



>> Putin Takes Over as Premier

Former Russian President Vladimir Putin was appointed prime minister on Thursday, securing a new place in power a day after leaving the Kremlin. See Page 11



>> Israeli Demand Rejected

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad rejected Israel's demand to cut ties with Tehran, calling Iran an old ally.

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Zionist Regime A Stinking Corpse



02

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad labeled the Zionist regime "a stinking corpse" and said those who think they can revive the corpse of this fake and usurper regime are mistaken.

Major Rice Purchase in June



05

Iran, one of Thailand's major rice buyers, is likely to start buying Thai rice in June when prices are expected to drop, a senior Thai trade official said on Thursday.

Oil Above \$126



14

Oil rose to a fresh record of \$126.2 a barrel on Friday, as a strong performance over the last week and a surge in heating oil futures convinced investment funds to push prices higher.

Salehi Eying Olympic Medals



15

Mohammad Salehi is one of the six Iranian weightlifters invited to Beijing Olympics preparatory camp. Salehi said he is preparing to win medals at the Olympics.



Hezbollah Controls W. Beirut



Lebanon's most popular party, the Hezbollah, took control of the Muslim half of Beirut on Friday, tightening its grip on the city in a major blow to the US-backed government.

Security sources said at least 11 people had been killed and 30 wounded in three days of battles between pro-government gunmen and fighters loyal to Hezbollah, Reuters said.

The fighting, the worst internal strife since the 1975-90 civil war, was triggered this week after the government took decisions targeting Hezbollah's military communications network.

By mid-morning the fighting had died down and Hezbollah and allied fighters were in control as loyalists put down their weapons.

Top majority leaders Saad Hariri of the Sunnis and Druze leader Walid Jumblatt were besieged in their residences in western Beirut.

Prime Minister Fouad Siniora was holed up at his office along with several ministers in downtown Beirut, which is heavily protected by troops and police.

The Hezbollah takeover was peaceful in some neighborhoods as the militants fanned out across the Muslim sector of the city.

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Shiraz Blast Suspects Arrested

A blast in a mosque that killed 13 people in the southern city of Shiraz last month was a bombing and the suspects, who had links with the country's western foes, have been arrested, the intelligence minister said on Thursday.

Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei also said, "Through the efforts of the law-enforcement forces...the main person involved in the Shiraz mosque explosion was arrested in one of the northern cities of the country," Alalam reported.

"The main agent, who was directly responsible for the bombing, was arrested during an attempt to leave the country. The person was armed when arrested," Ejei said.

The April 12 blast ripped through a packed mosque during an evening prayer sermon by a prominent local cleric.

After initial reports that the explosion, which also wounded more than 200, was the result of a bombing, officials had insisted that it was accidental.

An Interior Ministry body said the blast was set off by munitions on display in the mosque as part of an exhibition commemorating Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq. 02 >

Leader: US Root Cause of Regional Insecurity

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said the presence of US troops in the Persian Gulf and Iraq is the root cause of rampant insecurity and instability in the region. 03 >

Iran Package Outlined

Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations, Mehdi Khazaei, notified Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) representatives on Friday about the outlines of Iran's package of proposals to resolve regional and international problems.

"As a powerful and influential country in the region and world, Iran has always been the source of stability, security and might at the regional level. In its package, Iran has outlined practical solutions in compliance with regional and international realities concerning political, security and economic domains as well as its peaceful nuclear program," he said.

The Iranian envoy noted that Iran is prepared to discuss the package with other influential countries as well, Fars News Agency reported.

Khazaei emphasized that more details of the package will be announced in the near future, urging the 118 NAM representatives to inform their countries about Iran's stance and support implementation of the package.

Earlier, Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said the package of proposals focuses on issues in a way that would help improve international peace, security and stability, with respect to the rights of nations and their sovereignty.

On the nuclear issue, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany met in London last Friday and put forward a "reviewed and updated" offer initially made to Iran in 2006, including economic, security and technological rewarms.

No details of the so-called 5+1 one's plans have yet been made public, although Russia has said that the proposals only ask Iran to suspend uranium enrichment during a period of talks.

Iran said on Monday it would not change its nuclear course despite an updated incentive offer by world powers to persuade Tehran to suspend its uranium enrichment program.

It, however, said nuclear incentives that violate the Iranian nation's right in any form would not be considered by the Islamic Republic.

Iran, which insists its nuclear program is aimed at generating electricity, says enrichment is a national right enshrined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to which Iran is a signatory.

"Regarding the incentives package...we believe the path adopted in the past should not be continued. They should act based on realities and international regulations. Talks should be held based on respect to nations' rights," said Hosseini.



Invitation to International Tender

Tender No: 52244515

Khouzestan Steel Company

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