



>> Iran Oil Hit \$114

Iran's crude oil climbed to \$114.37 a barrel on Friday, reported National Iranian Oil Company's International Affairs Department. See Page 5



>> No Evidence of Nuke Program

The international community has no evidence to confirm Iran's nuclear program has military nature, the head of the UN nuclear agency Mohamed ElBaradei said on Monday. See Page 2

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President Touts Senegal Ties



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President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad described relations with Senegal as "strong and expanding" in a meeting with visiting Senegalese Parliament Speaker Bob Diob on Tuesday.

Bush Apologizes Over Qur'an Shooting



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US President George W. Bush has apologized to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki over the shooting of a Qur'an by an American soldier near Baghdad, state television announced on Tuesday.

Saba Battery Retain Asian Crown



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Iran's basketball team Saba Battery clinched the championship at the 19th Asian Clubs Basketball Championships in Kuwait. Saba Battery defeated Al Rayan of Qatar 82-75 in Kuwait.

'Shams National Day' Proposal Okayed



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A day will be named after the renowned Iranian poet Shams Tabrizi. Announcing this, deputy interior minister for social affairs, Hojatiollah Ayyoubi, said, "A proposal to the effect was approved in a recent session of Tehran's Public Culture Council."

West Violating Rights



The file photo shows protestors near White House demonstrating against the use of torture tactics like waterboarding by the US against terror suspects.

Iran expressed concern over the violation of human rights in the West and the growing number of victims of violence against Muslims.

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki made the remark in a meeting with his Ghanaian counterpart Akwasi Osei-Adjei on Tuesday, expressing concern about the violation of human rights and prevalence of anti-Islam moves in the West, IRNA reported.

Mottaki also said that the rise in violation of human rights and organized Islamophobia in the West is alarming.

Condemning the genocide and displacement of Palestinian people by the usurper Tel Aviv regime, he said the international community should take responsibility by supporting the rights of the oppressed nation.

"Those who participated in the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the fake regime in Tel Aviv are accomplices to the crimes being perpetrated by Israel in killing and displacing the Palestinian people," he said.

He noted that the only way to end the atrocities against the Palestinian nation is by holding a referendum with the participation of all Palestinians to determine their own fate.

Mottaki said Israel is weakening and the US support is not going to help Tel Aviv.

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Perspective

Iran and American Elections

By Amir Ali Abolfath

Iran bashing has once again become a pretext in the campaigns of the US presidential nominees.

As the end of primaries is approaching, the nominees are increasingly focusing on foreign and security policies. The radicals in both the Republican and Democrat parties have intensified their war of words against Iran with their pretext being Democrat Senator Barack Obama's recent remarks.

Republican John McCain is trying to label Obama as pro-Iran or pro-Hamas, and give the impression that he is dangerous for America. In his recent tour of the occupied Palestinian territories, President George W Bush implied that Obama's views about Palestine are unacceptable. Even Democrat Senator Hillary Clinton adopted the same Republican stance for criticizing Obama.

As internal party rivalry based on domestic issues calms down, issues related to foreign and security policies gradually becomes the focal point of contenders. Based on the results obtained so far, ultimately McCain and Obama will compete with each other for the post of US president in November.

The wide spectrum of neoconservatives and warmongers intends to defeat Obama by lambasting his foreign policy. They want to use the strategy of fearing Iran and convey that Iran is America's greatest security concern. This is while the same group has created one of the most severe security crises for the US in the past decade by waging wars against Afghanistan and Iraq.



Nations' Vigilance Making US Retreat

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday the world's situation is different from what it was 20 years ago and nations' awareness and self-confidence have forced the US and other bullying powers to retreat.

"The world's equations are constantly changing and this has brought defeat for the world arrogant powers," said Ayatollah Khamenei in a meeting with visiting Eritrean President Issaias Afewerki in Tehran on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

"It is unjustifiable and illogical to divide countries into oppressed and oppressor," he said, adding that countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America can broaden cooperation to change current international relations.



Ayatollah Khamenei said strengthening self-confidence is a vital need for nations and their governments.

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Germany Welcomes Iranian Proposals

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in a telephonic conversation on Tuesday with Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili welcomed Iran's initiative in presenting a package of proposal.

According to IRNA, Jalili said Iran's proposed package can pave the way for collective talks and commitments in achieving global peace, calm and stability.

Steinmeier expressed hope that upon presenting the package to the Group 5+1 and start of talks, the

situation will be ripe for cooperation.

Iran's package has so far been presented to eight international personalities and institutions, including the officials of Group 5+1, secretary-general of the UN and the rotating chairman of the UN Security Council.

Based on the understanding of regional problems and international conditions, Iran has presented a package for overcoming challenges.

Some countries have regarded the package as Iran's positive approach for starting a new round of constructive negotiations.

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