

Solana report may overshadow ElBaradei's: analyst

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — If EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana submits a negative report on Iran's nuclear program it will cast an 'overshadow' on the recent report by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei which has found Iran's nuclear announcements consistent with its findings, an international affairs expert Ali Khorram said here on Sunday.

A report issued by UN nuclear watchdog on Thursday confirmed the transparency of Iran's nuclear program and said it found Tehran to be generally truthful about key aspects of its nuclear history.

Solana's upcoming report will probably be "negative", and since UN Security Council will use both reports by Solana and ElBaradei to make its final decision on Iran, it will lead to issuing the third sanction on the country, Khorram told the Mehr News Agency.

Solana is scheduled to submit a report to the 5+1 group (five permanent members of the Security Council plus Germany) about his evaluation of recent meetings with Iranian nuclear officials.

ElBaradei's report is different from the previous ones, he said, adding that "the report reviews Iran's nuclear activities from the beginning to the end, and the points where Iran's declarations are in conformity with the IAEA report" can be considered influential in the nuclear case.

The report also confirmed some of Iran's nuclear statements, and this is a major step in gaining the trust of the world, he noted.

However, the IAEA report bears some negative points as well, he stated, adding this can trigger a new story at this juncture.

Until now ElBaradei has resisted against the United States, "however including both positive and negative points in the report provides an important assistance (excuse) to the U.S. to further prolong the issue," he explained.

Syrian minister: West must respect ElBaradei's "expert view" on Iran

ISTANBUL (IRNA) — The West should respect the newly-released "expert and significant" report by the UN nuclear watchdog chief, Mohamed ElBaradei on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, a Syrian minister said here on Saturday.

"The West should respect ElBaradei's specialized view," about Iran, Syrian Minister of Expatriate Affairs Buthaina Shaaban told IRNA on the sidelines of an international conference on the holy Qods in the Turkish capital.

The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), presented his latest report on Iran peaceful nuclear activities on November 15 to the agency's Board of Governors.

He stressed in the report that the agency has been able to verify the "non-diversion of declared nuclear material in Iran."

The Syrian minister said she believed the report was balanced and fair.

"The U.S. and its allies only accept whatever they wish to hear. They will never accept anything which is against their views," Shaaban added.

The Syrian minister stressed that only the agency is entitled to follow up the case of Iran peaceful nuclear activities.

President says expansion of Iran-Indonesia ties beneficial to all



TEHRAN (IRNA) — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday that Iran and Indonesia are

two brotherly and Muslim nations whose relations benefit other countries.

Ahmadinejad made the remark in a meeting with the Indonesian vice president Jusuf Kalla in Riyadh,

Saudi Arabia.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed the latest developments in bilateral ties as well as oil policies of the member states of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The Iranian president underlined the need for all-out expansion of bilateral relations between Tehran and Jakarta.

Pointing to the increase in oil prices and devaluation of dollar, he noted that industrial countries will earn more benefits from this because they export their commodities but underdeveloped nations will sustain losses.

The Indonesian vice president, for his part, referred to the upcoming visit of the Indonesian president to Iran, and outlined the latest status of joint ventures and mutual relations.

He underlined the need for expansion of ties between Iran and Indonesia, adding that Muslim nations would suffer losses in the wake of oil price hikes and devaluation of dollar; therefore, they should find a way to solve the problem.

He also proposed that another hard currency be used in oil transactions among Muslim nations.

Oil prices will double if U.S. attacks Iran: Chavez

RIYADH (BBC) — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez warned oil prices could double if the U.S. attacks Iran.

Opening the summit of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), he said the price of crude could reach \$150 or even \$200 a barrel.

Oil has been hitting record peaks of well over \$90 a barrel as markets believe OPEC will not boost production.

The OPEC summit in Saudi Arabia is only the organization's third in 47 years.

Chavez kicked off the summit with a blistering attack on the U.S.

"If the United States was mad enough to attack Iran or aggress Venezuela again the price of a barrel of oil could reach \$150 or even \$200," he said.

Chavez called for unity in OPEC ranks, invoking geopolitical reasons.

"The basis of all aggression is oil. It is the underlying rea-

son," Chavez said, referring to the war in Iraq and U.S. threats against Iran over its nuclear program.

"Today, OPEC stands strong. It is stronger than it has ever been in the past. OPEC should set itself up as an active geopo-

litical agent."

But Chavez's remarks were counterbalanced by King Abdullah, the head of state of the host nation, Saudi Arabia, the largest oil producer in the world.

"Those who want OPEC to take advantage of its position are forgetting that OPEC has always acted moderately and wisely," he said.

"Oil shouldn't be a tool for conflict; it should be a tool for development."

Officials from OPEC member countries have already said that the summit will not be taking any decisions on oil production levels, prompting an increase in prices on Friday.

Oil reached a record high of \$98.62 a barrel earlier this month.

They say it will be for energy ministers meeting next month to decide whether to increase supplies to the world oil market in response to the current crisis.

Qatari minister: World countries hailed ElBaradei's report on Iran

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Qatari Minister of State for Internal Affairs Sheikh Ahmad Bin Naser Jassem al-Thani said here on Sunday that the recent report by IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities was hailed by many countries round the world.

The Qatari minister made the remarks in a joint press conference with Iran's Interior Minister Mostafa Pur-Mohammadi on Sunday.

"Qatar believes that Iran is authorized to take advantage of peaceful nuclear energy," he said.

It is among the grave responsibilities of regional countries to contribute to the restoration of security in the region, he said adding that there is no doubt that this grave responsibility should be shouldered by all countries in the region.

"During my visit to Tehran, we had constructive talks with President Ahmadinejad as well as other high ranking officials on expansion of cooperation in security, campaign against terrorism and drug trafficking," he said.

"Iran has a good experience in security affairs and we hope to benefit from the country's achievement in this field," he said

Ahmadinejad: Global situation changing in favor of Muslims

RIYADH (IRNA) — President Mahmud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday that world situation is quickly changing in favor of the objectives of Iranians, Muslims and the believers.

Ahmadinejad made the remark in a gathering of Iranian nationals residing in Saudi Arabia, adding that unilateral and tyrannical relations, based on bullying policy and the interests of certain minorities, are fading now.

Those, who used to influence the destiny of governments and nations, are today so weak that they cannot manage their own countries, the president said.

Pointing to the current status of the U.S. and its allies in Iraq and Afghanistan, he noted that they have launched aggression on the Middle East to dominate oil and gas resources of the region, but they have been trapped in a deadly quagmire.

Majlis speaker to visit Baku soon

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel told reporters on Sunday that he will visit Baku soon.

Haddad-Adel's visit to Azerbaijan was scheduled for November 8, but the trip was postponed because of personal reasons.



He also referred to the fact that important developments are taking place in global arena, and Iran and all Islamic countries should get prepared to witness the demolition of the U.S. satanic power.

Ahmadinejad underlined that the Iranian people as a model nation has grave responsibility

under the current important situation.

Iran nuclear compromise not discussed in Riyadh: Saudi

RIYADH (AFP) — Iran has not discussed a Saudi-backed plan proposed by Arab states in the Persian Gulf to create an international consortium to enrich uranium in a neutral country outside the Middle East, Saudi Arabia's foreign minister said Sunday.

They haven't discussed it. As a matter of fact, they refused it," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal told AFP.

The plan was proposed by Iran's Arab neighbors in the Persian Gulf at the beginning of November, but was swiftly turned down by Tehran.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was in Riyadh for a two-day summit of leaders from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries that finished on Sunday.

Speaker hopes U.S. would stop fuss over Iran

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Majlis speaker here on Sunday expressed hope that the U.S. would stop fussing about Iran's nuclear program as the newly-released report on Iran's nuclear program by the UN nuclear watchdog found Tehran sincere in its nuclear announcements.

The United States should not cause more embarrassment by seeking more excuses, Haddad-Adel stated before a Majlis session.

IAEA Director General Mohamed ElBaradei released a report on Iran's cooperation in the nuclear issue on Thursday, which is planned to be discussed at the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors at its forthcoming meetings in Vienna beginning on Nov. 22.

"The report is the result of repeated and comprehensive inspections throughout the past years, and especially in the recent months," he said.

He added the report clearly shows that the Islamic Republic's nuclear activities are solely aimed at generating electricity.

"The report clearly indicates no diversion toward military goals by the Islamic Republic in its nuclear activities."

All countries, including Iran, have the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, he noted.

In its report the IAEA concludes that "Iran's statements are consistent with... information available to the agency."

"The agency has been able to conclude that answers provided on the declared past P-1 and P-2 centrifuge programs are consistent with its findings," the report stated.

The speaker also said, "Interference of Israel in the issue seems very ridiculous."

It is a country whose existence is basically illegitimate, he noted, adding it was created through occupying Muslims' lands and killing innocent people.

"It has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has stockpiled hundreds of nuclear warheads, and now it is calling Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, which is no more than 4 percent enrichment, as a threat to world peace," the scholar-turned politician explained.

Envoy:IAEA report confirms Iran legitimacy

TEHRAN (IRNA) — The Iranian ambassador to South Africa said on Sunday that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) report on Iran's nuclear program endorsed Tehran's indisputable right to utilize nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

Mohammad-Ali Qane'zadeh also told IRNA that IAEA findings on Iran's peaceful nuclear program proved that the referral of the dossier to the UN Security Council had been an irrational act.

Iran-IAEA cooperation and their significant progress in addressing the remaining issues, particularly on P1 and P2 centrifuges proved Iran's legitimacy and the falsehood of West's allegations in this respect, he added.

According to the IAEA findings, Iran's nuclear activities are fully transparent, the envoy noted.

Certain countries are unfortunately attempting to derail the correct process of examining Iran's nuclear issue and make use of UNSC to impose their political will in order to deprive Iranians of their legal and legitimate rights, he said.

Iran expects that given Iran's full cooperation with IAEA, its nuclear dossier should be returned to the international nuclear watchdog, he said.