

IAEA undertakes to supply nuclear fuel for Tehran reactor: MP

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — The International Atomic Energy Agency has undertaken to supply nuclear fuel for its Tehran nuclear reactor that produces isotopes for medical use, MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi said on Tuesday.

"According to its commitment, the agency has to supply Iran's required (nuclear) fuel, thus it has requested the U.S. and Russia to supply this fuel to Iran," Boroujerdi, the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee chairman, told reporters in the parliament.

Experts from Iran and the IAEA are to meet in Vienna on October 18 to study Iran's request for 20 percent enriched uranium for the Tehran nuclear reactor.

He noted that Iran's uranium is enriched to about 3.5 to 5 percent.

Elsewhere in his interview, he said the meetings held between Iranian Foreign Ministry officials and the U.S. diplomats during the Geneva talks were related to Iran's package of proposals and not to relations between the two countries.

However, he said that the U.S. is willing to hold talks with Iran and has expressed this view several times.

Negotiators from Iran and the six powers gathered in Geneva to discuss Iran's updated package of proposals on Thursday.

Persepolis crushes Moghavemat

Tehran Times Sports Desk
TEHRAN — Persepolis football team celebrated its third win of the Iran Professional League (IPL) season here on Tuesday.



Persepolis crushed Moghavemat 4-2 in the 10th week of the IPL in Tehran's Azadi Stadium in front of about 15,000 spectators.

The Reds had already defeated Pas of Hamedan and Saba Battery.

Persepolis captain Karim Bagheri gave his team a lead in the 12th minute. He chested down a long ball in the penalty area and shot it powerfully into Moghavemat's goal. Hadi Noruzi doubled the scoreboard in the 54th minute with a header. Meisam Bao and Hawar Mulla Mohammed scored for Persepolis in the 80th and 85th minutes.

While the Persepolis' players were celebrating their best victory of the season, Behnam Afshe and Mehdi Nazari scored twice in the 88th and 90th minutes for the visitors.

Other 10th week results:
 * Zob Ahan of Isfahan 0 - 0 Sepahan of Isfahan
 * Traktorsazi of Tabriz 1 - 2 Saipa of Karaj
 * Abu Moslem of Mashhad 1 - 1 Foulad of Khuzestan
 * Pas of Hamedan 0 - 1 Rah Ahan of Shahr Rey

Iran to file lawsuit against U.S. for mistreating its diplomats in Iraq: Larijani



Iranian diplomats freed from U.S. captivity in Iraq met Larijani on Tuesday.

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani stated that the Majlis will file a suit against the United States for its behavior towards the Iranian diplomats who were held captive by U.S. forces in Iraq.

U.S. troops stormed the Iranian

The road ahead for U.S.-Iran relations

Interviewee: John W. Limbert, Distinguished Professor of International Affairs, U.S. Naval Academy

Interviewer: Bernard Gwertzman, Consulting Editor, CFR.org

After thirty years of frosty relations, the United States and Iran appeared to make incremental progress during nuclear negotiations in Geneva on October 1. Marking the highest-level dialogue between Washington and Tehran in decades, U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns sat down with Iran's nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, and Iran agreed to open a recently disclosed facility near Qom for inspection. But while the immediate post-summit read has been optimistic, John W. Limbert, who was a hostage in the U.S. embassy in 1979-81, says the road ahead is uncertain. It is possible, he says, that the way is being cleared for an eventual dialogue between the two nations, as China and the United States had in the 1960s when envoys met in Warsaw, but nonetheless urges caution in elevating expectations. "Could you establish that kind of a channel, (as in Warsaw) or agree to a further meeting at some other level? Perhaps even a higher level? I don't know, but if it's not just going to be a one-off event, you have to come out and answer the question, 'Okay, now what do we do?'"

Q: As a mid-level diplomat you were one of the hostages confined for some 444 days between 1979 and 1981 in Tehran. Since then, you have been a strong advocate of the United States and Iran resuming a serious dialogue. Were you surprised by the fairly upbeat reports that have come out of the meetings between the Security Council plus Germany and Iran on Thursday?

A: Not entirely. I think that by the way the meetings were set up, it was clear that the parties were going in with serious intentions. There was a lot of punditry that said, "Don't expect anything; expect these things to fail." But in general, if you go into a negotiation expecting to fail you will, and I think people went in with some serious intentions on both sides. A lot of the results are on the level of the symbolic, but right now the symbolic is very important.

Q: Let's talk about the results first. One is that Iran has agreed to have the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspect the recently disclosed enrichment facility near Qom. And the second, which as far as I know, came as a surprise to everybody on the outside, was that Iran is going to turn over most of its previously low-enriched uranium to the Russians and French for reprocessing to a higher concentration, and it will eventually be returned to them as fuel rods for a medical research reactor in Tehran. And then third, the U.S. and Iranian negotiators met privately for the first substantive high-level discussions between the two sides since you were taken hostage. Your reactions to all of this?

A: I'll start with the last one. What it shows I think on our side is the ability to separate the person from the problem. In this process, if you let every setback, every unpleasant statement from the other side derail the process, you'll never get anywhere, because as we've seen over the past thirty years, as soon as you start to get somewhere something comes along and screws it up. You've had the "axis of evil" speech by President George W. Bush in 2002 right after we seemed to be making

progress with Iran over Afghanistan. Then you had Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and some of his more outrageous rhetoric starting in 2005 about the holocaust and Israel. If you let any of those things derail the process then you'll never get anywhere.

Q: Where do you think we now stand on the nuclear issue?

A: The problem is, if you make the nuclear issue and all the technical parts of it the only issue you talk about with the Iranians, you're not going to get anywhere. You're going to fail. Why is that? Because the Iranians have made that issue a matter of right and respect and dignity. This particular enrichment procedure via the Russians and French seems to fall into the category of something that the Iranians can do that will respect their rights. In other words, by doing this the Iranians argue that they have not surrendered any of their rights to have a peaceful nuclear program, and we have not surrendered any of the rights that we have to put controls on the overall enrichment procedure.

Q: I thought it was interesting that all sides agreed on this procedure, which has the immediate impact of taking away a good chunk of the enriched uranium that a lot of experts said could have been used to make a bomb.

A: Well the rule I think in intelligence is you have to assess both capability and intent. And there are an awful lot of people who have jumped to conclusions about Iranian intent without a lot of evidence, based on their own stereotypes and predilections.

Q: William Burns, the undersecretary of state, and the Saeed Jalili, the Iranian negotiator met privately for forty-five minutes in Geneva and talked about a number of issues. Do you think this could be the start of bilateral negotiations between the United States and Iran?

A: It could be. I would have loved to be a fly on the wall in the room. But one of the things that you hope for out of a meeting like this is if you don't reach agreement on some substantive issue is at least to have another meeting or to schedule additional meetings. Many people have pointed to the Warsaw talks back in the 1960s between U.S. and Chinese diplomats through a period of some of the most difficult relations between the two countries. So could you establish that kind of a channel, or agree to a further meeting at some other level? Perhaps even a higher level? I don't know, but if it's not just going to be a one-off event, you have to come out and answer the question. "Okay, now what do we do?"

Q: From the comments made by the president after the meetings on Thursday, the United States is treating this very gingerly. He said it was "constructive" but wanted to make sure Iran allows this inspection of the Qom facility and proceeds along the path that has been outlined in these talks.

A: I thought the president chose his words very carefully. The important thing to me was that he kept a civil and professional tone in his remarks. Whatever we think of the Iranian elections, whatever we think of this statement or that statement, it's obvious he sees the importance of keeping the tone right, and not putting out the equivalent of an "axis of evil" speech.

Q: The parties are supposed to meet again before the end of the month. In an

pressure on the diplomats and keeping them for a long time in solitary confinements. Surely, the Majlis and the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee will pursue the issue through filing a lawsuit in the United Nations," he said in a meeting with the freed diplomats.

Larjani added, "This kind of behavior towards the diplomats is the real epitome of American democracy."

The diplomats arrived at Iran on August 9.

Larjani pointed out that the arrest of Iranian diplomats by U.S. forces was part of the international "bullying" system and shows their dishonesty.

The Majlis speaker also praised the diplomats' perseverance and resistance, saying their services to the nation will remain in the history.

optimum situation, what would you expect to happen?

A: I'd like to see some symbolic kinds of gestures. Now, the Iranian foreign minister was in Washington. This is the first time this has happened in some thirty years. The reason given was that he was there to look at the Iranian Interests Section attached to the Pakistan embassy. But for him to come here took a positive step by the United States because he had to get permission to travel beyond New York. I would be very interested to see if some American official would be able to go to Tehran and visit the American Interests Section in the Swiss Embassy. We're dealing at the level of symbols, but at this point symbols become substance. The president says we're not having talks just for the sake of talks, but in fact having meetings where people don't yell at each other is in itself, I think, very significant.

Q: The last time the same group met, in fact Mr. Burns was there, was last year, last summer. And those talks, according to all reports, got absolutely nowhere. That was the famous offer that's still on the table that: "you freeze your nuclear enrichment, we'll freeze our sanctions." Now, they have the same cast of characters, and there seems to be some flexibility at work here which comes back to what we started talking about. Obviously a high level decision had to have been made in Tehran to be more flexible or at least seemingly flexible than the last time, right?

A: I would dispute one statement that you made, when you said that you have the same cast of characters. In Washington, you did not have the same cast. You have a very different cast of characters, and it's hard to underestimate the importance of that on Tehran. I've always had the impression that Iranian representatives came to these meetings on the assumption that the Americans were not here to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement between equals, (and that) their purpose was to overthrow the Islamic Republic. And I must say, with some of the rhetoric coming out of the previous administration, you can understand where they might get that idea. The other thing, as I understand it, was last summer undersecretary Burns went to Geneva (and) I think his instructions were something like, "You will do your best imitation of a potted plant."

Q: I guess he had instructions not to engage in any private dialogue.

A: That's right. On the other hand, if you go back to that period and read some of the commentaries, on one side people said "this is a huge breakthrough, his being there," and on the other side people were screaming "betrayal, and sellout, and appeasement."

Q: Well that will depend I guess on what happens in the next couple of months. If the IAEA is really able to get involved in this new plant in Qom. But of course, the bottom line is whether Iran will agree to any limitations to its enrichment program, right?

A: Exactly.

Q: And we don't know.

A: We don't know. But again, I suspect that for the Iranian side, these negotiations are about a lot more than enrichment, and centrifuges and reactors and the NPT (Non-proliferation Treaty). What they talk about is rights and respect and how are others dealing with us.

(Source: Council on Foreign Relations)

Iran, Iraq seek expansion of judicial ties

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Larjani has said that Iraq should make serious efforts to tighten its security and promote its stability.

The history shows that insecurity in Iraq has affected both the regional countries and the whole world, Larjani told Iraqi National Coalition chief Ebrahim Jafari here on Tuesday.

He also called for expansion of legal and judicial relations between Tehran and Bagdad, saying both sides should seriously deal with illegal travels through joint borders.

It is important that Iran and Iraq sign judicial agreements to increase their cooperation on areas of judicial matters, he added.

Jafari, for his part, stressed the need to increase bilateral ties and called for expansion of judicial cooperation between the two countries.

Dust pollution

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, in a separate meeting with Jafari on Tuesday, called for a meeting between the parliaments of regional countries to discuss the dust pollution.

Mottaki said that the dust pollution has destructive effects on Iran's southern and southwestern provinces.

The dust, which arises from deserts in Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, covers the southwestern provinces of Iran on several occasions.

The foreign minister also said that Iran has always been on Iraq's side and supported Iraqi government's decisions and strategies to establish its independence.

Ebrahimi thanked Iran for its constructive supports to Iraq's government.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili, in a meeting with Ebrahimi on Monday, said that Iran is ready to share its experience in different areas with Iraq.

Jalili said that the two countries could expand their cooperation through strengthening their amicable ties.

Pointing to friendly and historical ties between the two neighbors, the former Iraqi prime minister called for an expansion of comprehensive relations particularly in security areas.

Beijing Media Olympics to begin Thursday

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — The first-ever World Media Summit (WMS), dubbed as the "media Olympics" will begin on Thursday, October 8, in Beijing.

A group of Iranian media figures will also participate in the meeting.

The Mehr News Agency (MNA), the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) will represent Iran at the two-day summit.

Parviz Esmaili, managing director of the MNA and the Tehran Times daily, Mohammad Jafar Behdad, IRNA managing director, are among the members of the Iranian delegate. The MNA and IRNA will present lectures at the meeting.

According to the summit secretariat, eight representatives will give speeches in the four panel sessions of the summit.

The MNA managing director will deliver his speech under the title of Opportunities and Threats in the Digital Age: A Prelude to Man's Passage from Knowledge to Capability in the panel session of Group C. Hosted by the Xinhua News Agency, the WMS will be held in the Great Hall of the People near the Beijing Hotel and the Grand Hotel Beijing, the residence for media delegates.

More than 170 media organizations are to participate in the event, including 40 Chinese government and media organizations and 132 overseas media.

About 300 media figures from around the world will discuss media's current situation, assess the development trends of the global media industry on a series of crucial issues confronting media organizations against the backdrop of the international financial crisis, fast changing audience demands and the rapid advancement of emerging technologies.

Reuters, BBC, CNN, AP, Kyodo News Agency, Itar-Tass, Google, Wall Street Journal, NBC, CNBC, and New York Times, AFP and Le Figaro, DPA and EPA from Germany, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) from Egypt, the Trend News Agency from Azerbaijan as well as the Al Jazeera Satellite Network are among the media organizations participating in the event.

Media representatives from Bangladesh, Singapore, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Hungary, Yemen, Morocco, the Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Bulgaria, Brazil, Cuba, and Belarus will also take part in the summit.

Deputy FM warns about industrial espionage

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iran's deputy foreign minister for educational and research affairs has warned about certain foreign country's attempts to steal scientific information from the country.

The Foreign Ministry should not be the only body trying to prevent such thefts, but rather other organizations, universities, and research centers themselves should pay careful attention to this issue, Ali Ahani told the Mehr News Agency on Monday.

University professors and researchers who are involved in major scientific and research projects should be protected against certain country's well thought-out plots, he stated.