

'Iran will help Iraq tackle its problems'

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has said that Iran will spare no effort to help Iraq overcome its current problems.

Larijani made the remarks in a meeting late Saturday with the visiting leader of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, Ammar Hakim, the elder son of the late leader of Iraq's largest Shiite party Abdel-Aziz Hakim.

He said Iranian government and people have always supported Iraq in hard times.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Larijani said it is essential that different Iraqi political parties try to maintain their unity in order to prevent friction.

The speaker also highlighted the important role that marja' taqlids (Shia clerics who are regarded as sources of emulation) currently play in Iraq.

He went on to say that despite efforts to damage relations between the two neighbors, the cultural and religious affinities have linked



The SIIC leader (L) talks with Iran's security chief.

the two nations. Ammar Hakim thanked the Iranian government and people for their support for peace and stability in Iraq.

Decision to award Nobel Peace Prize to Obama part of soft war: Larijani

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani has stated that the decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to U.S. President Barack Obama was part of a "soft war" meant to pave the way for Western hegemony.

There is no doubt that over the past few years, the hegemonistic powers have sought to replace conventional warfare methods with soft warfare methods, he said at a conference on the media and psychological operations in Tehran on Sunday.

The previous U.S. administration used military power, but in the current situation, where the U.S. is facing serious problems in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is gradually adopting soft war methods, Larijani added.

Cleric MPs to meet ulema today

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Cleric MPs will visit Qom today to meet with a number of ulema, cleric MP Mohammad Taqi Rahbar stated here on Sunday.

"We have decided... to meet with a number of Qom's sources of emulation and ulema in order to analyze certain issues," Rahbar told the Mehr News Agency.

Majlis, Judiciary committees on post-election incidents to meet today

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — MP Farhad Tajari stated here on Sunday that three members of the Majlis special committee tasked to investigate the post-election incidents are set to meet with the Judiciary special committee today.

Tajari told the Mehr News Agency that he will attend the meeting along with MPs Parviz Sorouri and Kazem Jalali to receive a report by the Judiciary special committee about its most recent findings about the post-election incidents.

Deputy Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raeesi, National Prosecutor General Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei, and Ali Khalafi, advisor to the Judiciary chief, are the members of the judicial panel tasked to investigate the attack on the Tehran University dormitory and incidents in certain detention centers.

Tehran prosecutor general meets post-election detainees

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi met with a number of people arrested in the post-election unrest at Evin prison on Sunday.

During the meetings prisoners told Dolatabadi about their problems.

Dolatabadi ordered relevant officials to speed up the legal process and make a final ruling on the prisoners' cases.

Iran's new defense system can track cruise missiles

TEHRAN (FNA) — Iran's defense systems are so advanced and updated that they rival all foreign countries' defense systems, a senior Iranian commander said on Sunday.

"Updating the defense systems is moving on an excellent progressive trend at present and (Iran's defense systems) can compete with hi-tech systems of the world," Commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani said.

He also announced the production

of dozens of new defense systems as among the recent achievements of the Iranian Army, and stated that Iran is now capable of tracking and destroying cruise missiles after it optimized its ground-to-air missile systems and equipped radar systems with advanced frequencies, information gathering systems and super multi-layer communications.

"Now we are in our best conditions of defensive preparedness," Miqani added.

He also warned about the enemies' soft threats against Iran, and said they

are seeking to sow discord among the Iranian people in a bid to disunite them.

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Commander Major General Mohammad-Ali Jafari had also earlier warned of soft threats against the Islamic Republic, saying, "Today, nobody dares to directly confront the Islamic Republic (of Iran), instead, they (the enemies) are after soft methods to change the nature of the Islamic Republic. The IRGC and Basij are inherently tasked with confrontation against such threats," Jafari said.

Democracy in most Western states is 'big lie': president

TEHRAN (IRNA) — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on Sunday that democracy in most European states and in the U.S. is "a big lie".

Addressing a national seminar on psychological operations, he stressed that the psychological operations are the main instrument of the Global Arrogance against the Islamic Revolution.

He reiterated that the Zionist regime was established on the basis of vast propaganda war and sophisticated psychological operations.

Referring to the attack on the Gaza Strip by the Zionist



regime, President Ahmadinejad said the Zionists, through vast and sophisticated psychological operations, succeeded in removing the issues of Palestine and the Gaza Strip from the world agenda.

"The Zionists, since their creation, have been killing innocent people, but they are still considered as oppressed," he noted.

On the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan by the U.S. forces, he said, "They bring their military forces to Iraq which is 10,000 km away from their country and rule over all affairs in the country but they accuse others of interfering in other countries' domestic affairs."

Envoy hopes for constructive talks between Iran, West

TEHRAN (FNA) — Tehran's Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ali Asqar Soltanieh Sunday expressed hope that the October 19 talks in Vienna between Iranian officials and representatives of the U.S., Russia and France would be held under a constructive atmosphere.

"The meeting will be held following Iran's request for the supply of fuel for Tehran (research) reactor and after the said countries announced their preparedness (to supply nuclear fuel to Iran)," Soltanieh told FNA.

"Iran has basically agreed with their proposals but the technical details and other aspects of the issue will be discussed in the meeting," he added.

Yet, it is much clear that the IAEA is responsible for coordination and surveillance of the related nuclear materials, the envoy reiterated.

Soltanieh expressed the hope that during the meeting proper decisions would be adopted regarding Tehran reactor which produces radioisotopes for nuclear medicine departments of hospitals in Iran.

"So there need to be no prejudice over the details of the technical and legal aspects (of the issue)," Soltanieh said.

Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili, heading a high-ranking delegation, sat with the representatives of the U.S., Russia, France, Britain, China and Germany in Geneva, Switzerland, on October 1 to discuss the package of proposal submitted by Iran to the 5+1 countries on September 9.

At the end of talks in Geneva, Iran and the six powers agreed for talks to continue until the end of October.

On the sidelines of the Geneva talks, Iran demanded the IAEA to introduce potential sellers of nuclear fuel for its Tehran reactor.

On Wednesday, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said some countries have offered to supply Iran with uranium enriched for 20 percent for use in its nuclear reactors.

Ahmadinejad welcomed the proposals by the foreign countries, and announced Tehran's readiness to supply its needs to nuclear fuel from any other country,

including the United States.

"We have announced before that we are ready to hold talks with experts from other countries to buy nuclear fuel with the enrichment level of 20 percent for Tehran reactor from any country willing to supply us with such fuel, and this proposal was welcomed by different countries," Ahmadinejad noted.

He added that Iranian experts will start talks with potential sellers within the next two weeks.

Asked about an offer by the U.S. and France to supply fuel to Iran, he said, "No problem, if Americans announce that they want to supply us with nuclear fuel, that would be a good point to us for we want to buy fuel and the source would make no difference to us. The United States can be a seller."

About the French offer, Ahmadinejad stated, "Representatives of some countries have said that France is ready to supply nuclear fuel to the Tehran reactor. The issue has yet to be finalized. They (France) should officially propose it, and then we will review the offer."

Al-Qaeda funds terror in Iran: official

An Iranian official says members of a Wahhabi terrorist cell who were arrested last month were receiving support from al-Qaeda militants hiding out in Iraq.

"This terrorist group operated with direct support from the al-Qaeda terrorist network in northern Iraq. The al-Qaeda network provided these terrorists with weapons financial backing and weaponry," a local chief prosecutor told Fars News Agency on Sunday.

"The group has a Wahhabi belief system and trains to carry out terrorist attacks and bombings. All terrorist

activities in Kordestan Province were carried out by this group," said Ali Akbar Garousi.

"The arrested members of the group have accepted responsibility for all of them," he added, pointing out that other than the confessions, security forces had obtained enough physical evidence to prove their guilt.

According to the prosecutor, security forces had confessed two guns from the militants, which based on forensic tests, were used to assassinate two Sunni religious figures in a recent shooting

where several other judicial officials also suffered injuries.

Last month, unknown gunmen shot and killed Mamousta Sheikholeslam, who represented the people of Iran's Kordestan at the Assembly of Experts in a mosque in the provincial capital, Sanandaj.

Prior to the incident, Sanandaj's interim Friday prayer leader Borhan Ali was also gunned down by unidentified assailants, who had earlier staged a failed attempt on a local judge, who survived the attack.

(Source: Press TV)

He said Iran plays a crucial role in reconciliation process in Iraq.

The Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council leader also said the two countries should make efforts to expand parliamentary ties in order to develop cooperation in other areas.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili, in a separate meeting with Ammar Hakim on Sunday, said the presence of foreign forces in Iraq is a major threat to the country's security situation.

Jalili added that the presence of occupying forces in Iraq is hindering the country's progress.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he noted that Iran will support unity and the democratic process in Iraq.

Jalili also said Iraqis will never forget Abdel-Aziz Hakim and his efforts to reconstruct the country.

Hakim, for his part, expressed his gratitude to Iranians' sympathy over the demise of Abdel-Aziz Hakim, saying that the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council will pursue the late leader's objectives to strengthen unity and speed up political progress in the country.

Meanwhile, Iraqi police and hospital officials said at least 19 people were killed and 60 wounded in a series of bombings on Sunday in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi.

Ammar Hakim also met with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki on Sunday and discussed regional developments.

T SPORTS

Persepolis ties with Foulad in Ahvaz

Tehran Times Sports Desk

AHVAZ — Persepolis finished in a tie against Foulad of Khuzestan in the 11th week of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Sunday.



In the match played at the Takhti Stadium in Ahvaz, Persepolis was held to a goalless draw.

Majid Jalali's outfit missed a penalty in the 4th minute. Persepolis keeper Misagh Memarzadeh saved the penalty kick by Saeid Ramezani. The Tehran-based team kept control of the ball afterward but their strikers failed to take advantage of their chances.

Persepolis lies in seventh place with 16 points while Foulad is rock-bottom with six points.

11th week results: * Sepahan of Isfahan 3 - 1 Traktorsazi of Tabriz * Rah Ahan of Shahr-e Rey 1 - 3 Saba of Qom * Moghavemat of Shiraz 1 - 1 Mes of Kerman * Shahin of Bushehr 1 - 1 Zob Ahan of Isfahan Pacesetter Esteghlal is scheduled to play Esteghlal of Ahvaz on Monday at the Azadi Stadium in Tehran. Paykan of Qazvin plays Pas of Hamedan, Malavan of Bandar Anzali faces Abu Moslem of Khorasan and Saipa of Karaj plays Steel Azin.

Iran edges Lebanon in AFC U-16 Championships

Tehran Times Sports Desk

KATHMANDU — Iran crushed Lebanon and went to the top of Group B of the AFC U-16 Championships on Sunday.

Mehdi Mehdipour gave the Iranians a lead two minutes after the interval. A hat trick from Amir Abbas Aeinechi in the 57, 83 and 89 minutes sealed a 4-0 victory over Lebanon for Iran. Iran is to play Bahrain on Tuesday.

Iran had been held to a goalless draw by Tajikistan in its opener. The defending champion defeated Nepal 3-0 in its second match.

The AFC U-16 Championship is a football competition organized by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) held once every two years for Asian under-16 teams.

A total of 23 teams have been divided in four groups. The top four teams qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

Iran on brink of Futsal Confederations Cup championship

Tehran Times Sports Desk

TRIPOLI — Iran will finish first in the Futsal Confederations Cup with just a draw against Libya on Monday.

Pacesetter Iran will face the host at the Tripoli Grand Hall. The Asian champion has already defeated Guatemala, Uruguay and Solomon Islands in the tournament.

A total of five teams namely, Libya, Iran, Guatemala, Uruguay and the Solomon Islands have participated in the tournament.

The winner of the tournament will receive \$50,000 while the bottom placed team will walk away with \$10,000.

The tournament has been approved by FIFA.