

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program, which was broadcast via satellite on August 9, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female announcer]
The latest news, Radio Farda.

[Male announcer]
News on Radio Farda.

[Female announcer]
The Pakistani government said that it is not prepared to declare a state of emergency. A joint session for peace got underway in Kabul.

[Music]

International labor unions will be protesting today outside Iranian embassies around the world to demand the release of the union leader, Mansour Osanloo.

[Music]

A number of workers of the transportation union in Tehran are arrested for protesting the arrest of the head of the Vahed Transportation Union.

[Music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]
Greetings. Today is Mordad 18, 1386, corresponding to August 9, 2007. I am Fariba Mavedat, your host for the next hour. I will share the most important news of tonight's evening magazine program. But first, an overview of the news with Mahin Gorji.

[Mahin Gorji]
Greetings. A spokesman for the Pakistani government told the Afghan section of [Radio Free] Europe, Radio Azad, that Pervez Musharraf has no plans to announce a state of emergency. The Pakistani information minister also told news services that some of the political parties had pressured Mr. Musharraf to declare a state of emergency, but the Pakistani president is

interested in fair elections and is opposed to any decisions inconsistent with the laws during the upcoming elections.

Earlier, the Pakistani Information Ministry had said that the internal and external threats such as those made by some American authorities about attacking al-Qaeda and Taliban strongholds in the tribal border regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan have prompted Mr. Musharraf to evaluate the need for declaring a state of emergency with his advisors.

Today, Thursday the 18th of Mordad, the joint session of the three-day jirga for peace talks with tribal and religious leaders of Pakistan and Afghanistan got underway in Kabul with opening remarks by Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan.

Hamid Karzai said that the two countries can defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda provided that they cooperate with each other. According to the Iranian News Agency (IRNA), a delegation from North Korea traveled to Iran; after a four day visit, commerce ministers from both countries signed a joint economic cooperation agreement in the areas of construction of residential buildings and technology.

Nouri al-Maliki, the Iraqi Prime Minister, today, Thursday the 18th of Mordad (August 9), ended his visit to Tehran, escorted to the airport by First Vice President Parviz Davoodi. Mr. Davoodi said Iran wants an independent, stable, and secure Iraq and the Islamic Republic thinks that the departure of foreign military forces will result in a stable and secure Iraq.

During his 2-day trip to Tehran the Iraqi Prime Minister met with the President, the national security director and Iran's foreign minister. Manouchehr Mottaki, the Iranian Foreign Minister, during the Iraqi Prime Minister's departure from Tehran, said that he and [Iraqi Foreign Minister] Hoshiyar Zebari had a very pleasant and positive discussion about evaluating the talks between Iran and the US on Iraq's security issues, Iranian prisoners in Iraq and improving the conditions of the Iranian consulates in Erbil and Soleimaniyeh, the status of a few detained Iranians in Erbil, and both countries' neighbors. This was the summary of the most important news.

[Fariba Mavedat]

Mahin Gorji. And in the topics of our evening magazine...

[Brief transition music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

On the international day of action for the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, labor activists were detained by security forces.

[Music]

The release of some of the jailed members of the Tahkim Vahdat [Office to Consolidate Unity].

[Music]

And the reason for the increase in the price of domestic airline tickets in Iran.

[Music]

[Mahin Gorji]

Along with solidarity day for Mahmoud Salehi and Mansour Osanloo, two labor activists in Iran, Alireza Taheri will take a look at the life of Mansour Osanloo, head of the board of the directors of the Vahed bus drivers' union.

[Persian Music]

[Alireza Taheri reading verses of the music just heard]

Be my fellow traveler, dear

Suffer the pains in solitude, never

As is this pain, whole, can't be cured piece by piece, ever

[Revolutionary/inspirational Persian Music]

[Alireza Taheri]

With this patriotic song, the Internet headquarters of Vahed bus service for Tehran and its surrounding cities, welcomes visitors to this site. The Vahed Bus Drivers Union was founded forty years ago during the rule of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi. But after the rise of the Islamic Republic, it was outlawed and faced dissolution, along with tens of other labor unions. Mansour Osanloo, a simple Vahed employee, shoulder to shoulder with fellow union members, three years ago re-established the Vahed Bus Drivers Union; despite the fact that the Islamic Republic rejects labor unions that it does not approve of. Therefore, Osanloo and fellow members became a target of the regime and its interrogators from the very

beginning. But Mansour Osanloo, approaching fifty years of age, has shown firmness in the face of assault, incarceration, and sustaining multiple injuries as the result of beatings for standing up for workers' rights.

With this same firmness, the government of Ahmadinejad set him free after Osanloo posted a half million dollar bond. Two months ago they even gave him permission to leave Iran in order to speak at the convention of International Transport Workers' Federation in Western Europe.

Mansour Osanloo drew the attention of the world community in London and Brussels, with his fiery speeches about the rights of the Iranian workers and violation of their rights in Iran.

Following Osanloo's return to Iran from his trip from Europe, as was expected, he was detained in a manner more like kidnapping by the Iranian security forces. But this time the news of his arrest drew worldwide attention.

Mansour Osanloo and his supporters, in reflecting on their experiences in detention, have written (a poem): We said bread, they gave us bullets. We cried freedom and they showed us the prison.

According to Mrs. Osanloo, their home in Narmak was surrounded by police and potential supporters were kept at a distance so they would not be able to protest against the jailing of this Iranian worker and show support for his family outside his house.

[Persian Music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

As we continue our nightly program, we have a report about the demonstrations on the day of solidarity with Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi held in Tehran and around the world.

Last night eight members of the Office to Consolidate Unity [Daftare Tahkime Vahdat] and the Strengthening Collective Unity Organization, who had been arrested, were released on bail.

Abdullah Momeni, spokesperson for the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization, and Bahram Fayyazi, member of the Central Committee; Ali Baghfi, Bahareh Hedayat, Mehdi Arabshahi, Ali Nikou-Nesbati, members of

the Office to Consolidate Unity Central Committee; Mojtaba Bayat, former member of the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization; and Morteza Eslahchi, former head of the students' union at Allameh University and former member of the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization, are among those released.

In an interview with Farin Asemi, Hojat Sharifi, head of the Central Committee for the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization, commented about the students who were recently released.

[Hojat Sharifi]

My friends were all okay. But still there is some suffering that is caused by incarceration such as housing conditions and other things. But overall they were okay.

[Farin Asemi]

Mr. Sharifi, have you seen any signs of torture or has anyone complained of physical and emotional torture?

[Hojat Sharifi]

I have not had a chance to speak to them about these questions. But it is good that their freedom came about. The courts and the government realized that not only detaining these people with no just cause was useless, but it had consequences such as needless expenses, waste of their time, long lasting psychological trauma. Again, I am glad that we are free.

[Farin Asemi]

Hanif Yazdani is another student who is still in jail. How is he and when will he be released from prison?

[Hojat Sharifi]

Among my friends from the Central Committee for the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization, Hanif Yazdani is still in jail. He could not make bail because his family did not have the resources such as a deed of trust.

[Farin Asemi]

Mr. Sharifi, the Office of Iran University Students was sealed by the police. Has anything been done to remove the seal and regain entry?

[Hojat Sharifi]

We are worried about the fact that the Office of University Students is under police seal. We had obtained the legal right to operate from the same government. We have not engaged in any illegal activities and our activities have always been conducted with total transparency. The only thing our organization has been guilty of is objecting to some of the wrong policies that have resulted in waste and unnecessary cost to the country.

We are hoping that the seal on our office is soon removed so we can begin our activities. We are doing our best to clear up any misunderstandings.

We also hope the jailed students from the Polytechnic University will be released. Although interrogations have been over for a year, Dr. Kaivan Ansari, Mr. Derakhshandeh and Mr. Jahandar are still held in jail.

Unfortunately this creates tremendous stress for them and their families.

[Fariba Mavedat]

Hojat Sharifi, head of the Central Committee of the Islamic Iran Graduates Organization, speaking with Farin Asemi of Radio Farda.

US Under Secretary of the Treasury Stuart Levey headed to Israel for a discussion of how to prevent the Islamic Republic from acquiring nuclear weapon materials. Mr. Levey is in charge of US anti-terrorism at the Department of the Treasury and consulted with the Israelis as to the kinds of sanctions that Israel and the US deem appropriate as the third Security Council resolution against Iran is being drafted. He also sought the perspective of Israeli statesmen on the issue.

[Kiumars Roshan]

The anti terrorism head of the US Department of Treasury has discussed punishment against Iran with the Israelis and sought their advice as the third resolution is being prepared. Stuart Levey held a meeting with the Israeli foreign minister on his first day in Israel. Meanwhile Mark Gregor, spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said Tel Aviv is seeking more severe punishments against Iran than the last two resolutions, 1737 and 1747, issued by the UN Security Council and the next one being prepared. A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the world community should stand united and speak with one voice instead of allowing it to be fragmented when dealing with the Islamic Republic.

The Under Secretary of the US Treasury in charge of anti-terrorism, before the last two resolutions of the United Nations against Iran, had conferred extensively with Israeli officials. Mossad, the Israeli intelligence service,

prepared and discussed what it called severe sanctions with Americans. Israeli officials say the last two sanctions imposed against Iran have had positive results, though the Iranian government does not admit to that and discourages its media from discussing the damaging consequences of the sanctions on the country.

Israelis and Americans are very pleased with the decision by banking institutions such as Deutsche Bank of Germany and Swiss and Japanese banks to discontinue their banking with Iran. Ehud Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, in his recent visit to the US and talks with President George Bush, said that sanctions will have an effect on Iran and have raised concerns in the Islamic Republic for their continuing negative effects. Olmert added that gasoline rationing in Iran speaks of the Islamic Republic's fear of the damaging effects they [the sanctions] have had on the Iranian economy. Concurrent with Stuart Levey's talks with high-level Israelis about Iran, two congressional delegations of American lawmakers, including Democrats and Republicans, headed to Israel to discuss joint Israeli-American policy toward Iran's nuclear program. Eric Cantor, one of the senior members of this delegation, met with Shimon Peres, the Israeli President, and told reporters that the US congress is aware of the dangers that Iran poses to the security of Israel, America's most important ally.

Earlier Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State, was scheduled to travel to Israel to discuss various ways the two allies can unite other nations against Iran's nuclear activities. Burns' trip was delayed due to debates over the nature of the America's ten-year plan to assist Israel militarily. Shaul Mofaz, head of the Israeli delegation, in strategic discussions with Americans, said the current year is pivotal as the two countries cooperate to counter Iran's nuclear programs.

[Fariba Mavedat]

Kiumars Roshan reporting. Three young Iranian boat [kayak] racers, training in the United States, may someday represent Iran in Olympic boat racing. Shadi Kalantar, Rokhsana Rozzaghian and Kimia Vaezy, along with Kattayun Ashraf their coach, received an invitation from Chris Wiegand, a coach at a training camp in Colorado, to spend the entire last month training alongside American athletes. Mahin Gorji reporting.

[Mahin Gorji]

Rokhsana Rozzaghian, Shadi Kalantar, and Kimia Vaezy, three young Iranian kayak racing athletes, returned home from the US after a month-long training period in Colorado. All expenses were paid by the athletes themselves.

According to David Yarborough, Executive Director of USA Canoe/Kayak, the three athletes spent time during their visit to the US training in camps used by American athletes. They also participated in races with Canadian and American athletes. While the Daily Times [sic], a Pakistani newspaper, published a report regarding the three young athletes' visit to the US, Iran's Canoe, Kayak, Rowing, and Waterskiing Federation said they were unaware of the travel to the US by the three athletes. Mr. Teymoortash, Deputy Chief of the Canoe, Kayak, Rowing, and Waterskiing Federation of the Islamic Republic, said in a statement to Radio Farda that the athletes planned the trip on their own and the Islamic Republic Canoe, Kayak, Rowing and Waterskiing Federation was not involved in any way. I heard the news just yesterday.

Despite denial by the Iranian authorities of any knowledge of the visit, the Daily Times, in referring to the tense political relationship between the US and Iran, writes that Rokhsana Rozzaghian, Shadi Kalantar, and Kimia Vaezy leave behind the training in the treacherous waters as their coach, Kattayun Ashraf, navigated the tumultuous political waters to gain permission for their stay in America and the opportunity to participate in kayak racing. The three athletes, unconcerned with the tension between the two countries, took advantage of the new mountain facilities near Washington.

According to David Yarborough, the Executive Director of USA Canoe/Kayak, the young athletes were invited by Chris Wiegand, who coaches at one of the facilities in a private training camp in the state of Colorado, based on a prior acquaintance with Ms. Kattayun Ashraf. David Yarborough tells Radio Farda, "That was an invitation by one of our coaches in the United States. And it was not an official invitation and had nothing to do with the association. One of our coaches that does not coach our national team extended the invitation." He added that the athletes were invited because Iranians do not have a successful program for these athletes.

[David Yarborough remarks translated]

Last week in Maryland the U.S. whitewater slalom team practiced with Iranian boat racers. I know that the Iranian federation does not have a program for young women in this field. I am pleased that this Iranian coach was able to bring three Iranian boat racers here to see the new techniques and learn new skills of working in water. In my opinion, I think this trip was a great experience for them.

[Mahin Gorji]

Four months ago, Ali Kaffashian, the head of the National Iranian Olympic Committee, spoke of visiting Robert Fasulo, the Head of International Relations of the American Olympic Committee, and Reza Gharakhanlou, Iran's representative to the Asian Olympic Committee in Kuwait, to discuss athletic contacts and cooperation between the two nations. At that time members of the Iranian committee said that they would not make any comments until they heard from the political leaders in Iran.

This request, by Americans, took place once more in the in the Asian games in Doha in December of 2006 in Qatar. Despite a warm reception by Iranian sports authorities to reestablish athletic contacts with the US, one of the major figures in the world of sport, the Iranian foreign ministry announced they do not view this request in the best interests of the country. The issue was dropped and never again brought up. Mr. Yarborough said that Iran formally rejected their invitation for Iranians to train with American national athletes in sport camps.

[David Yarborough remarks translated]

We formally asked the Iranian Canoe, Kayak, Rowing, and Waterskiing Federation, in June, to send the National Iranian Women's Sprint Team to train with our athletes in one of our training camps. It was almost a done deal. But unfortunately Iran turned down our invitation for reasons unknown to us.

[Mahin Gorji]

Rokhsana Rozzoghian, one of the three athletes at the camp, told the Daily Times that she wants to show the Iranian people what they have learned. She says that the American people are very kind.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Today the joint session of the security jirga got underway in Kabul with representatives from Afghanistan and Pakistan. Hamid Karzai, President of

Afghanistan, presided over the conference while the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, did not participate. Extraordinary security measures were taken in anticipation of this conference. The capital of Afghanistan today did not report any terrorist activities. Ali Jooybari reports.

[Ali Jooybari]

The four-day conference between Afghanistan and Pakistan called the Security [or, Peace] Jirga got underway this morning in Kabul. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said that urgent matters in Islamabad prevented him from attending the conference in Kabul. The authorities in Kabul said that the absence of the Pakistani leader at the Security Jirga has caused disappointment for the government in Kabul and raises serious questions about the legitimacy of this conference. Likewise, a number of tribal leaders and the Pakistani Taliban boycotted the meeting in Kabul. Government leaders in Afghanistan called for the meeting to find new and effective ways to combat the Taliban insurgents. Today's meeting at 11:30 AM was held at the location of the Loya Jirga, where the Afghan constitution was signed, on the campus of the Polytechnic University in Kabul.

After playing the national anthems of both countries, the conference on security officially opened with remarks from Hamid Karzai. In his 40-minute speech, mostly in Pashto, he said that the people of Afghanistan are killed daily, spiritual leaders are shot at, and Afghan children and teenagers are torn to pieces by terrorists. Afghanistan and Pakistan must identify the sources of the problems and address them.

[President Hamid Karzai speaking briefly in Pashto]

[Ali Jooybari - interpreting]

If the problem is in Afghanistan, then my country will find a solution. But if the sources of insecurity are in Pakistan, I hope they will find a solution for them, there. If the problems are between the two peoples of both nations, then the people should solve them.

After President Karzai, Shoukat Aziz, Pakistani Prime Minister, said that he and Pervez Musharraf hope that this meeting will have a positive outcome. The meeting was attended by 300 representatives from Pakistan and 350 from Afghanistan. Despite the attendance by both countries, observers

doubt that the Security Jirga in Afghanistan will succeed while the Pakistani government allows efforts that will undermine the security of the region. The government of Afghanistan began preparation for the Security Jirga a year ago and believes that it is the only way to combat insurgency in Afghanistan. Afghan authorities consistently claim that terrorists that are against the government of Afghanistan carry out the activities from safe havens in the eastern border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ali Juyvari, Radio Farda, Kabul.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Pervez Musharraf, Pakistani President, [speaking] today at noon, opposed suggestions by his political supporters to declare a state of emergency in his country. The Minister of Information in Pakistan told news reporters that some of the political parties pressured Musharraf to declare a state of emergency in that country. But Mr. Musharraf said that he is interested in fair elections and is against any action that would oppose this.

Earlier the Ministry of Information had announced that the internal and external threats, including threats from a number of American officials who want the US to attack Taliban and al-Qaeda hiding in the tribal regions of the Pakistani and Afghan border, were aimed to pressure Musharraf to consider declaring a state of emergency in his meeting with his advisors. This morning, the international media reported that the Pakistan government is studying a plan with his advisors which, if approved, will put a state of emergency in Pakistan into action. We'll hear more on this from Saeedeh Hashemi.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Based on reports by a French news agency, Minister of Information Mohammad Ali Doorani added, after denying any plan for declaring a state of emergency, that despite pressure from his supporters, Musharraf opposed a call to declare a state of emergency. Doorani went on to say that because of President Musharraf's and the current government's fundamental respect for freedom and democracy, a state of emergency will not be declared.

Reports from Reuters this morning indicated that the rumors of limiting general freedoms, including that of the press, and the possible postponing of the parliamentary elections until next year, last night brought about calm in the streets. Pervez Musharraf met on Thursday with his senior political

advisors to decide on declaring a state of emergency due to the special security situation in Pakistan.

The Pakistani government added declaring a state of emergency to its mandate a month ago amid a wave of armed attacks by the Islamist militants and Taliban and al-Qaeda sympathizers, endangering the overall security of the nation. Armed attacks on the Lal Mosque, which was taken over by Islamic extremists, and the removal of the chief justice of Pakistan, further increased opposition to Pervez Musharraf and increased unrest in the nation. Musharraf is accused by his opponents of destroying democracy, crushing opposition, and creating a fertile ground for extremism in the country. Political analysts say that General Musharraf, a loyal ally of the United States, has entered the most difficult period of his rule since 1999. Government opponents believe that by declaring extraordinary circumstances and delaying parliamentary elections, Mr. Musharraf wants to ensure his position as the commander-in-chief of the Pakistani army.

Benazir Bhutto, former Pakistani president and one of the harshest critics of Pervez Musharraf's government, expressed her concerns that imposing a state of emergency will not bring stability to Pakistan, and said she hopes that this serious step will not be taken. Nassim Sahra, a political analyst in Pakistan, said that by declaring an emergency state Musharraf will risk his political future. The Pakistan vice minister of information told Reuters news agency that the government has an open hand for choosing appropriate options; however, according to a government spokesman, there is no final plan yet.

The US has been pressuring the government of Pervez Musharraf to control and attack terrorists sympathetic to al-Qaeda who live in the border regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Tariq Aziz Khan, Vice Minister of Information, said that America's suggestion about the attacks on al-Qaeda and Taliban forces has played a major part in creating a special security environment in Pakistan.

Western countries in Afghanistan are worried about the security and stability of Pakistan, a nation armed with atomic weapons.

[Female announcer]

You are listening to the evening magazine program.

[Brief music introduction]

The best music and the latest news on Radio Farda.

[Male announcer]

Radio Farda news.

[Station review of its programming with multiple voices announcing name and the time of programs on Radio Farda]

[Male announcer]

It's 11:00 pm. I am joined by my colleagues to present the latest news.

[Female announcer #1]

It's 8:00 pm, hello. In the next 15 minutes, I am Mahdiyeh...

[Female announcer #2]

It's 10:00 pm. Greetings.

[Female announcer #3]

Hello. I am Mehry Sadr and...

[Inaudible mix of announcers]

[Male announcer]

All of this with one look at Radio Farda's website with the latest pictures.

[Female announcer]

Variety News reports.

[Male announcer]

Science news.

[Female announcer]

Sports.

[Male announcer]

Arts and culture.

[Female announcer]

And politics.

[Female announcer]
And even interesting web logs.

[Male announcer]
www.radiofarda.com.

[Rock Music]

[Female announcer]
And in just seconds from now you will hear the second portion of our evening program.

[Countdown and music]

[Male announcer]
This is Radio Farda.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]
You are listening to Radio Farda. At the start of the second portion of our evening magazine, the overview of the top news by my colleague.

[Mahin Gorji]
Hello, again. News reports from Tehran mention the arrest of some members of the Vahed Bus Drivers Union who were attempting to visit with his family on the international day of protest against the jailing of Mansour Osanloo; news reports from Tehran that a few of the labor rights activists in Iran were arrested, namely Ebrahim Madaddi, Ebrahim Gohari, Davud Rajavi, Yaghub Salimi, Homayun Javedi, and Gholam Reza Gholamhosseini, members of the Vahed Bus Drivers Union of Tehran.

A number of labor rights activists were planning, on the international day of the protest of the arrest of Mansour Osanloo, leader of the Vahed Bus Drivers Union, to meet with his family. But, according to Osanloo's wife in speaking with Radio Farda, security forces surrounded their house. The International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), of which the Vahed Bus Drivers Union is a member, had invited international labor unions today, Thursday, Mordad 18th, to assemble in protest to the arrest of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, representative to the Coordinating Committee for

improving workers' conditions in Saghez, in front of Iranian consulates in the capitals of major cities of the world.

Majid Bazmun, commander of the security forces in Karaj, said that 20 people were arrested at a party held at one of the city employees' residential compounds. He said that police had warrants to arrest them. Last Monday, the 15th of Mordad, security forces announced the arrest of 230 girls and boys in an underground rock concert in Karaj. There is still no news as to the fate of the arrested individuals.

Stuart Levey, one of the high level officials at the US Treasury Department's Anti-terrorism Task Force today, Thursday the 18th of Mordad [August 9], will speak to Tzipi Livni, the Israeli Foreign Minister, about Iran's nuclear activities. The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Israel wants tougher sanctions against Iran so the Islamic Republic understands that they cannot ignore the world's wishes.

Today, Thursday the 18th of Mordad, a Security Jirga opened the first session of a four-day conference in Kabul with Hamid Karzai's remarks. This conference was attended by tribal and religious leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Karzai said Afghanistan and Pakistan can defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda if they cooperate with each other. "We will gladly correct these problems with help from our tribal leaders and hope Pakistan does the same at their end."

Pervez Musharraf was scheduled to participate in this conference but, according to a statement from Pakistan, urgent domestic matters prevented the Pakistani leader from attending the Jirga. Instead, Shoukat Aziz, the Pakistani Prime Minister, represented Pakistan at the joint peace conference. At the conference both sides will explore effective ways to combat Taliban and al-Qaeda insurgency in their border regions. Tribal leaders in North and South Waziristan boycotted the meeting in Kabul and the Taliban were not invited.

Based on reports from IRNA, a North Korean delegation arrived in Tehran for a four-day visit. Ministers of Finance signed an economic cooperation [agreement] between the two nations and reached agreement on construction of commercial and residential buildings and technological cooperation.

Greetings. A spokesman for the Pakistani government told the Afghan section of [Radio Free] Europe, Radio Azad, that Pervez Musharraf has no plans to announce a state of emergency. The Pakistani information minister also told news services that some of the political parties had pressured Mr. Musharraf to declare a state of emergency, but the Pakistani President is interested in fair elections and is opposed to any decisions inconsistent with the laws during the upcoming elections. This was our news report. Pleasant evening.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Mahin Gorji. In continuing our news broadcast in the second portion of our program we have learned that today the speaker of the Turkish congress will be elected from among three candidates. The presidential election follows the speaker's election and already has created some tension between the majority Islamists, who are in charge, and the [secular] nationalists who oppose election of an Islamist as president. Ali Javanmardi reports from Ankara.

[Ali Javanmardi]

Today, the head of the 23rd Grand National Assembly will be chosen in four separate elections. In the first two elections the head of the parliament will need two-thirds of the votes, or 367 out of 550. In the event no one receives 367 votes, the election enters its third stage. In this stage the candidate receiving 276 votes will be elected.

The Justice and Development Party, the ruling party, which holds 341 seats in the Grand National Assembly, yesterday afternoon, Wednesday, nominated Köksal Toptan for the leadership of the assembly. Köksal Toptan, a 64 year old politician from Rize, a graduate of Istanbul University Law School, is considered one of the veterans of Turkish politics and, prior to joining the Justice and Development Party, served under Bülent Ecevit as member of the True Path.

Mr. Toptan is known as a moderate and in the 22nd session of the Grand National Assembly, chaired the justice committee. Mr. Köksal Toptan before the start of the parliament conferred with various opposition parties and asked for their support. Based on the Turkish CNN, the People's Republican Party with 99 seats and the ultra liberal party with 13 seats in the parliament announced their support for Köksal Toptan. It is expected that Mr. Toptan, without any significant opposition, will be elected as the

head of the Grand National Assembly (GNA). In today's election two more candidates announced their interest to lead the GNA. The National Movement Party, which holds 70 seats in the parliament, nominated Tonca Toskay from Antalya, and Kamer Genç, an independent Kurd from the city of Tunceli is the third candidate vying for the leadership of the GNA. After the election for the leadership of the 23rd GNA is held, the constitutional task of electing the 11th president of Turkey will conclude within the next forty days.

Strong opposition by the nationalists casts doubt as to the nomination and election of Abdullah Gül, the current foreign minister and member of the, Islamist majority, Justice and Development Party, to be Turkey's next president.

Based on press reports in Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, current head of Turkish GNA and ruling party, emerged from a two-hour meeting with Abdullah Gül and refused to question [sic] whether Abdullah Gül would be re-nominated by the Justice and Development Party.

The Turkish nationalists, who enjoy the support of the military, strongly oppose the presidency of Abdullah Gül or any other member of the Justice and Development Party to ever occupy the presidency.

General Yaşar Büyükanit, joint chief of the Turkish armed forces, last week reiterated that the current elections, which have again resulted in victory for the Justice and Development Party, have not changed the military's opinion on being the protector of the secular system, and the president must be secular in deed and not [just] in words. Ali Javanmardi, Radio Farda, Ankara.

[Fariba Mavedat]

As we indicated in the first half of our program, the Islamic Republic's regular and plain clothes security police arrested a number of trade unionists in Tehran as international labor unions, in support of the arrested trade unionists Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, protested in front of Iranian consulates in 30 major cities around the world and demanded their release. The arrests received a strong condemnation from the head of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF). Behrouz Karooni reports.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Union workers of Vahed Bus Drivers issued a statement on the 12th of Mordad [August 3] that today, the 18th of Mordad [August 9], they would be gathering in front of the residence of Mansour Osanloo, leader of the transportation workers union, and Mahmoud Salehi, former president of Bakery Workers' Association in Saghez and co-founder of the coordinating Committee to form the Workers' Organization in Saghez. Fereshteh Osanloo, sister of Mansour Osanloo, tells Radio Farda,

[Fereshteh Osanloo]

When I arrived at 10:00 this morning, they would not even let me in. They asked to see my identification card. I told them that I was his sister. I told them that you have jailed my brother for the past month and won't let me see him. Now you've turned his house into a prison and keep me out. Finally they let me but kept others out, whatever the reason.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Have they detained more than five people?

[Fereshteh Osanloo]

I just got a call from one of his fellow workers who told me that they have detained six or seven people. My information isn't accurate. For now they have arrested Mr. Ebrahim Madaddi, Mr. Javeri, Mr. Gohari, Mr. Razavi, and Mr. Salimi.

[Behrouz Karooni]

The security forces have been restricted to Osanloo's house only, and they had blocked one of the main streets as well.

[Fereshteh Osanloo]

We have not left the house. Our friends and family have been turned away before they even got close to our house. We were told over the phone that the police discouraged them from approaching our house by asking for their ID or cell phone. Some told us that they turned around once they saw somebody was being roughed up by the police. We are just sitting here at home. Mansour's wife is under tremendous emotional stress. My mother and her mother are psychologically in no better condition. I am the only one able to talk and keep my wits about me. We couldn't imagine a simple visit to my brother's house [would] turn out like this. It was unexpected.

[Behrouz Karooni]

David Cockroft, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), regarding the arrest of the Vahed Bus Drivers Union activists, told Radio Farda:

[David Cockroft]

We are deeply shocked and angered by the continued harassment of the five arrested Vahed Transportation Union members. Not only do we ask for the immediate release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, we also request the release of all of our recently detained union members. These arrests are warrantless and are nothing but continued harassment of workers who want to exercise their union rights in difficult economic conditions. The action by workers is not political and they are not politicians. They are just union activists. The government of Iran should realize this and stop taking this outrageous and unnecessary action.

[Behrouz Karooni]

The General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), in response to the question as to how he views the arrest of five additional members of the Vahed Transportation Union on the international day of the protest for jailing of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. He responded by saying:

[David Cockroft]

I think that it shows that the Iranian government is seriously worried about the international day to demand the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. The Iranian government is well aware of what is going on throughout the world. But unfortunately we are witnessing lies by the Iranian government. For instance, in Indonesia, the largest Islamic country objected to the arrest of the two union leaders. The union leaders in Jakarta who met with the Iranian Consul-General were told that the two arrested union leaders were political prisoners and that they had received \$100,000 from the US to carry out Washington's schemes in Iran. We know the charges to be completely untrue.

[Behrouz Karooni]

David Cockroft reiterated that the international federation and other labor unions will continue to oppose the arrests of union workers, especially Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. This is just the beginning. Meanwhile, protests continued in major cities of the world. Jamshid Addidi of Radio Farda in Sydney, Australia, reports.

[Jamshid Addidi]

In a show of support for international labor unions protesting the arrest of labor union leaders in Iran, Iranian residents of Australia in Canberra also protested the arrest of the trade unionists in Iran, in front of the Iranian Embassy, and demanded the immediate release of the labor union members.

[People chanting political slogans in Persian]

[Behrouz Karooni]

Also, Shahram Nillian, Radio Farda reporter in Germany, filed this report about demonstrations in Frankfurt, Germany and Bern, Switzerland.

[Shahram Nillian]

Today, Thursday afternoon, simultaneous with other protests by Iranians and others in 30 cities in the world, Iranian residents gathered on a rainy and blustery day in front of the embassy of the Islamic Republic in Frankfurt to express their support and solidarity for Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. One of the protestors, Shahnaz Morattab said:

[Protestor Shahnaz Morattab]

The demonstration of support here is for Mansour Osanloo, Mahmoud Salehi. Speakers at the gathering demanded the release of all political prisoners. There are numerous labor unions in Germany. They are here with placards asking for the release of political prisoners in Iran and Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

A formal resolution asking for the release of all political prisoners was prepared to be delivered to the officials in the embassy, but unfortunately they refused to allow even the German labor union leaders to enter the embassy. This shows the deep fear within the Islamic Republic's leaders.

[Shahram Nillian]

In addition to the demonstrations in the city of Frankfurt, two others were held in the cities of Hamburg and Berlin in Germany, The Hague in the Netherlands, Stockholm, Malmo and Yotogori in Sweden, and also in the capital cities of Norway and Finland.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Mir Ali Hosseini, reporter for Radio Farda, reports about activities carried out by the French union CGT in Paris:

[Mir Ali Hosseini]

The most important protest was coordinated by CGT in France, one of the largest and most famous unions in France. Today there are quite a few Iranians protesting. Our main message here today is an end to massacre and murder of dissidents in Iran. Labor unions here view each execution as a murder. We demand that all political prisoners be released. We object to capital punishment, in general, and executions, especially the recent wave of them. Because the labor unions here know Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, as part of the speeches made today, they issued a statement asking for the immediate release of union leaders Osanloo and Salehi.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Also Saber Rahimi, one of the protestors in the city Oslo, in Norway, told Radio Farda:

[Saber Rahimi]

Today's demonstrators are made up of union workers of Norway, the transportation and railroad workers union as well as from other unions; about 70 or 80 people were present. Half of them were representatives from labor unions. The purpose of the demonstration is to ask for the immediate release of union workers Mansour Osanloo, leader of the Vahed workers union, and Mahmoud Salehi, of the Union of Bakers in Saghez, who are sitting in jail now. We protested in front of the embassy of the Islamic Republic. A formal statement by the leaders of the four unions present was read and then presented to the Iranian Ambassador.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Abdul Golparian, one of the participants in the Helsinki, Finland demonstration, tells us:

[Protestor Abdul Golparian]

Protestors, both Iranians and Finns, gathered in Hakaniemi and from there we headed toward the embassy of the Islamic Republic.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Farideh Arman, in Malmo, Sweden, tells Radio Farda:

[Farideh Arman]

We didn't really have a protest rally. Just an information table to draw attention and [show] support of the unions for the movement in cities around the world.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Likewise, Jamil Farzan, participating in a rally in Stockholm, Sweden, comments to Radio Farda:

[Protestor Jamil Farzan]

We are out in front of the embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Stockholm. Tens of freedom-loving Iranians in Stockholm are gathered here as a response to a call by the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to stand in unity and defend the rights of the workers and, in particular, ask for the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, who have been arrested by the Islamic Republic. Other workers' rights organizations as well as labor union supporters in Sweden. Today Sweden's labor union federation issued a protest statement and presented it to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Malmo. Speeches are also being given here throughout the day by socialist and other groups in support of the labor unions.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Behruz Mehabadi, from Gothenburg, Sweden, tells Radio Farda:

[Protestor Behruz Mehrabadi]

In the center of the city of Gothenburg, we are gathered in a park to ask for the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, in response to two international labor unions' appeal for support. The two labor unions are ITF and ITUC, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

[Behrouz Karooni]

The International Confederation of Free Labor Unions and Confederation of Labor Unions of the European Union, along with three labor union confederations in Belgium, in a joint statement to the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, asked for the immediate release of the head of the Vahed Transportation Union and the founder of the Bakers Union in the city

of Saghez. They expressed serious concern over the safety and well being of Osanloo and Salehi since their arrest as union workers. The International Confederation of Free Labor Unions and Confederation of Labor Unions of the European Union, along with three labor union confederations in Belgium expressed deep concern over the continued physical and psychological pressures on Osanloo and Salehi in prison.

The Dutch Labor Union, FNV, which has 465,000 members, in a letter to the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in this country, strongly protested the arrest of Mansour Osanloo. This labor union, as a member of the ILO, the International Labor Organization, asked the Islamic Republic to uphold the fundamental right to free speech.

The Dutch labor union, based on prior mistreatment of Osanloo by the security forces in the Evin prison, in a letter expressed concern over the safety of Osanloo in prison. This letter asked that the safety of the union members be ensured and [asked] the Islamic Republic to immediately release him.

Also, the union of transportation workers in Malaysia, in a letter to [Mrs.] Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, expressed great concern over the health and safety of Mr. Osanloo in prison and asked that Iran immediately release Osanloo. As a member of ILO, the Malaysian union asked Tehran to respect the basic rights of the trade union workers' freedom of expression in that country.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Behrouz Karooni reporting. And news about economics. Based on news reports from Tehran, Alireza Tahmasbi, the Islamic Republic's Minister of Industry, was forced to resign due to his inability to realize government [garbled] goals and agenda. More resignations are expected from among high level officials. This is the topic of tonight's economic report of Feridoun Khavand.

[Feridoun Khavand]

Pars News Agency and other publications this morning, quoting reliable sources, especially the legislative branch of the Islamic Republic, speak of the resignation of the Minister of Industry, Alireza Tahmasbi. According to the same sources, this resignation is the outcome of criticism during the past year against Tahmasbi's management ability. Several times rumors of

his removal had circulated. News reports in Tehran have named Ali Saidloo, the first vice president of the Islamic Republic, as a successor to Tahmasbi. Two financial publications, *Donya-e Eghtesad* and *Sarmaye*, today hold Tahmasbi responsible for failure to meet the industrial goals for his agency and the reason for his resignation, though not confirmed by anyone in the Islamic Republic.

The double-digit growth at the end of 1385 declined to 7% and some even say sank slightly below 5%. If true, the resignation of Alireza Tahmasbi, in reality, is more a removal by Ahmadinejad.

It's true that the economy has been in decline in the last two years. But holding the Minister of Industry responsible and replacing him raises some questions.

The industry of Iran is influenced by Iran's internal and external policies and politics and its growth is subject to some interconnected conditions such as internal security, international monetary policy, the inflation rate, the government's role in the country's economy, banking policy, world commerce, and the like. Without some sort of restructuring, the country's industry will run short of breath, and changing the top management in the ministry will have little effect.

In addition to industries, banking in the Islamic Republic is also under pressure. For example, the resignation of the president of the Central Bank, Ebrahim Sheibani, is rumored around the country. One of Tehran's newspapers named Tahmasb Mazaheri, Iran's former head of the ministry of Economics and Treasury, as a possible successor to Mr. Sheibani.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Fereidoun Khavand reporting. And our latest sport news reported by Fereydoon Sheibani.

[Introduction music]

[Male announcer]

The world of sport.

[Fereydoon Sheibani]

The Iranian National Youth Water Polo Team ended the youth Asian semifinals by defeating Kuwait 17 to 5 after an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale shook the swimming, diving, and water polo competitions and the stadium in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Uzbekistan edged out Singapore in the semifinal portion of the competition, and Iran will battle Uzbekistan tomorrow for the championship.

The 24th World University Games—Universiade started today in Bangkok, Thailand. Yussef Karami earned a gold medal in Universiade competitions; two women Taekwondo competitors were eliminated. Mahruk Rezai, flagbearer on the opening day, lost to her rival from Spain and was eliminated from the competitions.

In the men's competition, Yussef Karami, before overcoming his adversary from Russia, defeated athletes from China, Poland, Azerbaijan, and Turkey. Morteza Rostami, Taekwondo athlete, after defeating his opponent from Turkey, in the semi-finals lost to his South Korean counterpart in overtime, and walked away with a bronze medal.

The Iranian Soccer Federation reported that on the occasion of the Prophet's ascension [Eide Mab'as], penalties for previous seasons and sanctions preventing the players from playing before spectators were lifted. Also, the super league face-up scheduled for tomorrow between Saipa, a league champion, and Sepahan, champion of the main cup, will not take place. This match will [take place] after the transfer from the Azadi stadium to the Derakhshan stadium in Robat Karim [southern Tehran].

In exhibition games before the start of the European soccer season, the Manchester United team of England overcame the Irish team 3-0 in [inaudible name] stadium of Northern Ireland. And Real Madrid of Spain nicked Belenenses of Portugal 1-0; and in other competition, Spanish Osasuna, a team in which Javad Nikunam is a player, defeated Olympia in Greece 2-1. Real Sociedad of Spain, tied 2-2 in the Netherlands with Heracles Almelo.

The Italian team Lazio defeated the Greek team Panathinaikos 3-2, in Rome. The Spanish Zaragoza team lost to the Italian Parma team at home, 2-3.

Based on reports by the Associated Press in Frankfurt, sports writers in Germany voted Mario Gomez, who is an offensive player on Stuttgart, the outstanding player for winning Germany's championship. Gomez scored 14 goals and was the first Stuttgart player after Juergen Klinsmann in 1988 to win this title. With 175 Diego of Werder Bremen was named second, and Bernd Schneider from Bayer Leverkusen, with 165, [was] voted third. Armin Veh, coach of the Stuttgart team, was voted coach of the year. Tomorrow, Friday, the new season of the Bundesliga will start and Stuttgart team will play [inaudible name], last season's runner up.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

You just heard Fereydoon Sheibani presenting the sports news.

You may listen to our program on the internet on www.radiofarda.com.

We have approached the end of our evening magazine news. I am Fariba Mavedat, Good night.

TRANSLATION ENDS HERE