

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Colonial powers' decline sooner than expected: SNSC secretary



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## Political Desk

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani said that the decline of colonial powers including the US will happen faster than expected.

Shamkhani made the remarks while addressing the closing ceremony of an international conference themed 'New World Order Geometry' in Tehran on Thursday.

"We are now at a critically historical juncture, and a change in the world order is accordingly of paramount importance. The new world order and mechanisms to approach it would prompt us to review our macro policies", Shamkhani said.

He added that the new world order can either provide great and brilliant opportunities or pose threats and dangers depending on countries' behavior and preparations for such changes. Shamkhani reiterated that "we must prepare ourselves and increase our resilience for global transformations."

## Diplomat meets ex-Afghan officials

## International Desk

Iranian President's Special Envoy on Afghanistan's Affairs and Caretaker of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul Hassan Kazemi Qomi held talks with Abdullah Abdullah, former chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation of Afghanistan, and discussed humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

Abdullah, in a tweet, said that during the meeting, he stressed the need for the continuation of Iran's aid to the Afghan people as well as expanding Iran-Afghanistan relations.

On Thursday, Kazemi Qomi also met and held talks with former Afghan president Hamid Karzai. Karzai said on Twitter that he met Kazemi Qomi and discussed the current Afghan situation and the recent Doha meeting. Karzai also called Iran an "old, historic friend."

## Iran releases two French nationals

## International Desk

Iran on Friday morning released two French citizens detained in Iran, namely Benjamin Briere and Bernard Phelan. Phelan also holds Irish citizenship. In a phone call on Friday, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna thanked her Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian for Tehran's humanitarian move of releasing the French nationals and called it "an effective and confidence-building step."

Colonna also underscored that her recent visit with the Iranian foreign minister in Beijing was constructive. Recollecting the recent remarks by French President Emmanuel Macron on Iran's strategic indepen-

dence, Amir-Abdollahian said that taking practical measures toward implementing such a strategy is an effective step in today's evolving world.

Amir-Abdollahian and Colonna held the meeting in Beijing in early April. The meeting took place as high-ranking delegations of the two countries were in the Chinese capital.

## Ireland lauds Iran's action

In a phone call on Thursday, Ireland's Foreign Minister Michael Martin also thanked Iran's chief diplomat for releasing Phelan, a French-Irish national.

"I spoke to the Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian yesterday and I acknowledge the

assistance of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in relation to Mr. Phelan's release," Martin said in a statement released by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs on Friday.

"I am also very grateful to our Consular team in the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, our diplomats on the ground in our Mission in Tehran, and our Ambassador in Turkey accredited to Iran," the statement said.

Phelan, 64, was arrested in October 2022 while participating in the unrest in Mashhad city of Razavi Khorasan Province, north-eastern Iran, which was instigated by the passing of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old girl who died in police custody on September 15,



Benjamin Briere (R), Bernard Phelan

AFP

2022. Passing through judicial procedures, Phelan was sentenced to six years and

six months of imprisonment. During that time, he was in contact with his family by phone, and ac-

ording to the provisions of the Vienna Convention, benefited from all consular support and services.

## An ideal human rights opportunity

These examples amply demonstrate the deep-rooted and ingrained respect for human rights in Iran's religious, cultural, and national education. In fact, Iranian scholars and writers have been at the forefront of advancing human rights in history, a legacy that is firmly entrenched in their Islamic and cultural heritage.

Given Iran's extensive religious and cultural heritage, the appointment of the Iranian envoy to chair the upcoming event in Geneva presents a favorable opportunity to showcase the country's true stance on human rights, based on unimpeachable facts rather than the unfounded allegations of foreign media outlets. Through this lens of truth, Iran can present an honest portrayal of its human rights record, which can be compared to the human rights records of certain European nations as well as the United States.

Simultaneously, this opportunity serves as a platform for highlighting the human rights abuses rampant in Western countries, who frequently conceal their violations through sophisticated media campaigns and psychological warfare, thereby manipulating public perceptions.

Furthermore, within Iran, intellectuals, artists, and legal professionals can harness their collective potential to generate content for both domestic and international conferences, designed to retrieve religious, literary, and historical



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texts that praise social responsibility and a staunch commitment to human rights.

The Islamic Republic's newfound responsibility in the realm of human rights presents a unique opportunity for constructive dialogue with other nations, aimed at dispelling any misunderstandings and misconceptions regarding Iran, and disseminating exemplary Iranian and Islamic models of human rights observance.

In light of this global responsibility, Iran stands to gain immensely from the many opportunities now afforded to it. It is therefore incumbent upon Iranian officials not to squander this rare chance, but rather, to utilize it to the fullest extent possible. Doing so will enable the Iranian authorities to outline the true level of human rights observance in Iran, as well as to expose instances of human rights violations committed by other nations. Indeed, these human rights dialogues hold great promise for elevating the observance of human rights across the world.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi  
Cartoonist



## Iran becomes 1st Muslim country to navigate around globe

## Political Desk

Iran's 86th Naval Fleet including the fully homegrown Dena Destroyer navigated around the world in a mission codenamed "360-Degree."

The announcement was made by Rear Admiral Shahrar Irani, the chief commander of Iran's Army Navy Force, on Friday as he elaborated on the mission of the 86th naval fleet.

Admiral Irani told the reporters in a press conference that the fleet began its mission in September 2022 from Bandar Abbas port, southern

Iran, and now is in Aden Gulf after 213 days of navigation.

In accordance with maritime diplomacy, he said that the fleet visited India and Indonesia and entered the Pacific Ocean for the first time while holding a joint drill there.

The commander highlighted the fact that the navigation took about 15,000 km in the Pacific Ocean, during which the fleet passed three great typhoons without suffering any damage.

Passing the Strait of Magellan, entering the Atlantic, visiting Brazil's Rio de Janeiro port city, and arriving in the Aden Gulf after passing

the Cape of Good Hope were other parts of the navigation. Admiral Irani said the '360-Degree' navigation's mission was to bring the message of peace and security to the world, describing it as a strong step toward the creation of Islamic Civilization. The Commander of Iran's Army Navy Force noted that the foreigners could not and did not bring security to the region, stating that the regional countries have become capable of getting unified and producing security in the region, with Iran being ready to share its experiences in this area.

## Iran to chair UNHCR Social Forum, US exasperated

## International Desk

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office in Geneva Ali Bahreini has been appointed as the rotating president of the 2023 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council slated for November.

The news broke out on Thursday. This breakthrough would be a first for an Islamic Repub-

lic official.

The Social Forum of the Human Rights Council is to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on November 2-3 with the aim of preparing the ground for member states and participating representatives to exchange views about the role of science, innovation, and technology in promoting human rights, particularly in the era after the coronavirus pandemic.

The news angered the United States, which showed a strong reaction.

Vedant Patel, deputy spokesperson of the US State Department described Iran's presidency over the social forum of the United Nations Human Rights Council as "deeply troubling." The American official added that the US has not taken part in the sessions of the group and it does not intend to attend them this year.

## Chinese mediation enters a whole new level

"I don't think the meetings are directly related, in the sense that

China and the US have been periodically engaging in between their diplomatic disputes, especially after balloon-gate and the rise of tensions in the Taiwan Strait since I think both sides recognize that keeping tensions high isn't in anyone's interest," Figueroa told Iran Daily.

Yet, he didn't rule out the possibility of China trying its hands in resolving a bigger case.

"That being said, I do think that China would jump at

the chance to play that role if given the opportunity. They played a substantial, if somewhat overlooked, role in the JCPOA negotiations last time," the analyst continued.

"The bigger question is: Would the US welcome China to be involved? Given their negative initial reaction to China's role in the KSA-Iran agreement and their clear disapproval of China playing a larger role in the region — whatever they might say to the contrary — I doubt they (the US) would want to hand China a win," Figueroa con-

cluded.

Yet, the fact remains that Yi met Sullivan only a day after meeting the Iranian delegation. Although Iran's Expediency Discernment Council does not have any sort of direct involvement in the talks to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, it can play an advisory role. The JCPOA revival talks are handled by Iran's Supreme National Security Council, but negotiations are conducted by the Iranian Foreign Ministry. However coincidental the meetings may seem to appear, facts cannot be neglected.