

## Larijani to attend APA meeting in Indonesia

*Tehran Times Political Desk*  
TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis speaker Ali Larijani is to attend the third meeting of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) which is to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, from November 27 to 29.

A total of 250 representatives from 39 countries around the world are scheduled to attend the two-day meeting. Over 20 Iranian lawmakers are going to participate in the meeting.

According to Agung Laksono, the speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives, Asian countries' role in the world economic crisis will be the main topic of the Jakarta meeting.

Laksono has said a great number of non-Asian countries hope for Asia's more active role in helping to end the global financial crisis.

The Indonesian president and parliamentary speaker and Larijani are to address the opening ceremony.

The APA's secretariat is located in Tehran. The Islamic Republic was one of the assembly's founders.

## Iran taking action on hijacked ship case: FM

TEHRAN (IRNA) Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Saturday that Iran is following up taking delivery of Iran-bound ship from the Somali pirates.

Mottaki told IRNA, "We are following up the issue through embassies and Secretariate of the Supreme National Security Council and related organs to secure release of the ship and its crew as soon as possible."

Director of the Maritime Affairs Department at the Islamic Republic Shipping Lines Captain Majid Ensan Najib told IRNA on November 19 that Iran-bound cargo ship with 25 crew on board was stolen in eastern Somalian waters.

Captain Ensan Najib said the ship stolen in eastern Somalian coastlines had been chartered by IRISL.

The ship, Delight, was Hong Kong flag carrier. It was carrying 36,000 tons of wheat to Iran from Europe when was stolen.

Earlier Iranian ship, 'Dianat', with 29 Iranian and non-Iranian crew on board, had been stolen in the same region which was released afterwards.

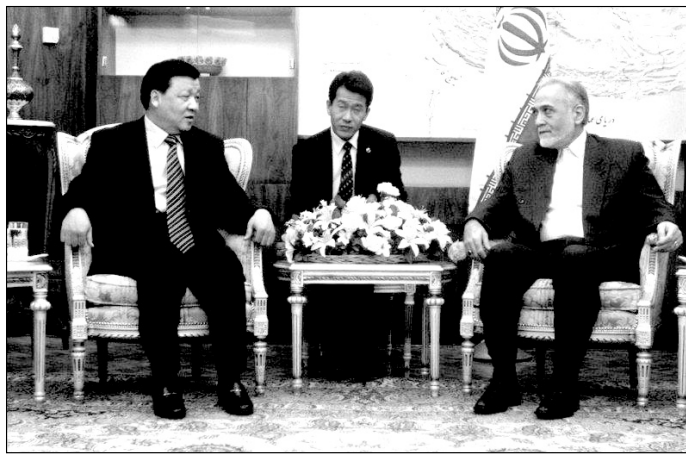
# Mottaki says Iran, China can play greater global role

*Tehran Times Political Desk*  
TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki stated on Saturday that Iran and China, as two major powers, can play more influential roles in international arena.

In a meeting with Liu Yunshan, head of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Publicity Department, he noted that the world is experiencing "unprecedented developments" and the definition of power is changing.

A thorough understanding of global developments is necessary to direct capabilities and potentials in a way to establish a new world order, he observed.

Mottaki also said, "The considerable increase in the trade exchange between the two countries signals



Liu Yunshan, head of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Publicity Department, held talks with Iran's First Vice-President Parviz Davoudi (R) in Tehran on Saturday.

great capacity in economic relations and the determination on both sides to expand cooperation."

Foreign minister stressed that Iran-China relations should be redefined so that the two great powers of Iran and China "like two strong arms" can play a significant role in the international developments.

Liu expressed satisfaction with the increased Iran-China relations and called "strengthening ties" the main purpose behind his visit.

He stated that there are no obstacles on the path to "expanding cooperation in political, economic and cultural areas with Iran".

The relations between the two countries are of "strategic significance" to Beijing and the two countries should plan for long-term cooperation, Liu Yunshan underlined.

## Three confess in Shiraz mosque bombing trial

TEHRAN (Reuters) — Three men confessed at the start of their trial to involvement in the fatal bombing of a mosque in the southern city of Shiraz in April, news agencies reported on Saturday.

Ali Akbar Haidarifar, representing Tehran's prosecutor general, called for the death sentence for those behind the blast which also wounded 200, the official IRNA news agency reported.

Haidarifar said the group had planned other attacks. The three

confessed in the hearing at a revolutionary court, IRNA said.

A further four individuals have been charged over the offence.

"This case has got seven accused, of which the trial of the three main accused began in Tehran," IRNA reported.

Haidarifar was quoted as saying: "The explosion in Shiraz was one of the country's most fatal terrorist acts, and I ask the court to issue the death sentence on the site of the Hosseiniyeh (place of worship) for

the accused."

Haidarifar said the inquiry into other suspects continued and said the investigation covered "those others outside the country as well as the role of countries supportive of this terrorist act, such as the United States and Britain."

He said Tehran's prosecutor general and the revolutionary court's deputy for security affairs were handling the probe.

When asked for their defense in court, IRNA said the three "con-

fessed to being brainwashed to undertake such steps and the ideas of the terrorist groups were so effective they thought they were doing society a service with such terrorist acts."

Haidarifar said the group planned other attacks, such as targeting an international book fair, a seminary and shrine in the religious city of Qom, parliament in Tehran, the Russian consulate, a seminary and prayer site in the northern city of Rasht, and an oil pipeline, IRNA reported.

## Larijani: No end to IAEA 'ambiguous words'

*Tehran Times Political Desk*  
TEHRAN — Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani slammed the latest IAEA report saying it seems that Iran has to hear "ambiguous words" on its nuclear program "ad infinitum".

Addressing a Basij seminar here on Saturday, he said that the U.S. behavior concerning Iran's nuclear program is "adventurous" and Iran has been under heavy pressure by the West since it initiated its nuclear program.

He added that the more Iran cooperates with IAEA, the more questions it raises about Tehran's nuclear program.

"On one side the agency carries out inspections on Iran's nuclear plants; on the other hand, it expresses concerns over Iranian nuclear program and offers some suggestions that never fit into any IAEA rules and regulations," the former chief nuclear negotiator commented.



He said the U.S. manipulates international institutions and uses them as a means of its adventures.

Referring to changes in some U.S. politicians' stances after they are out of power, Larijani said when, for example, Zbigniew Brzezinski

and Madeleine Albright were keeping public posts they held strong stances against Iran, but now their positions have changed.

"We should not confuse a general diplomacy with an official diplomacy," he said.

He went on to say that "unilat-

eralism" in the U.S. foreign policy has hit a deadlock, but "every moment the U.S. tries to maintain its power."

Larijani said that the U.S. and Israel still pose threats to Iran.

He described the current international and regional situations as complicated and said Iran is the only country that resists unilateralism among other nations.

Referring to the U.S.-Iraq security pact, he said the agreement changed into a 'withdrawal pact' after it was revised, adding that the U.S. troops deployed in Afghanistan are in a bad condition and that is why Washington decided to draw up such an agreement with Iraq.

Elsewhere in his speech, Larijani pointed to the U.S. missile attacks on Pakistan and Syrian soils and said under the pretext of curbing terrorism Washington commits offences against different countries.

## Repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran slowing

*Tehran Times Political Desk*  
TEHRAN — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated on Saturday that since 2007 the Afghan refugees' return from Iran has been very slow and has come to a halt at some points.

"Between 2002 and 2007, approximately five million Afghans have returned to their countries from Iran and Pakistan," Antonio Guterres said a press conference in Mashhad.

However, he said, "With the growing instability in Afghanistan... the return (of refugees) remarkably decreased."

Guterres made a reference to the International Conference on Return and Reintegration of Afghan Refugees and stated the conference reviewed providing shelter for the returnees under the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and urged the international community to help the Afghan refugees overcome the obstacles to their return.

The conference was held at the Afghan Foreign Ministry in Kabul last week. Delegations from more than 30 nations and international organizations participated in a day-long conference on the return and reintegration of Afghan refugees this past Wednesday.

The UN official added, "Medical care, education and sanitation are the most serious concerns of the people of Afghanistan."

Guterres expressed his gratitude to Iran and Pakistan for their efforts and added no other countries deserve a financial aid from UN.

## Reformists will agree on a single candidate: former minister

*Tehran Times Political Desk*  
TEHRAN — Eshagh Jahangiri, a member of the Servants of Construction party and former industry minister, said on Friday that among the potential candidates only one reformist figure will run in the 2009 presidential election.

At the Press Festival in Tehran, he told ISNA that former president Mohammad Khatami, ex-premier Mirhossein Mousavi and National confidence Party chief Mahdi Karroubi are viewed as three options for candidacy in the reformist faction.

He said Khatami held the presidential post for two terms and has special understanding of the internal and international affairs which is crucial for decision-making.

Jahangiri who served in both the Khatami and Rafsanjani administrations added that many have asked Khatami to enter the presidential race, but it's not easy to make a decision since there are many challenges ahead which will require careful consideration and he needs to know what changes he can make before accepting candidacy.

The former industry minister stated that Mousavi is a respectable figure and in every presidential election there had been many persons and political groups who had favored his candidacy and this time is no exception. However, he said in the light of circumstances and "their prediction of the future of the country" one of them (Khatami, Mousavi or Karroubi) will eventually take up the challenge.

He also noted that the people always support reformist movements and even when the conservative camp is planning to win the votes it talks about reforms and promises to take reformist steps.

People expect the candidates to be clear on their plans and to address people's problems, he added.

## Iranian envoy reacts to U.S. daily's fake report

VIENNA (IRNA) — Iran's representative to the UN nuclear watchdog reacted on Friday to a recent fake report appeared in The New York Times and said the paper was to mislead public opinion with wrong information.

"This has always been, unfortunately, the case that Western media used wrong scientific and technical information to mislead public opinion and politicize the issue of Iran's peaceful nuclear program," Iran's Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Ali Asghar Soltanieh told IRNA.

Soltanieh made the remark commenting on a report on The New York Times which quoted a so-called expert as claiming that Tehran had stockpiled an amount of UF6 enough to make atomic bomb.

"All international scientific circles know that it is impossible, even for a country with a long history of enrichment activities, to rearrange and use a low-enriched uranium to turn into high-enriched overnight to produce nuclear weapons," the envoy argued.

He added that it was regretful that Western media presented wrong information in the name of scientists or specialists.

"The world academic figures and specialists must protest to such unprofessional comments," Soltanieh said.

He added that all Iranian nuclear sites are under the 24-hour surveillance of the IAEA by the cameras installed over them and it is impossible to make any change in the specialized performance of those facilities.

### DIPLOMATIC CAR FOR SALE

The Embassy of India is planning to sell an official vehicle with the following details:

Sl. No.	TYPE	MODEL	COLOUR	SPECIFICATION
1.	Toyota Prado	2006	White	Manual 3000 CC

Interested diplomats / Embassies / UN agencies may see the vehicle by appointment with Ms. Saadatmand at telephone numbers:

88755103-5 and submit their quotations in sealed envelopes.