

## Farahi condemns Israel for oppressing Gaza women

**Tehran Times Women's Desk**  
**TEHRAN** — Speaking in a Sunday address to a meeting between the first ladies of countries that are members to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Azam Farahi, the wife of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad spoke out to keep alive the memory of Palestinian women and children suffering from a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip.

According to Press TV, the Iranian First Lady urged world countries to take seriously the crisis in the Gaza strip, where based on the UN reports, over one million people are living in abject poverty in the wake of a long-imposed crippling economic siege and a devastating Israeli offensive.



"The World needs to hear the voice of Palestinian women and children," Farahi said.

Chaired by Suzanne Sabet, the wife of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the meeting took place on the eve of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) summit on food security.

Farahi said the Israeli regime has no right to continue its crippling siege on Gaza, which has triggered a steady deterioration of health conditions in the coastal territory.

Israel's stranglehold on Gaza has made as much as 80% of Gazan residents dependent on aid from the United Nations. The siege has led to the collapse of 90% of Gazan businesses, simply furthering hardships for civilians.

## Women hold anti-U.S. rally in Islamabad

**ISLAMABAD (IRNA)** — A large number of women Wednesday staged an anti-U.S. rally in Pakistani capital and denounced American policies in region.

Organized by Jamaat-e-Islami, the women in veil, gathered at the main Aabpara market and chanted slogans against the United States.

The 'Go America Go' rally is part of the countrywide campaign launched by Jamaat-e-Islami.

Jamaat Chief Syed Munawwar Hassan told the rally that the activities of the American Blackwater organization have increased in Pakistan but the government has become merely a silent spectator. He said that the Jamaat will frustrate the humiliating plan to turn Pakistan into a mini-Pentagon.

The Jamaat chief said that the presence of the American forces in Afghanistan is the main cause for instability in the region. He said the U.S. is not interested in regional peace and stability, but is only interested in securing its own interests.

He also said that the Jamaat will continue the 'Go America Go' campaign and will intensify the movement after Eid-ul-Azha. Hassan asked the Pakistani government to quit the U.S.-led coalition.

# Facing a changing world: women, population and climate



**Tehran Times Women's Desk**

**TEHRAN** — Family planning, reproductive health care and gender relations could influence the future course of climate change and affect how humanity adapts to rising seas, worsening storms and severe droughts, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported on Wednesday.

According to the report on "The State of World Population 2009", a copy of which was sent to the Mehr News Agency by the UN Information Center (UNIC) in Tehran, family planning influence climate change.

International climate-change agreements and national policies are more likely to succeed in the long run if they take into account population dynamics, the relations between the genders, and women's well-being and access to services and opportunities, the report concludes.

Slower population growth, for example, would help build social resilience to climate change's impacts and would contribute to a reduction of greenhouse-gas emissions in the future.

Most of the debate about climate change today has revolved around countries' relative responsibilities for limiting the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and for funding efforts to shift to low-carbon energy and other technologies.

What's the best approach for reducing carbon emissions? Who should shoulder the financial responsibility for addressing current and future climate change? "These questions are critically important," UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid said.

"But also important are fundamental questions about how climate change will affect women, men, boys, and girls differently around the world, and indeed within nations, and how individual behavior can undermine or contribute to the global effort to cool our warming world."

The climate debate of the future must take into account the human and gender dimensions of every aspect of the problem. Any treaty emerging out of the December 2009 Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change "that helps people adapt to climate change and that harnesses women's and men's power to reverse the warming of the earth's atmosphere would launch a genuinely effective long-term global strategy to deal with climate change," Obaid adds.

### Climate change impact on people

The temperature of the earth's surface has risen 0.74 degrees Celsius in the past 100 years. This increase may not seem much, but this warming has been sufficient to disrupt many of the planet's ecosystems to pose significant risks to human well-being. More importantly, if recent trends continue or accelerate as many climate scientists predict the earth's temperature may raise another four to six degrees by 2100, with likely catastrophic effect on the environment, habitats, economies and people. The 10 warmest years globally since 1880 have been in the last 13 years. With growing confidence, climate scientists around the world attribute the bulk of recent warming to the greenhouse gases injected into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of an increasingly wealthy human population, particularly in the industrialized countries. Increasing combustion of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas releases more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, compounding and accelerating the atmosphere's "greenhouse effect." Deforestation

and soil degradation also result in more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and activities from farming to refrigeration result in emissions of several other powerful greenhouse gases.

Climate change has the potential to reverse the hard-earned development gains of the past decades and the progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Setbacks are likely to result from climate-driven water scarcity, intense tropical storms and storm surges, floods, loss of glacial melt water for irrigated agriculture, changes in food availability and possible health crises.

Climate change threatens to worsen poverty and burden marginalized and vulnerable groups with additional hardships. In Southeast Asia, for example, about 221 million people already live below the \$2-a-day poverty line. Many of the region's poor live in coastal areas and in low lying deltas, and many of these poor people are small-holder farmers or people who earn their living from the seas. Poor households are especially vulnerable to climate change because their marginal income provides little or no access to health services or other safety nets to protect them against the threats from changing conditions.

Also as a result of climate change, sea levels will rise, threatening low-lying densely populated coastal areas and small island states. In May 2009, The Lancet medical journal called climate change "the biggest global health threat of the 21st Century." The "epidemiological outcome" of climate change on disease patterns worldwide will be profound, especially in developing countries, where existing vulnerabilities to poor health remain. The incidence of vector-borne diseases, for example, will rise. Millions of additional people may be affected by malaria, as rising temperatures allow disease-carrying mosquitoes to live at higher altitudes.

### Disproportionate burden on women

Climate change will not only endanger lives and undermine livelihoods, but will also exacerbate the gaps between rich and poor and amplify the inequities between women and men. Women — particularly those in poor countries — will be affected differently than men. They are among the most vulnerable to climate change, partly because in many countries they make up a larger share of the agricultural work force and partly because they tend to have access to fewer income-earning opportunities. Women manage households and care for family members, which often limits their mobility and increases their vulnerability to sudden weather-related natural disasters. Drought and erratic rainfall force women to work harder to secure food, water and energy for their homes. Girls drop out of school to help their mothers with these tasks. This cycle of deprivation, poverty and inequality undermines the social capital needed to deal effectively with climate change.

Given women's significant engagement in food production in developing countries, the close connection between gender, farming and climate change deserves far more analysis than it currently receives. Because of greater poverty, lesser power over their own lives, less recognition of their economic productivity and their disproportionate burden in reproduction and child-raising, women face additional challenges as climate changes.

Marginalization of and discrimination against women and the lack of attention to the ways gender inequality hampers devel-

opment, health, equity and overall human well-being all undermine countries' resilience to climate change. Resilience is most likely to bloom and grow in societies in which all people can go to school, access health services, enjoy equal protection of law, and participate fully in directing their own lives and the destinies of their communities and nations. Often, as well, resilience has its own roots in culture, as in the many cases of traditions of generosity to those in need and cooperative work in the face of calamity.

### Reproductive health

The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, or ICPD, was a milestone in the history of population and development. At the conference, the world agreed that population is not about numbers, but about people. The conference's 20-year Program of Action, adopted by 179 Governments, makes the argument that if needs for voluntary family planning and reproductive health care are met, along with other basic health and education services, then population stabilization will occur naturally, not through coercion or control.

There is good reason to believe that achievement of the ICPD's goal of universal access to reproductive health, in combination with improved education of girls and gender equality, would help achieve health and development objectives while also contributing to declines in fertility, which would in turn help reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in the long run. These fertility declines would be themselves—even in combination with increased maternal and child survival, to which reproductive health, education and gender equality also powerfully contribute—lead to population levels below those foreseen in most greenhouse-gas emission scenarios developed for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

### Reining in climate change

Governments must anticipate and prepare for the stresses climate change is likely to add to the already-challenging business of advancing development, alleviating poverty, assuring access to education and health care, and moving toward gender equality. Successful approaches to climate change are much more likely to emerge in the context of sustainable economic and social development, respect for human rights and cultural diversity, the empowerment of women and access to reproductive health for all.

Specific measures to address the problem must, however, be based on fact, not frenzy. Gaps in research on many of the effects of—and solutions to—climate change must be filled before it is too late.

The complex nature and momentum of human induced climate change suggest three areas of action needed now, with immediate, near-term and long-term benefits.

Adaptation, now and for the duration: Global temperatures are already climbing, so we have no choice but to adapt to the changes we face now and to anticipate those we can expect in the future. As temperatures are projected to rise for decades, and sea levels perhaps for centuries, learning to adapt and become more resilient to ongoing changes in climate is both an immediate and a long-term task. Adaptation, however, is not something that donor countries, banks or corporations can somehow bequeath to developing countries. Although financing and the transfer of technology and knowledge are essential to the effort, successful and lasting adaptation must arise from the lives, experience and wisdom of those who are themselves adapting.

## Anglican head challenges Vatican over women clergy

**ROME (Reuters)** — Roman Catholics should look beyond the divisive issue of ordaining women to see how much they share with the world's Anglicans and work toward greater Christian unity, the head of the Anglican Communion said on Thursday.

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, whose own church is split over female priests and bishops, said the Vatican's ban on ordaining women was not as solidly grounded theologically as the core Christian doctrines the two denominations agree on. His speech at a pontifical university in Rome came a month after Pope Benedict invited alienated Anglicans to join the Catholic Church, a move some Anglicans criticized as a bid to woo away those opposed to women bishops.

## Woman charged with hate crime in Muslim headscarf incident

**CHICAGO (Examiner.com)** — A Tinley Park woman is charged with a hate crime after she allegedly tried to pull a headscarf off a Muslim woman while the two were grocery shopping November 7.

Valerie Kenney, 54, of Tinley Park, was shopping at Jewel Foods at 171st and Harlem when she saw the Muslim woman in her aisle. Police Comdr. Pat McCain says Kenney said something disparaging to the woman in regards to a Muslim being responsible for the massacre at Fort Hood two days earlier. Kenney then allegedly tried to pull off the woman's hijab (headscarf). The woman was not hurt and police were called. Tinley Park and the Cook County State's Attorney's filed charges today. The hate crime is a felony and if she is convicted, Kenney faces a maximum 3 year prison sentence.

## Indian husbands want protection from nagging wives

**LUCKNOW, India (Reuters Life!)** — Shrews, beware: a group of Indian husbands tired of being harassed by their wives are demanding the local government create a male protection society to address their grievances.

The men, who said they had enough of their "nagging" wives, dressed up in clothes traditionally worn by grooms and paraded through the northern city of Lucknow this week to ask for a National Commission for Men. "We are asking for equal rights. We want somebody to listen to the grievances of men," said Subhash Dube, a medical doctor who described himself as a victimized husband.

## Average UK woman wears 515 chemicals a day

**LONDON (Reuters Life!)** — The average British woman "hosts" 515 chemicals on her body every day, according to a new study.

The poll of 2,016 women by deodorant-maker Bionsea said most of the pollutants are self-inflicted by women who sprayed on deodorant, slapped on body moisturizer and applied lipstick each morning. Today's average British woman uses body and facial moisturizers, perfumes, deodorants and various other make-up products which leave them unknowingly carrying hundreds of chemicals on their bodies throughout the day, Bionsea said. Moisturizer can contain over 30 different chemicals and perfume up to 400, it added. More than a third of the women who took part in the study were unaware of the key ingredients in their toiletries, with only nine percent aware of most of the ingredients in the cosmetics they put on each day.



## Yummy sweet potato casserole

"My family begs me to make this creamy baked dish every Thanksgiving and Christmas. What makes it so good is the pecan topping! Try it and I'm sure it will become your new tradition!"

### Ingredients

530 g sweet potato, cubed  
 100 g white sugar  
 2 eggs, beaten  
 3 g salt  
 55 g butter, softened  
 120 ml milk  
 3 ml vanilla extract  
 110 g packed brown sugar  
 40 g all-purpose flour  
 45 g butter, softened  
 60 g chopped pecans

### Directions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C). Put sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan with water to cover. Cook over medium high heat until tender; drain and mash.

In a large bowl, mix together the sweet potatoes, sugar, eggs, salt, butter, milk and vanilla. Mix until smooth. Transfer to a 9x13 inch baking dish.

In medium bowl, mix the sugar and flour. Cut in the butter until the mixture is coarse. Stir in the pecans. Sprinkle the mixture over the sweet potato mixture.

Bake in the preheated oven 30 minutes, or until the topping is lightly brown.

