

Iraq Security Talks Constructive

Iran supports the Iraqi government's fight against militants, the head of a delegation from Iraq's ruling Shiite alliance said on Saturday after returning from a visit to Tehran.

Deputy Parliamentary Speaker Khalid Al-Attiya, reading a brief statement on Iraq's Al-Furat television, said the delegation had "important and constructive" talks with Iranian officials about the security situation in Iraq, Reuters reported.

Members of the United Iraqi Alliance had said the delegation was sent to Tehran to discuss Shiite militias and security in Iraq.

"The delegation saw a positive stance from the brothers in Iran to support the government's efforts in extending the sovereignty of the state and to fight the outlaws," Attiya said.

"The delegation hopes this visit is the basis for strengthening relations between the two neighboring states."

Members of the delegation, which included several influential officials including at least one close to Prime Minister Nuri Al-Maliki, have not been reachable since they returned on Saturday from their trip, which lasted several days.

Iran and Iraq fought an eight-year war in the 1980s in which hundreds of thousands were killed.

On Thursday, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini said the Iraqis will discuss the latest Iraq developments with Iranians.

"Iranian officials will talk with the delegation in pursuit of the policy for settlement of the ongoing differences and clashes in Iraq," Hosseini told IRNA.

Tehran has received the delegation in line with the policy to help restore stability and security in Iraq, he said, adding that the US-led occupation and terrorism are main problems threatening the neighboring Arab country.

"Iran will, as in the past, use all its capacity to help the Iraqi government and people," he concluded.

Shiite militiamen, mainly from the Mahdi Army, have fought fierce street battles with US and Iraqi forces since late March in Baghdad's Sadr City, the cleric's bastion in the capital.

The firefights fueled the overall bloodshed in April, with at least 1,073 people killed across the country at a time when the US military's toll also hit a seven-month high.

Yemen Supports Nuclear Program

Yemeni foreign minister lent his backing to Iran's nuclear program, saying his country reserves the right to attain civilian nuclear technology for all countries.

Abu Bakr Al-Qurbi also told Alalam on Saturday that officials in Sanaa are opposed to production of weapons of mass destruction and warned that the Israeli regime poses a global security threat by stockpiling a huge arsenal of nuclear weapons.

Al-Qurbi said, like any security strategy, a regional framework was required for the implementation of nuclear technology, which could bind all countries of the region.

Iran has defied three UN Security Council sanctions over its refusal to abandon uranium enrichment, saying it is entitled to the nuclear activity stipulated in the Non-Proliferation treaty.

Officials in Tehran stress the country's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes, including electricity generation for a growing population when fossil fuel reserves would eventually run out.

President Honors Exemplary Teachers



President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (c) presents a plaque of honor to an exemplary teacher in Tehran on Sunday, as acting Education Minister Alireza Ali-Ahmadi looks on.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the Iranian nation shoulders heavy responsibility to meet the needs of the world community.

Addressing a ceremony to honor exemplary teachers in Tehran on Saturday, the president said Iran's progress in the fields of science and technology is in line with the need of the international community, IRNA reported.

The president called for the vigilance of Iranian people against the enemies' conspiracies.

He said that the government attaches due

attention to the status of Education Ministry, calling for advancing the country's education system.

Ahmadinejad also urged officials to make greater efforts to settle the problems facing teachers.

Prior to the president's speech, acting Education Minister Alireza Ali-Ahmadi briefed the gathering on the performance of his ministry.

At the end of the meeting, President Ahmadinejad presented plaques of honor to 14 exemplary teachers from among 180 selected teachers.

Kenya Cooperation on Track Broader Africa Ties Underlined

Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki discussed issues of mutual interest with his Kenyan counterpart Moses Wetangula in Tehran on Saturday.

Mottaki said the two countries have good political relations and bilateral cooperation is positive, IRNA reported.

He described the outlook of these ties as 'good' and underlined the necessity of increasing communications in different fields.

"The two countries have good economic potentials and Iranian companies can be active in the fields of energy, agriculture, construction of dams and power plants and irrigation," Mottaki said.

Wetangula said relations between Iran and Kenya are friendly and deep, adding that his country is ready to use Iran's experiences in the fields of energy, oil exploration and car manufacturing.

He also expressed hope that the 5th joint economic commission can be held as scheduled in Nairobi.

The visiting Kenyan foreign minister also conveyed the Kenyan president's invitation for President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to pay an official visit to Kenya.

In related news, Mottaki called for expansion of bilateral ties between Iran and Ethiopia.

In a meeting on Saturday with Ethiopia's accredited ambassador to Tehran, Tofiq Abdullah Ahmed, Mottaki called for promotion of trade



Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki (l) shakes hands with his Kenyan counterpart Moses Wetangula in Tehran on Saturday.

and economic relations between the two states.

Referring to the great potentials of the Iranian private sector, he said the sector can play a key role in Ethiopia's development by making joint investments there.

As to Ethiopia's good potentials in the areas of agriculture and natural resources, Mottaki voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate in those fields.

The Ethiopian envoy, for his part, called for further expansion of relations with Iran.

During the meeting, Mottaki received a copy of credentials of the new Ethiopian envoy to Tehran.

Also on Saturday, Mottaki

met with Ghana's accredited ambassador to Tehran, Rashed Baba.

During the meeting, the foreign minister stressed that Iran attaches great importance to ties with all African states, adding that there are good opportunities for expansion of economic relations with the African continent.

Referring to Ghana as an important West African country, he called for expansion of cooperation between the two countries' private sectors.

Baba, for his part, called for greater activities of the Iranian private sector in Ghana and expressed hope that the two countries' bilateral ties would develop further.

Persian Press Watch

Tehran Focus

RESALAT: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for the first time held a meeting with the people of Tehran in line with his provincial visits. More than 760 participants attended the four-hour meeting. Ahmadinejad and his Cabinet members dealt with their problems and decided to hold such meetings on Thursdays. The president's decentralization policies had created a perception that he is not concerned with the problems of the capital. In other words, challenges facing the megalopolis seem to have been ignored by Ahmadinejad's administration, while over 15 percent of the country's total population live in Tehran. President Ahmadinejad is known to have pushed for the just distribution of resources in deprived areas and focused on the problems of villagers. However, solving the problems of capital Tehran requires cooperation among all branches and executive organizations.

Mass Media

JAAM-E JAM: The role of mass media is increasing in society. The media, in fact, act as a two-edged sword as they can promote security or endanger the same. One of the key areas in which the mass media can play a decisive role is "crisis management". The media can help prevent crisis, therefore it is necessary that experts devise plans to boost the role of media in managing crisis. Information dissemination engineering is a solution that can also be incorporated into mass media plans.

Liquidity Shortage

QODS: Recently, reports indicated a change in monetary policies. However, many still believe that such changes in the past have not improved the people's economic status. Instead, they have created more confusion. According to the Central Bank of Iran, the liquidity growth rate has declined from 35 to 27 percent in the past few months. Although this appears to be good news, it has negatively impacted the production sector as manufacturers have reduced output due to liquidity shortage.

Instant Decisions

ETEMAD-E MELLI: The country's management is a complex issue that requires skill and experience. The more skill and experience a state manager has, the more successful he would be. Central Bank of Iran recently announced that the inflation rate currently exceeds 19 percent. This is indicative of an ailing economy, though it excludes the prices of houses and other strategic commodities. The Iranian economy should be either oil-dependent or dynamic while it is currently a combination of the two. We need to devise comprehensive economic policies instead of taking "instant, revolutionary decisions".

