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Heading for Scientific Supremacy

>> Felicitations

Iran Daily felicitates its Muslim readers on the auspicious Feast of Ghadir-e Khom, the day on which Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) proclaimed Imam Ali (AS) as his successor.

Yalda Night



Shab-e Yalda, which coincides with December 21, has great significance for Iranians. The longest night of the year is the time for family get-together, sharing and joy.

Active Diplomacy



Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said the Majlis has decided to provide Gazans with practical and urgent assistance through active diplomacy.

Hamburg Advances



Hamburg climbed up to fourth place in the Bundesliga after edging Eintracht Frankfurt at the HSV Arena.

Mashhad Congress



A congress to commemorate noted Iranian polymath Sheikh Bahae (1532-1610) will be held in Mashhad, Khorasan Razavi province, from December 24-25.

Photo by Hassan Ghaedi



Breakthrough in Medical Technology

For the first time in the world, Iranian researchers have invented a method for the speedy treatment of mucus membrane damage by using laser therapy named NACLt.

Five researchers of Medical Laser Research Center, affiliated to University Jihad of Tehran Medical University, led by Nasrin Zand-Kermani, managed to use CO₂ laser in a completely new manner and in a non-invasive way to completely cure the mucus membrane damage, irib.ir reported.

Results of research reveal that one round of NACLt therapy can treat mucus membrane damage quickly and significantly ease the pain related to Pemphigus vulgaris disease as well as the side-effects of chemotherapy for cancer patients.

Unlike common applications of CO₂ laser, the NACLt method is

painless, does not need desensitization and causes no side-effects such as tissue damage or wounds.

Zand noted that initial studies revealed that the use of NACLt, in addition to immediately alleviating pain, expedites the cure of mouth ulcers or aphtae.

Based on the report, the preliminary results of research were presented in the international congress Laser Florence 2006 and after completion were presented in the eighth annual conference of the American Society for Laser in medicine and surgery.

The innovative method of University Jihad researchers has so far been tested on 70 patients with mucus membrane damage. So far, none of the patients treated by the new laser therapy has shown any side-effects.

Perspective

Real Farewell

By Mahmoud Mohammadzadeh

President George W. Bush in his eight controversial years in the Oval Office has made many decisions, issued many decrees and took many measures, but in the long list of his controversial performance, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are different from all other developments.

It was natural for Bush, who assumed Kabul and Baghdad to be gateways to his dreamworld, to visit them for bidding farewell.

Perhaps most observers may wonder over the advantages of visiting the two countries while Iraq has not achieved security and Afghanistan is facing the nightmare of Taliban's return.

This question cannot be answered through political logic, as most American analysts have also emphasized that Bush's decision-making paradigm in the arena of politics is different from what the elite conceive or perceive.

Due to this gap in Bush's mindset with the realities, Republicans lost in the presidential race. In fact, the electoral headquarters of Republican contender John McCain announced that the main reason behind McCain's defeat was nothing but Bush's performance.

Bush, who has been defeated in the eyes of the US public opinion, still thinks about Iraq and Afghanistan the way he perceived them in 2003 when on the deck of a warship he announced that the mission was over. Despite all the changes that emerged in the wake of these two wars such as the death toll of American troops in these two crises, the main architect of the meltdowns, namely Bush, remains unchanged.

Sufficient proof for this claim is Bush's press conferences in Kabul and Baghdad. He disregarded demonstrators who had lined up on the other side of Iraq's Green Zone or the protesting Afghan groups who attacked his entourage by continuing to play the role of a savior.

Even if his very first sentence that the US rescued the two nations from Baathist dictatorship and Taliban's narrow-mindedness is correct, his last claim that the present-day Iraq and Afghanistan are better than before is baseless and even ridiculous. And this was the reason behind the fury of Iraqis and Afghans who even made his press conference unsafe.

Iranians Devise New Tinnitus Treatment

Iranians have devised a new technique to diagnose and treat tinnitus--ringing in the ears--using acoustic and electric stimulation.

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Afghan Truckers Stop NATO Supplies

Truckers have stopped supplies to NATO forces in Afghanistan by reaction to damage to their vehicles in frequent attacks by suspected militants and the US drone attacks in tribal areas.

The decision was taken by the Khyber Transport Association (KTA) during a meeting on Sunday, a source told The News.

Over 3,000 trailers, trucks and tankers belong to the Khyber Agency, located on the border with Afghanistan, which can move across the border without producing passports or other traveling documents.

"We feel that our drivers and vehicles are not safe anymore. As tribesmen, we are concerned over frequent attacks by the US drones in our tribal areas, and that is why we want to stop the supply of goods to the US-led allied forces in Afghanistan," Shakir Afridi, president of KTA, told The News after the meeting.

The KTA president said 3,000 to 4,000 trucks, trailers and tankers, which constitute the major share of vehicles transporting the NATO supplies, are owned by the tribesmen of Khyber Agency alone.

> Taliban Raids Crippling

While NATO and United States forces have downplayed raids in Peshawar by pro-Taliban militants, which have destroyed hundreds of military vehicles and supply containers destined for Afghanistan, analysts believe the damage is significant.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iranian scientists have decided to revive Iran as a scientific hub of the world in the not-so-distant future.

"Coordination in the research sector and applying the findings of research projects to people's everyday lives can pave the grounds for the scientific supremacy of Iran on the global scene," added the president, who was addressing the ceremony for honoring outstanding researchers on Monday, President.ir reported.

He noted that the spirit of scientific innovation and research prevails extensively in the country and thousands of thinkers and researchers are engaged in scientific endeavors nationwide.

Ahmadinejad said that in order to generate useful knowledge, the scientists of the country should realize their own lofty potentials.

"The start and end of a project should be continuous so that the nation would advance in a constructive manner," he said.

Stressing that researchers should know what problems they have addressed, he said, "Research should have a useful impact on people's lives. Therefore, researchers should shun repetitive works. The capabilities of scientists should be utilized sufficiently."

The president referred to the activities of the office for industry-campus relations and said, "This year, research contracts worth seven trillion rials were signed by state institutions and universities. This figure is exclusive of the budget allocated for research on campuses and research centers."

He emphasized that research constitutes the backbone of the advancement of all societies.

"Some people do not appreciate scientific endeavors in a befitting manner. If these people were to carry out research themselves, then they would realize the implications of publishing 13,000 superior articles and hundreds of books," he said.

Ahmadinejad said Iranian researchers love to facilitate the country's advancement.

"Commending the efforts of learned people and researchers is very important and the government calls on all researchers to work for improving and upgrading research activities," he said.

The president went on to honor 130 Iranian researchers and scientists in the ceremony.

European Office Welcome

Meeting With US Officials Denied

Iran voiced its readiness on Monday to allow the Council of Europe set up a diplomatic office in Tehran.

Tehran has responded positively to the Council of Europe's approval for opening the office, Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hassan Qashqavi, said in his weekly press conference.

Asked why the issue was not reported earlier, the spokesman said it was no secret.

He criticized the US double-standard policy on nuclear issue while referring to Washington's nuclear cooperation with the United Arab Emirates.

"If the White House felt it is entitled to undertake such cooperation, why did the US launch so much propaganda against Iran's peaceful nuclear program?" he asked.

> Economic Opportunity

"The global financial crisis has provided Iran with a good opportunity to bolster the national economy," Qashqavi said.

