

IRAN DAILY ON THE NET

From: Medhawk123@hotmail.com
To: Iran-daily@iran-daily.com
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I am an American Muslim of Palestinian origin. I was happy for Turkey and my Turkish brothers for this decision by the EU. I would like to caution that we should never stop drawing conclusions from history. The strategy that the West have been using is "divide to conquer".

Arabs were stupid and uneducated when they believed Britain and fought against Ottomans, but a lot of Arabs are waking up now. No matter what happens, anything that is good for Turkey is good for us.

I think they will ask a lot of things from Turkey, such as help in Iraq and the Middle East to get their agenda off the ground. After 10 years of Turkish compliance with all their demands, they'll say "sorry Turkey".
Dave Curiave

President Urges Provincial Fund Rectification

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on Monday for allocating provincial funds based on the region's level of development.

In separate meetings with lawmakers from Kermanshah, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari and North Khorasan provinces, Ahmadinejad said resources should be disbursed in accordance with the potentials of each region and the extent of infrastructural development needed, ISNA reported.

"An overhaul is needed in the banking system to nurture provincial capabilities and potentials," he said, referring to it as the key strategy to promote national justice.

Ahmadinejad noted that justice can be materialized by extending banking facilities and allocating funds through forex resources, the supervision of which should be brought under the jurisdiction of provincial bodies.

The MPs briefed the president on the development situation in their constituencies, enumerating on the problems prevailing in those areas.

Bahonar Meets Australian Envoy

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--New Australian ambassador to Iran, Gregory Lorens Moriarty, conferred on Monday with first Majlis Vice Speaker Mohammad Reza Bahonar.

Referring to Iran's 20-Year Strategy and the start of the fourth economic development plan (2005-2010), Bahonar elaborated on the effective role of Majlis in

approving the country's development programs, IRNA reported.

Commenting on the significance of parliamentary relations and its impact on relations with different countries, Bahonar noted that relations help familiarize different nations with each other's cultures and forge closer scientific and cultural collaboration.

Debate Over Intrusion of Intelligence in Politics

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--A reformist activist said adopting a security approach with regard to political affairs will impose restrictions over party activities and promote the attitude of looking at all incidents as conspiracies.

A former lawmaker and member of Islamic Iran Participation Front, Ahmad Shirzad, also told ISNA on Monday that a political manager should not be chosen from among intelligence personnel because the latter should only focus on safeguarding national stability rather than engaging in politics.

"Those who treat politics from an intelligence perspective will tend to impose restrictions on party activities and expose them to intelligence activ-

ities such as eavesdropping and tapping telephone lines," he said.

Shirzad said if security and military organizations do not step back the social and political stage, and not limit their activities to intelligence missions, they will eventually infiltrate into all social and political aspects of the people's lives at the expense of democracy as well as social and political freedoms.

A conservative politician, on the other hand, defended appointing people with intelligence background to political posts.

A member of Islamic Coalition Party, Hamid Reza Tarraqi, told the news agency the same day that approaching political issue from a security and intelligence point of view has become a necessity, in



Ahmad Shirzad



Hamid Reza Tarraqi

the absence of which the country would suffer irreparable damage.

"Today, foreign and domestic threats leave no choice but to have a security approach to political issues," he said.

Tarraqi said in jobs such as those of interior minister, a lack of intelligence experience could expose him to untimely and even

harmful decisions in the wake of a crisis.

"The responsibility of the Interior Ministry is to ensure political, social and cultural security, which duty lies with governor generals and disciplinary forces who can best handle the job due to their intelligence and political background," he said.

Mottaki Condoles Pak, Indian Counterparts

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Monday expressed condolences to his Pakistani and Indian counterparts

for the thousands of lives lost in a devastating earthquake that hit South Asia Saturday morning.

The quake, measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, was epicentered 95 kilometers (60 miles) north-

east of the Pakistani capital Islamabad, IRNA reported.

The quake left more than 20,000 people dead and buried thousands alive in rubble.

In a message to his Pakistani counterpart, Khursheed Kasuri, Mottaki prayed for God's forgiveness for the victims and forbearance for the bereaved families.

Majlis Council To Be Renamed

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--A key member of the Majlis rightist faction said on Sunday the Coordinating Council of the Islamic Revolution Forces will be renamed as "Rightist United Front".

Mohammad Reza Mir-Tajeddini, also an MP from Tabriz, added that the coordinating council will not become a political party because it com-

prises several parties and political groups.

He rejected all rumors about transforming the council into a political party.

"Rightists are determined to continue their activities in an organized manner and adopt new strategies," he said.

Mir-Tajeddini also said rightists are determined to become more united and active in future.

UN To Relocate Iranian Refugees In Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq, Oct. 10--The United Nations plans to resettle thousands of Kurds who left Iraq for Iraq.

UN officials said the world body intends to move Iranian Kurds from a refugee camp in Ramadi to Kurdish areas in northern Iraq, Middle East Newsline reported. They said deteriorating security at Ramadi, a Sunni Muslim city, could not ensure the safety of the Kurdish refugees.

"We have called for a special status to be given to the Iranian Kurds," UN official Amin Awad said.

Awad, responsible for Kurdish refugees in Iraq, reported a sharp increase in the number of people who escaped Iran.

Persian Press Watch

Transparency

QODS: One of the most important problems of the national economy is lack of a transparent and pragmatic budget. A budget deficit of several thousands of billion toman, the extravagance pursued by the government and excessive reliance on oil revenues are the most evident consequences of the absence of a transparent budget system. Although the governmental companies and institutions are supposed to reduce their dependence on governmental budget, this dependence increases every year. In the meantime, the new government has vowed to prepare a budget bill for the next fiscal year, which will be more concordant with budgetary regulations. Of course, it is very difficult or nearly impossible to prepare a transparent budget bill over the period of one year.

Discontent

AFTAB-E YAZD: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad started his tenure as the chief executive while some of his opponents had warned that he and his colleagues would create a tense political atmosphere in the country. Nevertheless, the proponents of Ahmadinejad maintained that Iran's political situation would drastically improve when he took over presidential office. However, none of the above-mentioned scenarios happened. Furthermore, rightists expressed their discontent with how Ahmadinejad introduced his proposed ministers to the cabinet without seeking the advice of veteran rightists. They also expressed their dissatisfaction with Ahmadinejad's not consulting the veteran rightists before he departed for New York to attend the United Nations General Assembly meeting. One of the reasons that some of the ministerial candidates proposed by Ahmadinejad were rejected by the pro-rightist Seventh Majlis might be attributed to the fact that he did not seek the advice of the first-generation rightists while choosing his potential cabinet members.

Inequalities

HAMBASTEGI: One important characteristic of rapid and negative economic growth is emergence of deep rifts amongst different social strata. The point is that if economic growth is not navigated towards the correct path, it will prevent materialization of social justice. When social justice does not prevail, inequalities will increase. Moreover, one direct outcome of social inequalities is a rise in the number of social dissidents. Other negative consequences of social inequalities are brain drain, capital flight, high divorce rate and a hike in the number of drug abusers.

Corruption

KAYHAN: People are expecting a clear-cut report on the performance of the Headquarters for Combating Economic Corruption. This is while the headquarters' spokesman has said that exposing the names of the people who engage in economic corruption is not really useful. However, the most important duty of the headquarters remains to be fighting economic corruption. People expect the headquarters to improve its transparency and avoid giving wrong information to them. Wasn't it more appropriate if the headquarters' spokesman had presented a detailed report about the performance of the headquarters instead of raising irrelevant points?

Perspective

New Tactic

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Some observers believe that the league by design has distanced itself from the new climate in Iraq after Saddam became history, because of its political evaluation of Iraqi developments and the conditions of Iraqi Sunni political groups.

The league's disturbing and deadly silence during Saddam's tyranny in Iraq and its tacit support for groups that demonstrated loyalty to the former Baath regime are only a few indications suggesting that the league simply failed to perform in the case of Iraq.

Nevertheless, the new move adopted by the Cairo-based Arab grouping in relation to the complicated Iraqi developments and the so-called national reconciliation plan have been received ambiguously among political circles. This is especially because Mussa when referring to the non-stop violence in several Iraqi cities has publicly warned about the "looming civil war in Iraq."

Observers do not rule out the possibility that by organizing the reconciliation conference the league would seek to push for an accord similar to that signed in Saudi Arabia in 1989, which put an end to Lebanon's civil war.

Conclusion of such an agreement would obviously lead to other Arab countries interfering in Iraqi affairs, which in turn can further aggravate the political and security crises in that country.

Caspian Reps End Session

TEHRAN, Oct. 10--The 18th meeting of Caspian Sea working group was held in the presence of special representatives of five Caspian Sea states in Baku during October 6-7.

The Iranian delegation to the meeting was led by Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia, Pacific and Commonwealth of Independent States, and special envoy for Caspian Sea affairs, Mehdi Safari, IRNA reported.

Negotiations were held in a cordial atmosphere and the neighboring states moved forward to make their stance closer.

The Iranian team expressed satisfaction with the 18 rounds of five-party talks, referring

to it as "a step forward".

The meeting discussed topics included in the draft convention such as ways of dividing seabed and undersea resources, defining national and fishing rights, clarification of common marine areas, military status of the Caspian Sea, free transit from Caspian waterways and canals, status of shipping, establishment of pipelines on seabed, ways to settle differences, location of secretariat and board of trustee of the convention.

The Iranian delegation said Iran believes the neighboring states should form a regional security arrangement for the Caspian Sea without the interference of alien forces and avoid military competition or arms race due to the atmosphere of understanding and confidence prevailing among the five Caspian Sea states.

Iran made it clear that the draft on Caspian Sea legal status should be fair and in accordance with international regulations.

Representatives of the five littoral states issued a statement at the end of the Baku meeting expressing their resolve to proceed with negotiations to reach a settlement on the Caspian issues.

They agreed to hold the next round of talks in Astana, Kazakhstan in the near future. Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, which have ratified the Convention on Caspian Sea Environment, called on the Republic of Azerbaijan to speed up the ratification of the convention to expedite enforcement of the convention and prevent degradation of the Caspian Sea environment.

IAEA Team Due

VIENNA, Austria, Oct. 10--A delegation, comprising senior envoys of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will arrive here this week for talks with Iranian officials. A western diplomat told IRNA on Monday the delegation is expected to hold talks with Iranian officials on developments related to Iran's

nuclear activities and find a way out of the current stalemate.

The diplomat, who requested anonymity, declined to reveal further details about the composition of the delegation, duration of its stay in Iran or other issues to be discussed during the team's meetings with Iranian officials.

Quake Hits Lamerd

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"I think the Iranians are deeply interested in trying to find divisions between the United States and the EU3, or even within the EU3," Volker said.

"So they will take a small step and see how people react. I think it's very important that we react in a unified way that makes clear what it is we expect the Iranians need to do. That is in fact what we are doing."

Washington and the EU have prepared the way for the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency to send Iran to the UN Security Council next month for possible sanctions for violating international obligations.

The United States and its European allies argue Iran is making atomic fuel for use in weapons, but Tehran says its nuclear program is dedicated solely to generating electricity.

"The Iranians know what they need to do," Volker said. "It's not a secret. We haven't been doing this privately, but in a very public way. If they come forward and say 'Ok we accept that as a basis and are prepared to talk on how to do this' I think we would all engage immediately."

"But at the same time I don't think we are going to be diverted, or distracted or divided by half-steps or small steps or probing of our position."

Volker said the United States would work closely with the EU3.

US Warns EU3...

