

Japan's Premier Junichiro Koizumi won parliament's support to privatize the postal system



11

Chelsea made a British record bid of 32 million pounds for Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard



10

'Passion Play on Tragedies of Navid Makan and His Wife Rakhshid Farzin' by Bahram Beizaei went on stage



12

Councilors Should Resign Before Joining Cabinet

TEHRAN, July 5--Interior Ministry's spokesman said on Tuesday if members of City and Village Councils take up posts in the new administration, they will no longer be considered councilors.

Jahanbakhsh Khanjani also told reporters, "Based on Article 12 of the Municipality's laws, if councilors hold the positions of minister, vice president, deputy minister or presidential advisor, they will automatically lose their jobs as members of councils."

He stressed that his ministry will not allow people to act against the rule of law.

"The ministry strongly controls the country's security," he responded to a question whether some are trying to create tension on the threshold of the

anniversary of the July 1999 student unrest. The unrest erupted in a Tehran University dorm complex after a peaceful protest rally turned violent. Universities subsequently closed down nationwide for several days.

The spokesman expressed hope that no political group or current is trying to embark on adventures at the current juncture.

He pointed out that so far the ministry has not received any request for holding protest rallies to mark the occasion.

Asked whether Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari would hold a position in president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's cabinet, he said, "I have no information in this respect."

Khanjani noted that Ahmadinejad's success is tantamount to the success of the nation.



Jahanbakhsh Khanjani

Rafsanjani Supports Next Gov't

TEHRAN, July 5--State Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said on Tuesday he will do everything possible to support the next government.

"The presidential race is over and I did not file a complaint because I did not want to create problems for the country and the Islamic Revolution," he told a gathering of inspectors of the ninth presidential election.

Stressing that he has striven to resolve the country's problems ever since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the former president said, "This does not mean that I intend to ignore what happened during the ninth presidential election. I shall try to pursue the matter so that the ground would be prepared for holding future electoral races in a fair manner and political and religious ethics would be abided by in all facets."

Rafsanjani emphasized that related institutions should assume accountability with regard to the ambiguities regarding the presidential race.

"I hope that the president and the Interior Ministry will examine the issues in a comprehensive and fair manner, specify the strong and weak points and notify the public accordingly so that the country would not face the same problems in the future," he said.

See Page 2

Khatami: Youths Constitute Opportunity, Not Threat

TEHRAN, July 5--President Mohammad Khatami said on Tuesday the society considers youths as an opportunity and not a threat.

Addressing the ceremony for awarding those in charge of youth affairs, Khatami said, "Due to the special attention paid to youths in recent years, people no longer consider them as a threat; instead they are viewed as an unparalleled opportunity."

Referring to the legitimate demands and wishes of the youth, he warned that if their demands are not met, youths can transform into a threat.

"It is crucial that the Islamic system

and government pay heed to youth needs and affairs. Neglecting youths can lead to huge problems," he said.

He also said that one of the best, most comprehensive and most extensive research studies carried out in the country has been about youth affairs.

"Prioritizing such projects can help improve the efficiency of youth-related decisions," he said.

He cautioned that civil institutions should not be used as tools by the government.

"If civil institutions are used as tools, then the government will increase its domination over state

affairs," he said.

The chief executive stressed that the overall climate should be such that youths are able to discuss their problems.

"If youths do not find the opportunity to express their views and problems, then the ground will automatically be prepared for the emergence of more problems," he said.

Khatami emphasized that the identity of youths should be strengthened.

"We must be courageous enough to admit that some of our approaches must change so that youths feel more attached to their identity and religiosity," he said.

Iranians Feel Ostracized

WASHINGTON, July 5--Head of International Atomic Energy Agency said on Tuesday Iran needs to provide objective guarantees that their program is for peaceful purposes, noting that it is feeling ostracized.

In an interview with Newsweek, Mohamed ElBaradei added that in the view of Europeans and Americans, the only objective guarantee is termination of the fuel cycle while Iranians insist there could be other ways of providing guarantees.

Noting that has created a confidence deficit, the IAEA chief said, "The Iranians say, 'We were forced into that situation because of the sanctions, so we had to go underground.' But... Iran needs to go out of its way not just to play by the book, but to be fully transparent, fully proactive, to build that confidence."

He noted that the concerns of Europe and the IAEA are now clear, starting with the nuclear issue, followed by regional security and human rights issues.

"For the Iranians, it's

the feeling that they are being isolated in the region, that they are being ostracized. So this is really the essence of this dialogue. The nuclear issue is the tip of the iceberg, but if you look a little bit deeper you see lots of other issues. To me, the nuclear issue will only be settled as part of that package," he added.

ElBaradei further said that Iran wants to get the maximum technology, and not just nuclear.

"They need the technology to modernize. And I think they understand that the fuel cycle enables them to be part of the 'big boys' club, and it's a smart insurance policy, if they can get that, because again, it sends a message to their neighbors," he said.

He claimed that Iran wants to be a major player in the Middle East, which is being reshaped right now and maintained that Iran's dialogue with Europe is a bridge toward their ultimate normalization with the US.

"It is not just the nuclear issue, it is the whole future of the



Mohamed ElBaradei

Middle East, it is the whole future of regional security, global security. That's why it makes it more difficult, and that's why it takes time, and that's why people should be patient," he said.

The IAEA chief stated that he wants Iranians to continue their talks with the European Union and to keep the fuel cycle suspended.

"I am still hoping that at the end of the day, with all the posturing, nobody can afford a confrontation. Confrontation is a lose-lose proposition," he said.

ElBaradei expressed hope that Iran's nuclear policy would not change after president-elect Mahmoud Ahmadinejad takes office.

Western Convoy Hit Near Iran Embassy In Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq, July 5--A convoy of western security guards was hit by a roadside bomb Tuesday outside the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, wounding an Iraqi civilian and damaging a vehicle, the US military and security sources said.

The attack targeted a "personnel security detachment," said a US military spokesman, using the customary term for private security guards, without elaborating, AFP reported.

US troops and Westerners frequently travel on the road, which goes past the embassy and leads to one of the main entrances of the fortified Green Zone, home to the Iraqi government and US military and diplomatic personnel.

US soldiers on foot and in armored vehicles were seen on the road minutes after the attack which happened at about 10:15 am (0615 GMT). They detonated red and green smoke bombs at the scene.

Earlier, an interior ministry source had said a US convoy was the target of the attack.

The road to the embassy in Baghdad's central Salehiyah neighborhood was briefly blocked off by US soldiers, Iraqi police and armed plainclothes westerners, who were seen taking position. US helicopters hovered overhead.

An official at the embassy reached by telephone said the building and all of the mission's staff were fine.

"It happened on the road outside. Everything is fine here," Hussein Anwar told AFP.

Perspective
Palestinian Equations
 By Hassan Hashemiyani

Many Palestinians are wondering why Mahmoud Abbas has postponed the parliamentary elections until early 2006. Some people close to Abbas believe that he needs six months in order to organize Palestinian forces for participating in the elections, and others maintain that Israel's long-awaited withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is a new phase in Palestinian developments, which demands the preparedness of all Palestinians.

Sections of Arab print media believe that the Egyptian government is responsible for the unusual postponement of the Palestinian vote. The Palestinian electoral exercise was initially slated for July 17 and the Egyptians will vote in November.

Observers maintain that Cairo has reason to believe that the popular Hamas movement will very likely emerge as the top vote getter in the Palestinian election. On this premise the thinking goes that millions of Egyptians tired of the corruption of their pro-US rulers would follow the same path and vote Islamic fundamentalists to office in the November elections already seen as controversial by major opposition groups in the North Africa state.

Currently, the Muslim Brotherhood, the Arab world's oldest and most prominent party has openly challenged the Egyptian government. This party has been banned for decades by successive authoritarian regimes in Cairo, and in recent months several of its leaders and supporters have been thrown in jail.

With the shock rightist victory in Iran's presidential elections last month, and with the contingent electoral power of Hamas in Occupied Palestine, Egyptian rulers are rightly concerned that "Muslim fundamentalists" under the banner of the influential Brotherhood would put an end to President Hosni Mubarak's quarter-century rule tainted by corruption, mismanagement and cronyism.

Some Palestinian officials believe Major General Omar Suleiman, the Egyptian official in charge of holding talks with the Palestinians regarding Israel's pullout from Gaza, initially proposed the postponement of the elections. But, senior Palestinian officials say the main reason is ratification of certain items by the Palestinian Parliament, which contradict agreements reached between Abbas and various Palestinian political parties.

See Page 2

Kosar Group Hotel

Address: No. 133 -- Iranshahr Ave. -- Tehran
 Reservation: +9821 - 8304390
 Fax: +9821 - 8327655

Howezeh Hotel Tehran
 Azadi Hotel Isfahan
 Kosar Apartment Hotel Ramsar
 Sefidkenar Hotel Bandar Anzali
 Samenolaemeh Hotel Mashhad

Website: www.kosaronline.com

Admission of Postgraduate Students for "Marketing and e-Commerce"

See Page 3