

Execution of Spy 'Direct' Outcome of UK Crime

TEHRAN -- Iran's intelligence ministry said Friday the execution of Alireza Akbari, a former Iranian official convicted of spying for the UK, was the "direct" outcome of a crime committed by the British spy agency.

In a statement, the ministry said the British regime had covetously urged Akbari to obtain information about Iran's secret military and missile projects, ways to circumvent sanctions, information related to some security, defense and political institutions and distinguished scientists such as top nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, who was assassinated in a terrorist attack in November 2020.

(Continued on Page 7)

Kayhan International

Hundreds Evacuated After Blaze at Seoul's Shanty Town

SEOUL (Reuters) -- Fire swept through part of a shanty town in the South Korean capital, Seoul, on Friday, destroying 60 homes, many constructed from cardboard and wood, and forcing the evacuation of around 500 people. Emergency services took five hours to put out the blaze, which erupted before daybreak in Guryong Village, a slum that lies just across a highway from Seoul's affluent Gangnam district. Officials said no casualties were reported so far. Home to around 1,000 people, Guryong is one of the last remaining shanty towns in the capital and has become a symbol of inequality in Asia's fourth largest economy. Kim Doo-chun, 60, said his family was unaffected by the fire but he told Reuters that the village was constantly at risk of disaster due partly to its cardboard homes and narrow alleys. The slum has long been prone to fires and flooding, and safety and health issues abound.

VOL NO: LV 11900 TEHRAN / Est.1959 Saturday, January 21, 2023, Bahman 1, 1401, Jamadi as-Sani 28, 1444, Price 200,000 Rials

Putin: Russia Ready to Upgrade Iran Cooperation



U.S., Allies to Send Hundreds of Armored Vehicles, Rockets to Ukraine



Iran's Gorgan Down Al Riyadi in WASL-West Group B



Zionist Troops Kill More Palestinians During Raid on Refugee Camp



Tehran Hosts Influential Women From 90 Countries

TEHRAN -- The first international congress on women of influence opened here Friday, bringing more than 3,000 participants from about 90 countries.

They included actresses, academics, lawmakers, environment and civil rights activists, as well as healthcare workers, among others.

At the end of the one-day gathering, three women regarded influential in the world were awarded.

On Thursday, Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi met with some of the top attendees. He said such events can pave the way for international cooperation in the future.

The Iranian president praised the great role women have played throughout history. He expressed hope that participants attending the congress can benefit from Iran's experiences in upholding women's rights.

Raisi touched on the considerable improvement in the status of Iranian women in different areas and lambasted Western governments for their double standards on women's rights, stating that their anger towards the country is due to the success of Iranian women in the Islamic establishment.

"There is no doubt that there are built-in differences between men and women, but no differences from a humanitarian perspective. There is no difference between men and women in reaching the apex of human civilization, and whoever tries harder on this path will reach the summits of morality, spirituality, and humanity," he said.

Raisi said women have played an important role in historic events, stressing that they must neither be marginalized nor isolated in any society.

"The reactionary viewpoint about women, along with the instrumental view of Western powers and politicians towards women, is ... doomed to failure and rejected. The correct narrative is that men and women are both similar human beings, and that there are even women who influence men," Raisi said.

He went on to note that the Islamic Republic attaches paramount significance to women's rights, and the dignity of women is enshrined in the country's constitution.

"The West's anger towards the Islamic Republic is due

to the fact that women can achieve success here while observing the establishment's principles," Raisi said.

Raisi also elaborated on the significant measures Iran has taken to improve the situation of women after victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

He pointed to the empowerment of women and improving their status in scientific, cultural, social and economic arenas while observing their human dignity.

Raisi noted that women constitute more than 30 percent of university lecturers in Iran, and close to 60 percent of university students in the country are women.

The Iranian president also hailed the outstanding role of Palestinian women in defending their legitimate cause and resistance against the occupying Israeli regime.

He said Tehran's principled policy is to strengthen its relations with neighboring countries on the basis of mutual cooperation.

"Iran will never give in to any oppression. We call for freedom for all nations. Oppression of the Palestinian nation amounts to the suppression of the entire humanity," Raisi said.

'Global Club of Terrorists' Targets IRGC



This file handout picture of Oct. 13, 2019 shows Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) cadets during a graduation ceremony at Imam Hussein University in Tehran.

TEHRAN -- The European Parliament voted on Thursday in favor of a non-binding resolution to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corp (IRGC) as a terrorist group, in a hostile move against an institution which is credited for fighting the most violent terror groups, including Daesh.

The bloc said the resolution was a response to Iran's response to violent riots by hood-

lums who wreaked havoc across the country for weeks.

While their resolution is non-binding, the vote includes a call for the European Council to add the IRGC and its subsidiaries like the Basij and the Quds Force to the European Union's terrorist list.

"Any country in which the IRGC deploys military, economic, or informational operations should sever and outlaw

ties with this agency," the European Parliament said in a statement on the vote.

The European Parliament also voted for "the expansion of restrictive measures" against Iran for allegedly providing unmanned aerial vehicles to Russia in the ongoing war in Ukraine, which Tehran has repeatedly denied.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian con-

demned the European Parliament's vote in a statement.

"It is necessary to respect mutual security in the world of diplomacy and increase mutual trust instead of following the language of threats and unfriendly actions," Amir-Abdollahian said.

Amir-Abdollahian spoke with EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell about the resolution, saying the European Parliament had acted emotionally in its decision.

According to the top Iranian diplomat, Borrell agreed that the European Parliament's resolution "included emotions and worries".

Amir-Abdollahian also said Borrell reassured him that the resolution is non-binding and "merely reflects Europe's concerns."

In a tweet on Friday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said "the apartheid Israeli regime is the world's largest organized terror entity," whose founder is the UK regime and the U.S. regime is its greatest sponsor.

"The reason behind the anger of the 'global club of terrorists' is crystal clear; the IRGC is the world's largest counter-terrorism institution," he said.

(Continued on Page 7)

Macron Hikes Military Spending by a Third Millions Protest Across France

PARIS (Dispatches) -- More than a million people took part in demonstrations across France on Thursday, halting trains and cutting electricity production, in protest against government plans to raise the retirement age by two years to 64.

The government said a total of 1.12 million people had taken part in the demonstration, including 80,000 at a march in Paris, which saw police clash briefly with some protesters.

The stoppages are a major test for President Emmanuel Macron, who said on Thursday that his pension reform plan, which opinion polls show is hugely unpopular, was "just and responsible" and had to be carried out.

Protesters disagreed. "It's salaries and pensions that must be increased, not the retirement age," read one large banner carried by workers that opened the protest march in Tours, in western France.

"I'll have to prepare my walking frame if the reform goes through," said Isabelle, 53, a social worker, saying her job was too tough to add two more years.

The turnout was quite a large number, even by French standards, and more than the turnout at a first rally

against a previous pension reform in 2019.

The leader of the CGT union, Philippe Martinez, said more than 2 million took part. It is common in France that police and union estimates vary widely. Either way, the turnout is a success for the unions, political analysts say.

Police briefly fired tear gas on the fringes of the Paris protest when black-clad, masked individuals in hoodies hurled projectiles at their lines. About 30 people were arrested, police said.

Union leaders, expected to announce more strikes and protests in the evening, said Thursday was just the beginning.

The pension reform still needs to go through parliament, where Macron has lost his absolute majority but is hoping to get it passed with the support of conservatives.

President Emmanuel Macron on Friday announced plans to increase France's military budget by a third for the next seven years.

Macron said he would ask parliament to approve a new budget of more than 400 billion euros (\$430 billion)

(Continued on Page 7)

After Rape Londoners Dump Rotten Scandal Apple Outside Police HQ

LONDON (Reuters) -- London police were confronted by the sight of 1,071 plastic rotten apples outside their headquarters on Friday, in a display seeking to mark the high number of staff facing investigation for sex offences or domestic abuse.

Refuge, a British domestic abuse charity, placed the imitation red and green apples outside the Metropolitan Police's New Scotland Yard building in central London, alongside a sign saying: "1071 bad apples. How many more?"

The demonstration comes days after a serving London police officer admitted to 24 counts of rape in a campaign of abuse against women — news that appalled the nation and shone a light on the issue of falling public confidence in law enforcement.

In an effort to regain public trust, the Met police said on Tuesday it was investigating sexual and domestic abuse cases involving 1,071 officers and staff, and that hundreds were likely to be sacked as a result.

"This is not one bad apple; this is a systemic problem across policing," Refuge CEO Ruth Davison said. "How have these

perpetrators of abuse been allowed to enter and remain in positions of power for so long?"

"What happens next must change the culture of policing for good. A force which breeds violent misogyny is not a force which can even begin to protect women and girls."

The Met, which has faced a string of scandals in recent years revealing a culture of corruption, racism and misogyny, is Britain's biggest police force with more than 43,000 staff and responsibility for issues such as terrorism and extradition.

Refuge has called for "urgent and radical change" and advocated for fast-track legislation to improve vetting and disciplinary standards across police forces and mandatory training for all officers on issues concerning violence against women.

A Met spokesperson said the force was aware of Friday's protest, and its officers had engaged with those involved to facilitate a peaceful demonstration. It said the protesters left at 1000 GMT and took the apples with them.