

Health Ministry Announced on Monday That the Number of Deaths From the Coronavirus Pandemic in Iran Increased to 128,272 With 105 More Iranians Killed by the Virus Over the Past 24 Hours

IRAN NEWS

Vice-President on the Parliament Affairs Says President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi Will Attend the parliament on Tuesday (Today) to Defend His Pick as Education Minister

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Iran Enjoys Cutting-Edge Marine Technologies

TEHRAN (PressTV) - The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says the country possesses state-of-the-art marine technologies, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic will not allow any aggression against its territory.

Major General Hossein Salami made the remarks while inspecting the IRGC's marine units in the north of Iran, accompanied by the commander of the IRGC's Naval Force Brigadier General Alireza Tangsiri.

Emphasizing that the IRGC will not allow any aggressor to invade the country, General Salami added that steadfastness of the Iranian nation and its support for the country's rightful stances have thwarted all the enemy's plots.

Salami noted that before the Islamic Revolution in 1979, "all structures of our power were under control of other" countries, adding, "This meant that the pillars of our power were at the mercy of others."

"However, following the Islamic Revolution, we achieved this [high level of] power and technology and this has stirred fear among [Iran's] enemies," the IRGC's chief commander said.

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Early Completion of IP Gas Pipeline Project Stressed

LAHORE (Dispatches) - President Islami Tehrik Pakistan (ITP) Allama Sajid Ali Naqvi has demanded the government complete Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline project, calling its early completion in the national interests to provide cheap gas to fuel starving country.

In a statement on Saturday, he said Iran-Pak gas pipeline should not have been ignored under any circumstances since it would provide cheaper gas for industrial and domestic sectors and help overcome gas crisis. The veteran leader of Shia school of thought, whose party had been component of defunct religio-political alliance MMA (Muttahida Majlis Amal), said Iran has completed 90 per cent work on this project and Pakistan has yet to do its part.

Allama Sajid Naqvi said rising inflation and gas shortages have multiplied people's problems in the country, stoves of the poor have turned cold and the country's industry has almost shut down. He said recently two-high level political and military delegations of Iran visited Pakistan but nothing came up regarding Pak-Iran gas pipeline which is causing concern among people. He urged the rulers to find a diplomatic solution to the Pak-Iran gas pipeline project keeping in view the plight of people.

Tehran, Ankara Agree on Roadmap For Long-Term Cooperation



IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Stating that, the Iranian Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian yesterday said that Iran and Turkey agreed to draw a roadmap for long-term cooperation, adding that it will be finalized in the future visit of the Turkish President Erdogan to Tehran.

Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in his joint press conference with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu. He expressed hope that in the future visit of Turkish President Erdogan to Iran, the two countries will finalize the roadmap for long-term cooperation between Tehran and Ankara.

"We agreed to start our diplomatic talks on the provisions of drawing a roadmap for long-term cooperation between the two countries, and we hope that this document will be signed in the presence of the two presidents during the forthcoming visit of Turkish President Erdogan to Tehran," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Stating that the two sides had useful discussions on a variety of regional and international issues in the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister said, "Latest developments in Afghanistan, the need for expansion of stability, security and peace in the West Asian region and neighborhood policy of the two countries of Iran and Turkey were among the topics discussed during the meeting."

The two administrations based in Tehran and Ankara are pragmatic, he said, adding that they should quickly remove any possible obstacles to the two countries' relations.

Amir-Abdollahian also pointed to the historical and friendly relation between Iran and Turkey, saying, "The development of economic and trade cooperation, the increase of cooperation in the field of energy, the facilitation of transit traffic, the strengthening of cross-border trade and consular issues were discussed in the meeting, and we do not see any serious obstacles to accelerate the cooperation."

Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, for his part, said that the two sides discussed the preparation of the 7th High Cooperation Council between Iran and Turkey, adding that based on the proposal of the Iranian side, a long-term roadmap between the two countries will be prepared and signed on the sidelines of this council.

"We also talked about various issues, including illegal immigration, smuggling and border issues," he added.

Cavusoglu said sanctions imposed on Iran are 'unjust', calling for an end to the unilateral measures adopted by the United States after withdrawing from the Iran nuclear agreement.

"At present, the two countries are cooperating not only on bilateral issues but also on regional issues such as Afghanistan, Iraq and stability in the South Caucasus region, and we are ready to cooperate with Iran within the proposed 3+3 framework.

He also pointed to the resumption of Vienna talks, saying that Turkey believes that the sanctions imposed on Iran are cruel. "Those who have left the JCPOA must return to the deal and lift the unilateral sanctions imposed on Iran."

Elsewhere in his Monday remarks, Cavusoglu hailed as "promising" the rise in the volume of trade between Turkey and Iran, which, he said, increased by 71 percent this year, but the minister also stressed that "We are very far from our goals," calling for more actions to be taken to promote bilateral trade relations.

IAEA Chief to Visit Tehran Soon

TEHRAN (MNA) - The IAEA chief is scheduled to visit Tehran to meet with the Iranian Foreign Minister and the Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOD), the Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Khatibzadeh said.

Speaking in his weekly press conference, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh answered questions on a wide range of topics.

Referring to the Turkish Foreign Minister's visit to Tehran, Khatibzadeh said that Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu will meet with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian as well as Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Monday.

During this pre-arranged trip, the Iranian and Turkish officials will address bilateral, regional, and international issues.

According to Khatibzadeh, border issues and management of shared water resources will be on the agenda of the talks with the Turkish side.

Referring to the dam on the Tigris river (newly inaugurated Turkey's Ilisu Dam), he added that all downstream countries are affected by every decision at the regional and local level.

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UAE Says Steps Taken to Defuse Tension With Iran

DUBAI (Dispatches) - The UAE has taken steps to de-escalate tension with Iran to avoid confrontation and build confidence, Dr Anwar Gargash, diplomatic adviser to the President, Sheikh Khalifa said on Monday.

Regional tensions have increased between Iran and Persian Gulf states as Tehran has expanded influence in conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the region.

"We are working hard to build communication and bridges with all countries, even those who we have disagreements with," Dr Gargash said during the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate. For months the UAE has been supporting the idea of greater engagement with Iran.

"We remain deeply concerned about Iran's interference in Iraq, Syria and Yemen and have taken steps to de-escalate tensions. We don't have any interest in confrontation as the region will pay the price for decades to come," Dr Gargash said.

The senior Emirati official said dialogue was the only way to avoid confrontation in the region, and that further escalation would have a devastating effect, especially when governments are trying to consolidate economic recovery amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic.

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UNHCR Envoy Lauds Iran for Supporting Afghan Refugees

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Iran hailed the Islamic Republic for providing support for Afghan refugees single-handedly.

Speaking to Tasnim during a visit to Iran's northeastern city of Mashhad, UNHCR representative Ivo Freijsen said the burden of supporting the Afghan refugees and settling their problems falls mainly on Iran.

Pointing to the establishment of three centers in the Iranian provinces of Khorasan Razavi and Sistan and Balouchistan to host the Afghan refugees, he praised the Islamic Republic for providing the support single-handedly.

Deploing the scant aid from international organizations for the Afghan refugees in Iran, Freijsen said the UN member states must be informed of the reduced international support for the Afghan people residing in Iran.

In a telephone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian in September, Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres described Iran as a very influential country among the UN member states and praised the Islamic Republic for hosting the Afghan refugees generously.

Hacker Group Announces Massive Attack on Israel

TEHRAN (PressTV) - A hacker group called Moses Staff says it has successfully conducted a massive cyberattack against Israel, broken into the servers of major companies, and is now in possession of comprehensive data that could be leaked.

The group announced on Monday that it had targeted a number of Israeli firms in its latest attack and acquired a vast trove of critical facilities' maps, which include information on the location and characteristics of vital systems across the occupied Palestinian territories.

The data includes airborne mapping surveys with 5-centimeter (2-inch) accuracy and three-dimensional images of Israeli military sites and important buildings.

Moses Staff stated that the information it had was of immense significance, amid international sanctions that prevent accurate access to aerial images of critical areas inside Israeli-occupied Palestinian lands.

The group later released a video showing photos and maps of the Tel Aviv regime's vital facilities.

Moses Staff stated that the footage is a striking example of accurate images that it has taken over after infiltrating into the servers of Israeli cyber companies. Unlike the Black Shadow hacker group that has also struck Israeli companies recently, Moses Staff did not make any demands for money or anything else.

On November 3, Moses Staff said it had carried out a cyberattack on three Israeli engineering companies, less than two weeks after it leaked files it said to have obtained in an attack on the Israeli ministry of military affairs.

The group announced at the time that it had targeted Ehud Leviathan Engineering, David Engineers, and HGM Engineering in the attack. The data leaked from the three companies included projects, maps, contracts, pictures, letters, and videoconferencing images.

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Navy Commander in Paris to Attend Indian Ocean Naval Symposium

TEHRAN (IP) - Iran's Navy Commander arrived in Paris late on Sunday, at the invitation of his French counterpart, to attend the seventh summit of the naval commanders of the Indian Ocean Region Littoral Nations.

Admiral "Shahram Irani," Commander of Iran's Navy, said about the objectives of this trip: The focus of the IONS summit is on the security of the Indian Ocean, which the countries

bordering the ocean are working on in various dimensions, especially in the fight against piracy, maritime safety, and assistance to vessels in distress.

The Iranian Admiral added: What we will pursue on the sidelines of the IONS summit will be holding bilateral, trilateral, and multilateral meetings with the highest priority of improving maritime relations.

President Calls for All-Out Ties With Turkey

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi yesterday called the close relations between Iran and Turkey in the interest of peace and stability in the region and said, "Regional cooperation between the two countries should be turned into international cooperation, and this type of interaction can be effective in global equations, given the important position of the two countries".

Speaking with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, President Raisi referred to the development of relations between the two countries, especially in trade and economic fields as beneficial to both nations, saying, "By finalizing the roadmap of development of cooperation, the draft of which is on the agenda of the two countries, Iran and Turkey are ready to upgrade relations from the current level to all-inclusive cooperation".

He called the close relations between the two neighbors in the interest of peace and stability in the region and said, "Regional cooperation between the two countries should be turned into international cooperation, and this type of interaction can be effective in global equations, given the important position of the two countries".

Raisi also said, "The presence of outsiders brings nothing but insecurity and tension between the nations and governments of the region, as the twenty-year presence of the U.S. in Afghanistan resulted in nothing but murder, bloodshed and destruction, only to become clear that Afghanistan's problems could be solved by the people of this country and with the help of their neighbors".

He also stressed that ISIS' actions are to the detriment of all countries in the region, saying, "As stated by U.S. officials, ISIS is made by them and, naturally, they work by the order of the Americans and kill and bleed in various countries as their proxy".



Stating that the presence of this terrorist group anywhere in the region is to the detriment of nations, Raisi said, "The fight against terrorism and organized crime can be the focus of cooperation between Tehran and Ankara, and Iran is ready to improve cooperation in this area".

He went on to say, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has a deep and long-standing religious and cultural bond with the Republic of Azerbaijan and Turkey, and we should not allow some foreign actions to damage relations".

Çavuşoğlu, for his part, said, "Turkey considers the new government in Iran to be a result-oriented government and is determined to increase the level of cooperation with Tehran".

Leader Appoints New SCCR Members

TEHRAN (IP) - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution appointed the new members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR).

In a decree appointing new members of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution (SCCR), Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei thanked the former members of the council.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution's decree states that entering the second 40 years of the Islamic Revolution necessitates a new and pathological look at a set of civilizational infrastructures.

In the decree, Iran's Leader considered the general arrangement of culture based on revolutionary order and content to protect against cultural invasion and foreign media.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution says that culture directs all the fundamental and underlying actions of human societies and accelerates or slows them down.

According to the Islamic Revolution Leader, at present, this approach is mainly aimed at promoting the view and sense of responsibility of cultural elites and activists in various fields of the country, in which culture-building is the best means of progress and success in each of the civilized components of society.

Ayatollah Khamenei added that the mission of the SCCR, from the beginning, was organizing the situation of culture and knowledge in the country, policy-making in these two categories, directing its administrators to the values and goals of the revolution, meeting the intellectual needs of these agencies and appearing in the role of the country's cultural center.

President Mobilizes All Agencies To Help Earthquake Victims

TEHRAN (IP) – President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi expressed sympathy for the victims of the strong earthquake in Hormozgan province, calling on all relevant agencies and responsible ministries to provide immediate assistance to the quake victims.

Raisi instructed all the authorities in Hormozgan province and the neighboring provinces, as well as the responsible ministries, to follow up on the situation in the region as soon as possible with the priority of relief and rescue operation.

In other developments, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber arrived at Bandar Abbas to closely examine the situation, and to make sure that relief and rescue operations are done on time and well.

Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi called for a quick damage assessment and help to the quake-hit people in southern Iran.

Several rescue and relief teams have also been reportedly dispatched to the quake-hit area.

Iranian Gov't Gets New Spokesperson

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – Ali Bahadori Jahromi was appointed as the spokesman for the administration of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi.

Bahadori Jahromi, 36, was chosen as the new administration's spokesperson at a cabinet session on Sunday.

He has a PhD in public law from the University of Tehran and is a faculty member of Tarbiat Modares University.

The new Iranian administration took office in August.



Officials of Int'l Immigration Bodies Visit Mashhad



MASHHAD (IRNA) - The new head of Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) in Iran headed a group of five officials from international immigration organizations on a visit to Mashhad to discuss the situation of Afghan immigrants.

The delegation is formed of heads of offices of Relief International, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and Norwegian Refugees Council in Iran.

The visit is aimed at discovering Afghan immigrants' needs and attracting support from international organization.

The delegation paid a visit to Razavi Khorasan Province Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants and the camp where Afghan refugees are settled.

During the trip, the head of UNHCR office in the Islamic Republic of Iran told reporters that the amount of assistance from international organization for Afghan refugees in Iran was currently low.

He said that the issue should be discussed with UN members to be addressed because the burden of Afghan refugees has fallen on Iran.

Iran has constructed two camps for Afghan refugees near Afghanistan border and thousands of Afghans have settled there waiting to be accepted as refugees.

Joint Committee on General Soleimani Assassination to Hold Meeting

TEHRAN (MNA) – Secretary of Iranian Judiciary's Human Rights Council said that the first session of the joint investigation committee to identify the culprits involved in Lt. Gen. Soleimani's assassination will be held in late Nov. in Iraq.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the announcement on Monday, saying that the joint committee on the investigation of the assassinations of former Iran's IRGC Quds Force Commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's Second-in-Command of Popular Mobilization Unit (PMU) Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, will hold the first session on November 24-25 in Iraq.

Earlier in October, Kazem Gharibabadi in his meeting with Iraqi Justice Minister Abdul Sattar Muhammad called for speedy identification and trial of those who ordered the assassination of former IRGC Quds Force Commander Martyr Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

He further asked the Iraqi justice minister to investigate into the fast convening of the first session of that Committee to identify the culprits involved in that criminal act and put them to a fair trial in an Iraqi court.

It is worth mentioning earlier this year Iran filed a lawsuit against 47 other American officials identified as playing a role in the assassination of Lt. Gen. Soleimani, asking Interpol to arrest them and bring them to justice.

Former Iran's IRGC Quds Force Commander Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Iraq's Second-in-Command of Popular Mobilization Unit (PMU) were assassinated by the terrorist US forces in Iraq International Airport on Jan. 3, 2020, at the behest of former US President Donald Trump.

Official Says U.S. Supports Daesh

KABUL (IRNA)- President's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi said on Monday that the U.S. was defeated in Afghanistan and is now trying to support the terrorist group ISIS (Daesh).

Iranian President's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi on Monday visited Kabul to discuss the latest developments in Afghanistan with the senior Taliban officials.

"The aggressor country that ruled Afghanistan for the past 20 years is now trying to reinforce Takfiri Groups in Afghanistan after its defeat, said Kazemi Qomi to the media in Kabul.

He added that the purpose of his visit to Kabul was to

discuss interim government, political, economic, security, and Afghan refugee issues.

Iran respects the will of the Afghan people and Tehran's stance is in line with the wishes of the Afghan people, Kazemi Qomi told a reporter when asked about recognizing the Taliban Government.

Iranian President's special envoy for Afghanistan, meanwhile expressed hope that with the formation of a strong government in Afghanistan, stability will prevail in the region.

In a decree on October 17, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi appointed Qomi as a special envoy of the president for Afghanistan affairs.

Lawmakers Review Tehran-Riyadh Talks

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission reviewed the latest developments related to relations with the neighbors, especially Saudi Arabia.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said that the deputy foreign ministers and other relevant officials had submitted to the commission their assessments of Iran's diplomatic relations with its neighbors, especially Saudi Arabia.

Meshkini said: "The National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of the Islamic Consultative Assembly had a meeting today in which the Deputy Foreign Minister and other relevant officials examined Iran's diplomatic relations with its neighbors, especially Saudi Arabia, and the latest developments in this field."

"Saudi Arabia is one of the important countries in the region, which has its interests in some countries in the region. On the other hand, Iran has also its strategies and interests," added the spokesman.

He reminded that there should be a balance between the interests of countries and the neighbors' demands so that mutual interests are not harmed in the development of relations.

Meshkini stated: Tehran is determined to expand relations with its neighbors, and it seems that there are no serious obstacles from Iran. Of course, differences are natural.

"We hope that the relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia will be established widely," he added, referring to the four rounds of Tehran-Riyadh talks.

Afghan Businessmen Import \$1b Worth of Goods From Iran

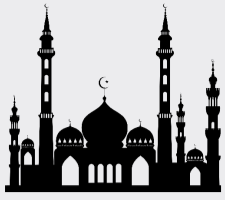
TEHRAN (MNA) – The deputy head of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Investment has said that Afghan merchants have imported more than \$1 billion worth of goods from Iran since the beginning of the year.

The deputy head of Afghanistan's Chamber of Commerce and Investment "Younis Momand" said that Afghan merchants have imported more than \$1 billion worth of goods from Iran since the beginning of the year, while they exported \$8 million worth of goods to Iran in the same period.

According to Momand, Afghan businessmen mostly export precious stones, dried fruits, hides, cotton, apricots and some other fresh fruits to Iran.

The Afghan economic official added that the Afghan merchants mostly imported electrical appliances, raw materials for production, petroleum products and foodstuffs from Iran.

The Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Investment authorities say that the trade between Iran and Afghanistan has returned to normal after a halt amid the takeover of the Afghan cities and the capital by the Taliban.



PRAYER TIME

■ Noon (Zohr)	11:49
■ Evening (Maghreb)	17:16
■ Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	05:15
■ Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:42

76. So he began (the search) with their baggage, before (he came to) the baggage of his brother: at length he brought it out of his brother's baggage. Thus did We plan for Joseph. He could not take his brother by the law of the king except that Allah willed it (so). We raise to degrees (of wisdom) whom We please: but over all endued with knowledge is one, the All-Knowing. Surah 12. Joseph (76)

Special Free Zones Urged to Play Active Role In National Economy

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - Advisor to President and Secretary of the Supreme Council of Free and Special Economic Zones in the joint meeting of managers of the special economic and free zones pointed to the special position of these zones in the national economic pick-up and termed the managers of these areas as officers of the economic war with enemies.

In the meeting, Saeed Mohammad said today the country is challenging with the cruel imposed sanctions and enemies seek to stop the economic development in the country. He added that today public livelihood has been targeted by the enemies and in this condition the role of special economic zones is very important for thwarting the goals of the enemies.

Mohammad noted that special economic and free zones with having over 1,300 economic units in different fields of production, exports, services, transit, technologies and imports have gathered together a big body of economic activists.

He went on to say that special economic zones in any part of the country can take advantage of their special capacities, adding that the North-South Corridor and East-West Corridor due to connection to 15 neighboring states are of major advantages of our country.

Mohammad then pointed to the amount of volumes of Iran's neighboring countries and said their imports are valued at over \$1,100b, adding that unfortunately Iran's share of this amount is around \$24b and the country does not take maximum advantage of its capacities while in the sanctions era, exports can help producers, economic activists and national economy.



He said over 5,400 special economic zones are in the world that major part of the world trade and production is shaped in the special economic zones.

He said today in Iran there are seven active free zones and 32 special economic zones, and 47 special economic zones and 8 free zones are to be launched soon.

Mohammad said removing hurdles in way of production and resolving some other problems are of the main concerns in these areas, adding that they should be resolved.

He went on to say that but today the main problem and woe for economic activists is the domestic sanctions, surplus laws and bureaucracy as well as existence of "island approach" among the economic sectors of the national economy.

He said everybody prepares or legislates a law to stop a problem without taking into consideration the probable problems that the law may create in the future.

Mohammad reiterated that integrity of the economic team is very important and he is to create this integrity in the government with the help of his colleagues in the council.

He reiterated that observing economic issues in the framework of a healthy work will help the negative mindsets regarding the zones to change and the managers of the free zones with a strong media work can consolidate the real position of the free zones and special economic areas in the blossom of the national economy.

He then called for the launch of a joint committee between the council and special economic zones for identifying the hurdles in way of economic activists and to find solutions for them.

Earthquake Not Affected Production in PGSR



IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

TEHRAN - The CEO of Persian Gulf Star Oil Company says recent earthquake in Hormozgan Province has not affected the production in the Persian Gulf Star Refinery and the refinery has not suffered any damage by the quake.

Mohammad Ali Dadvar said that all installations and operational units of the refinery continue their normal life and production and they are in the production line after Sunday's 6 Richter quake which shook the province.

He noted that due to the probable aftershocks, the company launched a crisis committee in the early hours of the quake and required approvals have been adopted for the safety of the personnel and the refinery.

Dadvar reiterated that the staff of the refinery is fully ready to resolve any probable problem in order to provide fuel for the country without any halt and therefore people do not need to worry.

Persian Gulf Star Refinery as the biggest refinery of the gas condensates in the world has a strategic role in providing the country with fuel productions and guarantees almost half of the required fuel of the country.

Iran Steel Exports Hit 30% Growth in Seven Months

TEHRAN (MNA) - Domestic steel production companies exported 5,912,000 tons of steel products in seven months of current Iranian calendar year (from March 21 to Oct. 22), showing a 30 percent growth as compared to same period of last year.

According to the latest statistical report of the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), 4,057,000 tons of intermediate solid form of molten steel were exported from the country from March 21 to Oct. 22, registering a 27 percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) reported.

Of total 4,057,000 tons, 2,722,000 tons of billet and bloom was exported in this period.

In addition, 1,335,000 tons of slab was exported from the country in the seven months of the current year (from March 21 to Oct. 22).

According to the report, the export of slabs in the first seven months of the current year has registered a significant 80 percent growth while export of billet and bloom showed an 11 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year.

Totally, 1,855,000 tons of steel products were exported from the country from March 21 to Oct. 22, showing a 38 percent growth as compared to the last year's corresponding period.

Majlis Considers Economic Issues on Cryptocurrencies

TEHRAN (IP) - Head of Parliament's Economy Commission announced Parliament and Central Bank's cooperation to settle down the issue of cryptocurrencies.

Mohammadreza Pourebrahimi stated: "The bill on cryptocurrencies is being revised by the MPs right now and was read in the open session of the parliament."

"Specialized committee of the Parliament's Economic Commission has prepared its draft on cryptocurrencies, held meetings, and delivered it to the Central Bank to further revision," he pointed.

"After receiving the Central Bank's report, we will revise the bill again in the Economic Commission," he added.

"We will be able to finalize the issue in the commission, and raise it in the open session, but since we are getting close to budget revision time, the case will be followed afterwards," Pourebrahimi concluded.

23rd GECF Ministerial Meeting to Be held Today

TEHRAN (Shana) - The 23rd Ministerial Meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) will be held by video conference on Tuesday afternoon (today).

The annual meeting of the GECF Ministers will be held on Tuesday to be chaired by Algeria. This meeting and related events are being held via video conference due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the 23rd GECF Ministerial Meeting, the ministers of petroleum and energy of the GECF Member States will consider and select the Secretary-General of the Forum from among the five candidates for the post.

Five countries - Iran, Algeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Libya and Nigeria - have nominated themselves for the post of GECF Secretary-General.

Current issues related to the gas industry and related areas such as geopolitics, economics and energy sustainability will be among the issues to be discussed during the meeting.

GECF member states account for 44% of world gas production, 67% of world gas reserves, 64% of pipeline transportation and 66% of liquefied natural gas (LNG) trade.

Algeria, Bolivia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Iran, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and the UAE are the four main members of the GECF, and the Netherlands, Norway, Iraq, Oman, Peru and Azerbaijan are observer members of the forum.

Saffron Export Stands at \$60m

TEHRAN (MNA) - Iran's saffron export stood at \$60 million during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), Spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Ruhollah Latifi announced.

The official has previously announced that Iranian saffron farmers exported 324.589 tons of products worth over \$190 million to 60 foreign destinations during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Latifi, over 78 percent of the mentioned exports in terms of value were made to five major customers of the Iranian saffron, IRNA reported.

Hong Kong with 74,578 kilograms (kg) worth \$46.626 million of imports, the United Arab Emirates with 59,791 kg valued at \$33.942 million, Spain with

49,025 kg worth \$26.44 million, China with 40,139 kg and a value of \$22.504 million, and Afghanistan with 33,781 kg and a value of \$19.168 million were Iran's top saffron buyers in the mentioned period.

The IRICA spokesman said that the mentioned five countries accounted for 79 percent of the Islamic republic's total saffron exports in terms of weight.

Iran is one of the world's top saffron producers and over 90 percent of its production is exported to foreign destinations.

Based on a multilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed between Iran's Planning and Budget Organization (PBO) and three of the country's banks in early October 2020, 10 trillion rials (about \$238.09 million) was allocated for supporting the saffron industry.

Tehran to Hold Iran REC 2021

TEHRAN (MNA) - The 6th edition of Iran's International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (Iran REC 2021) is scheduled to be held during November 20-21 in Tehran by Iran Renewable Energy Association, the portal of the Energy Ministry, Paven, reported.

This international conference and exhibition will be held with the aim of examining the challenges facing the development of renewable energies in Iran and providing solutions to improve the business environment in this area during the coronavirus pandemic and amid sanctions.

The event is going to cover various areas and topics including the policies and programs of the 13th government for the development of renewable energy, the challenges of the renewable energy market in the country and ways out of the current situation, new financing methods, and encouraging large industries to invest in renewable power plants to supply electricity, renewable energy industry policies, and the latest developments in the renewable energy technology across the world.

As reported, at the opening of the exhibition, the country's top companies active in the field of renewables will be rewarded with the National Renewable Energy Award which has been designed and provided by the Iran Renewable Energy Association in collaboration with the Energy Ministry, Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA), Vice Presidency for Science and Technology and other relevant organizations.

This award is aimed at motivating the development of renewable energy in the country, raising public awareness about renewable energies, recognizing successful national examples of renewable energy development, and helping to form and complete the renewable energy ecosystem in the country.

Drinking Water Waste Decreasing By Using Modern Technologies

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

ISFAHAN - The CEO of Isfahan Province Water and Waste Water Company (ABFA of Isfahan) says with reaching the end of the outlook of the Great



Isfahan water supply project and with managing the waste of water and reducing the water consumption per capita through using modern methods, the drinking water of big cities and villages under the coverage of the company was provided with the least challenge.

During the energy minister's visit of Isfahan water supply system, the CEO of ABFA of Isfahan Mr. Hashem Amini briefed the minister of drinking water supply in Isfahan Province and the existing challenges for the company and said since 1998 or better to say since 2008, the water tension in Isfahan Province has begun due to the decline in rainfalls and the drought of Zayandehrud River and unfortunately it has continued in this crop year.

He pointed to one of the threats in Isfahan water supply system and said that water supply required by 89% of the population in the province from one tunnel and water treatment is a real danger in terms of standards for providing drinking water.

Amini went on to say that the total water production in the first Great Isfahan water supply system is around 13.5 cubic meters per second while the required water for the population under the coverage of the company is around 17.5 cubic meters per second.

He also announced the shortage of 4 cubic meters of water in the summer and said this year has been the worst year for the company and province as the company has had the most amount of mobile water supply.

He said this summer the company supplied 62m liters of water by some 6,000 tankers in towns of Isfahan, adding that the drinking water consumption per capita in the household sector of the province was 189 liters per day in 2007 and this figure was decreased to 149 liters in 2018 and the company has been successful in this field.

Amini then pointed to some measures taken by the company to steer the province out of water tension. He said managing water pressure, telemetric and smartization and managing water supply through mobile water supply have been of the major actions of the company.

British Counter-Terrorism Police Arrest Three

LONDON (Dispatches) - Counter-terrorism officers arrested three men after a vehicle exploded outside a hospital in the northern English city of Liverpool on Sunday, killing one person and wounding another, police said.

A male passenger in the car was declared dead at the scene, while the male driver was injured and was in hospital in a stable condition, police said.

Counter-terrorism officers said they were investigating the case with local police and that they were keeping an open mind as to what had happened. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said his thoughts were with those people affected and interior minister Priti Patel said she was being kept regularly updated.



68 Inmates Die in Ecuadoran Prison Riot

GUAYAQUIL (AFP) - Soldiers toting shotguns took up positions Sunday outside a prison in Ecuador where a riot left at least 68 dead before authorities said they regained control of the overcrowded facility.

The prison in Guayaquil was reported quiet, as soldiers -- barred by law from going inside the prison -- backed up police who established a security perimeter around the same penitentiary where 119 prisoners died in a September riot, some of them decapitated.

This time fighting between rival prison gangs with guns, machetes and explosives first broke out Friday night, with social media posts showing gruesome images of prisoners beating and setting fire to bloodied bodies.



Argentine President's Coalition Loses Majority in Midterm Elections



BUENOS AIRES (Dispatches) - Argentina's centre-left President Alberto Fernandez called for dialogue with the opposition after Sunday's midterm parliamentary elections, with projections showing his governing coalition has lost control of Congress.

Having already held a minority in the lower house Chamber of Deputies, Fernandez's Frente de Todos (Everyone's Front) coalition looked set to drop from 41 to 35 seats in the 72-member Senate, based on projections with more than 90 percent of votes counted.

"If the numbers are confirmed, effectively we've lost the quorum in the Senate," a government source told AFP. Ahead of the election there was widespread discontent over an economy hit hard by the Covid pandemic.

Fernandez will now likely be forced to make concessions to the opposition during the last two years of his mandate in order to pass laws or make key appointments, including to the judiciary. "We need to prioritize national agreements if we want to resolve the challenges we face," said Fernandez in a speech, adding that he would approach opposition groups to try to find common ground on an agenda.

"An opposition that is responsible and open to dialogue is a patriotic opposition," he said, adding that he hoped for cooperation that would be "fruitful, for the general interests of the country."

Nearly half the Chamber of Deputies seats were up for grabs, as well as a third of Senate seats in Sunday's vote.

Interior Minister Wado de Pedro said turnout in the compulsory election was between 71 and 72 percent.

Fernandez had been on the defensive since the Frente suffered a bruising defeat in September's primaries, picking up just 33 percent of the vote compared to 37 percent for the main opposition group Juntos por el Cambio (Together for Change), led by Fernandez's predecessor Mauricio Macri.

The country has been in recession since 2018, with GDP dropping 9.9 percent last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Argentina has one of the world's highest inflation rates, at 40 percent so far this year, and a poverty rate of 42 percent for a population of 45 million.

"I fear for the economy," pastry worker Oscar Navarro told AFP on Sunday, without revealing his vote. "Salaries are not sufficient. Whoever wins, it will take a long time for the country to recover."

The primaries setback unleashed a political crisis pitting Fernandez against his deputy president and coalition partner Cristina Kirchner, who pressured her boss into a cabinet reshuffle in the hopes of appeasing an increasingly frustrated electorate. The government is also in the midst of a tricky renegotiation with the International Monetary Fund over the repayment of a \$44 billion debt, originally secured by the Macri government in 2018. "In this new stage we will deepen our efforts to secure a sustainable deal with the IMF," said Fernandez.

Tunisians Protest Against President Saied's Power Grab

TUNIS (Dispatches) - Tunisian police have clashed with protesters near the chamber of the suspended parliament as demonstrators marched against President Kais Saied's seizure of political power four months ago.

Hundreds of police had blocked off the area where thousands of protesters were gathering on Sunday to demand that Saied restore the parliament and normal democratic rule.

Increasingly vocal opposition, along with a looming crisis in public finances, may pose a new test of how Saied and the new government he has appointed will tackle threats to their authority.

"Shut down Kais Saied" and "Freedom! Freedom! End the police state!" protesters chanted as they pulled down barriers obstructing the roads leading to the parliament building at the capital's Bardo palace, leading to clashes.

"We are under one-man rule since July 25 ... we will stay here until they open the roads and end the siege," Jawher Ben Mbarek, a protest leader, told Reuters news agency.



Putin Says No Need to Escalate Black Sea Tensions With NATO

MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that he had rejected a defense ministry proposal to hold snap Black Sea military drills in response to NATO activity because he did not want to escalate tensions in the region.

Russia has complained about what it has called a dangerous increase in military activity by the United States and its allies in the Black Sea region with greater Western spy plane activity, more strategic bombers flights, and the presence of two U.S. warships.

Some of the activity has been taking place in the vicinity of Crimea, the Black Sea peninsula which Russia annexed from Ukraine in 2014 and which Kyiv wants back.

Tensions are also high over what U.S. officials have called a worrying Russian military build-up near Ukraine and a migrant standoff between Belarus, a close ally of Russia, and the European Union.

In a state TV interview published on the Kremlin website due to be aired late on Sunday, Putin said he did not want to fuel tensions in the Black Sea area.

"I should say that our Defence Ministry had a proposal to hold our own snap drills in those waters. But I believe that would be pointless and that there is no need to further add to tensions there," Putin said.

"So the defence ministry is limiting itself to escorting (NATO) jets and ships," Putin told the Rossiya-1 channel.

The United States has said its warships are in the Black Sea to enhance collaboration with NATO allies in the region.

"The United States and their NATO allies are really holding unplanned, I want to highlight it, unplanned drills in Black Sea waters," Putin said. "...This is a serious challenge for us."



Polish PM Calls for Concrete Steps From NATO Amid Belarus Border Crisis

HAJNOWKA (Dispatches) - NATO must take "concrete steps" to resolve the migrant crisis on the Belarus border, the Polish prime minister was quoted as saying, adding that Poland, Lithuania and Latvia may ask for consultations under the alliance's treaty.

Thousands of migrants have travelled to Belarus in the hope of crossing into the European Union (EU), only to find themselves trapped on the border in freezing conditions.

The EU accuses Minsk of orchestrating the crisis to put pressure on the bloc over sanctions, but Belarus has repeatedly denied this. Some countries in the region have warned the stand-off could escalate into a military conflict.

"It is not enough just for us to publicly express our concern - now we need concrete steps and the commitment of the entire alliance," Mateusz Morawiecki told Polish state-run news agency PAP.

Under Article 4 of the NATO treaty, any ally can request consultations whenever, in the opinion of any of them, their territorial integrity, political independence or security is threatened.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, a key backer of Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko, said that Russia was ready to help resolve the crisis, RIA news agency reported on Sunday, citing an interview on a state TV channel.

Morawiecki told PAP that EU leaders would discuss further sanctions against Belarus, including completely closing the border.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell was quoted as saying that the bloc will widen sanctions on Belarus on Monday to include airlines and travel agencies thought to be involved in transporting migrants.

Morawiecki said that the EU should jointly finance a border wall.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Polish Foreign Minister Zbigniew Rau on Saturday and said Belarus' actions threaten regional security and distract from Russian military activities on the Ukraine border, State Department spokesman Ned Price said.

"Secretary Blinken reaffirmed U.S. support for Poland in the face of the Lukashenko regime's cynical exploitation of vulnerable migrants," Price said in a statement on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Polish forces described an increasingly tense situation on the frontier, with the Border Guard saying migrants were receiving instructions and equipment from Belarusian guards and it expected another "big attempt" to break through.

"Huge logs of wood are being brought in, probably to lower the fence," Border Guard spokeswoman Katarzyna Zdanowicz told private broadcaster TVN24.

Belarusian blogging service NEXTA shared a video of what it said was a large column of migrants walking towards the frontier.



Thai Protesters Call for Royal Reforms Again

BANGKOK (Dispatches) - Hundreds of protesters have rallied in Thailand's capital, Bangkok, against a decision by a top court that ruled calling for royal reforms amounted to a bid to overthrow the country's ultra-powerful monarchy.

The Constitutional Court - which critics have long said is politicised - said on Wednesday that three prominent protest leaders had made speeches that "aim to overthrow the constitutional monarchy".

While the court's decision does not result in criminal penalties for the protest leaders, observers say the ruling could shrink an already narrow space for activists campaigning for reform of the monarchy.

Defying a ban on gatherings on Sunday, protesters assembled in Bangkok's main shopping district to rail against the decision, holding signs that said they do not want an absolute monarchy.

"We are not overthrowing this country. The reform is to make it better," shouted protest leader Thatchapong Kaedam, as demonstrators waved placards that said "Reform does not equal overthrow".

Police briefly clashed with some demonstrators, firing rubber bullets which hit at least one protester who was bleeding from his chest, reports said. The injured man was rushed into an ambulance.

The city's Erawan Emergency Centre said at least two people were injured, though no details were given about their condition.

Earlier in the day, police had warned rallygoers against gathering.

"We want the public to focus on how to use their rights and freedoms but not violate laws which were ruled by the Constitutional Court," said Bangkok police spokesman Jirasant Kaewsangake.

By nightfall, protesters had marched to the German embassy - a commentary on King Maha Vajiralongkorn's frequent stays in the European country - and submitted a letter to the embassy expressing concerns about a return to absolutism.

The king flew to the country this week, according to German media - his first trip abroad in more than a year.



Niavaran Apt (\$2000)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/pool, Sauna
J, balcony
marble fl
Fully Furn

Darrous Villa (\$4000)
1000sq.m
5bdrs, S/p
S, J, & pkg
green yard
Fully Furn

3bdrs Apts
Velenjak (\$1800) 200sq.m
Darrous (\$2200) 260sq.m
with S/p, S, J, pkg, F.F

Available bldg
Fereshteh (\$8000)
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yard, pkg lots, & F.F

Mirdamad Apt
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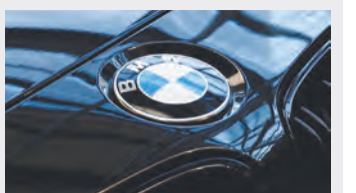
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BMW Not Interested in McLaren Automotive

BERLIN (Dispatches) - BMW denied reports by Automobilwoche that it was interested in buying McLaren Automotive, while Volkswagen's Audi said it was open to cooperation opportunities, without commenting specifically on the British luxury sports car maker. German autos publication Automobilwoche had reported on Sunday that the two carmakers were interested in buying McLaren Automotive, without specifying its sources. Audi is also interested in the Formula 1 division of the company, Automobilwoche said.



Economic Slowdown in China Would Have Global Consequences

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - The Biden administration is closely watching the situation unfolding in China with the world's most indebted property developer, according to Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who warned that its struggles to pay back billions in loans could have repercussions for the global economy.

Evergrande, China's second largest property developer, is on the hook for more than \$300 billion to creditors.

"Real estate is an important sector of the Chinese economy. It accounts for about 30% of demand," Yellen told "Face the Nation" moderator Margaret Brennan in an exclusive interview. "And a slowdown in China, of course, would have global consequences. China's economy is large, and if China's economy were to slow down more than expected, it certainly could have consequences for many countries that are linked to China through trade."

Over the years, Evergrande has borrowed heavily to finance the construction of apartments, office buildings and shopping malls. But in recent months, the company has come under financial strain and struggled to pay down its debt.

Concerns that the company's collapse could slam Chinese banks and rattle the country's vast real estate market have roiled global financial markets.

The Federal Reserve warned of direct risks to the U.S. in its latest financial stability report. "Financial stresses in China could strain global financial markets through a deterioration of risk sentiment, pose risks to global economic growth, and affect the United States," the report read.

Economists say Beijing can prevent a Chinese credit crunch but wants to avoid appearing to arrange a bailout while it tries to force other companies to reduce reliance on debt. For now, the Chinese government has remained silent about whether it might intervene to restructure Evergrande's debt.

Yellen acknowledged that firms like Evergrande are an issue Chinese regulators are grappling with.

"China has a real estate sector with firms that are overleveraged and it's something that China is trying to deal with," Yellen said.

When asked if Chinese regulators have the capacity to manage these risks, Yellen said, "They're certainly trying to do that, and it's something we're watching closely."

The Federal Reserve said China's push to deleverage companies like Evergrande poses some risk. "The ongoing regulatory focus on leveraged institutions has the potential to stress some highly indebted corporations, especially in the real estate sector, as exemplified by the recent concerns around China Evergrande Group," according to the Fed's financial stability report.

Karachi Coastal Project Under CPEC to Boost Economy

ISLAMABAD (Dispatches) - The recent inclusion of the Karachi Coastal Comprehensive Development Zone (KCCDZ) project in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will boost Pakistan's economy and enhance industrial and development cooperation between Pakistan and China, said Pakistani experts and officials.

The decision to include the project in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi into the CPEC was made at the CPEC's recent 10th Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting.

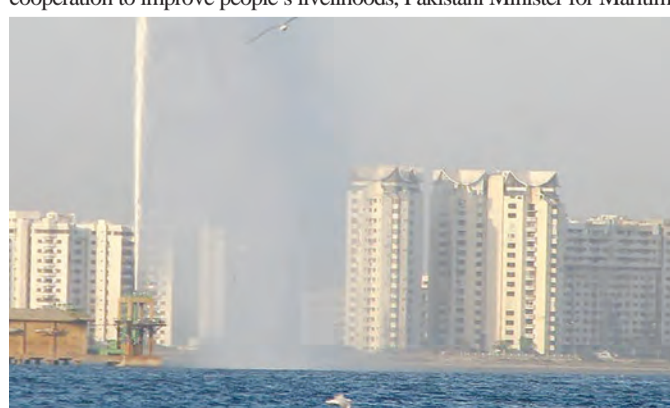
Covering a total area of about 930 hectares, of which 640 hectares are reclaimed, the environment-friendly KCCDZ envisages four new berths for the Karachi Port Trust, according to a statement from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs of Pakistan.

The mega project, being built with an expected investment of \$3.5 billion, will also house a state-of-the-art fishing port, with a world-class fisheries export processing zone to boost the country's trade potential, said the ministry. It will also drastically improve the marine ecosystem and reduce pollution with the establishment of a water treatment plant, the ministry said.

Terming the project a game-changer for Pakistan, Prime Minister Imran Khan said recently that the coastal development project will bring Karachi on a par with developed port cities of the world.

The project will present opportunities for investors, Khan said on Twitter, adding that it will also help clean up marine habitats for fishermen and develop 20,000 low-income housing units.

The KCCDZ is the first of its kind under the CPEC, which reflects the commitment of Pakistan and China to forge high-quality cooperation to improve people's livelihoods, Pakistani Minister for Maritime Affairs Ali Haider Zaidi told Xinhua.



Indian Economy to Grow at Double-Digits This Fiscal

KOLKATA (Dispatches) - Indian economy is expected to see a double-digit growth in 2021-22 and between 6.5-7 per cent in the next financial year, outgoing chief economic advisor K V Subramanian said on Sunday. The CEA said that he does not expect commodity inflation will taper the V-shaped recovery going forward.

"I expect India to grow at double digit this year (FY22) and 6.5-7 per cent next year and over seven per cent and thereafter growth accelerating over seven per cent," Subramanian told PTI in an interview.

He was in the city to receive the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta. India's growth projection had been capped between 8.7 per cent and 9.4 per cent by IMF and other institutions.

Subramanian said people often do not take into account the impact of substantial reforms that were done, even in 1991 reforms were done, 99 per cent people did not understand implications. "We have done seminal reforms actually which will be felt going forward."

He said inflation is 4.5 per cent and global inflation is high due to global policies that have only focused on demand in contrast to India's policies that are clearly focused on enhancing supply. "When you focus on only enhancing demand without supply measures inflation is what results. Indian policy has shown clear difference with the global financial crisis when India did only demand side measures without supply side interventions that's why we had double digit inflation despite without lockdown and night curfews every month for one and half years," Subramanian said taking a dig at the then government.

Sri Lanka Is Confident of Not Defaulting on Its Debts

COLOMBO (Dispatches) - Sri Lanka is confident of not defaulting on its debts and will work on gradually improving the quality of its foreign exchange reserves, finance minister Basil Rajapaksa said.

Rajapaksa said when presenting Sri Lanka's 2022 budget on Friday that the government will cut its budget deficit to around 8.8% of gross domestic product in 2022. The deficit target for 2021 was revised to 11.1%.

"Sri Lanka has never defaulted in its history

and that record will be maintained," Rajapaksa told a briefing, a day after presenting the annual budget.

"Even part of our reserves are borrowed but we will improve the quality of reserves gradually from next year till 2024. By 2024, we are confident we will be able increase reserves and put debt on a sustainable footing," he added.

The government did not provide an estimate for 2022 growth in its budget but at a forum on Saturday central bank governor Nivard Cabraal said growth is likely to improve in 2022.

"This year we are looking at 5% growth and if we have a good year in 2022 with tourism reaching a quarter of pre-2019 levels then we are well on course for 6% growth," Cabraal said.

"This will mean our macroeconomic fundamentals will be in much better shape than now".

Debt repayment is one of the key challenges facing Sri Lanka with foreign exchange reserves having dropped to \$2.27 billion as of end October.

Rajapaksa said remittances and tourism, which are the top two sources of dollar inflows, have both been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and it has been tougher to attract investors.

"But we want to reduce borrowings. I guarantee that the \$1.54 billion up to July 2022 will be repaid," he added.

Treasury Secretary S. R. Attygalle said the budget is likely to bring in structural reforms to support and strengthen growth and improve Sri Lanka's fiscal position.

He said the government has a revenue target of 15% of GDP by 2025 and that expenditure will be strictly managed.

"The revenue side is a challenge but with tourism bouncing back Sri Lanka will become comfortable in the next 12 to 18 months," he added.

Analysts, however, are unsure if the announcements in the budget are enough to instil confidence in investors, ratings agencies and market participants.

White House Says Inflation Is High

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - White House National Economic Council Director Brian Deese acknowledged that "inflation is high and it's affecting Americans in their pocketbook and their outlook," but promised the administration is working to address the rise in costs in both the short and long term.

"That concern actually underscores why it's so important to move forward on the Build Back Better bill that Congress is considering," Deese said in an interview Sunday with George Stephanopoulos on "This Week," making the case for President Joe Biden's nearly \$2 trillion social spending bill still being debated in Congress. "This bill is actually going to address the core costs that American families are facing in child care, in housing, in health care," he added.

As inflation continues to plague the U.S., a new ABC News-Washington Post poll paints a problematic picture for the president on the economy as a whole: 70% of Americans say it is in bad shape, and more than half -- 55% -- disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy.

With the holidays rapidly approaching and prices climbing by more than 6% in the last 12 months, Stephanopoulos pressed Deese on what the administration can do now to offer relief to families.

"I know you're hoping to pass it, but even if it does pass, it's going to take a while for the benefits to kick in. So what can Americans expect in the short term? Is inflation going to get worse before it gets better?" Stephanopoulos asked.

"We have to finish the job on COVID. We know that the more that people feel comfortable getting out into the economy, going to movies rather than buying television at home, working in the workplace, the more we can return a sense of normalcy to our economy," Deese said, adding that the administration will also tackle the supply chain crunch felt across the globe with the bipartisan infrastructure bill Biden will sign into law Monday.

"It's the first time that a president is actually delivering on a bipartisan infrastructure bill, and while a number of those pieces will be longer term, there are things that will go into effect right away to try to get money out to help. For example, upgrade our ports, upgrade our airports, upgrade our roads," Deese said.

"We're going to work without delay to get that money working for the American people," he added.

The new ABC News-Washington Post poll does also have some good news for the president on his agenda, as 63% support for the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill passed by Congress that Biden will sign into law Monday, and 58% support the social spending bill.

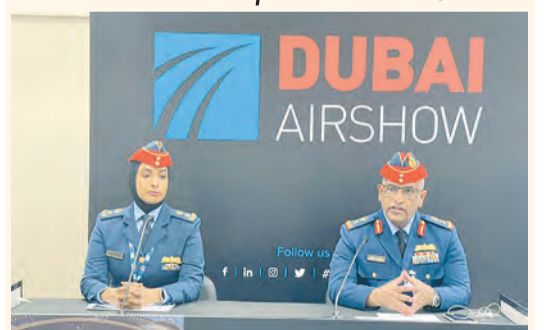
Despite the strong public support for the social policy initiative, the White House is still facing pushback from Republicans and some Democrats, who worry pumping more money into the economy could worsen the inflationary woes currently facing the country.

Deese pushed back, pointing to economic analyses that show the measures will decrease inflation, not add to it, and arguing the bill is fully paid for.

"You say it's fully paid for, but the Congressional Budget Office still hasn't weighed in and certified that it actually is fully paid for," Stephanopoulos pressed. "We're confident this bill, as it moves through the process, is going to be fully paid for, and not only that, it's actually going to reduce deficits over the long term," Deese replied.

"We've already seen the independent Joint Committee on Taxation, as well as the Treasury Department, look at the tax components of this bill and say, not only are they enough to offset the investments in this package, but actually over the long term, they will reduce the deficit by trillions of dollars because we're making permanent changes to the tax code," he said.

UAE Signs Purchase Deal of Two Airbus Military Aircrafts for \$680m



DUBAI (Dispatches) - The UAE Ministry of Defense has signed a contract to purchase two Airbus A330 Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT) for 2.6 billion dirhams (\$680 million).

The new aerial refuelling tanker aircrafts will add to the ministry's existing fleet of three A330 MRTTs, it announced in a press conference on Sunday.

The ministry also signed deals with Thales, and Goodrich Corporation, a spokesperson confirmed, adding the ministry is set to announce more agreements over the next few days at the Dubai Airshow.

Meanwhile, UAE's EDGE Group announced it won an 11 billion dirham contract to service UAE Air Force and Air Defence aircrafts.

The deal sets out EDGE's role to provide maintenance, repair, and overhaul of UAE military aircrafts, as well as perform specialized support services, the company said in a statement.

Iran to Attend Exhibition in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (IRNA) - Pakistan is set to host an International Exhibition of Industry, Machinery, Renewable Energy, Transportation and Electric Vehicles with the participation of 14 companies from the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karachi.

The 17th Pakistan International Exhibition of Industry, Machinery and Automobiles will start today (Tuesday) for three days in

Karachi with the participation of fourteen Iranian companies.

The international exhibition, which runs until Thursday, November 18th, features Iranian companies in various fields, including bread-making machinery and equipment, stone cutting, mineral drilling, auto parts, telecommunications equipment, renewable energy, and impact hammers.



Nations Compromise on Coal to Strike UN Climate Agreement

GLASGOW (Dispatches) - Almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, but it contained a last-minute change that watered down crucial language about coal.

Several countries, including small island states, said they were deeply disappointed by the change promoted by India to "phase down," rather than "phase out" coal power, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe."

Nation after nation had complained earlier on the final day of two weeks of UN climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland about how the deal did not go far or fast enough, but they said it was better than nothing and provided incremental progress, if not success.

In the end, the summit broke ground by singling out coal, however weakly, by setting the rules for international trading of carbon credits, and by telling big polluters to come back next year with improved pledges for cutting emissions.

But domestic priorities both political and economic again kept nations from committing to the fast, big cuts that scientists say are needed to keep warming below dangerous levels that would produce extreme weather and rising seas capable of erasing some island nations.

Ahead of the Glasgow talks, the United Nations had set three criteria for success, and none of them were achieved. The UN's criteria included pledges to cut carbon dioxide emissions in half by 2030, \$100 billion in financial aid from rich nations to poor, and ensuring that half of that money went to helping the developing world adapt to the worst effects of climate change.

"We did not achieve these goals at this conference," Guterres said. "But we have some building blocks for progress."

Negotiators from Switzerland and Mexico called the coal language change against the rules because it came so late. However, they said they had no choice but to hold their noses and go along with it.

Swiss environment minister Simonetta Sommaruga said the change will make it harder to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times — the more stringent threshold set in the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Many other nations and climate campaigners criticized India for making demands that weakened the final agreement.

"India's last-minute change to the language to phase down but not phase out coal is quite shocking," said Australian climate scientist Bill Hare, who tracks world emission pledges for the science-based Climate Action Tracker. "India has long been a blocker on climate action, but I have never seen it done so publicly."

Others approached the deal from a more positive perspective. In addition to the revised coal language, the Glasgow Climate Pact included enough financial incentives to almost satisfy poorer nations and solved a long-standing problem to pave the way for carbon trading.

The agreement also says big carbon polluting nations have to come back and submit stronger emission cutting pledges by the end of 2022.

"It's a good deal for the world," US climate envoy John Kerry told The Associated Press. "It's got a few problems, but it's all in all a very good deal."

Before the India change, negotiators said the deal preserved, albeit barely, the overarching goal of limiting Earth's warming by the end of the century to 1.5 degrees. The planet has already warmed 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) compared to preindustrial times.

Negotiators Saturday used the word "progress" more than 20 times, but rarely used the word "success" and then mostly in that they've reached a conclusion, not about the details in the agreement. Conference President Alok Sharma said the deal drives "progress on coal, cars, cash and trees" and is "something meaningful for our people and our planet."

Environmental activists were measured in their not-quite-glowing assessments, issued before India's last minute change.

"It's meek, it's weak and the 1.5 C goal is only just alive, but a signal has been sent that the era of coal is ending. And that matters," said Greenpeace International Executive Director Jennifer Morgan, a veteran of the UN climate talks known as the Conferences of Parties.



Former Irish President Mary Robinson, speaking for a group of retired leaders called The Elders, said the pact represents "some progress, but nowhere near enough to avoid climate disaster... People will see this as a historically shameful dereliction of duty."

Indian Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav argued against a provision on phasing out coal, saying that developing countries were "entitled to the responsible use of fossil fuels."

Yadav blamed "unsustainable lifestyles and wasteful consumption patterns" in rich countries for causing global warming.

After Yadav first raised the specter of changing the coal language, a frustrated European Union Vice President Frans Timmermans, the 27-nation EU's climate envoy, begged negotiators to be united for future generations.

"For heaven's sake, don't kill this moment," Timmermans pleaded. "Please embrace this text so that we bring hope to the hearts of our children and grandchildren."

Helen Mountford, vice president of the World Resources Institute think tank, said India's demand may not matter as much as feared because the economics of cheaper, renewable fuel is making coal increasingly obsolete.

"Coal is dead. Coal is being phased out," Mountford said. "It's a shame that they watered it down."

Kerry and several other negotiators noted that good compromises leave everyone slightly unsatisfied.

"Not everyone in public life... gets to make choices about life and death. Not everyone gets to make choices that actually affect an entire planet. We here are privileged today to do exactly that," he said.

Before the coal change, small island nations that are vulnerable to catastrophic effects of climate change and had pushed for bolder actions in Glasgow said they were satisfied with the spirit of compromise, if not the outcome of the talks.

"Maldives accepts the incremental progress made in Glasgow," Aminath Shauna, the island nation's minister for environment, climate change and technology said. "I'd like to note that this progress is not in line with the urgency and scale with the problem at hand."

Shauna pointed out that that to stay within warming limit that nations agreed to six years ago in Paris, the world must cut carbon dioxide emissions essentially in half in 98 months. The developing world needs the rich world to step up she said.

"The difference between 1.5 and 2 degrees is a death sentence for us," Shauna said. "We didn't cause the climate crisis. No matter what we do, it won't reverse this."

Next year's talks are scheduled to take place in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. Dubai will host the meeting in 2023.

Drought Forces Iraqi Farmers to Leave Their Land

MOSUL (AFP) - Iraqi wheat farmer Khamis Ahmad Abbas lost it all when his battle with drought forced him to abandon his land, pushing him into unemployment.

Experts have warned that record low rainfall, compounded by climate change, are threatening social and economic disaster in war-scarred Iraq.

"Growing wheat and barley is a gamble. It all depends on the rain," said the 42-year-old father of nine.

Unable to make ends meet, Abbas quit his land in the Plains of Nineveh, northeast of Mosul, part of the so-called Fertile Crescent where agriculture was born 12,000 years ago.

With temperatures soaring above 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit) and little rain, Abbas's fields quickly dried up.

Three months ago, he packed up his family -- two wives and nine children -- and moved to Mosul.

"Now I am unemployed," he told AFP, as he whiled away the time in a coffee shop in Iraq's second city.

Once the seat of the Islamic State group's self-styled "caliphate", Mosul is still rebuilding after the devastating 2017 battle which ousted the jihadists.

"Sometimes I get small jobs, just enough to feed my family," said Abbas bitterly, who longs for the old days when he harvested wheat and barley like his father and grandfather before him.

His plight is shared by many farmers in the Nineveh Plains.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), 447 families who were forced from their land in Nineveh by IS and then returned to it after the jihadists' defeat were forced to leave again between June and July this year because of the drought.



"Nearly all, if not all, the families were displaced due to inability to feed their cattle," the IOM said.

For centuries, the Nineveh Plains were the breadbasket of Iraq, with 6,000 square kilometres (2,300 square miles) of arable land, said agriculture ministry spokesman Hamid al-Nayef.

But this year, Nineveh province has been Iraq's "most affected" by drought and exceptionally high temperatures.

In 2020, 927,000 tons of wheat were harvested in Nineveh, making it a "self-sufficient" province, said Abdelwahab al-Jarjiri, who heads the local cereal authority.

This year production plunged to 89,000 tons because of the drought.

The effects of low rainfall have been exacerbated by falling water levels on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers as a result of dam-building in neighboring Turkey and Iran, said Samah Hadid of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

"Iraq is facing its worst drought in modern times. This is due to record low levels of rainfall, reductions in water flow from its neighbors -- which has primarily hit

the Euphrates and Tigris rivers -- and there is no doubt climate change has contributed to this crisis," she said.

"Far from being a problem in the distant future, climate change is already taking effect in the region and we see this clearly in parts of Iraq."

This month, a dam near the northern town of Zawita dried up completely for the first time since its construction in 2009, the head of the local irrigation authority Hega Abdelwahid said.

The dam, which used to contain up to 50,000 cubic meters of water, was fed by melting snow but there was very little rain this year, Abdelwahid said, and all that is left is cracked earth.

The severity of the drought has forced many farming families to leave their land and seek a living in urban areas.

Akram Yassin, 28, is one of those considering such a move. He has already sold some of his 500 sheep and some land just "to survive," he said.

"I might have to change careers, my financial losses are more than my gains," he added.

In October, UN agencies, including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), called for "urgent action" to avert a disaster in Iraq.

Before that in August, 13 aid organisations, including the NRC, warned that seven million people in Iraq risk losing access to water, forcing more from their homes.

But the exodus to urban centres like Mosul, Kirkuk and Basra could spark "instability" because they are ill-prepared for such an influx, said Roger Guiu, director of the Iraq-based Social Inquiry research centre.

Guiu said Mosul had been left in ruins by the months-long battle to oust IS and "reconstruction has been slow".

Iran Enjoys...

FROM PAGE 1

"Today, we have maintained our maritime domination and also expanded our maritime reach," General Salami remarked, adding, "At the present time, we possess modern marine technologies."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the IRGC chief asserted that the Islamic Republic cannot be barred from gaining more power and "everyone should know that we will not let anybody interfere in our country's affairs."

No one, except for the Iranian nation, should be able to decide the nation's fate, General Salami said, adding, "Our message is that if anyone wanted to decide our fate, we would decisively confront them."

General Salami then described Iranian vessels as the "fluid infrastructure" of the country's power.

He added, "We possess the technologies related to boosting the quality of warships ... The [military] vessels are true identity of our [naval] tactics, which carry strategic messages at sea."

IAEA...

FROM PAGE 1

He stressed that everyone must think globally and decide jointly to tackle environmental and human issues.

Referring to the agenda of Iranian negotiators in JCPOA related talks in Vienna, the senior diplomat said that the focus of Vienna talks would be on lifting all illegal sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran.

"What is important for us is the lifting of sanctions", he reiterated.

The positions of Tehran towards the talks in Vienna are clear, he said, adding that the sanctions must be lifted effectively, and this must be verified and guaranteed.

What is important to Iran is the intention behind the US desire to return to JCPOA, Khatibzadeh said, stressing that the U.S. must show that the sanctions imposed on Iran will be lifted effectively and verifiably.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Khatibzadeh announced that the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi has been invited to travel to Tehran and he is scheduled to meet with the Iranian Foreign Minister and the Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Mohammad Eslami.

Asked about the Iranian deputy foreign minister's recent tour to three European countries including the UK, Khatibzadeh said that most of the Tehran-London discussions were focused on bilateral issues.

The issue of paying off Iran's debt by the UK government is one of the permanent topics of negotiations between Iran and the UK, he said.

Several times this issue has been postponed under any pretexts, however, it must be paid off by the British government, he asserted.

Elsewhere, Khatibzadeh referred to the role of Syria as one of the important actors in the Arab world, saying that today, some countries have accepted the fact that normalization relations with Syria are in the interest of all nations in the region.

Iran not only welcomes this process but also makes every effort to accelerate the resumption of relations between Syria and other Arab countries in the region, the Iranian diplomat stressed.

UAE Says...

FROM PAGE 1

"We can build together greater confidence between us and make progress for a sustainable status quo. It will be better served for Iran to work co-operatively with its neighbours," he said.

"Our recent outreach is to find shared interest around a collective future and prosperity."

"The pandemic has not changed everything, challenges before its emergence still exist but it has served us to reorder our priorities," Dr Gargash said.

Coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, the UAE will "be stepping up multilateral dialogue to address our common challenges," he said. It will be the only way to avoid a regional cold war, he said.

Dr Gargash's comments came as the U.S. Envoy to Iran, Robert Malley, will visit the UAE and other regional states on Thursday to discuss a "broad range of concerns" about Tehran before the next round of indirect nuclear talks.

The negotiations, which aim to restore the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, are set to resume this month. After a period of stalling, the Iranian government agreed to return to talks in Vienna on November 29.

Smith Set for Norwich Job

LONDON (Dispatches) - Premier League strugglers Norwich are set to hire former Aston Villa boss Dean Smith as their new manager, according to reports.

Norwich have reportedly offered Smith the chance to succeed Daniel Farke, who was sacked on November 6 with the club rooted to the bottom of the Premier League.

Smith was axed by Villa on November 7 after five successive defeats, but he looks to have won the race to take over at Carrow Road.

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World Governing Body to Use New Anti-Drafting Technology

LONDON (Dispatches) - World Triathlon is looking to use new anti-drafting technology to ensure fairer competition among athletes, the sport's governing body said.

RaceRanger, an electronic sensor system, is designed to improve fairness around the issue of drafting on the bike section of non-drafting triathlons, which make up around 85% of triathlon competitions around the world. Drafting is when a cyclist moves into an area of low pressure behind another cyclist, reducing the wind resistance and the amount of energy required to pedal.

Serbia, Spain Qualify For 2022 World Cup, Portugal Stunned

LONDON (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of playing in a record-equaling fifth World Cup hang in the balance after Serbia stunned Portugal 2-1 in Lisbon to qualify for the 2022 World Cup.

Spain and Croatia did secure their places in Qatar on Sunday thanks to 1-0 wins over Sweden and Russia respectively. Ronaldo already holds the record of playing in five European Championships and looked well on course for another milestone as Portugal stormed out of the blocks to open the scoring after just two minutes through Renato Sanches.

However, Serbia bounced back to dominate the remainder of the first half and deservedly levelled when Dusan Tadic's strike squeezed in off the post after Dusan Vlahovic had hit the woodwork.

Ronaldo was kept quiet as another chance to score his 800th career goal came and went. Instead it was Aleksandar Mitrovic who grabbed the vital goal as stoppage time approached.

Just over a year ago, Mitrovic was the villain for his country as he was the only player to fail to score in a penalty shootout against Scotland that saw Serbia miss out on Euro 2020.

However, the Fulham striker made amends in dramatic fashion when he steered in Tadic's header at the back post. "It was an amazing game," said Mitrovic. "We were the better team today in every aspect of the game."

Portugal must now navigate two tricky one-off playoff matches in March to maintain their record of qualifying for every major tournament since the 1998 World Cup.

Spain made sure they avoided the playoffs as Alvaro Morata's goal four minutes from time ended Sweden's resistance in Seville.

Pliskova Rallies to Beat Krejckikova

GUADALAJARA (Dispatches) - Two-time Grand Slam champion Garbine Muguruza booked her semi-final spot at the WTA Finals on Sunday with a 6-4, 6-4 win over Anett Kontaveit that ended the Estonian's 12-match WTA win streak.

Muguruza's victory in her final round-robin contest in the eight-woman season finale denied Karolina Pliskova a place in the knockout phase, despite the former world number one Pliskova's gutsy 0-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over fellow Czech Barbora Krejckikova earlier in the day.

Kontaveit was already assured of a semi-final berth after winning her first two matches to stretch a WTA winning streak that included titles at Moscow and Cluj-Napoca.

But it was a must-win match for Muguruza after Pliskova's afternoon victory, and the Spaniard came out firing, breaking Kontaveit in the opening game.

Muguruza saved the only three break points she faced - two as she served for the opening set and one more as she served for the match. She exploited Kontaveit's forehand struggles, taking the first set on two forehand errors from the Estonian.

Serving for the match at 5-4 in the second she saved a break point with an ace and claimed the match after one hour and 27 minutes with a service winner to finish second in the group behind Kontaveit.

Rossi Inducted Into MotoGP's Hall of Fame

VALENCIA (Dispatches) - Nine-times world champion Valentino Rossi was inducted into MotoGP's Hall of Fame after the Italian put an end to his illustrious career of more than two decades with a 10th-place finish at the Valencia Grand Prix on Sunday.

Seven-times MotoGP title winner Rossi, one of the greatest and most charismatic of motorcycling champions, delighted fans with a few quick laps at Valencia's Ricardo Tormo circuit but was unable to add to his 199 premier-class podiums.



reprieve as for a long time a repeat of the stalemate between the sides when they met in the group stages of Euro 2020 was on the cards.

Morata was the fall guy that night for missing a host of chances, but made his mark off the bench with a calm finish after Robin Olsen had turned Dani Olmo's blistering shot onto the bar.

"To be honest, it is a huge weight off my shoulders," said Luis Enrique. "I felt much more pressure in these games when people think it is easy to get a result than in the Euro or the Nations League."

Croatia also needed a late winner as an own goal from Fedor Kudryashov snatched qualification from Russia in a battle in boggy conditions in Split.

Finalists at the last World Cup in 2018, Croatia looked bound for the playoffs as they toiled on a waterlogged pitch against a resolute Russian defence.

But Kudryashov's error saw them snatch top spot from the visitors eight minutes from time.

"It was a difficult match from the beginning because of the rain. We never gave up, we were patient and I think we won deservedly. We are the best team in this group," said Croatia captain Luka Modric.

Germany had long since booked their place in Qatar, but rounded off their qualifying campaign with a 4-1 thrashing of Armenia as Ilkay Gundogan scored twice.

North Macedonia secured the playoff place behind the four-time world champions with a 3-1 win over Iceland.



SYDNEY (Dispatches) - Roger Federer is unlikely to play in next year's Australian Open but is still determined to make a return to tournament tennis at some stage, according to his coach Ivan Ljubicic.

The 20-times Grand Slam champion has been inactive since losing in the Wimbledon quarter-finals in July and undergoing another round of knee surgery.

Asked whether Federer would be back in action for the first major of the year in January, former world number three Ljubicic said the signs were not promising.

"I think there are very few chances, he is still recovering and knowing him, he wants to be sure he can play to win the tournament and be at 100 per cent," the Croatian told Stats Perform. "So I think the Australian Open is not a real possibility right now. But he will go step by step because he is 40 years old now and he needs to be patient. He cannot recover as quickly as he used to."

Federer is tied with Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic in the race to be the most successful men's singles Grand Slam champion of all time and Australian Open organisers would have been hoping to have all three at Melbourne Park.



Medvedev Fights Back to Sink Hurkacz

match after Italian Matteo Berrettini pulled out injured early in the second set with the German leading 7-6 1-0.

Russian Medvedev, who won the US Open title in September for his maiden Grand Slam crown, allowed his Polish opponent to take the early advantage in the season-ending event following a tight tiebreaker but responded in style.

The 25-year-old fired 15 aces to Hurkacz's 12 and converted two break points on a fast court to seal victory in the Red Group ahead of potentially tricky challenges against Germany's Alexander Zverev and Wimbledon runner-up Matteo Berrettini.

TURIN (Dispatches) - World number two Daniil Medvedev came from a set down to power past ATP Finals debutant Hubert Hurkacz 6-7(5) 6-3 6-4 and get his title defence off to a winning start in Turin.

Olympic champion Alexander Zverev was also awarded a win in his opening match after Italian Matteo Berrettini pulled out injured early in the second set with the German leading 7-6 1-0.

"It was a very tight match," said Medvedev, looking to become the first back-to-back ATP Finals winner since Serb Novak Djokovic claimed four between 2012-15, in his post-match interview. "One good shot and the point is over."

"I think a lot of matches are going to be like this because the courts are super fast. The only two games I had break points I managed to break and that was the key."

Medvedev showed glimpses of the form that helped him beat Djokovic, Rafa Nadal and Dominic Thiem en route to the title on London last year, as he went up 3-0 in the second set after an early break.

He raised his level in the third set to close out the match, hitting more than 30 winners and not facing a single breakpoint in a clash lasting a little more than two hours.

World number three Zverev was made to work very hard against Berrettini for more than an hour before the Italian pulled out injured. Berrettini had struggled to hold serve, having to save two break points on his very first service game alone, but his forehand repeatedly got him out of trouble.

Another two dizzying forehand crosscourt winners earned him his first two break and set points at 6-5 but he could not convert either.

Warner Spectacle Puts Australia on Top of the World

DUBAI (Dispatches) - David Warner came into the Twenty20 World Cup after being dropped from his IPL side but finished with 289 runs and a stand out star in Australia's maiden title victory.

Warner smashed 53 and put on a key stand of 92 with Mitchell Marsh, who hit an unbeaten 72, as Australia thrashed New Zealand by eight wickets in the final on Sunday in Dubai.

The swashbuckling opener had scores of 89 not out (in the final group game against West Indies), 49 (in the semi-final versus Pakistan) and his third half-century in the title clash to be named man of the series.

"Always pumped, wanted to put on a spectacle," Warner said after his team's first T20 World Cup title win that adds to their five ODI World Cup trophies.

"There were some nerves around as always in a final but great to see the guys deliver."

The left-handed Warner, who was dropped from his Indian Premier League team Sunrisers Hyderabad after two bad games in September, hit form with a match-winning 65 against Sri Lanka in a Super 12 match.

There was no looking back for the 35-year-old batsman who averaged 48.16 with a strike-rate of 146.70 in seven matches.

"Always felt really well. Didn't get much time in the middle in the two practice matches obviously," Warner said of his preparation into the World Cup.

"But for me it was about going back to basics. Going to hard, synthetic wickets and try to hit some balls."



Hamilton Hunts Down Verstappen For Victory

SAO PAULO (Dispatches) - Seven times world champion Lewis Hamilton hunted down Max Verstappen to win the Sao Paulo Grand Prix for Mercedes on Sunday and slash his Red Bull rival's Formula One lead to 14 points in one of the greatest drives of his career.

Verstappen finished second with Valtteri Bottas third for Mercedes after a controversial, roller-coaster weekend in Brazil.

"I don't remember another weekend like this," said Hamilton, his dream of a record eighth title back on with three races remaining. "It's quite overwhelming, to be honest."

"This has been probably one of the best weekends, if not the best weekend, that I have experienced since ... probably in my whole career."

The Briton was fastest in Friday qualifying at Interlagos for Saturday's sprint that set Sunday's grid, and then demoted to the back of the field after his car's rear wing failed a technical inspection.

He went from 20th to fifth on Saturday, dropping back to 10th on Sunday's grid after an engine penalty but hungry for much more.

The rest was history as the 36-year-old took his third win at Interlagos and set a record for victory in Brazil from the lowest grid position, beating Italian Giancarlo Fisichella's 2003 win from eighth.

"Lewis, that's how you overcome a 20-place disqualification," Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff told him over the radio after he took the chequered flag in front of a cheering crowd.

"It was actually 25, but you're right," replied Hamilton.

