

## Qatari emir due in Tehran today

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — The Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa Al-Thani, will arrive in Tehran today on an official visit.

The Qatari emir is going to hold talks on Tehran-Doha bilateral relations as well as regional issues.

## Supreme Leader stresses importance of prayers

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei here on Wednesday called on the youth to pay due attention to prayers.

In a message to the 18th Nationwide Prayers Conference, the Supreme Leader highlighted prayers' significant role in purifying men and the society.

Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated that promotion of the true culture of prayers would bring peace, security and tranquility to the society.

## Obama says wants U.S., Iran move beyond 'suspicion, mistrust'

President Barack Obama said on Tuesday that he wants the U.S. and Iran to move beyond "suspicion, mistrust and confrontation."

The remarks by Obama came one day before Iran marked the 30th anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979 in which fifty-two Americans were held hostage for 444 days.

The crisis "deeply affected the lives of courageous Americans who were unjustly held hostage, and we owe these Americans and their families our gratitude for their extraordinary service and sacrifice," Obama said in a statement.

"This event helped set the United States and Iran on a path of sustained suspicion, mistrust and confrontation," AP quoted Obama as saying.

"I have made it clear that the United States of America wants to move beyond this past, and seeks a relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran based upon mutual interests and mutual respect," he said in a statement.

## Venezuela dismisses Israeli charges it is Iran base

The foreign ministry in Caracas condemned what it called "aggression against its people" after comments by Danny Ayalon, the Israeli deputy foreign minister, about Tehran's influence in the region.

Ayalon described Venezuela as Iran's leading ally in South America, according to a report posted on telegraph.co.uk.

The remarks were a "sign of the vile, meddling and aggressive attitude" of Israel, the Venezuelan statement said.

Venezuela broke off diplomatic ties with Israel in January as Tel Aviv launched a savage assault on the Gaza Strip. The Geneva-based UN Human Right Council has said Israel's war on Gaza constituted examples of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

# MPs should agree on subsidy bill withdrawal if govt. insists on its demand

**Tehran Times Political Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Deputy Majlis Speaker Mohammad-Reza Bahonar stated here on Wednesday that if the administration does not back down from its decision to withdraw the subsidy bill, the MPs should agree with it.

In its proposed bill, the administration has stated that the income gained from normalizing the price of energy and commodities should be deposited in a special fund. However, after the Majlis voted against the establishment of a subsidy fund, the president wrote a letter in the parliament

on Tuesday and presented it to the legislature's presiding board announcing the withdrawal of the bill.

The Majlis has said that the revenues must be kept in the treasury and spent within the framework of the annual national budget, which would allow the Majlis to supervise how it is spent.

Lawmakers said the establishment of a subsidy fund, which is mentioned in clause 13 of the proposed subsidy bill, is unconstitutional.

If the administration is convinced that it should go ahead with its deci-



sion, then the Majlis will continue its deliberations on the subsidy bill, he noted.

The Majlis has already approved the subsidy bill -- also known as the economic reform plan -- which would allow the government to normalize prices over a five-year period.

Cleric MP Mohammad Reza Mir Tajedini told ISNA on Tuesday that he and MP Mohsen Kouhkan have been given the mission to find a solution to the standoff between the Majlis and the government.

The decision was made by the Majlis presiding board which the two

MP are members

Mir Tajedini said if a legal way is found for the issue then there will be no need to study the withdrawal letter.

Asked about his solution to the dilemma, he said, "Representatives have some suggestions which can present them to the special committee... and we are waiting for a decision by the committee."

Meanwhile, an official in the presidential office responsible for parliamentary affairs said it has been agreed that two MPs and two persons from the administration find a

new way to settle the dispute over the subsidy fund by Sunday.

Mas'oudpour, whose first name was not given, told the ISNA news agency that if no solution is found by Sunday the only remaining option is to read the letter in parliament on withdrawing the bill.

Mir Tajedini also said if no solution is found until Sunday the Majlis will begin the study of the letter.

Ahmadinejad said if the subsidy bill is linked to the annual national budget, it will not be possible to implement it because annual budgets change every year.

## U.S. wants to set up spy base in Afghanistan: Afghan MP

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — The U.S. wants to establish a base in Afghanistan to collect intelligence on and organize espionage operations against Iran, Russia, and China, a senior Afghan lawmaker said on Wednesday.

The chairman of the Afghan parliament's Justice and Judiciary Committee, Ataollah Loudin, told FNA that the establishment of a U.S. military and intelligence base in Afghanistan should not be viewed at national levels as Washington is in pursuit of re-

gional goals.

"The U.S. wants to establish a military and intelligence base in Afghanistan in pursuit of greater goals in the region which naturally include Pakistan, Iran, the Central Asian states, China and Russia," he said.

Meantime, the lawmaker warned that the move would result in negative outcomes for Washington.

"The U.S. spying base in Afghanistan will be faced with the opposition of the regional states and the Afghan

people, and this opposition will be harmful to the U.S."

The legislator underlined that the move would run counter to Afghanistan's independence, and stated, "We will never permit a foreign state to have a permanent military and intelligence presence in Afghanistan."

Any foreign state willing to remain in Afghanistan for a long time will have a fate similar to that of Britain 90 years ago and Soviet Union 30 years ago, he added.

## 'Iran, Syria have common stance on regional stability'

**TEHRAN (IRNA)** — Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said on Wednesday that Iran and Syria favor regional stability and respect national sovereignty of the neighboring states.

"We share a common stance with Syria on establishment of stability in the region and respect for national sovereignty of the neighboring states," Mottaki told a joint



press conference with his Syrian counterpart Walid Moal-

lem.

On Lebanon, Mottaki said that sincere cooperation among all Lebanese political parties would help bring prosperity for the great Lebanese nation.

Moallem touched on a media speculation that an Iranian ship had been stopped by the Zionist regime's coast guards and said, "Such a thing is not true."

## U.S. using age-old plots against Iran: analyst

An Iranian political analyst says plots that are being carried out in the country today, are reminiscent of past schemes devised by the "global arrogance".

"These current projects against the Islamic Republic are exactly the same as those that were tested and proven wrong 30 years ago at the time of (the late leader of the Islamic Revolution) Imam Khomeini," Hassan Rahimpour-Azghadi said Tuesday.

"A review of the documents found at the former embassy (of the United States) helps us understand these plots and proves that what is currently taking place is not an illusion of conspiracy but conspiracy itself."

"Certain people choose to join the conspiracy knowingly, but there are also those who are spies but do not know it themselves," he added.

Rahimpour-Azghadi, who is also a member of Iran's Supreme Council

of Cultural Revolution, was addressing a group of students at the former U.S. embassy in Tehran, on the eve of the 30th anniversary of the building's takeover.

During his speech, Rahimpour-Azghadi also pointed out that when it came to identifying plots that targeted successive generations, it was the "the system of thought behind the scheme" that mattered, not the individuals involved.

He said that "certain individuals who truly liked Imam (Khomeini, the late Leader of the Islamic Revolution,)" back in the early years of the 1979 Revolution were now "American heretics."

The analysts also pointed out that the documents found at the former embassy showed that Washington had tested 26 different strategies to overthrow the Revolution in the first few months that followed its victory.

According to Rahimpour-Azghadi, some of the strategies that the U.S. had employed included attempts to create sectarian unrest, a campaign to recruit religious minorities with Zionist inclinations, and plan to fuel labor strikes and food shortages.

He also mentioned terrorism, encouraging student protests in universities and schools, and providing financial and media back-up to opposing political groups, as other tactics adopted by the U.S. had.

Rahimpour-Azghadi said that the U.S. had even tried to make use of cultural activities, such as English language classes, scientific gatherings and artistic circles to topple the Islamic Republic.

The analyst said Washington sought to influence the country's top political figures, its religious leadership and moderate Islamic intellectuals.

(Source: Press TV)

## Iranians hold rallies to commemorate U.S. embassy seizure

(Contd. from P.1)

People were happy when they heard that their brave children had captured the "bastion of arrogance and colonialism" in Iran, and during the time the university students were in control of the place, thousands of people would gather outside the embassy to show their approval of the move, he stated.

All the people who had experienced tyranny and oppression during the rule of the shah blamed the U.S. for their suffering because they knew the regime had the full backing of the United States, and people were happy when the U.S. Den of Spies was seized, he added.



Haddad-Adel said the late Imam Khomeini, who was the symbol of freedom and independence, approved this move and the Founder of the Islamic Republic said the seizure of the Den of Spies was a second revolution that was even greater than the first revolution.

The documents obtained from the embassy showed the extent to which the U.S. conspired against Iran in the nine months after the revolution, he stated.

Contrary to its slogans in support of democracy, freedom, and human rights, the U.S. has always backed dictatorial governments, he noted.



## 'West does not understand Iran's logic'

Expediency Council Secretary Mohsen Rezaei says the West does not understand the logic behind Iran's foreign policy.

"The main obstacle in relations between Iran and the West is the fact that Western countries don't understand the logic behind Iran's foreign policy," Rezaei said in a meeting with the Australian ambassador to Tehran, Marc Innes-Brown, on Tuesday.

Rezaei stated that the logic of Iran's foreign policy is based on defending the country's national interests, maintaining the principles of the Islamic Revolution, and opposing any and every form of hegemony.

"We always sought peace and stability in the (Middle East) region and the world, and we have not pursued any aggressive policy toward other countries while defending our rights," the Mehr News Agency quoted him as saying.

"Iran is not pursuing adventurism in its foreign policy, and the West, especially the US, should rectify their stance on Iran in order to resolve the issues," the Iranian official said.

Ambassador Innes-Brown said it is essential that Iran and the West take confidence-building measures. (Source: Press TV)

## Littoral states start talks on Caspian Sea legal regime

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Special workgroups and representatives from the Caspian Sea littoral states started a new round of talks in Turkmenistan on Wednesday to decide on the legal status of the world's largest lake, an Iranian diplomat announced on Wednesday.

The political attaché of the Iranian embassy in Ashgabat told FNA that during the two-day meeting, the delegations of the Caspian Sea littoral states are slated to discuss a draft convention on the legal status of the lake.

The draft convention will cover principles for activities and cooperation among the littoral states, the diplomat added.

He further noted that the participants are scheduled to issue a statement about the results of their discussions at the end of the meeting.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs and the country's special Envoy in the Caspian Sea Affairs Mehdi Safari who heads an 8-member delegation arrived in Ashgabat on Tuesday evening.

Earlier, Iranian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Mohammad Reza Forqani told FNA on Tuesday, "The meeting of the special workgroup to discuss the Caspian Sea's legal regime will begin at the level of the deputy foreign ministers of the five Caspian Sea littoral states in Ashgabat on Wednesday and will last for two days."

The status of the oil and gas rich inland sea has been a source of disagreement among the littoral states since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Caspian Sea is estimated to contain between 17 billion and 33 billion barrels of proven oil reserves.

Following Iran's protests at a meeting of several Caspian littoral states in the Kazakh city of Aktau last month, the participating leaders of Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan declared that they had decided to avoid discussions on the Caspian matters without Iran's presence at their meeting in a bid to comply with earlier agreements.