



**Tehran  
mayor  
meets  
Swiss  
president**

(See P. 2)

62 foreign  
nations enter  
26th Fajr  
filmfest



(See P. 16)

## OPINION

### Palestinian unity only way to save Gaza

By Hassan Hanizadeh

Hamas Political Bureau Chairman Khaled Mashaal has announced that the movement is prepared to resume negotiations with Fatah under Egypt's supervision.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has offered to mediate between the two rival factions, and Hamas has accepted his invitation to hold talks with Fatah in Cairo.

The animosity between Fatah and Hamas did not arise as a result of the recent incidents in Gaza, but nevertheless, the current crisis makes it essential that they put aside their differences and work for unity and consensus, with the assistance of all Islamic and nationalist groups.

The dispute started in 1993, after current Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas signed the Oslo Accords on behalf of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Fatah signed the Oslo Accords with Israel without seeking the approval of Islamic groups like Islamic Jihad and Hamas, and at the time, Hamas warned about the consequences of such an agreement.

Hamas leaders said the Zionist regime wanted to use the Oslo Accords to give the appearance that the issues of Al-Qods and the repatriation of Palestinian refugees were being resolved and to convince Arab regimes to sign peace treaties with Israel.

The Hamas assessment turned out to be accurate because it later became clear that the Zionist regime would never recognize the right of five million Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland, would not accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Beit-ul-Moqaddas (Jerusalem) as its capital, and would not unconditionally withdraw from the territories it has occupied since 1967.

In a suspicious move, the Zionist regime suddenly exiled 400 influential leaders of Palestinian Islamic movements to the Marj al-Zuhur region in southern Lebanon in 1991, just before Fatah leaders were to negotiate with Israel's representatives in Oslo and Madrid.

Fatah had been informed in advance about the decision to exile the group to the Palestine-Lebanon border because Hamas and Islamic Jihad members had become aware of the clandestine activities of the Fatah leaders, who were trying to prepare the ground for the implementation of the Oslo Accords.

After the Palestinian Authority government was established in 1994, Fatah tried to monopolize power and prevent other Palestinian groups from participating in governmental affairs.

The PA excluded Hamas from the government for years, and it continued its activities as an Islamic opposition party, but certain Arab and Western countries later encouraged the movement to get involved in electoral and political activities.

Hamas participated in the January 2006 parliamentary election, winning 75 of Palestine's 120 legislative seats and eventually formed its own government.

After the establishment of the Hamas government, which was the outcome of a democratic election overseen by international monitors,

(Contd. on P. 15)

## Bush trying to foment discord in Mideast

Secular states fear Iran's spiritual, revolutionary power

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohammad-Ali Jafari said here on Sunday that U.S. President George W. Bush

traveled to the Middle East to invite Arab countries to join the West's efforts to isolate Iran and to foment discord between the Islamic Republic and its Arab neighbors.

On his recent visit to Persian Gulf countries, Bush branded Iran the leading state sponsor of terror, and said "all options" against Tehran remain on the table.

(Contd. on P. 15)



Turkish President Abdullah Gul visits his birthplace in Kayseri, where he expressed his support for the government's proposal to remove the ban on hijab in universities in Turkey.



### Countdown to Iran-Alborz drilling rig installation

TEHRAN (PIN) — Iran-Alborz Semi-Submersible Drilling Unit (A-SSDU) is ready to be launched and installed in Block 6 of the Caspian Sea.

The North Drilling Co. (NDC) has formed a committee to set a date for exploiting the semi-floating drilling rig in the presence of oil minister and high-ranking officials.

As President Mahmud Ahmadinejad is to deliver speech on Feb. 11, the victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Feb. 24 marking the National Oil Engineering Day is among the

(Contd. on P. 15)

Turkey says U.S.  
nuclear policy  
strengthens Iran



Iran can join  
intl. nuclear  
fuel bank



Clemente named  
new Iranian football  
team head coach



Indonesia's  
former  
president  
Suharto dies



JAKARTA (AFP) — Indonesia's former president, whose iron-fisted rule became a byword for corruption and bloody repression but also brought economic growth, died Sunday after a long fight for life.

His demise at 86 marks the passing of yet another of the authoritarian and mostly pro-Western strongmen who dominated this part of Asia for much of the late 20th century.

Doctors treating him since he was hospitalized three weeks ago with heart, lung and kidney problems said he had died at 1:10pm (0610 GMT) after multiple organ failure overnight.

"Father has returned to God," his eldest daughter, Siti Hariyanti "Tutut" Rukmana told reporters outside the hospital, breaking down in tears.

"We ask that if he had any faults, please forgive them... may he be absolved of all his mistakes."

A doctor who treated Suharto, Munawar, said: "We worked our best... God has decided otherwise."

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono expressed his sorrow and asked people to pray for the late president.

"I also would like to call on the people of Indonesia to show the highest respect to one of the nation's best sons, a great leader

(Contd. on P. 15)

### Gandhi grandson falls victim to Zionist lobby



The grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, 75-year-old Arun Gandhi, has been persecuted and hounded out of the M.K. Gandhi Institute, founded by him in the U.S., following his remarks that Israel and the Jews are the biggest players in a global culture of violence.

Arun Gandhi, the fifth grandson of the revered pacifist, became the target of the influential Jewish lobby in the U.S. and, according to his son Tushar Gandhi, was persecuted for his point of view.

(Contd. on P. 15)

### More than 100 killed in Kenya violence

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kofi Annan on Sunday pushed for peace and talks between Kenya's feuding politicians as ethnic violence spread in western regions where the death toll from the past three days surpassed 100.

Nine people were killed as gangs of youths wreaked havoc in a slum district of the lakeside town Naivasha, an AFP correspondent there reported, raising the death toll in the western Rift Valley province since Thursday to 116.

The former UN chief, on his sixth day in Kenya Sunday, met in Nairobi with opposition leader Raila Odinga, who claims he was robbed of victory in last month's presidential election, as police gathered the charred and hacked remains of victims of the most recent clashes in the west.

Musalia Mudavadi, from Odinga's Orange Democratic Movement, said progress had been made towards preparing talks with President Mwai Kibaki, whose widely-contested re-election sparked the chaos.

"Our side and the other side will appoint three negotiators and an additional person as a liaison person," Mudavadi told journalists.

More than 850 people have been killed, according to an AFP tally of police and hospital figures, since the disputed December 27 election touched off a wave of deadly rioting and ethnic killings. Some 260,000 people across the country have been forced to flee their homes.

Latent ethnic and land disputes have fuelled revenge killings in western Kenya between Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe and members of the Luo and Kalenjin ethnic groups who supported Odinga.

Gangs armed with machetes and bows and arrows have led clashes throughout the western Rift Valley.

Police confirmed that an unspecified number of people had died in ethnic clashes between youths in Naivasha's Kabati slums Sunday.

"We have deaths," said local police commander Willy Lugusa.

(Contd. on P. 15)

### Top CIA agents in secret trip to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top two U.S. intelligence officials made a secret visit to Pakistan in early January to seek permission from President Pervez Musharraf for greater involvement of American forces in trying to ferret out al-Qaeda and other militant groups active in the tribal regions along the Afghanistan border, a senior U.S. official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity given the secret nature of the talks, declined to disclose what was said, but Musharraf was quoted two days after the Jan. 9 meeting as saying U.S. troops would be regarded as invaders if they

crossed into Pakistan to hunt al-Qaeda militants.

The New York Times — which first reported on the secret visit by CIA Director Michael Hayden and Mike McConnell, director of national intelligence — said Musharraf rebuffed an expansion of an American presence in Pakistan at the meeting, either through overt CIA missions or by joint operations with Pakistani security forces.

In a Jan. 11 interview, Musharraf told The Straits Times of Singapore that U.S. troops would "certainly" be considered invaders if they set foot in the tribal regions. "If they come without our permission, that's

against the sovereignty of Pakistan," he said. "I challenge anybody coming into our mountains. They would regret that day."

South Waziristan is a semi-autonomous region where the central government has never had much control. It is home to scores of al-Qaeda and Taleban fighters, many of whom fled there from neighboring Afghanistan after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

The State Department's counterterrorism chief, Dell Dailey, said Tuesday that the Bush administration was displeased with "gaps in intelligence" received from Pakistan about the activities of extremist groups in the tribal regions.

"We don't have enough information about what's going on there. Not on al-Qaeda. Not on foreign fighters. Not on the Taleban," he said.

Dailey, a retired Army lieutenant general with extensive background in special operations, said Pakistan needs to fix the problem. However, said the U.S. wasn't likely to conduct military strikes inside Pakistan on its own, saying that would anger Pakistanis.

#### CONDOLENCES

His Excellency Asghar Ebrahimi Asel  
Esteemed Ambassador of I.R. of Iran to South Africa

We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of your beloved mother.  
May God rest her soul in eternal peace and bestow forbearance to you and your bereaved family.

Eng. Khosro Zenouzi / Customer Centric Group

**Towzin Electric CO.**  
TRUCK SCALE  
Weighing Systems From 500 kg - 120 ton  
021-8 234  
Tel: +98(21) 888 11 260  
Fax: +98(21) 888 46 662  
www.tecweighing.com  
www.towzin.com