

The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami Says Israel Will Taste the Bitterness of Tehran's Revenge for Its Vicious Acts

IRAN NEWS

All Terrorists Affiliated With the Anti-Iran Komala Separatist Group Have Been Forced to Relocate From Their Previous Camps in Iraq's Semi-Autonomous Kurdistan Region Under a Security Agreement Between Tehran and Baghdad

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DOMESTIC



Petrochemical Sector Has Left Behind Dependency

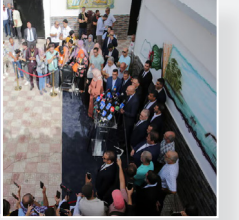
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INTERNATIONAL

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Israel Absolute Evil", Much Closer to Defeat Than Victory



TEHRAN (PressTV) - The spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry says the continuation of Israel's crimes and its excessive demands in the recent ceasefire negotiations indicate that the regime is much closer to defeat than "victory".

"The Israeli regime is a cancerous tumor and the focal and central core of the axis of malice in the region," Nasser Kanaani said at his weekly press briefing on Monday.

He added that Israel's heinous crimes against the people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip and recently in the West Bank have incurred global wrath.

He reiterated Iran's legal, moral and human commitment to support Palestine and emphasized that moves by the Israeli regime to attribute any incident to the Islamic Republic is "definitely rhetoric and a desperate attempt to hide the facts."

The Iranian spokesman strongly condemned the Israeli regime's Sunday strikes against several military sites in northwestern Syria with missiles and drones.

"The regime's attack on regional countries shows that its crimes are not confined to Gaza and it is committing extra-regional crimes," Kanaani said.

He urged Israel's supporters to stop arming and supporting this regime, saying international organizations are needed to seriously condemn the Tel Aviv regime's crimes and take firm and deterrent moves to counter them.

Kanaani further said the expansion of ties with Eastern and Asian countries will remain among Iran's top priorities, adding that the new Iranian administration seeks to implement the agreements previously signed and will draw up new documents for cooperation in this regard.

He noted that Iran's Foreign Ministry will firmly pursue the development of ties with China and Russia based on the common will of Iran and its partners to serve mutual interests.

"Iran is located in a complex region and we consider regional cooperation to be the best way to resolve misunderstandings. The development of relations with the East and Asia is not tantamount to overlooking the improvement of ties with other countries that want friendly relations with Iran," Kanaani emphasized.

Asia, Africa Leading Actors in Multilateralism



TEHRAN (Tasnim) - The representative of Iran in an annual session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO) highlighted the role of Asia and Africa in the progress of multilateralism.

Addressing the 62nd annual session of AALCO, held in Thailand's Bangkok, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Reza Najafi said Asian and African nations play a significant role in the advancement of initiatives and activities on the basis of multilateralism.

Warning of the growing threat of terrorism, the Iranian official said, "The international community's success in the fight against terrorism hinges on the rule of law, effective international cooperation, and strengthened multilateralism."

He also denounced the Zionist regime's heinous crimes in Gaza and the Israeli assassination of the Hamas chief in Tehran, saying the Tel Aviv regime has breached all international laws in violation of the International Court of Justice's verdicts and despite the international community's call for an immediate end to the genocidal crimes against Palestinians.

The AALCO was founded in November 1956. A total of 48 countries comprising almost all the major states from Asia and Africa are presently members of the organization.



Enemies' Psywar Based on Overplaying Power, Ayatollah Khamenei Warns

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei described tactics to exaggerate the power of enemies as a foundation of their psychological warfare, warning that such ruse may cause people to feel isolated, weak, and incapable of handling the situation.

Members of the organizing committee of the National Congress for the Commemoration of the Martyrs of the Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province met with Ayatollah Khamenei on August 14.

Addressing the participants, the Leader said: "Martyrdom" is a valuable heritage. The sacrifices made by a nation's youth serve as a tremendous spiritual and material backing for the advancement of that nation. This heritage must be preserved, and it must not be lost, forgotten, or distorted. The importance of your work lies in safeguarding this heritage."

He further said: "During the Sacred Defense, or the Imposed War, the people from this region were truly remarkable in their participation both after the formation of the Fath Brigade and even before that when its elements were dispersed in various units. They worked hard and were able to do good things. Numerous memoirs from that era have since been documented in the historical accounts of the Sacred Defense. One notable example involves a battalion of the Fath Brigade that was stationed on Majnoon Island. It successfully withstood a large Iraqi Ba'athist division for two to three days. They resisted without retreating. Of course, they suffered casualties, but they were able to secure that area. So, this type of action (of the people of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad) is recorded in the annals of history of the Sacred Defense."

He continued: "I would like to mention one thing. One of the foundations of the psychological warfare waged by the enemies of any nation, and especially during our time against our dear nation and Islamic Iran, is to exaggerate the power of that nation's enemies. This has been taking place since the beginning of the Revolution. Through various means, this message has constantly been conveyed, instilled, and injected into our people that they should be afraid - afraid of the US, afraid of the Zionists, afraid of the British, and afraid of other such entities. This has always been the case."

He added: "One of Imam Khomeini's greatest skills was dispelling this fear from the hearts of the people, instilling a sense of trust in the people, and giving the people a feeling of self-confidence. The (Iranian) nation felt they had an inner strength and capability that they could rely on to achieve great things, and that the enemy was not as powerful as it portrayed itself as being. When such a psychological warfare technique is used by the

enemy in the military domain, the result is fear and retreat. The Holy Quran has described this and explained that such a retreat incurs divine wrath, "And whoever shall turn his back to them on that day - unless he turns aside for the sake of fighting or withdraws to a company - then he, indeed, becomes deserving of Allah's wrath" (8:16)."

The Leader noted: "Suppose you are facing an enemy that is attacking you, and there are various types of attackers. Sometimes the attacker confronts you with a sword on the battlefield, sometimes the attack is by means of propaganda, sometimes it's an attack on the economy, or sometimes it's military using modern weapons. Suppose you retreat for non-tactical reasons in the face of this, although sometimes retreating can be a tactic just like advancing, and there is nothing wrong with that, "unless he turns aside for the sake of fighting or withdraws to a company" (8:16). That is a (valid) tactic. (But) if the retreat is for any other reason, "then he, indeed, becomes deserving of Allah's wrath" (8:16). That's how it is on the battlefield, and it's exactly the same in the political field (and incurs divine wrath)."

Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated: "In the political field, exaggerating the enemy's power causes people to feel isolated, weak, and incapable of handling the situation. The outcome of this is that they will surrender to the enemy's demands. When instructed to "do this," they comply, and when told "don't do that," they readily agree as well. As we see today, there are various types of governments with both large and small nations that act in this manner. They say "yes" to whatever they are told and have no will of their own."

He stress: "Now, at the diplomatic table and in diplomatic negotiations, there are definitely certain protocols and conditions. That "yes" can be expressed in various forms. However, the truth is that it's the same "yes" that you see. But if those same individuals rely on their own people and domestic capabilities, if they recognize the true nature of their enemy, and if they understand that the enemy isn't as powerful as they portray themselves to be, they can refrain from saying "yes." But they don't pay attention to this and say "yes." That is the situation in the field of politics."

"In the field of culture, this magnification (of the enemy) is manifested in different ways, such as having a sense of passivity, being captivated by the opposing culture, belittling one's own culture, and taking pride in adhering to a foreign culture. There are some people who take pride in using foreign words when they speak or write. They are proud to refrain from using the Persian equivalent and to use the foreign term instead, he added.

Death Toll From Israeli Strikes on Syria's Central Hama Province Soars to 14

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) - The death toll from a series of Israeli airstrikes against multiple military installations and buildings in Syria's central province of Hama has risen to 14, as the Tel Aviv regime continues its acts of aggression on Syria concurrent with its bloody war against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

Syria's official news agency SANA, citing the Director of Masyaf National Hospital Dr. Faisal Haidar, reported that at least 14 people were killed as a result of overnight Israeli air strikes on a number of sites in the vicinity of Masyaf, located approximately 40 kilometers (24 miles) west of the provincial capital city of Hama.

He added that at least 43 people were also wounded in the strikes, including six in critical condition.

The update raises the toll of five dead and 19 wounded reported earlier.

Meanwhile, Hama Provincial Governor Maan Subhi Abboud visited the injured at the Masyaf National Hospital and checked on their health condition and medical treatment.

He directed ambulance, medical and nursing teams to provide all necessary



services to them.

"At around 23:20 p.m. (2020 GMT) on Sunday evening, the Israeli enemy launched an air aggression from the direction of northwestern Lebanon, targeting a number of military sites in the central region [of Syria]," a military source told SANA.

"Our air defense systems confronted the aggression's missiles and shot down some of them," the source added, without providing further details.

Israel frequently targets military positions inside Syria, especially those of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah which has played a key role in helping the Syrian army in its fight against foreign-backed terrorists.

Sunday's attack comes amid Israel's bloody onslaught against Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip.

The regime has launched relentless air and ground attacks on the coastal territory, including hospitals, residences, and houses of worship, since Palestinian resistance movements launched their surprise attack, dubbed Operation al-Aqsa Storm, against the regime on October 7.

Grossi Ready for Work With New Iranian Gov't



TEHRAN (MNA) - The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that he is ready to meet with the new Iranian government and resume talks to reach objective results on the remaining safeguards issues.

Rafael Grossi, the IAEA chief made the remarks at the opening of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the IAEA on Monday. The IAEA BoG kicked off its quarterly meeting in Vienna, Austria on Monday, September 9 and the meeting will run through until September 13.

"Regarding the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, you have before you my latest report on Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015), said Grossi, according to the IAEA website.

"You will note Iran's stockpile of uranium enriched up to 20% and up to 60% continues to increase, and that Iran has expanded the number of cascades it is using to enrich UF6. It has been more than three and a half years since Iran stopped implementing its nuclear-related commitments under the JCPOA, including provisionally applying its Additional Protocol and therefore it is also over three and a half years since the Agency was able to conduct complementary access in Iran. Consequently, the Agency has lost continuity of knowledge in relation to the production and inventory of centrifuges, rotors and bellows, heavy water and uranium ore concentrate," he claimed.

The IAEA chief further reiterated his allegations against peaceful Iranian nuclear program and said that "You also have before you my report on the NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran. There has been no progress in resolving the outstanding safeguards issues. Iran says it has declared all nuclear material, activities and locations required under its NPT Safeguards Agreement. However, this statement is inconsistent with the Agency's findings of uranium particles of anthropogenic origin at undeclared locations in Iran. The Agency needs to know the current location(s) of the nuclear material and/or of contaminated equipment involved."

"Iran still is not implementing modified Code 3.1, which is a legal obligation for Iran, having stated it had suspended such implementation," continued Grossi.

Russia Rejects Report About Receiving Ballistic Missiles From Iran



TEHRAN (Dispatches) - The Kremlin has rejected a report by the Wall Street Journal claiming that Iran has sent short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to be used in the ongoing war in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday said he had seen the report but that not all such reports were correct.

"Iran is our important partner, we are developing our trade and economic relations, we are developing our cooperation and dialog in all possible areas, including the most sensitive ones," Peskov told reporters.

The Journal on September 6 cited unidentified US and European officials as saying that Iran had shipped short-range missiles to Russia.

The European Union also on Monday repeated the same accusation, saying "credible" information provided by allies suggested that Iran has supplied short-range ballistic missiles to Russia to help Moscow wage war in Ukraine and hinted at a "swift" response.

Deputy Commander of Iran's Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters Fazlollah Nozari on Sunday categorically rejected allegations that Tehran is providing missiles to Russia for the Ukraine war.

"No missile has been sent [by Iran] to Russia and such claims are a kind of psychological warfare," he said.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kan'ani also on Monday reaffirmed Tehran's clear stance on the developments in Ukraine and said, "It is unfortunate that some parties, who are looking for conflict and war, are leveling accusations against Iran."

Iran has maintained its policy of impartiality toward the conflict.

However, the US and its Western allies have claimed that Iran is supplying ballistic missiles to Russia for direct use in the Ukraine war.

IRAN NEWS



MP Deplores Russia's Paradoxical Policies amid Zangezur Corridor Controversy

TEHRAN (Tasnim) – An Iranian lawmaker lamented that Russia has adopted contradictory policies on Iran after Moscow's support for the creation of the so-called Zangezur corridor that is designed to link the Republic of Azerbaijan with Nakhchivan without Armenian checkpoints.

In an interview with Tasnim, member of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Fadahossain Maleki, said Iran expects Moscow to avoid paradoxical behavior in its relations with Tehran.

Iran's diplomacy will give a strong response to the Russian president's recent stances in support of the Zangezur corridor, the MP added, stressing that Iran's national interests are its red line that cannot be crossed with any threat.

Maleki slammed Russia's double standards on regional issues and its push for the creation of Zangezur corridor as a "stab in the back" that is totally unacceptable to Iran.

Chamber of Guilds Determined to Manage Employment of Afghans



TEHRAN - Mehdi Omidvar, spokesperson for the Iran Chamber of Guilds, in an interview with ILNA, spoke about the Chamber's determination to manage the employment of foreign nationals, especially Afghans, in the country. He explained that this concern will again be addressed in today's meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Guilds, where the management of foreign nationals' employment across various guilds and the transfer of technical skills to them will be discussed.

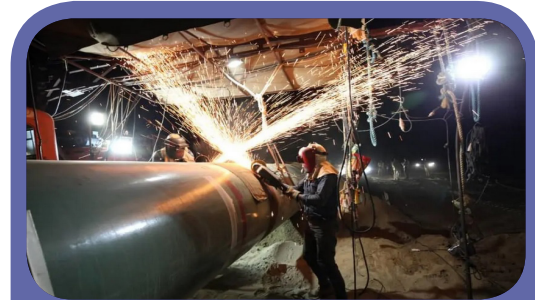
He added that the Chamber acknowledges that the influx of Afghans into Iran's labor market is taking away employment opportunities from Iranians.

Omidvar noted that some Afghans residing in Iran are considered citizens of the country. These individuals are granted rights, including the right to work, and the national guild system has made provisions for Afghans with residency permits to obtain business licenses and start their own businesses under certain conditions.

However, he emphasized that some Afghans are working in Iran without residency and work permits. The Chamber of Guilds has repeatedly sent letters to unions, similar to its communication about military conscripts, stressing that these individuals should not be employed. The same stance applies to foreign nationals without residency permits.

The spokesperson stated that while Afghan workers may be cheaper than their Iranian counterparts, this leads to the transfer of Iranian knowledge and skills to Afghans. The Chamber, along with other national institutions, recognizes the risk that job opportunities for Iranians are being taken over by Afghans.

He further added that Afghans are now significantly present in sectors such as restaurant management, bag and shoe manufacturing, and clothing production.



Establishing Gas Export Infrastructure to Oman

According to ILNA, from the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company,

TEHRAN - CEO of the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company, Reza Noshadi, says that the National Iranian Gas Company has utilized all its resources to develop energy infrastructure along the Makran coast. He added that, in line with the Makran Coastal Development Plan, major and profitable gas projects have so far been implemented for the cities of Chabahar, Konarak, Jask, Sirik, Kuh-e Mobarak, and Minab, in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchistan and Hormozgan.

He announced that creating the necessary infrastructure for gas exports to Oman is one of the main goals of the "Minab-Sirik-Kuh Mobarak Gas Pipeline" project. He explained that the first phase of this project is the 42-inch Minab-Sirik pipeline, which spans 120 kilometers and branches off from the Seventh National Gas Pipeline. With gas injection in the near future, the industries in eastern Hormozgan province will benefit from a stable gas supply.

According to Noshadi, other benefits of the Minab-Sirik phase include gas supply to the cities, villages, and industries in Minab, Sirik, the industrial region of Goruk, and the Kuestak power plant.

The CEO of the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company elaborated on the construction of the second phase, the "42-inch Sirik-Kuh Mobarak Gas Pipeline," which is expected to become operational by the end of this year. This 80-kilometer pipeline will transfer gas from the Seventh National Gas Pipeline to the Kuh-e Mobarak region near Jask city, which is the exit point for gas exports to Oman.

Noshadi also highlighted the Ministry of Petroleum's comprehensive plan to transform Jask into an energy hub for southern Iran. He said that the construction of petrochemical and refinery units, along with the development of fisheries, steel industries, power plants, and desalination units, will attract numerous investors, economic actors, and exporters to southern Iran, thus realizing the long-standing dream of a marine-based economic leap.

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK

Petrochemical Sector Has Left Behind Dependency

TEHRAN - Iran's petrochemical industry has left behind 116 years of dependence on catalysts and is nearing the culmination of its progress.

The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Morteza Shahrizadei made the remarks at the opening ceremony of the 18th Iran Plast International Exhibition, adding before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979 the country's petrochemical sector with just five petrochemical plants was fully dependent on foreigners from designing to production.

He further said that Iran's petrochemical sector owes 95 percent of its progress to after-revolution activities, adding the sector has taken great steps in the direction of domestic production of its technical know-how needs.

The CEO continued: Last year, the Iranian research and technology companies ranked first among the petrochemical know-how companies in the world given the number of contracts they could conclude in the fields of know-how, licensing, and catalyst production.

In 2022, Iranian knowledge-based companies exported more than 1500 varieties of catalysts and the country could end its 116 years of dependency on the product during less than three years of the 13th administration in office to August 2024, he said.

"By relying on Iranian young experts' capabilities, we are determined to produce the remaining 15 percent of petrochemical goods and equipment at home over the next five years so that the flow of petrochemical commodities and equipment gets reversed and Iran becomes the hub of petrochemical products exports," NPC's CEO said.

He stated that the current petrochemical production capacity of the

country stands at 96 million tons annually, adding this capacity will mount to 100 million tons before the end of this Iranian calendar year on 19 March 2025 by exploiting 20 planned projects of which 7 projects have come online so far.

The 18th edition of the Iran Plast International Exhibition kicked at the permanent location of Tehran International Exhibitions.

According to Shana, the 4-day event was convened in the presence of the CEO of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Morteza Shahrizadei, several members of Parliament, some ambassadors, and several petrochemical industry managers.

The international exhibition covers different issues including raw materials and petrochemical products, technical engineering services, prefabricated and manufactured products, machinery and equipment, scientific, research and academic centers, HSE laboratory tests, information technology and digital transformation, masterbatch and granular services and polymer compounds.

525 domestic companies, 244 foreign companies plus 44 foreign companies' representatives, mainly from China, Italy, Taiwan, Korea, Turkey, France, India, Germany, Spain, and Russia have participated in the event.

150 businessmen in the form of 12 business delegations are planned to visit the exhibition. During their visits, these businessmen mainly from Russia, Serbia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, Belarus, Syria, Iraq, and Oman will examine the possibility of expanding cooperation with Iranian petrochemical companies.

Goal of a 12% Increase in Oil Exports in the Seventh Development Plan

TEHRAN – First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref at the ceremony for the outgoing and incoming ministers of oil posed the question of what role we play in providing low-efficiency, high-fuel consumption products to the public and noted that the imbalance in natural gas and oil products is a major issue for the country. Currently, gasoline production is 110 million liters, while peak consumption in recent days has reached 140 million liters.

He pointed out two absolute advantages of the Ministry of Oil: highly skilled personnel and vast oil and gas reserves. Aref said that utilizing human capital and leading scientific figures in this ministry is a top priority. He also mentioned that the country's oil and gas reserves, valued at \$20 trillion, are another key advantage in the nation's development and progress.

The First Vice President emphasized that with 208 billion barrels of oil reserves, Iran ranks third in oil reserves globally and second in natural gas reserves, with 32 trillion cubic meters. He continued, stating that Iran holds the top global position in combined oil and gas reserves, valued at \$340 billion. These two advantages — human capital and vast reserves — provide strong support for the implementation and realization of the seventh development plan.

Aref stressed the critical role of the Ministry of Oil in achieving the goals of the 20-year Vision Document and emphasized the need to strengthen the share of oil and gas in the country's overall development, especially in economic indicators.

He reiterated the need to implement the policies of the Resistance Economy, with a primary strategy of making the country more resilient to external shocks, including sanctions from the West and the U.S. He added that these policies highlight reducing vulnerability to fluctuations in oil and gas revenues.

Aref noted that while there has been instability in oil and gas revenues in recent years, the country is now in a position to

choose strategic customers.

He acknowledged that in the past, alternative channels were sometimes used for oil sales and that there is a need for transparency in this regard. Furthermore, he stressed that the Ministry of Oil should evaluate and implement sustainable sales strategies with reliable customers.

Aref also highlighted positive experiences from previous years in diversifying

oil sales methods and called for a review of past practices. He stressed the essential role of private sector participation in oil sales, noting that this should be encouraged as far as the policies of Article 44 allow. He pointed out that despite past tendencies toward government monopolies, private sector involvement has become increasingly feasible since the approval of these policies by the Supreme Leader and subsequent legal endorsement.

Aref further highlighted the importance of increasing oil and gas exports, including petroleum products and gas condensates. He noted that gas swaps, which have been part of the country's strategy in the past, could help transform Iran into a regional energy hub. In addition, exports of petrochemical products and petroleum derivatives are other areas that can play a significant role in meeting national needs and creating jobs.

Aref emphasized the importance of adhering to general policies, stating that the Seventh Development Plan includes both software (structural reforms) and hardware (investments). However, he acknowledged that there are challenges in the investment sector and noted that the program includes relevant benchmarks, with \$250 billion in investment needed to implement it.

According to the Seventh Development Plan, the government is required to develop a resource mobilization strategy within the next year. Given the importance of the Ministry of Oil in securing financial resources, serious efforts are needed to define the necessary mechanisms.

Household Electricity Consumption is 1.5 Times Higher than Turkey's



TEHRAN - Seyed Saeed Mirsharifi addressed recent doubts about the relatively low per capita electricity consumption in Iran's household sector compared to other countries, particularly European nations. He said that every country supplies household energy based on its geographical position, available resources, and infrastructure. Therefore, comparing the consumption of a specific type of energy between countries is only valid if both nations have similar conditions in their use of different energy sources for household needs.

He explained that both electricity and gas are used for household energy in Iran during both warm and cold seasons, while many other countries have different energy supply methods.

Mirsharifi mentioned that the closest country to Iran in terms of household energy sources is Turkey, where, like in Iran, households use both electricity and gas. Therefore, comparing electricity consumption between Iran and Turkey is somewhat reasonable.

According to the World Energy Yearbook, the per capita electricity consumption in Iran's households is 1,068 kilowatt-hours, while in Turkey, it is 664 kilowatt-hours. This means that each Iranian consumes over 1.5 times more electricity than a Turkish citizen.

Regarding European countries like Germany and France, Mirsharifi said that the per capita electricity consumption in German households is 1,552 kilowatt-hours and in France, 2,565 kilowatt-hours. However, in these countries, electricity is the sole source of household energy, including cooking, which naturally leads to higher electricity consumption.

He emphasized that comparing per capita electricity consumption across countries does not yield accurate results. To make a fair comparison with countries that rely solely on electricity for household energy, Iran's household gas consumption should be converted into an equivalent amount of electricity, and then compared to the total household energy consumption of those countries.

Mirsharifi noted that if Iran's household gas consumption were converted into electricity, the per capita electricity consumption would exceed 4,500 kilowatt-hours, which is even higher than the U.S., where the figure is 4,341 kilowatt-hours.

He concluded by highlighting that over the past 30 years, Iran's energy consumption has been increasing, contrary to global trends. This means that producing the same goods in Iran requires, on average, 60% more energy, indicating high energy, especially electricity consumption in the country.

15% Increase in Iran's Trade With OIC Countries



TEHRAN - Mohammad Rezvani-Far, head of Iran's Customs Administration, stated that Iran's non-oil trade with the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) increased by 15% in the first five months of this year, reaching \$26.7 billion. The volume of non-oil trade between Iran and OIC member countries during this period amounted to 42.3 million tons, showing a 10% increase compared to the same period last year.

Rezvani-Far added that out of the total non-oil trade exchanges with 56 OIC member countries, 33.6 million tons, worth \$13.5 billion, were allocated to exports.

He mentioned that Iran's non-oil exports to OIC member countries grew by 8% in volume and 16% in value during the first five months of this year.

Regarding imports from OIC countries during the first five months of 1403 (Iranian calendar), the Deputy Minister of Economy stated that 8.7 million tons of goods, worth \$13.2 billion, were imported, reflecting an 18% increase in volume and a 15% rise in value.

Rezvani-Far noted that the highest volume of Iran's non-oil trade among OIC member countries during this period was with the UAE, Turkey, Iraq, Pakistan, and Oman, with \$24 billion of the total trade volume allocated to these five countries.

Venezuela's Opposition Leader Vows to Continue Fight for Freedom

CARACAS (Dispatches) - Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia — who insists he, not strongman Nicolas Maduro, is Venezuela's legitimate president-elect — fled for exile in Spain yesterday and vowed to "continue the fight" for freedom and democracy. Gonzalez Urrutia arrived in Madrid after weeks in hiding in the crisis-torn South American country. The opposition says it can prove he won the July 28 elections in which Maduro claimed a victory that has been widely disputed. Shortly after touching down on a military plane, the 75-year-old's press team distributed an audio message in which he said he was "confident that soon we will continue the fight to achieve freedom and the recovery of democracy in Venezuela." The choice for Gonzalez Urrutia to leave was made because "his life was in danger," opposition leader Maria Corina Machado said on X earlier, citing a "brutal wave of repression" in the election aftermath.



Russia Takes Ukrainian Town in Advance on Pokrovsk



MOSCOW (Dispatches) - Russia said on Sunday its forces had taken full control of a town in eastern Ukraine as Moscow's forces advance on the strategically important city of Pokrovsk and seek to pierce the Ukrainian defensive front lines. Russian forces, which control about a fifth of Ukraine since invading in February 2022, are advancing in eastern Ukraine in an attempt to take the whole of the Donbas, which is about half the size of the U.S. state of Ohio. Russia's defence ministry said its forces had taken the town of Novohrodivka, which lies 12 km (7 miles) from Pokrovsk, an important rail and road hub for Ukrainian forces in the area. The town had a population of 14,000 before the war. Yuri Podolyaka, an influential Ukrainian-born, pro-Russian military blogger, published maps showing Russian forces attacking beyond Novohrodivka in at least two places less than 7 km (4 miles) from Pokrovsk. The General Staff of the Ukrainian military, in a report issued on Sunday evening, gave details of fighting throughout the Pokrovsk sector, including Novohrodivka. It said 29 attempted Russian advances had been repelled, with seven skirmishes continuing. "Our troops are taking measures to maintain designated positions," it said. But an interview with a Ukrainian officer broadcast last week by U.S.-funded Radio Liberty said Ukrainian forces had abandoned Novohrodivka on grounds that the positions there were not favourable for defending it.

Algeria Declares President Tebboune Election Winner With 95% of Vote



ALGIERS (Dispatches) - Algerian authorities declared President Abdelmadjid Tebboune the overwhelming winner of Saturday's election on Sunday, but a rival candidate alleged irregularities in the count and fewer than half of registered voters cast ballots. Official preliminary results gave Tebboune 95% of the vote, enough to avoid a second round run-off, with Abdelali Hassani Cherif getting 3% and Youcef Aouchiche 2%. Turnout was 48%. Tebboune, backed by the military, was facing only nominal opposition from Hassani Cherif, a moderate Islamist, and Aouchiche, a moderate secularist, both running with the blessing of Algeria's powerful establishment. Hassani Cherif's campaign said polling station officials had been pressured to inflate results and alleged failures to deliver vote-sorting records to candidates' representatives, as well as instances of proxy group voting. "This is a farce," said Hassani Cherif's spokesperson Ahmed Sadok, adding that the candidate had won far more votes than had been announced, citing the campaign's own tallies from regions. Reuters could not immediately verify those tallies or reach Tebboune's or Aouchiche's campaign for comment. However, electoral commission head Mohammed Charfi said when announcing the results that the body had worked to ensure transparency and fair competition among all candidates. Late on Sunday, three presidential candidates, including Tebboune and Cherif, issued a joint statement in which they objected to the provisional results announced by the electoral commission. "We inform public opinion of the ambiguity, contradiction, vagueness and conflicting numbers recorded with the announcement of the provisional results of the presidential elections," the joint statement said. Tebboune's re-election means Algeria will likely keep on with a governing programme that has resumed lavish social spending based on increased energy revenues after he came into office in 2019 following a period of lower oil prices. He has promised to raise unemployment benefits, pensions and public housing programmes, all of which he increased during his

first term as president. "As long as Tebboune continues to raise wages and pensions and maintain subsidies he will be the best in my eyes," said Ali, a cafe customer in the Ouled Fayet district of Algiers, asking not to write his family name. First elected during the mass "hirak" (movement) protests that forced his veteran predecessor Abdelaziz Bouteflika from power after 20 years, Tebboune has backed a tough approach from the security forces, which have jailed prominent dissidents. His election in 2019 reflected the anti-establishment mood in Algeria that year, with turnout of 40%, far below previous votes. The protests, which brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets every week for more than a year demanding an end to corruption and the ousting of the ruling elite, were finally curtailed by the COVID pandemic. "Turnout is very low. It shows that the vast majority is like me," said another Ouled Fayet resident, Slimane, 24, who also asked not to give his family name. He did not vote because he does not trust politicians, he said. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 boosted European demand for Algerian gas and pushed energy prices back up, increasing Algerian state revenue after years of burning through foreign exchange reserves and leading to new hydrocarbons projects. While using much of the money for social handouts, Tebboune's government has also pushed economic reforms aimed at strengthening the private sector to create jobs. However, while unemployment is down from its highs of around 14% during the pandemic, it remained above 12% last year and inflation is also high. The economic difficulties faced by ordinary Algerians may have contributed to the low turnout on Saturday. "Turnout at 48% versus 40% in 2019 clearly shows that the gap between rulers and the people is still to be filled," said political analyst Farid Ferrari. In foreign policy, Tebboune's record is patchy.

More Civilians Killed Hours After Sudan Rejects UN Experts' Report

PORT SUDAN (Dispatches) - Shelling killed at least 21 people at a market in southeast Sudan Sunday, a day after the country's rulers rejected a call by UN experts for an independent force to protect civilians from the devastating civil war. The Sudan Doctors Network blamed the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) for the shelling, which happened in the town of Sennar. As well as the 21 killed, it said more than 70 people had been wounded in the attack. The attack was just the latest in a bloody conflict that broke out in April last year between the army and paramilitary forces. It has already killed tens of thousands of people and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Sunday's market shelling came a day after Sudan's foreign ministry rejected a call by independent UN experts for "an independent and impartial force with a mandate to safeguard civilians" to be deployed "without delay". The UN experts spoke out Friday, saying their fact-finding mission had uncovered "harrowing" violations by both sides, "which may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity". But the foreign ministry, which is loyal to the army under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, ruled out their proposal in a statement issued late Saturday. "The Sudanese government rejects in their entirety the recommendations of the UN mission," it said. It denounced the UN Human Rights Council, which created the fact-finding mission last year, as "a political and illegal body", and called the panel's recommendations "a flagrant violation of their mandate".

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) - US House of Representatives Republicans will release a long-awaited report on Monday blasting Democratic President Joe Biden's administration for failures surrounding the chaotic and deadly US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021. The report contends that the administration made its decision to evacuate noncombatants far too late, formally ordering it only on Aug. 16, failed to communicate between departments in Washington and among officials in Afghanistan, and botched the paperwork for the departure of Afghan civilians eligible to leave the country. It is the result of a three-year investigation led by Representative Michael McCaul, Republican chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "America's credibility on the world stage was severely damaged after we abandoned Afghan allies to Taliban reprisal killings — the people of Afghanistan we had promised to protect," the report said. "And the moral injury to America's veterans and those still serving remains a stain on this administration's legacy." The withdrawal has become intensely politicised ahead of the Nov. 5 US presidential election. Last month, the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, shot video for his campaign at Arlington National Cemetery where he appeared at a ceremony honoring troops killed in the evacuation. Trump has also attacked Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris over the exit from Afghanistan during campaign appearances, blaming them personally for the deaths at Kabul airport's Abbey Gate. On Aug. 26, 2021, as US forces were trying to help Americans and Afghans flee as the Islamist Taliban movement took control of the country, a suicide attack at the Abbey Gate entrance to Kabul's airport killed 13 Americans,



compounding the US sense of defeat after two decades of war. Harris is the Democratic presidential nominee. Democrats have insisted that some blame for the messy end of the war - less than seven months into Biden's presidency - should be laid at the feet of Trump, who began the withdrawal process by signing a deal with the Taliban in 2020. "When former President Trump took office, there were approximately 14,000 American troops in Afghanistan. Days before leaving office, the former President ordered a further reduction to 2,500," Representative Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the Foreign Affairs panel, said in a letter to committee Democrats about the investigation. Republican committee aides dismissed that contention as partisan politics, saying Biden could have ignored Trump's agreement or enforced it, accusing officials who served during Biden's presidency of allowing the Taliban to disregard its commitments. Some 800,000 US service members served in Afghanistan following the US-led invasion triggered by the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the US by Afghanistan-based al Qaeda. During the war, 2,238 US servicemembers died and nearly 21,000 were wounded. Independent estimates put the number of Afghan security forces and civilians killed at more than 100,000. McCaul has subpoenaed Secretary of State Antony Blinken three times in connection with the Afghanistan investigation, most recently last week, saying that he wants him to testify in person.

Gunman Crossing From Jordan Kills Three Israelis at Border



WEST BANK (Dispatches) - A gunman from Jordan killed three Israeli civilians at the Allenby Bridge border crossing in the occupied West Bank before security forces shot him dead on Sunday, Israeli authorities said. It was the first attack of its kind along the border with Jordan since Oct. 7, when Palestinian Islamist group Hamas carried out an assault on southern Israel, sparking the war in Gaza that has escalated throughout the region. The attack took place in a commercial cargo area under Israeli control where Jordanian trucks offload cargo entering the West Bank, officials said. The crossing, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, lies about midway between Amman and Jerusalem just north of the Dead Sea. The assailant was a 39-year-old truck driver who came from the influential Huwaitat tribe in southern Jordan, according to family members. He was later identified by the Jordanian interior ministry as Maher Ziab Hussein al-Jazi, a

resident of the Husseiniya area in Jordan's southern Ma'an governorate. "A terrorist approached the area of the Allenby Bridge from Jordan in a truck, exited the truck, and opened fire at the Israeli security forces operating at the bridge," the Israeli military said. "The terrorist was eliminated by the security forces, three Israeli civilians were pronounced dead as a result of the attack." Jordan was investigating the shooting. The Allenby Bridge, a crucial crossing for trade between Jordan and Israel and one of five land border crossings between the two countries, has been closed, Jordan's interior ministry added. The crossing mostly serves the more than 3 million Palestinians living in the West Bank. The Israeli manager of the crossing said three workers were shot dead at close range by the driver crossing from Jordan. Anti-Israeli sentiment runs high in Jordan, and hundreds of people took to the streets of the capital Amman to celebrate the attack, saying the gunman had avenged the deaths of thousands of Palestinians in the war in Gaza. Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty in 1994 and have close security ties. Dozens of trucks cross daily from Jordan, with goods from Jordan and the Gulf that supply both the West Bank and Israeli markets. Israeli President Isaac Herzog, whose role is largely ceremonial, urged all parties to investigate the incident to prevent repeat attacks.

Curtain Drawn on Paris Paralympics, Ending Paris Olympic Summer



PARIS (Dispatches) - The Paris 2024 Games came to a close just like they started, in the rain, but amid a festive atmosphere with an electro-party at the Stade de France on Sunday to conclude the Paralympics – and put an end to six weeks of thrilling sport in the French capital.

A summer sporting bonanza that started under pouring rain on July 26 with a remarkable opening ceremony on the Seine River ended Sunday with the Paralympics closing ceremony at a rain-soaked Stade de France.

It lowered the curtain on successful back-to-back events that captivated fans and raised the bar high for others to follow. Good luck Los Angeles in 2028.

As the stadium was lit up in the blue, white and red colors of the French national flag, a trumpet player played the national anthem "La Marseillaise" and Paralympic flagbearers then made their way into the stadium carrying national flags to the sound of "Chariots of Fire" by Vangelis.

"Everyone can see what an inclusive world is like," Tony Estanguet, the head of the Paris Olympics in 2024, said in his closing speech. "Now there is no turning back."

The International Paralympic Committee president Andrew Parsons said France excelled itself as a host in both Games.

"Paris 2024 has set a benchmark for all future Paralympic Games," Parsons said. "For a country famous for its fashion and its food, France is now famous for its fans."

The crowd clapped along to a breakdancing set, before Tony Award winner Ali Stroker performed the American national anthem as a part of the handoff to Los Angeles.

Stroker made history in 2019 as the first person who uses a wheelchair to win a Tony Award for her turn as Ado Annie in the Broadway revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Oklahoma!" In another portion of

the screened handoff to LA, Venice Beach Skate Park transformed into a 360-degree stage featuring skateboarders and wheelchair motocross riders.

Then, the crowd roared as famed French electronic music composer Jean-Michel Jarre began closing out the ceremony, which was again led by artistic director Thomas Jolly.

The 76-year-old Jarre spanned tunes as in a Parisian nightclub, oblivious to the rain lashing down on him. Jolly wanted to turn the stadium into a giant open-air dance party. More than 20 DJs, including Étienne de Crécy, Martin Solveig and Kavinsky, followed the trailblazer Jarre in a tribute to French electro music to the theme "Journey of the Wave."

After the successful Olympics showcased the vibrancy of fans from around the world and the beauty of the city's iconic venues, there were doubts that the energy would keep going into the Aug. 28-Sept. 8 Paralympics.

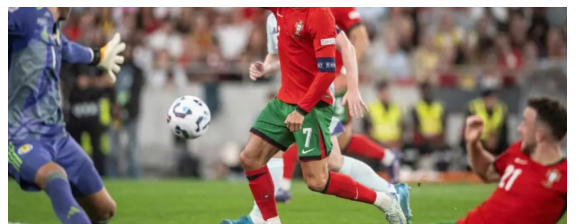
Those doubts were dispelled, with athletes enjoying strong support. Not all venues were sold out, but this was also because the summer holiday period was ending and children were returning to school.

A surge of enthusiasm saw 2.4 million tickets of the 2.8 million tickets sold – second only to the 2.7 million sold at the 2012 London Games – and this was some feat considering that by late June only 1 million had been sold.

Large swaths of Parisians vacated – some say fled – the city amid concerns over traffic chaos, political upheaval, social tensions and growing fears over security.

But locals who stayed or French fans coming in from other towns and cities gave their athletes huge support over both Games.

Ronaldo Strikes Late to Seal Portugal Win Over Scotland



LISBON (Dispatches) - Cristiano Ronaldo's late strike sealed Portugal's 2-1 win over Scotland as the 901st goal of the striker's extraordinary career completed a stirring fightback in Sunday's Nations League clash.

The 39-year-old showed no signs of being sated by that incredible milestone as he came off the bench to lift Portugal to their second successive win in Nations League Group A1.

The Estadio da Luz in Lisbon rose in unison to chant the relentless Al-Nassr forward's name after he struck with two minutes to play.

On his 30th birthday, Manchester United midfielder Bruno Fernandes fired Portugal's second half equaliser after his former Old Trafford team-mate Scott McTominay gave Scotland a surprise early lead.

For Portugal boss Roberto Martinez, victory over Scotland could mean some awkward silences at his next family gathering.

Martinez met his wife Beth while playing for Scottish club Motherwell in 2001 and joked before the match he would be delighted to upset his father-in-law by beating Scotland.

He did exactly that, leaving Scotland still waiting for their first win over Portugal.

Beaten 3-2 by Poland at Hampden Park on Thursday, Scotland have won just once in 14 matches, a barren sequence that included their lacklustre failure to make it out of the group stage at Euro 2024.

Steve Clarke's men have lost six of their nine matches in 2024, with their only victory coming in a friendly against Gibraltar in June.

"When you bring quality players from the bench like Roberto can do you always know there's a risk," Clarke said.

Hill Sparks Dolphins Comeback, Cowboys Rout Browns in NFL

MIAMI (Dispatches) - Tyreek Hill helped the Miami Dolphins to a 20-17 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars just hours after being arrested by police as comebacks dominated on a wild first full day of the NFL season on Sunday.

Dolphins receiver Hill was at the center of off-field controversy early Sunday after being arrested by traffic cops near the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami as he drove to the game.

The 30-year-old speedster was filmed lying face down on the road as police officers handcuffed him for what was later described as a minor traffic violation before being released without charge. Miami police later said one of the officers involved in the stop had been placed on leave.

Hill shrugged off the incident, though, to help the Dolphins recover from a 14-0 second-quarter deficit, with Miami sealing victory thanks to Jason Sanders' 52-yard field goal on the final play of the game.

The star of the show though was Hill, who electrified the Miami crowd with a sensational 80-yard third-quarter touchdown that put the Dolphins within three points at 17-14.

The receiver then cheekily alluded to his arrest by pretending to be handcuffed by teammate Jaylen Waddle in his touchdown celebration before Miami went on to close out victory.

"I was able to calm down a little bit because I know I had a job



to do," Hill said of his pre-game drama. "I've got a family to feed, I've got to be a leader of this team."

In other games on Sunday, Dak Prescott celebrated agreeing to terms on a lucrative new contract extension by leading the Dallas Cowboys to a 33-17 rout of the Cleveland Browns.

Prescott has reportedly agreed a four-year contract deal worth a reported \$240 million to make him the highest-paid player in NFL history.

The 31-year-old finished with 179 passing yards and a touchdown in a comprehensive defeat of a disappointing Browns team that saw quarterback Deshaun Watson sacked six times.

Elsewhere, there was a double-digit fightback in Buffalo as

Josh Allen led the Bills to a 34-28 win over the Arizona Cardinals at Highmark Stadium.

Bills quarterback Allen rushed for two touchdowns and threw for two more to help Buffalo overturn a 17-3 second quarter deficit.

Allen finished with 232 passing yards from 18-of-23 completions in an impressive start to the season for one of the NFL's most talented quarterbacks.

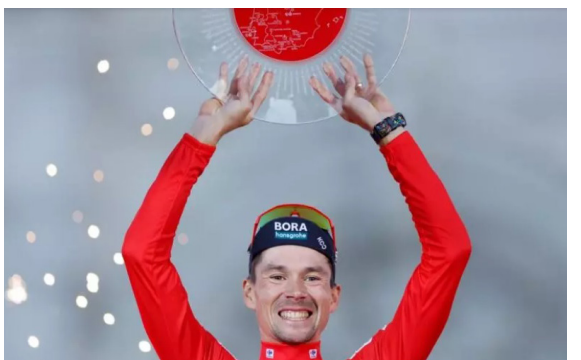
In Chicago, meanwhile, No.1 draft pick Caleb Williams's NFL career got off to a rocky but victorious start as the Bears defense set up a come-from-behind 24-17 victory over Tennessee.

The Titans grabbed a 17-3 half-time lead but the Bears roared back with safety Jonathan Owens -- husband of US Olympic gymnastics superstar Simone Biles -- scooping up a blocked punt for a touchdown to launch an unanswered 21-point run by Chicago.

In Atlanta, Pittsburgh overcame the injury absence of quarterback Russell Wilson to grind out an 18-10 win over the host Falcons, with all Steelers' points coming from six Chris Boswell field goals.

Also on Sunday, C.J. Stroud threw for two touchdowns and 234 yards in a gripping 29-27 victory for the Houston Texans at Indianapolis.

Roglic Wins Crazy Record-Equaling Fourth Vuelta



MADRID (Dispatches) - Primož Roglič won the Vuelta a España for a record-equalling fourth time on Sunday, the perfect pick-me-up after crashing out of the Tour de France.

The Slovenian wrapped up his fifth-career Grand Tour when he finished second in the closing time-trial on the streets of Madrid won by Stefan Kung.

"It's crazy - already four, I just want to enjoy it" he said before hugging his wife Lora and children.

Australia's Ben O'Connor finished runner-up overall with Spain's Enric Mas completing the podium.

With the sun setting on the streets of the Spanish capital Roglič, 34, drew level with Spaniard Roberto Heras for number of wins in the season's third and closing Grand Tour.

Roglič finished the race 2min 36sec up on O'Connor, with Mas (Movistar) third at 3:13.

After 81 hours, 49 minutes and 18 seconds in the saddle an exhausted but happy Roglič said: "This is nice! The more you go to an end, you just want to finish it off."

"There's a lot of sacrificing, not only by me, but also my family, everyone around me. We all live for it. I just feel happy I can do it."

"I really appreciate all the support from the people around me."

Roglič, riding for Red Bull-Bora-hansgrohe team, had to fight for the red jersey after a gruelling race that began three weeks ago in Portugal and featured some of the toughest climbs the sport has to offer.

He won stage four to take the overall lead but then O'Connor (Decathlon AG2R La Mondiale team) burst to the top of the general classification by almost five minutes.

Roglič slowly chipped away at the Australian's massive cushion with a bunch of strong mountain place finishes.

He reclaimed the leader's red jersey after his third win on stage 19.

This Vuelta triumph went a long way to making up for the disappointment of his Tour de France-ending crash before stage 13.

Sinner Beats Fritz in Straight Sets to Win US Open Title

NEW YORK (Dispatches) - Jannik Sinner won his second Grand Slam title of 2024 on Sunday when he swept aside Taylor Fritz in the US Open final, shattering American hopes of a first male champion at the majors in 21 years.

World number one Sinner, who won his maiden Slam at the Australian Open in January, became the first Italian man to triumph in New York with a 6-3, 6-4, 7-5 victory.

For 23-year-old Sinner, it was a 55th match win of the season and sixth title.

After his 21-year-old rival Carlos Alcaraz pocketed the French Open and Wimbledon titles to take his majors collection to four, the two men have cemented their places as the powerhouses of tennis's new era.

World number 12 Fritz was bidding to be the first American man since Andy Roddick in New York in 2003 to win a major.

He was backed by A-list celebrity support amongst the 23,000-strong crowd inside Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Pop queen Taylor Swift watched alongside boyfriend and NFL star Travis Kelce while Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey was hard to miss as he donned a Stars and Stripes headband.

Sinner raced to a 2-0 lead in the first set before Fritz settled and levelled for 2-2.

The 26-year-old American saved a break point on the back of an exhausting 23-shot rally in the fifth game but soon slipped 4-3 down.



Sinner pounced again with a third break to claim the opening set as Fritz fired a backhand long.

The two players had only dropped serve a combined 20 times over six rounds each at the tournament before Sunday's final.

That strength shone through in the second set with the first nine games all service holds until the 10th.

Sinner then carved out two set points but only needed one, a deep forehand forcing Fritz into a desperate scramble before he buried his return limply in the net.

By that stage of the final, Sinner had committed just nine unforced errors to the 19 of Fritz in an illustration of his control of the court.

Fritz, the first American man in any Grand Slam final since Roddick at Wimbledon in 2009, saw three break

points come and go in the first game of the third set.

But Sinner served up his fourth double fault of the final to hand Fritz a 4-3 lead.

With his back to the wall, the Italian top seed then broke back in the 10th game as Fritz served for the set and held for 6-5.

He went to two championship points when a disheartened Fritz ballooned a running forehand and sealed victory when the American netted.

Sinner dedicated his US Open title victory to his aunt, who he revealed is battling serious ill health, admitting: "I don't know how much longer I will have her in my life."

"I love tennis, I practice a lot for these stages but I realise that there is also a life away from the tennis courts and I would like to dedicate this to my aunt who is not feeling well," said Sinner.

"I don't know how much longer I will have her in my life. It's nice I can still share these moments with her. She is an important person in my life and still is."

"If there was a wish I could make I would wish good health on everyone but unfortunately it's not possible."

Sinner had arrived in New York under a cloud after it was revealed he had failed two drug tests but escaped sanction.

He was cleared of all wrong-doing although some fellow players questioned the decision, suggesting that Sinner may have benefitted from preferential treatment due to his high-profile status in the sport.