

# Globalized Business and politics; A View from Muslim world

## Weekly report on Iran

### Report # 135

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### **Summary of Report:**

**Israel warned of military action on Iran** Any Israeli military move against the Islamic republic will be the regime's final criminal act in the Middle East, says Head of Iran's Quds and Intifadha Headquarters. Each year on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan named 'Quds day', Iran holds rallies in solidarity with the Palestinian nation.

**Iran to Produce Medical Reactor Fuel Within Year, Atomic Agency Chief Says** Iran's atomic energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, said his country will produce within a year the fuel needed for Tehran's medical research reactor, state-run Press TV reported. Iran expects power generation from the Bushehr plant, which will account for less than 4 percent of the nation's electricity, to start in about three months.

**Japan Suspends Iran Energy Investments, Freezes Assets in New Sanctions** Japan said it is suspending new oil and gas investments in Iran and freezing the assets of 88 organizations and 24 individuals in its latest round of sanctions for the Middle Eastern country's nuclear program.

**Iran minister to visit flooded Pakistan** Iran's Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar is set to visit flood-ravaged Pakistan on Thursday to assess the extent of damage in the country. The Iranian diplomat also said that coinciding with the interior minister's visit, Iran will dispatch more relief convoys, including food, to Pakistan.

**Iranian Militia Detains Opposition Supporters on Quds Day, Al-Arabiya Says** Members of Iran's Basij militia detained opposition supporters during Quds Day, the annual state-organized event to express solidarity with the Palestinian people, al-Arabiya television reported.

**'US-led peace talks bid to save Israel'** Iran's Judiciary chief says the US-brokered peace talks between the Palestinian Authority and Israel are aimed at preserving the Israeli regime. Iran's Judiciary chief described the International Quds Day rallies as a code to maintain unity against Israel in the Islamic world.

**Russia: Anti-Iran sanctions ineffective** The Russian foreign minister dismisses sanctions against Iran as ineffective, saying Tehran's isolation would have regional consequences. It is obvious that sanctions against Iran won't be effective, Sergei Lavrov said in the Moscow State University of Foreign Relations on Wednesday.

**Israel to collapse in 15 years: Iran Cmdr.** Commander of Iran's Basij Force Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi says Israel will collapse within the next 15 years. He referred to the global supports for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people as an indication that the world is turning against Israel.

**Iran, Bolivia reject 'world unilateralism'** The Bolivian President Evo Morales has called for concerted efforts of Iran, Venezuela and Bolivia to put an end to the unilateralism dominant in the world. Mehrabian also held separate meetings with several Bolivian ministers in which the two sides discussed ways for expanding bilateral ties and future industrial cooperation.

**Larijani: US-led peace talks fraudulent** Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says the US call for direct Middle East talks is a fraudulent political ploy aimed at maintaining Israel's security in the region

**Pakistani PM hails Iran's aid efforts** Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar has met with Pakistan's prime minister as the Islamic republic expands its humanitarian aid to the flood-hit country.

Najjar held talks with Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday afternoon in the premier's office in Islamabad, IRNA reported. The floods washed through a fifth of Pakistan, leaving at least 1,600 people dead and affecting another 20 million.

**Larijani: Iran ready for nuclear talks** As the US expresses optimism about future talks on Iran's nuclear program, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says Tehran has never refused nuclear talks. The Vienna group, comprising the US, Russia, France and the IAEA, has in recent months declared its readiness to resume nuclear discussions with Tehran.

## **Economic front:**

**Iran launches 4,000 telecom projects** Iran has launched more than 4,000 telecommunication and postal projects worth up to 1,900 billion rials (around 200 million dollars) in four provinces. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated the projects in the Provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, Bushehr and Isfahan through video conference on Sunday, IRIB reported.

**Iran to publish Israeli-linked firms list** Iran will publish a list of Israeli-linked companies by next week to apply sanctions against them, Iran's Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad-Reza Mir-Tajeddini says.

**Turkey-Iran trade up despite US will** Turkey says it has not changed its position regarding Iran, stressing that commercial and economic ties between the two countries will remain in force.

**'Iran, China eye joint investment board'** Iranian and Chinese officials have stressed the need for the establishment of a joint investment committee in an effort to expand relations, a report says. The amount of trade between the two countries has been valued at around 8.5 billion dollars in the first four months of 2010.

**Iran discovers 13 oil fields in 1 year** Iran has discovered 13 new oil and gas fields with in-place reserves of 14 billion barrels of oil and 45 trillion cubic feet of natural gas within the past 12 months. The Islamic Republic has also exported around 2,200,600 barrels of oil per day in the past year, according to a report published on the Oil Ministry's SHANA news agency.

**Iran loans 200 million euros to Bolivia** Iran has extended a credit line of more than 200 million euros to Bolivia to help the industrial development of the South American country. The agreement included the transfer of technology to Bolivia, Iranian Minister of Industries and Mining Ali Akbar Mehrabian said at a joint press conference with Bolivian President Evo Morales in the capital city of La Paz on Monday, the state-run ABI news agency reported.

**Iran is Turkey's second-biggest supplier of natural gas after Russia** An Iranian Oil Ministry official says the country's natural gas flow to Turkey would be resumed within the next seven days after it halted because of an explosion on August 25. The overnight blast, allegedly carried out by the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), forced Turkish authorities to shut down the conduit in the country's eastern province of Agri, which borders Iran.

**Iranian firms in Chinese trade fair** Twelve Iranian companies are among the participants in the 19th Urumqi Trade Fair in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. Tehran and Beijing will soon witness a boost and promotion in economic cooperation, given the strides taken in the expansion of relations between the two countries, IRNA quoted Chinese Ambassador to Iran Xie Xiaoyan as saying in Urumqi on Thursday.

## **Social Front:**

**'Iranian search engine in offing'** A top Iranian information official says studies have got underway on a project to develop a national search engine dubbed 'Ya Haq.'

**Iran wins first game at FIBA worlds** Iran's national basketball team earned its first win at the preliminary round of 2010 FIBA world championship against Tunisia 71-58 in Istanbul.

**Ten Iranian pilgrims killed in Iraq** At least 10 Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives and 33 others suffered injuries after their bus overturned and caught fire in central Iraq. The accident took place late Wednesday on a highway connecting the holy city of Najaf to the northern city of Samarra. The driver fell asleep and the bus swerved off the road near Hilla — the capital city of Babel province — 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, a police official told *Aswat al-Iraq* news agency on Thursday.

**Iranian skier wants another Olympics** The first Iranian female to enter an Olympic ski event Marjan Kalhor expresses her wish to participate in the international tournament once again. Kalhor took up skiing at the age of four and decided to take the sport more seriously after winning a national youth competition at age 11. She grew up in a family of skiers in Dizin, an Iranian ski resort north of Tehran.

**People mark International Quds Day** As Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials meet in Washington, Iranians alongside other people around the world have marked the International Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan.

**US edges out Iran 88-51 at FIBA Worlds** Despite impressive games by Hamed Haddad and Arsalan Kazemi, Iran loses against the US 51-88 at the preliminary round of 2010 FIBA World Championship in Istanbul, Turkey. The Americans have won all the four games against Croatia, Slovenia, Brazil and now Iran on Wednesday and automatically advance to the elimination Round of 16 as the top seed in Group B. Iran has managed to win only one game against Tunisia on Monday.

## Detailed News

### Politico-Strategic Front

#### Israel warned of military action on Iran

Any Israeli military move against the Islamic republic will be the regime's final criminal act in the Middle East, says Head of Iran's Quds and Intifadha Headquarters.

"Israel is never able to carry out its threats because any action against the Islamic Republic will be Israel's last criminal measure in the Middle East region," Iran's Labor News Agency quoted Ramazan Sharif as saying on Monday.

Elaborating on the programs of the Quds and Intifadha Headquarters during the upcoming Quds Day, Sharif hailed the determination and vigilance of the new Palestinian generation against Tel Aviv's threats and conspiracies.

Initiated by the late founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Imam Khomeini, the international Day of Quds marks the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims throughout the globe are urged to hold rallies in support of the Palestinian resistance against what Imam Khomeini commonly referred to as "the illegitimate Israeli regime occupying Palestine."

"Although the Gaza war was aimed at separating the Palestinian nation from the Islamic Hamas movement, it proved that the more pressure they [Israelis] exert on the Palestinian population, the stronger their resistance becomes," he added.

Sharif pointed out that Tel Aviv is nearing annihilation and is losing support due to the oppressive nature of its actions in the region.

Each year on the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan named 'Quds day', Iran holds rallies in solidarity with the Palestinian nation.

## **Iran to Produce Medical Reactor Fuel Within Year, Atomic Agency Chief Says**

*By Ladane Nasseri -*

Iran's atomic energy chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, said his country will produce within a year the fuel needed for Tehran's medical research reactor, state-run Press TV reported.

Iran has enriched 25 kilograms (55 pounds) of uranium to the required 20 percent purity to fuel the reactor in the Iranian capital, Salehi, who heads Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, was cited as saying in a report published on Press TV's website.

Iran does not intend to enrich all its stockpile of uranium to that level, Salehi told the channel, adding that the higher- grade enrichment work will stop once sufficient fuel is produced for the reactor.

Iran began processing low-enriched uranium to reactor grade in February. Iran needs 120 kilograms of 20 percent enriched uranium to supply the reactor, which produces medical isotopes for cancer patients and will soon run out of fuel.

Iran is in conflict with western countries over its nuclear activities, which the U.S. and its allies accuse of being a cover for the development of atomic weapons. Iran rejects the charge and says it needs the technology to generate electricity and for other civilian purposes such as medical research.

Uranium enrichment is at the center of world powers' concern with Iran's nuclear program. The material can fuel a reactor or, enriched to higher degrees, form the core of a bomb.

### **Russian Pledge**

Iran inaugurated its first nuclear-power plant in the southern province of Bushehr on Aug. 21. Russia, which built the plant, has pledged to supply Iran with the fuel for the reactor.

The process of loading 163 Russian-supplied fuel rods into the Bushehr power plant, which began on the day of the inauguration, will take another two weeks, Salehi said in a separate report published late yesterday by the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

"It will take 10-15 further days for all the 163 fuel rods to be moved into the main building of the Bushehr nuclear power plant," Salehi said. "The fuel rods will then be transferred into the reactor."

Iran expects power generation from the Bushehr plant, which will account for less than 4 percent of the nation's electricity, to start in about three months.

## **Japan Suspends Iran Energy Investments, Freezes Assets in New Sanctions**

By Takashi Hirokawa and Sachiko Sakamaki - Sep 2, 2010 7:21 PM PT

Japan said it is suspending new oil and gas investments in Iran and freezing the assets of 88 organizations and 24 individuals in its latest round of sanctions for the Middle Eastern country's nuclear program.

"We've decided to add more sanctions to prevent nuclear proliferation and development," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshito Sengoku told reporters today in Tokyo. "It's important for the international community to unify pressure on Iran to make a wise decision while keeping open the window for dialogue."

The United Nations in June passed a fourth round of restrictions against Iran for refusing to suspend its enrichment of uranium, which can produce reactor fuel or bomb-grade material. Iran denies it plans to make weapons and says the enrichment is for peaceful purposes, such as fueling a medical- research reactor in Tehran.

The Obama administration two weeks ago concluded talks with eight countries including Japan about ways to strengthen financial sanctions against Iran. Catherine Ashton, the European Union's high commissioner in charge of foreign affairs, urged China yesterday to help make a new round of EU sanctions on Iran effective.

Iran is Japan's third-biggest supplier of crude oil. Japan imported \$9.3 billion worth of goods from the country in 2009, almost all in fuel, while exporting \$1.7 billion in automobiles and machines, according to the Japan External Trade Organization.

### **Iran minister to visit flooded Pakistan**

Wed, 01 Sep 2010 06:22:02 GMT

Iran's Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar is set to visit flood-ravaged Pakistan on Thursday to assess the extent of damage in the country.

The interior minister, along with a group of representatives of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the head of Iran's Red Crescent Society, as well as a number of other Iranian officials will arrive in Pakistan on Thursday to closely view the disaster and assess the specific needs of the flood-stricken, IRNA quoted Iran's Ambassador to Islamabad, Mashallah Shakeri, as saying on Tuesday.

The interior minister is slated to meet with Pakistani officials in Islamabad. He is also expected to view the flooded areas by plane to draft a report on the extent of the damage that will be used for evaluating aid, he added.



The Iranian diplomat also said that coinciding with the interior minister's visit, Iran will dispatch more relief convoys, including food, to Pakistan.

The announcement of the two-day visit comes as the Islamic Republic had voiced its readiness to help rebuild Pakistan.

On Tuesday, Ayatollah Khamenei criticized international organizations for failing to aid flooded Pakistan and called on Muslims round the globe for quick assistance to help the country recover.

More than 1,600 Pakistanis have lost their lives in the floods that have affected nearly one-fifth of the country. The United Nations says more than 17 million Pakistanis have so far been affected.

The situation caused by the floods is worsening as hunger, lack of clean drinking water, and the threat of epidemic have put the lives of many Pakistanis at risk.

Iran was among the first countries to dispatch relief supplies to its neighbor Pakistan and has so far donated 400 tons of goods worth about \$2 million.

### **Iranian Militia Detains Opposition Supporters on Quds Day, Al-Arabiya Says**

By Massoud A. Derhally -

Members of Iran's Basij militia detained opposition supporters during Quds Day, the annual state-organized event to express solidarity with the Palestinian people, al-Arabiya television reported.

Militia members broke windows at the home of opposition leader Mehdi Karrubi late yesterday, the Dubai-based news channel said.

Karrubi and Mir Hossein Mousavi, who both ran against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the 2009 election, aren't taking part in today's Quds Day march, as they did last year, al-Arabiya said.

### **'US-led peace talks bid to save Israel'**

Fri, 03 Sep 2010 15:07:43 GMT

Iran's Judiciary chief says the US-brokered peace talks between the Palestinian Authority and Israel are aimed at "preserving the Israeli regime" .

We believe the efforts of Palestinian people have reached a point that today poses a serious threat to the existence of the usurper Israeli regime," IRNA quoted Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larijani as saying at an International Quds Day rally.

That is why the United States has led efforts to bring about the subject of peace with the aim of preserving this usurping regime," he added.

Iran's Judiciary chief described the International Quds Day rallies as a "code" to maintain unity against Israel in the Islamic world.

In a related development, Iran's Prosecutor-General Gholam-Hossein Mohseni-Ejei also described the Israeli regime as a threat to global security, while speaking at another rally marking the International Day of Quds in the city of Damghan,

The Israeli regime possesses the highest number of weapons in the region, yet no country or organization protests against the crimes and savagery practiced by this entity, Mohseni-Ejei noted.

He also emphasized that the United States and the global arrogance created the Tel Aviv regime in the heart of Islamic countries in order to pursue an expansionist agenda in the oil-rich Middle East.

On September 3, Iranians and other people around the world mark the International Day of Quds by participating in rallies and conferences in support of Palestinian resistance against Israel.

Initiated by the late founder of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, Imam Khomeini, the International Quds Day marks the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims throughout the globe are urged to hold rallies in support of the Palestinian resistance against what Imam Khomeini commonly referred to as "the illegitimate Israeli regime occupying Palestine."

### **Russia: Anti-Iran sanctions ineffective**

Wed, 01 Sep 2010 14:18:19 GMT

The Russian foreign minister dismisses sanctions against Iran as ineffective, saying Tehran's isolation would have regional consequences.

It is obvious that sanctions against Iran won't be effective," Sergei Lavrov said in the Moscow State University of Foreign Relations on Wednesday.

Lavrov stressed that a compromise should be reached "no matter how hard it may be," because it is not possible "to isolate Iran without consequences for the entire region," Russia Today reported.

He blamed the current standoff over Iran's nuclear program on "the deficiency of the current non-proliferation regime," saying non-proliferation should be based on

international law.  
Lavrov further said Russia does not support the use of force for resolving global problems.

Russia, a longtime trade partner for Iran, had traditionally opposed the adoption of UN Security Council sanctions against Tehran, but joined world powers in approving a new set of sanctions against the country over its nuclear program on June 9.

Tehran rejects the allegation that it seeks to develop nuclear weapons, and has asserted that its nuclear program is only aimed at peaceful purposes such as the development of the country's energy and medical infrastructure.

### **Israel to collapse in 15 years: Iran Cmdr.**

Commander of Iran's Basij Force Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Naqdi says Israel will collapse within the next 15 years.

"Today, people have more information about the Zionist regime [of Israel]. The more they gain information [about Israel's true nature], the sooner the regime will reach its annihilation," Brigadier General Naqdi said on Thursday.

"At the very most this (Israel's collapse) will happen in the next 15 years," he was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying.

"The world's view about tyranny has changed and after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran this change and awareness has spread by the day," Naqdi added.

He referred to the global supports for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people as an indication that the world is turning against Israel.

"Another sign was the huge participation in the Gaza Freedom Flotilla," the Basij commander said.

On May 31, Israeli commandos attacked the Gaza Freedom Flotilla aid convoy in international waters, killing nine civilian activists and injuring dozens of others.

The general who was making the comments on the eve of the Quds Day, referred to the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the apartheid regime in South Africa and said, "The Zionist regime [Israel] will soon join that list."

In August 1979, late founder of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini

declared the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as the Quds Day, calling for international rallies against Israel in solidarity with the Palestinian people

### **Iran, Bolivia reject 'world unilateralism'**

Mon, 30 Aug 2010 15:29:18 GMT

The Bolivian President Evo Morales has called for concerted efforts of Iran, Venezuela and Bolivia to put an end to the unilateralism dominant in the world.

"People in the world are suffering from the unilateralism of big countries that have filled the markets with their products," Morales said in a meeting with Iranian Minister of Industries and Mines Ali Akbar Mehrabian on Monday.

Iran, Venezuela and Bolivia should share their expertise and attempt to make the optimum use of their natural resources to promote the welfare of their nations," IRNA quoted Morales as saying.

"The world super powers loot the natural resources of other countries and sell the products made from them with much higher prices to the same countries," he noted.

Mehrabian, for his part, said, "Today due to the resistance of our nation against the arrogant powers, over 85,000 industrial units are active in the country."

Mehrabian also held separate meetings with several Bolivian ministers in which the two sides discussed ways for expanding bilateral ties and future industrial cooperation.

### **Larijani: US-led peace talks fraudulent**

Fri, 03 Sep 2010 13:56:01 GMT

Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says the US call for direct Middle East talks is a fraudulent political ploy aimed at maintaining Israel's security in the region.

"Theatrical scheme by (US President Barack) Obama cannot make the Muslim community fall for such deceptive peace-making moves that sort of betray the Palestinian cause," Larijani said on Friday in the holy city of Qom.

Addressing the US administration's failure to live up to its pledge of defending the Palestinians' rights, he questioned Washington's sincerity in following up with its claim of commitment to a two-state solution and in taking a fair stance on other Palestinian-Israeli disputes.

Larijani charged the Western-backed Palestinian Authority (PA) leaders, in Washington for direct talks with the Israeli regime, with undermining the legitimate rights of Palestinians to determine their own fate through their conciliatory moves.

The Iranian parliament speaker also insisted that Obama's calls for peace were tainted with hypocrisy, arguing that Washington has not taken any serious steps to prevent the Israeli incursions against the Gaza Strip, its illegal settlement activities in the occupied West Bank or its desecration of holy Islamic sites in al-Quds (Jerusalem).

Larijani said signs of despair could be seen in the Israeli officials' moves, especially after the major defeats Tel Aviv suffered during the 2008 military assault in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip and the 2006 war against the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance movement.

Echoing an Israeli lawmaker, Larijani said the Israeli regime is based on "crime, oppression and injustice" and thus the countdown of its destruction has begun and "this is perhaps the last Zionist generation" in Israel.

He cautioned Muslims against a dual US-Israeli plot to impose unbearable pressure on the Palestinians, on the one hand, and weaken their resistance through invitations to dialogue and peace, on the other hand.

### **Pakistani PM hails Iran's aid efforts**

Fri, 03 Sep 2010 15:51:27 GMT

Iranian Interior Minister Mostafa Mohammad-Najjar has met with Pakistan's prime minister as the Islamic republic expands its humanitarian aid to the flood-hit country.

Najjar held talks with Yousuf Raza Gilani on Friday afternoon in the premier's office in Islamabad, IRNA reported.

The Pakistani leader expressed his appreciation for sustained Iranian efforts to provide Pakistani flood victims with urgent supplies. He also thanked Iran's government for sending the high-ranking delegation to his country to coordinate further aid shipments and consider cooperation in rebuilding areas impacted by the massive floods.

Having sent more than 400 tons of humanitarian supplies, including tents, blankets, food and medicine to Pakistan, Iran has also announced its readiness to play an active role in the reconstruction of the country's flood-ravaged regions.

The meeting comes amid international pleas for a boost in international relief efforts to help some 800,000 Pakistanis stranded in areas only accessible by air in the aftermath of

the country's worst-ever natural disaster.

The floods washed through a fifth of Pakistan, leaving at least 1,600 people dead and affecting another 20 million.

### **Larijani: Iran ready for nuclear talks**

Sun, 29 Aug 2010 10:09:38 GMT

As the US expresses optimism about future talks on Iran's nuclear program, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says Tehran has never refused nuclear talks.

US State Department spokesman P J Crowley on Thursday said the United States is hopeful that talks between Iran and P5+1 - Russia, China, France, Britain and the US as well as Germany -- and with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Tehran's nuclear issue will be held in the next few weeks.

"We are hopeful that the constructive meetings, both at the IAEA and with the P5+1, can be set up in the next few weeks," Crowley said.

He added that there are discussions ongoing between Iran, IAEA and EU Foreign Policy Chief Catherine Ashton.

The Iranian Parliament speaker reacted to the remarks, saying, "We have never declined negotiations and at certain juncture they left the negotiations table."

"Iran had earlier raised the issue of negotiations on the nuclear case within the framework of 5+1 or the Vienna group," ISNA quoted Larijani as saying on Sunday.

"Nothing new has happened and Iran raised no new issue," he added.

The upcoming round of nuclear negotiations between Iran, the Vienna group, and the P5+1 will open in mid-September in an unprecedented climate of trust.

But aside from focusing on the nuclear standoff, the talks are certain to open a new chapter in Iran-EU relations.

The Vienna group, comprising the US, Russia, France and the IAEA, has in recent months declared its readiness to resume nuclear discussions with Tehran.

## **Economic front:**

### **Iran launches 4,000 telecom projects**

Sun, 29 Aug 2010 07:23:00 GMT

Iran has launched more than 4,000 telecommunication and postal projects worth up to 1,900 billion rials (around 200 million dollars) in four provinces.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad inaugurated the projects in the Provinces of Khorasan Razavi, Kerman, Bushehr and Isfahan through video conference on Sunday, IRIB reported.

Promotion of national data network is among the projects that come on stream by the President on the occasion of Government's Week (August 24-30).

Last week, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi inaugurated 28 key electronic and telecommunication projects.

Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of the projects on Tuesday, General Vahidi said the projects include satellite modules, HF (Hands Free) wireless communication systems, fiber optic equipment, Omnidirectional HF antennas and cellular network technologies.

The Iranian official further added that the ministry's electronics industry manufactures a wide range of smart, efficient and state-of-the-art products.

### **Iran to publish Israeli-linked firms list**

Tue, 31 Aug 2010 08:49:32 GMT

Iran will publish a list of Israeli-linked companies by next week to apply sanctions against them, Iran's Vice-President for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad-Reza Mir-Tajeddini says.

Iran's Foreign Ministry presented a list of multi-national companies with Israeli connections to the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission last week, Mir-Tajeddini told Mehr news agency on Monday.

The Iranian official further pointed out that the list will be published in the media upon an agreement made by the Iranian Parliament and the country's government.

He went on to say that Israel has an influential economic cartel across the world and it is constantly establishing new companies under new brands and Iran will expose them after the anti-Israel sanction is applied.

In June, Iranian lawmakers approved a bill calling on the Foreign Ministry to establish a major effort to enforce a total embargo on Israeli goods. They agreed to task a committee with identifying Israeli companies and institutions.

The committee is comprised of representatives from the Central Bank of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting and the ministries of Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance, Commerce, Intelligence and Oil.

The Iranian lawmakers stipulated that the Foreign Ministry present the list to the Majlis within two months of the ratification of the bill.

The ministry should submit a report on the issue to the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Commission annually or whenever required.

The ministry has also been required to put forward a proposal for the boycott of Israeli commodities at international meetings, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.

### **Turkey-Iran trade up despite US will**

Tue, 31 Aug 2010 08:02:07 GMT

Turkey says it has not changed its position regarding Iran, stressing that commercial and economic ties between the two countries will remain in force.

"Ankara's position towards Iran has not changed," Turkish Foreign Trade Minister Zafer Caglayan said on Monday during an interview with CNN Turk, referring to a recent visit by an American delegation to persuade Turkey to follow unilateral US-led sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

"Bilateral commercial and economic ties between Iran and Turkey will remain in force and the ties will be developed and expanded fast," he added.

The minister further noted that officials in the Turkish government held a meeting on Friday in order to explore ways of expanding trade with Iran.

"Iran is our neighboring country and expansion of trade with the country is a matter of importance for us," he went on to say.



Caglayan predicted that the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey will increase by 80 percent by the end of 2010.

Accusing Tehran of pursuing a military nuclear program, Western countries led by the US have imposed unilateral anti-Iran sanctions in addition to the UN Security Council resolution adopted against the country in June.

Tehran rejects the accusations, arguing that as a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty it has the right to peaceful nuclear energy.

### **'Iran, China eye joint investment board'**

Thu, 02 Sep 2010 09:50:57 GMT

Iranian and Chinese officials have stressed the need for the establishment of a joint investment committee in an effort to expand relations, a report says.

"The two sides need to define mechanisms for the expansion of relations in the committee," IRNA reported Chinese Deputy-Commerce Minister Chen Jian as telling Iran's Ambassador to Beijing Mehdi Safari on Thursday.

The Chinese official also pointed out that compared with the same period in 2009, Iran-China trade has increased by almost one-third so far this year.

The amount of trade between the two countries has been valued at around 8.5 billion dollars in the first four months of 2010.

The two officials further discussed the future expansion of trade deals and the two states' upcoming joint economic commission to be held in the Chinese capital, Beijing, next month.

### **Iran discovers 13 oil fields in 1 year**

Mon, 30 Aug 2010 12:49:49 GMT

Iran has discovered 13 new oil and gas fields with in-place reserves of 14 billion barrels of oil and 45 trillion cubic feet of natural gas within the past 12 months.

The Islamic Republic has also exported around 2,200,600 barrels of oil per day in the past year, according to a report published on the Oil Ministry's SHANA news agency.

The report added that Iran's revenue from oil exports during the past year reached \$69.1 billion.

Earlier this year, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) director of exploration Mahmoud Mohaddes announced plans to explore new reserves of 500 million barrels of oil and 5 trillion cubic feet of gas per year during a five year plan.

Mohaddes said that during the course of Iran's fourth five-year development plan (2005-2010), the country has discovered 19 new oil fields and eight new gas reserves.

Iran is OPEC's second-largest oil producer after Saudi Arabia. In 2009, Iran's crude production stood approximately at 3.8 million barrels per day. The Persian Gulf country sits on the world's second-largest gas reserves after Russia.

### **Iran loans 200 million euros to Bolivia**

Wed, 01 Sep 2010 11:28:18 GMT

Iran has extended a credit line of more than 200 million euros to Bolivia to help the industrial development of the South American country.

The agreement included the transfer of technology to Bolivia, Iranian Minister of Industries and Mining Ali Akbar Mehrabian said at a joint press conference with Bolivian President Evo Morales in the capital city of La Paz on Monday, the state-run ABI news agency reported.

The loan could fund mineral exploration and the development of the textile industry, although its use has no restrictions, Mehrabian said.

Morales said the loan was a sign of friendship and given without any conditions, adding that Iran's aid was only the result of the two countries' increased ties.

"We have an international relations policy with all countries and such a policy will continue strengthening our diplomatic, financial and cooperative relations in which we can acquire unconditional loans and credit," he said.

Iran's relations with Bolivia have greatly improved during Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government.

In August 2007, Iran pledged to invest 1.1 billion euros in Bolivian agriculture, industry, energy and humanitarian affairs.

The growing ties between Iran and Latin American countries, including Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua and Bolivia, have raised concerns in Washington, which has been trying to isolate Tehran over its nuclear program.

### **Iran is Turkey's second-biggest supplier of natural gas after Russia**

An Iranian Oil Ministry official says the country's natural gas flow to Turkey would be resumed within the next seven days after it halted because of an explosion on August 25.

The overnight blast, allegedly carried out by the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), forced Turkish authorities to shut down the conduit in the country's eastern province of Agri, which borders Iran.

Based on an announcement by the (Turkish pipeline operator) Botas, gas exports to Turkey would be resumed within the next seven days, Valiollah Dini told Mehr news agency on Monday.

The repair work is ongoing on the Iran-Turkey gas pipeline, the Iranian official went on to say.

Last month, a similar blast occurred in another section of the pipeline close to the eastern Turkish town of Dogubayazit, near Iran's border. When the explosion on July 21 halted gas flows, it took 10 days to fix the pipeline.

Iran sends around 10 billion cubic meters of gas to neighboring Turkey each year.

Iran's gas exports to Turkey in 2009 amounted to roughly \$7 billion.

### **Iranian firms in Chinese trade fair**

Thu, 02 Sep 2010 14:51:39 GMT

Twelve Iranian companies are among the participants in the 19th Urumqi Trade Fair in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region.

Tehran and Beijing will soon witness a boost and promotion in economic cooperation, given the strides taken in the expansion of relations between the two countries, IRNA quoted Chinese Ambassador to Iran Xie Xiaoyan as saying in Urumqi on Thursday.

He described the exhibition as a means for consolidating industrial and trade ties between the two countries, adding that the 19th Urumqi Trade Fair could act as a linking bridge

for the export of Iranian products to China.

The annual trade fair has 117 booths booked by businessmen from 22 countries, including Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Russia and Turkey.

The participating Iranian companies are active in foodstuff production and processing.

There are 712 booths for China's domestic trade groups. The fair was inaugurated on Wednesday and will run until September 5.

## **Social Front:**

### **'Iranian search engine in offing'**

Sat, 28 Aug 2010 10:23:53 GMT

A top Iranian information official says studies have got underway on a project to develop a national search engine dubbed 'Ya Haq.'

"The project aims to meet the local needs of Iranian users in the country," Director General for Research and Development at the Iranian Information Technology Company Hadi Malek-Parast was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying on Saturday.

"International search engines Google and Yahoo are used to meet domestic and global needs of users, but the national search engine is merely aimed at offering services to Iranian users inside the country," he said.

"The national search engine will be the first priority for governmental and non-governmental institutions to offer information to the public; however, the information available in all servers inside the country can be searched and reached through this very search engine as well," he underlined.

The official added the national search engine has numerous applications and advantages over other search engines.

"Only via the Internet is it possible to have access to Google, Yahoo and the like," he highlighted.

"Nevertheless, one has to get connected to the national search engine through the domestic intranet, which is much cheaper than using the Internet," Malek-Parast said. Quick search and high security are among other merits of Ya Haq search engine, he said. The official underscored the Iranian search engine is scheduled to enter service by early 2012.

## **Iran wins first game at FIBA worlds**

Tue, 31 Aug 2010 00:46:36 GMT

Iran's national basketball team earned its first win at the preliminary round of 2010 FIBA world championship against Tunisia 71-58 in Istanbul.

After losing the first two matches in Group B, Iran on Monday blew most of the 24-point lead, and was down to three in the final minutes, before taking the game.

Iran appeared headed for an easy victory after Hamed Haddadi scored the first five points of the second half, and the lead grew to 24 later in the period, before Tunisia's rally fell short.

Iran's top player Haddadi, who plays for the Memphis Grizzlies, had 23 points and 13 rebounds.

Tunisia is now the lone winless team in Group B at 0-3.

In the event opener on Saturday, Iran was downed against the two time world champion Brazil 81-65. Iran lost its second match against Croatia 54-75 on Sunday.

Iran played in the Olympic basketball tournament in 2008 for the first time in more than 60 years after winning the Asian championship the year before. The Iranians defended the Asian title last year to earn their spot in the worlds field.

## **Ten Iranian pilgrims killed in Iraq**

Thu, 02 Sep 2010 12:16:13 GMT

At least 10 Iranian pilgrims have lost their lives and 33 others suffered injuries after their bus overturned and caught fire in central Iraq.

The accident took place late Wednesday on a highway connecting the holy city of Najaf to the northern city of Samarra.

The driver fell asleep and the bus swerved off the road near Hilla — the capital city of Babel province — 100 km (62 miles) south of Baghdad, a police official told *Aswat al-Iraq* news agency on Thursday.

The bodies were taken to a Hilla hospital morgue and those injured are receiving medical treatment.

Pilgrims from Iran have flocked by the millions to the neighboring Iraq's Shia shrines in Karbala and Najaf cities since the fall of former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

### **Iranian skier wants another Olympics**

Fri, 03 Sep 2010 10:12:00 GMT

The first Iranian female to enter an Olympic ski event Marjan Kalhor expresses her wish to participate in the international tournament once again.

"What I wish for is to attend the Olympics one more time," she said in an interview with Reuters on Thursday.

The 22-year-old skier completed the giant slalom 21.75 seconds behind the fastest time at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics in February.

The Iranian athlete wore a racing outfit and helmet similar to her competitors.

"Both danger and cold weather play a key role in skiing. Therefore, ski outfits are designed in a way so as to not impose limitations on anyone. I wear exactly the same outfit in Iran which I wore in the Olympics race," she said.

As Iran's flag-bearer at the Vancouver opening ceremony, Kalhor sees herself as a role model for the next generation of Iranian female skiers.

"I am truly happy, because like a spark, I could make other professional female skiers think about big events like the Olympics and that is so precious for me. I hope this trend continues."

Kalhor took up skiing at the age of four and decided to take the sport more seriously after winning a national youth competition at age 11. She grew up in a family of skiers in Dizin, an Iranian ski resort north of Tehran.

### **People mark International Quds Day**

Fri, 03 Sep 2010 06:40:54 GMT

As Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials meet in Washington, Iranians alongside other people around the world have marked the International Quds Day on the last Friday of Ramadan.

Iranians across the country, including in the capital Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz and Mashhad,

held rallies in opposition to the continued occupation of Palestinian land by Israel.

The late founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini, in August 1979 declared the last Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan as the Quds Day, calling for international rallies in support of Palestinians and against Israel.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and acting Palestinian Authority Chief Mahmoud Abbas held the first round of talks in Washington on Thursday.

The thorniest issues between the negotiating sides are Israel's refusal to halt its illegal settlement activity in the West Bank and in East al-Quds (Jerusalem).

According to Israeli leaders, the 121 existing settlements must expand in order to achieve "natural growth" -- an ill-defined term used in Israel for population growth in the settlements.

The settlements and their unrecognized counterparts known as outposts have been characterized by the United Nations Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the European Union, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch as built in violation of international law.

Israeli human rights group B'Tselem has called the settlements an attempt by higher echelons in Tel Aviv to change the map of the West Bank in order "to make a viable Palestinian state impossible."

"Israel forbids Palestinians to enter and use these lands and uses the settlements to justify numerous violations of Palestinian rights, such as the right to housing, to earn a living, and freedom of movement," the group adds.

Tel Aviv has also shown itself unwilling to compromise on the right of return for Palestinian refugees of the 1948 war and their descendants.

The Palestinians have long asserted that the refugees have a moral and legal right to return to their lands they were forced to abandon during the Israeli-Arab wars in 1948 and 1967.

### **US edges out Iran 88-51 at FIBA Worlds**

Wed, 01 Sep 2010 21:21:39 GMT

Despite impressive games by Hamed Haddad and Arsalan Kazemi, Iran loses against the US 51-88 at the preliminary round of 2010 FIBA World Championship in Istanbul,

Turkey.

The Americans have won all the four games against Croatia, Slovenia, Brazil and now Iran on Wednesday and automatically advance to the elimination Round of 16 as the top seed in Group B.

Iran has managed to win only one game against Tunisia on Monday.

The US is likely to play Germany or Australia in the Round of 16 after facing Tunisia on Thursday.

Americans Kevin Love scored 13 points and Kevin Durant added 12 to lead a balanced attack, as the United States improved to 4-0.

Iranians Hamed Haddad, who plays for the NBA Memphis Grizzlies, scored 19 points and pulled down six rebounds, while Arsalan Kazemi, who plays for Rice University, added 14.

Iran took a 5-3 lead early in the game and was within 12-10 late in the first, but the Americans with seven straight points edged out Iran with 19-13 to enter the second period.

Iran failed to win any of the remaining sets losing 15-23; 11-20 and 12-26.

In other games of Wednesday, in Group D, Canada remained winless in four games after a 71-61 loss to New Zealand. Kiwis, who improved to 2-2, will advance to the second round. Also Spain mauled Lebanon, 91-57.

In Group B, Croatia pounded Tunisia, 84-64.

In Group C, Russia topped China 89-80 and Greece dismantled the Ivory Coast 97-60.

In Group A, Serbia thumped Australia 94-79, while Angola slipped by Germany 92-88.