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Number 6330 • Tuesday November 5, 2019 • Aban 14, 1398 • Rabi' al-Awwal 7, 1441 • Price 20,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.iran-daily.com • newspaper.iran-daily.com



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## Protesters block roads in Beirut, other areas of Lebanon



REUTERS

Protesters blocked roads in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon on Monday, pressing a wave of anti-government demonstrations that have plunged the country into political turmoil at a time of economic crisis.

The nationwide protests, which were ignited on Oct. 17 by a government proposal to tax WhatsApp calls, led Saad al-Hariri to resign as prime minister last week. There has been no sign of progress yet toward agreement on a new government, Reuters wrote.

After Hariri quit, protests had ebbed, roadblocks were lifted and banks reopened for the first time in two weeks on Friday. But in the early hours of Monday, new roadblocks emerged in Beirut and around the country, snarling major traffic arteries including the main seaside highway north and south of the capital. Schools called off plans to reopen and are now in their third week of closure.

"People are continuing because you know you can't trust this government, any part of it," said Hashem Adnan, one of several dozen protesters blocking the Ring Bridge in Beirut.

In the northern city of Tripoli, demonstrator Rabi al-Zein said protesters had escalated again because they do not trust the ruling elite to meet demands for a new administration that will act against corruption. "We want technocrats (in government) and we want judges to fight corruption, recover stolen money and hold the government accountable," he said.

Lebanon is grappling with the worst economic crisis since the 1975-90 civil war. With growth around zero percent, a slowdown in capital inflows has led to a scarcity of US dollars and pressure on the pegged Lebanese pound.

The pound, pegged at the official rate of 1,507.5 pounds to the dollar for 20 years, has strengthened since Hariri quit.

A dollar cost 1,680 pounds on the parallel market on Monday, a foreign exchange dealer said. The day Hariri quit, dollars were being offered at 1,800 pounds.

## Iran marks 40th anniversary of US Embassy takeover



MEHR

### Political Desk

Thousands rallied outside the former US Embassy in Tehran on Monday to mark the 40th anniversary of the takeover of the American mission.

Marches and rallies were held in some 1,000 communities across the country four decades to the day after revolutionary students stormed the complex and seized dozens of American diplomats and embassy staff. They also recovered thousands of documents proving the US espionage activities in the embassy, which gained notoriety as the "Den of Espionage."

Replica missiles and the same type of air defense battery used to shoot down a US drone in June were put on display outside the former embassy turned museum in Tehran.

Iranians massed in front of the building carrying effigies of US President Donald Trump and placards with slogans such as "Down with USA" and "Death to America."

The demonstrators expressed their opposition to global hegemony by chanting slogans against the United States and Israel and set their flags on fire in condemnation of their policies of creating havoc in other countries.

### Political Desk

Iran announced Monday an over-tenfold rise in enriched uranium production following a series of steps back from commitments under a 2015 multinational nuclear deal initially ditched by the United States.

Iran has also developed two new advanced centrifuges, one of which is undergoing testing, said Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran.

Enriched uranium production has reached five kilograms per day, Salehi told reporters at the Natanz facility in central Iran in remarks broadcast on national TV.

That compares with

rallies were also held in the cities of Mashhad, Shiraz and Esfahan, among others, with the local media estimating "millions of people" attending across the country.

National TV aired segments of a Canadian documentary titled "The Fire Breather," showing Trump's controversial 2016 campaign trail highlights and biting comments about his past alongside images of the rallies.

On November 4, 1979, less than nine months after the toppling of Iran's American-backed shah, students overran the embassy complex to demand the United States hand over the ousted ruler after he was admitted to a US hospital.

Iran released women, African-Americans, as well as a man who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis days later, but it took 444 days for the takeover to end with the release of 52 American hostages. The US broke off diplomatic relations with Iran in 1980 and ties have been frozen ever since.

### 'Den of Espionage'

The former US diplomatic compound in Tehran has long been regarded as a clear indication of how deep America's in-

telligence operations run in other countries.

The students who took over the mission were able to piece together the shredded remains of various embassy documents that hinted at Washington's secret plots against Iran and the Islamic Revolution.

The Founder of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini hailed the move by the students, describing the embassy takeover as the "second revolution."

The 40th anniversary comes at a time of escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Trump withdrew the United States from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers last year and reimposed punishing sanctions.

Tehran has hit back with three countermeasures since May, reducing parts of its compliance with the deal.

"At the time [of the embassy takeover], Americans believed they were an exceptional nation, able to commit any injustice anywhere," government spokesman Ali Rabi' told the press on Monday.

"America's problem is still this sense of exceptionalism. It allows itself to trample international law and commit the worst crimes against nations

with no fear of an international backlash," he added.

The arch-foes came to the brink of a military confrontation in June when Iran downed a US Global Hawk drone in its airspace and Trump ordered retaliatory strikes before canceling them at the last minute.

On Sunday, Iran's Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a ban on talks with the United States, describing the two countries as implacable foes.

"Those who believe that negotiations with the enemy will solve our problems are one-hundred percent wrong," he said.

Ayatollah Khamenei has banned Iranian officials from holding talks unless the United States renounces the nuclear deal and lifts all sanctions.

Iran unveiled new anti-American murals on the walls of the former embassy on Saturday with stark images of a crumbling Statue of Liberty, a downed US drone and skulls floating in a sea of blood.

Iran's Parliament gave initial approval to a measure requiring schoolbooks to inform students about "America's crimes."

AFP Press TV and Reuters contributed to this story.

## Six-medal tally seals world U23 GR title for Iran



unitedworldwrestling.org

### Sports Desk

A total of six medals – including three golds – saw Iran's Greco-Roman team claim the top spot at the 2019 World U23 Wrestling Championships in Budapest, capital of Hungary.

On Sunday, Mohammad-Reza Geraci routed Azerbaijan's Sanan Suleymanov 7-0 in the men's 72kg final.

Valentin Petic of Moldova and Ukrainian Maksym Yevtushenko – beaten by Geraci in the semifinal – shared the third spot.

Geraci's triumph marked Iran's third gold of the competitions as Meysam Dalikani and Ali-Akbar Yousefi had bagged a couple of golds on the preceding night.

Dalkhani beat Georgian Levani Kavjaradze 7-6 to claim the 63kg gold while Yousefi was handed the 130kg gold after defending champion Zviadi Pataridze had to pull out of the final bout with a foot injury.

Additionally, Mehdi Moshenejad, Sajjad Imantlab and Mohammad-Hadi Saravi added three bronzes to Iran's account.

Moshenejad bounced back from a quarterfinal defeat against Armen Melikyan of Armenia – who eventually won the gold – and beat the host's Kriszian Kecskemeti 9-5 for a joint-third spot finish in the 60kg weight class – alongside Russain Artur Petrosian.

Imantlab, having suffered a second-round defeat against Aliaksandr

Livonchyk of Belarus, also beat Bulgarian Deyvid Dimitrov for the 67kg bronze.

Saravi, meanwhile, beat Ukraine's Vladlen Kozliuk by a fall for the 97kg joint-bronze after a 5-1 defeat against the eventual gold medalist Arvi Savolainen of Finland in the quarters.

Iran collected 122 points for a first-place finish in the overall standings, followed by Georgia and Russia, which finished on 121 and 118 points respectively.

### Freestyle runner-up

Iran's Greco-Roman triumph came after the country's freestyle team had finished second in the competitions last Wednesday.

A glittering campaign saw Iran collect six medals – three golds – and 139 points to stand behind Russia – which tallied 145 points.

Following Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan finished with 111 pts.

Kamran Qasempour (86kg), Mojtaba Goleji (97kg) and Amirhossein Zare (125kg) bagged three gold medals while Mohammad Nokhodi had to settle for a silver after suffering a defeat in the 74kg final against Russia's Razambek Zhamalov.

Alireza Sarlak (57kg) and Hossein Shahbazi (92kg), meanwhile, grabbed two bronzes for the country.

The third edition of the U23 championships took place in the Hungarian capital on October 28 – November 3.

### EU stance

"This is while some say (Iran's) nuclear industry was destroyed!" he said, laughing.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will announce further steps away from the accord sometime soon, government spokesman Ali Rabi' separately said Monday. An announcement had been expected this week.

Iran has threatened in the past to push enrichment back up to 20%.

Meanwhile, the European Union said on Monday it's still committed to the Iran nuclear deal. Maja Kocijancic, a spokeswoman for the European Commission, said that the deal "is a matter of our security, not just the region or Europe but globally."

But she said the EU's commitment to the deal "depends on the full compliance by Iran."

AFP and AP contributed to this story.

## Iran announces spike in enriched uranium output

### Nuclear chief: 30 more advanced centrifuges fired up

the level of 450 grams two months ago when it dropped a number of commitments made under Iran's landmark 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran decided in May to suspend certain obligations under the accord, a year after US President Donald Trump withdrew from the deal and reimposed sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Iran has so far hit back with three packages of countermeasures and warned it would go even further if the remaining signatories to the deal – Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia – particularly the Europe-

ans, fail to help it circumvent US sanctions.

But so far, European nations have been unable to offer Iran a way to help it sell oil abroad as it faces strict US sanctions.

On July 1, Iran said it had increased its stockpile of enriched uranium to beyond a 300-kilo maximum set by the deal, and a week later, it announced it had exceeded a 367-percent cap on the purity of its uranium stocks.

More new centrifuges spin

Salehi also said Iran has doubled the number of advanced centrifuges it operates, calling the decision a direct result of Trump's withdrawal from

the agreement.

Salehi pushed a button on a keyboard to start a chain of 30 IR-6 centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear facility, increasing the number of working centrifuges to 60.

"With the grace of God, I start the gas injection," the US-trained scientist said.

The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only 5,060 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas.

Iran fired up advanced centrifuges to boost its enriched uranium stockpiles on September 7.

Salehi said Iranian engineers "have success-

fully built a prototype of IR-9, which is our newest machine, and also a model of a new machine called IR-8 ... all these in two months".

The IR-9, he said, works 50-times faster than the IR-1.

Iran has removed all of its nuclear deal-approved IR-1 centrifuges and is only using advanced machines, leading to the sharp increase in enriched uranium production, he added.

"We must thank the enemy for bringing about this opportunity to show the might of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially in the nuclear industry," Salehi said.

Iran Daily's next issue will come out Saturday due to national holiday.