

Atrianfar released on sizable bail

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN—Mohammad Atrianfar, a member of Servants of Construction Party, was released on bail here on Tuesday. The bail was set at \$500,000.



He was detained in the wake of the post-election protests, and is accused of masterminding the demonstrations along with some other distinguished reformists.

The branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court has passed a 6-year prison sentence for Atrianfar. According to the Iranian regulations, while the verdict is being appealed the accused can be bailed.

Another prominent reformist, Mohammad Ali Abtahi, was released on Sunday after around five months in jail. Abtahi was arrested on June 16 charged with involvement in the post-election protests.

He was able to obtain a temporary release warrant by putting up a substantial bail of \$700,000.

Zob Ahan comes 3rd in Asian Handball Club League Championship

Tehran Times Sports Desk
AMMAN — Zob Ahan of Isfahan took the bronze medal of the 12th Asian Handball Club League Championship on Monday.

The Iranian representative defeated Qatar's Al-Saad 22-20 and finished in third place.

Al-Salibkhaet of Kuwait beat Lebanese Al-Sadd 31-29 and claimed the title.

Seventeen Asian teams participated in the tournament which was held in Amman, the capital of Jordan, from November 7 to 23.

The Asian Handball Club League Championship is the official competition for men's handball clubs of Asia and takes place every year. In addition to crowning the Asian champions, the tournament also serves as a qualifying tournament for the Super Globe.

Iran advances to FIBA Asia U-16 Championship semifinal

Tehran Times Sports Desk
JOHOR BAHRU — Iran basketball team remained unbeaten in the FIBA Asia U16 Championship extending its winning spree in the event to six games in a row on Tuesday.

Iran beat Syria 69-58 and booked a berth in the semifinal. The West Asian champion is scheduled to play South Korea on Thursday. China and the Philippines will face each other in the other semifinal match.

The final will be played on Friday.

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 to host AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers

Tehran Times Sports Desk
TEHRAN — Iran football team will play Lebanon in the opening game of the AFC U-19 Championship 2010 qualifiers on December 10 in Tehran.

Later Iran will face Pakistan on December 12. Following that the host plays Turkmenistan on December 14, and finally the team faces Uzbekistan on December 16.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from December 10 to 16, 2009 and features Iran, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Turkmenistan and Pakistan.

Police chief meets Colombo Plan secretary general

◆ Iran seizes 3 tons of drugs per day

Tehran Times Political Desk
TEHRAN — National Police Chief Brigadier General Esmail Ahmadi-Moqaddam met on Tuesday with Dato' Patricia Yoon-Moi CHIA, the secretary general of the Colombo Plan for Cooperative Economic and Social Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Insisting on Tehran's relentless campaign against drug trafficking, Ahmadi-Moqaddam said Iran has not produced opium over the past 40 years.

"Maybe Iran was an opium producer until 40 years ago but producing opium has been stopped for several years and we do not produce opium in Iran at all," Ahmadi-Moqaddam said.

He added that Iran has waged campaigns against distribution of opium, reduced the number of addicts and taken preemptive measures in this regard over the past three years.

Ahmadi-Moqaddam pointed to the fact that 95 percent of opium in the world is produced in Afghanistan, saying Iran has made a large investment in preventing drug smuggling



DATO' PATRICIA YOON-MOI

across its border with Afghanistan.

Over 3 tons of drugs, including heroin and morphine, are seized along the borders per day, he noted.

He went on to say that about 600,000 drug addicts in Iran have received treatment over the past three years.

On regional and international cooperation in the fights against drugs trafficking, he



Ahmadi-Moqaddam

said the center for leading Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan joint operations against drugs is located in Tehran.

Tehran also hosts the training center for Afghan offices for fighting against drugs, he added.

Dato' Patricia Yoon-Moi CHIA called for the active participation of Iran in the Colombo Plan, saying, "With regard to the future

programming in fights against narcotics (we) want Iran to be an active partner for us in these measures in order to help achieve the desired goals."

She said that the Colombo Plan's objectives are to reduce demand for drugs and take preemptive measures in that regard.

The Colombo Plan has also held some gatherings called 'Youth Gathering' since 2002 in order to provide trainings for the young in fights against drugs, she said, adding that 500 people attend such gatherings annually.

She said the Colombo Plan is also going to hold these meetings in Tehran and then in other Iranian cities.

She thanked Iran for making great efforts in this regard and expressed hope this meeting would expand cooperation between Tehran and the Colombo Plan.

The Colombo Plan is one of the oldest regional and inter-governmental organizations dates far back as 1950, when the idea was first conceived to enhance economic and social development of the countries of the region. It was established by Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom on July 1, 1951 and it currently has expanded to include 26 member countries including non-Commonwealth countries and countries belonging to regional groupings such as ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) and SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). It is a partnership concept of self-help and mutual-help in development aimed at socio-economic progress of its member countries.

Lula backs Iran's nuclear program

BRASILIA (Agencies) — Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva has offered his backing for Tehran's nuclear program.

Speaking at a joint news conference in the capital Brasilia on Monday after holding talks with Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, his visiting Iranian counterpart, Lula said Brazil backed Iran's quest for "peaceful nuclear energy in full respect of international accords".

According to Al-Jazeera, Lula urged Ahmadinejad to "continue contacts with interested countries for a just and balanced solution on the nuclear issue in Iran".

In his weekly radio address earlier, Lula said engaging Iran instead of isolating it was the way to push for peace and stability in the Middle East.

"It doesn't help isolating Iran," he said. "It's important that someone sits down with Iran, talks with Iran and tries to establish some balance so that the Middle East can return to a certain sense of normalcy."

Lula, who honed his negotiating skills as a union leader, says a new tactic is needed with the Iranians.

"I told President (Barack) Obama, I told President (Nicolas) Sarkozy, I told (German) Chancellor Angela Merkel that we will not get good things out of Iran if we corner them. You need to create space to talk," he said last month.

Security Council 'failure'

Ahmadinejad, for his part, supported Brazil's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Brazil is to take one of the 10 non-permanent seats - those without the power of veto - in 2010 and 2011.



U.S., Israel lack 'courage' to attack: Ahmadinejad

President Ahmadinejad said U.S. and Israeli military threats against Iran were a thing of the past, and that, in any case, "they don't have the courage" to attack Iran.

"The age of military attacks is over, now we've reached the time for dialogue and understanding. Weapons and threats are a thing of the past," AFP quoted Ahmadinejad as telling reporters.

Fielding a question on whether he feared an attack from Israel or the United States, Ahmadinejad said armed confrontation was no longer a possibility.

That's clear "even for mentally challenged people," he said with a smile.

Besides, he added, "those you mention (Israel and United States) don't have the courage to attack Iran. They're not even thinking about it."

Iran threatens Russia with legal action

A top Iranian military official says Tehran may respond to Moscow's failure to fulfill the S-300 delivery contract through legal action.

"The Russians have failed to meet their commitment due to pressure from the Zionist Lobby and the Americans," Brigadier General Mohammad Hassan Mansourian said on Tuesday.

"And as this agreement is an official one, it can be pursued through international legal bodies," Mansourian told reporters at the site of the Iran's five day large-scale defense drills.

Iran on Sunday launched a five-day drill that will cover an area a third of the size of Iran and spread across the central, western and southern parts of the country. Tehran says the drill is aimed at strengthening the country's aerial defense against potential

attacks on its nuclear facilities.

In 2007 Tehran and Moscow signed an \$800 million contract, which required Russia to deliver five S-300 systems to the Islamic Republic. Israel vociferously opposed the deal and has ever since been lobbying Russia not to deliver the sophisticated missile defense system.

Russia is running behind schedule on its agreement to deliver to Iran the mobile land-based system designed to shoot down aircrafts and cruise missiles.

The S-300 surface-to-air system, known as the SA-20 in the West, can track targets and fire at aircraft 120 km (75 miles) away. It also features high jamming immunity and is capable of simultaneously engaging up to 100 targets.

In early 2007, Iran received a reported \$1billion-plus delivery of the sophisticated

Russian Tor-M1 air-defense systems.

Iran seeks the delivery of the sophisticated S-300 system to counter potential Israeli air strikes on its nuclear facilities.

Tehran says the only aim of its nuclear program is the civilian applications of the technology. The U.S., Israel and their European allies — Britain, France and Germany — accuse the country of pursuing military purposes.

Under the allegation, Israel has repeatedly threatened to attack Iran.

Iran — unlike Israel — has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and has opened its nuclear facilities to inspection by the IAEA, whereas Israel is widely believed to possess some 200 nuclear warheads in its arsenal.

(Source: Press TV)

Iran produces two new medical radioisotopes

In line with the peaceful aims of Iran's nuclear activities, Iranian scientists have produced two new radioisotopes for medical treatment.

The two new radioisotopes are rhenium-186 and samarium-153, Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Deputy Director Mohammad Qannadi said on Monday.

Qannadi announced that clinical trials of the radioisotopes were successful.

Mass production of the radioisotopes will begin after the Health Ministry issues the necessary licenses, he added.

He went on to say that the radioisotopes will be used in the diagnosis and treatment of a number of cancers.

Iran is currently seeking to obtain 20-percent enriched uranium

for the Tehran research reactor, which produces radioisotopes for medical purposes.

Tehran says it is ready to purchase the enriched uranium from Russia, France, the United States, or any other supplier.

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki made an official statement on Wednesday about a proposal put forward by the major powers in Geneva on October 19.

According to the proposal, Iran would ship the bulk of its low-enriched uranium stockpile out of the country in exchange for metal fuel rods for the Tehran medical research reactor.

Iran has said that it would accept the essential elements of the international proposal but also seeks modifications to the formula.

(Source: Press TV)



Iraq stands firm on swift MKO expulsion

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has urged Mujahedin-e Khalq organization to immediately leave the country, saying Baghdad had no place for the MKO.

The Iraqi government and parliament have a resolve to expel members of the notorious group after they committed crimes against the Iraqi people, exercised terrorism, cooperated with the Bathists and interfered in domestic affairs, said a statement by al-Maliki's office.

The statement added that Iraq would not allow the MKO members to stay permanently in the residents of the group's training camp in eastern Iraq, known as Camp Ashraf.

The statement came after a meeting held between al-Maliki and the new President of the International Red Cross mission in Iraq McKenna Bart.

Some 3,500 MKO members are held in a camp under the control of the Iraqi security forces.

The MKO is the most hated group among both the Iranian and the Iraqi nations, and suffers from total unpopularity in these two countries.

The Mujahedin Khalq Organization, which blended elements of Marxism and Stalinism, was founded in Iran in the 1960s but was exiled some twenty years later over terrorism.

The group masterminded a torrent of terrorist operations inside Iran, one of which was the 1981 bombing of the offices of the Islamic Republic Party, in which more than 72 Iranian officials were killed.

A 2007 German intelligence report from the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution has identified the MKO as a "repressive, sect-like and Stalinist authoritarian organization which centers around the personality cult of [MKO leaders] Maryam and Masoud Rajavi".

The Iraqi premier touched upon mass graves contained Kuwaiti nationals who had fallen victim to the Ba'ath regime's seven month-long invasion of Kuwait and said, "The issue of missing Kuwaitis is a humanitarian and not political case."

He expressed Iraq's full readiness to "cooperate with our brothers in Kuwait."

He said that Iraq remains committed to cooperation on missing Kuwaiti property and money in letters previously sent to the United Nations and the Kuwaiti government aimed at putting an end to this humanitarian issue.

A mass grave, discovered in the headquarters of the MKO in Iraq in August, cast light on the crimes the terrorists committed during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

If confirmed, the reports would expose MKO complicity in Saddam Hussein's war on Kuwait, which killed more than 3,664 Iraqis and 1,000 Kuwaitis

MKO leaders are said to have kept the mass grave a secret so far by refusing the entry of Iraqi forces into their base.

The grisly discovery came at a time when scores of regional correspondents were granted a permit by the Iraqi government to prepare a report from Camp Ashraf, where MKO dissidents were stationed for more than two decades.

(Source: Press TV)