



TEHRAN TIMES

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16 PAGES, PRICE 4,000 RIALS, 31st YEAR, NO. 10744, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2009; AZAR 1, 1388; DHUL HIJAH 4, 1430

Iran to host 2012 NAM summit

Iran to adopt more active economic diplomacy

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki has said that Tehran is preparing to host the next Non-Aligned Movement summit in 2012.

Mottaki made the remarks in an exclusive interview with the Mehr News Agency on Friday.



MOTTAKI

Mottaki also said the ministry under his portfolio has pursued an active diplomacy over the last four years especially through the Organization of Islamic Conference.

He added through its international efforts Iran has been able to promote this idea that many of the regional issues and crises need "regional solutions", the chief diplomat noted.

The foreign minister emphasized that such an approach has been successful in settling the situation in Lebanon and that the current problems in Afghanistan can be resolved through such an approach.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Mottaki pointed out that his ministry will exercise a more active "economic diplomacy" in the next four years.

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Armed Forces, IRGC to launch five-day air exercise

Russia should not allow Israel to scupper delivery of S-300 missiles: general

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — The Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps will launch a joint air exercise today, the commander of the Iranian Air Force announced on Saturday.

The military drill, entitled Defenders of the Sky of Velayat, will be conducted over a vast area in the northwest, west, south, and southwest of Iran and will last for five days, Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani told reporters.

The maneuver is being conducted to enhance Iran's aerial defenses against any potential attack, particularly on the country's nuclear plants, the Mehr News Agency reported.

Miqani also said Iran is fully aware of the enemies' military capabilities, adding, "We are completely capable of analyzing the data as well."

And Iran will shoot down any enemy aircraft that enters the country's air space, he noted.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Miqani urged Russia to fulfill its commitment to deliver the S-300 missile system to Iran, saying it should not be influenced by Israel.

"I... want the Russians not to be influenced by the Zionists since Russia and



The commander of the Iranian Air Force Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani talks to reporters in Tehran on Saturday. (Ima/Faraj Samadi)

Iran have joint interests. Therefore, it is essential that this country does not come under the Zionist regime's influence."

"We want Russia to deliver the S-300 missiles to Iran as soon as possible," he added.

The S-300 system, which can track targets and fire at aircraft 120 kilometers (75 miles) away, features high jamming immunity and is able to simultaneously engage up to 100 targets.

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Iran, Kuwait seek stronger ties

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian First Vice President Mohammad-Reza Rahimi and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser al-Mohammed al-Ahmed al-Sabah discussed ways to expand relations.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran sees no constraints on promoting bilateral ties with Kuwait in various areas," Rahimi told the prime minister and his accompanying delegation.

The Kuwaiti prime minister arrived in Tehran on Saturday at the head of a high-ranking political and economic delegation. He is accompanied by the ministers of foreign affairs, oil, energy, commerce and information as well as officials from the Arab country's investment organization.

During the meeting Rahimi described ties between the two nations as "brotherly and historical".

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PERSPECTIVE



The Bolivarian Revolution and peace

By Fidel Castro

I know Chavez well, and no one could be more reluctant than him to allow a showdown between the Venezuelan and Colombian peoples leading to bloodshed. These are two fraternal peoples, the same as Cubans living in the east, center and west end of our island. I find no other way to explain the close relationship between Venezuelans and Colombians.

The slanderous Yankee accusation that Chavez is planning a war against neighboring Colombia led an influential paper of that country to run a story last Sunday, November 15, under the headline "War Drums." It was a pejorative and insulting editorial against the Venezuelan President asserting, among other things, that "Colombia should take very seriously the gravest threat to its national security in more than seven decades as it comes from a President with a military background..."

It goes on to say that: "The reason is the growing potential for a provocation that can go from an incident along the border to an attack on civilian and military facilities in Colombia."

Further on the editorial claims it is likely "...that Hugo Chavez intensifies his attacks against the 'scrawny' -- the sobriquet he applies to his oppositionists -- and tries to remove from regional and local governments those who contradict him. He already did it with the Mayor of Caracas...and now he wants to try with the governors of the states sharing borders with Colombia who refuse to be under his rule...a clash with Colombi-

(Contd. on P. 15)

Iraq parliament struggles over elusive vote deal

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq's parliament suspended efforts on Saturday to reach a deal on a law which is crucial for an election to take place in January.

Political parties would continue negotiations on Sunday, officials said, after Sunni Arab Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi vetoed the law and sent it back to parliament to demand greater representation for Iraqis who fled abroad.

Parliament must now either address Hashemi's complaints and amend the law, which may invite other interest groups to demand other changes, or send it back to him unchanged only for him to possibly veto it again.

The law was approved on November 8 only after weeks of wrangling over how to hold the vote in the disputed city of Kirkuk.

"The session has been suspended until tomorrow to give more time for heads of parliamentary



Iraqi parliament in its first session in March 2006. (AP/File/ Mohammed Hato)

blocs and the legal committee to meet to find a solution," Baha al-Araji, a Shi'ite lawmaker and head of parliamentary legal committee, told Reuters.

The failure of Iraqi legislators to reach

agreement cast further doubt on the likelihood that the parliamentary election would be held on time, potentially threatening the U.S. military's plans to end combat operations in August.

Constitutionally, the election must be held before the end of January and a law must be in place 60 days before voting day, seen as a milestone as Iraq emerges from years of bloodshed triggered by the 2003 U.S. invasion.

The final week of January is unpalatable, in particular to Iraq's Shi'ite majority, because it coincides with major Muslim religious festivals. So the clock is ticking.

Any material delay in the election could affect U.S. military plans to end combat operations 16 months ahead of a full pullout by December 31, 2011.

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Turkey sticks to nuclear power plan

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey is determined to build a nuclear power plant and will launch a new project to replace a failed tender, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz was quoted as saying Saturday.

"The fact that the tender was scrapped does not mean that the process is scrapped. Our determination on nuclear power plants is persisting," Yildiz said in Kizilcahamam town, near Ankara, Anatolia news agency reported.

Energy authorities Friday cancelled a 2008 tender won by a Russian-led consortium to build Turkey's first nuclear power plant after a top administrative court suspended parts of the regulation governing the process.

Yildiz said officials were working on a new model of realizing the project through shorter procedures, adding that the involvement of the public sector might be also considered.

A consortium led by Atomstroyexport, Russia's state nuclear giant, was the only bidder in the scrapped tender to build four nuclear reactors with a total capacity of 4,800-megawatts at the Mediterranean town of Akkuyu.

The tender had been under fire since it emerged that the consortium was the sole bidder and offered above-market prices for supplying electricity to the Turkish grid.

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Obama trumpets Asia trip as boost to U.S. economy



President Barack Obama exits Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, Nov. 19, 2009. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama's eight-day trip to Asia produced no tangible wins for the United States, though he is citing talks with Asian allies that he says could help create thousands of jobs and open new markets for American goods in the future.

Citing progress on a trip that took him from Tokyo to Seoul, Obama noted that "Asia is a region where we now buy more goods and do more trade with than any other place in the world — commerce that supports millions of jobs back home."

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Rwanda genocide survivors may boycott UN court

KIGALI (Reuters) — Survivor groups from Rwanda's 1994 genocide say they may stop sending witnesses to the UN tribunal in Tanzania, in protest at the court's recent acquittals of two genocide suspects.

The groups, who provide many of the witnesses for the trials, say they will not cooperate unless the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) reverses its decision to release Hormisdas Nsengimana and Protais Zigiranyirazo.

"The ICTR should sit down and revise their decision ... if there are no other positive decisions taken, the relationship is cut off," Freddy Mutanguha, general secretary of IBUKA, an umbrella group for survivor organizations told Reuters at a protest in Kigali.

The ICTR has convicted 39 of 47 cases heard. It released Nsengimana this week saying it did not have enough evidence to convict the Catholic pastor of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

The Tanzania-based court also freed Zigiranyirazo citing serious factual and legal errors.

Egide Kayinamura, 21, whose whole family was killed during Rwanda's 100-day massacre in 1994, was one of around 200 protestors who marched to the ICTR branch in Rwanda's capital late on Friday.

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Violence in Africa

By Gwynne Dyer

It was ostensibly about obscenity, but it was really about corruption and censorship -- and in the end, justice prevailed. On Monday a Zambian court found journalist Chansa Kabwela not guilty of "distributing obscene material with intent to corrupt public morals." What obscene material? She had sent photographs of a woman giving birth in a hospital parking lot during a nurses' strike to senior government officials.

President Rupiah Banda called a press conference and declared the photographs "pornographic." Soon after, Kabwela was arrested on obscenity charges. She faced a five-year jail sentence if she were found guilty -- but Banda's real motive was probably the fact that the paper Kabwela works for, the Post, constantly accuses him of corruption.

The Post is probably right. Banda succeeded Levy Mwanawasa, a president of unquestioned integrity, after the latter died of a stroke last year. But unlike Mwanawasa, he has failed to pursue the previous president, Frederick Chiluba, a monumentally corrupt man who has been ordered by a British court to repay Zambia \$55 million that he had stolen.

Banda has not tried to collect the \$55 million from Chiluba, and has stopped any further action against him in Zambia's courts. An unsympathetic observer might wonder if some of Chiluba's stolen millions have bought Banda's complicity. The Post wonders that out loud, so Banda went after its news editor, Chansa Kabwela.

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