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Iran delivers official protest over murder of citizen in Belgium
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Private behavior will shape our path to fiscal stability
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Iraq must take steps to prevent dust storms: Larijani

◆ Iraq needs lasting security for development
Tehran Times Political Desk
BAGHDAD — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani held a meeting with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Ayad al-Samarraie in Baghdad on Wednesday afternoon in which the two discussed security, dust storms, bilateral relations, and other issues.

Larijani arrived in Baghdad on Wednesday for a four-day visit. The Iranian parliament speaker urged Iraqi officials to take the steps necessary to prevent severe dust storms like the ones that spread to Iran over the past year. "The issue of dust storms is a regional problem, and the neighboring countries should cooperate in order to find a solution," he said and asked the Iraqi parliament to urge the prime minister's administration to take more effective steps to solve the problem.

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Iranians hold rallies to commemorate U.S. embassy seizure

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Hundreds of thousands of Iranians held rallies on Wednesday across the country to mark the 30th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran by Iranian students during the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In Tehran, the demonstrators gathered outside the former U.S. embassy compound in the center of the city, carrying placards expressing their animosity toward the arrogant powers and shouting anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli slogans. Supporters of defeated presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi also took to the streets on Wednesday, chanting slogans like "The Russian embassy, the main home of espionage" and "We are all together" and confronted the police at some points, Khabar Online reported. The protesters set fire to a number of trash dumpsters in the streets of central Tehran, but police forces fired tear gas to dis-



Marchers converged at the former U.S. embassy in central Tehran on Wednesday to mark the 30th anniversary of the embassy takeover.

perse them. Majlis Cultural Committee Chairman Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel said here on Wednesday that the students seized the U.S. embassy due to the great suffering that the arrogance and colonialism of the United States had inflicted upon the Iranian nation. "About nine months after the victory of the revolution... university students entered the U.S. em-

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Earthquake hits southern Iran, 700 injured

Tehran Times Political Desk
BANDAR ABBAS, Iran — An earthquake struck Iran's southern province of Hormozgan early on Wednesday, injuring about 700 people.

The quake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale happened at 02:56 local time and damaged houses and electricity lines in the port city of Bandar Abbas, Iranian News Channel reported. The earthquake also shook the Qeshm Island, located a few kilometers off the southern coast of Iran. Most of the injured have been discharged from hospitals and only those who suffered more injuries are hospitalized. Farshid Abedi, the chancellor of Hormozgan Medical University, said the people were injured as they were fleeing homes from the quake.

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Climate change deniers are not skeptics -- they're suckers

By George Monbiot
There is no point in denying it: we're losing. Climate change denial is spreading like a contagious disease. It exists in a sphere that cannot be reached by evidence or reasoned argument; any attempt to draw attention to scientific findings is greeted with furious invective. This sphere is expanding with astonishing speed. A survey last month by the Pew Research Centre suggests that the proportion of Americans who believe there is solid evidence that the world has been warming over the last few decades has fallen from 71% to 57% in just 18 months. Another survey, conducted in January by Rasmussen Reports, suggests that, due to a sharp rise since 2006, U.S. voters who believe global warming has natural causes (44%) outnumber those who believe it is the result of human action (41%).

A study by the website Desmogblog shows that the number of internet pages proposing that man-made global warming is a hoax or a lie more than doubled last year. The Science Museum's Prove it! exhibition asks online readers to endorse or reject a statement that they've seen the evidence and want governments to take action. As of yesterday afternoon, 1,006 people had endorsed it and 6,110 had rejected it. On Amazon.co.uk, books championing climate change denial are currently ranked at 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in the global warming category. Never mind that they've been torn to shreds by scientists and reviewers, they are beating the scientific books by miles. What is going on?

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Afghan policeman kills 5 British soldiers

KABUL (AP) — An Afghan policeman opened fire on British soldiers in the volatile southern province of Helmand, killing five before fleeing, authorities said Wednesday, raising concerns about discipline within the Afghan forces and possible infiltration by insurgents. The attack Tuesday afternoon came a month after an Afghan policeman on patrol with U.S. soldiers fired on the Americans, killing two. Training and operating jointly with Afghan police and soldiers is key to NATO's strategy of dealing with the spreading Taliban-led insurgency and, ultimately, allowing international forces to leave Afghanistan. Attacks such as these will heighten concern about the effectiveness of the Afghan forces. Lt. Col. David Wakefield, spokesman for the British forces, told Sky News that the soldiers had



been mentoring Afghan national police and had been working and living in the police checkpoint in Helmand's Nad-e-Alli district. "It is our initial understanding that an individual Afghan policeman possibly acting in conjunction with one other started firing inside the checkpoint before fleeing from the scene," he said.

A Helmand police official said authorities searched through the night and on Wednesday for the attacker. He said the man had been working as a police officer in the area for three years, and had passed through a police academy in Kandahar. The official, who spoke on condition his name not be used because of the sensitivity of the situation, said it was unclear what his motives were. The attacker was on the roof of a police checkpoint and opened fire on the British soldiers, who returned fire. Six other soldiers were wounded, as were two Afghan policemen, NATO forces headquarters in Kabul said in a statement. NATO said the attack was being investigated by NATO forces and Afghan authorities.

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Abdullah rules out joining new Afghan government

KABUL (Reuters) — Technocrats and some existing ministers will be appointed to Afghan President Hamid Karzai's new government, a spokesman said on Wednesday, but his main rival branded his re-election illegal and ruled out taking any part. Karzai, returned to power after a needless presidential run-off vote was abandoned on Monday, is under pressure from his Western backers to root out the corruption that tainted his previous administration, with a top U.S. military official saying he should prosecute wrongdoers to shore up his legitimacy. The run-off, triggered after widespread fraud marred the first round in August, was canceled after Karzai's only rival, former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, withdrew citing serious concerns about the vote. That decision came after weeks of political uncertainty, while U.S. President Obama also weighs whether to send up to 40,000 more troops to fight a resurgent Taliban, who had threatened to disrupt the poll and branded Karzai's return as a farce. Karzai has committed himself to an inclusive government, but Abdullah ruled out taking any part despite pressure for a power-sharing deal. "I have no interest in the future cabinet of Karzai's government and I will pursue my agenda, which is change," Abdullah told a news conference at his Kabul home.

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Italian judge convicts 23 in CIA kidnap case



Prosecutor Armando Spataro speaks in a Milan court, Italy, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2009.

MILAN (AP) — An Italian judge says he has convicted 23 Americans of the 2003 kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric from a Milan street in a CIA extraordinary rendition. Citing diplomatic immunity, Judge Oscar Magi told the Milan courtroom Wednesday that he was acquitting three other Americans. Twenty-two of the convicted Americans were immediately sentenced to five years in jail at the end of the nearly three-year trial. The other convicted American, Milan CIA station chief Robert Seldon Lady, was given the stiffest sentence, eight years in prison. All of the Americans were tried in absentia.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Turkey to finalize nuclear deal by December: minister

ISTANBUL (Reuters) — Turkey expects to finish talks with Russia's Atomstroieksport by next month on building its first nuclear power plant and will accelerate plans to construct more, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said on Wednesday. Turkey has repeatedly pushed back a deadline to finish the tender, held in September 2008, at which Atomstroieksport and its partners Inter RAO and Turkey's Park Teknik were the only bidders. It wants the group to lower the price at which it will sell the government electricity. "Talks on the nuclear power station are continuing, but are not at the point where I can share details with the public," Yildiz told an energy conference. "We want to complete it by the end of November or ... December." Turkey is reviewing Atomstroieksport's revised bid. The new price is \$0.134-\$0.154 per kilowatt hour, 27 percent lower than its original bid but still about double current rates. The government has guaranteed 15 years of power purchases to encourage investment in the plant, but any builder will still charge a premium to recoup as much as \$8 billion in costs. The site of the first plant is near the town of Akkuyu in the eastern Mediterranean. Turkey then wants to build at least two more plants, with potential sites near the city of Sinop on the Black Sea, as it seeks to cover a looming shortfall in electricity as well as cut dependence on foreign energy imports.

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Italians cross at Euro court crucifix ruling

A crucifix is seen on a wall as a student writes on a blackboard in a school classroom in Rome. Public anger erupted in Italy after a European court ruled that displaying crucifixes in schools and public places violates educational and religious freedoms. The European Court of Human Rights ruled on Tuesday that Italy has been breaching the rights of parents to educate their children according to their own beliefs. It also violates children's right to freedom of religion, it said. Italian Education Minister Mariastella Gelmini said she would appeal the European court's ruling. She added that as the cross was part of the Italian tradition, "no one, and certainly not an ideological European court, will succeed in erasing our identity." The Italian bishops' conference also denounced the court ruling as "partial and ideological," saying the crucifix "is not just a religious symbol but also a sign of cultural belonging." Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi told Italian television that the ruling had been met "with astonishment and regret" by the Catholic Church. "The crucifix has always been a sign of God's love, unity, and hospitality to all humanity. It is unpleasant that it is considered a sign of division, exclusion, or a restriction of freedom," he said. The Italian foreign minister said the government would appeal against the ruling.

(Source: Press TV)