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Regional Awareness Crucial for Stability

>> Sarkozy Policies Bring Shame To France See Page 10

Nuclear Talks



03

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki reiterated the need for Turkey and Brazil to be included in future nuclear talks.

Shares Buoyant



05

Asian markets advanced on Monday, boosted by Japan easing monetary policy to protect a shaky recovery and the Federal Reserve vowing to take action if the US economy weakens further.

Beirut Tensions



09

Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad met early Monday with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Al-Hariri over recent political tensions in Beirut and offered a renewed statement of support for the Hezbollah movement.

Second Defeat



11

In the preliminary round of 2010 FIBA world championship in Istanbul, Turkey, Iran's basketball team was beaten by Croatia 54-75 in its second match.



Massive Rallies Planned For Int'l Qods Day

Millions of people across the world are preparing to hold rallies in support of the Palestinian people on Friday, which is commemorated as International Qods Day. In Iran, people will turn out in big numbers to show their solidarity with the oppressed Palestinians. The father of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, named the last Friday of the fasting month of Ramadan as Qods Day.

Russia Will Honor Syria Arms Contract

> Compiled by Davood Baqeri

Russia stands by its international obligations and has no plans to stop an arms deal with Syria, a Kremlin aide said.

Sergei Prikhodko said recent reports in some Israel media outlets misrepresented Russia's position on cooperation with Syria, Ria Novosti reported.

The Haaretz daily reported on Friday that Israel was working to "thwart a Russian arms deal with Syria" and that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had asked his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to stop the sale of advanced P-800 Yakhont supersonic cruise missiles.

"Lately, some Israeli media outlets have been actively disseminating information distorting Russia's position on the implementation of its obligations to Syria, including in the sphere of military and technical cooperation," Prikhodko said.

"I would like to stress that the Russian Federation honors all

the agreements that were previously signed between Russia and Syria."

He said Russia's military cooperation policy is shaped by the president and is not directed against third countries.

The agreement in question is for P-800 Yakhont missiles, a highly accurate Russian weapon with a 300-kilometer range capable of carrying a warhead of up to 200 kilograms.

Israel is concerned the projectiles could significantly improve the Syrian military's ability to target its naval ships. The Chinese-made C-802 missile Syria currently has is less accurate, has a range of just 102 kilometers and can carry a warhead of no more than 150 kilograms.

> Israeli Fears

The Zionist regime also claims the more advanced missiles could fall into the hands of Hezbollah which would create a significant threat to naval ships in Israeli ports and the Mediterranean Sea.

Atiq Mosque Awaits Renovation

The Grand Atiq Mosque of Shiraz, dating back to over 1,150 years, is one of the oldest mosques in Fars province. The mosque, which was once one of the most...

06

Nano Powders Help Commercialize Fuel Cells

Iranian researcher together with colleagues from the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Sweden and University of Science and Technology (NTNU)...

08

Water Levels in S. Pakistan Receding

Emergency officials in Pakistan say water levels in flood-stricken southern Pakistan are beginning to recede.

They warned, however, that water levels on the southern reaches of the Indus River were still "exceptionally high".

The floods, triggered by torrential monsoon rains in the north-west, have moved south through the country, submerging towns and farmland. More than 1,600 people have died and about six million are homeless after Pakistan's worst flooding, BBC reported.

In total, about 17 million of Pakistan's 166 million people have been affected by the disaster. The danger of flooding remained high, but levels were beginning to drop as the surge of water that had been flowing north-south across Pakistan reached the Arabian Sea, said Hadi Baksh, an emergency official in southern Sindh province.

"In the coming days, the towns and villages will be out of flood danger," he said.

Relief goods are pouring into Pakistan from all over the world. But aid agencies admit they are still only reaching a small proportion of the people who need help.

In Sindh, the worst affected province, the aid effort is focused on people in relief camps.

The aid agency Oxfam says that as well as giving food and water, it has

also started handing out cash vouchers.

These allow families to choose goods from local shops. But they only work in areas where shops have stock -- and only those in camps are getting them.

> Fending for Themselves

The majority who cannot get into camps are simply fending for themselves on whatever dry ground they can find.

Pakistan's meteorological department said water inflows at the Kotri barrage were receding but that the Indus River there would "continue in exceptionally high flood level" for another day.

Weather official Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry said: "We believe that it will take another 10 to 12 days for rivers in Sindh to come to normal flow. Therefore we need to be watchful."

The town of Thatta, downstream from the Kotri barrage, was hastily evacuated as the swollen Indus breached an embankment.

A major inundation was avoided thanks to the hasty rebuilding of levees around the town, said Baksh, and people were beginning to return to their homes.

But on the other side of the river, the town of Sujawal was submerged. Almost the entire population managed to evacuate the town, however.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called on the Middle East countries to remain vigilant and strongly resist the enemies.

"The awareness that has emerged in the resistance front of regional nations from Lebanon to Iran will defeat the enemies," Pressiv quoted Ahmadinejad as saying in a meeting with visiting senior officials from Lebanon's Amal Movement on Sunday.

The Iranian and Lebanese peoples shoulder a common and heavy burden against arrogant powers and enemies of humanity, he said.

Hostile powers seek to harm the unity and security in Lebanon, he said, and added that resistance movements and officials in that country will neutralize the plots through a strong vision, wisdom and solidarity.

"The materialistic order and global hegemony have reached a dead-end. The world is in need of justice".

Ahmadinejad pointed to the 31st anniversary of the abduction of prominent Lebanese Shiite leader Imam Moussa Al-Sadr and his role in resisting Israeli atrocities. He emphasized the importance of moving ahead with wisdom to determine the whereabouts of the missing preacher.

02

Israel Rejects Extension of Settlements Freeze

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has never told the US administration a settlement freeze would be renewed after Middle East peace talks restart this week, an official said on Monday.

"We have not presented any proposal to the Americans on an extension of the freeze ... the government has not taken any decision on the issue," the official quoted the premier as saying at a meeting of his Likud party, AFP reported.

Under US pressure, the Israeli government in November imposed a partial, 10-month moratorium on new construction in West Bank settlements, with the exception of east Beit-ul-Moqaddas.

Palestinians insist the measure must be extended beyond its term on September 26, while the regime faces strong pressure from the right to allow construction to resume.

"We have said the future of settlements will be taken up with other questions in discussions on a final accord," Netanyahu said, according to the official who asked not to be named.

Israel and the Palestinians are due to re-launch direct negotiations in Washington on Thursday, after a 20-month hiatus.

Palestinian Authority Chief Mahmoud Abbas on Sunday warned that renewed settlement activity would torpedo the talks.

If the moratorium is not renewed, construction of several thousand homes could immediately start in 57 settlements, army radio said.

> Full Responsibility

The Israeli leadership will be fully responsible for the failure of US mediated Israeli-Palestinian peace talks if they come to a halt due to resumed settlement construction in the occupied territories, Abbas said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Palestinian president and chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said in a BBC interview that the PA rejects Netanyahu's calls for fortnightly face-to-face meetings.

He said that "it is too early to define, who will meet, as well as where and how often such meetings will take place."

"It would all be discussed in Washington, in addition to the agenda of the talks, schedule, and the extension of settlement construction freeze [to end on September 26]," the Palestinian official said.

