

TEHRAN -- Secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights Kazem Gharibabadi on Wednesday denounced a British plan to electronically tag asylum seekers, saying systematic racism has a deep root in the country's history.

"The UK's systematic racism and vie for dehumanization is deeply-rooted in its history, in which you see a total disregard for and horrendous violations of human rights!" he wrote in a tweet.

LONDON (AP) — Britain's inflation rate hit a new 40-year high of 9.1% in the 12 months to May, figures showed Wednesday, as Russia's war in Ukraine drove food and fuel prices ever higher.

The Office for National Statistics said consumer price inflation rose slightly from 9% in April, itself the highest level since 1982.

Chief economist Grant Fitzner said "continued steep food price rises and record high petrol (gasoline) prices (Continued on Page 7)

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Thursday, June 23, 2022, Tir 2, 1401, Zil-Qa'dah 23, 1443, Price 200,000 Rials

**Viewpoint**

**Iran Dismisses UN Chief's Baseless Report**

**Iran Hails Colombia's Presidential Election Result**



**Ganj Khanlou Bags Bronze in 2022 Asian Track Cycling Championships**



**Zionist Settler Stabs Palestinian to Death**



**Securing U.S. Oil to Compensate Iran's EB Victims**

TEHRAN -- The EB Foundation of Iran has called on the government to secure a U.S. oil shipment seized in the Persian Gulf to provide compensation to Iranian children suffering from epidermolysis bullosa (EB) due to American sanctions.

The foundation officially made the appeal in a reference to two Greek-flagged ships that Iran seized in the Persian Gulf last month.

The ships, Delta Poseidon and Prudent Warrior, were confiscated by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on May 27 in a tit-for-tat following the seizure of an Iranian oil tanker by Greece at U.S. request.

Earlier this month, a Greek court overturned a ruling that allowed the United States to keep part of the Iranian oil, in a blow to Washington's attempts to tighten the sanctions on Iran.

According to the EB Foundation of Iran, the adverse impacts of the sanctions, which are part of the U.S. "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran, are deepening the wounds of EB patients and need to be remedied immediately.

The foundation demanded that the U.S.-owned shipment on Prudent Warrior be paid as compensation for patients suffering from the rare skin disorder and as a proportional response to Washington's illegal conduct.

"Our minimum demand is that the cargo of the ship be confiscated in favor of EB patients, so that perhaps a small portion of the material and spiritual damage to them will be compensated," it said.

It explained that the "criminal" sanctions unilaterally imposed on Iran by the U.S. have prevented EB patients from accessing special dressings and, as a result, have inflicted "numerous severe physical and psychological wounds on these patients and their families."

The foundation further hit out at the U.S. sanctions as a violation of fundamental human rights and international law, saying Washington has committed an act of "modern economic terrorism" by the bans.

"The barbarity of America's irrational sanctions has even gone so far as to prevent access to humanitarian items that are vital to patients' lives," it said.

The U.S. launched the so-called maximum pressure campaign of sanctions against Iran in 2018, after unilaterally exiting the Iran deal.

The sanctions have restricted the financial channels necessary to pay for basic goods and

medicine, undermining supply chains by limiting the number of suppliers willing to facilitate sales of humanitarian goods to the country.

Iran has repeatedly denounced the sanctions as an act of "economic war", "economic terrorism", and "medical terrorism."

Often known as butterfly children because their skin is as fragile as the wings of a butterfly, EB patients need special care. Even mild frictions or bumps cause severe blistering of the skin which is very painful.

They often have difficulty with their daily activities, such as walking, eating and even breathing, but without proper protective bandages, their agony would be heartbreaking.

The trade of humanitarian goods, such as food, medicine and medical devices, is on paper allowed by the U.S., still European companies refuse to do business with Iran, fearing secondary American sanctions.

Since the reimposition of sanctions, Swedish medical products firm Molnlycke Health Care has stopped delivering Mepilex dressings which are trusted around the world to treat a wide range of chronic and acute wounds, including in EB patients, Iranian media reports say.

**Iran Rushes Aid to Quake-Hit Afghanistan**



People are seen on debris of a damaged house after the earthquake in Qala-e-Naw district of Badghis, Afghanistan.

KABUL, Afghanistan (Dispatches) — A powerful earthquake struck a rural, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan early Wednesday, killing 1,000 people and injuring 1,500 more in one of the deadliest quakes in decades, the state-run news agency reported. Officials warned that the already grim toll may still rise.

Information remained scarce on the magnitude 6.1 temblor near the Pakistani border, but quakes of that strength can cause serious damage in an area where homes

and other buildings are poorly constructed and landslides are common. Experts put the depth at just 10 kilometers (6 miles) — another factor that could lead to severe destruction.

The disaster posed a major test for the Taliban-led government, which seized power last year as the U.S. planned to pull out from the country and end its longest war, two decades after toppling the same insurgents in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

Rescuers rushed to the area by helicopter Wednesday, but the response is likely to be complicated since many international aid agencies left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover. Reaching rural areas even in the best circumstances remains difficult in Afghanistan, a landlocked nation just smaller than Texas with rutted mountain roadways that may now have sustained significant damage.

In light of those difficulties, a

Taliban official asked for international help.

"When such a big incident happens in any country, there is a need for help from other countries," said Sharafuddin Muslim. "It is very difficult for us to be able to respond to this huge incident."

Neighboring Pakistan's Meteorological Department said the quake's epicenter was in Afghanistan's Paktika province, some 50 kilometers (31 miles) southwest of the city of Khost. Buildings were also damaged in Khost province, and tremors were felt some 375 kilometers (230 miles) away in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad.

Footage from Paktika showed men carrying people in blankets to waiting helicopters. Others were treated on the ground. One resident could be seen receiving IV fluids while sitting in a plastic chair outside the rubble of his home and still more were sprawled on gurneys. Some images showed residents picking through clay bricks and other rubble from destroyed stone houses, some of whose roofs or walls had caved in.

The death toll given by the Bakhtar News Agency was equal to that of a quake in 2002 in northern Afghanistan. Those are the deadliest since 1998, when a 6.1 magnitude (Continued on Page 7)

**FM Lavrov in Iran to Boost Trade, Energy Ties**

TEHRAN -- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was due in Iran Wednesday for talks on boosting trade and energy cooperation as the two countries grapple with Western economic sanctions.

Tehran and Moscow both have huge oil and gas reserves but are constrained by sanctions that limit their ability to export their output.

"Lavrov will meet our foreign minister (Hussein Amir-Abdollahian) tomorrow (Thursday)," IRNA news agency said.

Russia was slapped with sanctions following its February operation in neighboring Ukraine, while Iran's economy has been reeling under draconian sanctions re-imposed by the U.S. in 2018, following Washington's withdrawal from a nuclear accord between Tehran and major powers.

Russia played a key role in that deal, taking charge of Iran's excess enriched uranium stocks beyond those permitted under the agreement.

The negotiations have been stalled since March amid sharp differences between Tehran and Washington on the U.S. sanctions that would be lifted in exchange for Iran's return to full compliance with the agreed limits to its nuclear activities.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi visited Moscow in January, and said he had presented his counterpart Vladimir Putin with draft documents on strategic cooperation that would cement collaboration for the next two decades.

In late May, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak visited Tehran at the head of a large delegation after Russia's operation in Ukraine sent global oil and gas prices soaring.

Meanwhile, new official figures from China show its oil imports from Russia soared, displacing Saudi Arabia as top supplier, while purchase of Iranian oil continued.

Imports of Russian oil, including supplies pumped

via the East Siberia Pacific Ocean pipeline and seaborne shipments from Russia's European and Far Eastern ports, totaled nearly 8.42 million tonnes, according to data from the Chinese General Administration of Customs.

That's equivalent to roughly 1.98 million barrels per day (bpd) and up a quarter from 1.59 million bpd in April.

Customs data released on Monday also showed China imported 260,000 tonnes of Iranian crude oil last month, its third shipment of Iran oil since last December.

Despite U.S. sanctions on Iran, China has kept taking Iranian oil. The import levels are roughly equivalent to 7% of China's total crude oil imports.

Previously Western reports had claimed that Iranian shipments to China had dropped by as much as 50 percent in May due to Russian competition, but the official Chinese figures, which show only a part of imports from Iran, do not indicate a drop.

**President Xi: Ukraine War Has 'Sounded Alarm for Humanity'**

BEIJING (AP) — The conflict in Ukraine has "sounded an alarm for humanity," Chinese leader Xi Jinping said Wednesday, as China continues to assume a position of neutrality while backing its ally Russia. China has refused to criticize Russia's war in Ukraine or even to refer to it as an invasion in deference to Moscow, while also condemning U.S.-led sanctions against Russia and accusing the West of provoking Moscow.

"The Ukraine crisis has again sounded the alarm for humanity. Countries will surely end up in security hardships if they place blind faith in their positions of strength, expand military alliances, and seek their own safety at the expense of others," the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Xi as saying.

Xi, who did not propose any solutions, was speaking at the opening of a virtual business forum of the "BRICS" countries — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. In other comments, Xi said imposing sanctions could act as a "boomerang" and a "double-edged sword," and that the global com-

munity would suffer from "politicizing, mechanizing and weaponizing" global economic trends and financial flows.

Xi also said China would seek to reduce the damage to international supply chains caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which it has confronted with a hard-line policy of lockdowns and quarantines, despite a diminishing number of cases and the increasing economic cost.

China's economic efforts have prompted a backlash in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere, including calls to replace Chinese suppliers and reduce reliance on the Chinese economy.

Xi called for nations to work together on such issues, saying efforts to "build a small courtyard with high walls" was in no one's interest.

"Economic globalization is an objective requirement for the development of productive forces and an irresistible historical trend," Xi said. "Going backwards in history and trying to block other people's road will only block your own road in the end," he said.