

SPORTS



Estaki on verge of joining German handball team

Tehran Times Sports Desk

TEHRAN — Iran's Allahkaram Esteki is taking part in training sessions of VfL Gummersbach handball team for the purpose of joining the team.

The 21-year-old Iranian international player is to train for the next three months at VfL Gummersbach, according to coach Sead Hasanefendic.



"I'm very happy here in Gummersbach. I would be the first Iranian player who joins a European team, but I still have a very long way to go," said Esteki.

Despite his young age he has played 36 international matches for his country.

Gummersbach is fourth in the Handball-Bundesliga (HBL). A total of 18 teams participate in HBL.

Aghily to join Freiburg

Tehran Times Sports Desk

TEHRAN — Sepahan of Isfahan defender Hadi Aghily is set to join Bundesliga's Freiburg football team.

The 27-year-old Iranian international has traveled to Germany to take part in the club's medical tests.

He will be the second Iranian Freiburg player after Ferydoon Zandi who was a member of the team from 2000 to 2002.

Aghily was part of the Persepolis youth academy, but he left the club for Saipa in 2001. After three years he moved to Sepahan where he won the Hazfi Cup. He also played in AFC Champions League final in 2007.

Aghily played in FIFA Club World Cup in 2007 and has capped for Iran 32 times.

Iranian duo fencers suffer swine flu

Tehran Times Sports Desk

TEHRAN — Two Iranian fencers have caught swine flu, according to Iran's Sports Medicine Federation president.

Karamollah Alimoradi said on Tuesday that Farnoush Alipour and Azam Bakhti, two Iranian girls who took part in the 1st Youth Asian Games in Singapore last month, were rushed to Isfahan's Al Zahra Hospital.

"These two fencers will be dismissed from the hospital but kept under observation. We have not received any news about swine flu cases among other Iranian athletes," he stated.

Iran's National Olympic Committee has recently announced they will not allow their athletes to participate in the 1st Asian Martial Arts Games due to swine flu scare.

MPs express gratitude to sacked intelligence minister

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — In a statement released on Tuesday, over 210 MPs expressed their gratitude to former Intelligence Minister Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei for his "honest" services to the nation.

On Sunday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad dismissed Mohseni-Ejei reportedly due to his objection to the appointment of Esfandiar Rahim-Mashai as first vice president. The dismissal came at the last days of the current administration.

Mohseni-Ejei has made great services to the nation during his tenure and has shown his obedience to the Leadership in practice, part of the statement said.

"We, representatives of the Majlis, consider it incumbent on us to thank this servant of Islam and the revolution" who honestly served in the Intelligence



Former MP praises Rafsanjani's sermons at Friday prayers

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Former MP Emad Afrough has defended suggestions made by Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his recent sermons at the Friday prayers, saying it was one of the best sermons ever delivered by him.

Rafsanjani told worshippers on July 17 that abiding by the law, heeding the views of the ulema, commiserating with the families of those who were harmed in the post-election incidents, and releasing prisoners are some of the measures that officials should take to tackle the problems.

In an interview with the Mehr News Agency on Tuesday, Afrough said the decrees by the Supreme Leader and the Judiciary chief proved

that Rafsanjani's suggestions were correct.

The Supreme Leader on Monday ordered the closure of the Kahrizak detention center where some prisoners who were detained in the post-election unrest are held.

The Judiciary chief also ordered senior judicial officials on Monday to examine the post-election detentions and to respond to complaints by anyone who was subjected to violence or suffered any financial loss in the recent incidents.

However, Afrough said, some persons are seeking to question Rafsanjani's views just because they had differences with him in the past.

He said, "Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution has made it clear

that if anyone disagrees with him on certain issues, it does not mean that he is opposed to the rule of the Islamic jurisprudent."

Then why are some people trying to accuse certain officials, who have a bright record in the revolution, of opposition to the rule of the Islamic jurisprudent? the former lawmaker asked.

The efforts by some persons to separate the supporters of the Islamic jurisprudent from the revolution, is the emergence of a "suspicious political project", Afrough added.

He also said the record of the officials in defending the revolution and following the orders of the Leader shows their loyalty to the Islamic Republic.

NAM challenges West's views by letting Iran host its summit

TEHRAN (IRNA) — A top Iranian official believes the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) decision to choose Tehran as the host of the organization's 16th summit was actually a challenge to West's negative propaganda against Iran.

Deputy Foreign Minister for international and legal affairs Mohammad Ali Hosseini said Iran has always been one of the NAM's most active member states since 1979 when it joined the organization and has played an effective and major role in advancing the goals of the organization as well as drawing up its policies and strategies.

He said during the organization's 14th summit in Havana, Cuba, in 2006, Iran and Qatar proposed to host NAM's 16th summit in their respective capitals in 2012.

Given the importance of hosting such an event for any of the member states, he said, Iran took many measures to persuade Qatari officials to let Iran host the meeting and actually won their favorable opinion in this regard during



the foreign ministerial meetings of the Non-Aligned Movement which were recently held in Cuba and then in Egypt.

The Foreign Ministry official further noted that the organization's approval of Tehran hosting the 16th NAM summit indicated both its positive attitude towards Iran's positive role within the organization as well as the world arena and its trust in Iran's high capacity to successfully hold such a great event.

He further noted that the decision was made at a time when certain big powers and western countries have launched massive propaganda campaigns against Iran in the international arena.

Hosseini maintained the decision was in fact a reaction on the part of the developing countries which are members of the Non-Aligned Movement to the anti-Iran propaganda.

The Non-Aligned Movement, with 118 members from among developing countries, is the world's largest international political organization.

After Iran committee, UN probes into detainees

Demonstrators on the global "day of action" on Saturday called on the UN to investigate alleged human rights concerns in Iran.

With calls on the United Nations to investigate alleged rights abuses in Iran in the aftermath of the country's presidential vote, a spokesman for the UN says the organization is looking into the issue.

After Iran's presidential election in June saw the incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad re-elected as president, supporters of the defeated candidates took to the streets in protest at the result of the vote.

Thousands were detained in the aftermath of the vote, many of whom have since been released. According to Judiciary spokesman Ali-Reza Jamshidi, at least 300 people remain behind bars.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, Farhan Haq, associate spokesperson for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Rapporteurs are probing into the situation of Iranian prisoners.

"The issue of several hundred detainees is being addressed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Rapporteurs with

a specific focus on the need for due process," Haq explained.

According to IRNA, Haq said that Ban Ki-moon was not to send a representative to Iran in this regard and that the UN Commission on Human Rights had only commented on the situation.

The move comes as earlier in the course of the June unrest, the UN secretary-general urged a stop to "use of force" against protestors in Iran and called on authorities to respect civil rights in dealing with protests over presidential election results.

The UN spokesman, however, when asked whether the secretary-general would send an envoy to Iran to address "human rights concerns," said no decision has yet been made on the issue.

The UN investigations come as the Leader of the Islamic Revolution called for the administration of justice in dealing with the country's post-vote arrests.

Head of Iran's National Security Council Saeed Jalili said Monday that Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei had ordered authorities to "precisely" probe into incidents in which wrongdoings may have been committed against detainees.

Iran's prosecutor general announced earlier on Monday that a three member committee had been set up to accelerate investigation into the cases of those detained in the post-election protests.

In a separate move, another committee has been set up by the Majlis National Security commission to probe into the case of those detained.

"Arrangements have been made with the judiciary branch for the commission to visit detainees held in Iranian prisons to inform the general public about their physical condition and the nature of the arrests," head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Alaeddin Boroujerdi said on Sunday.

A contentious issue that has come as a cause for concern over the arrests is the deaths of two detainees Mohammad Kamrani and Mohsen Ruholamini -- an issue that has prompted critics to demand that no confessions be aired that may in any way be the result of alleged forced confessions.

Iran's prison officials deny allegations that prisoners have been forced to make confessions and have named meningitis as the cause of the deaths.

(Source: Press TV)

Ministry for four years, the statement added.

MP Hossein Sobhaninia said on Tuesday that the lawmakers were annoyed when they were informed that the intelligence minister has been dismissed. He also pointed out that the president has had no consultations with the MPs on choosing members of his next cabinet.

Sacking minister over Rahim-Mashai dispute is regrettable

A member of the Society of Combatant Clergy central council, Hossein Ebrahimi, said the sacking of the intelligence minister for calling to dismiss Rahim-Mashai is regrettable.

"People will not approve of the dismissal of the cabinet's only cleric like this", Hojatoleslam Ebrahimi told the Mehr News Agency on Tuesday.

He praised Mohseni-Ejei's revolutionary credentials and his great achievements and services to the Islamic establishment.

It seems that the recent dismissal of cabinet ministers were not well thought-out, he added.

Ebrahimi said, "This issue was not in the interest of the government, country, or the president himself."



Number of swine flu victims reaches 42 in Iran

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — The number of people found infected with swine flu virus has reached 42, the director of the infectious diseases management department at the Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

Mohammad Mahdi Gooya requested citizens to postpone Umrah travels as far as possible in order to prevent the spread of the virus.

He said, during an emergency meeting that was held in the Egyptian capital Cairo last Wednesday, it was decided that people under 5 or above 65, people with chronic heart or pulmonary diseases are prohibited from traveling to Saudi Arabia for Umrah or Hajj pilgrimages.

The emergency meeting, which was organized by the Cairo-based Regional Office of the World Health Organization for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO), discussed the procedures and precautionary measures for combating swine flu and reducing its spread during Haj and Umrah this year.

Gooya said there were also some infected persons among the travelers to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the U.S.

The official urged the people to avoid unnecessary travels or put them off until a late time and be cautious about their health and personal hygiene.

IRGC navy to hold maneuver in fall

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) is going to hold a naval maneuver in the fall to test its latest domestically-produced equipment, the IRGC Navy commander announced on Tuesday.

Morteza Saffari said that IRGC Ground and Air forces will also take part in the war game.

He went on to say that the main duty of the IRGC Navy is to strengthen security in the strategic Persian Gulf waterway.

Saffari also said Iranian experts, through designing and building military equipment, have helped the country attain self-sufficiency in this industry.

Mohammad-Sadeq Larijani to be named as new Judiciary chief on August 16

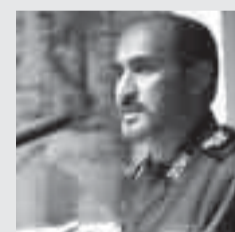
Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Hojatoleslam Mohammad-Sadeq Larijani will be officially named as new judiciary chief in a ceremony scheduled for August 16.

And in the ceremony Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi will say farewell to the post after 10 years, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Taqipoue, Majlis Judicial and Legal Committee member, stated on Tuesday.



GOOYA



SAFFARI



MOHAMMAD-SADEQ LARIJANI