

Larijani: Opposition to Iran's nuclear program is out of greediness

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Iran's nuclear activities have always been transparent and allegations against the country originate from bullying powers' greediness over Tehran's technological progresses in the nuclear field, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani told outgoing Algerian ambassador to Tehran Mohammad al-Amin Waraqui on Saturday.

Larijani also thanked the Algerian government for its positive stand on Iran's nuclear issue.

Larijani also expressed satisfaction over growing political, parliamentary, cultural, and economic ties between Iran and Algeria, saying the Majlis will support an expansion of relations with the northern African country.

The Algerian ambassador called Iran an important country which plays an influential role in the region and beyond.

The diplomat said his country is seeking to increase cooperation with Tehran. Waraqui called for increased parliamentary ties as he said the parliaments play a pivotal role in relations between the two nations.

Grand ayatollah: Political groups should be open to criticism

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Grand Ayatollah Ali Safi Golpaygani has said all political parties and groups must learn to be open to criticism and even abdicate their absolute rights for the sake of unity, security and tranquility of the society.

In a meeting with the Islamic Coalition Party members on Sunday, the ayatollah also added the spirit of flattery and perversity must be broken and people should pay more attention to development of the country.

The ayatollah also warned that a weakened relationship with ulema would lead into deviancy.

Loyalists to the Islamic system must be vigilant and know that the country is prideful as long as its Islamic identity is preserved, he noted.

Hashemian: Bochum did well

Tehran Times Sports Desk
 Iranian Bochum striker Vahid Hashemian praised his team's performance against defending champion Wolfsburg on Sunday.

10-man Bochum finished in a 1-1 draw with Wolfsburg in the 6th round of Bundesliga season. Hashemian gave the home side a lead eight minutes into the second half with a header but 10 minutes later Bochum's Shinji Ono was sent off for a second bookable offence.

"We did well against Wolfsburg. Bochum showed a good performance in offence as well as defense," said Hashemian.

"I received a fine cross from Christian Fuchs and opened the goal. We were down to 10 men against a powerful team such as Wolfsburg and it was hard to get a good result," he added.

Don't miss the opportunity, Ahmadinejad tells Obama



Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has said the United States

will lose opportunities if U.S. President Barack Obama's slogan of change is not put into practice soon.

Majlis committee to release report on post-election detentions on Wednesday: MP

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — The special parliamentary committee established to investigate the post-election incidents is set to release its findings to the parliament on Wednesday, MP Parvizi Sorouri said on Sunday.

Sorouri, who heads the special committee, also pointed out that 104 individuals have so far filed lawsuits in regard to the mistreatments that happened at the Kahrizak detention

center.

The Kahrizak detention center, located south of Tehran, was closed on the order of the Supreme Leader due to its substandard conditions and the mistreatment of inmates.

Sorouri had said earlier that 12 police officers and judges who have been charged with the mistreatment of the detainees at the Kahrizak center have been sacked and are pending trial.

First cleric governor appointed

Tehran Times Political Desk
QOM — Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Hossein Mousapour has been appointed as Qom governor, becoming the first cleric to take such a post since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

MP Ali Banayee from Qom said the cabinet on Sunday afternoon endorsed proposal by interior minister to appoint Mousapour to the job.

Mousapour was deputy interior minister for parliamentary affairs in the previous administration.



MOUSAPOUR



ZAKER ISFAHANI

Mousapour was appointed to the post as he is highly capable of establishing proper contacts with maraja' taqlid (Shia clerics who are regarded as sources of emulation) and different political groups, reports say.

On Sunday afternoon, the cabinet also confirmed Alireza Zaker Isfahani, the director of the center for strategic studies at the presidential office, as

the governor of Isfahan province.

His appointment has been welcomed by the MPs from Isfahan province.

Mottaki: Zionist regime a real threat to Europe, U.S.

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Sunday that the Zionist regime is a threat to the region, Europe and the U.S..

Mottaki made the remark in a meeting with deputy head of Hamas political bureau Moussa Abu Marzou in Tehran.

In the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister strongly condemned the recent measures of the Zionist regime with regard to Aqsa Mosque through systematic Judaization of holy places in Palestine.

The recent measures of the Zionists on Aqsa Mosque indicate the raciest nature of the Zionist regime and this should be regarded as a warning to all Islamic and Arab states, he said.

Referring to the war-mongering nature of the Zionist regime, he said the U.S. is now taking a big test because the Zionist regime poses a serious threat to the region, Europe and the U.S..



The European people do not tolerate humiliation by backing the Zionist regime, he underlined.

Heightening the daily increasing pressure being put on the oppressed Palestinian people as blatant violation of human rights, he said this will encourage the Palestinian people to show more resistance.

Backing the idea for reconciliation among Palestinian groups, he expressed the hope that world Muslims would witness formation of a democratic and popular government with participation of all Palestinians.

The Palestinian envoy, for his part, thanked Iran for rendering spiritual support for the Palestine people against occupation.

The Palestinian resistance is to strongly deal with war-mongering policies of the Zionist regime, said the Palestinian figure.

Analysis: Iran is winner in nuclear talks

The United States and its partners in the P5+1 — Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — can rightfully claim progress in Thursday's talks with Iran.

The seven hours worth of talks in Geneva, Switzerland, ended much better than anyone anticipated. Iran pledged to admit International Atomic Energy Agency inspectors into its recently disclosed facility in Qom and agreed, in principle, to a proposal under which it ships most of its current stockpile of low-enriched uranium outside the country for further enrichment to power a reactor used for medical research.

What's more, Iran agreed to meet again with the group by the end of the month.

And if all of that wasn't enough, U.S. Undersecretary of State Bill Burns had a rare one-on-one meeting with his counterpart, Iranian chief negotiator Saeed Jalili.

The 45-minute meeting was described as a "sidebar" and didn't involve substantial negotiation of the issues, but it was the first genuine indication that Iran is taking President Obama up on his offer of engagement.

Yes, the P5+1, and the United States in particular, should be pleased. But the real winner in Thursday's round of talks is Iran, which has largely neutralized international efforts to impose new sanctions against Tehran.

Iran cleverly revealed its not-so-secret nuclear facility at Qom to the IAEA hours before Obama was to speak to the G-20 industrialized nations, where Iran's nuclear program was featured prominently on the agenda in his meetings with various leaders.

Earlier in the week, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev, having softened from the Obama administration's efforts to "push the reset button" on its relationship with Iran and its decision to scrap missile defense in Poland and Russia, said he could consider tougher international sanctions if Iran did not comply with international demands.

(Source: CNN)

Iran on verge of winning Asian Volleyball Championship

Tehran Times Sports Desk
MANILA — Iran will play six-time champion Japan in the finals at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium on Monday.

Four-time Asian gold winner South Korea was saddened by Iran in the 15th Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

In the game played at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium in Manila the

Iranians rallied from a 2-1 deficit by winning the final two sets of the semifinal match (24-26, 25-20, 26-28, 25-17, 15-11) and securing a place in the finals.

The game lasted for two hours and four minutes with Iran leaning on the solid performances of Mohammad Mohammadkazem, Seyed Mohammad Mousavi Eraghi, Hamzeh Zarini and Farhad Nazari Afshar.

It was a regretful loss for Korea, proud owners of four titles won in 1989, 1993, 2001 and 2003.

China is to play Korea for third place.



Missile exercises determining factor in Geneva talks: IRGC commander

TEHRAN (FNA) — Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari said on Sunday that the timing of Iran's recent missile exercises prior to its negotiations with the Group 5+1 served as a determining factor in the talks.

"Our emphasis on our preparedness during the exercises, once again, led the enemies to an understanding of the fact that military threats against Iran would prove useless and that they should even give up their sanctions (against the Islamic Republic)," he noted.



JAFARI

"Of course, the timing and the situation of the drill which took place before the nuclear talks (in Geneva) was a determining factor, and these are all a grace of the God" Jafari reiterated.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili sat with the representatives of the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany in comprehensive talks in Geneva, Switzerland, on Thursday.

Prior to the Geneva talks, IRGC Air Force staged two days of missile exercise in the last week during which different types of ground-to-ground, mid- and long-range missiles, including hi-tech long-range Sejil missiles, optimized long range Shahab-3 missiles, were tested successfully.

The liquid-fuel Shahab class missiles include a wide range of missiles, including the well-known Shahab-3 which has a range of up to 1,250 miles (2000 kilometers) and is capable of carrying a 1,000-760 kilogram warhead.

The optimized Shahab-3 is more precise than the previous models and Iran has promoted its Navigation Systems.

Iran successfully tested the second generation of Sejil missiles and brought it into mass production earlier this year.

The solid-fuel, two-stage Sejil missile with two engines, is capable of reaching a very high altitude and therefore has a longer range than that of the Shahab 3 model.

Iran asks Kuwait about woman's death in jail

Iran's consulate in Kuwait has demanded an explanation from the Arab Emirate about the suspicious death of an Iranian woman in police custody, a report says.

Several days ago, Kuwaiti media reported that a 40 year old Iranian woman had taken her life by hanging herself from the roof of the Misdemeanor Department in Salmiya.

The report said that the woman was arrested when her work sponsor registered an absconding case against her, which could have resulted in her deportation.

"A woman by the initials A.A. was detained by the police a few weeks ago, for reasons that are still not clear to us," consular Bahram Afshar said, according to a Saturday article posted on the Iranian Tabnak news website.

"Although we tried to secure her release, unfortunately this incident occurred and we were informed that an Iranian Woman had died in custody.

"As there are certain ambiguities surrounding this incident, the embassy has written to the Kuwaiti foreign ministry asking for a full report."

According to Kuwaiti media reports, the woman was suffering from a psychological illness. The Kuwaiti Forensic Department is believed to be conducting an investigation into her death.

Afshar said the embassy was still waiting for the results of the forensic autopsy. He also said that the unfortunate woman was married and her husband was also held in police custody.

(Source: Press TV)

Judiciary chief cautions against Western principles of human rights

TEHRAN (FNA) — Muslim scholars and theorists should strive to defuse the western norms and principles of human rights exported to the Islamic nations and display the potentials of Islam's views and principles of human rights, Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani said Sunday.

"The field of Islamic laws and rights has not been safe from the westerners' presumptions and views," Larijani said at a meeting with high-ranking judiciary officials here in Tehran.

"We should try to explain the principles of Islamic laws, which are based on respect for man's high status and exalted position and a monotheistic look, to those who are ignorant of the grandeur and richness of the Islamic law," he added.

Referring to the claims raised by a number of western lawyers that the Islamic rules of punishment are violent, Larijani underlined that Iran believes the issue of nemesis discussed in Islam is not a show of violence at all, rather it is a protection for man's life and means attention to the rights of human beings.