



### >> IAEA Talks Scheduled

Iran's representative in the International Atomic Energy Agency said technical negotiations between Iran and IAEA will be held on Monday in Tehran. See Page 2



### >> Unconventional Weapons Rejected

As a victim of unconventional weapons, Iran will never accept the use of such weapons against humanity, Iran's envoy to Japan Abbas Araqchi said. See Page 3

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# IRAN DAILY



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## Tehran-Baghdad Ties Benefit Both



02

Expansion of Tehran-Baghdad ties in various sectors benefit their nations, Ali Saeedlou, vice president for executive affairs, said.

## Power Blackouts Hit Gaza



12

The Gaza Strip faced new power blackouts on Sunday after its only electricity plant shut down after receiving no fuel from Israel in four days, senior Palestinian officials said.

## Petrochem Exports To China



04

Managing Director of National Petrochemical Company Mohammad Hadi Rahbari said on Saturday that Iran's petrochemical exports to China is expected to reach one billion dollars during the current year.

## Iran Secure Beach Football Berth



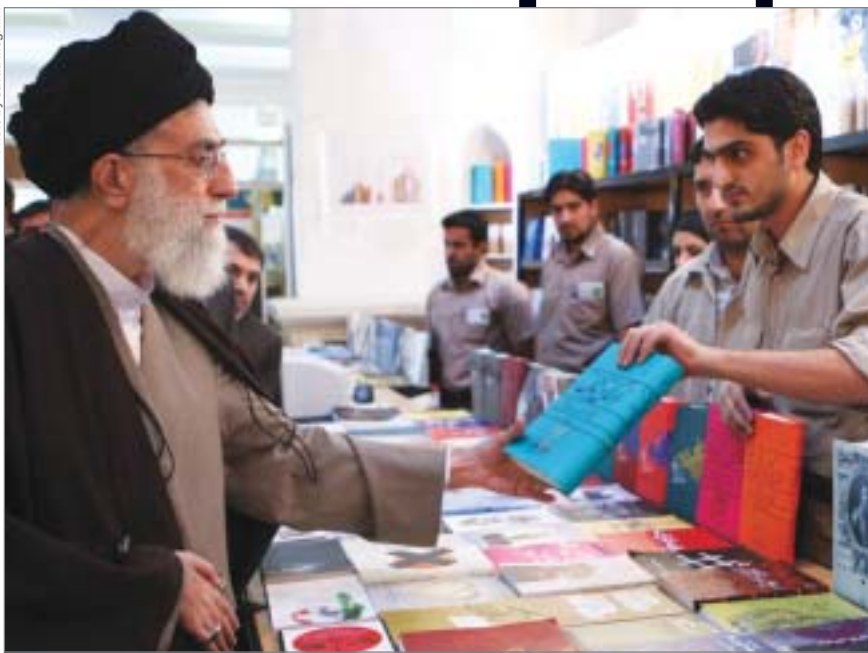
15

Iranian beach football team defeated China 4-1 in the Asian Beach Football World Cup 2008 qualifiers on Saturday to stand third and secure a berth in the 2008 World Cup in Marseille, France, in July, MNA reported.



# Tehran Book Fair Wraps Up

Photo by Javad Moghimi



7 Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited the book fair on the closing day.

## 5m Visitors

The 21st Tehran International Book Fair concluded on Sunday, with some five million visiting the annual event from across the country.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei visited the book fair on the closing day.

The leader talked with book-sellers and publishers about their latest works and the publication sector's problems, ISNA reported.

The 10-day book fair had opened to the public on May 2.

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad Hossein Saffar Harandi also accompanied the leader during the three-hour visit.

Nearly 2,700 domestic and foreign publishers from 77 countries displayed their works.

Close to 1,000 domestic and foreign writers and researcher addressed over 200 specialized roundtables on the sidelines of the book fair.

Over 200,000 titles in various subjects and disciplines were on offer.

The fair was held at Tehran's Grand Prayer Grounds (Mosalla) for the second time.

## Oil Stabilization Fund's Board Annulled

Government's Economic Commission will take over the duties of the Oil Stabilization Fund's Board of Trustees.

The Cabinet annulled the board for what it called undertaking administrative reforms, eliminating parallel decision-making institutions and expediting the implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan (2005-10).

According to Fars News Agency, the board comprised vice president for planning and strategic supervision, economy minister, governor of the Central bank of Iran, vice president for executive affairs and two ministers selected by the president.

By amending the executive bylaws of Article 1 of the Fourth Plan, the Cabinet decided that the Economic Commission will replace the Board of Trustees and the commission's secretariat will undertake the work of the board's secretariat.

Henceforth, the Economic Commission will shoulder the task of implementing the rule of law and making decisions related to the fund.

Based on statistics, during 2001-4, loans amounting to \$158 million, \$598 million, \$1076 million and \$1937 million were paid to the private sector from the fund, respectively. The figure rose to \$2.313 billion and \$5.512 billion in 2005 and 2006, respectively, marking a significant increase.

The latest reports indicate that the fund currently holds \$8 billion, which is subject to changes related to budgetary commitments and deposit of surplus oil revenues.

Upon the Cabinet ratification, the Central Bank of Iran has been authorized to withdraw foreign exchange equivalent to 12,373 billion rials from the fund for repaying international loans.

## Siniora Retreats, Army Takes Control

Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora's government has decided to back the army commander Michel Suleiman's recent proposal to end the crisis. 13

## Boat Carrying Myanmar Aid Sinks

### Death Toll Exceeds 28,000

A Red Cross boat carrying rice and drinking water for cyclone victims sank on Sunday, while the death toll jumped to more than 28,000 and aid groups warned of a humanitarian catastrophe.

The double-decker boat that sank carried supplies for more than 1,000 people and was the first Red Cross shipment to the disaster area, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said.

All four relief workers on board were safe, it said, AFP reported.

"This is a great loss for the Myanmar Red Cross and for the people who need aid so urgently," said Aung Kyaw Htut, the distribution team leader of the Myanmar Red Cross.

The sinking was the latest setback for distribution of aid following Cyclone Nargis. Though international aid has started to trickle in, almost all foreign relief workers have been barred entry into the isolated town. The junta says it wants to hand out all donated supplies on its own.



The boat was making the 12-hour journey from Yangon to Mawlamyinegyun when it hit a submerged tree trunk and began taking water near Bogalay town, which was extensively damaged by the cyclone, the IFRC said. 02