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Iran, Brazil ...

More than 70 representatives of Iranian companies came to Caracas for discussion on agriculture, food, energy, commerce, investments as well as enterprises of various sizes before President Ahmadinejad's visit to that country.

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Iran seeks ...

Buying fuel is a trade issue

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili said here on Tuesday that Iran will consider other options if the country's request to receive the 20 percent enriched nuclear fuel is not guaranteed.

"We must receive a solid guarantee that the fuel will be delivered, and if a concrete guarantee is not provided, (we) have other options to consider," Jalili told reporters.

He said the issue is neither a political nor a legal or a technical matter and it does not relate to Iran's talks with the 5+1 group (five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany) at all.

Rather, it is simply a trade issue, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator asserted.

Preference for buying fuel

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told reporters at a press conference in Brasilia on Monday that despite the fact that Iran is capable of enriching uranium to a level of 20 percent purity for its reactor, it prefers to buy it.

The Iranian president added that there is no legal prohibition barring Iran from producing 20 percent enriched uranium under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Jalili, who led the Iranian delegation during the nuclear talks in Geneva on October 1, said Iran is ready to hold talks on its package of proposals, but apparently the 5+1 group is not ready for such talks.

The package includes proposals for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, economic cooperation, and ways to achieve global nuclear disarmament.

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90% ...

Increasing coordination between the forces participating in the air exercise is one of the most important objectives of the war game, Miqani noted.

The military drill, which covers an area of 600,000 square kilometers (230,000 square miles), is being conducted in the northwest, west, south, and southwest of Iran to enhance Iran's aerial defenses against any potential attack.

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Fiercely ...

Past seeds of current horrors

The international organization Human Rights Watch has been insisting since 2004 that the international tractor manufacturer Caterpillar should not sell its bulldozers to the Israeli army because they use them to demolish the schools, hospitals and homes that belong to the Palestinian civilian population, in times of peace (because in times of war they bomb them from their planes). But Caterpillar has not yet come up with a decision (the company's social responsibility, we all know, does not go so far).

Recent studies about very old history which took place in Ireland (1649-1653) reveal that the British

occupation of the island, responsibility given by the Tory Parliament to bloodthirsty Oliver Cromwell, took the lives of 618 thousand Irish people. Nearly half of the entire population. Those who did not die in combat were randomly executed. The cultivable land was sterilized with salt (hundreds of thousands of Irish starved to death). The rest died in the hands of the bubonic plague or exile.

The autonomy of the Basque in times of the brief Republic of Spain lasted for nine months. To put an end to it, Francisco Franco sought the aid of the German Nazis and the Italian Fascists. Guernica was the first air bombing rehearsal on the civil population. Children, women, elderly, without distinction, all fell under the bombs. After the surrender of Santoña in 1937, the leader of Spain decreed that Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa were "traitorous provinces" and "they did not deserve to have privileges." People from these provinces were not even allowed to use their mother tongue in schools (and there are people who still wonder where the violence in the Basque Country comes from).

The Americas? What can we say about the Americas that we have not written or repeated with sadness throughout all these years? Jose Gabriel Condorcanqui, known as Tupac Amaru, had his tongue cut out and was later dismembered in front of his wife and children. Each one of his body parts was sent to the four cardinal points of the Empire for all Children of the Sun to learn the lesson. That was the Spanish sweetness in America.

Nestor Segovia: The intimidation of a worker

The Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo found not long ago their grandchild number 98. But there are nearly other 300 -- they say -- who still need to recover their identity. These are the consequences and heritage of our country's last genocide. The Argentine society --despite its great advances which make it stand out in the whole of Latin America -- has not been able yet to recover from these wounds. Nor has it been able to find Justice. Or learn from that great teacher History is.

These are the conditions in which the brutal, devious, inhuman violence on a Buenos Aires Metro workers' delegate finds it. Around the same time the union Segovia works for (curiously not recognized by the State) was launching a strike and other union measures protesting for his rights, a Buenos Aires police gang, with the consent of the political power and the support of a judge, charged against Segovia's humble house in Moreno.

The attackers violently forced Noemi Segovia's ex partner and mother of his children out of the house -- the place in which she also had run a children's soup kitchen for more than a decade as part of the Teresa Vive Movement; they hurt Segovia's little children --who tried to resist the attack -- and, eventually tore down, with drop hammers, the precarious house, sending the metro delegate a gangster message difficult to ignore: "whatever you do, it will cost the health or life of your loved ones."

The response to this aggression from the metro workers, some left wing associations and the Argentine Workers Central (CTA) was clever: a press conference, a claim for constitutional rights and a metro strike last November 10 to denounce the intimidation and protest against it.

At the beginning of the year there was a rehearsal for the blockade and militarization of a town in Corcovado, Province of Chubut. Months later, there was a rehearsal for militarization in the Kraft-Terrabusi factory. Now they are trying the effects of demolishing a house before the helpless eyes of its inhabitants.

We said in a previous article that it would be suicidal to think that the Kraft workers' struggle is not our struggle. Now we say, without fear-

ing to be wrong, that it would be suicidal to think that the metro workers' struggle and that of their delegate Segovia is not our struggle.

They are coming for more. And there is no cry, sigh or right that can move them. Let's show them that on this side of the frontier -- this is how Blas de Otero would have written it -- there are fiercely human angels.

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Top ...

"But the greatest enemies are inefficiency and unpopularity," he added.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of this conference, Saeed Jalali, the secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, spoke to reporters and underscored the importance of nuclear plan for Iran, and said Iran's nuclear issue should not be politicized.

Iran should be presented with objective guarantees on the secured supply of nuclear fuel, "Otherwise we will have to suggest other alternatives," he added.

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Pakistani ...

Pakistan is under pressure to crack down on militants and has won praise from its Western allies for the South Waziristan offensive. But critics say the army should do more against insurgent groups who use the northwest as a safe haven to attack Western troops in Afghanistan.

Journalists are banned from visiting the border region, making it impossible to verify casualty figures.

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Iraq ...

Parliament returned the law to the presidential council, including Hashemi, Monday, but deliberately failed to address his concerns and in all likelihood it will be vetoed again.

"In all cases the possibility of holding the vote in January is over," said Faraj al-Haidari, head of the electoral commission.

In theory the election law must be passed 60 days before the vote, making Tuesday the last day lawmakers can reach agreement to meet the January 23 proposed election date.

But after a heated parliamentary session Monday, the fractious parliament seemed more divided than ever.

Lawmakers belonging to Iraq's majority Shi'ite community and minority Kurdish community voted for amendments to the election law that would weaken Sunni voter representation, a move some said was meant as a poke in the eye for Hashemi.

Sunni lawmakers staged a walk out of the session and the next sitting is not scheduled until December 8, although the speaker could call for an extraordinary session to end the impasse.

A legal adviser to the presidential council said an election date of January 21 or 23 was still possible, if that was what the council decided, but that a delay was not a problem.

"Election dates aren't sacred. We always set dates and we always violate them," he said.

March vote?

Jalal al-Din al-Sagheer, a senior member of the Shi'ite Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, said a January election was off the cards now because of Shi'ite religious festivals at the end of the month.

"We believe the best opportunity to conduct a vote is around March 1," he said.

The row threatens to re-open ethno-sectarian wounds among Iraq's Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds which have only just begun to heal after years of bloodshed. Investors, eyeing Iraq's vast oil wealth and lucrative oil field development contracts but nervous about security,

will also be watching the elections closely.

One prominent Sunni lawmaker called for demonstrations against the amended election law, which he called a "big crime."

The U.S. military plans to end combat operations by the end of next August before a full withdrawal by 2012, but is waiting to see whether Iraq's fragile stability holds after the polls, the country's first general election since 2005.

The U.S. build-up of troops and hardware in Afghanistan partially hinges on pulling assets out of Iraq first.

Washington has lobbied for the polls to be held on time. A delay beyond January would violate Iraq's constitution, setting a precedent that could encourage autocratically-minded Iraqi leaders to flout the law in the future, analysts say.

"Some slippage is OK, but we don't want a lot of slippage, so I hope they look carefully at this and I hope they can get moving," U.S. ambassador Chris Hill told reporters.

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Obama ...

The summit agenda focused heavily on efforts to enhance economic links that have blossomed since India's market reforms in the early 1990s. Two-way trade grew to nearly \$50 billion last year from just \$5 billion in 1990, turning the United States into India's largest trading partner.

The two leaders were also expected to try to narrow their differences over climate change, seek to speed up completion of a 2005 civilian nuclear deal that has yet to be implemented and agree to redouble cooperation on counterterrorism.

"We seek to broaden and deepen our strategic partnership," Singh said, with both leaders citing their countries' shared values as the world's largest democracies.

But while Washington and New Delhi have moved beyond the chilly relations of the Cold War era, sore points remain.

Indian suspicions center on U.S. ally Pakistan -- which many in India blame in part for Islamist violence such as the 2008 attack on Mumbai -- and Obama's increased focus on the relationship with China, another old India rival.

But a senior U.S. official insisted "any notion in India of us tilting in one direction or another is a misperception."

Tensions

As Obama decides on the deployment of thousands of additional troops to an increasingly unpopular war in Afghanistan, Washington wants to keep tensions low between nuclear-armed India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

The U.S. hope is that the Pakistani army can devote more resources to fighting Islamic militants who threaten the stability of Pakistan as well as of neighboring Afghanistan.

"The more India and Pakistan lessen tensions, the easier it is for each to do what has to be done," the administration official said. The White House said Obama would announce his new Afghanistan strategy within days.

India was likely to press the United States for a tougher line on Pakistan, which it accuses of sheltering militants like the ones that hit Mumbai.

Reflecting continuing mistrust, Singh said in a CNN interview coinciding with his visit that Pakistan's goals in Afghanistan were not necessarily those of the United States.

Singh was also expected to bring up China, a rising Asian giant that has a long-running border dispute with India.

Obama's China visit drew criticism at home that he has been too conciliatory toward Beijing, the largest holder of U.S. government debt. Washington, however, regards India as an Asian counterweight to an increasingly assertive China.

While it remained unclear what if anything might be announced on Tuesday regarding a still-unfinished U.S.-India nuclear accord, several modest energy deals will be signed.

Those will include what will be billed as "Green Partnership," a set of agreements on clean energy and climate change technology plus a \$300 million investment fund. Expectations were low, however, for bridging the U.S.-India divide before next month's climate summit in Copenhagen.

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Iran calls for ...

Instability in any regional country will affect security in the entire region, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told a press briefing.

He also warned regional states not to interfere in Yemen's internal affairs.

Describing the crisis as a matter of concern to the Arab and Muslim world, he invited the involved parties to resolve the problems peacefully.

To foil the plots of those benefiting from divisions in the region, he said, "I do advise the parties to put an end to the conflict through negotiation."

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Russian ...

Fröhlich said he had seen original documents for the limousine including the log book which states that it was delivered to the "Führer and Reich Chancellor" in 1935 and that it broke down once in 1939 with an engine problem.

"It has slight traces of wear and tear but is still in great condition and can be driven," said Fröhlich. "It was the top of the Mercedes range at the time."

The car has 18 millimeter thick armor plating, 40 mm bullet-proof glass and a 400 horsepower engine capable of reaching speeds of 180 kilometers per hour. "It's my most unusual deal ever, by far," said Fröhlich, who has been trading in historic cars for 30 years.

He said he had studied vintage photos showing Hitler in various vehicles and had detected a car with the same number plate: 1A 148461.

Number plates can, of course be forged. Josef Ernst, the spokesman for the heritage department of Daimler, the company that manufactures Mercedes vehicles, told SPIEGEL ONLINE: "We don't know if this vehicle is authentic, one would have to look at it first. Assuming it's genuine, one has to add that there is no single car that can exclusively be called the Adolf Hitler vehicle. He had a range of official cars, all ordered by the Reich Chancellery rather than by him personally."

Ernst said he didn't know how many vehicles Mercedes delivered to the Reich Chancellery. He said the company built a total of 88 vehicles of the Kompressor 770 range between 1938 and 1943.

"As far as I know Hitler had no driving license and never drove himself," said Ernst. He had three chauffeurs.

Roy Spencer, a California-based dealer in classic Mercedes cars, told SPIEGEL ONLINE: "They're fabulous cars. The 770 was the pinnacle of automotive design in the late thirties. Opulent and with everything done on a grand scale. They have value and a following in themselves."

"The Hitler and Third Reich connection can be a mixed blessing for the cars. I'd say it would rule out a high percentage of potential collectors who have an intrinsic interest in a milestone, unique, special-coachwork, low-production 770."

He said that although the 770 was a rare car, he would value a normal one at less than \$1 million, probably around \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Meanwhile, Fröhlich appears to be relieved that his mission is over and that he can devote his attention to cars with happier histories, such as his own private collection of 50

vehicles, including a tank, all built in 1950, the year he was born.

"They're like my brothers," said Fröhlich, who drives around his home town of Düsseldorf in a charred Rolls Royce that got incinerated when his shop burnt down four years ago.

(Source: Spiegel online)

Mankind using Earth's resources at alarming rate

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Humanity would need five Earths to produce the resources needed if everyone lived as profligately as Americans, according to a report issued Tuesday.

As it is, humanity each year uses resources equivalent to nearly one-and-a-half Earths to meet its needs, said the report by Global Footprint Network, an international think tank.

"We are demanding nature's services -- using resources and creating CO2 emissions -- at a rate 44 percent faster than what nature can regenerate and reabsorb," the document said.

"That means it takes the Earth just under 18 months to produce the ecological services humanity needs in one year," it said.

And if humankind continues to use natural resources and produce waste at the current rate, "we will require the resources of two planets to meet our demands by the early 2030s," a glutinous level of ecological spending that may cause major ecosystem collapse, the report said.

Global Footprint Network calculated the ecological footprint -- the amount of land and sea needed to produce the resources a population consumes and absorb its carbon dioxide emissions -- of more than 100 countries and of the entire globe.

The think tank worked out how many resources the planet has, how much humans use, and who is using what.

Back in 1961, the entire planet used just over slightly more than half of Earth's biocapacity.

Today, 80 percent of countries use more biocapacity than is available within their borders. They import resources from abroad, deplete their own stocks and fill "waste sinks," such as the atmosphere and ocean, with carbon dioxide. The average American has an ecological footprint of nine global hectares (23 acres), or the equivalent of 17 U.S. football fields.

The average European's footprint is half that size, but still too big to be sustainable in the long term.

At the other end of the scale are impoverished countries like Malawi, Haiti, Nepal or Bangladesh, where the footprints are around half a global hectare, or 1.25 acres -- often not even enough to provide for basic food, shelter and sanitation, the report said.

But there are relatively easy measures that can be taken to slow the rot. "In most high-income, industrialized countries like the U.S. and European countries, the biggest part of the ecological footprint is the carbon footprint," Nicole Freeling, a spokeswoman for the Global Footprint Network, told AFP.

"One of the biggest things such a country can do to reduce its ecological footprint is to manage energy more efficiently and effectively -- for example, by investing in renewable energy and clean tech on the one hand, and resource-efficient infrastructure and compact urban development on the other," she said. Changing consumption habits can also reduce the global footprint.

"While people living at or below subsistence levels may need to increase their consumption to move out of poverty, more affluent people can reduce consumption and still improve their quality of life," Freeling said.