

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4



IAEA to inspect Qom's enrichment site

IAEA Chief Mohammed ElBaradei who was in Tehran, declared that the enrichment site near the holy city of Qom will be inspected on October 25.

"Iran should have informed us the day they have decided to construct the facility ... Iran has a different view on that but the agency view was that," he said.

He said the Head of the Atomic Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi, who described his talks with the UN agency chief as "very successful", would visit the IAEA headquarters in Vienna on October 19, ahead of the inspectors' visit to Iran.

MPs praise Geneva accomplishment

Iran's meeting with the 5+1 was well received by the country's lawmakers, who described it as a "significant progress."

Hussein Sobhani-Nia, the deputy chairman of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission said the negotiations show that the Western powers have come to terms with Iran's right to attain peaceful nuclear technology.

Iran plans to send astronauts into space

Communications and Information Technology Minister Reza Taqipour, in a ceremony inaugurating the World Space Week, said Iran is planning ready send astronauts into space in the near future, without specifying when. He added that the country is ready to launch another satellite.

Meanwhile Alireza Rahai, the rector of the AmirKabir Technological University of Iran said a project to produce three satellites into earth's is near completion by the research team of the university. Rahai said the Iranian satellites will study natural phenomenon (earthquakes, droughts, etc.) to coordinate relief efforts during natural disasters.

Hajjarian talks to Sarmeyeh

In an interview with political activist Sayeed Hajjarian told Sarmayeh, the Farsi language economic daily, that during his 90 days in prison he was held in a solitary confinement for the first month. During the two months he had contact with interrogators who blamed his support for much of the post-election unrest.

Iran to host 2012 nuclear medicine conference

Iran has been chosen as the venue for the tenth Asia-Pacific Nuclear Medicine Conference to be held in 2012.

"Iran's nuclear medicine has achieved considerable progress in the past three decades despite numerous problems including sanctions against the country," the Head of Iran's Nuclear Medicine Association, Mohsen Saghari told PressTV.

Nuclear technology is extensively used in industry, agriculture and medicine, especially in the fight against cancer.

Turkey to assume ISAF Kabul command

Turkey is set to take over from France the Kabul command of the ISAF for a year from November 1, 2009, Xinhua reported.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5



\$275m credit for retirement fund opened for premature retirees

The Farsi language Hemayat reported that the government has opened a credit account for \$275 million for premature retirement applicants for this year (started March 21, 2009) to the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security.

Retirement in Iran requires 30 years of employment or 60 years of age, whichever case comes first. However, the government is encouraging premature retirement in order to create jobs for the younger generation which has a high unemployment rate in the country.

Average Iranian GDP reaches \$11,000

According to the United Nations Development Plan report average Iranian GDP grew 2.5 percent from 1990 to 2007 every year, and the average forecast for 2009 is \$10,995 per year, report the state-owned Farsi daily Ettelaayat.

The report added that the IMF forecast for the economic growth of the country for 2009 is 2.5 percent.

Rezaii to publish newspaper

Former presidential candidate Mohsen Rezaii received a license to publish newspaper named Mellat-e Ma (Our Nation). Rezaii is the secretary general of the Expediency Council and came third in the June 12 presidential election.

Global media on Iran-G5+1 talks

Genève, Suisse - 1^{er} octobre
Geneva, Switzerland - 1 October 2009



Tehran Times Political Desk

Talks between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany has been hailed as positive by leaders from both sides and IAEA Chief Mohamed ElBaradei emphasized this on his trip to Tehran last week.

During his visit ElBaradei declared October 25 as the date the IAEA inspectors will visit the newly declared enrichment site near the holy city of Qom.

Iran and G5+1 are due to meet again by the end of October.

The global media had a mixed review. Let's take a look at some of the reactions.

The Washington Post has called the continuation of talks a gloomy news for Washington and European capitals. In its article on October 4 "The Coming Failure on Iran" it insists that in "none of the steps Iran is considering to stop its nuclear program," disregarding the international law. Throughout the article there is no mention of IAEA or its chief Mohamed ElBaradei.

The Washington Post calls it "Tehran's tactical retreat" to provide China and Russia an excuse to veto new sanctions. Looking at the Geneva meeting with gloom, the article adds "for the next few months we'll keep hearing about negotiations, sanctions and ..."

After the Geneva talks on October 1, Iran's top security official Saeed Jalili criticized the UN Security Council for being indifferent toward repeated threats of military attacks on Iranian nuclear sites by the Zionist regime of Israel.

Jalili said Iran started constructing a second nuclear plant "in another place" for greater security protection.

Moving on to Azzaman newspaper from neighboring Iraq, Azzaman writes that the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Washington, one day before talks in talks in

Fordo Background

The official Iranian news agency IRNA took a closer look at the little known Fordo village which is under international spotlight due to the nuclear facility.

The mountainous village is part of the Kahak district and is located 47 kilometers south of Qom and 160 kilometers south of Tehran. With fewer than 1,000 residents the main income is from agriculture, stock breeding and beekeeping, IRNA said. The women in the village also weave carpets and the village is known for its delicious apples, walnut, cherries and apricots.

The residents, who seldom see tourists, are now to welcome the IAEA inspectors on October 25 to the Salemenstan cave. The plant, which will be operational by the end of 2010, has the capacity to install 3,000 centrifuges.

Geneva, was no accident. The Iranian media reports say that Mottaki has denied meeting with the American officials during his visit.

The article questions the credibility of the Western reports which misled the people towards the existence of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of Saddam Hussein, and eventually led to the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Azzaman's article points out to the contradictions between the accusations made by Western nations and the IAEA's own assessment. The article quotes ElBaradei, as saying, "I have not seen evidence that can be relied upon to indicate that Iran has a nuclear weapons program continues today."

Qatar's Gulf Times article on October 3 titled: "Iran's danger and opportunity" calls the Geneva talks an opportunity "for reaching a wider, more important goal of nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East." The article fails to mention Israel's nuclear program but claims "Israel's concern over Iran's nuclear program is legitimate."

During ElBaradei's trip to Tehran, he held a joint press conference the Director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali-Akbar Salehi. During the conference ElBaradei declared Israel's nuclear arsenal as the most dangerous threat in the region.

The New York Times article says the Geneva meeting "in a secluded, 18-century villa" was unusually positive. In its article titled: "As U.S. Plots Iran Strategy, Envoy's Visit Hints at a Thaw", published on the same day of the meeting, the daily points out that there were no planned visit between Mottaki and American officials. The article quoted Philip J. Crowley, a State Department spokesman about Mottaki's visit "an unusual coincidence ... but if it's taken as a small gesture and contributes in some way, that will be terrific."

IMF, World Bank in dire need of reforms

By Salman Ansari Javid

This year's International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meeting started with a student journalist throwing a shoe at IMF Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn and ended with protesters clashing with police.

No decisions were made to amend the charter of both the institutions in order to reflect today's world. Reforms were mentioned regarding voting rights, but no deals were made.

The IMF and WB annual meeting was held in Istanbul from October 2 to 7. Central Bank of Iran Governor Mahmoud Bahmani leading a high ranking delegation was among the participants.

In September's G20 meeting in Pittsburgh President Barack Obama declared the formation of G20 to accommodate the emerging economies. Does the formation of G20 shows a shift of power from a club of wealthy nations to major developing powers like China, India and Brazil and the developing world?

Fact is that the G20 Treaty in Pittsburgh is merely a number of pledges and are not legally binding. Institutions that do have economic enforcement capability are the IMF, WB, and WTO. These institutions are directly controlled by the world's richest countries, mostly by the U.S. Treasury.

The expansion of G8 to G20 is mostly symbolic because the rich countries still control the institutions of actual power. For example, the rich countries have still not allowed Russia to join the World Trade Organization.

The IMF is the most powerful of the institutions controlled by the U.S. and its rich allies. It currently

has 50 agreements with low and middle income countries. These agreements offer conditional loans that control monetary and economic policies of the recipient countries eventually controlling their political decisions.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan told reporters on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September, that IMF should not put political conditions on a loan agreement.

Since its inception in July 1944, the policies of IMF have changed little to reflect today's realities. IMF is an organization of 186 countries. However, any amendment in IMF charter is virtually impossible without the vote of a few rich countries.

The reason for that is 85 percent vote is needed in order to amend the IMF's charter and countries like U.S. hold 16.7 percent of voting shares which gives it a direct veto power over decisions and reforms.

Moreover, for the past 65 years, Europe and the rest of the high-income world have almost always voted with the U.S.

The developing and under-developed countries have a tiny share of voting rights, 1.8 percent since 2006 (www.cepr.net/documents/publications/imf-voting-2009-05.pdf).

One reason economic forums today are marred with protests and demonstrations is that there is an anger against capitalism and its unequal distribution of wealth. With the global financial meltdown many economists are questioning the viability of capitalism. Economic reforms and regulations are among today's realities. Why not start with the world's most influential institutions?

Post 2006 Singapore IMF voting shares:

U.S. 16.7%	Japan 6.0%
Germany 5.9%	France 4.8%
UK 4.8%	India 1.9%
Italy 3.2%	China 3.7%
Russia 2.7%	Brazil 1.4%
Mexico 1.4%	**All others: 36.6%
Korea and Singapore 1.7%	
*High Income Oil Producers: 4.4%	

*High Income oil producers include: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, UAE, Qatar, Brunei and Bahrain.

**All others: include 163 countries (Source: IMF, 2008)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

Karzai's running mate poised for a comeback

Marshal Muhammad Qasim Fahim is President Hamid Karzai's running mate and is swiftly reemerging as a power broker despite lingering reservations about him among American officials, The New York Times reports.

The recount for the Aug. 20 election started Monday and results are expected anytime soon. If Karzai is confirmed the winner, Marshal Fahim will become first vice president, and Karim Khalili, another former leader of the resistance against the Soviet invasion, will become second vice president.



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

U.S. behind disappearance of pilgrim

Foreign Minister M. Mottaki said Wednesday that the U.S. is behind the disappearance of Shahram Amiri while he was on an Umrah pilgrim. Mottaki also added that the Saudi government is also responsible for protecting pilgrims.

Amiri is a researcher at Tehran Malek Ashtar University went missing on June 4, 2009.

Iran's next space mission announced

According to Iran's Aerospace Research Institute, the research satellite Kovoshgar III (Explorer 3) is scheduled to be launched by March. Mohsen Bahrami, the director of the institute hopes to send animals into space within the next two years to pave the way for manned mission, reported PressTV.

In November 2008, Iran launched Kavoshgar II which successfully parachuted back to earth. Kavoshgar I was launched in early 2008.

Workers in hunger strike on pay delays

ILNA said Wednesday that workers at an Iranian company making railway rolling stock have gone on hunger strike protesting delay in salary payments.

Some 1,700 employees of Wagon Pars Company plant in Arak were involved in the strike.



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

U.S. lawmakers call for Iran's report by January 31

AFP reports from Washington that the U.S. House of Representatives called Thursday on President Obama to report by January 31 the progress of his diplomatic outreach with Iran, in a provision for the 2010 U.S. defense budget bill.

The legislation demanded that sanctions be levied against Iran in case of failure of diplomatic talks. The bill, which still has to be approved by the senate, also requires Secretary of Defense R. Gates "to submit an annual report to Congress on the current and future military strategy of the Islamic Republic".



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

Clinton to talk Iran, Afghanistan on Russia trip

U.S. Secretary of State h. Clinton left Friday for a tour of Europe and Russia. Iran and Afghanistan will dominate talks in Britain and Russia.

"We will certainly be looking at the options that we have to explore going forward from what was a positive but not conclusive meeting in Geneva," she said before departing.

Clinton's tour also included a stop in Switzerland to commemorate an accord between rivals Armenia and Turkey on Saturday.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

Iran swine flu death toll reaches seven

"The number of swine flu deaths in Iran has reached seven after the death of an eight-year-old girl," a Health Ministry official was quoted by Press TV. It added the total number of confirmed cases stand at 476.

According to another PressTV report around 30 percent of the Iranian Hajj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia are expected to contract the A-H1N1 flu virus this year. Iran has recently reduced the number of Hajj pilgrims from 100,000 to 64,000 in an attempt to limit the spread of flu.

Turkey, Armenia due to sign peace deal

Turkey and Armenia were due to sign a peace accord on Saturday to end a century of hostility stemming from the WWI mass killings of Armenians by Ottoman forces.

A decades-old dispute between Turkey's ally Azerbaijan and Armenia over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh hangs over a final settlement. Talks between Azeri and Armenian leaders over the region ended without result on Friday, reports Reuters.