

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian on Saturday called for closer cooperation between Tehran and Moscow within the framework of multilateral platforms for the peaceful settlement of various issues. Amir-Abdollahian and Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Sergey Vershinin held talks on the sidelines of the first meeting of the National Coordinators of the Group of Friends in Defense of the United Nations Charter here. He said participants in the meeting have sent an important message in opposition to unilateralism and cruel sanctions.

TEHRAN – Iran is vigorously carrying out a roadmap for long-term cooperation with Venezuela, Iranian Foreign Minister Hussein Amir-Abdollahian told Venezuelan Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Julio Ron Martinez here. Hailing close relations between Tehran and Caracas, he described a visit by Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro to Iran in June as a milestone in bilateral ties. Martinez stressed the need for united action against unilateralism, reaffirming Venezuela's commitment to the bilateral treaties and agreements.

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Viewpoint

Iran's Skywards Ascent

Iran Gave Drones to Russia Months Before War



Sitting Volleyball Team Routs Iraq at World Championships



Massive March in Jordan in Support of Palestine Resistance



President Raisi:

Enemies' Bid to Destabilize Iran Failed

TEHRAN -- President Ebrahim Raisi said Saturday the enemies sought to foment insecurity across Iran by wreaking havoc like what they did in Syria and Libya, adding that their plot fell through as the Islamic Republic is fully safe and secure.

Raisi made the remarks in a meeting with a group of Iranian students, a day after millions of people from all walks of life took to the streets across the country to mark the anniversary of the U.S. embassy takeover by university students in the capital Tehran in 1979.

Raisi lauded great achievements made by elite university students over the years, saying such progress compelled Iran's enemies to hatch new plots against the country.

Pointing to recent riots that caused mayhem across the country, the Iranian president said, "Rabble-rousing and attempts to disrupt the country are different from protests, and rioters and those who create insecurity must be dealt with decisively."

"Today, Iran and our various cities are safe. The Americans and our enemies sought to make the country insecure by implementing examples of their work in Libya and Syria, but they achieved nothing except failure," he said.

Raisi on Friday addressed U.S. President Joe Biden, telling him that Iran was freed more than four decades ago and is no longer under the control of U.S. hegemony.

"I was informed a few hours ago that the president of the United States has uttered some words in distraction, saying the U.S. is

aiming to free Iran", President Raisi said.

"Iran was freed 43 years ago and is determined not to be occupied by you. And we will never be milk cows," President Raisi said in response to Biden's comment.

The nationwide rallies on Friday marked the 43rd anniversary of the U.S. embassy takeover, which is called the National Day against Global Arrogance.

Iranian demonstrators in 900 cities chanted slogans and carried placards against the U.S. and the occupying regime of Israel, strongly condemning their hostile policies against the Islamic establishment.

Riots broke out in Iran on September 16 after the death of young Iranian woman Mahsa Amini. The 22-year-old fainted at a police station in the capital, Tehran, and was pronounced dead at a hospital three days later. An official report by Iran's Legal Medicine Organization said that Amini's controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs.

The rioters have been going on a rampage across the country, attacking security officers, resorting to vandalism against public property, and desecrating religious sanctities.

Last week, Iran's Intelligence Ministry said the U.S. and the UK were "directly" involved in the recent riots, adding that dozens of terrorists affiliated with the Zionist regime and anti-revolution groups have also been detained in the unrest.

Iran Tests Satellite-Carrying Ghaem-100



These pictures show Ghaem-100 before launch and blasting off from a desert launch pad into a cloudy sky.

TEHRAN – The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced Saturday the successful test flight of a rocket capable of propelling satellites into space, three months after launching a satellite with the help of Russia.

National television reported the successful suborbital launch of the satellite launcher named Ghaem-100 and aired dramatic footage of the rocket blasting off from a desert launch pad into a cloudy sky.

"The flight test of this launcher using the Rafe solid-fuel vehicle has been successfully completed," it said.

The Ghaem-100 rocket was manufactured by the aerospace

organization of the IRGC. It is the country's first three-stage solid-fuel satellite launcher, the channel added.

Ghaem-100 "is capable of placing satellites weighing 80 kilograms (176 pounds) in an orbit 500 kilometers (just over 300 miles) from the surface of the earth," it said.

Amirali Hajizadeh, head of the IRGC aerospace division, said the rocket would be used to launch Iran's Nahid satellite for the telecommunications ministry.

Saturday's operation tested the first sub-orbital stage of the rocket, reports said.

Over the past decade, Iran has sent several short-lived satellites

into orbit and in 2013 launched a monkey into space. The country successfully put its first military satellite into orbit in April 2020.

In August this year, another Iranian satellite, named Khayyam,

was launched by Russia on a Soyuz-2.1b rocket from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. Iran's space agency said the device was constructed by Russia under Iran's supervision.

Iran's space agency said the purpose of Khayyam was to "monitor the country's borders", and help with the management of natural resources and agriculture.

Hajizadeh said Saturday arrogant countries, led by the terrorist and evil regime of the United States, are making their utmost efforts to hinder progress of the Iranian people.

"They cannot tolerate the impressive achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Iranian youths, he said, are making great achievements while the country is facing the "heaviest" sanctions in its history.

The strong Iran would not hesitate to continue its path towards progress and modern technologies, the IRGC commander added.

U.S. Envoy Sees More Pain Ahead for Lebanon

BEIRUT (Dispatches) -- In yet another sign of U.S. meddling in Lebanon's internal affairs, a U.S. diplomat says Lebanon will have to bear more pain before the Middle Eastern country sees a new government.

"Things will have to get worse before the public pressure mounts in such a way" that parliament selects a new president, Barbara Leaf, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, said at an event hosted by the Wilson Center in Washington DC on Friday.

Leaf, Washington's top Middle East diplomat, said "I can see scenarios where there is disintegration...where there is just an unraveling."

She made her comments at the time Lebanon is left with a presidential vacuum after former President Michel Aoun's term ended last Sunday. The country grapples with a tough economic crisis, which was to a great extent caused by U.S. sanctions on Lebanon.

She criticized Lebanon for not sealing a \$3 billion loan deal with the International Monetary Fund, saying that Lebanon's gas exploration is years' worth of work and that there is no money in Lebanon's banks, making the loan a necessity. Meanwhile, she failed to mention that the IMF loan was to come into effect only if

Lebanon met certain conditions, which Lebanon rejects.

Commenting on former Zionist prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's promise to "neutralize" the maritime deal made with Lebanon, Leaf said, "I think there will be lots of voices advising him [Netanyahu] otherwise."

Lebanese officials have said the U.S. mediator has promised to protect the agreement in the face of a Netanyahu victory. Leaf, however, refused to outline what steps Washington would take to protect the deal or whether she believed a Netanyahu-led regime in Tel Aviv would tear it up.

Netanyahu and his far-right allies secured the majority of seats in the Zionist regime's election on Tuesday, and he is expected to be tapped to form a new cabinet.

Leaf is not the first U.S. diplomat to reflect American interference in Lebanon's internal affairs.

In September 2020, during a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, former U.S. under secretary of state David Hale revealed that the United States "has spent \$10 billion in Lebanon, on security forces and the army on one hand, and on the civil society represented mostly by non-governmental organizations on the other, throughout several years."

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Afghanistan Under U.S. Occupation

Opium Production Surged 50-Fold

TEHRAN -- Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri-Kani said Saturday the production of opium in Afghanistan has increased by 50 times since the U.S.-led invasion of the Central Asian country in October 2001.

Bagheri-Kani made the remarks at an international conference dubbed "The 21st Century and a World free from American Dominance" here, stating that the output of opium made from poppy seeds in Afghanistan soared dramatically following the deployment of U.S. military forces there.

"Both Americans' decisions and actions, such as their presence in Afghanistan and Iraq, have proven to be ineffective and not constructive," he said.

"Nowadays the United States tends to draw on its force more than its might," the top diplomat added.

Prior to the invasion of Af-

ghanistan, opium production was banned by the Taliban, although it still managed to exist.

The U.S. and its allies have been accused of encouraging and aiding opium production and the ongoing drug trafficking within the region.

Only a small fraction of the total opium yield in Afghanistan is destroyed. The international community has also failed to curb heroin production in Afghanistan since the devastating military campaign.

Afghanistan is thought to produce more than 90 percent of the world's supply of opium, which is then used to make heroin and other dangerous drugs that are shipped in large quantities all over the world. Opium production provides many Afghan communities with an income, in an otherwise impoverished and war-torn country.

Nearly half of the drugs produced in Afghanistan are moved through Pakistan, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

According to UNODC findings, the cultivation of opium poppies in Afghanistan increased by 32 percent over the previous year to 233,000 hectares, making the 2022 crop area the largest ever.

Cultivation continued to be concentrated in the southwestern parts of the country, which accounted for 73 percent of the total area, registering the largest crop increase.

In Helmand province, one-fifth of all arable land was dedicated to opium poppy cultivation.

The notorious Daesh terrorist group in Afghanistan is reported to have recently taken over opium production and trafficking.

On Thursday, Russian Special Presidential Representative for

Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov held the United States and Britain responsible for the growth of Daesh in Afghanistan and the uptick in violence across the country.

Kabulov made the comments in an opinion piece published in the Russian daily newspaper Nezavisimaya Gazeta, stating that Washington and London are helping the Daesh affiliate to cement its foothold in the crisis-stricken nation.

The U.S. and Britain are also exerting considerable pressure on high-profile Taliban figures to distance themselves from Russia and China, before they are targeted in assassination strikes carried out by unmanned aerial vehicles.

"Americans, together with their British collaborators, are putting their frantic efforts into strengthening the positions and the destructive potential of the Afghan

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