

## Ahmadinejad cancels visit to AU summit in Libya

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who was scheduled to take part in the African Union (AU) summit in Libya canceled the visit.

The presidential office gave no reason for the cancellation.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hassan Qashqavi stated on Wednesday that the president was too busy to attend the meeting. He added the trip has not been stated to be definite.

The three-day summit is set to open Wednesday.

A top political and economic delegation, among them ministers and advisors, were going to accompany the president in the visit to the northern African country.

The 53-member AU is the successor to the Organization of African Unity which seeks to promote the socio-economic integration of the continent, as well as greater unity between the countries and peoples of Africa.

## Foreign leaders congratulate Ahmadinejad on re-election

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak, and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, in separate messages, congratulated Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on his reelection.

In his message, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said that Ahmadinejad's reelection would strengthen ties between Tehran and New Delhi to the benefit of both nations.

Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also conveyed his felicitation to the president-elect and hoped the two countries continue their joint cooperation.

Wishing prosperity for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak hoped the two countries expand relations in different spheres.

## Tehran favors stability, security in region

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi said Tehran favors security, stability and prosperity for all regional countries.

He made the remarks in answering a reporter's question on Wednesday who was inquiring about Iran's views on the recent remarks by some top regional officials on the impact of Iran's stability and security over the region.

The spokesman said Iran regarded the remarks as an indication of the domination of the spirit of solidarity, deep friendship and mutual respect which binds all regional states together.

He further said Iran always focuses on elements leading to promotion of regional security and stability in its strategic policies.

# Sadeq Larijani to replace Hashemi Shahroudi as judiciary chief: sources



HASHEMI SHAHROUDI



SADEGH LARIJANI

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — After serving almost ten years as the Judiciary chief, many say Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi will soon be replaced by Guardian Council member Ayatollah Sadeq Larijani.

Informed sources have said the Supreme Leader sees Sadeq Larijani as the best choice to run the Judiciary

after Shahroudi's term ends. Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Mohammad Jahromi has also told the Mehr News Agency that Larijani is the main option for the post.

Ayatollah Shahroudi took over as the Judiciary chief in 1999, when he replaced Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi.

Most legal experts and jurists say the judicial system underwent many

positive changes during Ayatollah Shahroudi's ten-year management.

However, Hashemi Shahroudi is also viewed as an option for serving in the Guardian Council, a 12-man supervisory body comprised of six clerics appointed by the Supreme Leader and six jurists that must ensure all laws agree with Islamic Sharia law and the constitution.

There are also speculations that GC spokesman Abbas Ali Kadkhodai would quit the Guardian Council to take up a post in the Judiciary.

The speculations intensified as a reporter asked him in a press conference on Monday that as a citizen he had not been convinced about the confirmation of the presidential election in which he responded, "God willing four years later the new spokesman of the Guardian Council will convince you."

Some months ago reports surfaced that Kadkhodai would take over as an advisor to Ali Larijani, the Majlis speaker. However, in his press conference on Monday Kadkhodai said that he will only cooperate with the legislative body as a consultant to Larijani.

## Majlis to press on with post-vote unrest probe

The parliament (Majlis) investigation committee will continue its work concerning an investigation into the recent unrest in the country after the June 12 presidential election.

A member of the committee, Mohsen Kouhkan, rejected claims that the parliament will suspend its work due to pressure, saying, "No order or request has been made to stop the activities of the committee."

After the re-election of incumbent President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for a second four-year term in the hotly-contested presidential election, Iran became the scene of rallies with defeated candidates Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi rejecting the result as fraudulent and demanding a re-run.

Following the recent unrest across Iran, Majlis Speaker Ali

Larijani set up a parliamentary committee to investigate the skirmishes between the police and protestors, including the attack that took place at the Tehran University dormitory.

In his Tuesday address to reporters, Kouhkan pointed to the issue of the attack and said, "The chancellor of the university, Farhad Rahbar, had requested that the police be allowed entry into the dormitory."

However, Rahbar "strongly" rejected the remarks by the Majlis Presiding Board member, saying, "I had made no request for the entrance of the police personnel into the Tehran University dormitory."

He added that he had been informed on the case after alleged members of the police force entered the dormitory.

(Source: Press TV)

## Army's war games carry "message of peace" to region

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — A senior Iranian commander on Wednesday reiterated that the war games staged by the Islamic Republic army assure the nation of the country's power in maintaining security at its borders while carrying a message of durable peace to the region.

"The army's drills play a complementary role for theoretical trainings while they carry a message of durable peace in the region," Lieutenant Commander of the Iranian Army General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi said on the sidelines of the final stage of three-day-long military exercises codenamed as 'Ali-Ibn-e-Abitaleb'.

He reiterated that such drills would strengthen national power and ensure people about security along the country's borders.

Iranian Army Ground Force started three days of war games in southwestern country in an area covering 67 thousand square km on Monday.

Regarding the war games, Mousavi said that rapid and comprehensive deployment of command control centers and the regiments' communication, adjusting to actual battleground conditions, and exercising all training procedures and stages were among the specific features of the drills.

Commanders' command control power was also tested in different regiments during military exercises in the southwestern provinces of Khuzestan and Ilam as well as the western province of Lorestan.

Different modern war tactics and methods for future combats with several scenarios designed and prepared by commanders and officers were also exercised in earlier stages of the maneuvers.

## Three more British Embassy employees released

**Iran has released three more local employees of the British Embassy but is still holding one member for what has been described as playing a significant role in post-election violence.**

The release came after Foreign Secretary David Miliband said on Tuesday that Britain and Iran had agreed to resolve the dispute over the arrest of the British Embassy staff in Tehran.

Iran initially arrested nine local employees of the British Embassy to conduct investigations into their role in fomenting mass public protests following the June 12 vote.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry announced on Monday that five of the nine detainees had been released following primary investigations.

"I have discussed this issue with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and we both agreed in our second telephone conversation yesterday that a swift resolution was in both of our interests," Miliband said, calling for the release of the remaining Embassy staff.

Earlier on Monday, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for his part called for the release of the remaining British Embassy employees, saying their detention was "unacceptable" and "unjustifiable".

The announcement of the Iranian president's re-election sparked opposition rallies in the capital Tehran with defeated candidates Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi demanding the vote to be annulled.

Iran says foreign interference in its internal affairs and the partial approach of certain countries and their media has been the cause of the post-election unrest in the country.

(Source: Press TV)

## Detained Newsweek reporter comes clean

Newsweek's Canadian-Iranian journalist Maziar Bahari has admitted to giving "false and biased" reports about the recent post-election events in Iran.

Bahari, who also had connections with the BBC and Britain's Channel 4 news, was arrested in Tehran during the unrest that followed the announcement of the result of the 10th presidential election.

In a Tuesday press conference that was held while he was still in custody, Bahari explained the nature of some of his activities in Iran over the past years and the role that Western media had played in the events, which unfolded in the country.

"Most of the work I did for BBC and Channel 4 had to do with highlighting problems in various areas... the journalist work I did revolved around daily news and issues such as the parliamentary and presidential elections," Bahari told

reports.

"Western media are an inseparable part of the capitalist machine of Western liberal democracies. A Western journalist who comes to Iran... is mainly concerned with the interests of the West, which are defined in relation to each issue at every period of time," he said.

The Newsweek reporter said international press set the scenes for velvet revolutions in various countries, adding that the gentle overthrow of a government could not be achieved without their critical role.

Bahari specifically highlighted the role of the BBC, CNN, Euronews, The New York Times and Newsweek.

"On the brink of every velvet revolution Western media try to portray the ruling administration as the traditional, bigoted, inefficient and undemocratic side while introducing the Western-inclined

trend as a modern, efficient, democratic, and reformist movement that has support among the people," he said.

Bahari said that in such cases, several months prior to the vote foreign news outlets begin efforts to persuade the public that the election will be rigged and that a coup is just around the corner.

He added that these media outlets give full coverage to illegal protests with the belief that broadcasting such events will help enlarge their scale.

The announcement of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's reelection sparked opposition rallies in the capital Tehran with defeated candidates Mir-Hossein Mousavi and Mehdi Karroubi demanding the vote to be annulled.

Iran has blamed the 'biased' attitude of European countries and their media for fueling the country's post-election unrest.

(Source: Press TV)

## Over 1000 detained during unrest: police chief

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — National Police Chief Esmaeil Ahmadi-Moqaddam revealed on Wednesday that over 1000 people were detained during the recent unrest in Tehran but most of them have gone free.

"During the recent unrest in Tehran, the police arrested 1032 people. Many of them have been released," he said.

Ahmadi-Moqaddam pointed to the murder of Neda Agha-Soltan, who was shot dead in Tehran, saying, "It was a preplanned scenario."

Neda's death had no relations with protests, Ahmadi-Moqaddam added.

The police official also said Iran has asked Interpol to arrest Arash Hejazi - a doctor who witnessed the murder - for spreading rumors about the young girl's murder.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has asked Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi to thoroughly investigate the "suspicious" murder of Agha-Soltan.

Ahmadi-Moqaddam also stated that over 500 of the police forces were injured during the streets protests.

The police chief went on to say that 20 were killed in the unrest but no policeman was among the dead.

## U.S. will have to talk with Iran about Iraq's security: analyst

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — New circumstances in the region would force the U.S. to resume talks with Iran about Iraq, Mohammad-Mahdi Mazaheri, a political analyst, said on Wednesday.

The U.S. will need Iran's help to secure Iraq, Mazaheri told the Mehr News Agency as speculations have risen that possible future talks between Iran and the U.S. have been put in limbo since Washington took side with demonstrators protesting the presidential election results in Iran.

Among the regional countries, he said, Iran has the greatest influence on Iraq especially as it has made the largest effort to establish a durable security in its neighbor.

However, he said Washington and certain European countries have been trying to downplay Iran's role in the region.

## No one has right to question election results: MP

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — MP Mojtaba Aqa-Tehrani stated on Wednesday that since the Guardian Council has confirmed the validity of the presidential vote no one has the right to question the election results.

"According to the law, when the Guardian Council comments on the results of an election, everything is over," he said.

The MP also confirmed the news that a number MPs have prepared a lawsuit against defeated presidential candidate Mir-Hossein Mousavi who had disputed the election results.

## Supporters of rioters should not talk of dialogue: commander

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hassan Firouzabadi stated on Wednesday that those foreign states who supported the rioters in Iran should not talk of dialogue.

"We believe that they do not have any rights to talk of dialogue before apologizing for their grave mistakes," he said.

The unrest in Iran came after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was declared the winner of the election. A number of rioters grasped the opportunity by causing public disorder and damaging public property.

The commander also criticized the stance of European Union on the unrest in Iran, stating, "The members of the European Union have lost their creditability in the 5+1 group."

EU Foreign Policy chief Javier Solana has been representing the 5+1 group (five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) in nuclear talks with Iran.

The top commander called the EU a "failed political and economic treaty" which has lost the "trust" of its citizens".

## Iran welcomes expansion of ties with Ukraine

**Tehran Times Political Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Tehran will welcome expansion of political and parliamentary ties with Kiev, Mahdi Sanaee, the head of Iran-Ukraine parliamentary friendship group, said on Wednesday.

Sanaee made the remarks in a meeting with Ukrainian ambassador to Tehran Ihor Lohinov.

He said the parliaments could play an important role in expanding comprehensive ties between the two countries.

Lohinov pointed to growing ties between Tehran and Kiev, saying the two nations can develop their ties in all areas and the parliaments can take great steps for the purpose.