



# TEHRAN TIMES

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## No technical obstacle to start up Bushehr nuclear plant

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — There are not any financial or technical obstacles to start up Bushehr nuclear power plant on time, the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Deputy Director Mohammad Saeedi stated on Tuesday.

After a meeting with Sergei Kiriyyenko, head of Russia's Federal Atomic Power Agency in Moscow, Saeedi said, "In the meeting we emphasized that the Russian contractor... should speed up what is remained to be done before Bushehr power plant becomes operational."

"We have reached clear conclusions about the time" to fully operate the plant, he explained.

Bushehr power plant had been scheduled to go on stream by mid-summer 2009.

Russia's Federal Atomic Power Agency has announced that it will complete the plant according to the scheduled program.

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## Tehran will take stronger stance on global issues

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the presidential election in Iran was a victory for the "anti-imperialist front" in the world and therefore Tehran will take stronger stance on the international stage.

Ahmadinejad was re-elected president in the June 12 election with a massive turnout.

"Surely, from now on, we will enter the global scene more powerfully," he said in a meeting with Venezuelan Minister of Energy and Oil Rafael Ramirez here on Wednesday.

He also expressed satisfaction over the current level of relations between Tehran and Caracas, saying, "We should utilize all capacities to boost relations."

"The two countries will stay together until the final victory and will deepen their relations every day," he emphasized.

Ramirez, for his part, praised the massive voter turnout in the presidential election in Iran, saying, "The widespread support of the Iranian nation for you in the election overwhelmed the world."

On the Western interference in post-election events in Iran, the Venezuelan minister said, it is evident to the world that the United States and Britain always try to foment divisions among nations around the world.

Iran has extended formidable ties with the socialist government of Venezuela. Iran's close relationship with Venezuela and other Latin American states has rattled the United States.



Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez (L) met with Ahmadinejad on Wednesday. He conveyed Hugo Chavez's congratulations to Ahmadinejad for his reelection as president. (IRNA/Faraj Samadi)

## GECF plans to register charter in UN

**Tehran Times Economic Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — The charter of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) will be registered as an international organization in the United Nations when all the member states approve it, Iran's OPEC governor said.

The Mehr News Agency quoted Mohammad-Ali Khatibi as saying that, "All the member countries' governments have to approve the charter before the December 9 meeting (of GECF). Up to now Iran and 6 other governments have approved the charter."

"In the 8th ministerial meeting on Tuesday Qatari Oil Minister Abdullah bin Hamad al-Attiyah was chosen as the Forum's temporary secretary general," he added.

The issue of naming the new secretary general was postponed to the next meeting in October, Oil Minister Gholam-Hossein Nozari said Tuesday on the sidelines of the meeting.

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## Israeli doctors colluding in torture

**By Jonathan Cook**  
**NAZARETH (CounterCurrents.org)** — Israel's watchdog body on medical ethics has failed to investigate evidence that doctors working in detention facilities are turning a blind eye to cases of torture, according to Israeli human rights groups.

The Israeli Medical Association (IMA) has ignored repeated requests to examine such evidence, the rights groups say, even though it has been presented with examples of Israeli doctors who have broken their legal and ethical duty towards Palestinians in their care.

The accusations will add fuel to a campaign backed by hundreds of doctors from around the world to force Yoram Blachar, who heads the IMA, to step down from his recent appointment as president of the World Medical Association (WMA).

More than 700 doctors have signed a petition arguing that Dr. Blachar has disqualified himself from leadership of the WMA, the profession's governing ethical body, by effectively condoning torture in Israel.

The campaign against Dr. Blachar has gained ground rapidly since his appointment as president in November. Critics said his alleged complicity in the use of torture in Israeli detention facilities can be traced to 1995, when he became chairman of the IMA.

Until 1999, when Israel's Supreme Court restricted torture, Israeli doctors routinely supervised the medical treatment of abused detainees, mostly Palestinians from the occupied territories.

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## UN agency calls Israel to end merciless blockade

**VIENNA (AFP)** — The head of the UN's Palestinian refugee agency called on Israel Wednesday to lift its merciless blockade on the Gaza Strip, where it said the local population was lacking the most basic necessities.

"People can't live a normal life (in Gaza)," Karen Koning AbuZayd, director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), told journalists in Vienna.

"They need lightbulbs, washing powder. Children need new shoes. (But) shoes are not allowed. There is a shortlist of what is allowed and nothing else is allowed," she added.

Koning AbuZayd was speaking after the signing of an agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) to provide 1.2



United Nations Under-Secretary General and Commissioner General of UNRWA Karen Koning AbuZayd is seen addressing an Interdisciplinary Conference on Palestinian Refugees in the context of 'UNRWA at 60' at Egmont Palace in Brussels, Monday June 29, 2009. (AP/Thierry Charlier)

million dollars (848,000 euros) to fund scholarships for Palestinian students.

Israel has maintained a strict blockade on Gaza since the Islamic resistance movement Hamas took power in 2007.

It has come under massive international pressure to ease the restrictions on the Palestinian territory.

Meanwhile, the UNRWA, which helps some 4.6 million Palestinian refugees in the Middle East and celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, continues to suffer from a lack of funds, Koning AbuZayd said.

"We have never been able to get all the money we asked. We always had a 100-million-dollar gap," she noted.

"It was not enough to make things better," she added.

## Amnesty slams Russia for rights record in Chechnya

**MOSCOW (AFP)** — Rights group Amnesty International called on Russia to enforce order and transparency in Chechnya and the north Caucasus where rights violations persist unchecked.

"There has been and continues to be a total failure of political will to uphold the rule of law and address impunity for present and past abuses of human rights in the region," the group said in a report published Wednesday.

The report "is based on testimonies that tell of indiscriminate killings, excessive force, as well as death and torture in custody, arbitrary and secret detention, abduction, targeting of suspects' relatives and forced evictions."

However, the group found it hard to provide specific figures as to the extent of those violations, citing the victims' fear and reluctance to address the authorities.

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## Iraqi politicians of all stripes laud U.S. pullout

**BAGHDAD (Reuters)** — Iraqi politicians from across the ethnic and sectarian divide on Wednesday welcomed the U.S. troop withdrawal from cities as a step toward sovereignty.

U.S. combat troops pulled out of Iraq's towns and cities on Tuesday into rural bases, the first step of a bilateral security pact that requires all U.S. troops to leave Iraq by 2012. A small number of troops stayed behind as advisors and trainers.

Kurdish, Shi'ite and Sunni Arab politicians, who rarely agree on anything, saw the step as necessary.

Hours after Iraqis celebrated "Sovereignty Day," declared a national holiday, a car bomb killed 34 people in a Kurdish district of the ethnically mixed northern city of Kirkuk.

A spike in violence in the past 10 days -- including two of the biggest bombs for more than a year that killed 150 people between them.

"The pullout is a very good step on the path to independence and sovereignty and Iraqis are glad of that," said Hashim al-Taie of the Accordance Front, the main Sunni Arab bloc in parliament. But he added that he feared insecurity. Many Sunnis fear being left at the mercy of Iraq's Shi'ite-led forces.

"A few months ago ministers were saying that Iraqi forces were not ready to take over. What's changed?" he said.

Iraqis report mixed feelings about the pullout. They are keen to enjoy sovereignty after years of foreign military occupation. But they also feel exposed to attacks by militants from whom U.S. forces have to some extent protected them.

Yet even Kurdish politicians, who welcomed the Americans as liberators more than any other Iraqi group, mostly agree it is time for them to leave urban areas.

(Contd. on P. 15)

## OAS sends Honduras an ultimatum after coup

**TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)** — Honduras faced growing pressure to reinstate ousted President Manuel Zelaya on Wednesday after the Organization of American States set a 72-hour deadline to end a crisis triggered by a military coup.

The coup has spiraled into the worst political turmoil in Central America since the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989, after troops captured Zelaya and whisked him out of the country to Costa Rica in a dawn raid on Sunday.

The ouster of Zelaya -- a timber magnate forced out over his push to extend presidential re-election beyond a single four-year term -- was widely condemned by figures ranging from U.S. President Barack Obama to Zelaya's left-wing allies in Latin America.

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[A Glance at Sisakht City Tourist Attractions and Development Projects](#)

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## PERSPECTIVE

### Iraq War: Not another whitewash please!

**By Linda S. Heard**

A scheduled independent inquiry into Britain's role in the Iraq War is long overdue. The invasion of Iraq arguably constitutes Britain's greatest blunder since the 1956 Suez Crisis, which resulted in the then Prime Minister Anthony Eden suffering an emotional breakdown and being forced to quit office.

Today, U.S. and British government officials still claim the war had merit in that Saddam Hussein was toppled but in light of the devastation that Iraq has suffered -- and is still suffering -- such assertions ring hollow. In the past ten days alone over 150 Iraqis have been killed during a series of bomb attacks while up to 200 have been injured. At this point in time when U.S. forces are preparing to withdraw no one can predict the extent of any carnage that may ensue.

Even the most conservative estimates concede that over a million Iraqis have lost their lives due to the invasion and its six-year aftermath. Millions have been robbed of family members, there are untold numbers of orphans, and millions more have been displaced from their homes.

Coalition countries have also paid a price in blood and treasure with the cost of war reaching the \$800 billion mark. Knowing such horrendous statistics make U.S. and British claims that it was all worth it to "free" Iraq from an "evil dictator" sound glib. But what else can they say, when the world knows now that Saddam did not possess weapons of mass destruction and had no links to Al-Qaeda or other groups of a similar ilk?

(Contd. on P. 15)