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Tehran, Ankara to Discuss Iranians Abducted in Syria

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IRAN DAILY

License Holder: (IRNA) www.irna.ir • Number 4376 • Monday November 12, 2012 • Aban 22, 1391 • Zihajjeh 27, 1433 • Price 2,000 Rials • 12 Pages • www.iran-daily.com

6 Palestinians Killed in Israeli Shelling

Six Palestinians were killed and 30 injured by Israeli shelling and air strikes after Palestinians fired on an Israeli jeep, wounding four soldiers, medics and witnesses said on Sunday.

The flare-up, which began on Saturday, was one of the most serious clashes in a single day since Israel's devastating 22-day attack on the Gaza Strip over New Year 2009, AFP reported.



In the latest in a spate of attacks and counter-attacks between the Israeli army and Palestinians, a Palestinian was killed and two other people wounded in an Israeli air strike near the northern town of Jabaliya just before midnight, medics said.

Overnight, the Israel military launched a series of air raids to the north and east of Gaza City, which left two more people injured, Palestinian witnesses and medical sources said. 09

Minister Brushes Off New US Sanctions

Iran on Saturday brushed off newly-imposed US sanctions against top Iranian and national bodies, including the ministers of communications and culture.

Dismissing them as 'unimportant', Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Hosseini said the sanctions 'against the ministry and the press watchdog are the gift of the new US administration'. Mehr News Agency reported.

Hosseini, however, rejected as a baseless claim by State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland that Washington was determined to stop the 'Iranian government from creating an 'electronic curtain' to cut Iranian citizens off from the rest of the world'.

"We do not want the US version of freedom. We cannot tolerate the break of moral values in Islamic countries... the Press Supervisory Board and the Center to Investigate Organized Crime is a source of pride for us," he said.

Four individuals and five bodies were placed under sanctions by both the State Department and the US Treasury on Thursday.

Iranian software companies AmnAfzar Gostar-e Sharif and Peyk Asa, as well as their founder, Rasool Jalili, were also targeted for monitoring web traffic, including moves to block access to Facebook, eBay and YouTube.

BBC Director General Resigns

BBC Director General George Entwistle resigned on Saturday, just two months into the job, after the state-funded broadcaster put out a program denounced by the corporation's chairman as shoddy journalism.

The BBC, reeling from revelations that one of its former stars was a paedophile, brought further problems on its head when a flagship news program aired a mistaken allegation that a former senior politician sexually abused children, Reuters reported.

The BBC had already issued a full apology on Friday, but on Saturday its director general had to admit under questioning from his own journalists that he had not known in advance about the Newsnight report, weeks after being accused of being too hands-off over the previous scandal on the same program.

Accepting Entwistle's resignation, BBC Trust chairman Lord Patten said, "This is undoubtedly one of the saddest evenings of my public life. 'At the heart of the BBC is its role as a trusted global news organization'.

"As the editor-in-chief of that organization, George has very honorably offered us his resignation because of the unacceptable mistakes—the unacceptable shoddy journalism—which has caused us so much controversy."

Entwistle quit after strong criticism over the Newsnight program. 10

Iran Proposes Joint ECO Satellite



Over 200 Companies To Attend Telecom Fair

Minister of Communication and Information Technology Reza Taqipour suggested the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) member states start joint production of telecommunication satellites.

Addressing the first meeting of ECO states' communication and information technology ministers in Tehran on Sunday, Taqipour called for launching 'studies on possible grounds to manufacture telecommunication equipment and use common knowledge and know-how to design and build joint telecommunication satellites', Fars News Agency reported.

He also asked the ECO members to cooperate and exchange information on software and hardware fields, providing various ICT services, building infrastructures, providing e-government services, cooperation among mobile

operators in various fields, including reducing tariffs for international roaming, creating and enhancing facilities for technical testing of roaming and increasing the capacity of international gateways.

The Islamic Republic, which first put a satellite into orbit in 2009, has outlined an ambitious space program and has, thus far, made giant progress in the field despite western sanctions and pressures against its advancements.

Iran has so far launched Omid satellite in February 2009, Rassad in June 2011 and Navid in February 2012.

Iran announced in August that the country's researchers plan to manufacture a low-altitude satellite to predict earthquakes from space. The satellite dubbed Ayat (Signs) will help predict the time of earthquakes for the first time in the country. 02

Amano Optimistic About Tehran Talks

Head of the UN atomic agency expressed guarded optimism about talks with Tehran next month.

Yukiya Amano said in Baghdad on Sunday he believed there was 'good reason' that Iran would cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which is due to hold talks in Tehran on December 13 over its peaceful nuclear program, AFP reported.



"I am very much convinced that... the IAEA has an essential role to play in solving this issue, Iran nuclear issue, through diplomatic means," he said at a joint news conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari.

"It is in the interests of Iran, and for the international community, and that is why I believe that there is some good reason that Iran will get cooperative for us. At the same time, the situation is very difficult and worrying. I do not want to speculate," he added. 02

ESCAP Urges Partnership to Benefit People, Planet

United Nations will urge Asia-Pacific leaders meeting in Tehran this week to join hands in a mutually beneficial partnership to remove infrastructure bottlenecks to help close development gaps and build more inclusive, sustainable and resilient prosperity in the region.

Speaking on the eve of the Third Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Public Private Partnerships for Infrastructure Development, hosted by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and supported by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, Noeleen Heyzer underlined the need for 'a new development approach that ensures long-term economic growth, reduces poverty and aligns business interests with the sustainable use of our planet's resources', according to a fax sent to Iran Daily.

The third in a series of ministerial meetings on public private partnerships (PPPs) in Asia and the Pacific organized by ESCAP over the past five years, the Tehran Conference



follows those held in Seoul in 2007, and in Jakarta in 2010.

Participants in the Conference will review progress in implementing the 'Jakarta Declaration on Public Private Partnership for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific' adopted by the Conference two years ago. This Declaration emphasized the principles of promoting PPP in infrastructure development and focused on the implementation of PPP.

Subsequently, in May 2010, the ESCAP member States adopted a resolution on Implementation of the Jakarta Declaration, requesting the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to undertake a periodic review of the progress made in infrastructure development through PPP, and to allow experts to appraise their country's progress in these matters. As a result of this resolution, ESCAP is organizing a High-level Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on PPP, which will take place on November 11 and 12, 2012, in Tehran and will be attended by government officials from countries of the Asia-Pacific region.

The EGM will consider the sharing of best-practices, how to address the shortcomings of current approaches, and better align PPP with the sustainable development agenda. 02

Free Food Supplements For Schoolchildren

Schoolchildren in deprived Iranian provinces will receive free food supplements every day to improve nutrition. 07

Nanocomposite Adsorbs Water Pollutants

Iranian researchers have succeeded in the production of small particles that adsorb pollutants by synthesizing cerium oxide-titanium dioxide nanoparticles... 08

Frustrated Residents Protest Outside New York Utility

Even as the lights came on for many who lost power in New York and New Jersey during the superstorm and a later nor'easter, hundreds of residents protested on Saturday outside a Long Island utility, frustrated by its slow response to outages.

Power restoration has been slower than in other areas hit by Superstorm Sandy, sparking criticism of the Long Island Power Authority. Some of the 130,000 blacked out homes and businesses the utility serves may not have power restored until the end of Tuesday, according to LIPA, AP reported.

In the rest of the region hardest hit by the storm, most service was expected to be restored by the end of the weekend, though that doesn't include tens of thousands of homes too damaged to juice up.

"We are sitting in a cold house. No one comes by," said John Mangin of Levittown, NY. "There should be criminal charges against the CEO and the executive board of LIPA for failure to do their jobs." He was among about 300 people staging a rally in front of LIPA's office in Hicksville, NY. Not all were without power, but some who have power said they were there to protest LIPA's lack of communication.

LIPA Chief Operating Officer Michael Hervey said the utility was aware that customers haven't gotten the information they've needed from it, partly because of an outdated information technology system it's in the process of updating. 10

LNG Eyes Asian Market

The global market for liquefied natural gas (LNG) will shift further to Asia by 2020, where high prices will attract new supply sources, while Europe will remain dependent on pipeline supplies and North America will become a marginal LNG exporter.

Trading in LNG will rise by over 4 percent per year between now and 2020, with Asia taking the lion's share, said Jason Gammel, an analyst at Australian bank Macquarie, Reuters wrote.

The value of LNG cargoes will rise to around \$325 billion, up from \$250 billion in 2011, based on global supplies of 460 million tons per annum and an oil-linked contract price around \$15 a million British thermal units (mmBtu), Gammel said.

"The Pacific is the main area of LNG supply growth (and) the share of global LNG absorbed by the Pacific and Middle East increases, reducing the LNG volume available to the Atlantic," energy research and consultancy firm Wood Mackenzie said.

With Japan and South Korea, the world's two top buyers of LNG, and the economic rise of China and India, as well as other emerging Asian economies, the Asian gas market will remain tight for the foreseeable future.

"From 2010 to 2020, China's gas consumption should move from the level of Japan to the EU (and) in 2020 China should be the third worldwide consumer after the US and EU," Thierry Bros, energy analyst at French Bank Societe Generale said in his 2012 book "After the US Shale Gas Revolution". 05