

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program, which was broadcast via satellite on September 11, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female Announcer]
This is Radio Farda.

Radio Farda News.

- The memorial ceremonies for the sixth anniversary of September 11th have begun in New York and Washington, DC.
- The EU asks Iran to implement the agreements reached with Muhammad ElBaradei, completely and without further delay.
- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said once again, that Iran has won the nuclear issue.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]
Greetings to all of the dear listeners who join us at this hour. I, Arman Mostowfi, begin Radio Farda's "Evening Magazine," at 18:30, Tehran Time. But first, let's listen to a summary of the news from Maryam Manzoori.

[Maryam Manzoori]
Greetings, and good evening.

- The memorial ceremonies for the sixth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks have commenced in America. These ceremonies will be held in Washington and in New York. The families of the victims of the World Trade Center attack, will honor the victims by placing flowers and reciting the names of the victims. Over 2,700 people lost their lives in the September 11th terrorist attacks.
- According to news agency reports, the EU will announce, at Wednesday's meeting of the IAEA's Board of Governors, that implementing the agreements by Iran, completely and without further delay, would be a remarkable step forward. The statement adds that, "In the meantime, the IAEA Director General has informed the EU

that Iran not only has not ceased the process of uranium enrichment, but that it has added to its enrichment capabilities."

- The President of the Islamic Republic, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, said once more today, at the National Conference of the Commanders of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, that in spite of all the pressures, Iran has won the nuclear case. Rejecting the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty's (NPT) Annex Protocol, Mr. Ahmadinejad said that "some unreasonable countries have imposed additional protocols on Iran under the pretext of safeguarding. Unfortunately, some internal elements have encouraged them to put increasing pressure on the Iranian nation."
- In his report, yesterday, to the IAEA Board of Governors, Muhammad ElBaradei stated that implementing the additional Protocol, which would allow access to sites, documents, and persons, is necessary for creating trust and understanding the nature of the Islamic Republic's nuclear program.
- The Islamic Republic's Foreign Minister, Manuchehr Motaki, will leave for Moscow to attend the Joint Commission between Iran and Russia. According to a report released by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), Mr. Motaki is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Mikhail Fardkov and Russian Federal Atomic Energy Agency (Rosatom) Chief, Sergei Kiriyenko. The contractor company in charge of constructing nuclear power plants, has announced that due to Iran's delays in paying installments, it will not be able to complete this power plant before Fall. However, Iran denies this claim.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

Thanks. In today's "Evening Magazine:"

- The Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. troops in Iraq said, "Members of the Revolutionary Guards Corps Force, known as Quds, are involved in Iraq's unrest."
- According to Iranian officials, "Kian Tajbakhsh, the Iranian-American researcher who has been detained since Ordibehesht [April-May], will be released soon."
- 10 workers from Sanandaj, who have been sentenced to imprisonment and lashes, object to these verdicts.

[Human Rights Activist]

It is the 21st century, not the age of slavery - when you could have condemned a worker to lashes and imprisonment because he celebrated Labor Day.

In continuation of the plan called "social security" in Iran, Law Enforcement is now detaining house dogs, too.

[Owner of a house dog]

They said it themselves. Today they are detaining dogs, then they will fight the so called "drug-trafficking." Now they are talking about dogs, tomorrow they will arrest birds...

A number of reports on the anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks, on Radio Farda's "Evening Magazine." Stay with us.

General David Petraeus, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. troops in Iraq, said Monday, in his report to the U.S. Congress that Iran meddles in Iraq's affairs by using the Revolutionary Guards Corps' Qods forces. In a reaction to these remarks, Muhammad Ali Ja'fari, the new Commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, warned the US today, Tuesday, that Tehran has determined the weak points of the Islamic Revolution's enemies, in Iraq, and Afghanistan and Iran's defense capabilities have been strengthened in accordance with these weak points.

In the meantime, Muwffaq al-Robai'l, Iraq's National Security Advisor, welcomed the report from General Petraeus, Commander-in-Chief of U.S. troops in Iraq, and Ryan Crocker, the U.S. Ambassador to Baghdad, saying that issuing such a report indicated the level of transparency in evaluating the situation. He added that Iraq, together with its allies, would try to determine how long coalition troops would be present in Iraq. Farin Asemi has more on this.

[Farin Asemi]

General David Petraeus, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. troops in Iraq, said in his report on Monday, to the U.S. Congress, "It is clear to Iraqi leaders and the coalition troops that Iran intends to build forces, like Hezbollah, out of certain groups in Iraq, in order to promote Iran's interests and, thereby, fight the Iraqi government and the coalition forces. The US

has repeatedly accused Iran of supporting rebels in Iraq. However, the Iranian government has denied these accusations, declaring that Iran's aim is to support the Iraqi government and help establish stability in that country.

Hassan Hashemian, a university Professor in Tehran, tells Radio Farda that Iran will deny the accusation that it meddles in Iraq through the Revolutionary Guards Corps' Qods Forces.

[Hassan Hashemian]

In regards to the statements from Iran's military commanders, I believe that Iran position is either to attack the US, or defend themselves against the US. So it is quite natural that Iran uses all possible means for this purpose. Iran's has an extensive defense program against the presence of U.S. forces in the region, especially as we sometimes hear, since the US has a full-scale program for attacking Iran.

[Farin Asemi]

Meanwhile, Hassan Hashemian believes that despite General Patreaus's comments that Iran intends to attack the Iraqi government and U.S. forces through Shiite militia, we should not think that the Badr Corps and the Mahdi Corps are totally under Iran's control.

[Hassan Hashemian]

The Badr Corps and Majlis A'la have implemented internal reforms in order to distance themselves from Iran, and approach the Iraqi forces and Mr. Sistani. Based on this fact, I believe we can no longer say that just because the Badr Corps and the Majlis A'la have been in Iran, they are totally under Iran's control and act on behalf of Iran. Jaish al-Mahdi (the Mahdi Corps) has a very inconsistent status. It has some forces that strongly oppose Iran. These forces formerly served as Ba'th forces. However, Iran does have its influence in some groups.

[Farin Asemi]

General David Petraeus, Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. troops in Iraq, in his report to the U.S. Congress, accused Iran of sending weapons and ammunition to rebels in Iraq, which the Iraqi rebels then use to kill US and Iraqi troops. Hassan Hashemian, a university professor and a Middle East analyst in Tehran, says that proving that Tehran sends weapons and ammunition to Iraq must be done by impartial organizations like the UN.

[Hassan Hashemian]

Iran sells weaponry to about 37 foreign parties. So the fact that Iranian-made weapons can be found everywhere, including in Iraq, is not so surprising. It must be borne in mind that Iran is now struggling against the US on a number of fronts.

[Farin Asemi]

In the meantime, Ryan Crocker, the U.S. Ambassador to Baghdad, who reported to the U.S. Congress along with General Petraeus, said on Monday, "If America leaves Iraq alone, Iran will win."

[Ryan Crocker]

Undoubtedly, Iran can be the winner in such a scenario. If America leaves Iraq, Iran will dominate all the resources and possibly the Iraqi territory. The Iranian president has already announced that Iran will fill any security voids in Iraq. Under such circumstances, the work that the US has done to eliminate al-Qaeda and extremist groups, will be wasted. These groups can use Iraq as a safe haven for their regional and international operations.

[Farin Asemi]

Hassan Hashemian calls Ahmadinejad's comment that "If America leaves, Iran will be prepared to fill the security void in Iraq," a big strategic mistake.

[Hassan Hashemian]

Ahmadinejad's comments have attracted the attention of Iran's opponents in Iraq, the Arab world, and Americans. They take this issue seriously that Iran intends to occupy Iraq after the US pulls out. This is a mistake that Ahmadinejad has made.

[Farin Asemi]

Hassan Hashemian goes on to say that if America leaves Iraq now, there will be a terrible blood bath in Iraq.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was a report by Farin Asemi.

Kian Tajbakhsh, an advisor to the Open Society Institute, has been imprisoned in Iran, on charges of acting against national security, since Ordibehesht [April-May]. He told visiting domestic and foreign reporters who came to Evin Prison where he is being held, that he is being held in

solitary confinement and that he is satisfied with the general conditions of his cell. The Iranian officials have said that he will soon be released.

[Golnaz Esfandiari]

The Iranian-American Scholar Kian Tajbakhsh, told reporters who were visiting Evin Prison, that he expected to be released very soon, although he added that the exact date of his release had not yet been determined. Mr. Tajbakhsh also said that the judicial authorities have not officially pressed charges against him. He said, "Certainly, they have told me why I am imprisoned, but I prefer not to talk about the issues related to my case." The Iranian authorities have said that Kian Tajbakhsh faces security charges, including charges of acting against the national security.

Some Islamic Republic authorities have also said that the Iranian-Americans detained in Tehran, were involved in what they call "US efforts to create a velvet revolution in Iran." Kian Tajbakhsh, an advisor to the Open Society Institute, said today, that his case was still under investigation. Regarding his TV interview, which was broadcast on the Iranian state TV about one month ago, he said that he did not consider his statements confessions. He added that he would not be able to respond to the accusations unless he was formally charged.

Iranian authorities have said that the TV interviews of Mr. Tajbakhsh and Haleh Esfandiari, Director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center, which were broadcast within the framework of a program called "In the Name of Democracy," show that these two individuals were attempting a "soft overthrow." However, human rights advocates described the interviews as "worthless" and said that Haleh Esfandiari and Kian Tajbakhsh had probably been forced to attend the TV interviews.

Kian Tajbakhsh's press conference in Evin Prison, took place one day after Haleh Esfandiari's press conference in Washington. Mrs. Esfandiari said that although prison was not an agreeable experience, she did not undergo physical or mental torture during the three months of her imprisonment. However, previous Iranian political prisoners have said, after being released, that being imprisoned in solitary confinement for a long period of time, is one of the worst kinds of mental torture.

Mrs. Esfandiari said yesterday, in her press conference, that a group in Iran's Ministry of Information believed that the US was trying to change Iran's political system with the help of research centers and without any bloodshed, as in Georgia and Ukraine. Haleh Esfandiari, who is a dual Iranian-American citizen, managed to leave Iran last week. The US and human rights groups have asked Iran to release Kian Tajbakhsh as well as Ali Shakeri, another Iranian-American imprisoned in Iran, as soon as possible.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was a report by Golnaz Esfandiari.

As you heard, Iranian authorities permitted a number of domestic and foreign reporters to visit Evin Prison, where many political prisoners are being held. Regarding the reporters' visit to Evin Prison, Sadeq Naqash Kar, the overseas spokesman for a group of political prisoners in Iran, told Behrooz Karooni the following:

[Sadeq Naqash Kar]

It was anticipated that a group of reporters would be allowed to visit Evin Prison, as they did this morning. However, during their visit, a number of political prisoners were kept out of sight. Among these prisoners, we can mention Mr. Arjang Davoudi, Mr. Keyvan Rafi'i, Mr. Saied Masouri, Mrs. Zahra Aliqoil, and many others in Ward 350 of Evin Prison. According to reporters, the political prisoners have not been able to visit or to speak with the press. However, today some family members are supposed to visit their loved ones in several of the women's wards.

[Behrooz Karooni]

What prisoners are kept in the Ward 350?

[Sadeq Naqash Kar]

Ward 350 is a ward where most political prisoners are kept. These are individuals who have been sentenced to both short-term and long-term imprisonments.

[Behrooz Karooni]

Mr. Kian Tajbakhsh, who has been jailed on charges of plotting a "soft overthrow" of the Islamic Republic, in an interview, described his conditions in the prison as "good." Considering the contact you have had with the

prisoners in Evin Prison, or other prisons in Iran, aren't political prisoners generally subject to mistreatment or torture?

[Sadeq Naqash Kar]

Mr. Kian Tajbakhsh is jailed in Ward 209 of Evin Prison, and we have received horrible reports from prisoners and their families, about the horrendous physical and mental torture that takes place there. For years, through these barbaric practices, prisoners have been forced to confess or write letters of penitence. Unfortunately, even the lawyers are not able to visit this ward and talk to their clients. According to the prisoners and their families, prisoners have been forced to write or to recite letters of penitence before television cameras in order to be released. However, after their release, they have admitted that their confessions were made under duress.

[Behrooz Karooni]

In your opinion, should reporters visit Evin Prison, and can Mr. Tajbakhsh's remarks reduce foreign and international media criticism of the conditions of the political prisoners?

[Sadeq Naqash Kar]

They are constantly trying to deceive people and distort the facts. We, as human rights activists and spokespersons for political prisoners, asked that an international board be allowed to travel to Iran and visit the prisons, in the presence of international reporters. We requested that they allow the prisoners to speak freely about their conditions to the impartial international board, without the presence of cameras, camcorders, or any officials from the Ministry of Information. Instead, [authorities] arranged a tour for reporters, but prohibited access to political prisoners. This way, the prisoners, who are subject to threats against themselves and their families, are forced to lie to reporters about their conditions, making the meetings worthless.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was Sadeq Naqash Kar, responding to Behrooz Karooni's questions.

You are listening to Radio Farda's "Evening Magazine."

"From Friday to Friday!" is a special program that reviews the most important news of Iran during the past week. "From Friday to Friday!" - each Friday on the "Evening Magazine" broadcast, at 19:00.

Ten of the workers who were detained during the Labor Day ceremonies in Sanandaj, presented a letter to the speaker of Parliament and the head of the Judiciary, protesting their prison sentences and lashes, issued by Sanandaj court.

Behrooz Karooni reports.

[Behrooz Karooni]

Jaafar Azimzadeh, a member of the Board of Directors and the National Union of the Laid-Off and Unemployed Workers of Iran, in a discussion with Radio Farda, regarding the purpose of writing and sending this letter says:

“The purpose of writing this letter was to formally state our protest, and in fact to take our protest to a broader level in society. It is intended to nullify the judge’s sentences of our friends. We called the Parliament yesterday, and they said to contact them in one week, when they will review it. I hope that they will review it and that the court of appeals will vacate the judgment of our friends. As we have said many times – we are now in the 21st century and not the era of slavery when you could sentence a worker to jail for commemorating his own day.

[Behrooz Karooni]

The letter of protest was sent to Ayatollah Shahroudi, the Head of the Judiciary, and the deputies in parliament, stating that the sentences issued against them were vindictive and do not correspond with any judicial criteria, because we were celebrating Labor Day, in Sanandaj, in a peaceful manner. The letter’s authors added that, instead of providing security, to the police attacked them as they marched peacefully. They were arrested and beaten, and eventually received harsh sentences based on false accusations.

Jaafar Azimzadeh says that “one of the reasons we wrote to Parliament is that the judge has issued the same sentence of jail and lashes, to 13 more people. However, while some of our comrades reacted calmly to the police attacks, others vigorously defended themselves, insisting on their right to commemorate Labor Day. The marchers declared that next year they will commemorate Labor Day in an even more elaborate way.

If you act within the framework of the current laws and regulations, then you need to listen to the defense first and then issue a judgment. However, if you look closely, you will see that they all got the same sentence. We believe that this judgment is not a judicial judgment but rather a vindictive judgment against workers. This is a political move against workers. We will follow up this case.”

[Behrooz Karooni]

Mr. Azimzadeh notes that the defense attorneys for the imprisoned workers, requested an appeal to the court, about 10 days ago. The Board of Directors and the National Union of the Laid-off and Unemployed Workers of Iran, will use all of their resources to vacate this judgment. At the same time, the workers protesting against the judgment and lashes, have referred to their living conditions in Iran in their letter and asked: “Should workers be forced to work under temporary and signature-less contracts, and receive wages under the poverty line, and remain silent and not protest against lay-offs, which have made their lives a living hell? Should they disregard their fundamental social rights, such as commemoration of the International Labor Day? Should they attempt to commemorate it, or will they be sentenced to lashes and jail?”

This is Radio Farda’s “Evening Magazine.”

In the most recent phase of the implementation of what is called the ‘social security program’ in Iran, the arresting of pet dogs has become a new focus of police officers. The Islamic Republic Police officers remove the arrested dogs from their owner’s homes, and send them to a detention center. Mohammad Zarghami reports.

[Muhammad Zarghami]

According to Hussein Ashtari, the Director of the General Security of the Islamic Republic Police Forces, people who attempt to have “unauthorized animals” will be dealt with through the “social security” program. The Animal Protection Association in Iran, has reported the existence of a detention center for the arrested dogs. The establishment of the detention center was ordered by Ahmad Reza Radan, the Commander of the Greater Tehran Police Force.

Banafsheh's small dog spent 48 hours in this detention center. She was finally able to bring her dog back home, but he was in bad shape. Banafsheh talks about the way the officers behaved.

[Banafsheh]

They offended me – and even in front of me they said such things like “what if the dog dies?” I could not do anything. I was just crying. Whatever reasoning I tried, like telling them that in the Koran, God orders Muhammad to ‘go and get the animal.’ But the dog was sick, and he was unable to bring it back. So God tells him “I could have removed you from being a prophet because I have not created any creatures in this world that are bad.”

[Muhammad Zarghami]

In another case, the police stopped Nadia's car under the pretext that she had not followed the traffic code. However, instead of giving her a ticket, they took her sick dog. The dog had recently undergone surgery on its leg and did not have the energy to walk on its own to the detention center. She says that even the police officers are amazed at this order.

[Nadia]

They were saying, for example, one day is dedicated to fighting against smugglers. Today they are arresting dogs. Maybe tomorrow they will be arresting birds. They were even snickering about it.

[Muhammad Zarghami]

Banafsheh and Nadia have managed to get their dogs out of the detention center, under special circumstances. However, other dogs still remain in the in the center's non-hygienic conditions. They are kept together and their numbers are increasing by the day. However, the Police consider this program to be justified on moral grounds.

[Banafsheh]

They said, "We want to de-Westernize. We want to get rid of the Western culture. You live in an Islamic country and it is not right to have dogs." They said, "Are you not Islamic? Don't you have a family? How does your family permit you to have animals?"

[Muhammad Zarghami]

How acceptable are these new actions by law enforcement officials against having pet dogs? Here is Reza Javalchi, the Secretary of the Society for the Defense of Animal Rights, in Iran.

[Reza Javalchi]

Dog ownership, which is more common in the West, is considered by Iranian officials to be a sign of Western influence. But that is not the case. If we want to talk about the symbols of Western civilization, then, wearing a suit is also Western. Yet, these behaviors have become part of human life. Based on research conducted by the Society, domesticated dogs existed in Iran for hunting and guarding, long before they became widespread in the West.

[Muhammad Zarghami]

It must be noted that dogs in Iran receive official veterinary ID cards, and the Islamic Republic's laws do not prohibit people from owning dogs. Muhammad Hussein Aghasi, a lawyer in Tehran, also considers these recent actions to be illegal.

[Muhammad Hussein Aghasi]

Regarding dog ownership or walking dogs in the street, there are no penalties in our laws. Therefore, it is not a violation of the law. Judiciary forces, including the police and law enforcement officials, are not allowed to detain pet owners. If complaints are filed against the police with the Judicial Organization of the Armed Forces, I believe, they may be held responsible.

[Muhammad Zarghami]

However, according to Muhammad Hussein Aghasi, the remarks of law enforcement officials cannot be used as a basis for legal actions. Even though law enforcement officials discussed the possibility of killing the dogs or transferring them to the zoo, their words are not illegal either. Reza Javalchi, the Secretary of the Society to Defend the Rights of Animals, refers to the outcomes of such plans.

[Reza Javalchi]

I think detaining domestic animals is something satirical, for if there really has been a violation of the law, it has not been committed by the animal. Naturally, this could have very bad repercussions for our country, in the

eyes of the world, because they will say: "they detain dogs in that country, but they don't even have a proper place to keep them."

[Muhammad Zarghami]

Although the Law Enforcement Forces and the Red Crescent Organization use dogs for specific projects, the Islamic Republic's law enforcement officials have yet to answer this question: "What is the relationship between arresting domestic dogs, and social security in Tehran?"

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was a report by Muhammad Zarghami.

On the threshold of OPEC's meeting of oil ministers, it is predicted that the oil ministers will reach an agreement on increasing the production of oil. While Iran and Venezuela are opposed to increased oil production, Saudi Arabia and a number of other countries seem to support increased production. Fereydoon Zarnegar reports:

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

The oil ministers of OPEC (The Organization of Oil Exporting Countries) are expected to convene in Vienna today, to make decisions concerning oil production. OPEC is under pressure, due to the rise in oil prices in the world markets. The oil-consuming countries want OPEC to increase its exports, in order to prevent oil prices from rising even higher. However, OPEC says that the rise in oil prices is not exclusively related to the amount of oil produced by OPEC.

Prior to the OPEC meeting, Gholam Hussein Nowzari, the Islamic Republic's Acting Oil Minister, said that oil is being produced in abundance. In fact, analysts say that there are signs of a changing policy in a number of OPEC member countries. The analysts believe that it is possible that OPEC grants the requests of oil-consuming countries, symbolically, by increasing its production by 500,000 barrels per day. It is said that Saudi Arabia will probably supply 350,000 of the 500,000 barrels it produces. OPEC is currently supplying 25,800,000 barrels of oil to the world markets, every day. In advance of the OPEC meeting today, the price of Texas light oil rose 36 cents, to \$77.86, in Asian markets.

OPEC is made up of 12 member countries: Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, Qatar, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Angola, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Venezuela.

This is Radio Farda.

It is 7:00 p.m.

You are listening to our "Evening Magazine."
Before we continue, Farin Asemi will update you on other news.

[Farin Asemi]

Greetings! The ceremonies commemorating the sixth anniversary of 9-11 have begun in the US. They will be held in Washington, DC, with the U.S. President, George Bush, in attendance, while in New York, the families of the victims of the World Trade Center will hold a memorial service at the site.

According to news agencies, the EU is announce at the 4th Board meeting of the IAEA, that the complete and immediate implementation of the nuclear agreements with Iran, would be a significant step forward. However, according to the Director General of the IAEA, not only has Iran not stopped the process of enrichment, it has even increased its enrichment capability. The EU is expected to condemn Iran for not implementing the additional protocols and for not allowing inspectors to visit places that Iran claims are non-nuclear sites.

Today, at the national gathering of the Commanders of the Revolutionary Guards, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad declared victory for Iran, despite the pressures on nuclear issues. Mr. Ahmadinejad has rejected additional protocols for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, saying that they are being imposed by "unreasonable countries," under the pretext of additional safeguarding. Unfortunately, he says, they have been encouraged by some internal elements who want them to increase the pressure on Iran.

In a report issued yesterday by the Board of Governors, Mohammed ElBaradei notes that the implementation of additional protocols, such as allowing access to sites, and documents, and individuals designated by the agency, are necessary for the safeguarding of the Islamic Republic.

Manouchehr Mottaki, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will leave for Moscow tonight, to participate in the joint Iran-Russia commission. According to the official news agency of the Islamic Republic, Mr. Mottaki will meet with the Russian Prime Minister and the Director of the IAEA.

The government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has submitted a bill to the Islamic Parliament, to reform media laws. According to this bill, local news agencies and local Internet news broadcasting bases will be subject to the press law on legal issues, their duties and legal support, and penalties and punishments, as well as the source and manner of trials.

According to the spokesman of the judicial branch of the Islamic Republic, Kian Tajbakhsh will be released in a few days. They announced yesterday, that on Tuesday, they will take the local and foreign journalists on a tour of Evin prison, to show them the conditions of the prison.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]
Thank you.

The sports news today is dominated by the preliminary competitions of the European Cup. Fariborz Gharib reports.

The World of Sports.

[Fariborz Gharib]
Tomorrow, Wednesday, the preliminary competitions for the 2008 European Cup games, will continue in seven nations of Europe. In these games, the competition to reach the final stage of 2008 is coming to a head. A number of important games will take place tomorrow.

For some teams, these games will be a matter of life or death. In the first group, the competition between Poland and Finland, who are ranked first and second, is noteworthy. Portugal, the third team in this group, will play against Serbia, which should also be an exciting game.

In the second group, the games of the top three teams are much more sensitive, due to the closeness of their scores. In this group France, Scotland and Italy have scored 19, 18, and 17 points, respectively. In the

games that will take place tomorrow, France will play against Scotland, and Italy will play against Ukraine.

In the third group, two traditional rivals, Greece and Turkey, will play against each other. In this group, Greece, which tops the chart, will play against the second team in the Norwegian grounds, and Turkey, the third team on the table, will play against Hungary.

In the fourth group, Germany, at the head of the table with 22 points, will rest tomorrow. Of course, the Germans will not be idle tomorrow! They will play against Romania, in a friendly game. In this group, the Czech Republic, the second ranked team, will be hosting the third ranked team, Ireland, at home in Prague.

In the fifth group, tomorrow, we will watch an interesting game between England and Russia, at Wembley Stadium, in London. In this group, Russia, which has 18 points, occupies second place in the rankings. The English, with 17 points, occupy third place. Tomorrow, Croatia, with 20 points, which is the lead team in this group, will play against Andorra, in a relaxed game.

In the sixth group, the competition between Northern Ireland, which has 16 points, and Spain, which is placed below Sweden with 19 points, is a very sensitive game. Northern Ireland will play in Iceland tomorrow. However, Spain will play at home against Latvia.

And finally, tomorrow, in the seventh group, Romania, which is leading with 20 points, will rest. However, Holland, which is in second place with 17 points, will play against Albania. Bulgaria, the third team in this group, will host Luxembourg. The first two teams of each of the 7 groups, will climb to the stage of the European World Cup, which will take place in 2008, jointly in Switzerland and Austria.

Fariborz Gharib, Radio Farda.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

For the sixth anniversary of 9-11, numerous ceremonies were held in the US, today. In New York, the families of the victims of the terrorist attacks gathered at the site of the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and at exactly 9:03am, the time when the second plane hit the tower, a bell rang.

After that, the fire fighters who participated in the rescue efforts, read the names of approximately 3,000 victims of attacks.

In Washington, DC, President George Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney, observed one minute of silence for the victims of 9-11, which was followed by a choir singing “God Bless America.”

The first country that was affected by the 9-11 attacks was Afghanistan, where the Taliban had set up the terrorist network al-Qaeda, and was training terrorists in more than 30 bases. Now, six years later, how are the effects of 9-11 perceived in Afghanistan? Ali Jouybari reports.

[Ali Jouybari]

Six years after September 11th, Afghanistan, where the roots of this tragedy originated, is still the focus of international attention for fighting against terrorism. However, this country has also experienced widespread change from within.

[Chanting slogans]

With all of the difficulties that still face Afghanistan, President Karzai said that since 9-11, Afghanistan has met many challenges and made many achievements.

“One of the main changes is that once again, Afghanistan has become home to all Afghans. Another major change is that Afghanistan, rightfully, has managed to create a place for itself in the international arena. Afghanistan has managed to develop relations with the entire world. The reconstruction of Afghanistan, the opening of roads in Afghanistan. There have been many difficulties, and the continuation of the war against terrorism has created victims of the Afghan people. Problems which arise from bombs and suicide bombings...The poverty in Afghanistan – as it is still a poor country.”

Despite Mr. Karzai’s speech, the Taliban are increasingly being taken seriously as a legitimate power. In fact, there is talk about this group’s growing influence in Afghanistan. Furthermore, a group of ex-Mujaheddin, who previously fought against the Soviets, are now calling themselves the owners of Afghanistan. They have requested additional participation in

local politics, and have asked for a formation of an equitable political structure in the country.

Even though many Afghan analysts express doubts about allowing the Taliban to hold discussions with the government of Afghanistan, nearly six years after being overthrown, they have managed to present themselves as an important force in Afghanistan. The proposal for a discussion between the Afghan government and the Taliban has attracted a lot of attention. This is because, according to a spokesman of the ISAF Security Assistance Forces, 40% of Afghanistan has experienced insurgencies, all of which were led by the Taliban. Charles Anthony, the NATO Spokesman in Afghanistan.

[Charles Anthony]

The figure I have is that about 60% of the country can go through normal day-to-day life without commotion. But the remaining 40% of Afghanistan is the victim of violent incidents, and the people living in those areas are concerned. During the last nine months, there have been 113 suicide attacks in Afghanistan, and the majority of the victims were civilians. Fred Eckhard, the UN mission office in Afghanistan.

[Fred Eckhard]

Most of the suicide bombers in Afghanistan are very young and have not received any training. In most cases, these young people are poor and illiterate. They are just regular people who are recruited by large groups, and this is rather disconcerting.

Apart from the suicide bombings, which are considered ordinary terrorist acts by radical terrorist groups, the Taliban has also been staging a large-scale media war, as well as kidnappings. Most analysts believe that the reason for the widespread activities of the Taliban, and the increase in their violent acts, is due to the weakness of the Afghan government and the lack of coordination between the foreign forces and the Afghan soldiers.

Helaleddin Helal, the former Deputy of the Interior Ministry of Afghanistan and the current member of the Parliament of this country says:

[Helaleddin Helal]

Coordination and cooperation does not exist between the local forces and the coalition forces. Each operates without communicating with the other, which causes problems and more victims among the local population. In

addition to the challenges posed by the Taliban's extensive anti-government activities, six years after the tragedy of 9-11, President Karzai's government is also faced with demands from the Mujaheddin, who in the 1990s held political, military and economic power in Afghanistan.

During the past week, many ex-anti-Soviet leaders have officially declared themselves owners and heirs of Afghanistan. Marshall Ghasim Fahim, the former Minister of Defense in Afghanistan, and the most powerful military-economic figure in the Shouary-e Nazar, the major Mujaheddin front under the command of Ahmad Shah Massoud, described Afghanistan as a country in crisis, and said that the current situation reveals the deadlock in this country and the increasing demands on the government.

[Marshall Ghasim Fahim]

“Due to the existing deadlock in Afghanistan, I therefore request that the government of Afghanistan prepare the grounds so that we can say with complete trust and certitude that we can defend our nation”

[Helaleddin Helal]

Contrary to this analysis that Afghanistan is facing a crisis and has not made significant progress over the past five years, the spokesman for the Ministry of Defense in Afghanistan, says, “Considering the vicissitudes which are possible in any society, the international community and Afghanistan are still determined to fight terrorism. According to General Azimi, this, by itself, is the success of the anti-terrorism project. In any war, there are changes in tactics and strategies. They may sometimes think about increasing military attacks, or sometimes they will try to make political-social moves, [inaudible], but overall, they continue to fight for the same outcome. I do not agree that a different era has come to Afghanistan [inaudible] – what is important is that the struggle should continue and become even stronger.

Vahid Mojdeh, the author of the book “Afghanistan and Five Years of Taliban dictatorship,” believes that negotiations with the Taliban lead to the now-deposed leaders of the group, to change their positions toward the Afghan government. He says that in the beginning, the Mujaheddin were actually used to repress the Taliban.

When the Taliban regime was toppled, the situation became calm and promising for a period of two years. The US believed that everything would

go smoothly from then on, and that with the support of the international community, the government [of Afghanistan] could manage everything. They no longer saw a need for the Mujaheddin. As a result, the Mujaheddin were disarmed, under various pretexts, and were removed from a number of important government posts.

According to Mr. Mojdeh, the Taliban is now challenging the Afghan government, both internally and from abroad, and are gaining momentum. He believes that through its growing popularity, the Taliban has trapped the government, which was once one of its closest allies. Now, six years after the tragedy of September 11th, there is a new push from the UN to prevent Islamic radicalism and a wave of fundamentalism within Afghanistan. The UN has recently published a 140-page report, regarding suicide bombings in Afghanistan. However, there is question about the participation of three different groups - the Taliban, who have ideologies dating back to the Middle Ages; the Mujaheddin, with their transactional and fundamentalist views; and the technocrats, with their liberal and secular ideologies.

Can they be optimistic about collaboration between these groups, and take their constructive tolerance seriously, in the struggle for power? This is a question which has remained unanswered until now.

However, six years after September 11, Osama Bin Laden continues to freely plan and execute terrorist operations and continues to propagate his fundamentalist ideology. In spite of all the victories won since September 11th, the fighting to capture Bin Laden has been unsuccessful. Ali Jouyibari, Radio Farda in Kabul

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

In the months following the terrorist attacks, the US spoke about victory over Al-Qaeda. The American forces toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan and destroyed their training bases. A number of Osama Bin Laden's major allies, namely Khaled Bin Mohammad, the mastermind behind the September 11th attacks, were arrested. However, six years later, Al-Qaeda and its supporters have gained more power. Elaheh Ravanshad reports.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

On a sunny Spring day, in 2003, President George W. Bush said with confidence that the US has made significant progress against Al-Qaeda. He welcomed the visit of the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, to

Camp David, just two weeks after toppling Saddam Hussein's regime. The US President enjoyed a great deal of support in his country. Then again, on April 30th, he announced the arrest of Khaled Sheikh Mohammad, the brain of Al-Qaeda and the mastermind of the September 11th attacks.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

I thank Mr. Musharraf for his leadership against the Al-Qaeda front. We have been able to destroy the leadership core of Al-Qaeda, even if Osama Bin Laden is still alive. As Mr. Musharraf would agree, Bin Laden and Khaled Sheikh Mohammad are no longer threats to the US and Pakistan.

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Since that year, Al-Qaeda has replaced its old leaders and chiefs. This terrorist network, along with other Islamic groups, has launched new attacks throughout the world – from Madrid to London to Istanbul; in Iraq, Afghanistan and Algeria. The important question is, what is Al-Qaeda doing today, six years after the tragedy of September 11th?

Magnus Ranstorp, the Director of Research Studies of Asymmetric Threats at the National Defense College of Sweden, says, "Unquestionably, Al-Qaeda has become much stronger. It has become stronger in a progressive manner." Magnus Ranstorp, who is the leading expert in matters of Islamic terrorism, told Radio Free Europe that while six years ago he was witnessing key victories against Al-Qaeda, today, overall threats from Islamic terrorism have increased.

According to the annual report from the US Interior Ministry, which was published in the Spring, terrorist attacks in 2006, increased by 25%. This increase reflects 14,000 attacks in 2006, which took place mostly in Iraq and Afghanistan. Compared to 2005, there have been 3,000 more attacks and 5,800 more victims. Ranstorp, like many other analysts, believes that the US-lead wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have caused an Islamic guerilla revival.

According to Ranstorp, the war has lead to more support for Al-Qaeda, and similar groups in the Islamic world, and in Europe, where millions of Muslims reside.

He refers to Algeria, where two suicide bombings, which were claimed by the African branch of Al-Qaeda, resulted in the deaths of 50 people. Even

in Lebanon, fighting against Fath-Al-Islam, which is considered to be a supporter of Al-Qaeda, resulted in the deaths of 300 people. Ranstorp adds, "In the region itself, in the Middle East, it is getting more complex and turbulent. Iraq acts as a magnet for attracting people to Al-Qaeda. There are also other groups, for example, in Lebanon, the Fath-Al-Islam group reflects the fact that there are still local groups that have power. We recently witnessed the renewal of Al-Qaeda in Algeria, Northern Africa, which has become more assertive than before."

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Magnus Ranstorp says that in any case, the arresting of the leaders of Al-Qaeda, in addition to the fundamental progress of security measures used by Western governments, has prevented terrorist groups from carrying out important strategic operations. The problem of deployment of Al-Qaeda and its supporters in Europe was clearly obvious last week in Germany and Denmark where authorities announced that they were able to stop several terrorist attacks.

But Mr. Ranstorp notes that Britain has the highest number of Muslim citizens, especially from Pakistan. The bombing in the London metro, in 2005, resulted in 52 deaths, and last year, British authorities announced the discovery and prevention of an attack, which could have been even more deadly than the tragedy of September 11th. Ranstorp says, "Look at what is happening in the UK – every six weeks, a terrorist attack is being stopped. Just a year ago, a plot similar to that of September 11th, was planned in Europe, with the intention of crashing seven airplanes carrying hidden explosives."

Mr. Ranstorp calls Afghanistan and Pakistan "whirlpools of terrorism," and says that the Islamic terrorism in Europe and other parts of the world are attributed to groups established in the region. He adds that due to the focus on Iraq, fighting against the Taliban in Afghanistan has been neglected for a long time. In response to the question as to how one can defeat Al-Qaeda, Magnus Ranstorp says, "I do not have a solution for this enigma." However, Mr. Ranstorp believes that further international cooperation, not only between governments and armed forces, but also cooperation from ordinary citizens, the judicial systems, as well as the Police, can be useful. In his judgment, this is exactly what has taken place during the past six years.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was Elaheh Ravanshad reporting.

The terrorist attack of September 11th quickly grew from an isolated terrorist incident, to affecting the lives of millions of people in Europe, the US and the Middle East. With regards to some of these effects, Mehrdad Sepehri spoke with Dr. Rassoul Nafiseh, Sociologist and University professor in Washington. Let us listen together.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Dr. Nafisi, six years after the September 11th attacks, and the events that followed in its aftermath, can we now clearly list the effects it has had?

[Dr. Nafisi]

The most important effects from the 9/11 attacks, has been the changes in security measures that were adopted by the Western world – the Industrial world. The changes in the Western view of security has, to a great extent, caused the deterioration of democratic foundations. One clear example is the laws adopted by the US, which allow the government to act proactively. Such policies would have been unthinkable in the past, as far as freedom and security of individuals were concerned. But the changing security measures and the deterioration of some of the democratic foundations in the Western world, are a direct result of September 11th.

Another effect of 9/11 has been the growing presence of small insurgent groups, which have been using the mass media and the phenomenon of globalization, to inflict significant damage on the modern world. In the past, advanced countries were unaware of the existence of these groups and the damage they inflict, but now there is a different attitude towards the Third World. For example, President Bush's theory on the development of democracy throughout the world, is the directly related to a new consciousness of the dangers in the world. On the other hand, another issue which is unfortunately taking place in the Western world, is a growing animosity towards Islam and Muslims.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Can you please provide some examples of the signs of the spreading animosity towards Islam in the Industrial world, and among ordinary Western people?

[Dr. Nafisi]

For example, in Holland, one of the deputies in the parliament requested that the publication of the Koran be banned as a book that encourages and incites violence. Also, the rightist mass media, especially in the US, attacks Islam without hesitation. If you look at Europe, the election of Sarkozy as the French President, is the result of anti-Arabism and anti-Islamism. This is because Sarkozy wants to confront the urban insurgencies, organized by the Algerian and Moroccan Arabs, in France.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Some experts in the area of political sociology, believe that we can divide contemporary history into two parts – before and after September 11th. In other words, that incident is considered a very significant point of reference for the people in the world. Do you agree with this viewpoint?

[Dr. Nafisi]

Personally, I do not consider September 11th to be as significant as some may think [it is]. I believe one of the reasons for exaggerating this event is that September 11th became a political issue. For example, the Republican Party used this issue to their advantage, and there is no doubt that the re-election of Mr. Bush was largely due to the exaggeration about the dangers of terrorism. Finally, what is important in the world, is construction, not destruction. Those who are constructing and establishing large financial, industrial and military institutions in the world, are the winners.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Nevertheless, I think that it is not possible to overlook the effects that the September 11th had on the fundamental perceptions of Western civilization, such as democracy, such as tolerance – do you think that this effect is permanent, or temporary?

[Dr. Nafisi]

Exactly – unfortunately, tolerance and tolerating of others and [inaudible] that began with in age of Enlightenment in the 18th century, until today, has left a negative effect. However, besides that, I believe that terrorism, generated by subversive groups, will eventually be accepted by the Western world, in the same way that you learn to live with earthquakes. Therefore, everything returns to normal. In other words, democratic institutions and the democratic culture are so strong and entrenched in these countries, that they absorb and eliminate the subversive groups.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

What will remain of the anger from the traditional world towards the industrial world? In other words, according to you, who will win this game?

[Dr. Nafisi]

Currently, the issue of terrorism in the world exists as a global issue and many young people dedicate themselves to it. I do not think that it will be eliminated soon. On the other hand, I do not think that terrorism can reach a point that it can threaten or eradicate the important and fundamental democratic institutions. Therefore, I think that the eventual loser will be the subversives. Just as Foucault, who is the philosopher of power correctly said, "Eventually it is the institutions and the [inaudible] of power which will prevail."

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Mr. Nafisi, what are the consequences of 9/11 for Iran and Iranians, in your opinion?

[Dr. Nafisi]

You are aware that when the tragedy of September 11th was reported, the only country in the Middle East that showed sympathy for Americans, with candlelight vigils in the streets, was Iran. This shows that Iranians have reached a certain level of civilization and an understanding of the different dimensions of terrorism. Thus, they react peacefully to violent acts. We can actually see this in the Iranian culture, which is based on poetic and mythical thoughts that eschew violence. As a result, throughout history, violent nations have reigned over Iran. Therefore the Iranian culture does not condone terrorism or violence, even though there may currently be many institutions in Iran that encourage it.

[Host Arman Mostowfi]

That was Rassoul Nafisi, Sociologist and University professor in Washington, answering questions from Mehrdad Sepehri. Radio Farda's "Evening Magazine" ends here.

You will hear the following news at 8:00 p.m.
I thank you all for being faithful to Radio Farda.

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