

## IRAN DAILY ON THE NET

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Subject: Funding US Aggression  
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The huge twin deficits, i.e. the current account and fiscal deficits, in the USA are caused by economic mismanagement that would not be sustainable in another country because the US dollar has a monopoly as a means of denominating world trade. They alone, therefore, can let their dollar slip by 30 percent, and shortchange their creditors with unique impunity.

Muslims and others are in effect funding the multibillion dollar assault against themselves.

Without your support of the dollar as the sole means of financing international trade, the hundreds of billions available to the US for aggression would not be there, as they would be obliged to address their own economic problems at their own expense.

You should insist and encourage others to demand that at least some of your foreign trade be denominated in euros. A small percentage of the market is all that is needed.

The US in a competitive market could no longer shortchange its creditor nations and those nations in turn, would no longer, given an alternative, be forced to support the value of the dollar regardless.

Reducing the US's ability to finance its military adventures has the same effect as increasing your ability to resist, but at no expense to you. This idea, I believe, should have a place in your overall response.

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## Tribute To Sohrevardi

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--President Mohammad Khatami's message was read Sunday at a conference marking the commemoration of the Iranian philosopher, Sheikh Shahabeddin Sohrevardi.

A report released by the Presidential Office's Media Department quoted Khatami as saying that the significance of Sohrevardi's thoughts was rooted in his power to make use of Iranian wisdom, Greek philosophy and Qur'anic knowledge, IRNA reported.

In his tribute, Khatami further said Sohrevardi succeeded in discovering the "eternal essence of being" by relying on his amazing faculties. The president's message was read by his cultural advisor, Hadi Khaniki, at the conference dubbed "Gnosticism, Islam, Iran and Contemporary Man", which was held at Tehran University's Amini auditorium.

## Kharrazi:

### NPT Discrimination Unacceptable

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said on Sunday developing countries, including Iran, would not accept any new discrimination in reviewing the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The Foreign Ministry's Information and Press Department quoted Kharrazi as telling the chairman of a review conference on NPT, Sergio de Queiroz Duarte, that countries possessing and lacking the nuclear technology were being discriminated against, IRNA reported. Kharrazi said the time has come for NPT revision and no new discrimination is acceptable by developing countries. He outlined Iran's stances on nuclear issues, saying Iran is ready for close cooperation with the review conference on NPT in 2005 to ensure the meeting's success. Kharrazi stressed the strengthening of NPT, saying countries should not act to undermine the treaty like certain western states.

## Nuclear Talks Optimistic

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--enjoys public support which is the most important asset in the Islamic system. Iran does not need to have weapons of mass destruction (WMD), in view of such an asset," he said. Commenting on America's anti-Iran policies, he noted that the US cannot tolerate an independent country in the Middle East and opposes Iran on one pre-nuclear or the other. Haddad-Adel voiced the Majlis support for foreign investments, saying that the Majlis is

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--A top official said on Monday when someone sees the society deviating from the right path, the person should enter the scene and sacrifice himself if necessary, Fars News Agency reported.

Speaking at the gathering to discuss promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, State Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani added that these gatherings create hope among people and

this is not something specific to Islam.

"All divine religions promote virtue and prevent vice. Islam considers it as a kind of supervision over public affairs. Each Muslim should supervise over what other Muslims do," he said.

Rafsanjani opined that supervising the performance of others is actually an interaction that takes place in all public places, including school, university or workplace.

Meanwhile, Seyyed Ahmad Zargar, secretary of the Taskforce for Reviving Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, submitted a report to Rafsanjani about the activities of the taskforce.

Zargar noted that conducting research, holding seminars and establishing councils for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice in administrations and factories are the most important activities of the taskforce.

## Officials To Stand Trial In Exam Scandal



Abbasali Alizadeh

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--Head of Tehran Justice Department said on Monday several governmental officials involved in the sale of questions of university entrance examination will soon be tried in an open court session.

Abbasali Alizadeh also told Fars News Agency that these suspects have already been indicted and will soon go on trial. "The suspects will be tried in an open court session," he noted.

Asked about a recent circular by the judiciary chief on not delaying the legal proceedings, Alizadeh responded by saying that Ayatollah Seyyed Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi has commissioned head of the Appeals Court to help end delays caused in legal procedures.

"The solution will be presented to Ayatollah Shahroudi for final approval. Upon Shahroudi's approval, it will be sent to related departments nationwide," he said.

## Broader Ties Favored With Ethiopia



President Mohammad Khatami received Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Development Ahmed Sufian in Tehran on Monday. (IRNA Photo)

TEHRAN, Feb. 14--President Mohammad Khatami received visiting Ethiopian Minister of Finance and Economic Development Ahmed Sufian on Monday.

During the meeting, Khatami pointed to historical commonalities between the two countries and Ethiopia's social and economic con-

ditions, praising peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims in that country, IRNA reported.

Referring to the sensitive status of Ethiopia in the African continent, Khatami expressed Iran's readiness to further expand all-out relations with Ethiopia on the basis of mutual

respect. The Ethiopian minister, for his part, stressed the need for consolidating Tehran-Addis Ababa relations, particularly in cultural and agricultural fields.

Sufian called for sharing expertise with Iran on resource management and resolution of economic difficulties.

## Envoy Meets Saudi Minister

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia, Feb. 14--Iran's Ambassador in Riyadh Hossein Sadeqi and Saudi Justice Minister Abdullah Al-Sheikh, at a meeting here on Sunday, discussed avenues for enhancing judiciary relations.

The Iranian envoy, at the meeting, described Tehran-Riyadh cooperation as 'positive', IRNA reported.

Highlighting the two countries' commonalities, particularly their religious affinity, Al-Sheikh expressed gratitude for Iranian measures to consolidate bilateral ties.

As the region's powerhouses, he said the two countries should further expand all-out cooperation.

The minister called for meetings among their respective religious scholars, saying these meetings would help strengthen the unity among the Islamic nation. The Saudi justice minis-

ter had paid a visit to Iran on June 7, 2004, in response to the earlier visit of Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi to Saudi Arabia.

## 7 Killed in Isfahan Road Accident

KASHAN, Isfahan, Feb. 14--Seven people were killed and 34 others wounded when a bus and a trailer collided on Kashan-Badroud Road in central Iran, it was reported Monday.

The accident took place late Saturday near Badroud district, about 140 kilometers north of the central provincial capital, Isfahan, IRNA reported.

The bus was traveling to the northern city of Gorgan from Yazd, central Iran. Local officials said the injured were rushed to the nearest hospital in Kashan, 35 kilometers from the crash site. They said an investigation is underway to find the cause of the accident.

## Hariri Killed in Bomb...

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Asefi said the Lebanese people and government should be fully vigilant and closely watch the conspiracies of those who are against the security and stability of the country.

The attack was condemned from the White House to the Gaza Strip, while Lebanon's former colonial power France called for an international inquiry.

Lebanon's official news agency ANI confirmed the death of Hariri, whose every move in Beirut was normally conducted under

tight security, upon his arrival at the American University Hospital.

Weeping supporters of Hariri gathered outside the hospital, many banging their heads in signs of grief.

Among the injured was one of Hariri's former ministers, Bassel Flayhane, who suffered burns and whose condition was described as serious.

Hariri's rise was a rags-to-riches story. Born to a poor farmer in the southern city of Sidon, he became one of the world's 100 richest people credit-

ed with spearheading Lebanon's postwar reconstruction.

A Sunni Muslim, he headed five governments from 1992, but later became a thorn in the side of Beirut's political masters in Damascus and resigned as premier in October after disputes with pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud over the role of Damascus in Lebanon.

The attack was swiftly condemned by Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad as a "terrible criminal act", the official news agency SANA said.

## Persian Press Watch

### Similarity

ABRAR: Recent remarks by British Prime Minister Tony Blair regarding Iran's alleged support for terrorism shows that Britain and US pursue a similar Middle East diplomacy. Blair has proven that he is even ready to disappoint his European allies for the sake of pleasing President George W. Bush. At the time when neither the UN Security Council nor the European Union supported the idea of resorting to force in order to put an end to the Iraqi crisis, Blair preferred dispatching thousands of troops to Iraq in order to show that he is acting in concordance with the Americans. What is noteworthy is that by the terminology terrorists Blair means the Islamic resistance groups, including Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

### Good News

MARDOMSALARI: After the despotic regime of Saddam Hussein collapsed with the US invasion of Iraq, that country's political atmosphere completely changed around. Regime change in Iraq has also influenced Iraq's neighboring countries. Establishment of democracy in Iraq can entail numerous privileges for Iraq's neighboring countries, particularly Iran. Above all, the elimination of Iraq's Baa'thist regime is good news for Iran, because Saddam was a big obstacle that prevented Iran from improving its diplomatic relations with Arab countries. Moreover, Iran can gain privileges from the US by playing an effective role in bringing political stability to Iraq.

### Quasi-Smuggling

DONYA-YE EQTESAD: People can easily differentiate between imported goods and smuggled goods. These days a new phenomenon has come to the fore and that being quasi-smuggling. This phenomenon has emerged basically due to involvement of non-economic institutions in economic and trade affairs. The notion of quasi-smuggling has become popular ever since certain print media talked about a quasi legal jetty in southern Iran. This jetty is not viewed as illegal and seemingly no smuggling is carried out through it. The bottom line is that the government should set transparent trade regulations. It must be clarified whether a good is being imported through legal channels or smuggled into the country.

### Modernism

SHARQ: Different people have different interpretations from the notion of modernism. Some people believe that modernism is tantamount to industrialization of countries. Others are of the opinion that freedom of speech, freedom of press and democracy are the main characteristics of a modern society. However, there is still a third group who distinguishes a modern society from traditional society by the level of welfare standards and flexibility towards criticisms. According to this group, the more a society is flexible towards criticisms or the higher the welfare standards, the more modern it is.

### Perspective

#### Dealing With EU3

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Furthermore, the Europeans claim Tehran is not making enough progress on the human rights front. Europe, which has come to accept, albeit reluctantly, America's dominant role in the world after the conflict in Afghanistan and Iraq, has proposed that America join its nuclear talks with Iran.

Needless to say, the offer was not received well by the Bush team as the Europeans had expected. Last week US secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice rejected the idea of her government participating in the negotiations.

Iran remains a key unresolved issue for the US foreign policy think tanks. European officials note they are at a loss to make any decisions about Iran without US consent.

They have often said that their American counterparts are regularly briefed on their interaction with Tehran.

"So, a logical question that arises is whether Europe is a reliable negotiating partner at this stage.

If we accept that most of the concessions and privileges the Europeans have announced will not see the light of day without US approval, then it would make little sense to keep our uranium enrichment program suspended.

It is crucial that in talks with the EU3 our reps proceed in a manner that France, Germany and the UK respect the Paris Accord and deliver on their declared commitments vis-a-vis our programs to employ nuclear technology for civilian use.

We must do our best to convince the Europeans to adhere to some respectable level of independence in the nuclear talks. They also need to know that unwanted and unhelpful US interference in the negotiations remains a red line for the Islamic state.