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Iran, Brazil set goals for \$25b in trade

Tehran Times Economic Desk

TEHRAN — Presidents of Iran and Brazil highlighted the necessity to establish cooperation between the two countries in all fields, particularly in industry, trade, energy, and technology and set a \$25 billion trade volume goal for the next five years.

The agreement was made during Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's three-hour meeting with his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Monday in Brasilia, SHANA news agency reported.

In the meeting the two sides agreed that there were no obstacles to stop the expansion of their relations and 13 cooperation agreements were signed with the presidents in attendance.

A 150-member business group is accompanying the president in his tour of Africa and South America which is the largest such group in the past 30 years.

Meanwhile, Xinhua reported representatives of the Venezuelan and Iranian governments opened the Venezuela-Iran Entrepreneurs Meeting in Caracas on Monday.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister, Nicolas Maduro and Iranian Ambassador to Caracas, Ahmad Sobhani attended the opening ceremony, which was broadcast by the state-run TV channel Venezolana de Television (VTV).

"Our challenge is to give a plan for new and intense projects. Nothing can impede the capacities of the two sides and we have continued collaboration to get concrete results," Maduro said at the ceremony.

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Iran seeks 100% guarantee for exchange of nuclear fuel

◆ Tehran will mull other options if request for fuel exchange not guaranteed

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iran wants a 100 percent guarantee that it will receive the higher-enriched nuclear fuel for its medical research reactor if it decides to exchange its low-enriched uranium in the proposed deal, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said here on Tuesday.

According to a deal drafted by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Iran would exchange a large consignment of its low-enriched uranium for 20 percent enriched uranium for the Tehran reactor, which produces radioisotopes for medical treatment.

Iranian lawmakers and other officials have said the first priority is to buy fuel for the reactor. They have also said Iran will only exchange its low-enriched uranium after it receives the 20 percent enriched uranium promised in the latest nuclear proposal.

"The exchange of nuclear fuel on our country's soil is one of the 100 percent guarantees we are seeking in regard to the enriched uranium," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told reporters at his first weekly press briefing.



Mehmanparast



Jalili

guarantee. Those who presented such proposals are obliged to give us a full guarantee that if we send the 3.5 percent enriched uranium abroad, we will definitely receive the 20 percent enriched uranium."

"We have learned from our previous experiences in relationships with Western countries, including France and Britain, that they don't fulfill their commitments," Mehmanparast noted.

"And to avoid a repetition of the same problems, we are looking for a 100 percent guarantee... and there should be no ambiguities in providing the fuel for the Tehran reactor," he stated.

(Contd. on P. 15)

90% of air exercise goals accomplished: commander

Tehran Times Political Desk

ARAK — The commander of the Khatam-ol-Anbia Air Base says that 90 percent of the goals of the second stage of the Defenders of the Sky of Velayat air exercise have been accomplished.

"It is the third day of the Defenders of the Sky of Velayat air exercise, and according to the assessments, we have met 90 percent of the goals set," Brigadier General Ahmad Miqani told reporters in Arak, Central Province on Tuesday.

During the first stage of the military exercise, the armed forces practiced ways to attack cruise missiles and to counter biological, chemical, and nuclear attacks.

Miqani said Army Commander Major General Ataollah Salehi is completely satisfied with the maneuver and the rest of the goals of the exercise will be achieved when the exercise is completed on Thursday.

(Contd. on P. 15)

PERSPECTIVE



Fiercely human angels

By Oscar Taffetani

The remake of the fall of the Berlin Wall which was carried out at the Brandenburg Gate last Monday had all the immorality the political show requires these days: an exultant Sarkozy, invited to talk among the first speakers, said that "the men and women who fought against the Wall had a dream for the whole of Europe that materialized in countries such as France or Germany". "Its disappearance (that of the Wall) brought families back together", said Russian President Medvedev very creatively. "Berliners changed the world with their courage", was what the English Prime Minister demagogically uttered. And Merkel, oh, Merkel, she fulfilled the dream of each and every German kid: "It's up to us to bring down every wall from the 21st Century like we did in this divided city."

Two unquestionable protagonists in the real socialism debacle, Russian Mikhail Gorbachov and Polish Lech Walesa, began with the domino piece show: they had to throw out simile parts of a simile wall for the televised world to really buy the fraud. And so the Berlin Wall fell, once again, twenty years later.

A few days before the remake, moved by public denouncing, Buenos Aires City Mayor Mauricio Macri decided to neutralize the UCEP (Public Space Control Unit, an anti-homeless gang he had created together with Minister of Environment and Public Space Juan Pablo Piccardo) and move the involved agents to the orbit of the Ministry of Social Development. Now the men in black will dress in gray and exercise another type of violence against the poor.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Top officials meet on police and security issues

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Some high-ranking officials of Islamic Republic of Iran attended a scientific security conference entitled "Police, Security, and Outlook of 1404 (2025)."

The summit was held here on Tuesday at the conference hall of Millad Tower, and officials commented on security-related issues.

The conference was aimed at laying the groundwork for optimizing security-related cooperation among the relevant organizations such as police and security forces and intelligence services.

Identifying the threats and opportunities, examining strategies to establish sustained security, and getting input from creative security experts have been cited as other objectives of the conference.

The Secretary of Expediency Council, Mohsen Rezaei said police should function as "the shelter (of peace)" and "the powerful arm of the Islamic Republic."

He called the Twenty-year Outlook Plan (2005-



25) the second most important "written document" of the Islamic Republic after the Constitution, saying, "We should develop our country's future according to this plan."

In the long-term, the priority should be given to social security, but the political security should be guaranteed as well, he added.

The Intelligence Minister, Hojatoleslam Heidar Moslehi, stressed the importance of police's mis-

sion, considering it incomparable to other departments' obligations.

The scientific and research-oriented approach of the police department is noteworthy and valuable, he said.

"The police have gained the people's trust and approval to an acceptable level over the past decade," he opined.

Admiral Ali Shamkhani, the ex-defense minister, said police should not be afraid of admitting to its mistakes and dealing firmly with offences.

He compared the police chief with "a strategist who enters a dynamic competition in which the game's rules keep changing."

Services offered by the police are the most comprehensive ones which target all citizens, regardless of the place in which they live. Due to its widespread presence and influence, this department has many "opponents and enemies", he stated.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Slander of prominent figures cannot be tolerated: MP

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — MP Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh said here on Tuesday that defamatory remarks against prominent figures of the Islamic establishment cannot be tolerated anymore.

He expressed support for Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani's critical remarks about the efforts to tarnish the reputation of certain prominent figures of the Islamic establishment.

Larijani's remarks show that senior officials cannot tolerate the situation anymore, Falahatpisheh told the Mehr News Agency on Tuesday.

Unfortunately, certain people who held sensitive positions for a long time in the past and formulated wartime strategies have been slandered, he added.

Larijani said on Monday that it is not yet clear what the intentions behind the slanders against Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani were and how they served the people who made the defamatory remarks.

Iran calls for immediate end to Yemen clashes

Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN — Iran on Tuesday called for putting an immediate end to the ongoing clashes in Yemen, stressing that the fighting will serve the interests of those who are hostile to the Islamic world.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Pakistani troops kill 18 pro-Taliban militants

PESHAWAR (AP) — Pakistani troops killed 18 militants in a fresh offensive Tuesday against insurgents blamed for a wave of recent bombings in the main northwestern city of Peshawar.

The operation in Bara region was the latest salvo in a broadening campaign against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in the lawless lands close to the Afghan border since last year.

Authorities claim hundreds of militants have been killed, yet the assaults do not appear to have dented the insurgents' ability to strike.

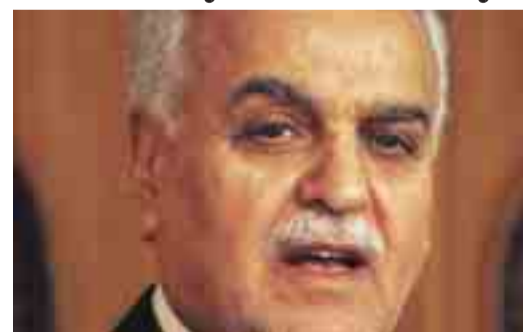
Maj. Fazlur Rehman, a spokesman for the paramilitary Frontier Corps, said ground troops, helicopters and artillery were being used in the operation in Bara close to Peshawar.

The aim of the assault was to capture mountain heights and strategic locations from the militants who had been attacking Peshawar, he said, adding 18 militants had been killed.

Peshawar and surrounding areas have seen a relentless wave of bombings in recent weeks that have killed more than 150 people. The attacks are apparently aimed at avenging an ongoing, major army operation in South Waziristan, a main militant hub 167 miles (270 kilometers) from Peshawar.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Iraq national vote unlikely in January



Iraq's Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi speaks during a news conference in Baghdad, November 18, 2009. (Reuters photo)

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq will be unable to hold a national election in January as planned, a poll official said on Tuesday.

The general election was supposed to be held between January 18-23, but Iraq's Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, a Sunni Muslim, last week vetoed a law needed to hold the polls on grounds that Iraqis abroad were under-represented.

Hundreds of thousands of Iraqis fled the sectarian violence triggered by the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, and many are Sunni.

(Contd. on P. 15)

Obama seeks to reassure Singh on U.S.-India ties

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Barack Obama sought to reassure Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday of his commitment to boosting U.S. ties with India even as his administration has set its rivals, China and Pakistan, as top priorities.

Treating Singh to the first state visit of the new U.S. administration, Obama faced the challenge of easing the emerging Asian power's concerns that it is slipping down his foreign policy agenda, dominated recently by efforts to craft a new war plan in Afghanistan.

"Your visit, at this pivotal moment in history, speaks to the opportunity before us to build the relationship between our nations ... into one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century," Obama told Singh at a welcoming ceremony.

India's government had looked to the White House talks for a clear message that Obama intends to sustain momentum in improving diplomatic and economic relations that deepened under his predecessor, George W. Bush.

Obama, who met privately with Singh before hosting him at an elegant state dinner to be held later on Tuesday, responded by hailing India as "indispensable" to global security and prosperity.

(Contd. on P. 15)