

Larijani due in Iraq next week: MP

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — The Head of Iran-Iraq Parliamentary Friendship Group, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh has said that Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani is going to visit Iraq next week.



The Iraqi Parliament Speaker, Ayad al-Samarrai visited Iran on September 28. Falahatpisheh told ISNA that during his visit, al-Samarrai informally invited Larijani to visit Baghdad.

In his trip to Iraq, Larijani will have meetings with the Iraqi parliament speaker, president, and prime minister, the MP said.

Falahatpisheh added that the Iranian and the Iraqi parliament speakers are going to discuss ways to expand bilateral ties.

During the Iraqi parliament speaker's visit to Tehran, during which he was accompanied by a number of Iraqi MPs, he had meetings with Larijani and Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili.

Pakistan vows to uproot Rigi terrorist group

TEHRAN (IRNA) — Pakistan Chargé d'affaires to Tehran Sajid Bilal said on Tuesday that Islamabad is determined to uproot the terrorist group Rigi.

He made the remarks in a press conference at Pakistan's embassy in Tehran marking 'Kashmir Day'.

He told reporters that Iran and Pakistan enjoy excellent ties, adding, "We should not let such events shatter the brotherly ties between the two nations."

Asked whether Pakistan will cooperate with Tehran to arrest and hand over Abdolmalek Rigi who leads Jundallah terrorist group, he said there is no evidence to indicate that the ringleader is sheltering in Pakistan.

Iran and Pakistan enjoy a very close cooperation in campaign against terrorism, he said, adding, that they should spare no efforts to control such events.

He said that Pakistan has expressed outrage over the recent terrorist move in Sistan-Balouchestan claiming lives of many innocent civilians and high ranking Iranian military officials.

He added that the two countries' presidents and interior ministers have had discussions on the expansion of cooperation in campaign against terrorism.

"We are among the victims of terrorism," he said adding that Islamabad is determined to uproot Rigi terrorist group.

Those who mastermind such inhuman terrorist acts seek to sever ties between Iran and Pakistan, he said.

Iran demanded the Pakistani government to hand over those who claimed responsibility for the terror attack or allow Iranian security forces to arrest them inside the Pakistani territory.

Erdogan, Rahimi call for expansion of ties

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Iranian First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi highlighted the importance of utilizing the existing golden opportunities to enhance bilateral ties.

They made the remarks at the presidential office here on Tuesday morning, when Erdogan was officially welcomed by Rahimi. Later the two sides held talks on regional and international issues.

They also discussed about the issues surrounding Islamic world, underscoring the necessity for the unity and solidarity among Muslim countries.

Two countries have considerable capacity in different areas and this is a good opportunity for expansion of bilateral relations, Rahimi stated.

"There is no obstacle to consolidate relations with Turkey," he commented.

Rahimi also said that Turkish Premier's trip to Tehran is a turning point to reach a desirable point in bilateral collaborations.

Pointing to the firm and valuable stance taken by Erdogan against Zionist regime, Rahimi said to him, "Your valuable act was a great move in defending the oppressed Palestinians."

Recep Tayyip Erdogan extended



congratulation on the Rahimi's appointment as the First Vice President and wished for his success.

Iran and Turkey should strengthen their common stances towards regional and international issues, he said.

For expansion of relations more visits should be exchanged, he added.

Erdogan also pointed out that Turkey will defend Iran's rights in the international arena.

During his two-day stay in Iran, the Turkish prime minister is scheduled to meet with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani as well.

He will also attend a joint economic meeting between Iran and Turkey, and a press conference as well as meeting with numbers of Iranian merchants and businessmen in the Iran Chamber of Commerce.

Turkey determined to enhance ties with Iran: Erdogan

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He also praised Turkey's stance on Israel, saying, "The Zionist regime is a threat to all nations... it cannot tolerate the existence of any strong country in the region."

Two weeks ago, Turkey barred Israel from a NATO exercise, a decision that angered Israel and prompted rare criticism from Turkey's ally the United States. The war games were cancelled after other nations, including the United States and Italy, refused to take part without Israel.

Diplomatic relations between Turkey and Israel have suffered since Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip last winter. At the time, Erdogan accused Israel of committing crimes against humanity.

Praising Ankara's stance on Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, Ahmadinejad said that when a country "has illegal access to nuclear weapons," others cannot be deprived of the right to access to nuclear technology solely for the purpose of generating electricity.

The Turkish prime minister called for the expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties and said, "Turkey is determined to enhance its brotherly relations with Iran."

On Iran's participation in the Nabucco

gas pipeline project, Erdogan said, "Sooner or later, Nabucco (the project's parties) will discover the importance of the Islamic Republic's involvement in the project."

The Nabucco gas pipeline project is designed to pump Central Asian gas via Turkey to Austria and Germany through Bulgaria, Romania, and Hungary, bypassing Russia. Gas supplies through the pipeline are expected to start in 2014.

The project will be a continuation of the existing Baku-Tbilisi-Erzurum pipeline and will transport 20 billion cubic meters of gas a year. Two-thirds of the pipeline will pass through Turkish territory.

Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Iraq are being touted as potential suppliers.

Iran has the world's second largest gas reserves after Russia and the second biggest oil reserves in OPEC after Saudi Arabia.

The Nabucco pipeline is seen as a rival to the Moscow-backed South Stream project, which is designed to annually pump 31 billion cubic meters of Central Asian and Russian gas to the Balkans and onto other European countries, with the pipeline's capacity expected to be

eventually increased to 63 billion cubic meters annually.

Erdogan and his high-ranking delegation arrived in Tehran on Monday night.

During his two-day stay in Iran, the Turkish prime minister is also scheduled to meet with Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani.

He will also attend a joint economic meeting between Iran and Turkey and a press conference and hold a meeting with a number of Iranian merchants and tradesmen at the Iranian Chamber of Commerce.

Erdogan's delegation of 200 high-ranking political and economic officials includes 20 Turkish MPs, Turkey's ministers of foreign affairs, energy, foreign trade, culture, environment, and industry, and eighty representatives of private sector companies as well as 30 media representatives.

It is the Turkish prime minister's second trip to Iran over the past four years.

Ahead of his visit to Iran, Erdogan traveled to Pakistan on Saturday for a two-day trip and met with Pakistani officials in Islamabad.

MPs comment on proposed nuclear deal

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — The chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that Iran should buy 20 percent enriched uranium for the Tehran research reactor without sending its own enriched uranium abroad.

Iran needs the uranium it has enriched for the nuclear plants it has under construction, MP Alaeddin Boroujerdi told the Mehr News Agency on Tuesday.

He also said the Western powers do not expect Iran to immediately respond to the nuclear deal due to the importance of the issue, but the Supreme National Security Council, which has the final say on the matter, will eventually formulate a response.

The nuclear fuel talks between Iran, Russia, the United States, and France in Vienna concluded on October 21 without a final agreement, but International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Mohamed ElBaradei presented a proposal for the four countries to study and said he hoped that all parties would give a firm response to his draft deal by October 23.

Under the draft deal, a large consignment of Iran's enriched uranium would be shipped out of the country for processing into fuel rods with a purity of 20 percent, which would be used by a research reactor in Tehran that manufactures medical radioisotopes.

On October 23, diplomats from Russia, France, and the United States submitted their formal approvals of the deal to process Iran's nuclear fuel abroad.

But Iran's ambassador to the IAEA, Ali Asghar Soltanieh, said Tehran was still studying the deal and would formulate a response the following week.



BOROUJERDI



KOSARI



FALAHATPISHEH

Afterwards, several senior Iranian officials, including Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani, strongly criticized the deal, saying it is neither logical nor legal.

MP Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said here on Tuesday that the proposed nuclear deal is a deviation from the agency's normal procedures.

The IAEA has a responsibility to provide Iran with 20 percent enriched nuclear fuel for its Tehran research reactor and should not deviate from its normal procedures, he told the Mehr News Agency.

MP Eivaz Heidarpour said here on Tuesday that given the West's history of breaking its promises, there are suspicions that if Iran approves the nuclear deal and sends its low enriched uranium abroad, the West will not provide Iran the 20 percent enriched nuclear fuel.

Iran should make it clear that it intends to purchase nuclear fuel and that if the nuclear powers do not sell Iran the nuclear fuel for its research reactor, then Iran will have to enrich uranium to the 20 percent level, he told the Mehr News Agency.

Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Deputy Chairman Esmail Kosari said that the Majlis would probably reject the proposed nuclear deal.

From the beginning of the recent nuclear talks, Iran wanted to purchase 20 percent enriched uranium, Kosari stated.

"Some wrongly say that Iran has agreed to send its 3.5 or 5 percent enriched uranium (abroad) so that Russia, or other countries that have the necessary technology, will enrich Iran's uranium to the 20 percent level and send it back to Iran," he told IRNA on Tuesday.

This idea is only a proposal put forward by the IAEA, and Iran has not yet made any decision, he added.

Ahmadinejad's 3rd provincial trip

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and cabinet members are going to start the third round of provincial trips this week, Khorasan Razavi Province's Governor General Mahmoud Salehi told reporters on Tuesday.

Salehi added that during this trip he will host the president and his delegation on Wednesday.

During the third round of provincial trips, the administration will examine the ratification of agreements during the first and the second round of trips.

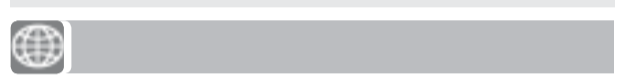
Eight Iranian border guards freed

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN, Oct. 27 (MNA) — Iran's border commander in Sistan Balouchestan Province here on Tuesday spoke of the release of eight Iranian border police who were crossed into Pakistani territory by mistake as they were chasing fuel smugglers.

The Mirjaveh border guards, who were detained last night by Pakistani Police, returned home on Monday, Gholam-Nabi Kouhkan said.

Mirjaveh is located on the Iran-Pakistan border and lack of border signs has always been one of the most challenging issues in the region in term of campaigning against criminals, traffickers, and smugglers.

Based on a joint border protocol between Iran and Pakistan, Pakistani and Iranian police forces can enter particular parts of the two countries' territory to hunt down and arrest intruders and criminals.



U.S. wants rift between Pakistan, Iran: Pakistani official

New Delhi (IRNA) — While strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Iran, a Pakistani high ranking official Tuesday said, "U.S. wanted rift between two Muslim friendly countries, Iran and Pakistan."

In an interview with IRNA on the sidelines of an International Conference in New Delhi, Mushahid Husain, Senator, Chairman-Foreign Relations Committee, in the Senate of Pakistan said: "Pakistan had very cordial and brotherly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and it won't allow its territory to be used for terrorist attacks against its friendly neighbor country like Iran."

Terminating the suicide attack in Iran a barbaric act, he said that is a handy work of Israel, U.S. and its allies, who want a rift between two Muslim friendly countries.

Iran says those behind the October 18 terrorist attack sneaked across the Pakistan border.

In a suicide bombe attack in the city of Pishin near the border with Pakistan in Sistan-Balouchestan Province, over 30 people including 15 top commanders of the IRGC and tribal leaders engaged in a unity meeting were killed.

"We already have a troubled relationship with India and Afghanistan and so can't afford to fall out with Iran which until now has been a reliable friend", Mushahid said.

He also added that the Pakistani government will take both diplomatic and substantive measures to reassure the Iranians that it is not behind Jundullah, a cowardly enemy of the humanity.

Expressing profound condolences and sympathy for those affected in the tragedy, the official said, "Terrorism today poses a serious threat to peace and security, not only in Pakistan, India, Iran, and Afghanistan but in the whole world. It undermines democracy, liberalism, civil freedom and is a threat to the entire civilization".

Iran, West draft deal needs no change: Solana

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana says the UN-drafted nuclear deal between Iran and the West does not require any "fundamental changes."

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented a draft pact to Iran, France, Russia and the United States after a meeting in Vienna on October 19. While the three powers have approved the deal, Iran has yet to announce its final decision.

Tehran has announced that the proposal, which requires Iran to send 1.2 tons of its 1.5 ton of Low Enriched Uranium (LEU) stockpile to Russia by the end of the year, is in need of "important changes".

"The deal was a good deal," Solana told a news conference after an EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg.

"I don't think in principle it requires fundamental changes, it is difficult to know what 'important changes' mean," he added.

Speaking to Press TV on condition of anonymity, a diplomat close to the Iranian nuclear negotiating team in Vienna said the country would announce its views about the deal by the coming Friday.

"Iran will announce its response to the proposal put forward by the agency's [IAEA] Director-General [Mohamed] ElBaradei until Friday October 30," he said Tuesday.

Solana indicated that there was no fixed deadline for Iran's response to the proposal.

"The end of the month can be the first days of November, it's not solely the last days of the month," Solana told reporters.

(Source: Press TV)