

Iran lifts Asian wrestling championship trophy

TEHRAN - Iran's junior freestyle wrestling team clinched the title of the 2009 Asian Junior Freestyle Championships in Manila, on Sunday. The under 20-year old team bagged three gold and four bronze medals in the two-day event which ended on July 12 in Manila.

The Iranian team scored 66 points while teams from Kazakhstan with 61 and India with 60 points ranked second and third respectively in the tournament.

TEHRAN - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad here on Sunday criticized West's contradictory stands regarding the issue of human rights.

Referring to the recent killing of a young Egyptian woman during a court hearing in Germany, he stressed that the sad event indicated corruption of the country's judicial system, IRNA re-

ported. Marwa El-Sherbiny, 31, mother of a 3-year-old child who was also three-month pregnant, was stabbed 18 times by the man she was testifying against during a July 1 appeal hearing in Dresden, Germany. Her killer also stabbed her husband.

The president made the remarks during a cabinet ses-

sion, condemning Berlin's approach regarding the minorities.

The West has kept silence regarding the murder of a Muslim woman in Germany while they show furious reaction towards the pre-planned unrest created by certain groups in Iran, he added.

President Ahmadinejad urged the United Nations Se-

curity Council to condemn the German government and its judicial system for ignoring the basic rights of the people.

Underlining the need for bringing to justice those responsible for the sad incident, he said the world nations would not forget such a catastrophe and will follow up the case until restoring their human rights.

Member of Parliament:

Iran's package of proposals is of detente nature

TEHRAN - Member of Majlis National Security Commission said here on Sunday that Iran's package of proposals is of detente nature on the international scene.

Talking to IRNA, Heshmatollah Falahat-Pisheh added that the first feature of Iran's package of proposals is that it outlines the foreign policy of Ahmadinejad's administration.

The second characteristic of the package is that it highlights the country's detente-oriented foreign policy, he noted.

It also presents ways to reduce tensions in the world, unlike western countries' provocative policies vis-à-

vis Iran. Falahat-Pisheh also said that the package is applicable at regional and international levels and.

It is in fact a reaction to the US policies regarding Iran, he said. The commissioner also said that foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki's statements and the package were not a response to the deadline set by G8 countries.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had earlier informed the world of its compilation before the presidential elections on June 12.

The reason for delay was that the US had not adopted a clear stance vis-à-vis Iran, he said.

Foreign minister:

Iran to take legal action on abduction of 5 diplomats by US

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Sunday that Iran would preserve the right to pursue the case of five released Iranian diplomats who had been taken hostage by US troops in Iraq in 2007 and will act accordingly.

The five, Baqer Ghabishavi, Mahmoud Farhadi, Majid Qaemi, Majid Daghari and Abbas Hatami-Kasavand, were abducted on January 11, 2007 after the US combat forces broke into the Iranian consulate in Iraq's Kurdish city of Erbil, some 350 kilometers north of Baghdad, IRNA reported.

The diplomats were released last Thursday and returned home this morning thanks to the efforts made by the Iranian Foreign Ministry and cooperation of the Iraqi government.

"The act of taking hostage of the Iranian diplomats by the US forces was 'against all international laws and regulations,' Mottaki said, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a ceremony to welcome the freed diplomats.

He added the Iranian diplomats were released by the Iraqi government after the

pulling out of the US forces from the Iraqi cities which has started since June 30 based on a security agreement signed between the

day that the freedom of the abducted Iranian diplomats was in line with the security pact signed by Iraq and the US.

storming a diplomatic center, abducting diplomats and taking them as hostage for over two and a half years are blatant violations of interna-



Iraqi government and the US officials.

Based on the agreement, the Iraqi forces would solely be in charge of providing security in the war-stricken country as a major stepping stone towards a complete withdrawal of American troops.

Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said on Sun-

The measure has nothing to do with direct talks between Iran and the US and is not of prime importance in diplomatic ties between the two sides, he said.

Qashqavi made the remarks in a welcoming ceremony for the five Iranian diplomats kidnapped by the US troops in Iraq.

Speaking to reporters, he said there is no doubt that

tional diplomatic norms, he said.

Iran reserves the right to pursue the case through legal channels, he pointed out.

Warm welcome accorded by Iranian officials and people to the released diplomats showed support for all Iranian diplomats who now feel that they are not alone during their missions, he said.

President criticizes West's contradictory stands on human rights

Senior cleric condemns massacre of Muslims in China

TEHRAN - Senior cleric Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi, in a statement issued on Sunday, condemned massacre of Muslims in Xinjiang region in China.

The ayatollah said in his statement that reports on vast genocide and suppression of Muslims in China's Xinjiang has worried all Muslim and peace-loving nations all over the world, IRNA reported.

The industrial Xinjiang region has recently turned into the scene of fiercest conflicts between Muslim Uighurs and the racist Han group, he said.

Although the Chinese government refers to the unrest as an ethnic one, suppression of Muslims by Beijing and closure of mosques indicate that there are conspiracies against Muslims in the region, Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi said.

Referring to Tehran-Beijing close economic and political relations, he said the amicable ties between the two nations would not be a good reason for Iran to keep silent on such a critical situation.

The senior cleric called on all world peace-loving Muslim nations to protest against such an unfriendly attitude and urge Beijing to help end the ongoing unrest and bring to justice those responsible for the recent conflicts.

The Iranian people expect the officials of the country not to remain silent and make appropriate decision regarding their Chinese brothers and sisters.

The deadly ethnic unrest that erupted on Sunday in China's Xinjiang region has left over 180 people dead in the midst of growing international anger, especially in the Islamic world.

Foreign firms to take part in Iran's wastewater treatment plants

TEHRAN - Foreign companies will participate at the projects to construct wastewater treatment plants in Iran, said the managing director of the State Water and Wastewater Company. Majid Namjou added on Saturday at the signing ceremony of a deal to build the biggest treatment plant in Shiraz, capital city of Fars province, with an Austrian delegation, however, Iran is considered a developed country in terms of water supply to the urban and rural areas, IRNA reported.

Referring to the capabilities of Shiraz in implementing wastewater projects, he also called on the Austrian contractors to use modern technologies in their undertakings.

The project is to complete within three years at the cost of 720 billion rials, Namjou said.

The project will help provide desirable hygienic conditions for Shirazi citizens and improve the health care system in the region and protect the environment.

Envoy calls for roadmap for Iran-India relations

TEHRAN - India's ambassador to Tehran urged the two countries to compile a roadmap for their bilateral ties and cooperation.

Addressing a roundtable meeting on Iran-India relations here in Tehran on Sunday, Sanjay Singh underlined the importance of a roadmap for the two countries' ties, and pointed out that the two sides' interactions for preparing such a roadmap would pin further importance on the two countries' relations, FNA reported.

Singh then highlighted the growing trade volume between Tehran and New-Del-

hi in recent years, and called cooperation of India's Oil and Gas Company in the development of Iran's Pars oil and gas block as "important".

Regarding regional cooperation, the Indian ambassador noted, "Iran and India's presence in regional grounds is highly important and can cause advancement in the two countries' strategic relations."

Singh also hailed educational and academic relations between the two countries, and said such ties and cooperation would spark civilization and cultural growth for both Iran and India.

Cloned calf born in Iran



TEHRAN - The first cloned calf in the Middle East "Bonyana" was born in Isfahan on Saturday, Royan Institute Research Center director Mohammad Hossein Nasr

Isfahani has announced.

The cloning of a cow due to its physiology characteristics is very complex and delicate, and the successful cloning of this calf is a

display of the country's biotechnology, he told ISNA on Saturday.

He said the birth of Bonyana was the result of a comprehensive research which began in Iranian calendar year 1382 (March 2003-March 2004).

Nasr Isfahani also said RIRC is ready to clone the species that are threatened with extinction.

In 2006 Iran became the first country in the Middle East to announce it had cloned a sheep. Two and a half years later, that animal is healthy, the institute said in April after it announced it had cloned a goat.

Government presents bill to Majlis on security pact with Bahrain

TEHRAN - President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad submitted a bill to the Majlis that would allow Iran and Bahrain to sign a security pact.

The decision came after the Foreign Ministry drew up a plan to help increase regional security and stability through Tehran-Manama cooperation, MNA reported.

The security pact between the two countries must include the nine articles of the bill, which mentioned the campaign against human and goods trafficking; theft of antiquities and artworks;

illegal economic activities such as forgery of official documents, money, and credit cards; and the production, storing, distribution, import, export, and use of illicit drugs and possession of their chemical constituents.

The bill also says the security pact should require the two states to take measures to prevent drug addic-

tion and to rehabilitate drug addicts within the framework of international conventions.

The bill also calls for the establishment of special committees tasked with monitoring the implementation of the pact, which would be chaired by the interior ministers of the two countries and would meet biennially.

Iran's biology Olympiad team participating in Japan competitions

TEHRAN - Iran's students' biology Olympiad team arrived in Tokyo Sunday to take part in the 20th round of International Biology Olympiad.

Announcing this, director of the team, Saman Hosseinkhani told IRNA that the Iranian team will compete with students from 65 countries in different fields of genetics, biochemistry, physiology and botany. International Biology Olympiad aims to promote scientific competitions among the students, he said. To select top students for the Olympiad, a contest involving 20,000 students with an average mark of above 17 was organized and 500 students were chosen, he said, adding that these 500 students underwent an 8-week training course and took part in the final exam wherein four were nominated for the Olympiad. Students from European and Asian countries such as the US, France, Italy, Russia, Turkey, Tajikistan and Pakistan are participating in the event.

The Iranian team includes Fatemeh Kashani from Mashhad, Arad Iranmehr from Tabriz, Arya Haj-Mirzaeian from Gilan and Fatemeh Moqaddas from Sirjan.

Iran's motocross team taking part in Asian competitions in Mongolia

TEHRAN - Iran's Motocross Team will leave for Mongolia to take part at the second round of the 2009 Asian Motocross Competitions slated for July 19.

Announcing this, vice-chairman of the Iranian Motorcycle and Automobile

Racing Federation, Hossein Shahriari told IRNA Sunday that the team headed by Nadali Karimzadeh includes Mojtaba Karimzadeh from Isfahan and Amir Reza Sabeti from Kerman.

Ten Asian countries including India, China, Malaysia,

No pressure on Pakistan to cancel Iran-Pakistan gas deal

TEHRAN - Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abdul Basit, on Sunday said that there is absolutely no pressure on Pakistan to cancel the gas pipeline deal with Iran. Talking to IRNA in Islamabad, he said that no country in the world whether it is Muslim or not could ask Pakistan to cancel the project.

"Iran is our brotherly Muslim neighbor, how could we cancel the deal knowing its importance for us, this is all fiction", Abdul Basit made it clear.

Pakistan media earlier had reported that the United States and one Muslim coun-

try of the Middle East are exerting immense pressure on Pakistan to cancel the recently signed gas deal with Iran and some US officials spent almost half the day in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Resources to discuss the Iran deal.

Talking to 'The News', Adviser on Petroleum, Dr Asim Hussain refused to offer any comment on the identity of the two countries but conceded "tremendous pressure on canceling the deal".

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abdul Basit to a question replied that according to his information there is no such proposal to lay the gas

pipeline on the bed of the Indian Ocean instead of Balochistan.

The Adviser on Petroleum, Dr Asim Hussain, has said that the sea route would be comparatively more secure and also cost-effective as "it would not only save \$2 billion but also reduce the pipeline stretch by 150 km" - and that India could later join the project.

To a question about the dates of trilateral meeting between heads of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, to be held in Islamabad, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abdul Basit said that dates of the meeting have not yet been finalized.

ICCIM takes steps to form joint business councils with Americans

TEHRAN - Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, and Mines has taken preliminary steps for the establishment of joint business councils with North and Latin America, the ICCIM chairman stated here on Saturday.

Mohammad Nahavandian told ISNA that business councils will be formed with the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and Latin America as well, MNA reported.

Dispatching trade delega-

tions, holding exhibitions, publicizing and facilitating trade between the parties are within the scope of activity of the councils, Nahavandian noted.

"Iran currently has trade relations with Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. and intends to boost multilateral economic relations," he explained.

Iran and Canada have already established a joint business council.

The U.S. exported \$96

Iranian movie to be screened in Armenia film festival

TEHRAN - Iranian movie titled "Keep cool and count to seven" is to be screened in the international section of Armenia Film Festival known as "Golden Apricot".

The movie has already received several awards from a number of international festivals, including Rotterdam Festival, IRNA reported.

It also received special award of Shanghai Film

Festival last week and now is in Munchen Festival, Germany.

Director of the movie is Ramtin Lavvafi and the movie is his first long film.

The festival will end on July 19, 2009 in Yerevan.

Particularly since 2008 and the global economic downturn, Mexico has been more willing to find alternative markets that could help distance its economy from the United States.

Iran's "Twenty" wins Karlovy Vary jury special prize

TEHRAN - Abdorreza Kahani's "Twenty" won the jury special award at the 44th Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic on Saturday.

Kahani presented his award to the people of Iran and asked all the audience to applaud the Iranian people while standing up, MNA reported.

The tragi-comic film "Twenty" is Kahani's third production and was an entry to the competition section of the festival. Kahani along with actress Mahtab Keramati and film editor Shima Monfared attended the screening session of the film in the Czech spa town of Karlovy Vary last week and took part in the question and answer panel held after the screening.

Starring Parviz Paras-



tui and Mahtab Karamati, "Twenty" focuses on a once-popular reception hall now reduced to catering to the funeral business, whose workers are struggling to preserve it.

Actress Niki Karimi was selected for the Grand Jury of the festival. She was also holding a series of workshops during the program.

The Crystal Globe of the festival went to the film "Angel at Sea" directed by Frederic Dumont. The award was presented by American actor and filmmaker John Malkovich.

The Independent Camera Award of the festival went to the Irish film "Eamon" by Margaret Corkery.

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Iran welcomes re-election of Indonesian president

TEHRAN - Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi on Sunday felicitated the reelection of Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

According to the Information and Press Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qashqavi expressed the hope that during the second term in office of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the two countries would witness further expansion of bilateral relations and cooperation.

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