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>>> Support for Iraq

Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani has praised the fledgling democracy in Iraq after the fall of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein and condemned the latest bloodshed in the country. See Page 2

Bandar Abbas Quake



03

Two consecutive tremors measuring 4.9 and 3.3 on the Richter scale hit the city of Bandar Abbas and its nearby Qeshm Island in Iran's southern Hormuzgan province late Tuesday and early Wednesday...

Trade With Turkey



04

Van, the 7,000-year-old cradle of civilization in eastern Anatolia, will become a major industrial and commerce center if plans for a free trade zone on the border between Iran and Turkey come to fruition.

Reelection Questioned



10

Former Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah said Hamid Karzai's reelection is illegal. Abdullah was speaking publicly for the first time since Karzai was declared the victor on Monday, BBC reported.

IPI Pipeline



05

For most of 2009, a pipeline deal involving Iran, Pakistan and India has been stalled. However, recent indicators suggest a new version of the pipeline could get moving again.

Iran Marks US Embassy Takeover Anniv.



Photo by Ali Hassanpour

Rallies marking the 30th anniversary of the US Embassy takeover were held in Tehran as well as other cities across the country.

Tens of thousands of people from all walks of life and many political persuasions staged a rally at the site of the former US Embassy, better known in Iranian history as "Den of Spies".

November 4 marks three important events in Iranian history: the takeover of the former US Embassy in Tehran by Students Following the Imam's Line in 1979 and the exile of the late Founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini by the deposed Shah in 1964, PressTV reported.

> Historic Day

The declaration of the historic day as Students Day, however, is overwhelmingly in remembrance of several students martyred in 1978 while taking part in a protest against the Shah.

Since the 1979 takeover of the US Embassy, Iranians have been annually commemorating the occasion by holding rallies on the anniversary and marking it as the National Day Against Global Arrogance.

People carried placards expressing their hatred of arrogant world powers and chanted slogans against the United States and Israel.

In 1979, Iranian university students took over the building to thwart what they called Washington's plots against the Islamic Revolution that was only a few months old at the time.

Inside the embassy, the students found shredded documents that proved their convictions about illegal US activities in Iran.

Small groups of supporters of defeated presidential candidates also held a rally in central Tehran on Wednesday.

The protesters gathered at Haft-e-Tir square, which leads to the US Embassy compound. The protesters chanted slogans against the government, but were dispersed by police and paramilitary militias that had come out in force.

> US Support for Despots

Addressing the Tehran rally, former Majlis Speaker Gholamali Haddad-Adel said the US has always backed despotic governments.

"Contrary to its claims of supporting freedom and human rights, the US has always supported dictatorships in the world," he said.

Haddad-Adel noted that the US has no record of supporting popular governments because it only wants to dominate other countries to guarantee its interests worldwide.

5 British Soldiers

Killed in Afghanistan

An Afghan policeman opened fire on British soldiers in the volatile southern province of Helmand, killing five, British and Afghan authorities said on Wednesday, raising concerns about discipline within the Afghan forces and possible infiltration by insurgents.

The incident came almost exactly a month after an Afghan policeman on patrol with US soldiers opened fire on the Americans, killing two before fleeing, AP reported.

Training and operating jointly with Afghan police and soldiers is key to NATO's strategy of dealing with the spreading Taliban-led insurgency and, ultimately, allowing international forces to leave Afghanistan.

The five British soldiers were killed in Helmand's Nad-e-Ali district on Tuesday afternoon, Britain's Defense Ministry said, bringing the total number of British forces who have died in Afghanistan to 229.

Of these, at least 193 were killed as a result of hostile action.

With 94 British soldiers now killed on active service this year—93 in Afghanistan and one in Iraq—2009 is the bloodiest year for the British armed forces since 1982 and the Falklands War with Argentina.

Tehran Hosts Int'l Nanotech Exhibit

Iran Nano 2009 Exhibit opened in Tehran on Wednesday.

Several Iranian and foreign companies are displaying their latest nanotechnology-based products in the five-day exhibition, Iranian Nanotechnology Initiative Council (INIC) reported.

The event, featuring 200 stalls, consists of the following sections: research, state organizations, technology promotion, laboratories, shops and technology transfer. It is open to the public.

A special program entitled "public show" is designated for students. A technical program named "industrial show" is planned for managers and businesspeople.

Organizers of the exhibition will reward the most outstanding efforts in nanotech research, commercialization and education in the closing ceremony.

> "Nano Mark" Unveiled

A new certificate titled "Nano Mark" was officially unveiled by Reza Asadifard, the head of INIC Standardization Committee during the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition.

"Nano Mark" verifies whether a product's dimensions are less than 100 nanometers, according to ISO/TC 229. It will incorporate health, safety and environmental issues in the near future.

A nano-structured product can be awarded "Nano Mark", if it exhibits remarkable effectiveness compared to its available counterparts, if its dimensions are between 1 to 100 nanometers and if it is well-engineered.

According to Asadifard, some 30 companies have applied for "Nano Mark" so far, 8 of which have met the set criteria.

Nano-Transistors Help Miniaturize ICs

A group of researchers at Shiraz University applied a special type of nano-transistors to miniaturize integrated circuits.

08

Nazeris' Peace Concert In New York

New York's Carnegie Hall is scheduled to play host to Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri to perform the Iranian Sounds of Peace Concert.

12

Clinton: Halt Israel Settlement 'Forever'

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton defended the US stance toward Israeli settlement building to worried Arab allies on Wednesday, saying Washington does not accept the legitimacy of the West Bank enclaves and wants to see their construction halted 'forever'.

Still, she said an Israeli offer to restrain—but not halt—construction represents "positive movement forward" toward resuming Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations, AP reported.

Clinton met for an hour with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak during a hastily arranged stopover in the Egyptian capital to soothe Arab concerns that Washington is backing off demands for an Israeli settlement halt.

The fears were sparked on Saturday when Clinton, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at her side in Beit-ul-Moqaddas, praised his government's offer as unprecedented.

> Israel Criticized

She has since tried to clarify the remarks, saying that the Israeli offer does not go far enough. Still, she has indicated that the Palestinians should resume negotiations with Israel without a full settlement halt as their demand.

On Wednesday, Clinton insisted "our policy on settlement has not changed".

02

UN Implicated In Congo War Crimes

A top human rights group says the UN mission in Congo (MONUC) has done nothing to stop Congolese troops from killing civilians in the east of the country.

Human Rights Watch said in a report that the UN peacekeeping force in the area did nothing to stop the soldiers from decapitating men and raping young girls.

"MONUC's continued willingness to provide support for such abusive military operations implicates them in violations of the laws of war," the report stated.

The group has accused the Congolese military of killing more than 500 civilians over the past few months in the region.

"Some Congolese army soldiers are committing war crimes by viciously targeting the very people they should be protecting."

In the eastern Congo, the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Hutu extremists of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) have caused untold suffering for thousands of civilians.

Congo launched an offensive in January against the militias, which have been destabilizing the Great Lakes region for years. Some of the guerrillas even participated in the 1994 Rwanda genocide.

The eastern Congo has experienced interminable cycles of violence since the war began in 1998. The conflict has dragged on for over a decade and left over 5.4 million people dead.



02