

## Ebadi tells Iran to stop enriching

Iran Times: Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi called on Iran to suspend its nuclear activities and to take the threat of a U.S. military attack seriously. Ebadi, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003, told reporters: "Iran should respect U.N. Security Council resolutions and that means suspending uranium enrichment and resolving the dispute [on the nuclear issue] through talks. "We should show the world that Iranians are peace-seekers and want to live in peace, not war," she said. Ebadi was careful to say that she believed Iran was legally entitled to nuclear energy, but said producing nuclear energy would undoubtedly cost Iranians more significant rights. "We believe that using nuclear energy is every nation's right, but we have obvious rights other than nuclear energy including security, peace and welfare. "We should not insist so hard on one right so that we lose all other rights in one go," she said. Speaking at a conference entitled "No to War" at her Human Rights Defenders' Center, Ebadi urged Iranians to join together to create a "National Peace Council" which would aim to thwart any possible U.S. military action against Iran. "No to war. Yes to peace and human rights," she said.

Her human rights center issued a statement saying, "This council [the National Peace Council] can condemn any threat from foreign forces and call on the Islamic Republic to accept U.N. Security Council resolutions in order to remove the threats to peace. "This campaign will pressure the [Iranian] establishment to prevent a war by accepting international commitments and respecting U.N. resolutions." Ebadi is not the only figure in Iran who sees the threat of a possible military attack on Iran as a serious one. Many of Iran's reformist leaders and even some senior clerics, including former President Mohammad Khatami, have warned that Iran's nuclear program may lead the country into a serious conflict with the international community. Ebrahim Yazdi, the leader of Iran's banned National Freedom Movement and foreign min-



ister in 1979 under Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, joined Ebadi's call, saying the United States was gaining international support in the face of Iran's nuclear program. Yazdi called on Iranians to protest Ahmadi-nejad's position on the nuclear issue.

He called on the government to listen to the will of the people and to avoid war. "We can join the global antiwar movement. Men and women, take to the streets and by pressuring the government force it to be realistic and stop beating on war drums. Uranium enrichment is not a national security issue for us," Yazdi said. President Ahmadi-nejad has publicly doubted America's ability to launch a military attack on Iran and labeled the threat of U.S. military action an American "dream." Ahmadi-nejad also labeled Iranians calling on Tehran to suspend its nuclear program "traitors." Cabinet spokesman Gholam-Hossain Elham accused critics of plotting a "soft overthrow" of the Iranian regime and said they were "preparing grounds for the infiltration of the enemy." Ebadi, however, warned Iranians that the U.S. threat is "serious." "We can hear the evil sounds of war drums, however far away. We don't like it, but there is a probability of war. "Let us not forget that in the past 30 years there has been a revolution and eight years of war [with Iraq]. People are tired and want peace and quiet to lead their lives," Ebadi said.

## Microsoft & Yahoo kill Iran free e-mail

Iran Times: Microsoft and Yahoo have decided to cut off free email accounts in Iran because of U.S. sanctions, but Google looks at the same laws and says it will continue to allow such free email accounts. The UK Register reported that Microsoft and Yahoo have removed Iran from the list of countries available for their free webmail services, in response to the new U.S. sanctions against Iran. Microsoft did not comment on the issue. A Yahoo spokesman told the Register, "Yahoo continually reviews its business operations to ensure compliance with these [sanctions] restrictions. Consistent with this policy, we cannot accept registrations from countries subject to these restrictions. So essentially, you can't choose Iran as a country option because we are restricted from conducting business there—all U.S. companies must comply with this policy." Google, on the other hand, said the U.S. sanctions do not prohibit it from keeping Iran on its Gmail country list. "Google is committed to full compliance with U.S. export controls and sanctions programs and is confident in our compliance with those controls and programs." The comprehensive U.S.

sanctions imposed by President Clinton in 1995 bar Americans from any financial transactions with Iran. But the email accounts offered by Google (gmail), Microsoft (hotmail) and Yahoo (yahoo) are free, so there are no financial transactions. The newest sanctions, imposed last month, primarily target three state-owned banks and the Qods Force. They freeze the assets in the United States of 23 Iranian nationals and institutions. They do not impact the Iranian people generally. Microsoft's and Yahoo's self-imposed restrictions, however, might have the effect of sending a different message. Iranian subscribers will be forced to find a new email service. Microsoft and Yahoo did not respond to questions from the Iran Times as to how much time current subscribers would have before they are cut off. What prompted Microsoft and Yahoo to take Iran off their country lists is uncertain, given the narrow nature of the new sanctions. But some point to fearful lawyers who simply want to make absolutely certain they cannot run afoul of the U.S. Treasury Department, which enforces sanctions.

## First Iranian F-4 crashes. crew dies

An American-made F-4 Phantom fighterbomber crashed at sea—apparently the first Phantom to be lost since the Iran-Iraq war. The state news agency said the Phantom went down at midday in the Sea of Oman, off the port city of Konarak. It said both the pilot and navigator were killed in the crash. The Shah bought 225 Phantoms during the 1970s from the United States. After the revolution, the United States shut off the flow of spare parts to Iran. Iran has frequently charged that the United States endangers the lives of civilian passengers because Boeing is not allowed to sell Iran spare parts. But no Iranian Boeing has crashed since January 1980, less than a year after the revolution, when a Boeing 727 flew into a mountainside in a fog. The Iranian Air Force has not announced the crashes of any Phantoms



since the revolution, though some were lost to enemy action during the Iran-Iraq war. Twelve air forces around the world bought the Phantom, so spare parts have been available on the black market for Iran to buy. Iran has also kept an estimated 40 to 50 Phantoms flying by cannibalizing other Phantoms. The United States Air Force flew the Phantom from 1960 to 1996.

## Judiciary orders new Kazemi probe

Iran Times: The Iranian Supreme Court has ordered a new investigation into the death of Iranian-Canadian Zahra Kazemi, saying the original court handling the issue was not "competent to investigate the case." Kazemi, 54, was arrested in Tehran while taking photographs outside Evin prison. She died in July 2003 from a fractured skull. Initially, the prosecutor's office said she died from a fall, but a presidential inquiry concluded she was killed by a "physical attack." Mohammad-Reza Aghdam Ahmadi, a low-ranking Intelligence Ministry agent, was accused of "semi-intentional murder" in Kazemi's death. After being put on trial in 2004, Ahmadi was acquitted due to "lack of sufficient evidence." It was that case the Supreme Court was reviewing. It ruled that the trial court was "not competent" to handle it. Judiciary spokesman AliReza



Jamshidi said, "Judges at the Supreme Court have objected to the court investigating the case, saying it was not competent to investigate the case." He said the Iranian Supreme Court ordered the investigation into Kazemi's death to be reopened.

## U.S. & Iran decide to meet for third time in Baghdad

Iran Times: After weeks of toing-and-froing, the United States and Iran have decided to hold a third round of diplomatic talks about Iraq in Baghdad. The Iranian and American ambassadors in Baghdad previously met May 28 and July 24. On Tuesday, the two countries announced they would meet again—though they didn't name a date. The world paid little attention this time. After the May meeting was announced, the media was in a frenzy saying nothing like that had happened in a quarter-century (although there have actually been many meetings over the years, albeit none of them announced to the media in advance). A legion of reporters covered the May and July meetings.

But nothing noteworthy emerged and the announcement of a third meeting generated little more than a yawn in the media. The upcoming meeting may have some relevance, however. It comes after a drop in attacks inside Iraq that

succeeding days. Take the following comments on four successive days. On October 23, it sounded like thumbs down from David Satterfield, the U.S. coordinator on Iraq policy, who should know since the talks relate to Iraq. "There has been no significant change in Iranian behavior in Iraq," Satterfield said. "Any decision to initiate such talks, the level at which they would be conducted, the timing of those talks, that all remains to be decided— and, indeed, the question of 'if' remains to be decided." The very next day in Tehran, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki gave a firm thumbs down, saying the United States must first change its policies before Iran would again sit down with the Americans. The next day at the White House, spokeswoman Dana Perino gave a thumbs up when asked if the ambassadorial talks in Baghdad would resume. "I would expect that, at some point in the future, that perhaps there

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Shadi . . . . .

her girlfriend on the show,] something to complain about. She and I became like a married couple. She'd go out and smoke during a break between scenes and then come back to the set, and I was always like, 'God, your breath stinks; how do you expect me to kiss you?' So we'd always try to one-up each other. It was really funny." Shahi's parents left Iran during the revolution. However, many of her relatives remain in the Islamic Republic.

Fath Ali Shah, Shahi's greatgreat-grandfather, was the second monarch of the Qajar Dynasty, and ruled between 1797 and 1834. Fath Ali, who

ruled during two wars with Russia, was the leader known for signing a treaty of alliance with Napoleon in 1807 that opened direct contact with Europe. Back in 1999, The Dallas Morning News asked Shahi what she thought about the contrast between the conservative dress code in the Islamic Republic and the more revealing and provocative styles Shahi is regularly seen in. Shahi said, "I know the social rules in Iran are very conservative and I am respectful of that and every type of culture. But I also would like to become an example for women in that country. "I would never violate the social rules of Iran or any country I visit. But I also know my family in Iran is very excited for me and they would be happy for what I am doing in America. I really do feel I am serving as a positive example."



many people feel stems from Iranian action. It also comes after the United States freed nine Iranians being held prisoner. That hints to many analysts that both countries have decided they are ready to deal. Neither government has shown any consistent thought on the topic of face-to-face meetings. Before Tuesday's announcement, some American officials said the Bush Administration wanted to meet, while others said no. Some Iranians also said yes while others said no—and some individuals said yes and no on

would be contact through that channel. The working groups have been formed, but there have not been any meetings that I'm aware of since we last spoke about this in public. But it's still a viable, open channel of communication." And the day after that, Iran gave a tentative thumbs up as Mohammad Jafari of the staff of the Supreme National Security Council said no more talks had formally been scheduled, but there was still the possibility the two sides would sit down together again.

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Quran: Sura 2, Verse 136

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