EUROPE: Politics and protests puts Europe’s academic freedom policies under the spotlight
Fintan Burke, Science|Business, 1/4
Wars on Europe’s doorstep, tech espionage and illiberal governments are spurring the EU and national governments to rethink who should take the lead on academic freedom.
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Tom Williams, Times Higher Education, 1/3
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Nicholas Confessore, New York Times, 1/2
The resignation of Harvard’s president, Claudine Gay, on Tuesday followed a lengthening catalog of plagiarism allegations that appeared to steadily sap her support among the university’s faculty, students and alumni. But for many of Dr. Gay’s critics, her departure was also a proxy victory in the escalating ideological battle over American higher education. Read more »

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Tens of thousands of Afghan women and girls have been able to join online study programmes despite the Taliban government's ban on female education, according to internet-based course providers. Read more »

ISRAEL: Academic School Year Begins at Most Israeli Universities Following Extended Delay Due to Gaza War
Shira Kadari-Ovadia, Haaretz, 12/31
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Dennis Normile, Science, 12/28
This month, lawmakers approved legislation that requires six top-ranked universities to establish new management policy councils designed to give outside experts a greater voice in decisions. But critics fear the councils will only add to already cumbersome university bureaucracies and push academic scientists to emphasize applied research. And because Moriyama’s ministry will vet council members, they worry the new law will erode university autonomy and open the door to political meddling. Read more »

GLOBAL: Hundreds of attacks on universities recorded in last two years
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Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack warns of increasing trend for attacks on female students protesting for their right to education. Read more »

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Katherine Mangan and Maggie Hicks, Chronicle of Higher Education, 12/22
With each new headline and video snippet that goes viral, the pressure on colleges to respond forcefully and quickly to incidents of antisemitism is building. So too is the pressure to resist calls from politicians, donors, and alumni to crack down on protesters in ways that stifle protected speech. Read more »

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411 Lafayette Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10003 USA
Tel: 212-998-2179

scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu
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