

SPORTS



Two U.S. broadcasters suspended due to remarks about Haddadi

Tehran Times Sports Desk
LOS ANGELES — Clippers TV announcers Ralph Lawler and Michael Smith were suspended one game for their comments in Wednesday's game about Memphis' Hamed Haddadi.

The duo did not work Friday's night telecast against the Denver Nuggets at Staples Center by the Fox Sports Prime Ticket cable network.

Lawler and Smith made their off-the-cuff comments about the Iranian-born center during Wednesday night's telecast from Memphis. The on-air banter offended a viewer who e-mailed Fox to complain, according to AP.

"We regret the remarks made by Clippers announcers Michael Smith and Ralph Lawler during Wednesday's telecast," Fox said in a statement.

"While we believe that Michael and Ralph did not intend their exchange to be offensive, the comments were inappropriate."

"We extend our apologies to Hamed Haddadi of the Memphis Grizzlies and to anyone who was offended. We have addressed the situation with Michael and Ralph and have taken appropriate action."

Iran loses to Japan in Grand Champions Cup

Tehran Times Sports Desk
NAGOYA — Iran volleyball team was narrowly beaten by Japan in the FIVB Men's World Grand Champions Cup on Saturday.

The Japanese improved their win-loss record to 3-0 with a 27-25, 18-25, 25-23, 20-25, 16-14 victory in front of 8,000 screaming fans at the Nippongaishi Hall.

"It was a good match, a very difficult match in this situation for my players, for my young players. They played very good in this culture and environment. I think we could have won the first set and if we had won it the result could have been totally different, but we had so many mistakes on the last points of the first set," Hossein Madani said.

Iran will play Poland on Sunday.

The 2009 Men's World Grand Champions Cup started in Osaka and Nagoya, Japan, on November 18 and runs to November 23.

Iran advances to next stage in FIBA Asia U-16 Championship

Tehran Times Sports Desk
JOHOR BAHRU — Iran basketball team beat Malaysia on Day Three of the FIBA Asia U-16 Championship at Bandaraya Stadium on Saturday and proceeded to the next stage.

In Group D, Iran proved too tall and talented for the hosts beating them 97-52. The team had defeated Taiwan and Thailand in the tournament.

Iran has been drawn along with Jordan, the Philippines and Syria in the second round.

The west Asian champion is scheduled to play Jordan on Sunday. The team will play the Philippines and Syria in the following days.

The top two teams of the tournament will qualify for the inaugural 2010 FIBA U17 World Championship to be played in Hamburg, Germany from July 2 to 11.

Iran, Turkmenistan could develop security cooperation

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iran and Turkmenistan could develop security cooperation and jointly run campaigns against drug trafficking and terrorism, Iran's Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani suggested here on Saturday.

In a meeting with visiting Turkmen Parliament Speaker Akdza Nurberdyeva, Larijani said regular talks between the two countries' parliaments will help strengthen regional cooperation.

The parliamentary ties could also help speed up the implementation of the joint economic and industrial projects, he added.

Iran and Turkmenistan should take advantage of the great potential of their long water and land borders to expand their economic cooperation, he observed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Larijani said the transfer of Iranian scientific-industrial knowledge to Turkmenistan particularly in oil and gas fields could help open a new chapter in industrial cooperation.

He also said that Tehran is ready to



Turkmen parliament speaker (L) talking to her Iranian counterpart (R).

provide an easy access for Turkmenistan to sell its gas in the European markets.

For her part, Nurberdyeva said Turkmenistan prioritizes the expansion of brotherly ties with Iran in all areas.

She said parliamentary relations between the two nations will set the

ground for the expansion of friendly cooperation.

Turkmenistan is ready to utilize Iran's scientific and technological advances that could help enhance bilateral economic and industrial cooperation, the senior female lawmaker noted.

Anti-Iranian resolution is a black mark in history of UN committee: ambassador

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations has said that the anti-Iranian resolution issued by the UN human rights committee on Friday is a black mark in the history of the committee.

"The resolution is completely political and has been drafted for political purposes," Ambassador Mohammad Khazaei stated on Saturday in New York.

Khazaei said the countries that voted for the resolution do not uphold human rights themselves.

The supporters of the resolution are the countries that have turned a blind eye to the Zionist regime's brutal crimes in the



Gaza Strip and have voted against the world's demand that Israeli officials be prosecuted, he noted.

Members of the United Nations human rights committee adopted a non-binding resolution Friday which criticizes Iran for alleged human rights violations.

The resolution adopted with only 74 votes in favor -- with 48 against and 59 abstentions -- expresses concern over what it calls "the serious, ongoing and recurring human rights violations" in Iran.

Khazaei sharply criticized the Canadian-drafted resolution, saying assembly decisions of this kind have "created an atmosphere of confrontation and polarization," Reuters reported.

Addicts to receive 'opium liquid': official

Tehran Times Social Desk

TEHRAN — Director General of the Treatment, Rehabilitation and Vocational Training Department of the national Drug Control Headquarters (DCHQ) has said that 600 thousand addicts will receive an opium liquid

from the beginning of the winter.

In a meeting with the health minister, the ways to treating the addicts with the opium liquid were examined and it was decided that the large scale distribution of the liquid will begin from December 21, Saeed Sefatian told the

ISNA news agency on Saturday.

He noted that the opium liquid will be dispensed in the addiction treatment centers and the addicts can "only" receive the necessary dosage through the prescription of the centers' doctors.

Accusations, insults prevent unity: political activist

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — A member of the central council of the Association of Loyalists to the Islamic Revolution, a conservative party, has said that slandering political groups and accusing them of being foreign agents prevents unity in the society.

Using smear tactics and accusing those who once held key posts in the establishment of conspiracy, simply because they think differently, is a mistake and not acceptable, Mohammad-Mahdi Abdkhodaei told the Mehr News Agency on Saturday.

Trying to eliminate political rivals from the political scene through insult can't be acceptable under any justification, Abdkhodaei, the member of the conservative group, noted.

"In Britain and France advocates of different political parties and groups could come into the streets to demonstrate and express their disagreements over state matters.

"In those countries nobody accuses them of being against the system and establishment.

"On the contrary, in Iran disputes among political parties and their supporters have led into severe clashes among those groups," Abdkhodaei stated.

Abdkhodaei slammed performance of political parties in the



post-presidential election dispute, saying "After the election actions by none of the parties were in compliance with the democratic ideals."

In such an environment where political groups are clashing with one another, any efforts to bring unity to the society would definitely fail, Abdkhodaei noted.

Unity in the society and among political parties requires avoiding hostile and unfriendly behaviors towards rivals, he noted.

He also stated that it is impossible to make all political parties think alike, and the fact that political parties having differences of opinion is something normal.

"Political parties must learn to resolve their disputes peacefully and reasonably," Abdkhodaei suggested.

Meanwhile, the secretary general of Followers of the Imam and Leadership Front on Saturday described the 10th presidential election as "a serious test" for political factions.

Addressing a conference in Mashhad, Habibollah Asgaroladi stated that unfortunately some failed the test by forgetting the moral and revolutionary values and caused disturbance in the society.

Iran, Kuwait seek stronger ties

(Contd. from p. 1)

The first vice president said relations between Tehran and Kuwait goes beyond customary diplomatic conventions.

The Iranian official also said the life of the regional nations is dependent on a durable security in the Persian Gulf region and that is why the presence of foreigners in the region is harmful to regional states.

The vice president added Iran is standing alongside other countries in the region to establish



Kuwaiti prime minister (L) talking to Iranian first vice president (R).

Persian Gulf region.

For his part, Sheikh Ahmed al-Sabah praised Iran's stance against the invasion of Kuwait by the Saddam regime in 1990. The prime minister said Tehran adopted a "noble and glorious" position at the time.

He also said Kuwait's market is open to all Iranian products.

Kuwait's government extends its hands of friendship and cooperation to Iran for investment in different projects, the senior Kuwaiti official noted.



Anti-Iran resolution draws criticism from NAM, OIC

The Non-aligned Movement (NAM) and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have condemned a UN anti-Iran resolution on human rights violation.

In separate statements, NAM and OIC representatives expressed strong disapproval of a UN non-binding resolution which accuses Iran of human rights violation.

They called the resolution 'a politically-motivated move, which undermined human rights activities,' IRIB reported.

"The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) opposes misusing human rights as a tool against other countries and rejects the resolution introduced by Canada as baseless," the Syrian ambassador to the UN said.

The Cuban envoy speaking on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement also condemned the resolution, calling it a 'politically-motivated move' used as a leverage to increase pressure on Iran.

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Among those, who voted 'yes' to the resolution was Saudi Arabia in a move analysts believe might be linked to recent clashes in Yemen between Shia fighters and the government.

The Yemeni military has launched a major offensive - dubbed 'Operation Scorched Earth' - against Houthi Shias in the northern sector of the country.

The government accuses the fighters led by Abdul Malik al-Houthi of seeking to restore the imamate system, which was overthrown in a 1962 coup.

The Houthis argue, however, that they are defending their rights against government marginalization- a policy which they believe has been adopted under pressure from Saudi-backed Wahhabi extremists.

Saudi Arabia has directly entered the military conflict by launching air raids in northern Yemen, alleging that Houthi fighters have killed two Saudi soldiers on the border.

Riyadh insists that it is targeting Houthi positions on 'Saudi territory', but the Shia resistance fighters say Yemeni villages are being targeted with deadly phosphorous bombs, which cause massive injuries among the Shia civilian population.

Saudi Arabia's Badr (Arabsat) along with Egypt's NileSat satellites in a coordinated move took Iran's Arabic-language news channel al-Alam off the air.

Al Alam has gained prominence for its coverage of Israel's 2008 aggression against the people of Gaza and the on-going war in Yemen.

The Iranian government says it fully supports a united and stable Yemen, rejecting claims that it has been interfering in the Arab country's internal affairs. Tehran has also offered to help Yemen resolve the crisis that has so far killed, injured and displaced a large number of Yemeni Shias.

(Source: Press TV)

Envoy: Iraq pursuing policy on expulsion of MKO members

TEHRAN (FNA) — Iran's ambassador to Iraq on Saturday announced that the Baghdad government is seriously pursuing its policy on the expulsion of the anti-Iran terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) from the country.

"Based on our information, the government of Iraq is preparing preliminary measures for transferring the group's members from Camp Ashraf to Samawah Province (Southeast of Baghdad)," Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Hassan Kazzemi Qomi told FNA.

"That is the Iraqi government's decision and oppositions in this regard will not influence Baghdad's decision," he reiterated.

The MKO has been in Iraq's Diyala province since the 1980s. The Iraqi government and parliament have announced that they would not tolerate the group anymore and that they are seeking to expel the group from the country in the near future.

Following the decision, Iraqi security forces took control of the training base of the MKO at Camp Ashraf - about 60km (37 miles) north of Baghdad - in July and detained dozens of the members of the terrorist group.

The Iraqi authority then changed the name of the military center from Camp Ashraf to the Camp of New Iraq.

The anti-Iran terror group has been blacklisted as a terrorist organization by many international entities and countries.

The MKO is behind a slew of assassinations and bombings inside Iran, a number of EU parliamentarians said in a recent letter in which they slammed a British court decision to remove the MKO from the British terror list. The EU officials also added that the group has no public support within Iran because of their role in helping Saddam Hussein in the Iraqi imposed war on Iran (1980-1988).

Many of the MKO members abandoned the terrorist organization while most of those still remaining in the camp are said to be willing to quit but are under pressure and torture not to do so.

A May 2005 Human Rights Watch report accused the MKO of running prison camps in Iraq and committing human rights violations.

According to the Human Rights Watch report, the outlawed group puts defectors under torture and jail terms.