

The following is a translation of the "Radio Farda" Persian program which was broadcasted via satellite on July 10, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Female announcer]

... and the latest news, from Radio Farda!

[Interlude]

[Male announcer]

Radio Farda news.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

A delegation of IAEA inspectors is being dispatched to Tehran today.

The organization Reporters Without Borders has requested new investigations be conducted into the case of the murder of Zahra Kazemi.

The spokesman for the Iranian Judiciary Authority has confirmed the news that a sentence of stoning was carried out on a person who had been accused of adultery.

The time is 18:30 hours. Good afternoon to you. I, Touraj Abbas, and my other coworkers all invite you to stay tuned for today's Evening Magazine program from Radio Farda. Today is the 19th of Tir in the Persian solar calendar year 1386, corresponding to the July 10, 2007. We will be with you for one hour, or more precisely 59 more minutes, in today's Evening Magazine program from Radio Farda. Please stay with us. At this time I would like to invite you to hear the most important headline news for today from Behrouz Karooni. Good afternoon to you.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Good afternoon to you as well.

A delegation of IAEA inspectors is traveling to Iran today for a visit and to discuss ways to overcome the impasse that has come up with regard to the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic.

Olli Heinonen, head of this delegation, will be beginning his three-day round of negotiations with Iranian officials tomorrow. Ali Larijani, the senior negotiator for the nuclear dossier of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reached an agreement with the United Nations IAEA last month by putting together a work agenda plan to solve the Iranian nuclear issue.

The organization Reporters Without Borders has announced that it hopes that the Judicial Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran will agree to new investigations into the death of Zahra Kazemi. Zahra Kazemi, an Iranian-Canadian journalist and photographer, died four years ago while being held in detention by the security forces of the Islamic Republic at Evin prison due to injuries sustained from a blow delivered to her skull. The defense lawyers for the family of Zahra Kazemi read out their appeal papers eight days ago on the discrepancies and shortcomings in the ruling of the court which had been tasked with taking a second look at the case file of the death of Mrs. Kazemi. It has been decided that the court will announce its decision on this matter sometime during the current week.

Alireza Jamshidi, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Judiciary Authority, has confirmed the news that a sentence of stoning was carried out on Ja'far Kiani. Mr. Jamshidi is the first official from the Islamic Republic to actually confirm that a sentence of stoning has been carried out on a man accused of consensual adultery. Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has denounced the stoning of Ja'far Kiani, but has congratulated the authorities of the Islamic Republic for not carrying out the sentence of stoning on his partner in the crime, Mokarrameh Ebrahimi. Human rights activists are warning that there is still the possibility that the sentence of stoning may be carried out on Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, who has spent the last 11 years in Qazvin prison. Mokarrameh Ebrahimi and Ja'far Kiani were accused of engaging in consensual adultery and sentenced to stoning, and the charges were filed based on the knowledge of the judge.

According to statements from Pakistani security forces, 80 percent of the Lal Mosque in Islamabad has been cleared of militants. However, gunfire continues to be exchanged in order to remove the remainder of these armed militant individuals. Pakistani military spokesman Wahid Arshad has said that the militant cleric Abdul-Rashid Ghazi is hiding out in the basement of the Lal Mosque.

According to statements from the Afghan police, at least 71 individuals were killed, and 30 killed [sic], in the southern province of Uruzgan as a result of a suicide attack launched on an ISAF convoy, the International Security Assistance Forces being led by NATO.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

Thank you very much, Mr. Karooni. Now you are going to hear the Evening Magazine program from Radio Farda.

[Interlude]

The National Planning and Administration Organization is to be merged with the government.

[Unnamed interviewee]

I imagine that this decision does not have any economic aspect, but rather has been prompted by several social issues...

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

And what has been happening to the students who were arrested yesterday?

[Second unnamed interviewee]

There is still no specific information available; no information on what division of the government has custody of the students. Are they in the custody of the security forces, or the Ministry of Information, or some other organization?

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

And the murder case file for the Iranian-Canadian journalist Zahra Kazemi is likewise still without resolution.

[Third person being interviewed]

This journalist who has been murdered in Iran... and I am saying the word "murdered" because uttering this statement has become forbidden for all of the journalists of Iran...

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

A new tunnel is being built near the nuclear installations of Natanz.

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

And more news and reports are coming up on today's Evening Magazine program of Radio Farda... please stay with us!

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

We begin with an economic news item. The Supreme Administrative Council of the Islamic Republic, chaired by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, officially put an end to the existence of the Administration and Planning Organization yesterday evening, and merged this storied organization under a new name within the institution of the Presidency of the Republic. Feridoun Khavand takes a look at the beginning and end of this old Iranian economic institution:

[Feridoun Khavand]

The Iranian Administration and Planning Organization, whose influence and authority were severely curtailed when the ninth government came to power, has subsequently been disbanded. In this fashion, a long period of the history of economic planning in Iran has come to an end. In its session meeting yesterday evening, chaired by the president of the Islamic Republic, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the Supreme Administrative Council merged this old Organization into the Organization of the Presidency of the Republic, under the title Deputy Office to the President for Planning and Mobilization Oversight.

The institution that was merged together yesterday evening was the continuation of a program organization which was created in lieu of the ratification of the Bahman 1327 [i.e., January 1949] law. It was named the Planning and Budget Organization on March 6, 1973, and on March 1, 1992, when it was merged with the National Administrative and

Employment Affairs Organization, it was named the Administration and Planning Organization.

At the beginning of its existence, this Organization held the function of providing for national development programs. Later on the function of preparing and formulating the annual budget was also added to it. Before the bill from yesterday's Supreme Administrative Council session meeting put an end to the Administration and Planning Organization, this Organization went through a ten-month period of demolition. With his communiqué dated for the 24th of the month of Mehr, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad put every province under the control of a governing group in the name of achieving centralization in the Administration and Planning Organization, and in practical terms turned this old Organization into an appendage of the Interior Ministry.

The weakening and then the disbanding of the Administration and Planning Organization is a serious blow to parts of the technocracy of the Islamic Republic, which had struggled over the last two decades, in spite of the difficult political conditions, to revamp the economic structure of Iran along the lines of a free economy and interaction with the world. The last accomplishment of the Administration and Planning Organization is the fourth five-year plan, which has always been faced with severe criticism from the president of the ninth government, as well as from his partisan ideologue supporters. The dissolution of this Organization is a fresh sign of the decision of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to centralize economic policy-making as much as possible in the institution of the presidency.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

Likewise, on the same subject, after the disbanding of the Administration and Planning Organization, the National Administration High Council, which is headed by the president of the country, agreed to merge the Administration and Planning Organization with the presidency, and changed its name to the Deputy Office of Planning and Presidential Leadership Oversight. This has also been mentioned in the news, as we heard in the report from Feridoun Khavand. Now we are going to hear a conversation of Fereydoon Zarnegar and Dr. Jamshid Pazhouyan, a university professor and expert on Iranian economics. In the beginning, when asked about the expertise aspect of this decision by the government, Dr. Jamshid Pazhouyan replied:

[Dr. Jamshid Pazhouyan]

I do not imagine that any sort of deep expert-level work took place in this case, although I cannot say that I am completely informed in this regard... but even if it were to be said that a sudden burst of expert-level work had indeed taken place in this case, then one would expect that before any such order and changes... the particulars of this expert-level work which had reached its conclusion, would come to our notice.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

To what extent is the devolution of the budget to the level of the provinces, which is the reason the government is apparently proffering, implementable?

[Dr. Pazhouyan]

As a whole, in the economy of Iran, which has a government with a centralized economic policy, I say as always that this action is more or less impractical. If you want to break down the provincial budget in such a way that the provinces determine their expenses or their programs, it is very obvious that all of the provinces will have a tendency to get the biggest share for themselves and to implement the biggest projects! But from a viewpoint of implementing economic planning programs in a country, an assessment must take place on the basis of a national economic assessment, not on the basis of a provincial or local economic assessment! The problem is the sources! We are still under a tax system where we are bringing up the subject of provincial taxes in the Iranian economy in the last few years... this is strictly from an implementation viewpoint! And if not, then we don't have a provincial tax system! And this, the effects of this, the serious problem of allocating resources, or the debate and struggle between the different provinces, with regard to attracting resources to implement many plans and projects... for sure, this will be contested!

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

In light of the issues you have brought up, and in light of the conditions the Iranian economy is enduring, in your opinion, why has the state made this kind of decision?

[Dr. Pazhouyan]

I imagine that for the most part this decision does not have any economic basis. Rather, it is being brought about by several social issues, and perhaps it has been going on more because of the influence of the

provincial governors. As always, there is obviously a struggle between the Administration and Budget Planning Organization and the provinces, as well as between the Administration and Budget Planning Organization and the different ministries, over the budget. Because of these struggles, and perhaps also to a degree because of the tactlessness which has been present in the Budgeting and Planning Organization insofar as these kinds of organizations are concerned, all this has led to such a request which has come from the provinces to be accepted without it being really examined.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

Dr. Jamshid Pazhouyan, university professor and an Iranian economics expert, was speaking with our colleague Fereydoon Zarnegar.

And once again we are staying with the news in Iran, where it has been more than 24 hours since the arrest of 16 members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity, and an attack by security forces on the office of the Iranian Islamic Students' Association. Also, the anniversary of the 18th of Tir incident is coming up [sic], while student activists and the families of students who have been detained are saying that it still has not been figured out conclusively what organization it was that has detained these individuals. The condition of these students is unknown.

The detention of student activist members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity has been met with severe reactions from student activists, and 34 Islamic organizations all across Iran have denounced the detention and demanded that the lockdown seal be lifted from the office of the Iranian Students' Organization. Farin Asemi reports:

[Farin Asemi]

While confirming the news of the shutdown of the office in his weekly press conference, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic Judiciary Authority said today, in the latest reaction to the arrest of the members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity, that none of the 16 detained individuals were students at all, and that the charges against these people is participation in illegal gatherings. In a conversation with Radio Farda, Mehdi Aminizadeh, a member of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity says that it still has not been determined on whose legal authority they were detained.

[Mehdi Aminizadeh]

Apparently it still has not been determined to which government division's custody the students have been remanded. Are they being held by the security forces, or the Ministry of Information, or another organization? But based on what can be gleaned and determined from what the officials are saying, the friends who have been set free had been detained on the orders of judiciary officials from the revolutionary court. It still has not been determined...

[Farin Asemi]

Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati, a member of the Tehran Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity and the brother of Ali Nikou-Nesbati who was detained yesterday, Monday, in front of Amir Kabir University, said about the situation of his brother in a conversation with Radio Farda...

[Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati]

Immediately after the arrests took place, we checked with Evin prison, so that we could investigate their whereabouts, since... they said they had taken them to Eshratbad and then to Evin prison. After checking with Evin prison, we didn't get the answer we wanted. They told us to go to the revolutionary court... so we went there, but unfortunately we did not get the answer we wanted there, and they didn't allow us to see anybody. And the last place we went to, we were told to leave and return on Saturday. Unfortunately what has happened is that when we wanted to follow up with other students who had previously been detained and experienced this kind of thing a number of people in the student movement had gone silent. So, I think that what has happened here is that they were confronted and told not to tell us anything, and are being monitored.

[Farin Asemi]

Six members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity were detained on Monday, July 9, 2007, in front of Amir Kabir University. They had set up rest-in-peace symbols in the place where they had been arrested. Ten other people were arrested in an attack by the security forces on the building location of the Office to Consolidate Unity. The spokesman of the Judiciary Authority has announced that the charge being directed against these people is participating in an illegal gathering. Meanwhile, Mehdi Aminizadeh, the member of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity, says that there are contradictions in the words of the spokesman of the Judiciary Authority.

[Mehdi Aminizadeh]

There is a 60 percent rate of contradiction in their actions. In any case, these people who have been arrested... six members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity were staging a symbolic show in front of Amir Kabir University, when they... everybody knows what has happened now, it has gotten out, and it is known that not one of them was disrupting any public order... this was a symbolic gathering in protest of the continuing detention of students, as well as a commemoration of the 18th of Tir events.

Then after that, in an act which was actually worse than that, there was an attack on the Office to Consolidate Unity by a group which attacked a residential building, which... led to the students being severely roughed up and finally detained, with unknown situations as of now. These kinds of altercations can be thought of as being nothing other than an effort to foster intimidation and fear, and a kind of [inaudible] state of affairs among other students.

[Farin Asemi]

Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, a lawyer and prosecutor, says the following about the illegal gathering...

[Mohammad Ali Dadkhah]

What is considered as a basic illegal gathering? Either they have to be armed with weapons, or they have to have stated clear and explicit designs against the Islamic Republic itself! Not one of these kinds of actions was noticed in the end, so unless they had other desires and reasons...? The reasons have to be presented before a court, and after a means which has to be chosen [inaudible]... in any case, arriving at such a decision before a just settlement of the issue has been arrived at is lacking in judicial validity.

[Farin Asemi]

Meanwhile, Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati, a member of the Tehran Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity and the brother of Ali Nikou-Nesbati who was detained yesterday, Monday, in front of Amir Kabir University, says that the protest event had been peaceful.

[Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati]

It was a very peaceful protest... there were only about six people who were sitting in their places, just six people, there was no one else! There was no disturbance of public order, nothing, nothing at all... I really don't know...

[Farin Asemi]

In his press conference with news correspondents, Alireza Jamshidi, the spokesman of the Judiciary Authority, said that on the previous day 16 people had been detained, and that none of them were students. Mehdi Aminizadeh says that this is a lie, and that only a very small number were not students, while the rest were in fact students. Meanwhile, Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati says that no government division is claiming responsibility for having arrested the 16 members of the Office to Consolidate Unity.

[Mohammad Nikou-Nesbati]

I have just spoken with members of the security forces, and they said that they [the students] are not with them. I spoke with a security forces official [inaudible]... everyone with whom I spoke, they said that their organizations were not the ones who arrested the students, and that they don't know, that they don't have any information... they don't know who arrested them... with the parties that we checked with, they said it was the security forces who detained them... so we cannot determine precisely which government division it was that has arrested them.

[Farin Asemi]

Mohammad Ali Dadkhah, the prosecuting attorney and lawyer who has announced that he is ready to represent these students, has said that Iran has accepted the May 1975 declaration on human rights, and must act in accordance with it.

[Mohammad Ali Dadkhah]

With respect to this declaration, which has been the basis for the human rights defense law, as well as defending students and journalists and others whose human rights have been violated, it is our perception that in these same instances, the arrest and detention of students from the Polytechnic University and the Office to Consolidate Unity runs contrary to the declaration. The Tehran prosecutors [audio cut/garbled] and altercations, in the next 24 hours we are going to make available legal defense services to these students! In any case, for these people who are referring to the human rights defense law, the law will accept...

[Farin Asemi]

On the other hand... an official in charge at the Ministry of Science, whose name has not been revealed, said to the Iranian Students News Service

that the Ministry of Science is in the process of following up on the detained students, but that thus far no new news has been gleaned on the matter. This official in charge said that the reason that the Ministry of Science is unaware in this instance is that the students were arrested outside of the University, while at the same time six members of the Central Office of the Office to Consolidate Unity were arrested the previous day, Monday, in front of Amir Kabir University. Meanwhile, 34 Islamic Students' Associations across Iran have issued a statement in protest against the arrest of the members of the Central Council of the Office to Consolidate Unity and the members of the Iranian Students' Association.

Along with denouncing these detentions, they have demanded that the lockdown seal be removed from the Iranian Students Association and the Office to Consolidate Unity. In this statement it was said that Islamic Student Organizations of the universities of Iran are warning that they will not be patient in the face of this shameless and brazen attack, and that they will not tolerate any attack on the location of the Office to Consolidate Unity, which has been supportive of all stages of the student movement.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

That was a report from Farin Asemi about the detention of student activists. Another news item which has brought attention on the human rights situation in Iran once again these days, is the stoning of a person who was condemned for adultery. Today, Tuesday, the spokesman of the Judiciary Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran confirmed the news of the stoning of Ja'far Kiani in the village of Aghche-kand in Tabob-e Takestan. The sentence of stoning was carried on Ja'far Kiani, who was accused of adultery, on Thursday, July 7 [sic], 2007. Here is Behrouz Karooni:

[Behrouz Karooni]

Alireza Jamshidi, spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Judiciary Authority, has said in regard to the case of the sentence of stoning that was carried out on Ja'far Kiani, that as a whole it must be said that it was not constructive for the judiciary authority to have such a verdict carried out like this. Also in regard to carrying out this sentence of stoning in Takestan, Mr. Jamshidi said that the sentence of stoning has been stipulated in Islamic penal law, but proving it is not a simple matter. In some instances this kind of ruling has been handed down, but was then stayed. More than two weeks ago, the sentence of stoning for Mokarrameh Ebrahimi and Ja'far Kiani, both of whom had been sentenced to stoning because of the crime of

adultery, was faced with widespread harsh reactions from activists in the women's and human rights movement in Iran and around the world, and was stopped by order of Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, the chairman of the Judiciary Authority. Meanwhile, Soheila Vahdati, the international coordinator for the campaign against stoning, has said in relation to the situation of Mokarrameh Ebrahimi to Golnaz Esfandiari from Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty, that it had been decided that Mrs. Ebrahimi was supposed to have been stoned last week, but that her stoning sentence was stopped because of Womens' Week being observed in Iran. It has been decided that Mrs. Ebrahimi is also to be stoned. Mrs. Vahdati points out that there is no precise information available on the case file of Mrs. Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, and even Said Eghbali, her lawyer, has not been able to read the case file after eight months.

[Soheila Vahdati]

We do not have any precise information about her condition and the situation with her case file... for example, we know that they have two children who are with them together in prison, but we don't know the precise age or sex of these children. We still do not have a lot of information about the file of Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, but activists with the campaign in Iran are going to be searching this information out in the area of Takestan. They will be getting some information from up close, or at least will try to do so, so that a case of stoning like this will not take place in secret again.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Expressing his aversion to the sentence of stoning which was carried out on Ja'far Kiani, Abdul-Karim Lahiji, a lawyer and vice-chairman of the International Federation of Societies in Defense of Human Rights, says...

[Abdul-Karim Lahiji]

We would like to bring a point to the attention of the European authorities. Contrary to the promises and agreements that they had given, and contrary to the letter that they had issued, in which the statements of the chairman of the Judiciary Authority himself declared that no further stoning verdicts would be carried out, we are seeing that this savage sentence is being carried out on two occasions. These were under conditions where the accused persons, and in particular the person on whom the sentence has already been carried out, are claiming that they were married! And as we know in the Islamic Republic, even if a marriage has not been registered, it

is still valid! But contrary to the promise that they had made to the European authorities, and contrary to the fact that the two accused persons in these case files have had nothing in the way of a fair and just trial, we see that unfortunately this barbaric sentence has been carried out yet again on one of the condemned persons. The hope is that at least with regard to his wife, who said during the course of trial that he really was her husband, the sentence will not be carried out.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Mr. Lahiji points out that in the Islamic Republic of Iran it is anarchy and chaos which rule, and local governments are making the decisions. When asked whether some of the authorities in the Islamic Republic of Iran, such as Ayatollah Hashemi Shahroudi, the chairman of the Judiciary Authority, wanted the sentence to be stopped, [and] what actions could be taken to do so, the vice chairman of the International Federation of Societies in Defense of Human Rights stated his belief as follows:

[Abdul-Karim Lahiji]

It is not possible for the implementation of the law to be halted with a letter, even when we suppose that it has been issued. But if there were really the political will within the corridors of power of the Islamic Republic, then this will must be used toward changing the law. This means that as long as the Islamic penal law that is in force in Iran authorizes torture and barbaric executions including stoning, the judicial authorities have free rein across a big country like Iran to give orders and to have them carried out in whatever manner they please.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Abdul-Karim Lahiji said the following in reply to the question of how international organizations might be able to force the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the implementation of such verdicts as stoning:

[Abdul-Karim Lahiji]

Until such time as there are ultimatums, mutual agreements, or discussions between the international community and the Islamic Republic, they really have no way to guarantee that such sentences will not take place. Among the guarantees that could be used to guarantee that such sentences are not carried out are the kinds of measures that we see being taken up in the nuclear dossier. By having just two ultimatums issued from the Security Council, which happen to factor in the economic limitations of Iran, we now

see that the Islamic republic is expressing a kind of sensibility and humility. The issue, as we have always said, is that with respect to the purpose of human rights and democratic rights, and principally the establishment of democracy in Iran, the international community must also show such sensitivity for its own part. Unfortunately, as long as it is insensitive, I do not think that there will be any forthcoming positive development in the area of human rights and democracy in Iran.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Meanwhile, the spokesman for Louise Arbour, the chairman of the UN Human Rights Commission criticized the stoning today, Tuesday. Jose Diaz said that this action is a clear violation of international law.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

That was the sentence of stoning for Ja'far Kiani, in a report from Behrouz Karooni. Additionally on the subject of Iran, the Institute for Science and International Security in the US is saying that a new tunnel is under construction in the mountain ranges close to the Natanz nuclear facilities. Hamid Fatemi has an abridged version of this information notice put out by the institute.

[Hamid Fatemi]

In an information release, the Institute for Science and International Security has announced that satellite photographs taken one month ago are showing that Iran is in the process of digging a tunnel into the heart of a mountain 2 km to the south of the Natanz uranium enrichment factory. Insofar as the location of the tunnel excavation is considered the closest mountainous area to the Natanz nuclear facilities, it strengthens the supposition that the tunnel in question is related to these facilities. Although the entrance to the mouth of the tunnel cannot be clearly seen in these satellite pictures, there are two roads under construction which are clearly visible and end at the mountain. It appears from the construction operations that these roads connect to the mouth of the tunnel. These facilities are new, and they do not show up in the satellite pictures which were taken on January 2007. They also do not show up on Google images.

Iran had constructed a tunnel and complex close to the nuclear facilities of Isfahan earlier in order to protect its uranium hexafluoride reserves, as well as all of the nuclear tools and equipment with which that center is

equipped. They may be constructing a similar tunnel in Natanz because they may be fearful that the underground facilities of Natanz are not resistant to a military attack. However, the storage facilities located in the heart of the mountain are completely resistant to aerial bombardment attacks. Such storage facilities would be ideal for protecting nuclear equipment, centrifuge equipment and the low-grade uranium.

The Institute for Science and International Security added in its information bulletin that there is also the small possibility that these facilities would have been designed in such a way that a cascade of operational centrifuges would also be able to be installed inside of them. In its information bulletin, the Institute has also added that Iran is obliged to report any kind of activity on its part in the area of Natanz, as well as at its other nuclear facilities, to the IAEA.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

The report was by Hamid Fatemi. Keeping on the subject of the Iranian atomic program, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi warned the Islamic Republic of Iran on July 9th that in the event it continues its activities related to the enrichment of uranium, it will be faced with more severe international sanctions. Here is Elaheh Ravanshad:

[Elaheh Ravanshad]

Mr. Prodi, who was speaking during his trip to Israel, added that if the sanctions were to become more severe today, the responsibility for that would lie with Tehran. According to a statement from Mr. Prodi, by continuing to disregard implementation of the ultimatums of the United Nations Security Council, Iran must expect further and more multilateral sanctions. This is a direction which nobody would like to have to take. In a joint news conference with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, the Prime Minister of Italy said that if Iran wants to play a role as a regional power, it will have to take steps toward ensuring greater stability in the area.

Pursuing the nuclear program is a course which is completely contrary to playing such a role. Mr. Prodi emphasized that by not implementing the ultimatums of the United Nations Security Council, Iran has been the cause for a decrease in the level of economic exchange between Italy and Iran. While making reference to the statements of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, about wiping Israel off the world map, Mr. Olmert also said in this press conference that it must never be

allowed for a country with such a record of action to obtain nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Mohamed ElBaradei, the General Director of the IAEA, said on Monday, July 9, that the process of installing the centrifuges at the Natanz nuclear power plant has slowed down. Mr. ElBaradei told news correspondents in Vienna that we are in a very sensitive stage of negotiations with Iran for finding a way to solve the nuclear crisis. He deemed the slowing down of the process of installing the centrifuges in the Natanz facilities as a positive step, and said that Iran does not have any need for enriching uranium beyond the current level. Mr. ElBaradei added that if Iran were to show a sign of goodwill on its part by shutting down its entire nuclear enrichment program it will be able to have a positive effect on the decisions or thoughts of the UN Security Council regarding sanctions against Iran. Iran has thus far refused to comply with two United Nations ultimatums to stop the uranium enrichment, and it is thought that the member countries of the Security Council will be convening a session meeting in order to issue a third ultimatum to enact further sanctions against Tehran.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

You have heard a report from Elaheh Ravanshad.

[Interlude]

[Male announcer]

This is Radio Farda.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

It is seven o'clock in the evening in Tehran, and we are continuing with today's Evening Magazine program. To begin, we will take a look, once again, at today's most important headlines from Iran and the world. Good afternoon to you again, Mr. Karooni.

[Behrouz Karooni]

Good afternoon to you, and also good evening to all of our esteemed listeners.

Javid Cheema, the spokesman for the Interior Ministry of Pakistan, has said that in the special security operations struggle to expel the militants

who have been holed up in the Lal Mosque, the security forces of Pakistan have killed Abdul-Rashid Ghazi, the leader of the militants and also the extremist leader of the mosque, who was hiding out at the mosque.

The IAEA delegation of inspectors is traveling to Iran today for a visit and to negotiate ways to resolve the impasse that has arisen with regard to the nuclear program of the Islamic Republic.

The organization Reporters Without Borders has announced that it hopes that the judicial division of the Islamic Republic of Iran will agree to new investigations into the death of Zahra Kazemi.

Alireza Jamshidi, the speaker of the Islamic Republic of Iran Judiciary Authority, has confirmed the implementation of the sentence of stoning on Ja'far Kiani on Thursday.

Louise Arbour, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has denounced the stoning of Ja'far Kiani and urged the officials of the Islamic Republic in Tehran to desist from carrying out the penalty of stoning against his partner in crime, Mokarrameh Ebrahimi.

According to statements from the Afghan police, at least 71 persons have been killed and close to 30 injured in the southern province of Oruzgan as a result of a suicide attack committed by men against a convoy of ISAF forces, or International Security Assistance Forces, which are under the leadership of NATO.

Incoming reports inform us that at least seven individuals, four soldiers and three police officers, were killed today in Baghdad. According to the same report, close to 26 dead people were discovered today all across Iraq.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

Once again I thank you, Mr. Karooni. And now we will hear the next part of the Evening Magazine program:

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

In Pakistan: the Lal Mosque, a mosque that has become red in color.

[Dod Nourani]

A number of people have even been thinking that Musharraf wanted to bring this crisis to this point, so that he could better illustrate the necessity of having a military government to people outside as well as inside of Pakistan.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

In Afghanistan: the expulsion of Afghan migrants from Iran, and continuing protests.

[Shujauddin Shuja]

There will be a humanitarian disaster if we do not agree on a mechanism...

[Host Touraj Abbas]

In Iran: the results of an uncommon kind of survey.

Please stay with us, for the Evening Magazine program of Radio Farda.

[Interlude]

[Host Touraj Abbas]

As you heard in the news of the last hour, special security operations were being conducted by the Pakistani security forces to expel the armed students who had barricaded themselves up in the Lal Mosque. Abdul-Rashid Ghazi, the extremist cleric and leader of these militants who had sought sanctuary in this mosque, has been killed. What we are now going to hear is a look at the factors which shaped the crisis in Lal Mosque as well as what has been taking place over the last week in order to put an end to this crisis.

Up until July 3rd, few people thought that the practical differences between the Islamic schools such as the Lal Mosque and the government of Pakistan would end in violence. No shot had been fired as yet. Few people thought that dozens of armed students would chant slogans of martyrdom and refuse to surrender to the Army. For months the students of the Lal Mosque had been at odds with the government of Pakistan in implementing the laws of shari'ah. Even more than this, some Pakistani parties had wanted the government to not resort to violence, in order to prevent the formation of an internal crisis in the country. But according to Dod Nourani, an expert in political affairs at the Afghanistan Area

Information Center, the process of people, such as the students of Lal Mosque, becoming armed did not go unnoticed by the government of Pakistan.

[Dod Nourani]

Even though such a quantity of weapons was able to be amassed only in a corner of the capital of Pakistan, they still were able to finally find their way to a mosque right by the residence of Pervez Musharraf and close to the embassies of America and Britain. It is alleged that those countries have very good ties with the government of Pakistan, especially the British, who gave close to \$1 billion to Pakistan last year so that it would implement reforms in its Islamic schools. When it happens that such a mass of military force is assembled in this small area, a person can only guess how many weapons and how much ammunition there is, and how much military training, suicide bombing training, and explosives training is going to be conducted with respect to the remaining 20,000 Islamic schools of Pakistan.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

But suddenly the government has decided that after giving a last chance to the armed students in the Lal Mosque, it would put an end to the crisis. The Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, sent the last message to the students on July 8th.

"To those of you who have remained in the mosque, I recommend that you surrender. I am going to say it like this. If you do not surrender, you are going to die." The students had entrenched themselves in the mosque under the leadership of Abdul-Rashid Ghazi. According to Abdul-Hamid Mubariz, an Afghan expert at the Regional Information Center in Kabul, the government of Pakistan had arrived at the conclusion that it would resort to force.

[Abdul-Hamid Mubariz]

Pakistan might have reached the conclusion that if this were to continue spreading and developing, the security of Pakistan itself might be endangered. Thus this new move was made by the government of Pervez Musharraf, especially during the sensitive moments when there are other political crises in Pakistan. These crises are not only at the Lal Mosque, but rather are the fundamental legal crises [a reference to the recent sacking of Pakistani Supreme Court Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry]...

[Host Touraj Abbas]

Abdul-Rashid Ghazi delivered his own final message via telephone for Pervez Musharraf and his government from within the mosque.

[Abdul-Rashid Ghazi]

[In Urdu] On the Day of Judgment, on the date when we will be gathered together we... we...

[Translator]

We are all martyrs. You will be called upon for accountability on the day of Judgment for the deaths of the students and for all of us here who are going to be martyred. You will have to settle the accounts with respect to your sins. All of us will ask you, why did you kill us, for what sin?

[Host Touraj Abbas]

The last messages were conveyed. One week passed after the seizing of the mosque, and the last attack by the Army commenced. It was an attack which according to a statement from General Wahid Irshad, the spokesman of the Pakistan Army, proceeded calmly.

[Translator]

There are women and children in the building, and we are proceeding calmly, in a calm manner, in order to keep unnecessary damage to a minimum.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

It is true that the Lal Mosque crisis has been taking place at a time when General Musharraf is about to get ready to hold the national presidential elections as well as the country's general elections. It is precisely at a time when the criticisms of his opposition are growing day by day. Dod Nourani, an expert in political affairs of the area says:

[Dod Nourani]

This move may also result in a certain amount of discontent toward the military government of Pervez Musharraf. A number of people have even been thinking that Musharraf wants to bring this crisis to this point, so that he could better illustrate, to people within and outside of Pakistan, the necessity of having a military government.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

After the death of their father, the two brothers Abdul-Rashid Ghazi and [Maulana] Abdul-Aziz Ghazi took over the administration of the mosque. In the beginning of the year 2007, Maulana Abdul-Aziz had announced that a consultative council will be overseeing Islamic legal trials in order to implement Islamic law in the area under the control of the Lal Mosque. He threatened the Pakistani government that in the event it opposes this, there would be suicide attacks. As of that time, the differences escalated, especially when individuals from the police were being taken hostage. These differences led to the besieging of the Lal Mosque last week.

[Interlude]

You are listening to the Evening Magazine program of Radio Farda.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

And from Afghanistan: while Iranian authorities have been announcing the beginning of the second phase of expulsion of Afghan refugees in the near future, Afghan authorities are saying that the Iranians have been ignoring their recommendations, and are expelling large numbers of Afghans every day without any planning. We are going to hear more from Ali Jouibari in Kabul:

[Ali Jouibari]

One Afghan authority has expressed disappointment at the lack of attention of the authorities of the Islamic Republic toward the mechanism which has been prepared for expelling Afghans out of Iran, saying that the forced expulsion of Afghans out of Iran is still continuing. Shujauddin Shuja, an adviser to the Ministry of Migrant Affairs of Afghanistan, emphasized today that the only change that has taken place in the conduct of the Islamic Republic security forces towards the Afghan refugees is that they are not using excessive force against the refugees. The adviser to the Afghanistan Ministry of Migrant affairs stated that if this sort of situation with the expulsion of the refugees were to continue definitely, a humanitarian disaster would be seen on the border regions of Iran and Afghanistan during the summer and winter seasons.

[Shujauddin Shuja]

We have to come to an agreement so that all of our countrymen will not fall into such a situation again; on the one hand, there is the summer season, during which the hottest weather is in this area. And on the other hand,

when the weather gets cold, we will see a humanitarian disaster unfold if we do not come to an agreement on a mechanism [to ensure the orderly repatriation of Afghan refugees in Iran back to Afghanistan]...

[Ali Jouibari]

Mr. Shuja has said that the Iranian authorities are not working on the basis of any plan with specific statistics as they are going about expelling Afghans. In fact, he said that every day, any and all Afghans who happen to be rounded up are expelled. At the same time, Nadir Farhad, the spokesman for the United Nations Office of Refugee Affairs, also stated that his office also has serious criticisms regarding the way in which the Afghan refugees are being [returned to] Afghanistan. Meanwhile, four days ago, the Iranian Interior Minister, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi, had said that roughly 200,000 refugees have been expelled from Iran, and according to his statements, the second phase of forced expulsion of illegal Afghan refugees will also be starting in the near future. Ali Jouibari, Radio Farda, Kabul.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

We return to news from Iran, where a group of control measures as well as verbal attacks on the part of officials in the government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and also the Judiciary Authority of the Islamic Republic, have signaled the beginning of a new round of confrontations with the press. The shutdown of several newspapers, in particular the newspaper *Ham-Mihan*, is reinforcing this concern. Mehrdad Sepehri had a conversation with Faraj Sarkouhi, an Iranian journalist and writer in Germany on the subject of conditions for the press and journalism in Iran:

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Even though national censorship is growing, self-censorship among journalists in Iran is on the rise, and there is a constant decline in the number of critical press outlets even within the framework of approved laws in the Islamic Republic; yet the tone from officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Ministry of Information, and the Tehran Public Prosecution Office is still becoming more extreme and belligerent toward the activities of the press. It still has not been a long time since statements were made by the Cultural Advisor to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and statements from Saffar Harandi, the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance, regarding the presence of what they called a “creeping coup d'état” in the press, and orders to shut down newspapers were issued. I

spoke with Faraj Sarkouhi—a well-known journalist and author who worked with the cultural and literary magazine *Adineh* in the 80s and 90s, and who later became editor in chief of the magazine before it was shut down—about conditions for the press in Iran.

First I asked him, what are the roots of these kinds of expressions, such as a “creeping coup d’etat,” a “cultural NATO,” actions toward a “soft overthrow,” that are addressed to the media and to journalists? Where did these expressions come from?

[Faraj Sarkouhi]

Literature, vulgarity, and insults are what people are brought up on. They are surrounded by this terror and intimidation, regardless of whether it is from the Russian Communist newspaper Pravda, or from the newspapers of the Chinese Communist Party, or wherever else. As you pointed out, some of the journalists in Iran, or officers of the Ministry of Culture who are engaging in journalism with the *Kayhan* newspaper and other such newspapers, such as Mr. Shari’at-Madari, Mr. Safar Harandi and others, really only want one thing: that is for all of the newspapers of the country to say the same thing and be harmonious.

The reality is that the age of the press in Iran is over. However, on the other hand, the amount of press publications is increasing every day. In my opinion, this shows the governments’ fear of the reaction of the people; what I mean is that the people have expanded from [inaudible]. From the international standpoint, it looks like the country is going through a state of crisis, on account of the nuclear dossier. And at the same time, the economic and internal government crises have gotten worse. In my opinion, the statesmen of Iran sense danger as a result of these various crises.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

As a rule, media outlets which are under pressure are not supposed to have any appreciable influence to extend. However, Faraj Sarkouhi has a different opinion in this regard:

[Faraj Sarkouhi]

Media outlets, even those which are under pressure, or those that are being censored, still play a very important role. This is so because, in any case, the distributed (Note: This word “distributed” by itself does not make

sense here. Suggest "...in any case, the [media outlets] distributed [throughout] our country..." - Ed.) our country are linked directly to the ideas of the citizens and people of Iran, because they convey what is on their mind. Now we know that when a written text makes its rounds through Iranian society, and its contents are spoken about, it means that it is exerting influence in the depths of society. For example, a news item which is printed in this publication... based on this, I think that the reason why the statesmen are increasing the pressure is... well, okay, one of the reasons is of course that the current structure of the government has been composed of those people who believe that every publication should be destroyed and the second reason is that the crisis conditions, the international crises, the foreign-policy crisis, and the economic crisis, have gotten worse.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

It appears that the increase in sensitivities also has another reason, other than the natural and traditional worry of the conservatives, with regard to the printed media outlets and the current weak and colorless critical newspapers in Iran. Mr. Sarkouhi explains this as follows:

[Faraj Sarkouhi]

I think that to an extent, some of these pressures are due to the fact that the council elections are close at hand. There are wings emerging, such as the radical principalists, whose very face is Mr. Ahmadinejad. Perhaps it could be because of the defeats which the government of Ahmadinejad has suffered, and also because of the promises that he gave; those populist promises which were impossible to achieve, and which have not been achieved. There is a possibility that in the council elections, the competitors, meaning the performers, the conservatives, that is to say the traditional conservatives, and the apparatchiks, have attracted the votes of the people toward themselves.

We can all see that these three political wings have become united together around the axes of [inaudible], Rafsanjani, Khatami, and Karroubi, or that they are trying to become united. Based on this, the fact that the council elections are close at hand must be worrying the principalist statesmen because they are without power, and because everybody knows that just like every other populist who comes along and makes promises which are impossible to fulfill, they will not be able to achieve those promises. Of course there will be a new wave of discontentment which

they will provoke, and the bases of Mr. Ahmadinejad's government are shaky.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

This journalist, who lives in Germany, points out something else which, according to him, is perceived as a defeat for the educational system which has been formed after the Islamic Republic in Iran .

[Faraj Sarkouhi]

The problem which the Islamic Republic, not just the government of Mr. Ahmadinejad, is facing, during the media age, is that the new generation have gotten into the field of media in Iran, and in this respect they are different from our generation. At the time our generation got into media, we were accused of so-called cultural assaults, and so forth, and they crushed us. However, the new generation which has risen is a generation which has been raised during the Islamic Revolution; this generation has mostly been born after the revolution, and they have grown up with it. They went through the period of war during their childhood and as they were becoming teenagers. Gradually and naturally, they became the only force; the force of the country's youth, which took over the media of the country. This generation, with all of its expectations, is a generation which has been defending the values of totalitarianism, or an absolute system of government, of the Islamic Republic.

They became aware and specialized by necessity. And it is this generation which is now [sound garbled] fighting against this ruling system and censorship, in various different ways. This generation wants freedom, it wants democracy, it wants freedom of the press, and this is a professional necessity for this generation. Otherwise, having the press would not be possible. Based on this, they are confronted with the problem that they have suffered a great defeat in the very area in which they have been thinking to begin with. This is to say that through selection, through various kinds of pressure, through the educational situation in the schools, and all of those stories which have been transpiring over these last three decades, we have brought about a generation who are ostensibly fundamentalist soldiers of Islam. A generation has come about which, in my opinion, wants freedom of the press and media more than our own generation.

[Mehrdad Sepehri]

Since the time of Saffar Harandi, former editor-in-chief of the *Kayhan* newspaper and former member of the Revolutionary Guard, the Iranian press has experienced new conditions; conditions which as many journalists in Tehran are saying, are like a dual state of fear and hope which was always imposed on them, and that they are going through days that are more difficult and chilling to the heart.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

That was a report on the beginning of a new era of conflict with the printed media outlets. The questions were from us, and the answers were from Faraj Sarkouhi, an Iranian writer residing in Germany, in a conversation with Mehrdad Sepehri.

The organization Reporters Without Borders whose central offices are in Paris, has in the course of a communiqué about the murder of Zahra Kazemi in the prisons of the Islamic Republic of Iran, endorsed today the wishes of the lawyers of this Iranian-Canadian to reopen the case files in order to settle the case of her murder. Mir Ali Hosseini has a report from Paris:

[Mir Ali Hosseini]

The organization Reporters Without Borders has affirmed in a statement today that in order for the case file of the murder of Zahra Kazemi to be opened, the country's superior court must allow a new trial to take place for the person who was responsible for her murder, because there are shortcomings in the review of the case by the court. In the view of Reporters Without Borders, this reopening of the case file of the murder of Zahra Kazemi is the last hope for learning the identities of the real persons responsible for killing this Iranian-Canadian correspondent. Reza Moini, the Iranian officer in charge of the Reporters Without Borders organization, explained the position of the organization in an interview with Radio Farda:

[Reza Moini]

This journalist who has been murdered in Iran... and I am going to use the word "murdered" here, not only because mentioning this sentence has been prohibited in for all Iranian journalists—and because instead of saying that she was murdered, they refer to her by saying "the death of Zahra Kazemi"—but also in order to remind [inaudible] in light of the events which have taken place. Among these events was the discussion of this case in the superior court of the country, and where the lawyers of Zahra Kazemi,

and the mother of Zahra Kazemi, were in attendance, and they displayed these inconsistencies and deficiencies in the case file.

[Mir Ali Hosseini]

Aside from commemorating the murder of Zahra Kazemi, another goal behind publishing this communiqué was to inform the political circles, and other such circles, above the level of general public opinion?

[Reza Moini]

I consider it completely natural that the organization for the defense of free speech and journalists would emphasize that one must not be silent in regard to this issue, and that forgetting the case in and of itself will be a factor behind more killings in the future. You can see an example of this in the everyday experience of all countries in the world. On the other hand, insofar as forgetting the case is concerned, this is tantamount to immunity from punishment [for those people who murdered Zahra Kazemi]. This year is the fourth year in which the murderers of Zahra Kazemi, as well as those who ordered her killing and those who carried it out, have been immune from punishment.

In this regard, our emphasis is based on the premise that any sort of immunity from punishment is illegal, and that anyone who allows for immunity to be given from punishment, is practically a person who endorses and honors murder and crime. And on the other hand, the killing of a journalist, or a scientist, and killing any kind of person engaged in the conveyance of media information and the business of informing people... a journalist has been killed in Iran, and the people who carried out the murder, as well as those who ordered it, must be punished, and nobody must never forget that. This case file will always remain open until such time as they punish the people who committed this murder.

[Mir Ali Hosseini]

Zahra Kazemi, age 54, was in the process of taking a picture of the families of prisoners on the third day of the month of Tir of the year 1382. She was arrested in front of Evin prison, and died in Evin prison as a result of a brain hemorrhage suffered from blows delivered to her head. From Paris, this is Mir Ali Hosseini for Radio Farda.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

From Paris in France, we now move on to Stuttgart in Germany, where our subject is still the citizens of Iran. Based on the verdict of a court in Stuttgart, Germany, an Iranian refugee who has converted to Christianity shall be allowed to remain in Germany, and will not be deported back to his [sic] country. However, one Iranian lawyer says that this verdict does not mean that every refugee who becomes a Christian will be able to remain in Germany. Further details and particulars are in a report from Shahram Merian from Germany:

[Shahram Merian]

“Christian refugees must not be returned to Iran.” This was the title of some analytical articles in several German newspapers today. Making reference to the new verdict from the Stuttgart Municipal Administration Court, it has been mentioned in these articles that a woman refugee from Iran who had come to Germany seven years ago together with her two children, had mentioned in her request for refuge in Germany that she had converted to Christianity, and it is for this reason that she wants to live in Germany. It was mentioned that this Iranian refugee had converted to the Christian religion 20 years ago while living in Iran. It was because of this that she came to Germany and filed her request for refugee status with the appropriate authorities seven years ago.

The Stuttgart Municipal Administration Court, after hearing the reasons behind this Iranian woman's request for asylum, issued a verdict for this woman to remain in Germany. In order to shed some light on this subject, I proceeded to have a conversation with Dr. Hassan Siahpoush, an Iranian lawyer working in Germany, and I asked him whether the verdict that has been issued means that any Iranian refugee who becomes a Christian in Germany will be able to remain in the country.

[Dr. Hassan Siahpoush]

This new verdict cannot be taken up as a basis for us to say that anyone who changes their religion to Christianity will not be deported from Germany. It cannot be used as a definitive reason for accepting requests for asylum. The point which is of importance now in this regard is that in the European Parliament, a draft bill has been circulating which says that any such people who change their religion, who happen to be in deportation status, must be able to practice their religion in general and have the potential to go to their centers of worship in order to be deported. This is a new development which has been approved in the European

Parliament, and its implementation in Germany is mandatory. However, some judges in Germany are reasoning that such people who change their religions are in fact able to live in Iran, that there is no definite need for them to express their religion openly, that they could worship in private, and that if such a situation were the case, they would not be persecuted. But there are other judges who are of a different point of view, in that they follow the opinion of the European Union. The issue is that these are two different opinions, and thus far there have been differing verdicts which have been issued that are in conflict with one another...

[Host Touraj Abbas]

That was Hassan Siahpoush, a judicial lawyer in Germany, who was responding to questions from Shahram Merian.

And now we have a rare survey. According to a survey, 51 percent of people in Iran have said that they would support efforts to reassure America of the peaceful nature of the nuclear programs of the Islamic Republic to establish normal relations between Washington and Tehran. As Alireza Taheri with Radio Farda says, this opinion survey and sampling of the ideas of the people in Iran was carried out at the request of an organization called Terror-Free Tomorrow. Here is a report from Alireza Taheri:

[Alireza Taheri]

"Terror-Free Tomorrow," [quoted in English], or a tomorrow free of terror, with headquarters in Washington, is a group composed of members of the two major parties of the United States, the Republicans and the Democrats. Among them is Senator John McCain, one of the presidential candidates of the Republican Party, who is a member of this group. In light of the dangers which are entailed in conducting such surveys in Iran, this sampling of the general thoughts of the people of Iran was done by conducting opinion surveys over the telephone.

The opinion sampling of ideas in Iran is something rare in itself; the memory of the last opinion survey for the people of Iran regarding the relations of their country with the United States, has not left the collective memory of the people. This opinion survey, which indicated that 80 percent of the people of Iran were supportive of renewing relations between Iran and Washington, led to the detention of the people who were responsible for carrying out the opinion survey, all of whom happen to be in

some way or other a part of the government of the Islamic Republic. The new opinion survey shows that a non-sizable majority of the Iranian people are of the belief that Iran must be equipped with nuclear weapons, because obtaining such weapons will give them a greater sense of security.

According to the Associated Press and the American International Herald Tribune which is published in Paris, this new opinion survey is an indicator of the difference of opinion among the Iranian people with regard to the belligerent positions of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the president of the Islamic Republic, toward the international community regarding the nuclear program in Iran. Ken Ballen, the chairman of the Terror-Free Tomorrow group, points out this same opinion survey and says that Iranians want their country to open up toward the western world, and that nuclear weapons, as well as the worries arising from the issues related to them, have no priority within the framework of the general opinions of the people of Iran.

Mr. Ballen emphasizes that economic issues, as well as social and industrial progress, are of greater importance for all Iranians than anything else. At the same time, 52 percent of the Iranian people have said that it is important for Iran to make use of its income from its rich oil and gas resources in order to expand the nuclear armaments capabilities of Tehran. Given such circumstances, nine out of every 10 Iranians are supportive of spending from Iran's oil and gas earnings to create new jobs, lower the inflation rate, strengthen the oil and gas sector, and expand the nuclear technology sector for electricity production. In this rare opinion survey, more than half of all Iranians said to the pollsters that in exchange for establishing full relations between Tehran and Washington, they would be ready to recognize a country named Israel alongside Palestine.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

We have heard the results of a rather rare opinion survey from Alireza Taheri.

And we continue with the latest sports news from Fariborz Gharib.

[Interlude]

"Sports World"

[Fariborz Gharib]

The countdown to zero is well on its way for the first invitation of the Iranian national football [soccer] team to the 14th round of the Asian Nations Cup. In less than twenty hours, the Iranian national football team will be facing off on the field against the team from Uzbekistan in its first competition on the old continent at the Kuala Lumpur stadium in Malaysia. The Iranian national football team and the Uzbekistan football team played a match together once in 1998 during the Thailand Asia Games in Bangkok, in which the Iranian team won with four goals. And now, after almost nine years, these two teams will be facing off with one another in the Asian Nations Cup games.

In the Malaysian city of Kuala Lumpur, which is hosting the third Nations Cup group, most everybody has been looking forward to the game between the Iranian and Uzbek teams taking place tomorrow. But today, on the fourth day of the Nations Cup, two games have been played in the third and fourth groups, which at first led to an unexpected result where the Indonesian team, which was hosting the fourth group, had beaten the team from Bahrain with score of two to one. And then, in the group which includes the Iranian team, which is group 3, the Chinese team ended up clobbering the hosting Malaysian team, in a goal-filled match with a score of five to one. In addition to the game between Iran and Uzbekistan in the third group tomorrow, Wednesday, the teams from Korea and Saudi Arabia from group 4 will be facing off with each other on the field.

[Interlude]

[Fariborz Gharib]

In continuation of the World Youth Volleyball Championship matches in Marrakesh, the Iranian youth team earned its third victory against the Japanese team this afternoon. In this match, which took place in the stadium of the city of Casablanca, the Iranian team beat out Japan with a score of three to one. This is the fourth game of the Iranian youth volleyball team in the world competitions. Before that, Iran chalked up two victories, against the teams from Bulgaria and Italy, while losing one match to the team from Cuba. According to the program, the Iranian youth volleyball team will face off against the hosting Marrakesh team in its fifth game tomorrow.

[Interlude]

[Fariborz Gharib]

At the same time that the matches of the Asia Nations Cup are going on, the America Cup matches between the countries of South America are also taking place in Venezuela. In these matches, which have now gotten to the semi-finals, the teams from Venezuela and Uruguay will be facing off with each other in the first hours of the morning of Wednesday by Tehran time. In another match for the semi finals, Argentina and Mexico will be playing against one another in the morning hours of Iran time. This is Fariborz Gharib, Radio Farda.

[Host Touraj Abbas]

It is now 18:19 hours, and in another hour the game between Iran and Uzbekistan will be going on. Until the game begins, I wish you all a good evening as we near the end of this Evening Magazine program with Radio Farda. I am going to quickly go over the main news headlines again for today...

Abdul-Rashid Ghazi, the leader of the rebels at Lal Mosque has been killed. In Iran, the IAEA delegation has left for Tehran today, and the organization Reporters Without Borders has demanded new investigations into the murder case file of Zahra Kazemi.

Please stay with us, as my colleagues join you in the upcoming news programs. Once again, have a good evening.

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