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Summary

Politico-Strategic Front

MP: US Ban on Iranian Officials Aimed at Undermining Iran's Economy

Washington has new plots to harm Iran's economy under the guise of its restrictions on the Iranian officials, a lawmaker warned here on Saturday. The restrictions (imposed) on the eight Iranian officials are not the final move, and Americans are after a new round of adventurism through political games," Avaz Heidarpour told FNA.

Iran to Reveal Details of Recent Terrorist Attack in Mahabad

Tehran will soon disclose the details of the recent terrorist bomb attack in the Northwestern city of Mahabad, an Iranian commander announced on Saturday, confirming that forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have killed a number of the terrorists involved in the bombing.

IRGC Commander: Enemy Seeking to Separate People from Leadership

A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) lauded the strong public support for the leadership of the Islamic establishment in Iran, and cautioned that enemies are seeking to separate these two main pillars of the Islamic Republic. Enemy is, in a new form, striving to distance people and the ruling system and their leadership," Ali Fazli said in Iran's northern city of Ardebil on Saturday.

Ahmadinejad Underlines Reinvigoration of Resistance in Region

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad stressed the necessity of increasing resistance for bolstering peace and stability in the region. Reinvigorating the front of resistance will not only persuade other countries and nations to join the front, but also pave the ground for the consolidation and stabilization of peace in the region," Ahmadinejad said on Saturday.

Official Asks Iran to Boost Assistance with Iraq's Reconstruction Iraqi provincial official demanded Tehran to further boost its aid and assistance in the reconstruction of

the war-ravaged Iraq, and stressed that Baghdad is seeking an increase in Iran's investment activities in the country.

Mottaki: Fundamentals of NAM Should Still Be Safeguarded

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that fundamentals of the NAM are to campaign against imperialism, colonialism and hegemony of big powers and they should be safeguarded by its members. Speaking at the beginning of the NAM meeting in New York, on the 50th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement's establishment the foreign ministers of the movement, Mottaki emphasized in his address at the session, "Those fundamentals' importance is better understood in relation with the international disarmament and particularly with the nuclear weapons disarmament."

Russia Blames Iran for Missile Deal Collapse

Just days after Russia banned sale of its S-300 air defense missile systems to the Islamic nation, Russia's Lower House's International Affairs Committee's Head Konstantin Kosachyov blasted Iran for the cancellation of the deal. Talking to journalists, Kosachyov said that the deal was cancelled because of Iran and not because of Moscow's choice.

Supreme Leader: Millions of Americans in Absolute Poverty

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said yesterday that that fact that millions of people are now homeless or live in poverty is among bitter realities of the U.S. society. The Supreme Leader made the remarks in a meeting with Friday prayer leaders from throughout the country in Tehran on Tuesday.

Indonesian Parliament Backs Iran Peaceful Nuclear Program

Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Marzuki Ali said here yesterday that members of the house fully support Iran's peaceful nuclear program. Marzuki Ali made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Indonesia Mahmoud Farazandeh, calling for holding talks to solve the nuclear dispute.

Iran Hails IAEA Vote on Israel Nukes

A vote on an International Atomic Energy Agency resolution urging Israel to join the NPT "opened a new chapter" in global efforts to deal with Tel Aviv's nuclear issue, says Iran's IAEA envoy. On Friday, a group of 51 mostly Western countries rejected a draft resolution urging Tel Aviv, widely believed to be the sole possessor of a nuclear arsenal in the Middle East, to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allow UN inspections of its covert nuclear facilities.

Iran Should Apply New Scenarios Regarding Russia

Head of the Iran-Russia Friendship League, Mehdi Sanaee, said here yesterday that Iran should identify new scenarios regarding Russia and should utilize the relation with Russia to its own benefits. "Iran must not put all its eggs in one basket. It has to identify new scenarios with regard to Russia. Iran has to have independent policy and position. The enemies want to drive a wedge between the two countries and Iran must be very careful. Both countries should not be influenced by the third party," he said in an interview with Mehr.

IRGC Navy Equipped with New Version of Iran-Made Flying Boats

The Iranian Defense Ministry in a ceremony on Tuesday delivered three squadrons of upgraded, radar-evading flying boats named 'Bavar-2' (Belif-2) to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). The ceremony was attended by Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi and Commander of IRGC Naval Forces Ali Fadavi, during which Vahidi elaborated on the features of the new home-made flying boats.

Iran Plans to Load Fuel into Bushehr Reactor Next Month

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi announced that his organization plans to inject fuel into the Bushehr nuclear power plant reactor by early October. "All the necessary measures have been adopted successfully and we hope to load fuel into the core of the Bushehr power plant reactor by early October," Salehi said.

Amr Moussa: IAEA Credibility Under Question

Arab League Secretary General, Amr Moussa, said the International Atomic Energy Agency's opposition to the Zionist regime's joining to NPT treaty has put the agency's credibility under question.

Economic Front

IKCO to Market Hybrid Samand in Months

Iran's largest car-manufacturing company, Iran-Khodro (IKCO), announced that it plans to present a hybrid Samand to the market by the next few months.

The company announced that in order to diversify fuel portfolio and reduce fossil fuel use, it intends to market Samand LX outfitted with hybrid powertrain by the end of the current Iranian year (ends on March 20, 2011).

Kenya Urges Rapid Implementation of Agreements with Iran

Kenya's Minister of Regional Development Authorities Fredrick Omulo Gumo stressed on Wednesday that his country is earnestly seeking to implement agreements and deals with Iran. "Once these contracts are put into effect, a number of new pivots and grounds will be created for developing the two countries' relations," Omulo Gumo said in a meeting with a number of Iranian officials in the Northwestern province of East Azerbaijan.

Iran to Increase Gasoline Exports

An Iranian oil official underlined the country's self-sufficiency in supplying Iran's gasoline needs through domestic production, and stated that Tehran plans to boost exports of gasoline.

Iran Preparing Roadmap for Aviation Industry

Head of Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) Manouchehr Manteqi announced that the country plans to draw a roadmap for its aviation industries in the next few months. Right now, a working group, comprising the country's private and state-owned aviation industry officials, is preparing and completing a roadmap," Manteqi said in a press conference on "Iran's aviation and space capabilities" here in Tehran on Tuesday.

European Oil Companies Defy Sanctions against Iran by Ordering More Crude

Recently-revealed data showed that the French and Italian oil companies, Total and API, as well as Shell, an Anglo-Dutch oil giant, have bought more crude oil from Iran despite tougher sanctions imposed against the country by certain states.

Azeri Minister Stresses Different Grounds for All-Out Cooperation with Iran

Azeri Minister of Industry and Energy Natiq Aliyev reiterated that there are different and abundant grounds for bolstering mutual cooperation between Tehran and Baku.

ECO Ministers Hold Meeting in New York

Foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to study the latest developments in the member countries and the world.

Iran's Giant Automaker Boosts Production by 28%

Iran-Khodro, the Middle-East's largest car-manufacturing company, announced that it has produced more than 351,270 sets of cars in the first half of the current Iranian year (started on March 21), which shows 28% of growth compared with the same period last year.

Iran Stops Gasoline Imports Completely

Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced that the country has totally stopped imports of gasoline after it reached self-sufficiency in supplying the country's gasoline needs through domestic production.

Equipment Needs in Iran's Oil, Gas Industries Mostly Supplied Domestically

Iran announced that it is now capable of manufacturing 70% of the equipment and parts needed in its oil and gas industries, dismissing western speculations that economic and industrial sanctions against Tehran have hindered the country's industrial progress, specially in the oil and gas sector.

7mln Tons of Petrochemicals Produced in Pars Energy Zone in 6 Months

Pars Energy Zone announced that Assalouyeh petrochemical complexes produced over 7 million tons of petrochemicals in almost a six-month period.

Some 7,260,069 tons of petrochemicals were produced at the Pars, Nouri (Borzouyeh), Zagros, Jam, Pardis, and Aria Sasol petrochemical complexes in Assalouyeh from the beginning of the Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2010) to September 6, Shana reported.

VP: Iran's Steel Production Capacity Stands at 20mln tons

Iran enjoys the capacity to produce 20mln tons of steel at present after inaugurating numerous steel production plants across the country in the recent years, First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced on Tuesday.

More Economic Ties With Bolivia Sought

Minister of Industries and Mines Ali Akbar Mehrabian said Monday that Iran will launch a tractor manufacturing line as well as dairy and textile factories in Bolivia. In a meeting with two Bolivian ministers, he said that Bolivia is among the countries which have excellent capabilities in mining sector.

Iran Exports First Gasoline Shipment

Iran has started exporting gasoline, about a month after increasing its daily fuel production by over 20 million liters (5,284,000 gallons). "The first shipment of Iran's gasoline has been exported," Ali Asghar Arshi, manager of international affairs at the National Iranian Oil Company, said yesterday.

Iran in Talks With Europe on Joint Aircraft Production

The Head of Iran's Aviation Industries Organization Manouchehr Manteghi said yesterday that the country has held talks with three European countries for joint production of aircraft and cooperation on aviation industries.

Iran, Pakistan, U.A.E. Face 5-Year EU Taxes on Bottle Material

The European Union imposed five-year tariffs against Iran, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates on a material used in plastic bottles, saying EU producers are victims of trade-distorting subsidies.

Iran to Supply 21mln c/m of Gas to Pakistan in 2013

Iran plans to export an annual volume of up to 21mln cubic meters of natural gas to Pakistan through the multi-billion-dollar pipeline which is under construction in the two countries now, an Iranian gas official announced yesterday, adding that pipelined exports will start in 2013.

Tehran to Join Neighbors' Railway Network

Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced yesterday that Iran is seeking to link its railway network to those of the neighboring countries. Rahimi made the remark on the sidelines of a ceremony held yesterday to inaugurate the fourth National Railbus project, Eram, which connects Tehran to Varamin and Pishva, east of the capital.

Social Front

Rotterdam's Museum Keen to Increase Cooperation with Iran

Head of Rotterdam's Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen voiced enthusiasm for boosting cooperation with museums and other cultural centers in Iran.

According to the media office of the Iranian embassy in Hague, the request was made in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to the Netherlands Kazzem Qaribabadi.

Iranian Heavy Weightlifter Honored by National Youth Medal

Iran's National Youth Organization honored Iranian heavyweight lifter, Behdad Salimi, by National Youth Medal named 'Hazrat Ali Akbar'. In a ceremony here on Saturday evening, Vice-President and Head of Iran's National Youth Organization Mehrdad Bazrpash granted the highest Iran's National Youth Medal to Behdad Salimi.

Chinese Contest Awards Iranian Kids

Iranian children and young adults have been awarded at the 5th edition of the Tianjin International Children's Painting Competition held in China. According to the IRIB, Iranian participants won one silver and four bronze medals at the event which was held on the themes of peace, friendship and future.

Velayati Calls for Islamization of Sciences

the Supreme leader's aid in international affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati, called on Tuesday for Islamization of the human sciences and said even the natural sciences can be reviewed by Islamic perspective. Delivering a speech to mark the commencement of the educational year in the University of Supreme Defense, he said: "That is not a right job to translate the western book and present it to our students. We can even review the natural sciences like chemistry and physics from an Islamic angle. I say that even in these sciences one can be dubious."

Stoning Sentence for Mohammadi Ashtiani

Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei said stoning sentence is issued for Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani charged with adultery and murder of his husband. "Stoning sentence is issued for Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, but her case should pass required legal process."

Politico-Strategic Front

MP: US Ban on Iranian Officials Aimed at Undermining Iran's Economy

Washington has new plots to harm Iran's economy under the guise of its restrictions on the Iranian officials, a lawmaker warned here on Saturday.

"The restrictions (imposed) on the eight Iranian officials are not the final move, and Americans are after a new round of adventurism through political games," Avaz Heidarpour told FNA.

"Americans intend to link these Iranian officials with non-governmental individuals and traders in a bid to start a new round of adventurist moves against the Islamic Republic of Iran," Heidarpour noted.

He warned that the move may cause troubles for Iran's non-governmental and business sectors if the Iranian foreign ministry doesn't initiate proper moves against the plot.

Washington imposed sanctions on eight senior Iranian officials, accusing them of human rights abuses during post-election unrests in Iran over a year ago.

The executive order, signed this week by US President Barack Obama, imposes financial and travel restrictions on the Iranian authorities.

Heidarpour further called on the Iranian Foreign Ministry to pursue the case immediately and prevent a new US plot against the Islamic Republic.

Meantime, the lawmaker dismissed such sanctions as "ineffective", underlining that the measure would not change Iran's path and course of activities.

Iran to Reveal Details of Recent Terrorist Attack in Mahabad

Tehran will soon disclose the details of the recent terrorist bomb attack in the Northwestern city of Mahabad, an Iranian commander announced on Saturday, confirming that forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have killed a number of the terrorists involved in the bombing.

"The details and behind-the-scene facts of the terrorist incident in Mahabad will be announced soon," Deputy Head of the Joint Chief of Staff of Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Masoud Jazayeri told FNA.

Jazayeri further confirmed earlier reports that the IRGC forces in the region have killed a number of the terrorists in charge of the bomb attack, and said due to the IRGC's intelligence and security control and information on the region, its forces could identify a number of the terrorists involved in the bomb attack through prompt action and the terrorists were punished for their brutal act in a surprise and brave operation by the IRGC.

Elaborating on the operation, Jazayeri said, "During the operation, the IRGC did not allow the terrorists to cross the border and escape the country, and this was a second success for the IRGC and its tactical details will be announced in due time."

Iranian officials had earlier pledged to punish those responsible for the recent deadly attack which claimed the lives of several citizens and wounded scores more in Mahabad in Iran's northwestern province of West Azarbaijan last month.

A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced last week that his forces have identified and killed the main elements behind the terrorist bomb attack.

"Combatants of Hamzeh Seyed al-Shohada headquarters of the IRGC Ground Force managed to kill the main and key elements behind the recent terrorist attack in Mahabad in a successful operation," Commander of IRGC Ground Force Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour said.

IRGC Commander: Enemy Seeking to Separate People from Leadership

A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) lauded the strong public support for the leadership of the Islamic establishment in Iran, and cautioned that enemies are seeking to separate these two main pillars of the Islamic Republic.

"Enemy is, in a new form, striving to distance people and the ruling system and their leadership," Ali Fazli said in Iran's northern city of Ardebil on Saturday.

"We should defuse the plot through vigilance and insight," the commander added.

He reiterated the strong and massive public support for the country's leadership, and stated, "Today, people are behind the Leader of the (Islamic) Revolution in all scenes and they will not allow the enemies to make an even minor move in their soft war and cultural invasion against the country."

"The bond between the Iranian nation and the leader of the society is strengthened and cannot be untied, and there is no such a heartfelt and emotional bond seen in any other part of the world," Fazli underscored.

He further reminded enemies' soft war tactics in the form of cultural plots against Iran, and stressed that Iranians would never succumb to such conspiracies.

In November 2009, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei warned about enemies' soft war and soft regime change plans against the Islamic Republic, and underlined the necessity for proper measures to repel the enemy aggressive move against Iran.

"Today, the main priority of the country is to confront the (enemy's) soft war which aims to create doubt, discord and pessimism among the masses of the people," Ayatollah Khamenei said, addressing a large and fervent congregation of Basij (volunteer) forces.

Ahmadinejad Underlines Reinvigoration of Resistance in Region

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a meeting with his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad stressed the necessity of increasing resistance for bolstering peace and stability in the region.

"Reinvigorating the front of resistance will not only persuade other countries and nations to join the front, but also pave the ground for the consolidation and stabilization of peace in the region," Ahmadinejad said on Saturday.

Elsewhere, he noted the situation in Iraq, Lebanon and Afghanistan, and stressed that the overall view of Iran and Syria about the regional states and nations, resistance and consolidation of mutual economic cooperation can serve the interests of the regional nations.

During the meeting, Assad described Iran and Syria's dominance and awareness of the situation in the region as important, and said continued and close cooperation and consultations will be beneficial to regional peace, security and resistance.

Assad is paying the visit to Tehran in response to the February visit to Syria by Ahmadinejad.

This is the eighth visit to Tehran by President Assad and his fifth during Ahmadinejad's presidency.

Iran and Syria have forged an alliance ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran and the two countries' officials exchange visits on a regular basis.

The two countries enjoy strategic relations in a wide variety of areas, but their defense pacts are amongst the most important areas of Tehran-Damascus cooperation, which have caused deep worries in the US and Israel.

Official Asks Iran to Boost Assistance with Iraq's Reconstruction

Iraqi provincial official demanded Tehran to further boost its aid and assistance in the reconstruction of the war-ravaged Iraq, and stressed that Baghdad is seeking an increase in Iran's investment activities in the country.

"We have abundant needs in different fields in Iraq and the city of Karbala and we seek Iran's cooperation and partnership to meet these needs," Nasif Jasem Mohammad Al-Khatabi, First Deputy Head of the Governorate Council of Iraq's Southern city of Karbala, said in a meeting with Iranian officials in Iran's Northwestern city of Qazvin on Wednesday.

Khatabi reiterated that his city is also in need of investments by Iranian capital holders to build power plants, construction-materials and foodstuff producing plants and factories.

Reminding that Iraq enjoys fertile soil and abundant water resources, he said Baghdad is eager to use Iran's experiences to make an optimized use of these resources.

Iran and Iraq have enjoyed growing ties ever since the overthrow of the former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein, during the 2003 US invasion of the Muslim country.

Both sides are working on a series of plans to take a wide stride in the expansion of their ties, in economic fields in particular.

Earlier, Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi voiced Tehran's preparedness to transfer technology and make investments in its western neighbor.

"We hope that our joint cooperation and bilateral economic ties increase soon," Rahimi said, addressing the Iran-Iraq Friendship society here in Tehran in August.

Also, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in New York last week praised Iran's role in the establishment of security and stability in his war-torn country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always been on the side of the Iraqi nation and sought security and integrity of our country," Talabani said in the meeting held on the sidelines of the 65th UN General Assembly session in New York.

Mottaki: Fundamentals of NAM Should Still Be Safeguarded

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that fundamentals of the NAM are to campaign against imperialism, colonialism and hegemony of big powers and they should be safeguarded by its members.

Speaking at the beginning of the NAM meeting in New York, on the 50th anniversary of the Non-Aligned Movement's establishment the foreign ministers of the movement, Mottaki emphasized in his address at the session, "Those fundamentals' importance is better understood in relation with the international disarmament and particularly with the nuclear weapons disarmament."

Pointing out the NAM's constant defense of the Palestinian nation's rights, Mottaki asked for the movement's greater attention to the current plight of the Palestinians, particularly the most oppressed Gazans' miseries.

Surveying the general conduct of NAM and reviewing the NAM's future work plan are among the objectives of the current NAM ministerial session.

Russia Blames Iran for Missile Deal Collapse

Just days after Russia banned sale of its S-300 air defense missile systems to the Islamic nation, Russia's Lower House's International Affairs Committee's Head Konstantin Kosachyov blasted Iran for the cancellation of the deal.

Talking to journalists, Kosachyov said that the deal was cancelled because of Iran and not because of Moscow's choice.

In 2007, Russia had inked an \$800 million defense deal with Iran and agreed to deliver S-300 systems to the Islamic regime to help it develop at least five battalions.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, who was under immense international pressure to scrap the deal to comply with the U.N. resolution, signed a decree on September 22 and banned the delivery of defense systems along with other military hardware to the Islamic Republic.

Responding to Kosachyov's allegations, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi said that Russia's behavior showed that it could not be trusted anymore.

Analysts predict that the latest development could strain relations between the two friendly nations.

Meanwhile, Iranian lawmaker Alaeddin Boroujerdi threatened to sue Russia for scrapping the weapon systems delivery. Without elaborating, Boroujerdi said that his country might demand that Russia financially compensate them.

Ramin Mehman-Parast, an Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman, also told Russia that the Islamic nation had different expectations from the friendly and neighboring countries. He added that such measures were just a repetition of past's failed policies, stressing that such things could not discourage Iran from achieving its national interests.

Mehman-Parast also noted that U.N. Resolution 1929 does not include an air defense system and rejected Russia's justification that the supply was not in line with the U.N. Security Council resolution it passed with other world powers in June.

Supreme Leader: Millions of Americans in Absolute Poverty

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said yesterday that that fact that millions of people are now homeless or live in poverty is among bitter realities of the U.S. society.

The Supreme Leader made the remarks in a meeting with Friday prayer leaders from throughout the country in Tehran on Tuesday.

The Iranian president merely revealed parts of realities and statistics during his splendid speech at the UN headquarters in New York, said Ayatollah Khamenei.

Bullying powers have monopolized the world's assets and wealth for a few individuals and their followers, said the Supreme Leader, adding that the standard of living in the US citizens from various walks of life is a good evidence of this fact.

Shocking statistics about the US indicate that the Iranian president in his speech revealed pure realities about the standard of living and poverty in the U.S., said Ayatollah Khamenei.

The Iranian nation is determined to seriously deal with the U.S. hegemony and fully backs oppressed Muslims particularly the Palestinians, the Supreme Leader said.

It is quite natural for the big powers to threaten those nations not yielding to such threats, Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

Resistance is among main teachings of Islam and Holy Quran, said the Supreme Leader.

The Friday prayers leaders should exercise vigilance in dealing with social issues, pointed out the Supreme Leader.

All should be vigilant vis-a-vis the plots being hatched by enemies, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Iranian youths are the main target of enemies because they are the engine of the society, said Ayatollah Khamenei.

From the early stages of the Islamic Revolution the enemies have been bent on dealing a blow on the youths and in order to foil this it is necessary for the Friday prayer leaders to be vigilant, the Supreme Leader cautioned.

Indonesian Parliament Backs Iran Peaceful Nuclear Program

Speaker of the Indonesian House of Representatives Marzuki Ali said here yesterday that members of the house fully support Iran's peaceful nuclear program.

Marzuki Ali made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Indonesia Mahmoud Farazandeh, calling for holding talks to solve the nuclear dispute.

He further called Iran-Indonesia parliamentary relations as great and said the two countries enjoy a common stand on the issue of Palestine.

Marzuki Ali added the two sides hope that the Palestinian rights would be restored.

Iran Hails IAEA Vote on Israel Nukes

A vote on an International Atomic Energy Agency resolution urging Israel to join the NPT "opened a new chapter" in global efforts to deal with Tel Aviv's nuclear issue, says Iran's IAEA envoy.

On Friday, a group of 51 mostly Western countries rejected a draft resolution urging Tel Aviv, widely believed to be the sole possessor of a nuclear arsenal in the Middle East, to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and allow UN inspections of its covert nuclear facilities.

This is while 46 countries voted in support of the text and 23 states abstained from vote.

Iran's IAEA envoy Ali Asghar Soltanieh hailed the resolution which was put to vote despite the "great efforts ... made to stop the resolution."

Soltanieh said Iran agreed to withdraw its bid for membership in the IAEA Board of Governors to "voice solidarity" with the Arab states in proposing the resolution.

"Although the resolution... was not passed, it became a starting point and a new chapter for continuing efforts to pass the resolution in the future," he was quoted by Mehr News Agency as saying.

The Iranian envoy concluded that Tehran would not stop efforts to bring Israel's nuclear arsenal under IAEA supervision.

Iran Should Apply New Scenarios Regarding Russia

Head of the Iran-Russia Friendship League, Mehdi Sanaee, said here yesterday that Iran should identify new scenarios regarding Russia and should utilize the relation with Russia to its own benefits.

"Iran must not put all its eggs in one basket. It has to identify new scenarios with regard to Russia. Iran has to have independent policy and position. The enemies want to drive a wedge between the two countries and Iran must be very careful. Both countries should not be influenced by the third party," he said in an interview with Mehr.

He said "Iran and Russia are the two biggest and influential countries of the region. It is expected that because of the two countries role in regional and global peace and security their bilateral relation should be more stable."

"There are two internal and external factors influencing the Russia foreign policy. U.S. pressure on Russia and Russia's relation with America are the external elements and pressure from semiotic lobbyists is the internal factor."

IRGC Navy Equipped with New Version of Iran-Made Flying Boats

The Iranian Defense Ministry in a ceremony on Tuesday delivered three squadrons of upgraded, radar-evading flying boats named 'Bavar-2' (Belif-2) to the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

The ceremony was attended by Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi and Commander of IRGC Naval Forces Ali Fadavi, during which Vahidi elaborated on the features of the new home-made flying boats.

"Bavar 2... is a surface-moving flying boat and performs patrol and reconnaissance missions on the sea," Vahidi said, adding that the vessels are equipped with machine gun, night goggles and reconnaissance equipment to record and send the desired images and data.

Noting that Iran is among the few countries of the world, which has designed, manufactured and used flying boats in a short period of time, he boasted that Tehran is now a member of the club of designers and producers of the vessel.

The development comes after Iran in 2009 said it had successfully tested the domestically-made craft. A flying boat is a fixed-winged seaplane with a hull that allows it to land on water.

Iran Plans to Load Fuel into Bushehr Reactor Next Month

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi announced that his organization plans to inject fuel into the Bushehr nuclear power plant reactor by early October.

"All the necessary measures have been adopted successfully and we hope to load fuel into the core of the Bushehr power plant reactor by early October," Salehi said.

"The core of reactor has been washed with acid and half of it was filled with water, also 15 dummy fuel assemblies were loaded and removed," Salehi said.

"These measures are for practice and inspection of the core of the reactor, also the pools which are near the reactor must have been filled with water for final check of possible leak."

The first nuclear plant in Iran, region and the Middle East will start operation when the fuel is sent to the center of the reactor.

Iran transferred nuclear fuel into the main building of its first nuclear power plant in the southern port city of Bushehr in a ceremony attended by senior Iranian and Russian nuclear officials on August 21.

Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Akbar Salehi said earlier this month that the plant would join the national power grid in fall.

Amr Moussa: IAEA Credibility Under Question

Arab League Secretary General, Amr Moussa, said the International Atomic Energy Agency's opposition to the Zionist regime's joining to NPT treaty has put the agency's credibility under question.

He stressed that Arab states would repeat their demand soon.

Meanwhile, political analyst James Morris accused IAEA of adopting double standard policies, and said Lobby groups in America with their extensive pressures have defended Israel and the agency's double standard policies in recent years.

He added while Israel have about 200-400 nuclear warheads, America raised the issue of Iran's nuclear program and the approach clearly shows the agency's double standard policy.

Economic Front

IKCO to Market Hybrid Samand in Months

Iran's largest car-manufacturing company, Iran-Khodro (IKCO), announced that it plans to present a hybrid Samand to the market by the next few months.

The company announced that in order to diversify fuel portfolio and reduce fossil fuel use, it intends to market Samand LX outfitted with hybrid powertrain by the end of the current Iranian year (ends on March 20, 2011).

IKCO Deputy CEO for Quality and Product Development Mir Javad Soleimani said that following the bill of the Automotive Policy Council, IKCO decided to develop hybrid technology and IPCO (Iran Khodro Powertrain Co.) experts played a significant role in this regard.

"Hybrid vehicles get a part of their required power from electric engines and the rest from internal combustion ones," Soleimani said, and added, "Hybrid vehicles are produced in three micro-hybrid, mild-hybrid and macro-hybrid types. IKCO products are categorized under the micro type."

"Fuel saving degree in hybrid cars varies due to traffic, but normally this level is between 12 to 30 percent," Soleimani said.

"IKCO hybrid cars with EF7 engines meet Euro IV standard requirements."

He underscored that IKCO's hybrid technology has been developed on XU engines and in the next step, Soren EF7 engine will enjoy the technology as well.

Hybrid cars address problems of high fuel prices and consumption and the greenhouse effect, and thus, many countries tend to use hybrid cars in their urban transportation system.

Kenya Urges Rapid Implementation of Agreements with Iran

Kenya's Minister of Regional Development Authorities Fredrick Omulo Gumo stressed on Wednesday that his country is earnestly seeking to implement agreements and deals with Iran.

"Once these contracts are put into effect, a number of new pivots and grounds will be created for developing the two countries' relations," Omulo Gumo said in a meeting with a number of Iranian officials in the Northwestern province of East Azerbaijan.

Elsewhere, he stressed that Kenya enjoys significant and remarkable trade and economic potentials, and said his country also has large capacity for trade and economic activities as well as investment.

Noting that Kenya with a population of 40 million people has abundant capacities for development and growth, Omulo Gumo announced his country's willingness to use Iran's successful experiences in this field.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's administration has striven hard to maximize relations with the African continent.

Ahmadinejad paid a visit to Kenya early 2009 during which he said bilateral ties between Iran and Kenya are improving in political, cultural and economic areas and the two countries are willing to strengthen and deepen these relations in different fields.

Iran and Kenya enjoy very good capacities, abilities and opportunities in different sectors and these elements accompanied by the experiences of the (two) governments and nations can serve as complementary elements to help each other," the Iranian president said in a meeting with Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki last year.

The Kenyan president, for his part, urged accelerated implementation of the major agreements signed by the two countries, including the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) inked by the two countries for materializing bilateral and technical cooperation.

Iran to Increase Gasoline Exports

An Iranian oil official underlined the country's self-sufficiency in supplying Iran's gasoline needs through domestic production, and stated that Tehran plans to boost exports of gasoline.

"Iran has achieved self sufficiency in production of gasoline by starting production of gasoline in its petrochemical complexes," the international affairs director at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Ali Asqar Arshi said, adding that Iran has exported the first domestically produced gasoline cargo.

Speaking to Shanna on Tuesday, the official noted that after sanctions imposed by the United States on Iran's gasoline supply, new countries have expressed readiness to export gasoline to Iran.

Arshi pointed out that crisis management was the main Iran's initiative to cope with gasoline sanctions noting that the US sanctions will be managed and resolved to the best way.

On Sunday, Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced that the country has totally stopped imports of gasoline after it reached self-sufficiency in supplying the country's gasoline needs.

"At present, the country isn't importing even a drop of gasoline," Rahimi stated.

After the UN Security Council ratified a sanctions resolution against Iran on June 9, the United States and the European Union started approving their own unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program, mostly targeting the country's energy and banking sectors, including a US boycott of gasoline supplies to Iran.

The US Senate passed a legislation to expand sanctions on foreign companies that invest in Iran's energy sector and those foreign companies that sell refined petroleum to Iran or help develop its refining capacity.

The bill, which later received the approval of the House of Representatives, said companies that continue to sell gasoline and other refined oil products to Iran would be banned from receiving Energy Department contracts to deliver crude to the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The bill was then signed into law by US President Barack Obama.

Earlier in September, Iranian Oil Minister Massoud Mir-Kazzemi announced that the country has increased domestic gasoline production to 66mln liters per day, meaning that Iran no more needs foreign imports.

Iran has increased its gasoline production by 50 percentage points to become self-sufficient in the sector, Mir-Kazzemi said at the time.

Iran's daily gasoline production increased from 44 million to over 66 million liters, which means Tehran no longer has to import gasoline, he added.

Iran Preparing Roadmap for Aviation Industry

Head of Iran Aviation Industries Organization (IAIO) Manouchehr Manteqi announced that the country plans to draw a roadmap for its aviation industries in the next few months.

"Right not, a working group, comprising the country's private and state-owned aviation industry officials, is preparing and completing a roadmap," Manteqi said in a press conference on "Iran's aviation and space capabilities" here in Tehran on Tuesday.

"By the end of the current Iranian year (early in 2011), the most powerful strategy for the country's aviation industry will be (drawn and) presented to the people and authorities," the official added.

He stated that Iran is negotiating with three European countries to develop its civil aviation industry, and noted that civil aviation shapes a major part of his organization's activities.

Elsewhere, Manteqi said that Iran plans to replace Topolov passenger and cargo planes with home-made 'Iran-140' passenger planes for short-distance flights.

"Iran-140 planes will fly in the country's sky before the end of the current (Iranian) year (ends on March 20, 2011)," the official noted, describing Iran-140 as one of the most powerful planes of its class.

Ian has already manufactured a twin-turboprop aircraft, the Iran-140, which is a licensed copy of the Ukrainian Antonov An-140. It can carry 52 passengers or six tons of cargo, has a medium-haul range of 2,100 kilometers (1,250 miles) and is being built with Ukrainian help.

Iran and Ukraine in the deal inked in the mid-1990s stipulated that 70 per cent of Iran-140 components would be locally made and the rest supplied by Ukraine.

European Oil Companies Defy Sanctions against Iran by Ordering More Crude

Recently-revealed data showed that the French and Italian oil companies, Total and API, as well as Shell, an Anglo-Dutch oil giant, have bought more crude oil from Iran despite tougher sanctions imposed against the country by certain states.

Shell was reported Tuesday to have increased oil trade with Iran at a time when other major buyers, including BP and Reliance Industries, India's largest conglomerate, halted orders due to sanctions.

According to sensitive trading documents obtained by the Guardian newspaper, Shell paid the state-owned Iranian oil company at least \$1.5 billion for crude oil this summer, more than 25% up on the previous three months.

Following the latest round of UN and EU sanctions this year, William Hague, the British foreign secretary, reaffirmed that the UK does not encourage trade with or investment in Iran because of 'serious concerns about the nature of Iran's nuclear program'.

But, according to the Guardian, Shell has insisted it is doing nothing illegal. 'We do not comment on our trading activities but would underline that we continue to comply with all legislation,' a spokesman said.

The increase comes despite oil traders reportedly saying it has become harder for buyers to obtain letters of credit from banks required to complete transactions with Iran and with insurers reluctant to cover cargoes for fear of falling foul of US sanctions.

Data shows French and Italian oil companies, Total and API, also defied sanctions by lifting more Iranian crude between May and August than in the previous three months, up 12% and 70% respectively.

Azeri Minister Stresses Different Grounds for All-Out Cooperation with Iran

Azeri Minister of Industry and Energy Natiq Aliyev reiterated that there are different and abundant grounds for bolstering mutual cooperation between Tehran and Baku.

"There are broad potentials in both countries for bilateral cooperation and keeping in mind the Islamic Republic of Iran's experience in various fields, the newly independence Azerbaijan Republic can be greatly benefited from that hoard of experience," Aliyev told reporters after meeting Iranian Vice-President for Supervising and Harmonizing Economic Policies Ali Aqa Mohammadi in Baku.

Aqa Mohammadi who arrived in Baku atop an economic delegation on Monday morning for a three day visit in a meeting with a group of Azeri ministers and economic officials studied ways for boosting the two countries' economic ties and cooperation.

He met and conferred with Aliyev on Monday evening for the purpose.

The two countries have sought to expand their ties, specially in trade and economic fields, and signed seven

ECO Ministers Hold Meeting in New York

Foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) held a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York to study the latest developments in the member countries and the world.

During the meeting hosted by Iran, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki referred to sacrilege of holy Quran, attack on Gaza-bound aid flotilla and floods in Pakistan.

He also appreciated Turkey's stance on sending aid to Gaza as well as ECO initiation to help flood victims in Pakistan.

Foreign ministers of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan and Turkey as well as ECO Secretary General attended the meeting.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the recent floods have affected life of 20 million individuals in Pakistan and left 8 million people displaced.

He also called for ECO member states' further cooperation on weather changes and fighting drug.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said ECO member states cooperation can change strategic balance in the region and the world.

Resolution draft for cooperation between ECO and the UN was finalized in the session and Iran is to present the resolution at the current UN General Assembly meeting to be adopted by the UN members.

Iran's Giant Automaker Boosts Production by 28%

Iran-Khodro, the Middle-East's largest car-manufacturing company, announced that it has produced more than 351,270 sets of cars in the first half of the current Iranian year (started on March 21), which shows 28% of growth compared with the same period last year.

"A sum of 58,139 sets of Samand in different models, 101,442 sets of Peugeot 405, 38,823 sets of Pars, 8,071 sets of Tondar 90 and 20,886 sets of Roa - all sedans - have been produced by IKCO during this period," IKCO Deputy Managing-Director for Production Affairs Javad Dehnadi said.

"Some 75,014 Peugeot 206 sedans and hatchbacks, 46,542 Bardo pick-ups and 2,353 sets of Suzuki Grand Vitara SUV have been produced in the same period as well," Dehnadi added.

"The total number of passenger car and pick-up production amounted to 273,000 sets in the first half of the previous year," he reminded.

IKCO plans to accelerate production to 785,000 sets by the end of the current Iranian year.

Iran's state-owned Iran-Khodro is the largest carmaker in the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa, with an annual production of more than one million vehicles of various models, including cars, trucks, minibuses and buses.

IKCO is also ramping up exports as it builds a global presence outside Iran.

The company officials have said they want to boost annual production to more than a million vehicles and hike exports to more than 600,000 by 2016.

IKCO in the past two years has also begun kit assemblies in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Venezuela and Argentina, with plans to add assembly in Egypt, Vietnam and China in the next year or two.

The vehicle of choice for most of these local assembly operations is the Samand, a compact sedan based heavily on the Peugeot 405 platform and with the price starting at about \$9,000. "Samand" is the Persian name for a local breed of horse.

Market observers believe that Samand could challenge future Chinese and Indian imports at the low end of the market.

Samand trade name is now registered at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Iran-Khodro group, the Iranian car manufacturer and owner of Samand, is the first Iranian company whose product is registered at the WIPO.

The state will ensure against the fraudulent use of the name, industrial design, and copying of the product manufactured by the company worldwide.

Many other world countries, including Turkey, Bangladesh and Pakistan are considered as established importers of petrol and gas-powered Samand models with left and right-hand steering-wheels.

Iran Stops Gasoline Imports Completely

Iranian First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced that the country has totally stopped imports of gasoline after it reached self-sufficiency in supplying the country's gasoline needs through domestic production.

"At present, the country isn't importing even a drop of gasoline," Rahimi said on Sunday.

He further highlighted Iran's capabilities and economic and industrial power, saying that the Iranian oil ministry announced self-sufficiency in production of gasoline in just a short period of time after the US-sponsored sanctions were imposed on Iran's energy sector.

After the UN Security Council ratified a sanctions resolution against Iran on June 9, the United States and the European Union started approving their own unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program, mostly targeting the country's energy and banking sectors, including a US boycott of gasoline supplies to Iran.

The US Senate passed a legislation to expand sanctions on foreign companies that invest in Iran's energy sector and those foreign companies that sell refined petroleum to Iran or help develop its refining capacity.

The bill, which later received the approval of the House of Representatives, said companies that continue to sell gasoline and other refined oil products to Iran would be banned from receiving Energy Department contracts to deliver crude to the US Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The bill was then signed into law by US President Barack Obama.

Earlier in September, Iranian Oil Minister Massoud Mir-Kazsemi announced that the country has increased domestic gasoline production to 66mln liters per day, meaning that Iran no more needs foreign imports.

Iran has increased its gasoline production by 50 percentage points to become self-sufficient in the sector, Mir-Kazsemi said at the time.

Iran's daily gasoline production increased from 44 million to over 66 million liters, which means Tehran no longer has to import gasoline, he added.

Last year, Managing-Director of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company Nouredin Shahnazizade announced that Iran's daily gasoline production would increase by 13 mln liters per day once the plan for the optimization of gasoline production in the existing refineries was completed.

He then pointed out that phase 1 of Abadan refinery would go online by March, adding that the refinery is to produce 6 to 7 million liters of gasoline per day.

Abadan refinery located in the oil-rich southwestern city of Abadan near the country's Persian Gulf coasts is Iran's oldest refinery which started operation in 1912.

Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan and Bandar Abbas refineries have respectively targeted 1.8 mln, 900,000, 3 mln and 2.5 mln liters of daily increase in their output, the official went on saying at the time.

Iran also optimized Lavan, Isfahan, Tehran, Abadan and Arak refineries to increase their output respectively by 2, 6.4, 6.4, 6.2 and 11.5 mln liters.

Iran is the world's fourth-largest exporter of crude oil but due to the lavish consumption of heavily subsidized fuel by Iranian drivers, the country is forced to import large amounts which it then sells at very cheap pump prices, burdening the budget through giant subsidies. Iran imported 22-25 million liters of gasoline per day last September.

Equipment Needs in Iran's Oil, Gas Industries Mostly Supplied Domestically

Iran announced that it is now capable of manufacturing 70% of the equipment and parts needed in its oil and gas industries, dismissing western speculations that economic and industrial sanctions against Tehran have hindered the country's industrial progress, specially in the oil and gas sector.

Iran was only able to manufacture 10% of the equipment and parts needed by its oil and gas industries when it first came under sanctions a few years ago, but "after the

(imposition of) sanctions the figure rose to 70%, showing that boycotts against Iran have been inefficient", Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Saturday.

Mottaki also reiterated that despite the world economic meltdown, the Iranian economy has experienced a remarkable growth and the rate of unemployment has also decreased.

He made the remarks in a meeting with his Czech counterpart Karel Schwarzenberg on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.

Also during the meeting, Mottaki underlined Iran's economic attraction for foreign investors, and invited Czech capital holders to boost trade and investment in Iran.

Iranian officials have on different occasions stressed that the UN Security Council sanctions and the unilateral boycotts imposed by certain countries against Iran will leave no negative impact on the country's oil and gas sectors.

"Sanctions will affect foreign companies, making them face difficulties in world trade. Sanctions are the West's decision; however, Iran is seeking cooperation," a senior advisor of Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), Mohammad Hassan Mousavizadeh said in June.

Mousavizadeh reiterated that the recently approved sanctions have nothing to do with Iran's oil and gas industries.

The US-led West accuses Iran of trying to develop nuclear weapons under the cover of a civilian nuclear program, while they have never presented any corroborative evidence to substantiate their allegations. Iran denies the charges and insists that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only.

Tehran stresses that the country has always pursued a civilian path to provide power to the growing number of Iranian population, whose fossil fuel would eventually run dry.

Despite the rules enshrined in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) entitling every member state, including Iran, to the right of uranium enrichment, Tehran is now under four rounds of UN Security Council sanctions for turning down West's calls to give up its right of uranium enrichment.

Tehran has dismissed West's demands as politically tainted and illogical, stressing that sanctions and pressures merely consolidate Iranians' national resolve to continue the path.

Political observers believe that the United States has remained at loggerheads with Iran mainly over the independent and home-grown nature of Tehran's nuclear technology, which gives the Islamic Republic the potential to turn into a world power and a role model for other third-world countries.

7mln Tons of Petrochemicals Produced in Pars Energy Zone in 6 Months

Pars Energy Zone announced that Assalouyeh petrochemical complexes produced over 7 million tons of petrochemicals in almost a six-month period.

Some 7,260,069 tons of petrochemicals were produced at the Pars, Nouri (Borzouyeh), Zagros, Jam, Pardis, and Aria Sasol petrochemical complexes in Assalouyeh from the beginning of the Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2010) to September 6, Shana reported.

Iran exported 7.14 million tons of petrochemicals worth \$4.2 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year. The country produced over 16 million tons of petrochemicals in the five-month period.

About 2.8 million tons of the petrochemicals were sold on domestic markets.

Iran exported around 14 million tons of petrochemical products worth more than \$9 billion in 2009, ILNA reported.

In May, National Iranian Petrochemical Company Managing Director Abdolhossein Bayat said Iran accounts for 25.8 percent of the Middle East's petrochemical production.

The Islamic Republic plans to produce 44 million tons of petrochemicals during the current Iranian calendar year, which ends on March 20, 2011.

Iran's 20-Year Outlook Plan envisions the petrochemical output capacity to reach 100 million tons by 2015 - which is the end of the Fifth Five-Year Development Plan (2010-2015) - thus making Iran the world's second largest chemical producer globally after Dow Chemical.

VP: Iran's Steel Production Capacity Stands at 20mln tons

Iran enjoys the capacity to produce 20mln tons of steel at present after inaugurating numerous steel production plants across the country in the recent years, First Vice-President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced on Tuesday.

"The country's steel production capacity is nearly 20mln tons and Iran will soon turn into an exporter of the important and strategic product after inaugurating numerous steel plants in different parts of the country," Rahimi said in a ceremony held to mark the launch of operation by a steel production plant in the northern Mazandaran province.

He also urged Iranian experts, engineers and workers to make their best efforts to repair the damage inflicted on the country in the past, specially during the Iraqi-imposed war in the 80s, and come to the needed speed for Iran's rapid progress.

Last year, Iran's former First Vice-President Parviz Davoudi had announced the country's plans for achieving self-sufficiency in steel production, saying that Iran intended to become the world's fourth steel producer in the near future.

Davoudi, who was addressing the inauguration of the Orumiyeh Steel Plant in northwestern Iran, said that Iran currently needs 17mln tons of raw steel and 24mln tons of steel products, and added that the country's needs to raw steel were going to be supplied domestically following the launch of operation by the Orumiyeh Steel Plant.

Iran Ups Petrochemical Exports by 56%

A senior Iranian official announced that the value of the country's petrochemical exports has witnessed a 56% increase despite West's sanctions on Iran's economy.

Iran exported a total of 7.3 million tons of different kinds of petrochemical products, valued \$4.5 billion, in the first half of 2010, which shows a 56% increase in value comparing with the same period last year, Head of Iran's Petrochemical Commercial Company (PCC), Reza Hamzehlou announced.

He added that the country has turned into the first methanol exporter to China, improving from last year's second place.

"Although 55 percent of PCC's shares are owned by private shareholders, the US has enlisted PCC in its list of sanctioned companies," Hamzehlou added.

After the UN Security Council ratified a sanctions resolution against Iran on June 9, the United States and the European Union imposed unilateral sanctions against the Islamic Republic over its nuclear program, mostly targeting the country's energy and banking sectors.

Tehran has always dismissed West's pressures, and stressed that sanctions and embargos merely consolidate Iranians' national resolve to continue the path of progress.

More Economic Ties With Bolivia Sought

Minister of Industries and Mines Ali Akbar Mehrabian said Monday that Iran will launch a tractor manufacturing line as well as dairy and textile factories in Bolivia.

In a meeting with two Bolivian ministers, he said that Bolivia is among the countries which have excellent capabilities in mining sector.

Referring to Bolivian delegation's visit to Iran's Geology Organization, he noted that the two sides discussed ways of boosting cooperation in education and undertaking joint exploration projects.

Mehrabian stated that the two nations favor development of economic ties, adding that three dairy factories have become operational in the country and establishment of seven others is also on agenda.

Describing Bolivia's infrastructure for economic development as excellent, Mehrabian also said that the main criterion for Iran to increase investment in the country is its anti-imperialism policy.

“The Bolivian government does not recognize unilateralism and insists on regional and national moves,” he said.

Mehrabian said that Bolivia has high potentials in mining and agriculture sectors and boasts a good market.

Referring to Tehran-La Paz negotiations on mining industries, he said that mining is among the sectors requiring long time to conduct expert studies on it.

He announced that Bolivian President Evo Morales will pay a visit to Tehran next month.

The two countries' presidents are expected to hold talks on mining exploration, he added.

Bolivian Minister of Development and Planning Viviana Caro and Minister of the Presidential affairs Oscar Coca are in Tehran to inspect Iranian industrial capabilities.

Coca said that the visit aims to strengthen economic ties between the two countries.

Despite geographical distance between them, Iran and Bolivia have numerous commonalities, he said, noting that their officials are working for their nations' welfare.

Bolivia is keen on cooperation with Iran in the field of technology, agriculture, foodstuff, geology, transportation and energy.

Bolivia is a landlocked country in central South America.

Iran Exports First Gasoline Shipment

Iran has started exporting gasoline, about a month after increasing its daily fuel production by over 20 million liters (5,284,000 gallons).

“The first shipment of Iran's gasoline has been exported,” Ali Asghar Arshi, manager of international affairs at the National Iranian Oil Company, said yesterday.

Iranian Oil Minister Masoud Mir-Kazemi announced earlier in September that the country reached self-sufficiency after increasing its gasoline production to 66.5 million liters.

He later said Iran had stopped placing orders for gasoline purchase from abroad after increasing its domestic production.

Arshi did not say which country had bought Iran's first gasoline shipment.

“By producing [gasoline] in some petrochemical complexes, Iran reached self-sufficiency in gasoline and will soon export more gasoline shipments,” he said.

Iran in Talks With Europe on Joint Aircraft Production

The Head of Iran's Aviation Industries Organization Manouchehr Manteghi said yesterday that the country has held talks with three European countries for joint production of aircraft and cooperation on aviation industries.

"We are in talks with three European countries for cooperation on non-military aviation industries."

Also regarding a question on Iran-Brazil cooperation for building aircraft, he said, "We are ready to work with this country on Aviation Industries, if it is willing too and we hope that it will come true in the near future."

Regarding a question on lack of aviation industry strategy in Iran, Manteghi said, "The country's aviation industry now has a strategy which is being reviewed."

"Iran has appropriate infrastructure of aviation industries that should be revised," he added.

He also said that an exhibition and a conference on Iran's aviation capabilities will open on Wednesday in Tehran.

Several state-run and private sector's firms will attend the three-day event.

Iran, Pakistan, U.A.E. Face 5-Year EU Taxes on Bottle Material

The European Union imposed five-year tariffs against Iran, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates on a material used in plastic bottles, saying EU producers are victims of trade-distorting subsidies.

The duties on polyethylene terephthalate, also used in plastic films and fibers, widen existing EU protection for producers such as Spain's Novapet SA against imports from Asia. The new anti-subsidy levies follow provisional measures introduced in June, when the EU took the extra step of taxing the U.A.E.'s sole producer for also selling in Europe below cost, a practice known as dumping.

In 2007, the EU renewed for five years anti-dumping duties on polyethylene terephthalate from India, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and Taiwan to help European producers in Europe's 3 billion-euro (\$4 billion) market. Users of the product, known as PET, include plastic bottle-mold makers such as Resilux NV and bottlers including Coca-Cola Co.

European manufacturers of PET suffered "injury" as a result of subsidized imports from Iran, Pakistan and the U.A.E., the 27-nation EU said in a decision today in Brussels. The duties, which are as high as 139.70 euros a metric ton, will take effect after publication in the Official Journal by Oct. 2.

The import taxes are the outcome of probes opened in September 2009 by the European Commission, the bloc's regulatory arm. Under EU rules, the commission can impose provisional anti-subsidy duties for four months and provisional anti-dumping levies for six months. The EU's national governments -- acting on a commission proposal -- can turn those measures into "definitive" five-year duties at the same or different rates.

The definitive anti-subsidy or "countervailing" duties on PET are 139.70 euros a ton against Iran, 44.02 euros a ton against Pakistan and 42.34 euros a ton against the U.A.E. The EU will refund importers the difference with higher provisional rates of 142.97 euros on Iran and 83.64 euros on Pakistan; the definitive rate on the U.A.E is the same as the provisional levy.

Iran to Supply 21mln c/m of Gas to Pakistan in 2013

Iran plans to export an annual volume of up to 21mln cubic meters of natural gas to Pakistan through the multi-billion-dollar pipeline which is under construction in the two countries now, an Iranian gas official announced yesterday, adding that pipelined exports will start in 2013.

"After inking the deal which will take place in the next 2.5 years, Iran will export 21mln cubic meters of gas to Pakistan (annually)," Manager of the National Iranian Gas Company for Supply and Distribution Mojtaba Sheikh Bahayee said.

Last month Iran inaugurated a major section of the multi-billion-dollar pipeline which is due to transfer its rich gas reserves to Pakistan.

Officials said that this section of the pipeline transfers natural gas from Assalouyeh Energy Zone in the South to the Southeastern city of Iranshahr, near the Pakistani border.

In March, Tehran and Islamabad signed a final agreement to launch implementation of the project for exporting Iran's rich gas reserves to the energy-hungry South-Asian nation.

Tehran to Join Neighbors' Railway Network

Iranian First Vice President Mohammad Reza Rahimi announced yesterday that Iran is seeking to link its railway network to those of the neighboring countries.

Rahimi made the remark on the sidelines of a ceremony held yesterday to inaugurate the fourth National Railbus project, Eram, which connects Tehran to Varamin and Pishva, east of the capital.

He further said that Iran's railway will link to China, Turkey and Europe in the near future which help carry cargo within 11 days.

"The government is trying to establish a railway link with the neighboring countries," Rahimi said at the ceremony.

Also stressing the advantages of railway transportation, he stated that Iran plans to make a rail connection with the Iraqi holy city of Karbala via the country's western provinces of Hamedan and Kermanshah.

Referring to the investment made in South Pars gas field, Rahimi said some 21 billion dollars have been invested in South Pars development projects and the figure would increase to 50 billion dollars in the near future.

He added foreign companies have been replaced by Iranian firms in South Pars.

Pointing to the sanctions imposed on Iran, he said the sanctions help our country use its capabilities and opportunities.

Rahimi added Iran's Petroleum Ministry announced earlier that the country has achieved self-sufficiency in fuel production.

Social Front

Rotterdam's Museum Keen to Increase Cooperation with Iran

Head of Rotterdam's Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen voiced enthusiasm for boosting cooperation with museums and other cultural centers in Iran.

According to the media office of the Iranian embassy in Hague, the request was made in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to the Netherlands Kazzem Qaribabadi.

The envoy visited the Dutch museum for the exhibition "All Eyes on Kees van Dongen" where masterpieces of the Dutch painter, Kees van Dongen (1877-1968), have gone on display.

During the meeting, Charles Ax thanked Iran for loaning one of Dongen's most valuable artworks to the museum.

Last week, the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) shipped 'The timely forwarding of the Trinidad Fernandez' for the exhibition.

Ax stated that the display of the masterpiece has attracted many visitors to the museum, predicting that more than 130,000 individuals will visit the exhibition during the period of exhibition.

The Iranian diplomat, for his part, pointed to the age-old relations and friendship between Iran and the Netherlands, and expressed Tehran readiness for further bilateral relations.

He reminded the efforts made by his embassy to hand over the masterpiece on time, and hoped that the move could help boost the cultural ties between the two countries.

The Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen is the main art museum in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The museum began in 1847 with the collection of Frans Jacob Otto Boijmans (1767 - 1847).

In 1958 the collection of businessman Daniel George van Beuningen (1877 - 1955) was added to the museum. At this point the museum acquired its current name.

The museum has a diverse collection ranging from medieval to modern art, with a focus on Dutch art. Much of the collection came to the museum through the two private collections mentioned above, but many others have contributed throughout the years.

Iranian Heavy Weightlifter Honored by National Youth Medal

Iran's National Youth Organization honored Iranian heavyweight lifter, Behdad Salimi, by National Youth Medal named 'Hazrat Ali Akbar'.

In a ceremony here on Saturday evening, Vice-President and Head of Iran's National Youth Organization Mehrdad Bazrpash granted the highest Iran's National Youth Medal to Behdad Salimi.

He said that Salimi has presented his victory and medals to the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution.

Bazrpash also said that Salimi caused honor and pride for the country and made the hearts of the Supreme leader and nation happy.

In the ceremony, Salimi and head coach of the National Weightlifting Team as well as president of the Weightlifting Federation received gifts.

Chinese Contest Awards Iranian Kids

Iranian children and young adults have been awarded at the 5th edition of the Tianjin International Children's Painting Competition held in China.

According to the IRIB, Iranian participants won one silver and four bronze medals at the event which was held on the themes of peace, friendship and future.

Atefeh Soufi, 15, received the silver medal of the contest while Ghazal Goudarzi, 9, Nafiseh Ehteshampour, 12, Persia Khalifeh-Soltani, 12, and Sepideh Qorbanali, 14, received bronze medals.

Mohaddeseh Khoshalhan, 8, Mahsa Qavidel, 12, and Hourieh Sotoudeh, 11, received the catalogue of the contest and their paintings were announced among the selected works.

The 5th Tianjin International Children's Painting Competition was held in 2009 and 54 works by members of Iran's Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults also participated in the event.

Velayati Calls for Islamization of Sciences

the Supreme leader's aid in international affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati, called on Tuesday for Islamization of the human sciences and said even the natural sciences can be reviewed by Islamic perspective.

Delivering a speech to mark the commencement of the educational year in the University of Supreme Defense, he said: "That is not a right job to translate the western book and present it to our students. We can even review the natural sciences like chemistry and physics from an Islamic angle. I say that even in these sciences one can be dubious."

"We have to see what our ancestors have done in the field of natural sciences. Avicenna's book in medical science is a remarkable example of such works which even after 1000 years is in the centre of attention."

He went on to say "we should not say that the theory of sociology is written by Auguste Comte and then translate it" and added "Freud's ideology dominated the west for years and there consensually emphasized on excessive freedom in order to prevent formation of social complex. This ideology later led to world wars and use of atomic bombs."

Stoning Sentence for Mohammadi Ashtiani

Judiciary Spokesman Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Ejei said stoning sentence is issued for Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani charged with adultery and murder of his husband.

"Stoning sentence is issued for Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani , but her case should pass required legal process."

Mohseni-Ejei stressed that Ashtiani should be punished due to killing her husband.

Mohammadi-Ashtiani has been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery and has also received a 10-year jail term for participating in the murder of her husband.