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Saudi Embassy has not verified identity of 'Bin Laden daughter'

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Iran announced on Sunday that the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Tehran has not verified the identity of a person that they claim is Osama bin Laden's daughter.

"The Saudi Embassy has not yet made any efforts to verify the identity of the person (that they claim is Bin Laden's daughter)," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told the official news agency IRNA.

According to the Saudi Embassy, the person entered Iran illegally and is now seeking to obtain new documents in order to leave the country, Mehmanparast said.

"But the immigration office has told the Saudi Embassy that according to Iranian law, her identity must be verified by the Saudis before any process pertaining to her departure can start," the Foreign Ministry spokesman explained.

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Ashura commemorations reach climax



Ashura commemoration in Tehran

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN/MASHHAD — The ten-day Muharram mourning ceremony for Imam Hussein (AS) reached its climax in Iran on Sunday, which was Ashura.

Millions of Iranians dressed in black beat their chests and flagellated themselves with chains to mourn on the day of Ashura, which is the tenth day of the lunar month of Muharram and the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS).

Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad (S), and 72 of his companions were martyred by the army of the Umayyad caliph Yazid in Karbala in 680 CE.

Black flags were raised all over the cities and villages of Iran as a sign of mourning.

Thousands of people visited the major shrine cities of Mashhad and Qom for the Ashura ceremonies. People in other Iranian cities also held Ashura ceremonies.

During Muharram, people get friendlier and an atmosphere of kindness and sympathy prevails in society. Families also distribute food in memory of Imam Hussein (AS).

Imam Hussein (AS) is loved by Muslims for standing up against the oppression of Yazid's government. In Iraq, hundreds of thousands of people flocked into Karbala to commemorate Ashura at the Shrine of Imam Hussein (AS).

About 60,000 foreign worshippers, including 15,000 Iranians also visited Karbala.

(Contd. on P. 15)

South Korea wins \$40 billion UAE nuclear deal

Compiled by Salman Ansari Javid

South Korea said on Sunday it had won a \$20 billion deal from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to build four nuclear reactors, one of the world's biggest nuclear power contracts.

A South Korean consortium expects to earn another \$20 billion by jointly operating the reactors for 60 years.

According to the Korean Herald the contract was signed at the end of a summit between South Korean President Lee Myung-bak and Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, president of UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Emirates Palace hotel, the UAE president said the deal marked "a new stage of strategic partnership" between the UAE and South Korea.

Lee arrived in the emirates on Saturday for a two-day visit to support Korea's bid for the Persian Gulf Arab world's first civilian nuclear reactor.

(Contd. on P. 3)

Intl. theories explain 'issues' in intl. politics: professor

By H. Kaji and J. Heiran-Nia



TEHRAN — Professor Felix Berenskoetter says that international theories

"don't just explain". Berenskoetter, who teaches at London University, believes that International theories "also try to tell us what the 'issues' in international politics are in the first place." Berenskoetter made the remarks in an e-mail interview with the Mehr News Agency recently.

Following is the text of the interview:

Q: There are four major intellectual discussions in international relations theories: realism versus liberalism; behaviorism versus traditionalism; neo-realism versus neo-liberalism; and rationalism versus constructivism. What is the main debate?

A: I am not sure there is a main debate in IR; indeed some of those are not even debates in the strict sense of the term but people talking passed each other. That said, there are some important philosophical questions underpinning all major discussions, such as how international relations are affected by human nature and future uncertainty; to what extent "reality" matters outside the meaning we give to it, and how we conceptualize power.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Hezbollah chief asks Egypt to stop Gaza border wall

BEIRUT (Reuters)

— Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Sunday called on Egypt to stop building a steel wall along the Gaza border that could obstruct 'economic' tunnels which provide a lifeline for the blockaded enclave.

Nasrallah told a crowd of tens of thousands of Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim marking the Ashura religious ceremony that Egypt should



be condemned if it does not halt the wall building.

Last year Nasrallah accused Cairo of complicity with Israel in its siege of the Gaza strip.

"In addition to the siege there has been news about (building) a steel wall... to terminate the thin veins which are giving some life and some hope to Gaza," he said.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Hamas members among 3 killed in Beirut blast

BEIRUT (AFP) — Three people were killed in a mysterious blast in southern Beirut, security officials said on Sunday, including two members of the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement.

"The death toll from Saturday night's explosion has risen to three, after one of the wounded died of his injuries," a Lebanese security official said.

Earlier on Sunday, a Hamas spokesman told Al-Arabiya television that the Beirut explosion had killed two members of his movement and wounded three people.

"The explosion in the southern

suburbs resulted in the martyrdom of two members of Hamas and wounded three other people," the spokesman, Ayman Taha, said on the Saudi-owned, Dubai-based station.

He added that "the circumstances of the explosion are unclear and it is too early to name the party" responsible.

Hamas and Hezbollah are close allies and archfoes of Israel, and members of the Palestinian movement are based in the Lebanese capital.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Embattled Zardari vows to defend democracy

ISLAMABAD (Reuters)

— President Asif Ali Zardari said on Sunday he would survive politically and defend democracy in Pakistan.

Speaking on the second anniversary of the assassination of his wife, former premier Benazir Bhutto, Zardari suggested he had no intention of resigning after the possibility of corruption charges against his close



aides weakened him.

"If anyone casts an evil eye on democracy, we will gouge out their eyes," he told supporters in Bhutto's hometown of Nauro.

He dismissed speculation he might not survive politically, saying he would swear in a new government after the next election, due by 2013.

(Contd. on P. 15)

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