



TEHRAN TIMES

SINCE 1979

W W W . T E H R A N T I M E S . C O M

16 PAGES, PRICE 4,000 RIALS, 31st YEAR, NO. 10731, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009; ABAN 16, 1388; DHUL QADAH 19, 1430

'Tide turning in favor of Iran and Syria'

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that the tide is turning in favor of Iran and Syria in the region.



"In light of the fact that the global situation is changing rapidly and the domineering powers are declining, Iran and Syria should coordinate when making big decisions," Ahmadinejad told visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem here on Wednesday.

"If this coordination is conspicuous, the other regional countries will definitely join, and this way a great political, economic, and cultural power will be established in the Middle East region," he added.

Muallem said that Tehran-Damascus relations are so strong that no country can undermine them.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Persian Gulf must be a safe place for cooperation

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — "The Persian Gulf must be turned into a safe and prosperous region and a place for cooperation," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said at a meeting with Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa Al-Thani, late Thursday.

Calling relations between Qatar and Iran exemplary, Ayatollah Khamenei said foreigners are making efforts to halt such kinds of cooperation among the Persian Gulf littoral states.

"All regional countries must try to prevent the realization of foreigners' wishes," the Leader insisted.

The Leader expressed his gratitude to Qatar for its positions toward Israel's 33-day war on Lebanon and the 22-day war on Gaza as well as the subsequent issues.

The Leader went on to say that that Arab governments were expected to stand up for the people of Lebanon and Gaza, but that some of them failed to adopt an appropriate stance.

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to the exemplary political relationship between Iran and Qatar and their common stance towards numerous issues, reiterating that



Qatari Emir Sheikh Hamad ibn Khalifa Al-Thani called on Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Thursday.

further efforts should be made to expand economic ties.

The Leader expressed his satisfaction

over the growing relationship between Tehran and Doha.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Larijani meets top Iraqi officials

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maleki have called for the establishment of a joint committee to ensure that the agreements between Tehran and Baghdad are implemented.

Larijani and Maleki made the remarks during a meeting in Baghdad late on Thursday.

Formulating a legal regime for the use of the water of the border rivers would be one of the tasks of the committee.



Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani (L) met with Iraqi President Jalal Talabani on Friday in Baghdad.

(FARS/Ali Rafie)

Larijani stated that Iran supports the efforts to establish democracy in Iraq and added that practical steps should be taken to expand ties between Tehran and Baghdad.

Maleki expressed his gratitude to the Islamic Republic of Iran for its positions on the campaign against terrorism and other regional issues.

The two sides also agreed to establish a committee to examine ways to prevent severe dust storms like the ones that spread to Iran over the past year.

(Contd. on P. 15)

The avalanche of evidence

By Gwynne Dyer

The news is bad, and it's coming in fast. Turn tens of thousands of scientists loose on a problem for two decades, and the results will seem pathetic for the first few years, because it takes time to gather the data — even to build the equipment with which you gather the data. But slowly the flow of data will grow, and at the end of twenty years you can expect major new insights every month or so.

That's where we are now with climate change. September's unwelcome news, from the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research in Britain, was that if fossil fuel use continues on the present trend line, the planet will be an average of 4 degrees C warmer by the 2060s. This contrasts with the prediction of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in 2007, that we might see 4 degrees C, at the most, by 2100.

This month's bad news came from the drilling ship JOIDES Resolution (Joint Oceanographic Institutions for Deep Earth Sampling), which brought up cores from the ocean bottom containing sediments dating back 20 million years. The news was that when the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was last at 450 parts per million, the average global temperature was 3-6 degrees C hotter than now, and the sea level was 25-40 meters (80-130 ft) higher.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Abbas says he won't run in January elections

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The Palestinian president said Thursday that he does not want to run for another term in elections January, blaming a stalemate in Mideast peace talks on Israel and the United States.

In a televised speech to the Palestinians, Mahmoud Abbas said he has told his "brothers" in the Fatah movement of his "desire not to run in the upcoming elections."

Abbas' careful wording left room for the possibility that he could be persuaded to change his mind, especially if he perceives the United States as backing his position on demanding an end to Israeli construction in West Bank settlements.

The Palestinian leader's decision, reported earlier in the day by his aides, set off a flurry of calls from regional leaders: The presidents of Egypt and Israel, the king of Jordan and Israel's defense minister urged him to change his mind.



About 300,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank, which Israel captured in the Mideast war in 1967. The Palestinian government says these settlements take up large chunks of its hoped-for state, undermining the dream of independence. Also, about 180,000 Israelis live in Jerusalem neighborhoods built around the eastern sector of

the city, which Palestinians claim for their capital.

In his speech Thursday, Abbas said that at first, he was encouraged by the Obama administration's policy, but then "we were surprised by its embracing of the Israeli position."

He said settlement construction must stop, but "Israel and especially its current government rejects this."

Abbas has threatened before not to run for reelection in the balloting Jan. 24.

Last month, Abbas told U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton that he would not run but recanted after President Obama called him and expressed commitment to Mideast peacemaking, Abbas' office said.

In the following days, Clinton sought to clarify the American position, first offering warm praise for Israel's offer to limit settlement construction

(Contd. on P. 15)

UN support for DR Congo army comes under fire

KINSHASA (AFP) — UN military support for the army of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) has increasingly come under fire because of atrocities against civilians blamed on regular troops.

For months, international and Congolese non-governmental organizations have called for the suspension of the Kimia II ("Peace II") operation against Hutu rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

The United Nations mission in DR Congo provides rations and fuel to the army troops, but also firepower, help in planning operations and evacuation by UN helicopters for injured soldiers.

Last January and February, the Rwandan army joined the FARDC in an offensive against the FDLR, but since then the Congolese troops have fought on their own, apart from the increasingly controversial help from MONUC.

In mid-October, the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Philip Alston, described Kimia II as a "catastrophe" in human rights terms and called for a "change of strategy" by the UN and FARDC.

Alston condemned the "massacre" by a FARDC unit, commanded by a colonel, of at least 50 Hutu refugees late in April in the eastern Nord-Kivu province, one of the most volatile parts of the DR Congo, along with Sud-Kivu.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Pakistani forces enter Taliban headquarters



ISLAMABAD (Reuters) — Pakistani soldiers entered the Taliban headquarters in South Waziristan on Friday, the military said, as gunmen wounded an army brigadier and his driver in a drive-by shooting in the capital.

The army went on the offensive in South Waziristan, a lawless ethnic Pashtun region on the Afghan border, on October 17, aiming to root out Pakistani Taliban militants behind a wave of violence in urban areas.

The offensive is closely watched by the United States and other powers embroiled in neighboring Afghanistan, as South Waziristan's rugged landscape of barren mountains and hidden ravines has become a global center of Islamist militancy.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Delegates discuss way forward in UN climate talks

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — UN climate negotiators assured Friday that, despite low expectations for setting legally binding emissions targets next month, it is still possible to conclude a strong, 192-nation deal to define future work in fighting global warming.

Countries most vulnerable to climate change said they were incensed that rich nations were rethinking the timetable for concluding a legally binding treaty.

Delegates were spending the final day of UN climate talks in Spain hammering out a draft political agreement in which rich nations would make hard pledges to reduce emissions and to finance aid for helping the world's poorest cope with the affects of Earth's rising temperatures.

The idea of next month's UN climate conference in Copenhagen ending with a political deal, rather than a legally binding agreement, disappointed developing nations already suffering severe droughts, floods and other catastrophes blamed on rising temperatures.

The shift follows acknowledgment that several countries, including the United States, may not be politically ready to sign a legal pact by next month.

Yvo de Boer, the UN official who is shepherding the talks, assured that negotiators were still aiming to achieve a significant deal that would set specific goals, even if they weren't yet legally binding.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Turkey is becoming a regional broker

By Marwan Al Kabalan

Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu is considered by many as the architect of Turkey's neo-foreign policy. His 'zero-problem' approach with neighboring countries has served as a guideline for his country's foreign policy since the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) came to power in 2002. Davutoglu has been particularly enthusiastic about improving ties with Syria and he has strong reasons for that.

Davutoglu realizes that Syria is the only country in the region that borders the three key areas of conflict in the Middle East, namely, Iraq, Palestine and Lebanon. He believes that if Turkey wishes to have a greater role in these conflicts then Syria's strategic location must be recognized and utilized.

During the 1998 Syrian-Turkish crisis, Davutoglu was among a few Turkish academics who rejected an Israeli proposal to provide Turkey with sophisticated surveillance systems to monitor the infiltration of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) fighters from Syria. For Davutoglu, the Israeli proposal was intended to isolate Turkey from its geo-political depth and prevent it from developing strong ties with its neighbors.

The victory of the AKP in the 2002 general elections provided Davutoglu with the opportunity to translate his theory into policies. His appointment by then Prime Minister Abdullah Gul as special foreign policy adviser transformed Turkey's regional relations.

(Contd. on P. 15)