to some extent stop restoration of good ties between two important Muslim countries.

Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on Sunday called for unity among Muslims saying it is a matter of principle and a clear religious duty, commanded by the Holy Quran. But everybody knows this fact that unity among the Muslim countries is not what the Zionist regime and its Western supporters want because a united Muslim world will be tough to be beaten and it can dominate the world in any fields.

So one can see this concern and embarrassment in the face and behaviors of the Zionists and their officials once in a while try to threaten Iran or other countries which are against the unity through resorting to any vicious plot.

Recently an Israeli newspaper apparently in an article revealed the concern in the Zionists' camp over thawing of the relations between Tehran and Riyadh. Israeli newspaper Haaretz in its article wrote, "

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian returned from his visit to Syria, Egypt and Russia with good news: Talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran had gone "a good distance," he said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh was more generous with details, saying the talks had proceeded "without interruption" and had focused on ties between Iran and countries in the region, mainly the Persian Gulf States. The war in Yemen was also discussed."

"Riyadh and Tehran have already signed a number of agreements, Khatibzadeh said. According to diplomatic sources who spoke with Arab journalists, consulates are expected to open in the two countries soon. A full normalization agreement is expected within weeks, with embassy openings to follow," the daily added..

"If the negotiations between the House of Saud and the Islamic Republic of Iran do result in an agreement and normalization, this will be the final chapter of the anti-Iranian coalition. Israel relied heavily on this coalition, of which it considered itself an unofficial member, to the point where the common denominator between Israel and Saudi Arabia led to hope of a renewal of Saudi ties with Israel," the daily reiterated.

Saudi-Iran ties might remove the obstacles to a direct channel between all Arab states and Iran. Evidence of this can already be seen in statements by Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi, who in a phone call with his Iranian counterpart last week said: "Good relations with Iran are an important interest of Jordan's," Haaretz added.

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## Terrorist Groups Behind UN Report's on Iran

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran's permanent mission at the United Nations says the latest report on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic by the UN special rapporteur has used information provided by terrorist groups as its source.

Zahra Ershadi, Iran's deputy ambassador to the UN, made the remarks on Monday in response to a new report prepared by the so-called UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Javaid Rehman, noting that such reports only aim to use human rights as an instrument against other countries.

Iran's envoy expressed regret that the special rapporteur has used as his source reports given to him by terrorist groups that are still being backed by their sponsors and erroneously introduced as human rights defenders.

Iran's deputy envoy then condemned as reprehensible the UN special rapporteur's glorification of those terrorists whose hands are covered by the blood of innocent Iranians.

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27 OCTOBER

BLACK DAY

KASHMIR

**Supreme Leader:**

We hope that the Kashmir issue will be resolved in the best possible way, which guarantees the rights and interests of the people of this region, and the people of Kashmir will enjoy comfort and peace.



## President to Address Afghanistan's Neighbors' Meeting

TEHRAN (IRNA) - The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Tuesday that the second foreign ministerial meeting of neighbors of Afghanistan plus Russia will be held here today.

President Ebrahim Raisi will inaugurate the meeting and deliver a speech to it, Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters at his weekly press briefing in Tehran.

The meeting will be held with participation of foreign ministers of six neighbors to Afghanistan, the spokesman said, adding that Uzbek, Tajik, Turkmen and Pakistani foreign ministers will take part in person while the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers will attend the meeting online; meanwhile, representatives from Beijing and Moscow will be present in the meeting.

## Iran, Turkmenistan to Sign Comprehensive Document of Cooperation

**TEHRAN (MNA) – Iranian Foreign Minister announced the agreement of Iran and Turkmenistan to sign a comprehensive document of cooperation and increase the volume of trade between the two countries as much as possible.**

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in his joint press conference with the Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov on Tuesday.

Stating that so far more than one hundred official documents have been signed between Iran and Turkmenistan in various fields, Amir-Abdollahian announced the agreement of the two countries to sign a comprehensive document of cooperation and increase the volume of trade between the two countries as much as possible.

He added that basic agreements were reached between the foreign ministers of the two countries, saying that Iran will import electricity from Turkmenistan through Sarakhs and Gonbad, and a cooperation document will be signed at the level of the ministries of energy.

Iranian foreign minister also said that the signing of a document of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and water-related issues have also been among the topics discussed in the meeting.



According to Amir-Abdollahian, regional issues, including northern Afghanistan, the West Asian region and the South Caucasus, were other topics of discussion in the meeting with the Turkmen foreign minister.

Rashid Meredov, for his part, said that Turkmenistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as two neighboring and brotherly countries, are taking steps to develop relations and cooperate with each other in various fields.

He added that the two sides decided to hold more talks on political and diplomatic issues.

Regional and global issues, as well as consular and other issues of interest to Turkmenistan and Iran, were discussed at the meeting, the Turkmen foreign minister said.

Heading a delegation, Rashid Meredov traveled to the Iranian capital of Tehran on Tuesday morning to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors.

The meeting of foreign ministers of 6 neighboring countries of Afghanistan plus Russia will be held in

## Iran Expresses Hope for Inclusive Afghan Gov't Ahead of Tehran Meeting

TEHRAN (PressTV) - Iran has expressed hope for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan that represents all ethnic groups and reflects their will, as it prepares to host a meeting with a unified message of support for the Afghan people.

Speaking at a media briefing on Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced that the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's six neighboring states plus Russia will be held in Tehran on Wednesday.

The top diplomats of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Pakistan will attend the gathering in person, while the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers will be present online, he added.

Khatibzadeh also said that the event will open with a speech delivered by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and that the UN chief will send a message to the summit.

"The message from the UN secretary general to the Tehran meeting means that the Islamic Republic will be the center of active diplomacy in the region, taking steps to contribute to regional peace and stability," he said, highlighting Iran's support for the people of Afghanistan over the past four decades and its hosting of nearly four million Afghan nationals.

The spokesman further stressed that the Tehran meeting is aimed at stepping up collaborations between Afghanistan's neighboring countries and creating lasting peace there, saying it is a continuation of the September virtual meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors.

"The participants in that meeting agreed on basic principles, including that the future of Afghanistan should be formed according to the will of the country's people. The first meeting also agreed to establish an inclusive government, under which a stable Afghanistan could be considered as part of the arrangements for inclusive regional cooperation. Additionally, this government should reflect the demographic and ethnic composition of Afghanistan," he explained.

The director general of department of South Asian Affairs at the Iranian Foreign Ministry says Tehran will "soon" host a meeting of top diplomats of Afghanistan's neighboring states.

Khatibzadeh announced Iran's hosting of the conference on Afghanistan in a press conference last week, during which he said Iran is in contact with all parties in Kabul and is "closely monitoring" the developments in the eastern neighbor.

He urged the international community to respond seriously to the escalation of violence in Afghanistan, saying Iran is committed to preventing the country from "entering the cycle of violence and terror" again.

The Wednesday conference will also take place a week after the third meeting of the Moscow Format Consultations on Afghanistan was held in the Russian capital, where the participants urged the invaders to take responsibility for the current crisis in Afghanistan, which has brought, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP), 3.2 million children under five close to acute malnutrition.

In his Tuesday remarks, Khatibzadeh also noted that the current situation in Afghanistan is accompanied by concerns, considerations, and at the same time hopes.

"I hope that we will see a comprehensive mechanism inside Afghanistan based on the will of its people and without foreign interference. For us, the people of Afghanistan, as well as protecting them and their rights, are the first priority."

Khatibzadeh further noted that the Islamic Republic has always strongly advised against the interference of foreigners in Afghanistan's affairs and respected the country's independence and territorial integrity.

"Tomorrow, the foreign ministers will present the official views of their respective governments," he said.

However, the spokesman went on, what "we have seen in the scandalous US escape from Afghanistan after two decades of occupation and violence is nothing other than the destruction of the country's social, political, and security foundations."

"Many countries believe that the United States is a major factor in the current situation in Afghanistan. Of course, pathology and finding the roots of the situation in Afghanistan will be part of tomorrow's meeting, but the principle is the future of Afghanistan and the formation of a government based on the will of the country's people."

## JCPOA Revival Talks Must Guarantee Removal of All Sanctions

TEHRAN (IFP) - The Iranian deputy foreign minister says future talks to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) must guarantee a complete removal of all anti-Iran sanctions and the normalization of trade and economic relations.

"Tehran is determined to negotiate a full and effective lifting of oppressive and illegal sanctions, to ensure the normalization of trade and economic relations with Iran, and to provide credible guarantees to prevent further non-compliance," Ali Bagheri Kani said in a twitter post on Monday.

He also announced that he will fly to Brussels on Wednesday for a meeting with European Union Deputy Foreign Policy Chief Enrique Mora to continue discussions on "result-oriented negotiations".



"The question is whether the other parties (to the nuclear deal) are genuinely prepared to fulfill their obligations, including calling on a non-member violator to abandon the destructive policies and legacy of the past?", the Iranian deputy foreign minister wrote.

The senior diplomat warned that continuing the failed policy of maximum pressure will certainly not remove the obstacles in the way of negotiations to lift illegal and oppressive sanctions, but will add to the complexities of the negotiations.

Bagheri and Mora, who coordinates talks between Tehran and the P4+1 group, sat down for talks in Tehran earlier in October. In that meeting, they agreed to continue talks in Brussels over the possibility of further negotiations between Iran and the P4+1 group in the Austrian capital Vienna.

## Iran, Pakistan FMs Meet in Tehran



TEHRAN (IRNA) - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian met and held talks with his Pakistani counterpart, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, in Tehran on Tuesday.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who arrived in Tehran heading a high-level delegation to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of neighboring Afghanistan, was officially welcomed by his Iranian counterpart.

The two sides exchanged views on bilateral issues and joint border affairs.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi will attend a one-day meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors tomorrow. The foreign ministers from six neighboring countries of Afghanistan plus Russia will attend the meeting.

## Iran, Iraq Launch Visa Waiver Program

TEHRAN (IFP) - Iran and Iraq have eliminated visa requirements for visitors travelling between the two countries via air.

"Iranians arriving in Iraq through airports in Baghdad and Najaf, as well as Iraqis travelling to Iran will no longer be required to obtain visas," said Iran's Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi.

"They will only need to have passports," the ambassador added.

He added visitors will also be able to travel to Iraq via the flight routes mentioned above and return to Iran by land.

The top diplomat noted Iranian travelers can stay in Iraq for a period of one month, which could be extended.

He also said, at the moment, Iran runs 90 flights to Iraq weekly, but a rise in the number of flights should be approved at a joint meeting with the Iraqi side.

Meanwhile the Iraqi Interior Ministry had already announced that visas would be issued to Iranians upon arrival on Iraqi soil.

"Based on the authorization of the government of Iraq, issuing one-month extendable visas for Iranian nationals, who enter Iraq by air, has entered the execution stage," the ministry said.

## Official Warns Population Growth Rate Fast Declining In Iran

TEHRAN (IFP) - An official has said that Iran has now the lowest birth rate in the Middle East after experiencing the fastest decline in births during the past three decades.

Saleh Ghasemi, head of the Center for Strategic Research on Population told a local news agency that the current birth rate is 1.6 for each woman at the age of fertility. He added that in mid-1980s Iran had a 6.5 birth rate, one the highest in the world, but it has been declining since.

Ghasemi put Iran's population at more than 85 million, although some believe that this figure includes a few million Iranians who have left the country but are still counted as residents. He added that the population growth rate is currently 0.6 percent but is expected to decline to zero in the next 10-15 years.

Iran's declining rate of population growth has been a hot political topic in the country, where its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior clerics in the religious political system have been calling for policies to boost population.

Ghasemi said that the biggest decline in births took place between 2015-2020, when there were 550,000 fewer births annually. He went on to say that women born in the 1980s are dropping out of the child-bearing age. This, coupled with change in people's preferences and lifestyle will continue to reduce births.

## Japan Donates \$6.3m to Bolster Iran's Fight Against COVID-19



TEHRAN (IRNA) - The Government of Japan has renewed its long-standing solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran by signing a project agreement with the World Health Organization Country Office to support consolidation of national efforts to respond to the COVID-19 emergency across the nation.

The financial donation agreement was signed between Dr Syed Jaffar Hussain, WHO Representative and Head of Mission to Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Hiroataka Matsuo, Charge d' Affaires ad interim in Japan to the Islamic Republic of Iran, during a solemn ceremony in Tehran on Tuesday 26 October 2021, in the honorary presence of Dr Jalal Naeli, Deputy Director General of International Relations Department at the Ministry of Health and Medical Education.

The grant aid project worth 6.3 million USD will provide a total of six MRI machines to the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen its capacity to address the ongoing COVID-19 crisis in the country. These MRI machines will be delivered to public hospitals in five provinces of Iran namely Tehran, Khuzestan, South Khorasan, North Khorasan and Chaharmahal and Bahtari, and WHO Country Office will be responsible for the procurement and delivery of the items.

Dr Hussain expressed his gratitude to the Government of Japan and the Japanese Embassy for their support which would greatly support the healthcare system in dealing with the viral disease.

"I would very much like to thank the Government of Japan, and His Excellency Mr. Aikawa Kazutoshi, the ambassador of Japan to the Islamic Republic of Iran for making this grant available to the country through WHO," he said. "The 6.3-million-dollar grant will greatly facilitate the effective response of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to COVID-19, particularly in the diagnostic and therapeutic aspect. The MRI machines which WHO will procure through this grant will not only serve the COVID-19 response, but at the same time for a medium-to-long-term to many other illnesses and diseases, which currently are of very important nature."

"The coronavirus infection rapidly expanded all over the world and threatened not only human lives but also the world's economy. From the very beginning of the outbreak of corona virus, the Government of Japan considers that the emergency response to protect human lives and minimize socio-economic impacts is essential," said Mr Matsuo at the event. "I am convinced that these six MRI machines will contribute to preventing the further spread of the coronavirus infection in each region in Iran and will help local people to cure diseases."

Mr Matsuo underlined that improving the health sector is one of his embassy's key priorities. "Japanese knowledge and technology in this sector can play a key role to strengthen the relations between Japan and Iran," he noted.





## PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:48
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:33
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:58
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:22

54. So the king said: "Bring him unto me; I will take him specially to serve about my own person." Therefore when he had spoken to him, he said: "Be assured this day, thou art, before our own presence, with rank firmly established, and fidelity fully proved!"

55. (Joseph) said: "Set me over the store-houses of the land: I will indeed guard them, as one that knows (their importance)."

Surah 12. Joseph (54 - 55)

# Tehran, Minsk Pursuing Revival of Joint Projects

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

**TEHRAN – Iran and Belarus are trying to revive the previous joint projects and to focus on new investments, too.**

Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture (ICCMIA) Gholam-Hossein Shafei on Monday met the Ambassador of Belarus to Tehran Mr. Dmitry Koltsov and during the meeting both sides explored ways for expansion of ties.

In the meeting, Shafei pointed to the good political relations between Tehran and Minsk since the independence of Belarus and there have been meetings between officials of the two countries since then. He added that these ties and meetings show the interests of both sides for expansion of the joint cooperation.

He termed favorable the geographical position of Belarus for restoring multilateral ties through this country with European countries and neighbors of Belarus. He then pointed to the grounds which had been paved in the past for the joint economic cooperation.

Shafei then pointed to Belarus's capability to attract investment and said fortunately there are good capacities for restoring trade and economic cooperation and since Iran has focused on renovating its transportation fleet, both countries can start negotiation for cooperation in this field based on the new model.

He also said that cooperation in the framework of Iran's agreement with the Eurasian Economic Union should be taken into the consideration of the two countries. He also reiterated that economic activists of Iran and Belarus should be aware of each other's condition and emphasized that ICCIMA is ready to prepare a ground for economic activists to keep the track of each other through this channel.

He added that the banking transactions of the two countries are facing challenges and stipulated that today due to the sanctions, both countries can resolve problems for their needs through barter trade. He noted that the role of ambassadors of the two countries is very important for expansion of



trade ties and they should take serious steps for easing the trade process.

Then the Ambassador of Belarus Mr. Koltsov, for his part, pointed to the old relations of both countries and emphasized the necessity for boosting bilateral ties. He added he believes the capacities for cooperation are beyond what has been raised so far and here it is the task of the embassy to follow expansion of bilateral trade.

He also pointed to the interests of the chamber of commerce of Belarus for strengthening ties and hosting Iranian trade delegations, adding that without any doubt, these meetings will help the relations of the two countries to be reinforced.

Koltsov also pointed to the meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Commission which will convene in the near future and expressed hope it happens before the end of 2021. He said the commission this time will be presided by Iran's Minister of Industry and recommended a delegation from the private sector led by the head of ICCIMA to attend the meeting in order that some B2B sessions can be held for economic activists of the two countries.

He also called for the revival of the labor council of the two countries which used to be held in the past but its meetings have faced some problems. He also called for awareness of both sides about the economic capabilities of both countries especially precise information and data on the economic conditions in Iran and Belarus and recommended the ICCIMA to hold a meeting for exchange of information between the economic activists.

Koltsov then added that there are three grounds for joint cooperation between the two states that the ICCIMA can make them public in order that economic activists can announce their readiness for participation.

## Jahrom Combined Cycle Power Plant Steam Unit 3 Synchronized

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – After tireless efforts of engineers and personnel of MAPNA Group, the third unit of Jahrom combined cycle power plant was synchronized



on last Thursday and joined the national electricity network.

According to report, with synchronization of this unit, the number of the synchronized power plant units by the MAPNA Combined Cycle Power Plant Construction Company as the representative of MAPNA Group in this project reached 104 units with the capacity of 16,019 megawatts.

According to reports, the fourth Jahrom combined cycle power plant is the last phase of this project with approximate capacity of 480 megawatts.

The contract for producing 22 combined cycle power plants was signed between MAPNA Group and the then Iran Power Development Organization some 19 years ago.

This project is carried out in 27 kilometers north of Jahrom, on the sidelines of Jahrom-Shiraz Road. Three E-type steam turbines each with a capacity of 160 MWs and a 400-kv transmission substation have been installed by MAPNA Group.

## KSC Breaks Record for Monthly Slab Ingot Production

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Head of exploitation department of Khuzestan Steel Company (KSC) says the company set a new monthly record for production of the slab ingot in the month of Mehr as the company produced 179,212 tons of slab ingot.

Mahmoud Landi announced this achievement and said the company set a new record for monthly production of slab ingots by producing 179,212 tons. The previous record was 168,355 tons which had been set three years ago.

He said continuous production and in accordance with the market demand is the main strategy of the company, adding that in the year which has been named by the Supreme Leader as "Production, Supports and Removing Hurdles", the company could produce high quality products despite all restrictions and it not only met the domestic demands but also exported part of its products.

He then pointed to some of the projects on the agenda and said that three mega projects have seen their ground-breaking ceremonies that one of them is the construction of a 500-megawatt power plant which resolve many problems of the company.

## Khorasan Steel Co. Sets New Records for Production

**IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK**

TEHRAN – Khorasan Steel Complex Company (KSC) once again set new records for production as the company after removal of restriction for electricity provision could set three new records for production.

The CEO of the company Mr. Kasra Ghafoori said that the crusaders of production in Khorasan Steel Company for the third time in the current Iranian calendar year could break records for production of sponge iron and for the fourth time for production of pellet.

Ghafoori said that tireless laborers of the company by producing 197,693 tons in the pelletizing unit of the company could produce the highest amount of pellet in the month of Mehr and it is the most production since the birth of the company. He added that simultaneously, the company produced 73,022 tons of sponge iron in its direct reduction unit No.2 and set a record for monthly production and it was a record for the total production in both direct reduction units of the company by increasing it to 138,118 tons, 560 tons more than the previous year.

This achievement happened on the eve of the birthday anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Ghafoori expressed his satisfaction over the performance of the personnel of the company and their high motivation for more production.

Then head of exploitation of the company Mr. Farshid Fazilati said that the company failed to achieve the capacity of the steelmaking units in the summer due to the restrictions for electricity provision, adding that immediately after the removal of the restriction, the company in the shortest time improved its production and set new records. He said the company in the month of Mehr improved its month of Khordad's record of 195,762 tons to 197,693 tons.

He added that the company in its direct reduction unit No. 2 set a new record for monthly pellet production as the company produced 73,022 tons of sponge iron, 1607 tons more than previous record in the month of Ordibehesht.

## Italy Keen on Enhancing Trade Ties With Iran

LONDON (IRNA) - The Islamic Republic of Iran's Commercial attaché to Italy underscored that Rome has always taken a balanced approach towards Tehran in spite of ups and downs in Iran's relations with the European countries and changes in governments in Italy.

Italian companies have always had positive views about cooperation with the Iranian side, Mohammad-Reza Radbooy said on Monday.

At his remarks, the diplomat elaborated on the history of Iran-Italy economic ties, economic relations in the post-Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) era, and economic diplomacy taken by the new Iranian government took office in August.

As the commercial attaché noted the economic diplomacy plays a leading role at different levels of international and national cooperation in economic and political fields.

The aim behind economic diplomacy is to make use of the foreign relations' existing capacities for maximizing [profits of] national economy, he said.

The commercial attaché went on to say that attention to economic diplomacy has increased in the new Iranian government as Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian has underlined the importance of supporting private sectors for having interactions with other countries.

In his remarks, the diplomat described "export" as one of the main ways to tackle the difficult economic conditions.

Also, he stressed the need to plan for the post-sanctions era.

Touching upon Tehran-Rome relations, the diplomat said the two enjoy economic relations based on mutual understanding and confidence.

Italy has been Iran's first European trade partner for years, he underlined.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes progress in relations, particularly in economic ties, with Italy, he added.

About the JCPOA which was signed by Iran and the six world powers in July 2015, the diplomat said Italy was not among the signatories but always supported the deal.

The United States withdrew unilaterally from the international nuclear deal, aka JCPOA, in May 2018 and imposed as it claimed "the highest level of sanctions against Iran" in November of the same year.

Although a large number of Italian companies left Iran after the US withdrawal, some are still in Iran; and this is appreciable, the diplomat noted.

Further, he appreciated Italy for sending 1.6 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Iran.

After the JCPOA, economic relations between Iran and Italy were promoted; but the continuation of the sanctions did seriously damage trade exchanges between the two countries, he added.

Elsewhere, he referred to the Iran-Italy joint chamber of commerce with 5,000 members as the biggest joint economic chamber that Iran has with other countries.

At the end of his remarks, the diplomat expressed hope that Iran and Italy would witness a boom in their economic relations after the removal of the sanctions and implementation of parts of mutual agreements.

## Iran Planning to Raise Annual Petrochemical Products to 176m Tons

KISH ISLAND (IRNA) - Deputy oil minister and managing director of National Iranian Petrochemical Company (NIPC) said here on Monday that Iran is planning to raise its annual petrochemical products from current 83 million tons to 267 million tons in six years.

Behzad Mohammadi who was speaking at the opening ceremony of "The Investments Opportunities in Oil, Gas, Petrochemical, and Renewable Energies, IFAX 2021 Exhibition in Kish Island", further reiterated that the plan, programmed to end in the year 2027, has several side projects which are all under construction, and therefore, it will complete right on time.

Once completed, the country's investments in petrochemical sector will increase from its current 79 billion dollars up to 140 billion, he added.

Mohammadi reiterated that the annual income of the country, too, will increase from its current 14 billion dollars a year up to 53 billion.

In this respect six chains of the country's petrochemical



industries, including the methanol, propylene, benzene, butylene, urea, and ethylene have been identified and in the first phase 33 opportunities for investments in them have been provided, he said.

The deputy oil minister said that the total investments in those projects will be 3.5 billion dollars, and after

they will be put to use Iran's annual production will increase 3.5 million tons.

It is expected that the investors will grasp these opportunities and play role in expansion of the country's exports, he added.

The Investments Opportunities in Oil, Gas, Petrochemical, and Renewable Energies, IFAX 2021 Exhibition which was opened in the presence of the president's advisor and secretary of the Free Trade Zones Supreme Council, is comprised of 80 booths specializing in all various fields, in which 125 investor companies, including 45 active science-based companies in various development projects of energy, gas, oil, petrochemical products, and renewable energies are participating.

## Kashmir Black Day Observed at Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran

**IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK**

TEHRAN - To observe the Kashmir Black Day, the Embassy of Pakistan in Tehran organized an event to express support of Pakistani government and the nation for the Kashmiri people in their struggle against the continued Indian illegal occupation of Jammu & Kashmir. A number of Iranian scholars, academicians, media persons, member of Pakistani community and Pakistani and Iranian students participated in the event.

In his remarks, Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi emphasized that Kashmiris have been subjected to the use of brute force from the Indian occupation forces since 27 October 1947. Beginning from that day, the Indian security forces have had systematically maimed, executed, murdered, blinded and raped thousands of innocent Kashmiris through state-sponsored terrorism. Expressing his gratitude to the Iranian leadership, the Ambassador highlighted that it has always given a great regard to the struggle for self-determination in IJOK. He also thanked the Iranian print and electronic media for projecting the Kashmir cause and in highlighting the systematic human rights violations committed by the Indian occupation forces.

The Ambassador reiterated Pakistan's call to the world leaders, international community including the United Nations, and all human rights organizations to urge India to halt the brute use of force against the innocent Kashmiri people and resolve the Kashmir Dispute as per the charter of the United Nations and various UNSC Resolutions.

Hujjat-ul-Islam Dr. Salman Naqvi and students from Tehran University, in their speeches, condemned the continuing atrocities and gross human rights violations being committed by the Indian occupation forces in IJOK.

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



Ambassador Rahim Hayat Qureshi, Hujjat-ul-Islam Syed Salman Naqvi and Hassan Raza Naqvi addressing the guest in event to observe Kashmir Black Day at Embassy of Pakistan on 27.10.2021



## Greek Parliament Suspended After Party Leader's Death

ATHENS (Dispatches) - Parliament speaker Constantinos Tassoulas said he had agreed with Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis to “suspend legislative work this week” and that political parties had also agreed to suspend parliamentary questions.

Mitsotakis said a national day of mourning would be held Wednesday for Gennimata, who died of cancer Monday in an Athens hospital.

One of the first women in Greece to hold senior political posts, the 56-year-old led a successor party to the once-powerful PASOK movement of three-time Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou.



## Russian COVID Cases Hit Record High

BUCHAREST (Dispatches) - Russia reported a record high number of daily COVID-19 cases and some central European countries imposed fresh restrictions on Monday, as a new wave of the pandemic gathered pace.

In Asia, the Red Cross called for urgent help for Papua New Guinea and China's latest outbreak forced the capital Beijing to delay its annual marathon and step up other curbs, less than four months before it hosts the Winter Olympics.

Authorities around the world have been sounding the alarm as infections surge, with governments in regions where vaccine uptake has been low forced to toughen up restrictions in a bid to stop the virus raging out of control.



## Sudan's Military Seizes Power in Coup



KHARTOUM (Dispatches) - Sudan's military seized power from a transitional government on Monday and soldiers killed at least three people and wounded 80 as street protests broke out against the coup.

The leader of the takeover, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, dissolved the military-civilian Sovereign Council that had been set up to guide the country to democracy following the overthrow of long-ruling autocrat Omar al-Bashir in a popular uprising two years ago.

Burhan announced a state of emergency, saying the armed forces needed to protect safety and security, but he promised to hold elections in July 2023 and hand over to an elected civilian government then.

“What the country is going through now is a real threat and danger to the dreams of the youth and the hopes of the nation,” he said.

Youths opposed to the coup barricaded streets as clashes broke out with troops.

The Central Committee of Sudanese Doctors said three people had died of wounds after being shot by soldiers and at least 80 people had been injured.

Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok was detained and taken to an undisclosed location after refusing to issue a statement in support of the takeover, the information ministry said.

The ministry, still loyal to Hamdok, urged resistance and said tens of thousands of people opposed to the takeover had taken to the streets and had faced gunfire near the military headquarters in Khartoum.

Troops had arrested civilian members of the Sovereign Council and government figures, it said, called on Sudanese to oppose the military.

“We raise our voices loudly to reject this coup attempt,” it said in a statement.

In Khartoum's twin city Omdurman, protesters barricaded streets and chanted in support of civilian rule.

“Burhan cannot deceive us. This is a military coup,” said a young man who gave his name as Saleh.

Sudan has been ruled for most of its post-colonial history by military leaders who seized power in coups. It had become a pariah to the West and was on the U.S. terrorism blacklist under Bashir, who hosted Osama bin Laden in the 1990s and is wanted by the International Criminal Court in the Hague for war crimes.

The country had been on edge since last month when a failed coup plot, blamed on Bashir supporters, unleashed recriminations between the military and civilians in the transitional cabinet. read more

In recent weeks a coalition of rebel groups and political parties aligned themselves with the military and called on it to dissolve the civilian government, while cabinet ministers took part in protests against the prospect of military rule.

## Erdogan U-Turns on Threat to Expel Western Ambassadors

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rowed back on Monday from his threat to expel 10 Western envoys over their joint statement of support for a jailed civil society leader.

The reversal came after the United States and several of the other concerned countries issued identical statements saying they respected a UN convention that required diplomats not to interfere in the host country's domestic affairs.

After chairing an hours-long cabinet meeting devoted to the diplomatic standoff, Erdogan said the envoys had learnt their lesson and “will be more careful now”.

“Our intention is absolutely not to create a crisis but to protect our honour, our pride, our sovereign rights,” Erdogan said in nationally televised comments.

The lira pulled back from a historic low and was trading up half a percent against the dollar on relief that Turkey and the West had pulled back from the brink of the most serious diplomatic crisis of Erdogan's 19-year rule.



## Uzbek President Secures Second Term in Landslide Election Victory

TASHKENT (Dispatches) - Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has been re-elected for a second five-year term, according to the preliminary results of a poll that Western observers criticized as uncompetitive despite recent political reforms.

Mirziyoyev swept to victory with 80.1 percent of the vote in Sunday's election, Uzbekistan's Central Election Commission announced on Monday. Voter turnout was at 80.8 percent.

The 64-year-old spoke to campaign staff and reporters shortly after his widely expected win was declared.

“I am grateful to and bow in front of our mothers, sisters, daughters, fellow party members for trusting and choosing me,” Mirziyoyev said.

Zayniddin Nizamkhodjaev, the election commission's chairman, said the vote had adhered to democratic standards. But observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said that Mirziyoyev's reform agenda had not yet resulted in a genuinely pluralistic environment.

“While multiple candidates contested the election, there was no meaningful engagement with each other or with voters, and candidates refrained from challenging or criticizing the incumbent,” the observation mission said in a statement.

Mirziyoyev faced four relatively low-visibility candidates in Sunday's election, none of whom showed up for televised debates, instead sending proxies who failed to engage in substantial discussions. Independent candidates were not permitted to contest the ballot.

Mirziyoyev's win will allow him to deepen his reform campaign and likely lead to Uzbekistan opening up further to foreign trade and investment – while retaining a highly centralized political system.

Since taking office in 2016 following the death of longtime President Islam Karimov, Mirziyoyev has relaxed many of the policies of his predecessor.

## Children Going to Die in Afghanistan

GENEVA (Dispatches) - UN says more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million population is facing acute food insecurity and ‘marching to starvation’.

Millions of Afghans, including children, could die of starvation unless urgent action is taken to pull Afghanistan back from the brink of collapse, a senior United Nations official has warned, calling for frozen funds to be freed for humanitarian efforts.

The World Food Program (WFP) Executive Director David Beasley told Reuters news agency that 22.8 million people – more than half of Afghanistan's 39 million population – were facing acute food insecurity and “marching to starvation” compared with 14 million just two months ago.

“Children are going to die. People are going to starve. Things are going to get a lot worse,” he said in Dubai.

“I don't know how you don't have millions of people, and especially children, dying at the rate we are going with the lack of funding and the collapsing of the economy.”

Afghanistan was plunged into crisis in August after Taliban fighters drove out a Western-backed government, prompting donors to hold back billions of dollars in assistance for the aid-dependent economy.

The food crisis, exacerbated by climate change, was

dire in Afghanistan even before the takeover by the Taliban, whose new administration has been blocked from accessing assets held overseas as nations grapple with how to deal with the group.

“What we are predicting is coming true much faster than we anticipated. Kabul fell faster than anybody anticipated and the economy is falling faster than that,” Beasley said.

He said dollars earmarked for development assistance should be repurposed for humanitarian aid, which some nations have already done, or frozen funds be channelled through the agency.

“You've got to unfreeze these funds so people can survive.”

The UN food agency needs up to \$220m a month to partially feed the nearly 23 million vulnerable people as winter nears. Many Afghans are selling possessions to buy food with the Taliban unable to pay wages to civil servants, and urban communities are facing food insecurity on levels similar to rural areas for the first time.

WFP tapped its own resources to help cover food aid through to December after some donors failed to meet pledges, Beasley said, adding that with government appropriations already out, funds may have to be redirected from aid efforts in other countries.



## Setback for Kishida In By-Election

TOKYO (Dispatches) - Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida suffered an unexpected blow a week before his Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) heads into a national vote, as the loss of a closely watched by-election focused attention on his flagging support a month into the job.

Kishida has called for a “new capitalism” that would tackle inequality and promised to roll back some of the “Abenomics” policies of his former boss, Shinzo Abe.

Yet he has failed to inspire the public and a weak showing in Sunday's lower house election could set him up to become another short-term premier, like predecessor Yoshihide Suga who stepped down after only a year.

Recent polls have put support for the LDP at around 38%, although the party - which has ruled Japan for much of the post-war period - and its junior partner Komeito are widely expected to together keep a majority.

Still, the loss of one of two parliamentary by-elections over the weekend shows the coming vote won't be all smooth sailing. In Shizuoka prefecture, west of Tokyo, the LDP lost resoundingly to an independent candidate supported by the opposition, despite two visits by Kishida to woo voters there.

“The result in Shizuoka is disappointing,” Kishida told reporters on Monday, hours after the results. He said he planned to “solemnly accept” the decision and analyse the reasons for the loss.

The LDP won the other by-election, in the conservative stronghold of Yamaguchi. The two special elections were the first national polls since Kishida took office.

While he has publicly set a coalition target for a majority 233 seats in the 465-seat lower house - well below the 276 seats held by the LDP alone before the election was called - the focus remains on whether the LDP alone can keep its majority.

But that is looking difficult, said Shigenobu Tamura, a former LDP official and a political commentator, adding that such a setback could put pressure on Kishida.







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## Russia Expects OPEC+ to Up Oil Output by 400,000 bpd in November

RIYADH (Dispatches) - Russia expects OPEC+ to raise its output by 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) at the Nov. 4 meeting, as previously agreed, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak told Reuters on Monday.

Novak also said he expects oil demand to reach a pre-pandemic level by the end of next year but said it was difficult to predict if oil prices will hit record highs as gas prices have done.

“Demand (for oil) can decline as there is still uncertainty. We also see there is yet another pandemic wave spreading across the world,” Novak said.



## Most Americans Want Major Overhauls To U.S. Economy, Political System

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - As the post-pandemic economy starts to take shape, most Americans appear to be hopeful it'll look quite different from its current state.

A majority of Americans surveyed in February indicated they wanted major changes or complete reforms to much of the way the U.S. operates, according to a new Pew Research Center report, which included surveys of people in more than a dozen of the world's advanced economies. Eighty-five percent of surveyed American adults said they wanted an overhaul of the country's political systems, while 66% said they wanted major changes to the U.S. economy. Just over three-fourths of respondents said there needed to be major reform to the country's healthcare systems.

The Americans surveyed were generally more dissatisfied with the government than residents of other advanced economies who were surveyed. Desires to change political systems were higher only in Spain and Italy, with 86% and 89% of respective residents wanting major overhauls.

Only the residents of South Korea, Greece, Spain, and Italy were more dissatisfied with their national economies than Americans. The U.S. had the second-largest share of people calling for healthcare reform, surpassed only by Greece.

The findings also reveal a bleak outlook among Americans as the country pushes toward economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The U.S. is outpacing many other countries' recoveries as rising rates of vaccinations have fueled reopening and strong consumer spending. U.S. economic output has already fully recovered its pandemic-era slump, and officials say the country is expected to return to full employment next year.

Despite these improvements, the surveys found widespread discontent with the state of the nation. The survey period covers the time that virus cases remained elevated, the labor shortage curbed hiring, and inflation soared to decade highs. While recovery was underway, new obstacles were slowing it down.

And while most Americans said they wanted major changes throughout the country, few seemed optimistic those overhauls could happen — 85% of respondents said they wanted major political reform in the U.S., but only 28% expressed confidence the system could change.

Part of the pessimism comes from partisan conflict and a fraught political climate, the Pew survey indicates. Desires to overhaul some systems are starkly different between Democrats and Republicans. While 80% of Democrats said the economic system needed a complete overhaul, just half of Republicans said the same. And where 39% of Democrats wanted major changes to healthcare, roughly half as many Republicans agreed.

## High Inflation May Persist in Coming Months in Spain

MADRID (Reuters) - Relatively high inflation rates are likely to prevail in Spain over coming months although their underlying causes are mainly transitory, Bank of Spain Governor Pablo Hernandez de Cos said.

A surge in energy prices could last through the winter as demand generally increases because of cold weather while oil and gas storage levels are relatively low, he said. De Cos warned, however, that the longer the transitory inflation pressure lasts, the likelier high inflation will become persistent.

“All these elements introduce a noticeable level of uncertainty about the duration of the current episode of rising costs of production,” he said in a presentation to the budget committee in parliament.

The effects of higher inflation are already reflected in the yields demanded by investors on Spanish 10-year government bonds, which have risen to 0.5% as of Friday from 0% at the beginning of the year, he said.

Nevertheless, de Cos said, the general perception is that the European Central Bank will keep its expansive tone for a “dilated period of time”.

He added that current supply chain disruptions, higher energy prices and other recent developments are likely to prompt a “significant downward” revision of the bank's estimate for Spain's economic growth in 2021 due to be updated in December.



The Bank of Spain last month raised its growth forecast for this year by 0.1 percentage points to 6.3%, though a few days later the National Statistics Institute revised second-quarter growth sharply lower to 1.1% from an original 2.8%.

De Cos said then the bank would have to update its outlook to take the revision into account.

The growth outlook for 2022, which the bank had recently raised to 5.9%, could also be revised downward in December, de he said, though it is “less clear” than for 2021.

## German Business Morale Deteriorates

BERLIN (Dispatches) - German business morale fell for the fourth month running in October as supply bottlenecks held back factory output in Europe's largest economy, a survey showed on Monday.

The Ifo institute said its business climate index fell to 97.7 from an upwardly revised 98.9 in September. The reading was the lowest since April and undershot the figure of 97.9 in a Reuters poll.

“Supply problems are giving businesses headaches,” Ifo President Clemens Fuest said, adding that capacity utilization in manufacturing was falling.

“Sand in the wheels of the German economy is hampering recovery.”

The government is expected to slash on Wednesday its forecast for economic growth this year, after leading institutes last week cut their joint forecast to 2.4 percent from 3.7 percent. For 2022, the institutes predicted 4.8 percent growth. Separately, German economic growth is likely to slow sharply in the fourth quarter of the year as industry continues to suffer from supply shortages and demand for services wanes, the Bundesbank said in a regular monthly report on Monday.

Europe's biggest economy boomed over the summer but unexpected supply-chain bottlenecks are now holding back its vast car manufacturing sector, while higher energy costs and persistent concerns over the coronavirus pandemic could hit consumer sentiment, economists have said.

“Growth is likely to slow significantly in the current quarter,” the Bundesbank said, adding that full-year growth is now likely to be “significantly” below its 3.7 percent prediction made in June.

## Croatia's Right-Wing Eurosceptics Seek Referendum on Euro Adoption

ZAGREB (Dispatches) - Croatia's conservative and eurosceptic party Hrvatski Suverenisti (Croatian Sovereignists) began a two-week drive on Sunday to collect signatures in a bid to force a referendum on whether to adopt the euro as the country's currency.

The eurosceptic party, which has four deputies in the 151-seat parliament, and some small right-wing allies need to collect signatures from 10% of the electorate, or around 370,000 people. They will set up some 250 locations across the country to try to reach that.

The centre-right government, led by Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic, is working to achieve euro adoption from the beginning of 2023 and hopes to get a green light from the euro zone in the first half of 2022.

Plenkovic says adopting the euro would remove currency risk, reduce interest rates, improve the country's credit rating and open the way for more investments in an economy dominated by tourism.

The eurosceptics say the economy is too weak and uncompetitive to be ready to adopt the euro and doing so would cause price rises. According to a opinion poll released in July, a bit over 60% of voters favour adopting the common currency, which is used by 19 of the 27 EU members.

## Kashmiri Lives Also Matter

BY MALIK MUHAMMAD ASHRAF

The 5th of August marks the day when Modi Government abolished article 370 and 35 A of Indian Constitution thus conspiring to integrate Muslim majority areas of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) with India. For implementing the decision, the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Kashmir (IIOJK) were forced to live under siege, cut-off from the outside world and also bear the brunt of the brutalities and atrocities of the Indian security forces who relish their indulgence in extra-judicial assaults.

What is even more unfair, is that the global community and the UN which adopted a number of resolutions regarding settlement of the question of accession of Kashmir through a plebiscite-- which are legally binding--did not react the way they should have against Indian action to scrap Article 370 of the Indian constitution, amalgamation of the state in the Indian Union through Jammu and Kashmir Re-organization Act 2019 and the promulgation of new domicile law designed to change demographic realities in IIOJK. India has already issued domicile certificates to 25,000 non-Kashmiris. All the foregoing actions taken by India in IIOJK constitute nothing also but a blatant violation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolutions on Kashmir, bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan as well as 4th Geneva Convention.

5th August 2019, further deteriorated the already prevalent inhuman living conditions of the people of IIOJK. The Indian government has been attempting its best to keep IO&JK out of the focus of the global community by denying access to foreign journalist and other independent observers to travel to the region in order to hide their excesses. The International media has, however, been successful in unraveling Indian behavior in IIOJK while independently exposing Indian brutalities. The Guardian, The New York Times, Washington Post and other eminent publications have been regularly reporting on the human rights abuses with more focus after 5th of August 2019.

India under Modi, has not only violated the UNSC resolutions and trampled 4th Geneva Convention in IIOJK but it has also enacted discriminatory laws against the Muslims within India itself. The implementation of National Register of Citizenship in Assam which rendered 1.9 Muslims stateless and the promulgation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, speak volumes about hatred against the Muslims. Although, the Muslim Minority in India has all along been subjected to discriminatory treatment and from time to time also had to endure the wrath of the Hindu zealots in the shape of massacres during anti-Muslim riots, but what has been happening since the BJP came into power, knows no parallel in the history of oppression of Muslims in India. The Muslim minority is the worst hit community to face the wrath of Hindutva ideology.

India is consistently employing the tactics to cover up the state terrorism that it has unleashed against the people of IIOJK not realizing that it could have very serious repercussions on the identity, culture, beliefs and lives of Muslims. Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan beginning from his address to the UN General Assembly during 2019, has been sensitizing the world about the dangers lurking on the horizons due to the actions of Indian regime in IIOJK and its burgeoning animosity against Pakistan in pursuance of the supremacist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sankh (RSS) ideology of Hindutva.

As the killing spree and complete lockdown continues unabated against the people of IIOJK who were resisting the Indian oppression, they are looking up to the Muslim Ummah, UN and the International community to come to their rescue through concrete actions to prevent India in her tricks, instead of merely showing muffled concerns over the evolving situation in the state, realizing that the Kashmiri LIVES ALSO MATTER.



## Algeria to End Gas Supplies to Morocco; Supply Spain Directly

LONDON (Dispatches) - Algeria, which has cut off diplomatic ties with Morocco, will stop supplying natural gas to the country through the Maghreb-Europe pipeline from Nov. 1, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

The 13.5 billion cubic-meter (bcm) Maghreb-Europe pipeline links Algeria to Spain. Algeria will keep supplying Spain using the Medgaz undersea pipeline with an annual capacity of 8 bcm, which does not go through Morocco, the sources said.

Analysts say technical issues relating to Algeria's plans to expand the capacity of the Medgaz pipeline could escalate the energy crisis in Spain at a time of soaring gas bills across Europe.

Algeria in August hinted at the possibility of ending natural gas exports in October to Morocco of 1 billion cubic meters (bcm), used to produce around 10% of the kingdom's electricity.

One source at state-owned state oil and gas firm Sonatrach and two Algerian government sources said the supply agreement with Morocco would not be renewed.

Algerian and Moroccan energy ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment from Reuters. Earlier this month, a senior Moroccan official said his country is discussing with Spain the possibility of reversing the flow of a gas pipeline in case Algeria does not renew the supply deal. Algeria is Spain's largest gas supplier, covering almost half of its gas demand through the Maghreb-Europe pipeline.

A fourth source, a senior Algerian government official, told Reuters that in the event of any disruptions, the North African country will use ships to transport liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Spain. Analysts say that would mean Sonatrach having to charter more vessels, fuelling further LNG price rises due to shipping rates having more than doubled from earlier this month.

LNG prices have soared in recent months due to structural shortages in Europe and expectations of a cold winter and high demand. Last month, Sonatrach said it will increase the capacity of the Medgaz gas pipeline to Spain to 10.5 billion cubic meters a year by the end of November.

Algeria's supplies to Spain will rise after the completion of a fourth gas pressure unit at Sonatrach's Medgaz facilities in the western town of Beni Saf, Sonatrach said in a statement earlier this year.





## Iran Produces 12.9m Tons of Crude Steel in H1

TEHRAN (MNA) – Major domestic companies in mining and mineral sector of the country produced 12,888,200 tons of crude steel in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year in 1400 (from Mar. 21 to Sep. 22).

Statistics of the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade indicate that large companies in the mining and mineral industries sector managed to produce more than 12,822,600 tons of steel production from March 21 to September 22 in the current year.

Accordingly, production of crude steel and steel products in the first six months of the current year registered a 9.5 and 3.8 percent decline respectively as compared to the last year’s corresponding period.



## Latest Climate Plans Don't Dent Emissions

PARIS (Dispatches) - With the COP26 summit starting next week, the UN’s climate team said the latest plans confirmed “worrying trends” of countries delaying sorely needed emissions cuts.

The landmark 2015 Paris accord saw countries commit to limiting global heating to “well below” two degrees Celsius above pre-Industrial levels and to strive for a safer cap of 1.5C through sweeping emissions reductions.

Under the deal’s “ratchet” mechanism, signatories are required to submit new climate plans -- known as Nationally Determined Contributions, or NDCs -- every five years.

In an update to a recent assessment of NDCs submitted ahead of COP26, which was delayed one year due to Covid-19, the UN said that 143 countries had submitted new or updated NDCs.

Taken together, these plans would see emissions from these nations fall 9 percent by 2030 compared to 2010 levels.

Yet, taken together, all Paris signatory plans would see emissions rise a “sizeable” 16 percent this decade, it said.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says emissions must fall 45 percent over that timeframe to keep in line with the 1.5C target.

The current commitments will lead to 2.7C of global heating by 2100 -- the same as in September’s assessment.

“The message from this update is loud and clear: Parties must urgently redouble their climate efforts if they are to prevent global temperature increases beyond the Paris Agreement’s goal of well below 2C -- ideally 1.5C -- by the end of the century,” said UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa.

The IPCC said in August that the 1.5-C limit could be breached by 2030 and would be surpassed by mid-century no matter what happens with emissions.

Many countries who submitted new NDCs have also announced plans to achieve net-zero emissions around 2050.

Monday’s assessment showed that group of 143 nations plans would lead to emissions levels 83-88 percent lower than 2019 levels by 2050.



But it warned of the risks of delaying decarbonization.

“Overshooting the temperature goals will lead to a destabilized world and endless suffering, especially among those who have contributed the least to the GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions in the atmosphere,” said Espinosa.

COP26 host Britain says it wants promises made at the summit to keep 1.5C within reach.

Notably absent from the latest round of NDCs were China and India, the world’s first and fourth biggest emitters, respectively.

COP26 president Alok Sharma called on G20 nations -- responsible for 80 percent of all manmade emissions -- to work together at the summit for “stronger commitments... over this critical decade.”

“Glasgow must launch a decade of ever-increasing ambition. At COP26 we must come together for ourselves, future generations and our planet,” he said.

## France Successfully Launches Cutting-Edge Military Communications Satellite



PARIS (Dispatches) - France has successfully launched a state-of-the-art satellite into orbit, designed to allow all of France’s armed forces across the globe to communicate swiftly and securely.

Paris created a space force command in July 2019, amongst concerns that rival countries were heavily investing in space technology, seen as a new military frontier.

The satellite “is designed to resist military aggression from the ground and in space, as well as interference,” French air and space force spokesman Colonel Stephane Spet told AFP.

The Ariane 5 rocket carrying the Syracuse 4A satellite took off from Kourou, in French Guiana late Saturday, with the mission accomplished 38 minutes and 41 seconds after takeoff.

The satellite can survey its close surroundings and move itself to escape an attack.

“Thanks to its state-of-the-art equipment (anti-jamming antenna and digital transparent processor on board), Syracuse 4A will guarantee a high resistance to extreme jamming methods,” launch provider Arianespace wrote in its mission description.

Marc Finaud, an expert in weapons proliferation at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, told AFP the satellite was also protected against the electro-magnetic pulses which would result from a nuclear explosion.

“This is the final warning scenario, if deterrence fails,” he added.

In March France began its first military exercises in space to test its ability to defend its satellites, calling them “a first for the French army and even a first in Europe”.

The French government accuses Russia of having brought its intelligence-gathering satellite Olymp-K, also known as Louch, into close proximity of the French-Italian military satellite Athena-Fidus in 2017, in what Defence Minister Florence Parly called “an act of espionage”.

Last year, the U.S. claimed that Russia had conducted a non-destructive anti-satellite weapons test from space.

In March, French President Emmanuel Macron’s office said there had been other similar incidents since, but gave no details.

Investments in France’s space program are set to reach 4.3 billion euros (\$5 billion) over the 2019-2025 budget period -- although that is a fraction of the amount spent by the United States or China.

## Moderna Reports Positive Results for Covid Vaccine in Younger Children

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The news comes as a panel of government advisors was preparing to meet Tuesday on the question of whether to authorize the Pfizer vaccine in kids aged 5-11, with top infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci predicting it would be available by mid-November.

“We are encouraged by the immunogenicity and safety profile of mRNA-1273 in children aged 6 to under 12 years and are pleased that the study met its primary immunogenicity endpoints,” Moderna chief executive Stephane Bancel said in a statement.

An interim analysis from a mid-to-late stage clinical trial of 4,753 children showed that two doses of vaccine produced a high level of neutralizing antibodies -- Y-shaped proteins that bind to the coronavirus and block it from entering human cells.

The vaccine was dosed at 50 micrograms, which is half of what is used among adults, but still produced on average 1.5 times as many antibodies in children as it did in young adults given the higher dose.

The majority of adverse events were mild or moderate, including fatigue, headache, fever, and injection site pain.

These early results, released via a press statement, do not yet include a vaccine efficacy estimate, which may be expected at a later time once cases have accrued.

The Moderna news comes as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is preparing to convene a panel of advisors to vote on whether to greenlight the Pfizer shot for younger children, paving the way for 28 million more Americans to be vaccinated.

A briefing document posted on the FDA’s website indicated the agency believes benefits outweigh the most worrying side effect for this age group, namely myocarditis, or heart inflammation.

“The overall analysis predicted that the numbers of clinically significant Covid-19-related outcomes prevented would clearly outweigh the numbers of vaccine-associated excess myocarditis cases,” the document said.

But it acknowledged the benefit-risk calculus would differ when community transmission is very low, as was the case in the United States in June 2021.

The FDA also uploaded Pfizer’s efficacy analysis, with the company estimating a two-dose course of its vaccine at 10 micrograms was more than 90 percent effective in preventing symptomatic disease.

Overall, more than 150 children aged 5 to 11 have died from Covid in the United States since the start of the pandemic, according to official data.

“If all goes well, and we get the regulatory approval and the recommendation from the CDC, it’s entirely possible, if not very likely, that vaccines will be available for children from 5 to 11 within the first week or two of November,” Fauci told ABC News Sunday.

## Greenhouse Gas Levels Reach New Record High

GENEVA (Dispatches) - The UN’s World Meteorological Organization said that continued rising greenhouse gas emissions would result in more extreme weather and wide-ranging impacts on the environment, the economy and humanity.

The WMO said the economic slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic triggered a temporary decline in new emissions, but had no discernible impact on the atmospheric levels of greenhouse gases and their growth rates.

The organization’s Greenhouse Gas Bulletin said the annual rate of increase last year was above the yearly average between 2011 and 2020 -- and the trend continued in 2021.

The WMO said that as long as emissions continue, global temperatures will continue to rise.

And given the long life of carbon dioxide (CO2), the temperature level already observed will persist for several decades even if emissions are rapidly reduced to net zero.

The UN Climate Change Conference COP26 is being held in the Scottish city Glasgow from October 31 to November 12.

“The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin contains a stark, scientific message for climate change negotiators at COP26,” said WMO chief Petteri Taalas.

“At the current rate of increase in greenhouse gas concentrations, we will see a temperature increase by the end of this century far in excess of the Paris Agreement targets of 1.5 to two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.



“We are way off track.”

Taalas said that if the world kept using fossil fuels in an unlimited way, the planet could be about 4C warmer by 2100 -- but limiting warming to 1.5 C was still possible through mitigation efforts.

The WMO said that with continued rising greenhouse gas emissions, alongside rising temperatures, the planet could also expect more extreme weather.

That includes intense heat and rainfall, ice melt, sea-level rise and ocean acidification -- all of which will have far-reaching impacts on people across the world.

“We need to transform our commitment into action that will have an impact on the gases that drive climate change,” said Taalas.

### Zionists Concerned...

FROM PAGE 1

The Israeli newspaper added, “The renewal of close ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia is ostensibly a major blow to Israel. Not only is there a fundamental disagreement between Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Biden regarding Iran’s nuclear program and the deal Washington seeks, but the bubble of the Arab anti-Iranian coalition -- one that former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu inflated with hot air -- is about to burst. Saudi planes would not have joined a coordinated assault on Iran with Israel without U.S. approval, and even during the Trump administration the U.S. made clear that it was headed for diplomacy, not war.”

This Zionist paper went on to say, “The UAE signed cooperation agreements with Iran two years ago, which did not prevent it from signing a peace agreement with Israel. Qatar is a veteran business partner of Iran. Other members of the coalition, such as Egypt and Jordan, are mainly onlookers. The Arab states, especially Saudi Arabia, that sought to heighten their status in Washington by marketing their common struggle with Iran, could in Trump’s day rely on Israel’s lobbying, albeit not very successful. Now they realize the battle against Iran is no longer a valuable commodity and Israel is a go-between that charges commission but doesn’t deliver the goods.”

So with this confession one can realize that the Zionists and the West are the main losers of unity among Muslim states and governments in those countries should settle their differences and make friend and to become a united fist to punch on the face of any ill-wisher.

Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei in his Sunday speeches slammed the move by certain regional governments to normalize ties with the Israeli regime as “a great sin and mistake”. “These governments should reverse the move, which goes against Islamic unity and should make up for their great mistake,” Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Supreme Leader has always called for unity among Muslims because it is well ware that the Zionist can catch the fish from the muddy water and they are after creating rift among Muslims.

So it is wise Saudi Arabians to restore ties with Iran and to continue friendship because this move can strengthen them and Muslim world and will reinforce the Muslims’ position in the world. It seems Saudi officials are gradually realizing that it is useless to rely on the other countries than the regional states and work with them for prosperity and a better future for the world of Islam which is in dire need of unity while the Zionists are working hard to hinder it through some of their lackeys in some states.

Muslims will unite soon it may take time but it will happen despite the plots of the Zionists.

### Terrorist...

FROM PAGE 1

She noted that other weaknesses in the special rapporteur’s report include taking advantage of ambiguous and unofficial sources that are sworn enemies of the Islamic Republic and taking a selective approach to Iran’s human rights achievements.

Iran’s deputy envoy, however, emphasized that despite such reports, Tehran will continue its constructive cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as UN human rights mechanisms.

She said the Islamic Republic believes that dialogue based on mutual respect is the sole tool to guarantee and support human rights at international level, noting that the goal of such reports is to use human rights as an instrument against other countries.

Iran’s deputy envoy said abuse of human rights mechanisms to harass countries that work toward promotion of human rights will endanger international solidarity among countries and damage lofty goals of human rights.

She added that appointment of a special rapporteur for Iran, which was spearheaded by the West, especially Canada, was done on the basis of political motivations and against the interests of the Iranian nation.

Iran has on numerous occasions called on the UN not to use unofficial and unsubstantiated sources to compile its human rights reports, urging the world body to refrain from resorting to selective approaches that would undermine its credibility.

### Human Rights...

FROM PAGE 1

HCHR Secretary called for addressing such violations of international law and human rights by Western countries and the situation of human rights in those states.

He called the report of the United Nations special rapporteur a biased one that has overlooked the progresses in human rights situation and focused only on false claims by terrorist groups. The official castigated countries like the U.S., Canada, the UK, and Sweden for their abuse of human rights mechanisms, criticizing the situation of human rights in those countries.

Instead of covering up their anti-human rights measures by focusing on countries like Iran, Gharibabadi recommended, these countries had better focus on progressing human rights situation in their own territories.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is always moving towards improvement of human rights situation because of religious teachings, not international requirements, or political reports, he said.



## Ko Regains Top Rank With BMW Championship Win

SEOUL (Dispatches) - South Korean star Ko Jin-young regained the world's number one spot on Sunday, capturing her fourth LPGA title of the season at the BMW Ladies Championship in South Korea.

The tournament in the port city of Busan is the third Asian event in the US LPGA season this year, after stops in Singapore and Thailand in the spring. Ko clinched the win to cash the winner's check of US\$300,000 (RM1.2 million) in a sudden-death playoff, beating South Korea's Lim Hee-jeong who had been leading the tournament.

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## Beijing Games Competitors To Face Daily Covid-19 Tests

BEIJING (Dispatches) - Competitors in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics will be subject to daily tests for Covid-19 and will be required to remain in a closed loop that includes transport between the various games venues, organisers said in guidelines released today.

China, where measures to tackle Covid-19 are among the world's strictest, has already said international spectators will not be allowed to enter the country for the Games which will run from February 4 to February 20.

## Verstappen Holds off Hamilton To Double His F1 Lead

AUSTIN (Dispatches) - Red Bull's Max Verstappen doubled his lead in the Formula One world championship to 12 points after holding off charging title rival Lewis Hamilton to win the U.S. Grand Prix in Austin.

Mercedes' seven-times world champion Hamilton slashed the Dutch driver's lead with a late attack on fresher tyres but finished 1.333 seconds behind, with a bonus point for fastest lap at the Circuit of the Americas.

Red Bull's Mexican Sergio Perez was a distant third, struggling with dehydration after a water bottle failure in the Texas heat.

"I think I've aged about 25 years in that race," said relieved Red Bull team boss Christian Horner. "I really didn't think we were going to hang on."

The win was Verstappen's eighth of the season, and first in America, but one he had to sweat for in front of a sell-out 140,000 crowd.

The 24-year-old started out on pole position, ending a Mercedes run of qualifying domination in Texas, lost the lead into the first corner and then won it back with an aggressive pitstop strategy.

Hamilton was quickest when the lights went out, squeezing through on the inside at turn one with Verstappen forced to run wide and plenty of overtaking going on in their wake.

The pair pulled away from the field, with Perez unable to stay with them.

Verstappen soon started chafing over the radio that he had more pace and was first to pit on lap 11, as Red Bull went for the 'undercut' -- a strategic bid to close the gap and get back in front when Hamilton pitted three laps later.

"Of course we lost out in the start so we had to try and do something else.

The tyre wear is quite high around this track, we went aggressive and I was not sure it was going to work but the last few laps were fun," said Verstappen.

"A bit sideways through the high-speed corners but super happy to hang on."

Verstappen made his second stop on lap 30 to hand Hamilton the lead again.

The Mercedes driver was told it was now "target plus six" and stayed out for another seven laps before pitting again and slotting in 8.58 seconds behind Verstappen with 18 laps to go



but on fresher tyres.

"It's all about the last three laps," Hamilton was told over the radio but while he closed the gap to under a second, he could not get close enough to attempt a move.

"It was such a tough race. I got a good start, gave it absolutely everything but at the end of the day, they just had the upper hand this weekend and we couldn't really have asked for more," said the Briton.

Perez said his race was one he hoped never to repeat.

"I struggled massively. Since lap one I ran out of water, I couldn't drink at all. I think by the middle of the second stint it was starting to get pretty difficult, losing strength. I think my toughest ever physically," he said.

Charles Leclerc was fourth for Ferrari, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo fifth for McLaren and Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas sixth.

The points cut Mercedes lead in the constructors' standings to 23 points from 36.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was seventh, followed by McLaren's Lando Norris, AlphaTauri's Yuki Tsunoda and Aston Martin's Sebastian Vettel.

McLaren's lead over Ferrari in the battle for third was cut to 3.5 points.

AlphaTauri's Pierre Gasly and Alpine's Esteban Ocon both retired with mechanical issues while Alpine Fernando Alonso stopped in the pits with a rear wing issue five laps from the end.

The next race is on Nov. 7 in Mexico City, Perez's home race and a circuit expected to favor Red Bull.

## Burrow, Bengals End Ravens' 5-Game Winning Streak

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Chase and the Cincinnati offense sparkled while the defense did enough to contain Lamar Jackson, who had never lost to the Bengals.

Chase caught eight passes, including an 82-yard touchdown. Tight end C.J. Uzomah had 91 receiving yards and two touchdowns for Cincinnati (5-2).

Jackson completed 15 of 31 passes for 257 yards and a touchdown and led Baltimore (5-2) with 88 rushing yards. The Bengals sacked him five times on their way to halting the Ravens' five-game win streak.

### Buccaneers 38, Bears 3

Tom Brady threw for 211 yards and four touchdowns, including the 600th of his illustrious career, and Tampa Bay cruised to a win over visiting Chicago.

Brady became the first quarterback in NFL history to throw for 600 touchdowns when he fired a strike to Mike Evans in the final seconds of the first quarter. Evans caught two other touchdowns passes from Brady, and Chris Godwin had one touchdown reception for Tampa Bay (6-1), which won its fourth straight.

Khalil Herbert had 18 carries for 100 yards for Chicago (3-4), which trailed 35-3 at halftime and never recovered. Justin Fields was under constant duress and completed 22 of 32 passes for 184 yards and three interceptions. He was sacked four times and lost two fumbles.

### Cardinals 31, Texans 5

Kyler Murray passed for 261 yards and three touchdowns as Arizona overcame a slow start and then cruised past Houston in Glendale, Ariz.

Murray produced scoring passes to DeAndre Hopkins, Christian Kirk and Zach Ertz in what was a somewhat uneven performance for the Cardinals (7-0) and their standout signal caller. Murray was sacked four times, including by Texans defensive end Jacob Martin for a safety in the first quarter, and had his streak of pass attempts without an interception snapped at 135 when Texans safety Lonnie Johnson Jr. picked him off in the third quarter.



## Swiatek, Badosa to Make WTA Finals Debut Next Month

LONDON (Dispatches) - Poland's Iga Swiatek and Spaniard Paula Badosa will make their WTA Finals debut next month after booking their spots for the season-ending tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico, the women's tour said.

Swiatek, last year's French Open champion, made at least the fourth round of each of the four majors in 2021 while also winning two WTA titles this season.

The 20-year-old will be the first Polish woman to play the WTA Finals since Agnieszka Radwanska in 2016.

Badosa, 23, has had a breakthrough season in 2021 and won titles in Belgrade and Indian Wells

while also reaching the quarter-finals at Roland Garros for her best Grand Slam performance.

Badosa has reached a career-high ranking of 13th and will be joined in the November 10-17 tournament in Guadalajara by compatriot and two-time major winner Garbine Muguruza.

The Finals, contested by the world's top eight singles players and eight doubles teams, was moved out of China's Shenzhen after last year's event was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Aryna Sabalenka, Barbora Krejickova, Karolina Pliskova and Maria Sakkari had earlier qualified in the singles field but world number one Australian Ash Barty's withdrawal has opened up a spot.

Barty won the Finals when it was last held in Shenzhen in November 2019 but decided not to travel to Mexico due to quarantine issues on return in her country and to focus on the build-up to January's Australian Open.

## Pakistan Beat India In World Cup by 10 Wickets

DUBAI (Dispatches) - Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan scored fluent fifties after Shaheen Afridi starred with the new ball as Pakistan thumped India by 10 wickets to record their first World Cup win over their rivals at the 13th attempt.

Pakistan had lost all 12 of their previous World Cup matches against India, with seven defeats in the 50-over competition and five losses in the 20-over version, including in the inaugural T20 final back in 2007.

That barren run was snapped in style, with skipper Babar (68no off 52 balls) and Rizwan (79no off 55) putting on an unbroken 152 - their fourth century stand in T20 internationals this year - as the 2009 champions topped India's 151-7 with 13 balls to spare in Dubai.

Left-arm quick Shaheen (3-31) had earlier struck twice inside the first three overs before returning later on to dismiss Virat Kohli (57 off 49), whose pre-tournament favourites were humbled by their Group 2 rivals.

Shaheen gave Pakistan a dream start, pinning Rohit Sharma (0) lbw for a golden duck in his first over and then bowling KL Rahul (3) with a quick nip-backer in his third as India tumbled to 6-2 after being inserted.

That became 31-3 when Suryakumar Yadav (11) edged Hasan Ali behind while attempting a back-foot punch and Pakistan wicketkeeper Rizwan leapt to his right to claim a fine catch.

India's innings was revived by Rishabh Pant (39 off 30) and Kohli's 53-run stand - Pant the dominant force in it, hitting two sixes with one hand off the bat before he slog-swept back to bowler Shadab Khan (1-22).



## Murray Aims To Be Clinical And Ruthless

LONDON (Dispatches) - Andy Murray says he is proud to be able to compete with the best in world tennis again, but wants to be more "clinical and ruthless" when the opportunities arise.

The former world No 1 has travelled to Vienna in good spirits having lost to Hubert Hurkacz, Casper Ruud and Alexander Zverev since the U.S. Open.

Murray beat Frances Tiafoe in the longest three-set-match of the year at the European Open in Antwerp last week, before losing to eventual finalist Diego Schwartzman in the second round.

And despite some tight defeats, Murray says he is feeling encouraged by his recent performances.

"It has been amazing that I have been able to even get back and be playing"

"It has been better. From the grass season to the US Open, I played well," said Murray, who will begin his campaign against Hurkacz, a player who defeated him in Cincinnati and Metz this season.

"I played better tennis at the US Open. Since then, it has been consistently better each week. It has not been perfect, but most of the matches I have had chances and opportunities in, which certainly wasn't the case in the grass season and some of the matches I played before the U.S. Open."

