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Only Lebanese entitled to decide their fate 🔼



Dairy products export hit \$153.7m in 4 months 4



Iran to play Uzbekistan as planned 11



Film Museum of Iran photo exhibit celebrates Ali Hatami's birthday <mark>12</mark>

14 years after 33 days of war See page 2



Iran calls UAE move to normalize ties with Israel shameful

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Friday condemning an agreement between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Zionist regime of Israel to normalize ties.

Iran called the action a "strategic stupidity" by the UAE and Israel.

It is said in the statement that the move will definitely result in boosting the axis

The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this 'shameful' action of Abu Dhabi in

normalizing ties with the fake, anti-human and illegitimate Zionist regime a dangerous action and warns about any interference of the Zionist regime in equations of the Persian Gulf region and announces that the government of the Emirates and other accompanying governments must admit responsibility for consequences of this action," said the statement.

The statement described the action as a "dagger in the back of the Palestinians and all the Muslims". →2

Major water projects inaugurated in western provinces

TEHRAN – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, on Thursday, inaugurated major irrigation and drainage projects worth 17.73 trillion rials (about \$422 million) in the western provinces of Ilam and Kermanshah through video conference, IRNA reported.

Carried out on 23,000 hectares of land, the said projects were inaugurated in the 15th week of the Energy

Ministry's A-B-Iran programs based on which every week several projects will go operational in various provinces across the country.

Reducing the drought impacts, supplying water to households and the industry sector, as well as improving and developing agriculture in Kermanshah and Ilam provinces were reported to be some of the goals of these projects. \rightarrow 4

Anthology of short stories by Iranian writers published in Iraq

TEHRAN — An anthology of short stories from 14 contemporary Iranian writers has been published in Arabic in a book by the Shahriar Publishing House in Iraq.

Entitled "Wind Elegy", the book has been translated into Arabic by Hossein

My Chinese Doll" by Hushang Golshiri, 'Broken Column" by Ahmad Mahmud, "Wind Elegy" by Abutorab Khosravi, "Two Passengers" by Mohammadreza Safdari, "Shark" by Adnan Ghariqi and "Story of Rahman" by Hossein Mortezaian Abkenar are among the stories.

The author and instructor, Keyhan Khanjani, has written an introduction to the book, which briefly reviews a portion of the history of Persian literature.

"Several years after the Constitutional Movement in Iran in 1921, →12



EDITORIAL SISU professor

International cooperation is indispensable to ease economic pain caused by COVID-19 pandemic

¬he coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused nearly 20 million confirmed cases around the world. Affected by the epidemic, the world economy is at a more dangerous time than the 2008 financial crisis. The widespread recognition of economic liberalism has shaped an interdependent international society. At least in economic relations, since globalization, the exchanges and cooperation between countries have basically been mutual and been based on fair competition.

In the near past, given the confidence that comparative advantage can improve the production efficiency of the overall industrial chain at the global level, it is a general consensus among all countries that international trade and cross-border mobility of people are beneficial to national economic development. People believe that increased mobility can stimulate economic vitality and innovation. The coronavirus pandemic may have changed all of the above. While in fact, in the future, to alleviate the global COVID-19 recession and revive the economy, international cooperation will still be indispensable.

1. In a post-epidemic era, globalism is still needed to kickstart the world economy

It should be recognized that globalization is a necessary path for all countries to develop their economies. It is already difficult for one single country to leave the global supply chain and fully achieve self-sufficiency in all production, both developing and developed countries are no exception.

Strategically, open and equal international cooperation is the attitude of communication between countries that effectively fight the new coronavirus and restore the economy. However, when external political risks, economic risks, and even security risks steadily increases, \rightarrow 7

The absolutely magnificent 'Gold Bowl of Hasanlu': Sixty-three years later

TEHRAN — Sixty-three years ago, an Iranian man, named Emamqoli Mohammadi Hasanluei, unearthed a millennia-old gold bowl in the debris of a burned building, part of the major architectural complex at Teppe Hasanlu near the city of Naghadeh in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, a short distance south of Lake Urmia.

It is here, when in 1958 archaeologists came across a layer of an Iron Age city that had been frozen in time - a 'burn layer' containing tens of bodies preserved in ash and rubble. Teppe Hasanlu consists of a 25m high central mound with massive fortifications which is thought to be once a citadel surrounded by paved streets and

an outer town with houses, stables, and temples. Engraved with images of gods and rituals, a stone cylinder with gold caps, a figurine of laminated ivory, and a sword-hilt with a bronze guard, the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu is named after on newspapers around the world, \rightarrow 8

the man who discovered it almost 3000 years later not far from a skeletal hand of an individual who had been fleeing with the piece at the end of the 9th century BC. The excavation was led by the celebrated anthropologist and archaeologist Robert H. Dyson, Jr., who shined at Iran's archaeology scene in the mid-20th century.

In no time it became evident that the bowl epitomized a unique and significant example of the ancient goldsmith's expertise, demonstrating a high degree of technical mastery and a wide range of ornamental motifs that were deemed to provide a key to the religious and mythological traditions of its time.

Over the years, the bowl has been discussed in countless scholarly books and articles including an analysis by Marie-Therese Barrelet (1911-1996) as one of the greatest finds of the decade. Images of the crumpled yet still dazzling bowl appeared

U.S. protests: Portland police and protesters clash in fresh demonstrations near courthouse

by staff & agencies

Protesters and police clashed in downtown Portland in a demonstration that lasted into the pre-dawn hours of Thursday, with some in the crowd setting a fire and exploding commercial-grade fireworks outside a federal courthouse that has been a target in months of conflict in Oregon's largest city.

Officers used teargas to break up the crowd of several hundred people who gathered near the Mark O Hatfield U.S. courthouse, the neighboring Multnomah county justice center and a nearby police precinct station.

Protests have been held nightly in the city since the police killing of George Floyd in May, who died after a white officer pressed a knee to his neck.

Protesters hurled rocks, bottles and paint at officers during the demonstration that started on Wednesday night and went into Thursday morning, Portland police said in a statement. Black Lives Matter. \rightarrow 10

One officer suffered a hand wound described as serious several other officers suffered non-specified injuries and two people were arrested, the statement said.

The protests in Portland reached their apex last month outside the federal courthouse, with demonstrators clashing nightly with federal agents dispatched to the city to protect the courthouse.

The demonstrations dwindled after a drawdown of the agents, who were replaced by Oregon state troopers. But protests turned violent over the last week, mostly near a police union headquarters building miles from the federal courthouse.

Meanwhile, the protesters are on a march across several states. They started in Wisconsin and are headed to Washington D.C. to help celebrate the 57th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech. Along the way, they're continuing to spread the message that



Military unveils upgraded tank

An upgraded version of an Iranian military tank was unveiled on Thursday.

The tank was unveiled at a ceremony by Defense Minister Amir Hatami in Doroud, the western province of Lorestan.

At the ceremony, Hatami said overhauling and upgrading military and defense equipment require up-to-date knowledge. He added that the Defense Ministry relies on domestic capabilities to strengthen mili-

Hatami also expressed hope that experts at the ministry will upgrade all the operational tanks. 3

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Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company

Sanctions on Iran to affect all countries in **COVID-19 battle**

TEHRAN — U.S. sanctions against Iran, which have led to a lack of prevention and treatment equipment, will affect all other countries as well, head of the Medical Council has stated.

U.S. sanctions are oppression that has made COVID-19 fight harder in Iran, IRNA quoted Mohammad Reza Zafarghandi as saying on Thursday.

"I wrote in a letter to the World Health Organization Director General [Tedros Adhanom] and the United Nations Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres] that this oppression against Iran extends to other countries as well, because the coronavirus knows no borders and when there are not enough facilities for prevention and treatment in Iran, the virus spreads and this is oppression on humanity.'

Although food and medicine were claimed to be exempted from the U.S. sanctions, financial and banking sanctions have limited the life-saving medicine trade which harshly targeted the patients suffering from rare diseases.

Moreover, fears of falling afoul of Washington have restricted exports to Iran.

Exemptions for humanitarian trade (such as food, medicine, and medical equipment) have not been effective in protecting Iranian patients from access to imported medicine, such as the bandages used for patients suffering Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic disease that causes painful blistering of the skin.

With the return of sanctions, over a year (May 2018-May 2019), 15 patients covered by EB Health House lost their lives. \rightarrow 7

Lebanon must now counter hybrid war

By Mohammad Mazhari

July 12 marks the 14th anniversary of the start of the 33-day Israeli war on Lebanon in which the Hezbollah resistance movement succeeded to deal a great blow to the Zionist regime's army. Hezbollah aborted any move by Israeli army in the war which surprised military analysts.

Today, Israel is well aware that its offensive against Lebanon in July 2006 increased the deterrence capability of Hezbollah and boosted its morale. Now Tel Aviv cannot assess consequences of any possible war against Hezbollah in the future.

Israel is now fearful of waging a new war against Lebanon as it has realized that the resistance movement is able to respond efficiently and strongly.

Tel Aviv also knows that Hezbollah has developed new defense strategies to confront drone attacks by Israel. However, today Lebanon is facing

another kind of war - economic war - by the U.S. and Israel and their subordinates. Such an approach toward Lebanon shows the failure of classic war against Hezbollah and the Axis of Resistance.

By waging such a hybrid war, Israel has been trying to avenge Hezbollah's victories by provoking economic war on the Lebanese and then portray the resistance movement as the responsible.

It is not surprising that Washington is backing Tel Aviv in the economic and psychological warfare. The U.S. has supported Israel for decades in various means. We never forget U.S. direct military support in the July war,



in which Israel used smart and cluster bombs as well as advanced aircraft to target civilians. During the war, the U.S. shamelessly airlifted weapons to Israel.

Political observers are unanimous in their view that Israel is penalizing the Lebanese for their victory over the Israeli army. At such a situation it is necessary to raise awareness and cherish those heroic moments.

While America is trying to exploit the current economic crisis and the problems arising from the August 4 massive explosion in Beirut, Lebanon needs to get rid of the corrupt system by reviewing the mistakes of the past thirty years.

Nevertheless, it seems that the Americans have retreated in recent days, knowing that what they have done was wrong, especially after Nasrallah's words about the repercussions of their pressure, which may strengthen the support for the Resistance movement in Lebanon and the Axis of Resistance in the region.

We must recall the speech by Sayyed Nasrallah when at the height of the war he said, "Look at the Israeli battleship on fire." At the time, he also said, "I considered this a gift for me personally and not only for the nation because this is the language that the enemy understands.'

Hezbollah showed that Resistance could protect Lebanon and gave a lesson to the enemy so that they would not dare to attack the country again. Now Lebanon must provide actual support to guard the Resistance movement because America is seeking to undermine the Resistance movement and depict it as the main cause of the economic crisis engulfing Lebanon.

Resistance proved that Lebanon can win and can rise again from ashes, despite the economic war waged by the U.S.

The awareness and intelligence in countering this war are important factors. To offset the war, Lebanon needs some

stShift towards a productive economy, *Cooperate with the outside world and embrace multiple options,

*Complete the campaign against

In this regard the Resistance in Lebanon can bet on steadfastness and support of Hezbollah and its allies to prevent the country from falling into abyss.

Here we recall the words of Nasrallah in the July War when he said, "We are faced with two options. Either we submit to the conditions that the enemy wants to dictate to us, with international, American, and unfortunately Arab support, which tries to put Lebanon under the Israeli control or stand firm and confront the Zionists ... and I promise

IAEA must investigate Saudi violation of NPT

TEHRAN – Professor Frank N. von Hippel, former assistant director for national security in the White House Office, believes that some US companies are assisting Saudi Arabia with its Nuclear activities.

Professor Frank N. von Hippel, says that Saudi Arabia should be required to inform the IAEA of nuclear facilities at the design and construction stage as Iran has agreed

"I hope the report on construction of a uranium mill will result in the IAEA demanding access as it did in Iran," Frank N. von Hippel tells Mehr News in an exclusive interview.

The following is the interview:

According to the New York Times, US intelligence agencies have in recent weeks published a confidential analysis of current actions inside Saudi Arabia and in cooperation with China to build the industrial capacity needed to produce nuclear fuel. The analysis has raised alarms that there may be covert moves by Saudi Arabia and China to produce unenriched uranium so that it can later be enriched to fuel nuclear weapons. What will be the reaction of the Trump administration to this report?

A: Exports/imports of technology for mining and separation of uranium from uranium ore are not considered sensitive. However, it is a concern that Saudi Arabia is not transparent. If it has not informed the IAEA about its facilities, it may violate its NPT safeguards commitment. You may recall that the IAEA Board declared Iran in violation because it had not informed the IAEA of its

enrichment program before it became public in 2003. With regard to the view within the Trump White House, President Trump does not care about international law. He divides the world into his friends and enemies often depending upon whether they provide profitable business to him and his family. Friends like Saudi Arabia can do whatever they want. Enemies like Iran should be punished whether they have violated international law or not.



Congress has a more balanced view and has been fighting with the Trump White House about "turning a blind eye" toward Saudi Arabia's transgressions, including Saudi Arabia's war crimes in Yemen and its murder of the journalist, Jamal Khashoggi

The State Department position is between. Secretary Pompeo supports the White House, and the professionals support international law.

Despite the fact that Saudi Arabia is a member of NPT and has a comprehensive bilateral safeguards agreement in place with the IAEA, but unfortunately still refuses to accept the Agency's safeguards inspections, and despite repeated requests for several years, the Agency has not amended its obligations to allow the Agency to inspect. According to the New York Times, Saudi Arabia is trying to build a yellow cake factory. Accordingly, Saudi Arabia's nuclear program has entered a critical phase, which requires the IAEA to adopt bilateral agreements with the country to these sensitivities. Why does the IAEA not put pressure on Saudi Arabia in this regard, and the IAEA's Board of Governors does not make a

A: Saudi Arabia should be required to inform the IAEA of nuclear facilities at the design and construction stage as Iran has agreed to do. I hope the report on the construction of a uranium mill will result in the IAEA demanding access as it did in Iran.

Some members of the Trump administration, including Jared Kushner and Michael Flynn, a former national security adviser to the Trump administration, have been accused of providing sensitive nuclear equipment to Saudi Arabia. However, Saudi Arabia appears to have secret ties to both the United States and China over its nuclear program. What is your assessment?

A: I understand that US nuclear equipment suppliers provided some design information to Saudi Arabia. Congress put pressure on the Department of Energy, which had given permission for transferring this design information, and I believe it was stopped. To my knowledge, the US has not provided any nuclear technologies to Saudi Arabia.

Why is China trying to have a secret nuclear plan with Saudi Arabia? What are the goals of this issue?

A: In the past, Chinese companies' violations of nuclear export controls have been due to their interest in contracts and inadequate enforcement of international standards by China's government.

Some experts have previously said that if the United States does not cooperate with Saudi Arabia under the 123 agreement and does not allow the country to enrich uranium and have a full fuel cycle, the country may resort to a secret program to have a full fuel cycle. Do you think the United States will be willing to give Saudi Arabia the right to enrich uranium, or does it want an agreement like the United Arab Emirates that does not allow uranium enrichment and reprocessing of plutonium (golden standards)?

A: There have been proposals within the US debate to loosen the "Gold Standard" on Saudi Arabia because otherwise, Saudi Arabia will take its nuclear business to other countries that don't require the Gold Standard. Congress has pushed back, however, and forced the Trump Administration to adhere to the Gold Standard.

is indispensable to ease economic pain caused by **COVID-19** pandemic between China and Iran will continue to deepen

International cooperation

The trade cooperation and friendly exchanges

healthy economic development model has to pay more attention to internal economic circulation. The global economy circulation and the internal domestic circulation complement each other, and the domestic economic cycle could be the main body of development, which means consumption and service turns to be more important compared to international trade and investment. The "dual circulation" development pattern aimed at boosting domestic economy with pumping up demand and reducing unemployment? but also reviving the world economy.

The idea of coping with recession in details may be hidden in technology innovation, which lies in actively looking for new methods to ensure domestic and global economies promote, such as building digital economy ecosystems.

Of course, the emphasis on domestically driving the economy does not mean abandoning external economic cooperation. After all, the close embedding of the global industrial chain far exceeds the short-sighted judgment that advocates "cutting off" between interdependent countries.

The law of the jungle" in the economic sphere is neither moral nor conducive to economies reopen

When the global economic situation is smooth, free market and liberal economic models prevail. People believe that they can profit from the liberal economic model. With the current COVID-19 pandemic, trade protectionism and state interventionism tend to become increasingly prominent, and some countries are scared of competition in the context of ongoing economic recession.

The Western long-standing self-confidence in liberalism has been greatly degraded. At the social level, anti-intellectualism and populism are clamoring when liberalism is declining. Those conspiracy theories that are not supported by facts have become more and more popular, and have been used by some politicians to incite their supporters to unnecessary panic and hatred.

Helping developing countries recover their developing economies and eliminating the serious unbalanced development of world economy will benefit global peace and stability, rather than maliciously disrupting other countries' opportunity of economic stability or undermining the sign of global economic revival. Fighting against the epidemic should oppose stigmatization and politicization of the virus, and global economic recovery needs to resist scapegoating as well. Responsible powers

The COVID-19 epidemic is changing the international order and the world pattern, the ideal world pattern in the post-epidemic era should maintain pluralism.

are essential to boost the global economy

Governments closed their doors on oversea travelers, restricted the export of medical supplies, and limited food exports from leaving their own countries while battling COVID-19. These policies hurt people's confidence in the free trade system in the long way, and even eroded the trust

A new world order calls for more responsible powers to support each other with joint hands. When the novel coronavirus struck, China, as a responsible major country, upholding the vision of a global community of shared future, assisted other countries to contain the spread of the virus, and protect the health and wellbeing of people around the world. China also calls on multilateral organizations to increase exchange within their respective framework. Securing global community of health and wealth needs all responsible powers' contributions to strengthen international macroeconomic policy coordination and jointly maintain the stability, security and smoothness of the global industrial and supply chains.

Responsible major countries should ensure normal business activities of multinational enterprises that follow international market rules, abide by the laws and regulations of the host country, to preserve a healthy and fair international market order. Responsible powers are not fighting for global supremacy in chaos. Responsible powers should be responsible for the stability of secure international order, rather than deliberately provoking or spreading distrust.

Safeguarding diversification always meets the requirements of the times

The COVID-19 epidemic is changing the international order and the world pattern, the ideal world pattern in the post-epidemic era should maintain pluralism. Diversification does not mean fragmentation. Most developing countries, including China, always hope to maintain the multilateral trading system so as to systematically and structurally boost the global economy. When the traditional major powers become more and more isolated, emerging countries are the hope. To rebuild mutual trust in international cooperation and trade, at least Asia can lead the way. For example, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) offered loans for building member states' public health emergency management system. AIIB will offer up to 13 billion dollars of financing under the facility, and it will be a new platform that performs highly in terms of international cooperation.

Objectively speaking, COVID-19 has indeed caused some original planed cooperation negotiations to be postponed. For example, in 2016, China and Iran established a comprehensive strategic partnership. However, due to the public health emergency, both China and Iran adopted extensive stringent and thorough containment measures, and the detailed discussions on the 25-year cooperation agreement have been influenced. However, the trade cooperation and friendly exchanges between China and Iran will continue to deepen, and the cooperation prospects for future are promising.

Dealing with global risks and challenges posed by this pandemic requires global cooperation. After all, the wellbeing of all humanity does not come from not being inferior to other countries, nor is it at the expense of others, but from the actual and universal prosperity.

Dr. Yuan ZĤANG is Professor and Director of the Religion in the Middle East Research Program of the Middle East Studies Institute (MESI) of Shanghai International Studies University (SISU).

What's the real aim of the disastrous UAE-Israel deal

By J. Michael Springmann

Israel and the United Arab Emirates have announced an agreement leading to full diplomatic relations -- with the help of U.S. President Donald Trump (who has a Zionist daughter and sonin-law, Jared Kushner). Sealed after a long-running series of negotiations and confirmed in a phone call on August 13 among Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli co-prime minister, Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed, and Donald Trump, the U.S. president, the participants will formally sign the accord at the White House in coming weeks.

"HUGE Trump's comment? breakthrough today! Historic Peace Agreement between our two GREAT friends, Israel and the United Arab Emirates." he wrote on Twitter. But is it?

-Israel will suspend "applying sovereignty to the West Bank"--which it already controls.

-It will give Muslims greater access to the Haram al-Sharif by permitting them to fly from Abu Dhabi to Tel Aviv -- but what happens when the Muslims seek

access to the Dome of the Rock?

-Trump's senior adviser Jared Kushner, the U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman and the Middle East (West Asia) envoy Avi Berkowitz, Zionists all, were deeply involved in negotiating the deal.

What's the real aim of the agreement? It's glaringly obvious. It is directed at splitting the Arab world, and engaging the Zionist entity with the repressive, authoritarian, and medieval Persian Gulf statelets. In pontificating on the agreement, Trump said, "Now that the ice has been broken, I expect more Arab and Muslim countries will follow the United Arab Emirates' lead and normalize relations with Israel." It's also aimed at Iran. "Brian Hook, the [outgoing] U.S. State Department's lead official on Iran, said the agreement amounted to a 'nightmare' for Iran in its efforts against Israel in the

Trump and his anti-Arab, anti-Muslim advisers apparently see this as a continuation of the Camp David Accords, which normalizes relations between Israel and Egypt in 1978. That pact has been more than 40 years of abject failure.

What's worse is that this agreement



is between the only two nuclear states in the region, unless you count Iran'son power station at Bushehr. Israel has atomic, possibly hydrogen, bombs, and reactors. The UAE has four nuclear power stations, one now operating and three nearly completed. How fast could that country produce enough fissionable material to build one, two, many bombs to use against Yemen?

But, there is Saudi Arabia. According to the Times of Israel (August 13, 2020), in discussing the Kingdom's interest in nuclear power, "This is not an entirely hypothetical question. Riyadh is reportedly taking steps to advance its nuclear program in ways experts worry could indicate the future pursuit of uranium enrichment

capability - in other words, the Kingdom may be inching toward an atomic bomb." Where would a Saudi bomb be used? Yemen or elsewhere?

So, Donald Trump's "Historic Peace Agreement" has pushed West Asia farther towards instability, nuclear energy, and general war. It has enabled the dangerous rogue entity of Israel to increase the division of the Arab and Muslim worlds. It's like Churchill's comment on the Treaty of Versailles ending the First World War: "They sought peace. They shall have war.

J. Michael Springmann is a former American diplomat and political commentator based in Washington, DC. He had formerly worked at the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration and as a diplomat with the U.S. Department of State. He had been assigned to Germany, India, Saudi Arabia, and the Bureau of Intelligence and Research in Washington, DC.

He's the author of two books, Visas for Al Qaeda: CIA Handouts That Rocked the World: An Insider's View and Goodbye. Europe? Hello, Chaos?: Merkel's Migrant Bomb

(Source: Press TV)