

Business and Politics in the Muslim World

Weekly Report on Iran

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M Rashid

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Summary

Political News

MP Slams UAE Ambassador's Remarks; Tours May Be Suspended

Iran may bar trips to the United Arab Emirates after the UAE's envoy to the U.S. said his country supports military action against Iran's nuclear facilities. "I hope the government of the UAE will correct this viewpoint," said Kazem Jalali, the spokesman for the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, according to the Mehr news agency. The UAE should clarify whether the ambassador's "foul" comments are government policy, he said. The UAE Ambassador Yousef al-Otaiba said an attack on Iran may be necessary if sanctions fail to halt the country's nuclear program,

Canadian Guilty of Bid to Send Iran Nuclear Material

A Canadian court found a Toronto man guilty on Tuesday of attempting to export nuclear-related materials to Iran in violation of sanctions, prosecutors said. Mahmoud Yadegari, 36, was convicted in the Ontario Court of Justice of nine criminal and customs charges for attempting last year to ship pressure transducers to Iran via Dubai, said the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. The items, manufactured in the United States, can be used in nuclear power plants but are also required to produce nuclear weapons

Negotiations on Exporting Gas to India Underway

Iran's Petroleum Ministry representative on gas exports said India is willing to get Iranian gas through a seabed pipeline, noting that negotiations to export gas to this country are underway. In an exclusive interview with Shana, Asghar Soheilipour said we think Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline is the best route to export gas to India and propose them to choose the route. Soheilipour said that technical and economic aspects of construction of a direct seabed pipeline between the two countries is being surveyed by New Delhi, adding we are negotiating Indian side about joining IPI, constructing an underwater pipeline,

Swiss Charge d'Affaires Summoned

Tehran summons the Swiss charge d'affaires, whose embassy represents U.S. interests in Iran, as new documents have been revealed about a missing Iranian academic. Iran said on Saturday that it had handed over to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran new documents related to the abduction of Shahram Amiri by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said a day later that Washington confirmed it had received the documents through the Swiss Embassy. "Upon the release of new documents related to the abduction of Mr. Shahram Amiri by American security forces and his taking to the US, the Swiss charge d'affaires has been summoned," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a Tuesday statement.

Majlis Welcomes European Parliament Visit to Iran

Rapporteur of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Kazem Jalali said Wednesday Iran's Majlis welcomes the visit of European Parliament members to the country. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the Majlis (Parliament) open session yesterday, Jalali said Iran is completely ready to receive them. The European Parliament has suggested date for that visit and Iran's Consultative Assembly (Majlis) has set the due time after considering the suggestion, the parliamentarian said. On the recent claims made by the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the US about Iran,

President Ahmadinejad to Visit Lebanon Soon

Head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Alaeddin Boroujerdi in a meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri studied grounds for expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries. Boroujerdi conveyed Majlis speaker's condolence message on demise of Allama Seyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah to Berri, IRIB reported yesterday. Boroujerdi and Berri also supported the decisions which was adopted by the Islamic parliaments' meeting in Syria and called for sending freedom fleet to Gaza in order to remove blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Jannati Meets Hezbollah Leader

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, chairman of the Guardian Council, met with Hezbollah Secretary General Seyed Hassan Nassrollah in Beirut yesterday. Jannati had visited Beirut participate in the funeral ceremony of Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah as the representative of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution. Jannati expressed his heartfelt sorrow over the demise of the senior Lebanese cleric to Hassan Nassrollah.

During the meeting the latest developments in the region particularly in the Middle-East were discussed.

Tehran to Retaliate Against Inspection of Iranian Vessels

A senior Iranian legislator warned yesterday that any effort by the foreign countries to inspect Iran's vessels and cargos will be reciprocated. "In case of even a minute inspection of the Islamic Republic of Iran's vessels, we will inspect the vessels of any country that has carried out the move," Vice-Chairman of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Commission Mohammad Esmail Kowsari said. Inspection of Iranian cargos is part of the punitive measures cited in a U.S.-sponsored resolution approved by the UN Security Council against Tehran on June 9. The resolution requires inspection of ships or planes headed to or from Iran if suspected cargo is aboard. The lawmaker further reminded adoption of consecutive punitive measures against Iran by the UN, the U.S. congress and the Europe, and said that these measures demonstrate American policymakers' confusion over Iran.

MP Rejects Iran Interference in Lebanese Domestic Affairs

A senior parliamentarian here on Wednesday denied any claims regarding Iran's interference in the Lebanese domestic affairs. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Majlis made the remarks in response to allegations made by certain French diplomatic sources claiming that Iran was involved in recent conflicts between people of South Lebanon and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Such allegations are made

while Lebanese President Michel Suleiman has also criticized the UNIFIL for its illegal actions in South Lebanon. The Lebanese press has recently announced that the West's diplomatic sources are trying to attribute the conflicts between Lebanese people and the UNIFIL in South Lebanon to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Commander Cautions Russia about U.S. Plots in Region

A senior Iranian commander yesterday cautioned Moscow to be watchful of Washington's moves, warning that the plots hatched by the U.S. in the region harm Russia's long-term interests. "At present the U.S. is endeavoring to further its political and military presence and hegemony in this region through pursuing its plan for deploying a missile shield in Europe, and if Russians do not develop the necessary overall outlook, they will be entangled in Americans' trap again," Iranian Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff for Cultural Affairs and Defense Publicity Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri said.

Iran-Uzbekistan Trade Volume to Reach \$1b

The volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan will reach from last year's 600 million dollars to one billion dollars by the end of current Iranian year (ending March 20, 2011), Iran's ambassador to Uzbekistan Mohammad Keshavarz Zadeh said. "After Tajikistan, Uzbekistan has the most cultural, religious and historical commonalities with the Islamic Republic of Iran,"

Iran Air: No Disruption in Europe-Bound Flights

Spokesman of Iran Air, flag carrier airline of Iran, Shahrokh Noushabadi declared on Tuesday that the airline's flights to Europe by Airbus fleet, which is approved by European Commission (EC), will continue and there is no concern in this regard. He said that the EC had asked some questions about the airline's fleet, for which necessary responses have been presented to them. "In spite of precise answers to the EC, the commission has put some limitations on Iran Air flights, which seems unfair," the official said.

Jalili Warns EU Over Dual-Track Tactic

Iran expects the European Union to rectify its mistakes consistent with national nuclear program, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili said yesterday. He said in his letter to EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, that the European states are expected to abandon double-standard policies and correct mistakes. Jalili sent the letter in response to a request made earlier by Ashton to resume talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Jalili said that Iranians have lost confidence in the EU policymaking. "You need to win confidence of Iranian people more than ever." "It is very interesting that despite of

efforts made by Brazilian and Turkish foreign ministers for resumption of talks, you have been reluctant in the past three months, but, immediately after passing the resolution 1229 at the Security Council against Iran, you have voiced readiness to resume talks,"

China Objects to U.S. Sanctions Against Iran

China said yesterday that the United States and other countries should not expand on the latest U.N. sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear program. China did not exercise its veto power last month when the U.N. Security Council approved sanctions that target Iran's Revolutionary Guard, ballistic missiles and nuclear-related investments. The United States followed that up when President Barack Obama signed a bill Thursday that imposed tough unilateral sanctions against exports of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran

EU Tightens Flight Restrictions on Iranian Airline

The European Union tightened restrictions on the use of its airspace by Iran Air yesterday because of safety concerns and added an airline from Suriname to its no-flight blacklist. EU regulators also removed two companies from Indonesia, Metro Batavia and Indonesia Air Asia, from the blacklist after Indonesian authorities made "significant" safety improvements, a European Commission spokeswoman said. The commission's air safety committee unanimously decided to expand its restrictions on Iran Air, forbidding its fleet of Airbus A320 and Boeing 727 and 747 planes from flying in European air space.

Tehran, Manila Sign Agreement for Seafarers' Recognition

The Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines signed a bilateral agreement with Iran that provides for the Iranian recognition of the Filipino seafarers' certificates of competencies. Secretary Marianito Roque Roque, chairman of the Maritime Training Council signed the Memorandum of Agreement with Deputy Managing Director for Maritime Affairs Saeed Izadian of the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization in Manila recently. The signing was held at the conclusion of the five-day 2010 Diplomatic Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW), as amended, and its associated STCW Code for Seafarers held in the country last week. Roque expressed his appreciation of the Iranian government for its willingness to enter into an agreement with the Philippines as this expands the international recognition of the Filipino seafarers' certificate of competencies pursuant to Regulation 1/10 of the STCW Convention.

India Concerned Over Iran Sanctions

India is pressing the reset button on its relations with Iran. In a significant comment, India ticked off the U.S. for its recent sanctions against Iran, which it said would directly affect Indian companies and India's "energy security". In a speech at an India-Iran strategic dialogue here, foreign secretary Nirupama Rao said, "We are justifiably concerned that the extra-territorial nature of certain unilateral sanctions recently imposed by individual countries, with their restrictions on investment by third countries in Iran's energy sector, can have a direct and adverse impact on Indian companies and more importantly, on our energy security and our attempts to meet the development needs of our people." India imports 18 million tons of oil from Iran out of a total of 140 million tons annually. According to sources, India's investment in Iran's energy sector is around \$100 million. Thus, India's objections are political in nature, and intimately connected to a prospective India-Iran detente over Afghanistan.

Leader Approves Consumption Pattern Policy

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei laid down several milestones for the national goal of revision of consumption pattern in a letter dispatched Tuesday to heads of the three branches of power. The policy comprises 10 headlines which deal with promotion of culture of due consumption, economization of fuel use, and optimization of water and bread consumption across the country. The Leader put the seal of approval on the policy after making consultations with the System Interests Council.

Ahmadinejad to Present New Ideas in D8 Summit

Iranian nation has specific ideas for establishment of a new world order and a human management of the global interaction based on justice, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday adding he would present several ideas in the D8 Summit in Nigeria. Before leaving Tehran for Mali, he told reporters that as the group of eight Islamic developing countries (D8) enjoys special status in the world, expansion of cooperation among its member states would lead to establishment of a powerful economic, cultural and political bloc in the world. The president said the current global economic downturn and necessity of changing the current world order can be discussed in the summit which is to be held in capital Abuja. "I will first visit the brother and friend country of Mali ahead of my visit to Nigeria,"

Iran Mulling Over Rival Defense Systems for S-300

Iran is likely to consider other possible options for replacing the sophisticated S-300 air defense missile system if Russia refrains from delivering it to the county, a senior Iranian lawmaker announced yesterday. "Iran enjoys a high level missile technology" and S-300 would not be the end point to Iran's efforts in acquiring or

developing advanced missile defense technologies, Rapporteur of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Kazzem Jalali told reporters. Moscow signed a contract with Tehran in 2007 to supply the powerful S-300 missiles to Iran but it has refrained from delivering the system to the country due to the US and Israeli pressures. The S-300 surface-to-air system, known as the SA-20 in the West, can track targets and fire at aircraft 120 kilometers (75 miles) away. It also features high jamming immunity and is capable of simultaneously engaging up to 100 targets.

Fisheries MoU With Kuwait Inked

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in fisheries sectors. Based on the MoU signed during the three-day visit of Kuwait Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources' head to Iran, the two countries were committed to further expand cooperation in various fisheries fields. Preserving Persian Gulf's aquatics resources, aquatics engineering cultivation of sea aquatics, training and instruction in fisheries sector and making research in related fields were among the main issues included in the MoU. Habib Albadr and the accompanying delegation visited Iran's fisheries capabilities and installations during their three-day visit to the country.

Iran to Quit Talks If Sanctions Tightened

A senior parliamentarian said here on Sunday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not continue the Vienna talks if Resolution 1929 is materialized. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Majlis made the remarks while talking to IRNA. If Resolution 1929 and the anti-Iran sanctions become operational by Group 5+1, they should not expect Tehran to continue the Vienna negotiations, he reiterated. On Moscow's call for continuation of the Vienna talks in case of cessation of 20-percent enrichment by Iran, he stressed that the Tehran Declaration will be the base for future negotiations. Boroujerdi urged Moscow, Paris and Washington to change their approaches towards Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

Economic news

Major Western Companies Harmed by Iran Sanctions

A member of the Iranian parliament warned the West about the heavy costs of the UN anti-Iran sanctions for the western firms, saying that the western companies' cold reaction to the sanctions demonstrates their unwillingness to implement punitive measures against Iran. "Western countries' source of income is their technology and industry, and they will have to sustain more damage if they are to impose sanction on their customers," member of the parliament's Cultural Commission Bijan Noubawe said.

Economic Ties With Turkey

The annual trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey will increase to 30 billion dollars by the end of the Iran's Fifth Five Year Development Plan (2010-2014), an Iranian official said. "We could gain the aim via facilitating trade exchange between the two countries," said Sadegh Najafi, an official in Committee of Economic and Foreign Relations of Iranian Northwest Provinces. "High transportation capacity especially in railways could be regarded as a mean to boost trade between Iran and Turkey."

Russia's Wheat Exports to Iran Up

The Islamic Republic of Iran has imported above 814,000 tons of wheat from Russia during July 2009 to May 2010, Russian Agriculture Ministry reported. According to the report, Russia's wheat exports to Iran increased to above 81,000 tons in July 2009-May 2010 from 57,000 tons in July 2008-June 2009. Russia's wheat exports to global markets hit new record of 18.3 million tons during the farming year 2009-2010, the report read. The figure in farming year 2009-2008 stood at 18.03 million tons. Russia's total grains exports are predicted to exceed 22 million tons in the current year showing 1.5 million tons increase over the last year, the report added.

Iran's Finance Minister in India

Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Shamseddin Hosseini arrived in New Delhi last night on a two-day visit to attend the 16th session Iran-India Joint Economic Commission. The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Iran will be held on July 8-9, 2010. It is co-chaired on the Iranian side by Shamseddin Hosseini and on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Azadegan Oilfield Production Capacity Rises

the Azadegan oilfield has been completed and the production capacity of the field has increased to 50,000 barrels per day, managing director of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) announced yesterday. In an interview with Shana, Gholamreza Hassan Beiglou said the phase has been implemented in nine months and 12 wells have been drilled. He added that all the technical, engineering, implementation and providing goods and instruments of the project have been carried out by NISOC's staff.

Iran Warns About Reciprocal Moves Against Jet Fuel Boycott

Tehran warned yesterday that any effort by the western countries to block the supply of jet fuel to Iran under unilateral sanctions will be reciprocated seriously. "If necessary, Iran will firmly reciprocate the move," member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said. "Measures like blocking the supply of jet fuel to Iran at international airports indicate that the US and other western countries aim to impose sanctions on Iran's development to weaken Iran's position in the region,"

Iran to Curb Trade With UAE

The chairman of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that in reprisal for freezing 41 bank accounts of Iranian businessmen in the UAE, Iran would limit trade with the United Arab Emirates. ISNA news agency quoted Masoud Daneshmand as saying that the Emirates overdid itself in regard to the UN resolution passed for sanctions against Iran and froze the accounts of the managers of companies which had been named in the document. "We don't approve the Emirati behavior because they are taking measures of their own volition which they are not required to take by the Security Council resolution and Iranian traders don't like this

Iran to Continue N. Fuel Production

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast stressed yesterday that Tehran is resolved to continue uranium enrichment to produce nuclear fuel for its power plants and reactors. "Definitely, the (nuclear) fuel cycle will continue its activity in Iran," Mehman-Parast said in a weekly press conference. He stressed Iran's right of nuclear enrichment, and added, "All the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member states and signatories to the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) are entitled to the right to enrich uranium within the boundaries of peaceful activities." The spokesman defended the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities, and stated,

Foreigners Still Investing in TSE Despite Sanctions

The managing director of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) said on Monday foreign investors keep making investments in the TSE despite the economic sanctions recently imposed on Iran by the U.N. Security Council. Talking to IRNA, Hassan Ghalibaf Asl said the TSE enjoys various potentials that are capable of capturing foreign investors' attention to make investment there. Iran has taken measures to introduce the TSE capabilities to the world investors in order to attract their attention to its potentials.

Iran's Financial Exchange With South Asian Countries Doubled

The financial exchange between the Islamic Republic of Iran and eight South Asian countries stood at 5.6 billion dollars in the first half of 2010, Asian Clearing Union (ACU) reported. The figure shows a 118-percent increase compared to the same period last year, the report read. According to the report, the total exchange between the 9 member states of ACU increased 75 percent exceeding 18 billion dollars in the first half of the current year. Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is the simplest form of payment arrangements whereby the participants settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a multilateral basis.

Iran Joins World's Milk Exporters

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will export milk for the first time this year. In its report entitled "World Food Outlook 2010", FAO announced that Iran is the sixth greatest milk producer in Asia adding that the country will export milk for the first time in 2010. According to the report, the global milk output will increase to 711 million tons in 2010 from 699 million tons in 2009. Asia has been world's greatest milk producer in 2009 producing 251 million tons of the dairy. Among the Asian countries,

Gas Condensates Exports Hit \$361m

More than 361 million dollars of gas condensates have been exported from Pars Port Complex over the third month of new Iranian year (22 May-21 June), Managing Director of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ), announced yesterday. In an exclusive interview with Shana correspondent in Assaluyeh, Mousa Souri said some 559,288 tons of gas condensates worth 361.945 million dollars exported from operating phases of South Pars gas field during the mentioned period.

Iran's Industry, Mines Sectors Sees 15% Growth

While the world's industry and mine sector was sliding, during the last Iranian year (ended March 20, 2010), Iran's exports in these fields had a 15 percent growth, head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said yesterday.

Social News

Iran issues a catalogue of approved hairstyles for men

Ponytails, Hollywood hairstyle imitations, gelled hair spiked into a style known locally as the "Khorusi" ("Rooster")... for some, the untamed haircuts of Tehran youth was getting out of control. Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance decided to do something about it, releasing on Monday the "Journal of Iranian Hairstyles Approved by the Ministry" to assist discerning Iranian men in appropriate Islamic grooming. The Islamic fashion guide, released by ministry officials as part of the press launch for the upcoming "Modesty and Veil Festival," contains a photo catalogue of men with conservative,

Tehran to Host Int'l Contest on Holy Quran

The 27th International Contest on Holy Quran Recitation and Memorization will open in Tehran on July 9. Some 90 Quran reciters and memorizers from 60 countries will participate in the event. The upcoming international contest on recitation and memorization of Holy Quran includes a story writing section. It will be held in three categories, namely Quran and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) Infallible Household, Quran and insight and humanities. Authors and researchers can also participate in a research section which covers a wide range of topics such as the semantics of insight in Quran and the Quranic teachings.

"Heritage of Hemingway" to Hit Iranian Book Stores

"Heritage of Hemingway", comprising two novels by Ernest Hemingway, will soon hit the Iranian book market, Mehr News Agency reported. Translated into Persian by Asadollah Amraii, the book contains the two famous novels "Across the River and Into the Trees" and "The Sun Also Rises". The collection will be soon submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to obtain permission for publishing, Amraii told the Persian service of MNA, adding that Ofoq Publication is due to publish the book. "Across the River and into the Trees" is the story of Richard Cantwell, a war-ravaged American colonel stationed in Italy at the close of the Second World War, and his love for a young Italian

countess. "The Sun Also Rises" centers on a group of expatriate American citizens and British subjects in continental Europe during the 1920s. Ernest Miller Hemingway (1899-1961) was an American writer and journalist. His distinctive writing style, characterized by economy and understatement, influenced 20th-century fiction, as did his life of adventure and public image.

Detailed News

MP Slams UAE Ambassador's Remarks; Tours May Be Suspended

Iran may bar trips to the United Arab Emirates after the UAE's envoy to the U.S. said his country supports military action against Iran's nuclear facilities. "I hope the government of the UAE will correct this viewpoint," said Kazem Jalali, the spokesman for the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, according to the Mehr news agency. The UAE should clarify whether the ambassador's "foul" comments are government policy, he said. The UAE Ambassador Yousef al-Otaiba said an attack on Iran may be necessary if sanctions fail to halt the country's nuclear program, and said the UAE would be willing to weather a domestic backlash against such military action, the Washington Times reported, citing remarks the U.A.E. diplomat made at an event in Aspen, Colorado. Jalali said tours to the U.A.E. may be suspended "to guard the reputation of the Iranian people," as Iranians visiting the country are not being treated well. He said spending by Iranian tourists has helped prevent a worse economic crisis in the U.A.E. and especially Dubai.

The UAE's central bank asked financial institutions in the federation to freeze 41 bank accounts of Iranian individuals and companies in compliance with United Nations Security Council sanctions passed on June 9, the Emirates Business 24/7 reported on June 28, citing a bank circular. There was no immediate response to a telephone call and an e-mail to the central bank seeking details of the list yesterday.

Canadian Guilty of Bid to Send Iran Nuclear Material

A Canadian court found a Toronto man guilty on Tuesday of attempting to export nuclear-related materials to Iran in violation of sanctions, prosecutors said.

Mahmoud Yadegari, 36, was convicted in the Ontario Court of Justice of nine criminal and customs charges for attempting last year to ship pressure transducers to Iran via Dubai, said the Public Prosecution Service of Canada. The items, manufactured in the United States, can be used in nuclear power plants but are also required to produce nuclear weapons. They are subject to a UN embargo on nuclear exports to Iran and are on Canada's export control list. Yadegari was arrested in April 2009 for failing to obtain required permits to export the so-called "dual use" items the month before. He faces up to a maximum of 10 years in prison and fines of up to 500,000 dollars for each infraction. He was, however, acquitted of one count of forgery. Yadegari is to be sentenced on July 29.

Negotiations on Exporting Gas to India Underway

Iran's Petroleum Ministry representative on gas exports said India is willing to get Iranian gas through a seabed pipeline, noting that negotiations to export gas to this country are underway. In an exclusive interview with Shana, Asghar Soheilipour said we think Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline is the best route to export gas to India and propose them to choose the route. Soheilipour said that technical and economic aspects of construction of a direct seabed pipeline between the two countries is being surveyed by New Delhi, adding we are negotiating Indian side about joining IPI, constructing an underwater pipeline, participating in the development of Iranian gas fields and converting natural gas to LNG. He said Pakistan was able to produce big amount of natural gas over the last decade but gas resources of the country has been reduced at present, so during the last few years this state has started serious negotiations to buy gas from Iran. Emphasizing that Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline will meet a great part of Pakistani energy needs, he added the contract to export gas to Pakistan has been finalized by both countries under which gas export to Pakistan starts as of 2014.

Swiss Charge d'Affaires Summoned

Tehran summons the Swiss charge d'affaires, whose embassy represents U.S. interests in Iran, as new documents have been revealed about a missing Iranian academic. Iran said on Saturday that it had handed over to the Swiss Embassy in Tehran new documents related to the abduction of Shahram Amiri by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast said a day later that Washington confirmed it had received the documents through the Swiss Embassy. "Upon the release of new documents related to the abduction of Mr. Shahram Amiri by American security forces and his taking to the US, the Swiss charge d'affaires has been summoned," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a Tuesday statement.

The Foreign Ministry "once again voiced its protest to the Iranian national's abduction and the ambiguity surrounding his fate."The ministry further called for Amiri's "swift and unconditional release" and his return to Iran by U.S. authorities.

Majlis Welcomes European Parliament Visit to Iran

Rapporteur of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Kazem Jalali said Wednesday Iran's Majlis welcomes the visit of European Parliament members to the country. Talking to reporters on the sidelines of the Majlis (Parliament) open session yesterday , Jalali said Iran is completely ready to receive them.The European Parliament has suggested date for that visit and Iran's Consultative Assembly (Majlis) has set the due time after considering the suggestion, the parliamentarian said.On the recent claims made by the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to the US about Iran, Jalali said if the UAE government confirms its envoy's words, it must change and correct those claims.The UAE ambassador to the US had said his country would support mounting attack on Iran if it were necessary.

Iran should stop arranging tours for that Arab state in order to defend the Iranian identity, Jalali underlined, and added the Majlis will strongly follow up the issue.

President Ahmadinejad to Visit Lebanon Soon

Head of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Alaeddin Boroujerdi in a meeting with Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri studied grounds for expansion of ties and cooperation between the two countries. Boroujerdi conveyed Majlis speaker's condolence message on demise of Allama Seyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah to Berri, IRIB reported yesterday.Boroujerdi and Berri also supported the decisions which was adopted by the Islamic parliaments' meeting in Syria and called for sending freedom fleet to Gaza in order to remove blockade of the Gaza Strip.

Boroujerdi said Iranian parliament seeks expansion of ties between the two countries adding that President Ahmadinejad is to visit Lebanon in near future.

Jannati Meets Hezbollah Leader

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, chairman of the Guardian Council, met with Hezbollah Secretary General Seyed Hassan Nassrollah in Beirut yesterday. Jannati had visited Beirut participate in the funeral ceremony of Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah as the representative of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution.Jannati expressed his heartfelt sorrow over the demise of the senior Lebanese cleric to Hassan Nassrollah.

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Boroujerdi added that Tehran's policy in Lebanon is fully clear and transparent and is in line with establishment of Lebanese stability. He reiterated that there is friendly relation between the two countries which is supported by the Iranian Parliament (Majlis). Such moves stem from influence and presence of Zionists in the French ruling system, the MP said, adding that while French President Nicolas Sarkozy is facing numerous domestic problems, the French diplomats are trying to put the blame on other countries.

Boroujerdi is currently in Beirut to attend the funeral procession of the prominent Lebanese cleric, Allameh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. Grand Ayatollah Fadlallah, 75, died in a Beirut hospital where he was admitted on Friday for internal bleeding.

Commander Cautions Russia about U.S. Plots in Region

A senior Iranian commander yesterday cautioned Moscow to be watchful of Washington's moves, warning that the plots hatched by the U.S. in the region harm Russia's long-term interests. "At present the U.S. is endeavoring to further its political and military presence and hegemony in this region through pursuing its plan for deploying a missile shield in Europe, and if Russians do not develop the necessary overall outlook, they will be entangled in Americans' trap again," Iranian Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff for Cultural Affairs and Defense Publicity Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri said.

He pointed to the recent efforts made by certain U.S. officials to sow discord among Iran, Russia and Europe to legitimize their plans for deploying their missile defense system in Europe, and cautioned that Washington intends to dominate Russia. He reminded the era of the last head of state of the USSR, Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachyov, during which Russians were deceived by the US, and advised Moscow not to lose its long-term interests for temporary advantages.

Iran-Uzbekistan Trade Volume to Reach \$1b

The volume of trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Uzbekistan will reach from last year's 600 million dollars to one billion dollars by the end of current Iranian year (ending March 20, 2011), Iran's ambassador to Uzbekistan Mohammad Keshavarz Zadeh said. "After Tajikistan, Uzbekistan has the most cultural, religious and historical commonalities with the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added. He noted expansion of the two countries' cooperation would be in the benefit of Iranian private sector and investors. The two neighboring countries cooperate in different fields such as technical-engineering services, mining, production of construction materials and pisciculture and chicken farming. In March 2009, during a meeting with Uzbek Deputy Foreign Minister Solihbaev Anvar Saidovich, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki suggested that Iran and Uzbekistan should increase their bilateral cooperation.

Mottaki stated that "countries can complete and improve their programs and capacities through cooperation and using other countries' experiences.

Uzbek export to Iran includes cotton, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, fertilizers, and chemical fibers -- Iran exports construction materials, detergents, foods, tea and fruits to Uzbekistan.

Iran Air: No Disruption in Europe-Bound Flights

Spokesman of Iran Air, flag carrier airline of Iran, Shahrokh Noushabadi declared on Tuesday that the airline's flights to Europe by Airbus fleet, which is approved by European Commission (EC), will continue and there is no concern

in this regard. He said that the EC had asked some questions about the airline's fleet, for which necessary responses have been presented to them. "In spite of precise answers to the EC, the commission has put some limitations on Iran Air flights, which seems unfair," the official said. He added that the company will do its utmost to continue its interaction with the EC to remove misunderstandings about the airline's fleet. He assured the passengers who want to fly to Europe and said they do not need to worry because Iran Air would fly to Europe by EU approved Airbus fleet. Earlier in March, Managing Director of Iran Air Farhad Parvaresh had said that the company had gained approval of the European air safety committee to resume its flights to European countries. The permission of the flights has been given to the Iranian airline by the European Community Safety Assessment of Foreign Aircraft (SAFA) due to implementation of related standards by Iran, Parvaresh said.

Jalili Warns EU Over Dual-Track Tactic

Iran expects the European Union to rectify its mistakes consistent with national nuclear program, Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Saeed Jalili said yesterday. He said in his letter to EU foreign policy chief, Catherine Ashton, that the European states are expected to abandon double-standard policies and correct mistakes. Jalili sent the letter in response to a request made earlier by Ashton to resume talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Jalili said that Iranians have lost confidence in the EU policymaking. "You need to win confidence of Iranian people more than ever." "It is very interesting that despite of efforts made by Brazilian and Turkish foreign ministers for resumption of talks, you have been reluctant in the past three months, but, immediately after passing the resolution 1229 at the Security Council against Iran, you have voiced readiness to resume talks," Jalili said.

"Following your request for resumption of talks, the US government along with the European Union imposed a new series of sanctions which is in contradiction with your approach in the context of 'pressure and dialogue' which is totally out of question. The international community regards dialogue under pressure as 'dictatorship', he said adding that resumption of dialogue for escalation of pressures or enmity with a nation is doomed to failure. Jalili advised the EU foreign policy chief to avoid pursuing dual approach and do something to correct mistakes of the past by opting for true and rational culture of dialogue. He criticized the European leaders for failure to focus on interaction and cooperation instead of confrontation. "This time the European leaders are expected to make up their mind whether or not they prefer interaction with Iran or confrontation. The double track or the so-called 'dialogue and pressure' proved not helpful."

Recalling background of Iran-EU dialogue, Jalili said that the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008, offered a package for negotiations on international concern about proliferation of nuclear weapons and during Geneva talks on June, 21, 2008 and September 24, 2009, the Islamic Republic of Iran explicitly declared that it is ready to hold talk on the package. "The issue was raised in press conferences and in negotiations with former EU Foreign Policy chief Javier Solana. Therefore,

adopting any different approach would be reactionary and non-constructive method which will be ruled out by Iranian nation."It is necessary to remind that this has already mentioned in the package offered by Iran that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to resume talks on expansion of mutual cooperation, Disarmament of nuclear weapons, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as well as studying the chance for collective cooperation of all members for peaceful nuclear energy."There is no doubt that to attain the goal all the negotiating sides should be remained committed to Non-Proliferation Treaty and express their concern about the illegal nuclear activities of the Zionist regime.

"The move could help materialize the mottos of Tehran Conference on 'Nuclear Weapons for None and Nuclear Energy for All' which got approval of representatives of all participating states. Active presence of those pursuing the same policy will be very constructive for resumption of talks." "We are now witnessing that many countries have welcomed such initiatives and cooperation," he said.

"Tehran Conference on Revision of Non-Proliferation Treaty and Disarmament in which some 189 countries actively took part, proved that many countries abide by NPT and Disarmament and call for the Zionist regime to sign up to NPT.

"If prospects of such dialogue are crystal clear, the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to employ all its political, economic, regional and international capabilities and facilities to help promote constructive international cooperation consistent with NPT and Disarmament.

"Based on the aforesaid points as declared by Iranian president, you are required to answer the following questions prior to resumption of talks with Iran:

"1. The aim of talks will be expansion of mutual understanding and cooperation or continued hostility with Iran and opposition to the legitimate rights of Iranian nation.

"2. Will you remain committed to the logic of dialogue which requires to avoid exerting any pressures?

"3. Please explicitly define your principles in dialogue on Israeli stockpiling of nuclear weapons.

"Your reply to the above-mentioned questions could prepare grounds for resumption of talks and removal of common concerns of international community about proliferation of nuclear weapons in presence of representatives of other nations sharing the common concerns," Jalili said.

China Objects to U.S. Sanctions Against Iran

China said yesterday that the United States and other countries should not expand on the latest U.N. sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear program. China did not exercise its veto power last month when the U.N. Security Council approved sanctions that target Iran's Revolutionary Guard, ballistic missiles and nuclear-related investments. The United States followed that up when President

Barack Obama signed a bill Thursday that imposed tough unilateral sanctions against exports of gasoline and other refined petroleum products to Iran. It bans U.S. banks from doing business with foreign banks providing services to Iran's Revolutionary Guard. "China supports the U.N. sanctions. China believes that countries should have correct implementation of the sanctions instead of expanding the sanctions," Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a news conference. As a permanent member of the Security Council and key Iranian ally, China could have vetoed the sanctions, but after considerable international pressure it agreed to support them. But China has said its support for sanctions should not block efforts to find a diplomatic solution, and has called for renewed attempts to bring Iran back to the negotiating table.

China's bilateral trade with Iran reached at least \$36.5 billion last year. Iran meets 11 percent of China's energy needs and Chinese companies have major investments in Iranian energy extraction projects and the construction of roads, bridges and power plants.

EU Tightens Flight Restrictions on Iranian Airline

The European Union tightened restrictions on the use of its airspace by Iran Air yesterday because of safety concerns and added an airline from Suriname to its no-flight blacklist. EU regulators also removed two companies from Indonesia, Metro Batavia and Indonesia Air Asia, from the blacklist after Indonesian authorities made "significant" safety improvements, a European Commission spokeswoman said. The commission's air safety committee unanimously decided to expand its restrictions on Iran Air, forbidding its fleet of Airbus A320 and Boeing 727 and 747 planes from flying in European air space.

The decision was based on the conclusions made after a visit to Iran by the commission with experts from EU states and the European Aviation Safety Agency, which found that Iran had not implemented safety measures announced in March.

The European Commission said it would continue to "closely monitor the performance of the airline" by examining the results of ground inspections on company aircraft that are still allowed to operate in the EU. Iran Air may still operate 23 planes in the 27-nation bloc, including 14 Airbus A300s, eight A310s and one Boeing 737.

The updated blacklist includes 282 airlines from 21 countries that are not allowed to fly to the European Union. The commission said it decided to add Suriname's Blue Wing Airlines to the list of banned companies because of a "series of accidents suffered by this airline" and "serious deficiencies" seen during ground inspections. "We cannot afford to compromise on air safety," European transport commissioner Siim Kallas said in a statement.

Tehran, Manila Sign Agreement for Seafarers' Recognition

The Department of Labor and Employment of the Philippines signed a bilateral agreement with Iran that provides for the Iranian recognition of the Filipino

seafarers' certificates of competencies. Secretary Marianito Roque Roque, chairman of the Maritime Training Council signed the Memorandum of Agreement with Deputy Managing Director for Maritime Affairs Saeed Izadian of the Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization in Manila recently. The signing was held at the conclusion of the five-day 2010 Diplomatic Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW), as amended, and its associated STCW Code for Seafarers held in the country last week. Roque expressed his appreciation of the Iranian government for its willingness to enter into an agreement with the Philippines as this expands the international recognition of the Filipino seafarers' certificate of competencies pursuant to Regulation 1/10 of the STCW Convention.

He said such recognition is essential to the continued employment of Filipino seafarers in the international maritime industry, adding that the MOA with Iran is the 45th bilateral agreement that the country has so far entered into to ensure the international recognition of the Filipino seafarers' certificates.

The DOLE has actively negotiated for bilateral agreements on the recognition of Filipino seafarers' certificates in accordance with the STCW convention. It has previously facilitated bilateral agreements with 44 countries, namely, Egypt, St. Kitts & Nevis, Portugal, Qatar, South Africa, Eritrea, Republic of Korea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Jamaica, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Mongolia, Georgia, Ireland, Commonwealth of Dominica, Hellenic Republic, Kuwait, Cambodia, Indonesia, Panama, Malaysia, Luxemburg, Australia, Belize, Liberia, Italy, Barbados, Sweden, Isle of Man, Malta, Antigua and Barbuda, Norway, Hong Kong, Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, Cyprus, Bahamas, Singapore, Brunei, Denmark, Netherlands, and Japan.

"These agreements demonstrate the confidence of the international maritime industry in the maritime education, training, assessment, and certification system of the Philippines," Roque said. He assured the international maritime industry that even as he is leaving his post as labor and employment Secretary, the DOLE will continuously work with other stakeholders in the Philippine government and the private sector to ensure the country's continuous compliance to the STCW Convention and to maintain the globally known competence and skills of the Filipino seafarers.

The DOLE through the MTC, intensely pursues efforts aimed at ensuring the country's observance of the STCW Convention, as amended. Under the supervision of DOLE, the MTC ensures that the evaluation of the quality standards of government instrumentalities involved in the seamen certification system, training courses and programs, and examination and assessment including the qualification of instructors and assessors are conducted in accordance with the Convention.

India Concerned Over Iran Sanctions

India is pressing the reset button on its relations with Iran. In a significant comment, India ticked off the U.S. for its recent sanctions against Iran, which it said would directly affect Indian companies and India's "energy security". In a speech at an India-Iran strategic dialogue here, foreign secretary Nirupama Rao said, "We are justifiably concerned that the extra-territorial nature of certain unilateral sanctions recently imposed by individual countries, with their restrictions on investment by third countries in Iran's energy sector, can have a direct and adverse impact on Indian companies and more importantly, on our energy security and our attempts to meet the development needs of our people." India imports 18 million tons of oil from Iran out of a total of 140 million tons annually. According to sources, India's investment in Iran's energy sector is around \$100 million. Thus, India's objections are political in nature, and intimately connected to a prospective India-Iran detente over Afghanistan. In other words, if Pakistan is sporting the Taliban as its cure for the Afghan problem, India is signalling that it will play its own game in the region as it tries to limit the Taliban's reach. Rao pressed Iran to complete procedures that would let India finish building the Chahbahar port. It's also clear that India is hedging its bets in case of a U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, leaving the Pakistan-sponsored Taliban in a powerful situation in Afghanistan. "Neither of our countries wish to see the prospect of fundamentalist and extremist groups once again suppressing the aspirations of the Afghan people and forcing Afghanistan back to being a training ground and sanctuary for terrorist groups," Rao said.

Leader Approves Consumption Pattern Policy

Islamic Revolution Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei laid down several milestones for the national goal of revision of consumption pattern in a letter dispatched Tuesday to heads of the three branches of power. The policy comprises 10 headlines which deal with promotion of culture of due consumption, economization of fuel use, and optimization of water and bread consumption across the country. The Leader put the seal of approval on the policy after making consultations with the System Interests Council.

Ahmadinejad to Present New Ideas in D8 Summit

Iranian nation has specific ideas for establishment of a new world order and a human management of the global interaction based on justice, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday adding he would present several ideas in the D8 Summit in Nigeria. Before leaving Tehran for Mali, he told reporters that as the group of eight Islamic developing countries (D8) enjoys special status in the world, expansion of cooperation among its member states would lead to establishment of a powerful economic, cultural and political bloc in the world. The president said the current global economic downturn and necessity of changing

the current world order can be discussed in the summit which is to be held in capital Abuja. "I will first visit the brother and friend country of Mali ahead of my visit to Nigeria," he added.

He also said the Islamic Republic of Iran has made plans to cooperate with Mali on science, agriculture, car manufacturing, industry and banking. President Ahmadinejad will visit Nigeria for a group of eight developing countries (D8) summit. He will also meet and confer with officials and heads of states taking part in the summit.

Iran Mulling Over Rival Defense Systems for S-300

Iran is likely to consider other possible options for replacing the sophisticated S-300 air defense missile system if Russia refrains from delivering it to the county, a senior Iranian lawmaker announced yesterday. "Iran enjoys a high level missile technology" and S-300 would not be the end point to Iran's efforts in acquiring or developing advanced missile defense technologies, Rapporteur of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Kazzem Jalali told reporters. Moscow signed a contract with Tehran in 2007 to supply the powerful S-300 missiles to Iran but it has refrained from delivering the system to the county due to the US and Israeli pressures. The S-300 surface-to-air system, known as the SA-20 in the West, can track targets and fire at aircraft 120 kilometers (75 miles) away. It also features high jamming immunity and is capable of simultaneously engaging up to 100 targets.

On jet fuel restrictions report, he said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has no problem in providing fuel for its planes.

Jalali reiterated that no country has officially made any restriction for selling jet fuel to Iran.

Fisheries MoU With Kuwait Inked

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in fisheries sectors. Based on the MoU signed during the three-day visit of Kuwait Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources' head to Iran, the two countries were committed to further expand cooperation in various fisheries fields. Preserving Persian Gulf's aquatics resources, aquatics engineering cultivation of sea aquatics, training and instruction in fisheries sector and making research in related fields were among the main issues included in the MoU. Habib Albadr and the accompanying delegation visited Iran's fisheries capabilities and installations during their three-day visit to the country.

Iran to Quit Talks If Sanctions Tightened

A senior parliamentarian said here on Sunday that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not continue the Vienna talks if Resolution 1929 is materialized. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Chairman of the National Security and Foreign Policy Commission of Majlis made the remarks while talking to IRNA. If Resolution 1929 and the anti-

Iran sanctions become operational by Group 5+1, they should not expect Tehran to continue the Vienna negotiations, he reiterated. On Moscow's call for continuation of the Vienna talks in case of cessation of 20-percent enrichment by Iran, he stressed that the Tehran Declaration will be the base for future negotiations. Boroujerdi urged Moscow, Paris and Washington to change their approaches towards Iran's peaceful nuclear activities.

On providing fuel for the Tehran research reactor, he said the Supreme National Security Council believed that if the fuel for the Tehran reactor was provided there was no need for fuel production inside the country. On Iran-Central Asia relations, the MP stated that there are great potentials in both sides for further expansion of all-out cooperation.

Economic news

Major Western Companies Harmed by Iran Sanctions

A member of the Iranian parliament warned the West about the heavy costs of the UN anti-Iran sanctions for the western firms, saying that the western companies' cold reaction to the sanctions demonstrates their unwillingness to implement punitive measures against Iran. "Western countries' source of income is their technology and industry, and they will have to sustain more damage if they are to impose sanction on their customers," member of the parliament's Cultural Commission Bijan Noubawe said.

The lawmaker pointed to the ongoing economic recession in the West, Europe in particular, and the growing trend of banking and economic interactions in the modern era, and stated, "If these countries (the West) are due to disrupt their economic ties with Iran or any other developing country, then they will definitely face further problems." Noubawe also mentioned that the opposition of major oil companies to the existing pressures on Iran indicates that they do not take the western sanctions against Tehran seriously.

Economic Ties With Turkey

The annual trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey will increase to 30 billion dollars by the end of the Iran's Fifth Five Year Development Plan (2010-2014), an Iranian official said. "We could gain the aim via facilitating trade exchange between the two countries," said Sadegh Najafi, an official in Committee of Economic and Foreign Relations of Iranian Northwest Provinces. "High transportation capacity especially in railways could be regarded

as a mean to boost trade between Iran and Turkey."He referred to holding exhibitions and trade fairs, holding conferences and meetings and dispatching trade delegations as other ways of boosting ties between the two countries. Najafi also pointed to the joint border industrial park to be established in the near future by the two countries and said once the park is implemented, bilateral trade between the two countries will increase remarkably.

Russia's Wheat Exports to Iran Up

The Islamic Republic of Iran has imported above 814,000 tons of wheat from Russia during July 2009 to May 2010, Russian Agriculture Ministry reported. According to the report, Russia's wheat exports to Iran increased to above 81,000 tons in July 2009-May 2010 from 57,000 tons in July 2008-June 2009. Russia's wheat exports to global markets hit new record of 18.3 million tons during the farming year 2009-2010, the report read. The figure in farming year 2009-2008 stood at 18.03 million tons. Russia's total grains exports are predicted to exceed 22 million tons in the current year showing 1.5 million tons increase over the last year, the report added.

Iran's Finance Minister in India

Iranian Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Shamseddin Hosseini arrived in New Delhi last night on a two-day visit to attend the 16th session Iran-India Joint Economic Commission. The 16th Session of the Joint Economic Commission between India and Iran will be held on July 8-9, 2010. It is co-chaired on the Iranian side by Shamseddin Hosseini and on the Indian side by External Affairs Minister S.M. Krishna, said a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. India and Iran have been holding discussions at regular intervals on issues relating to economic cooperation under the aegis of the Joint Commission mechanism, which was established in July 1983, said the statement. The last session of the Joint Commission was held in Tehran from October 30 to November 2, 2008, the statement added. Beside Krishna, the Iranian minister will have meetings with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee, and National Security Advisor Shiv Shankar Menon. Hosseini will be accompanied by a delegation comprising members of Parliament, officials from the Ministries of Finance, Petroleum and Pharmaceuticals. The two sides expectedly will review steps to expand cooperation in diverse areas including industry, pharmaceuticals, energy, education, information technology, communication, culture and standard. Both the countries are expected to sign a joint document laying out various areas of cooperation between India and Iran. The two sides expectedly will also discuss the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline that has been bogged down for years. A conference on introducing Iran's investment opportunities will be held on the sidelines of the commission. Iran's private sector and owners of the investment projects will attend the conference which is to be held on July 8. Iran and India trade volume exceeded 13 billion dollars in the last Iranian year (ended March

20, 2010) and the two states have planned to increase this figure to 20 billion dollars.

Azadegan Oilfield Production Capacity Rises

The second phase of the primary development of the Azadegan oilfield has been completed and the production capacity of the field has increased to 50,000 barrels per day, managing director of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) announced yesterday. In an interview with Shana, Gholamreza Hassan Beiglou said the phase has been implemented in nine months and 12 wells have been drilled. He added that all the technical, engineering, implementation and providing goods and instruments of the project have been carried out by NISOC's staff. Concerning the importance of the implementation of the project, he stated that by primary development Azadegan oilfield, valuable information about the dynamic specifics of the reservoir has been gained and different oil layers have been discovered which help produce some 20 million barrels of oil worth one billion dollars from this oilfield. He congratulated this big success to all Iranians and oil industry staff, especially NISOC's work force, noting implementation of the project confirms the ability to develop hydrocarbon resources of the country. He went on to say that first phase of the project completed in 2007 by fixing and completion of six wells, building 90 kilometers of pipeline, installation of two oil and gas separators and construction of 100 kilometers of 10 inches pipeline.

Azadegan oil field, in a 900 square kilometers area, is located 80 kilometers west of Ahwaz city. The field holds 33.2 billion barrels of oil in place and 5.2 billion barrels of recoverable reserves.

Iran Warns About Reciprocal Moves Against Jet Fuel Boycott

Tehran warned yesterday that any effort by the western countries to block the supply of jet fuel to Iran under unilateral sanctions will be reciprocated seriously. "If necessary, Iran will firmly reciprocate the move," member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said. "Measures like blocking the supply of jet fuel to Iran at international airports indicate that the US and other western countries aim to impose sanctions on Iran's development to weaken Iran's position in the region," the lawmaker state. Despite the claims made by the advocates of the UN Security Council Resolution 1929 that the new round of sanctions merely target the Iranian government, the new unilateral sanctions (by the EU and U.S.) prove to be targeting the Iranian nation, he added.

"Implementation of the sanction policy in excess of the contents of the Security Council resolution shows that a few governments are endeavoring to create an atmosphere of threat against Iran, and such efforts will be retaliated by Iran," Falahatpisheh said.

Iran to Curb Trade With UAE

The chairman of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce stated that in reprisal for freezing 41 bank accounts of Iranian businessmen in the UAE, Iran would limit trade with the United Arab Emirates. ISNA news agency quoted Masoud Daneshmand as saying that the Emirates overdid itself in regard to the UN resolution passed for sanctions against Iran and froze the accounts of the managers of companies which had been named in the document. "We don't approve the Emirati behavior because they are taking measures of their own volition which they are not required to take by the Security Council resolution and Iranian traders don't like this," he stated. Last week a member of Iran's Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines has stated that the Iranian bank accounts which have been frozen by the United Arab Emirates did not belong to key traders. Hamid Hosseini told ISNA news agency that the accounts were mainly opened by a number of organizations and departments which have branches in the UAE. For years, the Islamic republic has had active trade relations with Dubai, one of seven emirates making up the UAE, with the trade volume estimated at around \$10 billion a year, mostly in Iranian imports. On June 9, the UN Security Council slapped a fourth round of sanctions on Iran over its nuclear drive, this time tightening the noose on military and financial transactions.

Iran to Continue N. Fuel Production

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ramin Mehman-Parast stressed yesterday that Tehran is resolved to continue uranium enrichment to produce nuclear fuel for its power plants and reactors. "Definitely, the (nuclear) fuel cycle will continue its activity in Iran," Mehman-Parast said in a weekly press conference. He stressed Iran's right of nuclear enrichment, and added, "All the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) member states and signatories to the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) are entitled to the right to enrich uranium within the boundaries of peaceful activities." The spokesman defended the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear activities, and stated, "No activity in Iran has been carried out without IAEA cooperation and supervision and none of our enrichment activities has ever been recognized by the Agency as a non-peaceful behavior." The spokesman further reminded that uranium enrichment to the purity level of 20% is part of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities. On EU sanctions, he said that the European Union has not ratified any extra sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said the European Union had already put tough economic sanctions against Iran on its agenda which were not approved. The Iranian foreign minister has sent various letters to members of the European Union in which he advised them that slapping economic sanctions would have no impacts on Iran but will be detrimental to them, he said. As to reports that some countries were refusing refueling of Iranian passenger planes, he said official sources in those countries

have denied the report. Mehman-Parast emphasized that the refueling of the Iranian planes is going on in foreign countries and that such false reports are published in a bid to create psychological atmosphere against the Islamic Republic.

An Iranian official had said that the country's passenger planes had been denied refueling in Germany, Britain and the United Arab Emirates as a result of tighter US sanctions. But those countries did not confirm imposing any ban.

On Tehran-Riyadh relations, Mehman-Parast said certain countries concerned over friendly ties between Islamic states try to sow discord among Muslim and regional countries.

Referring to Iran and Saudi Arabia as two major regional states, he said expansion of all-out ties with regional countries is a priority in Iran's foreign policy, Mehman-Parast said, reiterating that Riyadh can play a key role in this regard.

As to current visit to Iraq of the U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, he said his trip is aimed at interfering in Baghdad's domestic affairs.

He urged Washington not to interfere in domestic affairs of the regional countries and leave the Iraqi affairs to the Iraqi people so that they can determine their own fate.

Foreigners Still Investing in TSE Despite Sanctions

The managing director of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) said on Monday foreign investors keep making investments in the TSE despite the economic sanctions recently imposed on Iran by the U.N. Security Council. Talking to IRNA, Hassan Ghalibaf Asl said the TSE enjoys various potentials that are capable of capturing foreign investors' attention to make investment there. Iran has taken measures to introduce the TSE capabilities to the world investors in order to attract their attention to its potentials.

Iran's Financial Exchange With South Asian Countries Doubled

The financial exchange between the Islamic Republic of Iran and eight South Asian countries stood at 5.6 billion dollars in the first half of 2010, Asian Clearing Union (ACU) reported. The figure shows a 118-percent increase compared to the same period last year, the report read. According to the report, the total exchange between the 9 member states of ACU increased 75 percent exceeding 18 billion dollars in the first half of the current year. Asian Clearing Union (ACU) is the simplest form of payment arrangements whereby the participants settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a multilateral basis. The main objectives of ACU are to facilitate payments among

member countries for eligible transactions, thereby economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves and transfer costs, as well as promoting trade among the participating countries. The ACU is a clearing payments arrangements operating in various regions of the world. Iran, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives are the 9 member-states of the Union. In the first half of 2010, Iran, after India, has had most financial interactions with other member states. India's financial exchange with the member states reached 7.98 billion dollars showing 84 percent growth over the same period last year. Iran has been ranked first creditor in the union giving 5.3 billion dollars of credits to the member states; while the country has received 306 million dollars of credits. India has given 3.22 billion dollars and received 4.7 billion dollars of credits during the mentioned period. Credits received and given by other member states come as follow, respectively: Bangladesh 1.94 billion dollars and 89 million dollars, Bhutan 25,000 dollars and 13.4 million dollars, Nepal 5.3 million dollars and 19.7 million dollars, Pakistan 1 billion dollars and 279 million dollars, Sri Lanka 969 million dollars and 85 million dollars, Myanmar 1.17 million dollars and 4.1 million dollars and Maldives 2.5 million dollars and 5,000 dollars.

Iran Joins World's Milk Exporters

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran will export milk for the first time this year. In its report entitled "World Food Outlook 2010", FAO announced that Iran is the sixth greatest milk producer in Asia adding that the country will export milk for the first time in 2010. According to the report, the global milk output will increase to 711 million tons in 2010 from 699 million tons in 2009. Asia has been world's greatest milk producer in 2009 producing 251 million tons of the dairy. Among the Asian countries, India has been first greatest milk producer, the report read adding that the country's milk production reached 112 million tons in 2009. Iran's milk output in 2009 reached 7.7 million tons, FAO reported predicting that the figure will not be changed in 2010. Iran has been ranked world's 18th greatest milk producer, the report added. In 2010, Iran will export 100,000 tons milk for the first time. World's greatest milk producers in 2009 include EU with 154 million tons, India with 112 million tons, USA with 85 million tons, China with 39 million tons and Russia with 32 million tons, the report said.

Gas Condensates Exports Hit \$361m

More than 361 million dollars of gas condensates have been exported from Pars Port Complex over the third month of new Iranian year (22 May-21 June), Managing Director of the Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ), announced yesterday. In an exclusive interview with Shana correspondent in Assaluyeh, Mousa Souri said some 559,288 tons of gas condensates worth 361.945 million dollars exported from operating phases of South Pars gas field during the mentioned period. He went on to say that this amount of gas

condensates have been exported to different countries in nine cargoes which registered 48 percent increase in terms of weight and 50 percent growth in terms of value in comparison with the same period last year. Meanwhile some 609,930 tons of non-oil products have been exported from Pars port Complex over the same time that show 16 percent increase in terms of weight and 37 percent rise in term of value against the same period previous year, Soury added. Heavy and light poly ethylene, gas condensate, propane, butane and benzene are the main products were exported from Pars port Complex, the official said.

Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ), located in the southern province of Bushehr, has been allocated 100 square kilometers of land at Assaluyeh region for the various complexes and facilities. The site is a collection of different plants and refineries. A total of 27 phases are envisaged -- 12 gas, 15 petrochemical -- plus a mix of light and heavy industry, and associated support facilities such as factories and warehouses.

Non-Oil Exports

Iran has exported 5.795 billion dollars worth of various non-oil products during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (started March 20), reported the Iran's Customs Administration. According to the report, the exports weighing 13.995 million tons, show 27 percent and 35 percent growth in terms of value and weight respectively against the same period last year. Iran's non-oil exports including gas condensates were also valued at 6.764 billion dollars weighing 15.415 million tons which show 19.19 percent and 21 percent growth in terms of value and weight, respectively compared with the same time previous year. During the same period, Iran has also imported 13.338 billion dollars non-oil products from various countries. The figure increased 13.61 percent over the same period last year. The weight of the imports stood at 10.575 million tons showing 13.89 percent increase. China, Iraq, UAE, India and Afghanistan were among the major importers of Iran's products. UAE, China, Germany, South Korea and Turkey were also main exporters to the Islamic Republic of Iran during the last three months.

Iran's Industry, Mines Sectors Sees 15% Growth

While the world's industry and mine sector was sliding, during the last Iranian year (ended March 20, 2010), Iran's exports in these fields had a 15 percent growth, head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) said yesterday. Speaking to an IRIB, Majid Hedayat said the amount of investment in the industrial sector has increased from 580,000 dollars in the third national development plan to nearly 2 million dollars in the fourth development plan. Referring to a 75-percent growth in industrial exports in the fourth development plan in comparison with the third one, he said the value in the industry and mines sectors stood at about 22 percent in last Iranian year (ended March 20, 2009). Based on the country's 20-Year Perspective Document, he said, the figure should reach 25 percent. Iran enjoys

numerous opportunities in modern technologies such as biotechnology, nanotechnology and bioimplants, the official said.

Social News

Iran issues a catalogue of approved hairstyles for men

Ponytails, Hollywood hairstyle imitations, gelled hair spiked into a style known locally as the “Khorusi” (“Rooster”)... for some, the untamed haircuts of Teheran youth was getting out of control. Iran’s Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance decided to do something about it, releasing on Monday the “Journal of Iranian Hairstyles Approved by the Ministry” to assist discerning Iranian men in appropriate Islamic grooming. The Islamic fashion guide, released by ministry officials as part of the press launch for the upcoming “Modesty and Veil Festival,” contains a photo catalogue of men with conservative, short haircuts. The government, with the assistance of the Barbers Association, is set to widely distribute the catalogue throughout the country as a guide to appropriate Islamic appearance, lest social upheaval through fashion swell across the land. “We are happy that the Islamic Republic of Iran’s government has backed us in designing these hairstyles,” festival director Jaleh Khodayar told the local media. “The proposed styles are inspired by the Iranians’ complexion, culture and religion, and Islamic law

Tehran to Host Int’l Contest on Holy Quran

The 27th International Contest on Holy Quran Recitation and Memorization will open in Tehran on July 9. Some 90 Quran reciters and memorizers from 60 countries will participate in the event. The upcoming international contest on recitation and memorization of Holy Quran includes a story writing section. It will be held in three categories, namely Quran and Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) Infallible Household, Quran and insight and humanities. Authors and researchers can also participate in a research section which covers a wide range of topics such as the semantics of insight in Quran and the Quranic teachings. The international contest will be wrapped up on July 14. Muslims regard the Holy Quran as the main miracle of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), as proof of his Prophethood, and as the culmination of divine messages. The Quran is a book of guidance, offering detailed accounts of specific historical events, and often emphasizing the moral significance of an event over its narrative sequence.

“Heritage of Hemingway” to Hit Iranian Book Stores

“Heritage of Hemingway”, comprising two novels by Ernest Hemingway, will soon hit the Iranian book market, Mehr News Agency reported. Translated into Persian by Asadollah Amraii, the book contains the two famous novels “Across the River and Into the Trees” and “The Sun Also Rises”. The collection will be soon submitted to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance to obtain permission for publishing, Amraii told the Persian service of MNA, adding that Ofoq Publication is due to publish the book. “Across the River and into the Trees” is the story of Richard Cantwell, a war-ravaged American colonel stationed in Italy at the close of the Second World War, and his love for a young Italian countess. “The Sun Also Rises” centers on a group of expatriate American citizens and British subjects in continental Europe during the 1920s. Ernest Miller Hemingway (1899-1961) was an American writer and journalist. His distinctive writing style, characterized by economy and understatement, influenced 20th-century fiction, as did his life of adventure and public image. He produced most of his works between the mid-1920s and the mid-1950s, and his career peaked in 1954 when he won the Nobel Prize in Literature. Translations of “Autumn of the Patriarch” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez and “Blindness” by Portuguese author José Saramago are among other works by Amraii.