

The following is a translation of the “Radio Farda” Persian program, which was broadcast via satellite on August 8, 2007 at 1500 UTC.

TRANSLATION BEGINS HERE

[Host Fariba Mavedat]  
The latest news on Radio Farda.

[Music]

[Male announcer]  
Radio Farda news.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]  
Mr. Nouri al-Maliki, Prime Minister of Iraq, entered Tehran.

[Music]

It has been said that Russia will accept supplying fuel for the Bushehr nuclear plant only if the Islamic Republic of Iran makes its nuclear plans clear for the world.

[Music]

The government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has requested the Iranian Parliament to increase the budget for importing gasoline to Iran.

[Music]

Hello. Today is Mordad 17<sup>th</sup>, 1386, in the Persian calendar, equivalent to August 8, 2007. I am Fariba Mavedat, and I am going to be your host tonight for the next hour of this program. I am going to inform you about the latest news, reports and expert opinions, tonight, in this “Majaleh Shamgahi” [Evening Magazine] Program of Radio Farda.

First, you are about to hear a summary of tonight’s news by Fereydoon Zarnegar.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Greetings, I wish you a good day. I am going to start tonight's news with the Iraqi Prime Minister's travel to Tehran.

This morning, Wednesday, the Prime Minister of Iraq traveled to Tehran along with a delegation of high-ranking officials. Iranian news agencies have called the purpose of Mr. Maliki's travel to Iran, an analysis of bilateral issues between Tehran and Baghdad. These are economical and political matters, and also continuing issues and follow-up on past agreements between Tehran and Baghdad.

After discussions with Turkish politicians, the Prime Minister of Iraq traveled from Ankara to Tehran.

Hojjatollah Ghanimifard, Senior Executive and head of international affairs for the National Iranian Oil Company, stated that Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's government had made a request to the Iranian Parliament to increase the budget for importing oil. Mr. Ghanimifard added that based on last year's estimates and before assigning a quota for gasoline consumption in Iran, the government had estimated a 7 billion dollar budget for importing gasoline. However, only 2.5 billion dollars were approved.

Gholamhussein Mohseni Ezhei, the Minister of Information in Iran, has stated today, Wednesday, that his office was continuing and following up on the investigations about the cases of Ms. Haleh Esfandiari and Mr. Kian Tajbakhsh. Others were also summoned with regard to this case. Hojjat al-Islam Mohseni-Ezhei reported that last week more people were arrested in this matter, but the Judiciary Branch of the Islamic Republic of Iran denied the news of these arrests.

Haleh Esfandiari, head of the Middle East department at the Woodrow Wilson International Research Center in Washington and Kian Tajbakhsh, one of the consultants of the Open Society agency in Tehran, are two Iranian-American researchers who were arrested towards the end of the month of Ordibehesht [corresponds to mid-May] in Tehran, with charges of espionage and endangering national security in Iran.

By invitation from the International Labor Organization and the International Federation of Transportation Workers, tomorrow, Thursday, international unions and labor organizations will demonstrate in front of Iranian embassies in major capitals of the world. These demonstrations are meant

to be a protest against the arrests of Mr. Mansour Osanloo, President of the Board of Directors of the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran and Suburbs.

The International Trade Union Confederation and the International Transport Workers' Federation made a joint statement two weeks ago and asked labor unions and activists in workers' rights to complain and participate in demonstrations on August 9<sup>th</sup>, or Mordad the 18<sup>th</sup>, which is tomorrow. These demonstrations for the freedom of these two individuals will take place if Iran's government does not release Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, two Iranian workers detained in Tehran and Sanandaj. Mansour Osanloo was arrested and has been in Evin prison since Tuesday, Tir 19<sup>th</sup>, charged with endangering national security in Iran. Mr. Mahmoud Salehi, another supporter of workers' rights in Iran, has been detained in Sanandaj, Iran.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has appointed Mr. Parviz Davoodi, his current Vice President, to create a committee to review the rules and laws pertaining to banking services in Iran. According to Mr. Ahmadinejad's orders, the Minister of Economy and Finance, the general manager of the Central Bank, the manager of the Mellat Bank, the manager of the Sarmaye Bank, the assistant in banking matters for the Ministry of Economy and Finances, an attorney and a religious expert from the members of the Guardian council and also a representative from the Iranian Parliament will participate in this committee to review banking regulations. The members of this committee only have six months to report on these results.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

You were listening to the summary of tonight's most important news by Fereydoon Zarnegar.

Some of the issues that we are going to cover in tonight's Evening News Magazine are as follows:

[Music]

Has Moscow put pressure on Tehran regarding its nuclear programs?

[Music]

The organization Reporters Without Borders is going to talk about the celebration of Journalists' Day and the protests about the new arrests of journalists in Iran.

[Music]

The International Trade Union Confederation is going to protest in five continents to obtain the release of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

[Music]

Contradictory statements continue regarding the arrests of Haleh Esfandiari and Kian Tajbakhsh.

You are listening to Radio Farda.

[Music]

As you heard in the news, some reliable sources announced that Moscow had warned Tehran that it would stop the supply of fuel to the Bushehr nuclear reactor unless Tehran makes all of its nuclear agendas and activities clear for the world. Maryam Manzoori will have a report and discussion about this with Hossein Arian, a military expert from Great Britain.

[Maryam Manzoori]

The Associated Press news agency has quoted a European diplomat, [who said] that Moscow had warned Tehran that it would not supply fuel for the partially completed Russian-made Bushehr nuclear reactor unless Tehran makes all of its nuclear agendas and activities clear for the world. At the same time, an American official stated that Russia was not going to respect its commitments regarding Iran, and by this means, Iran was not going to be able to activate its nuclear reactor. This official also stated that this delay by Russia was an effort to put pressure on Tehran and force them to abide by the demands of the United Nations Security Council. These two American and European diplomats have agreed to share their information with the Associated Press only if their names are kept confidential.

According to the conversation that Hossein Arian, an expert in Iran's military affairs, had with Radio Farda, Russia's conduct in this case seems to be contradictory.

[Hossein Arian]

On one hand, Russia signed a contract with Iran in 1995 and promised, in this contract, that they would finish the nuclear reactor in Bushehr in 2007 in order to hand it over to Iran. On the other hand, as can be concluded from Russia's conduct and the progress of the work, this reactor is not going to be finished. As we know, Russia had wasted a lot of time in the past as well. The reason for this waste of time is that Russia, on one hand, wants to respect this contract with Iran and finish the work, and on the other hand, it wants to consider its strategic interests in the world in terms of its relations with the US and other countries.

[Maryam Manzoori]

It seems that this increase in pressure, from Russia on Iran, is happening at a time when Iran is getting ready to compromise on key international demands. These demands are about providing explanations for its nuclear activities in the past. Iran's past activities had made the international community suspicious about Iran, and they were suspicious that Iran intended to make nuclear weapons.

These suspicions and concerns about Iran resulted in the United Nations Security Council's request to Iran to stop its uranium enrichment activities. In addition, as Iran insisted on continuing its nuclear activities, the international community was forced to impose economic sanctions against Iran. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, announced during his recent trip to Algeria on Tuesday, that Iran would not cease its activities in the field of nuclear energy and would not have any discussions with those countries that do not respect Iran's right to have peaceful nuclear energy. However, last month, some officials in Tehran told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that the Islamic Republic would answer the international community's questions regarding its nuclear activities in the past in Iran, and [that those activities] could result in the production of nuclear weapons.

According to the Associated Press, it seems that the reason Iran is slowing down its uranium enrichment activities and is willing to accept the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) at the nuclear

facility in Arak, is because it wants to stop the actions that are taking place against the Islamic Republic of Iran and also stop the third round of sanctions against it. Inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency visited the reactor in Arak this last month.

Another European diplomat has told the Associated Press news agency, regarding this issue, that Iran had recently started to give some valuable information to the International Atomic Energy Agency. They had also answered four of the ten key questions of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Some experts believe that the government's actions seem to be serving its goals. One of these experts is Mr. Hossein Arian, an expert in Iran's military affairs.

[Hossein Arian]

On one hand, Iran's present government is cooperating sufficiently with the International Atomic Energy Agency so it can possibly prevent the issuance of another resolution by the United Nations Security Council against Iran. Ultimately, by accomplishing this goal, Iran hopes that it can shift this nuclear issue from the United Nations Security Council to the International Atomic Energy Agency, located in Vienna. As a result, Iran has started its cooperation and is trying to be transparent.

These actions could be in response to Russia's request. Russia's conduct on this is nothing new and we all have seen this kind of conduct and waste of time by Russia. The Russian strategy is to maintain its interests in the international community. Additionally, we have [discovered something about Russia] from the two resolutions numbered 1737 and 1747 issued by the United Nations Security Council, which clearly show that Russia always says something in the beginning but does something differently at the end. We also see that Russia is working against Iran and cooperating with the US and the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council.

[Maryam Manzoori]

Officials of the International Atomic Energy Agency have not expressed their opinion on this yet, but they have expressed their concerns regarding some specifics, such as:

1. Tehran has recently accomplished some extra elements to make a more complicated enrichment program than the overt enrichment programs.

2. All the plutonium that has been made by Iran has not been checked and analyzed.
3. Iranian military forces probably have a role in the process of enriching uranium.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

You were listening to a discussion that Maryam Manzoori had with Hossein Arian, an expert in Iran's military affairs in Great Britain.

On Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, you could see this sentence on the first page of all the local newspapers of Iran, as you have been able to see it [on that day] in the past nine years: "Happy Journalists' Day." This day is the day for honoring the journalism profession, which is a reminder for us that Mahmoud Saremi, a journalist of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was killed by the Taliban forces. This year, many believe we have a totally new attitude towards journalists. Saeedeh Hashemi brings us this report:

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

When you look at the way newspapers in Iran are writing now, you will find a strong contradiction between the effects that are left and what they wish to accomplish. When you want to find the causes of these contradictions, you should listen to the opinions stated by officials of the Islamic Republic from official lecterns, who were criticizing the newspapers.

[Unidentified male]

...Now, in this situation, we have some people, journalists, who are opposing our Islamic revolutionary government, which is a fundamental and reformist government, with their ink and with their tongue (verbally). They are opposed to this Islamic, revolutionary, fanatic, fundamentalist government. These people make everything questionable...

[inaudible conversation in background]

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

If there is criticism of the government and the regime in newspapers, there are charges of espionage, doing propaganda against the regime, agitating the public's mind and insulting the sacred Islamic beliefs of [the] people. These are only part of the accusations that threaten journalists' lives.

[Unidentified male]

...These newspapers are bombarding us with negative propaganda. I do not understand what their inspiration sources are...

[inaudible conversation in background]

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

All of the spectators have called these kinds of statements of the Islamic Republic government, "A new wave of crushing newspapers." As was mentioned by Mr. Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, spokesperson for the Association for the Defense of Freedom of the Press, in just the last year, 20 journalists were either arrested or summoned with similar accusations.

[Mashallah Shamsolvaezin]

As far as job security for journalists, we have witnessed so many disasters in dealing with journalists in Iran, and this shows that journalists do not have any kind of job security there. This [lack of] job security has a very close relationship with freedom in news reporting. Therefore, these kinds of disasters can practically reduce job security for journalists in Iran.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Since the spring of 1379 [2000], 2800 journalists have lost their jobs, and in the year 1385 [2006] another 1200 journalists were added to this number. Fear of losing their jobs, and fear of having their newspaper banned by the government and leaving so many journalists unemployed in one day, has made journalists feel that they are walking on a mine field.

[Roozbeh Mirebrahimi]

Recently, it seems like journalism is like stepping on mines, not even walking in a minefield.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Roozbeh Mirebrahimi is one of the web log writers [or, bloggers] who suffered solitary confinement and torture in the jails of Iran for months, only because of writing some articles. He emigrated out of Iran and joined many other Iranian journalists who emigrated before him. However, as stated by Mr. Mashallah Shamsolvaezin, emigration is not the only destiny which awaits unemployed journalists in Iran.

[Mashallah Shamsolvaezin]



Many of these journalists have accepted to leave the country. Many others have accepted to change their jobs, and many of them have accepted to self-censor in order to be able to work in the remaining newspapers. They have therefore accepted the current conditions.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Among those journalists who have accepted the present conditions in order to be able to work in their country, I have interviewed Baran, who has worked in a public newspaper for 12 years; they call this newspaper, as she says, "The voice of the government." I asked her about the conditions of these newspapers that are protected by the present government and are safer.

[Baran]

When it comes to writing the political or economical sections, journalists should write exactly as the manager and the government wants them to, and they should have the same beliefs in order to be accepted by them. That is because we should write exactly what they want. The problem is that when you work in such places, you cannot write what you want, what you really feel or what is correct. This makes things contradictory and tormenting for journalists.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Professional journalistic and news agencies, and organizations in Iran, follow political motivations rather than care about their journalists' rights and about their job security. This has caused families of journalists in Iran to live in a very low level of comfort in this society. Roozbeh Mirebrahimi talks about what has made him, his friends and colleagues continue their profession as journalists in such a difficult situation:

[Roozbeh Mirebrahimi]

The situation is so hard for us in Iran because of our salary in most of the newspapers and because employers do not sign legal and official labor contracts with us as employees. The result of this is that the journalists never feel economic security or job security in Iran. I personally know many journalists who were forced to quit their jobs as journalists just because of these difficulties. I know some who had to find two or more jobs, such as working as a taxi driver or doing other jobs to make a living. I have seen all of these conditions. However, they tolerated these conditions in order to continue their work, just because they loved their job as

journalists. You really need to love your job as a journalist in Iran, to continue doing it.

[Saeedeh Hashemi]

Reporters without Borders considers Iran the largest prison for journalists and newspapers in the entire Middle East. Human rights supporters have accused the Islamic Republic of using various methods to suppress the free flow of information. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not accept these accusations and declares that they will accept any kind of criticism only if critics do not insult their sacred religious beliefs and do not insult the basis of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

Saeedeh Hashemi was reporting. Today was declared Journalists' Day in Iran. As a result, many ceremonies were organized by many different journalistic and public organizations. Radio Farda has also prepared a special program to honor this important Journalists' Day. Fereydoon Zarnegar is reporting:

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Today, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Mordad, Journalists' Day was celebrated in the Islamic Republic of Iran in such conditions that in the last weeks, we had the start of a new wave of shutdowns of some of the private newspapers. The last part of these movements was the shutdown of the *Sharq* newspaper. Many civil defense organizations, defenders of human rights, and defenders of the journalism profession have condemned and complained about these movements and actions toward journalists and newspapers.

For example, the Mosharekat Party has published a statement and has condemned the shutdown of the *Sharq* newspaper and the ban of the *Ham Mihan* newspaper, which was banned only a short time before the *Sharq* newspaper. Moreover, this party has condemned the suspension of the ILNA news agency and making so many journalists unemployed. Besides, they have declared that these actions of the Agency for Supervising Newspapers were very hasty and harsh actions. International human rights and journalistic organizations have also expressed concerns about actions taken towards journalists and newspapers, particularly regarding the two Kurdish journalists who have received a death sentence. They have also asked the Islamic Republic of Iran to respect the civil rights of its citizens.

Because of this Journalists' Day, we spoke to a few journalists in different places in Iran.

Mr. Mohamad Sadegh Javadiyasar, who is a journalist in the city of Mashhad, says: "Those journalists who are living in provinces are facing more problems than their colleagues living in Tehran." Mr. Mohamad Sadegh Javadiyasar is speaking:

[Mohamad Sadegh Javadiyasar]

Unfortunately, one of the main problems in the profession of writers and journalists is that they do not have any hope in their future. Furthermore, they do not have any peace of mind because they do not have job security. None of the Iranian journalists, especially those who are working in critical newspapers and those who are working in private newspapers, can be sure about the future of their work or even be sure that they will have a job in the next week or in the next month. They cannot be sure if their newspaper will be published next week or next month and if they can make enough money to support themselves. These conditions have forced a significant number of journalists to find a second job.

They have changed their priorities and they have journalism, their professional job, as their second job. They engage in other activities to earn a living and have security. This results in a lower quality for this job. Unfortunately, these problems are more significant in provinces, and in addition, these provinces have their own type of problems because we have fewer newspaper agencies and groups in these provinces than in the capital city, Tehran. For example, in a city like Mashhad, anyone who wants to work as a professional journalist has to work in either the *Qods* newspaper or the *Khorasan* newspaper.

Actually, there is no other publication agency where a journalist can work professionally and make a living, except at these two newspapers. There are no other publications in Mashhad. However, there is no such limitation in Tehran because, for instance, we have 20-50 newspapers in Tehran and there are many jobs in this field. However, when we get to a city like Mashhad we have only two newspapers. These conditions practically force all journalists into being more careful about what they write in order to be able to exist and keep their jobs in this competition.

Another problem is that newspapers that operate in a province, like *Khorasan*, are all economically dependent on government sources or semi-governmental sources. They are all getting their required funding from governmental organizations. As an example, I can mention the *Qods* newspaper, which is getting most of its required money from the “Astane Qodse Razavi,” which is a governmental organization. Another example is the *Khorasan* newspaper, which at first was getting its funding from the Martyrs’ Foundation, but now is getting its funding from the Imam (Khomeini's) Relief Committee, which are both governmental committees.

All in all, we cannot find a private newspaper, which can be independent from any kind of governmental organizational impediments or problems, or even if you find one, you will see that practically, they cannot compete with these two public newspapers. Therefore, having professional work would be harder for them. As a result, they will not remain on this job due to competition. In Tehran, there are fewer such problems compared to other cities.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Masoud Kordpour, a journalist from Kurdistan, emphasizes that there is a sense of security in Kurdistan. He states that the government is forcing society to accept this environment and this will force journalists to stay away from doing civil activities. Masoud Kordpour will explain it for you.

[Masoud Kordpour]

Unfortunately, the present environment of Kurdistan does not have any correlation with journalism and newspapers and increasing awareness of the people. Since coming to power, this government has made conditions harder and harder every day for journalism and civil activities.

Unfortunately, we can almost say that in Kurdistan, which has always had civil and political struggles, a truly free newspaper cannot actually exist anymore in such a limited environment, and the situation has gotten more limited for newspapers.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

According to some reports, one of the detained journalists in Kurdistan is Mr. Kaboodvand. Do you know anything about his situation?

[Masoud Kordpour]

Actually, regarding those journalists in Kurdistan who are in jail, you should ask their lawyers about their situation. They are the only ones who can give you a detailed explanation because they have access to their cases. According to the limited and negative environment of Kurdistan, many of our journalists become radicals. Basically, when you get to a limited and politically controlled environment, so many journalists will change their jobs.

With regard to Adnan Hassanpour and Hiwa Botimar, two journalists in Kurdistan who have received a death sentence, their lawyer has stated that they do not even have journalistic charges. By the way, not all the legal stages of their cases have been completed, and, at this time, it is not clear if the Supreme Court will approve their death sentences, or if they will be sent to another court.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Mr. Mojtaba Gahestuni, a journalist from the city of Ahvaz, has emphasized again the issue of limited space for journalists, and states that ignoring the cultural values of the profession of journalism has blocked our journalists' ability to inform people in a healthy environment. Mr. Mojtaba Gahestuni will explain for you.

[Mojtaba Gahestuni]

This kind of governmental point of view, which dominates our environment and limited political and cultural atmosphere that is so dominant over our newspapers, will prevent us from presenting a better and higher quality of information to our readers. Undoubtedly, political problems are one of the most important issues that hinder and prevent us from accomplishing our duties.

Another problem that we journalists are encountering in the province of Khuzestan or other provinces, is the problem of making enough money to continue our lives. Another issue that has created problems for journalists is the matter of labor contracts for all the employees; for example, insurance benefits for journalists in the province of Khuzestan and other provinces of the country. However, the most important problem that is tormenting us is ignoring the cultural values of newspapers.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Ms. Nahid Kheirabi, who is the mother of Mr. Soheil Asefi, the journalist who was arrested last Saturday when he went to the revolutionary public

prosecutor's office, and is a journalist herself, tells Radio Farda about the problems that journalists are confronting in the environment of Iran. Nahid Kheirabi will explain.

[Nahid Kheirabi]

Modern journalism, which is common in developed countries, and also one type of it has been common for some years in our country, but it has not been fully and ideally accepted in our community or by our government. Modern journalism means that the real duty of a journalist is that he/she should search and even detect all the hidden issues of a society and inform all the people about those issues.

However, in our politically limited society, this duty cannot be performed by a journalist. There are two reasons for this: first of all, the people and society do not have sufficient information about the journalism profession, to be able to efficiently support the journalist and help him/her perform his/her duties. The second and more important reason is that a less developed country and government like ours does not want an independent journalist. In addition, perhaps they do not even know the cultural values of this profession. They don't know that if a journalist provides the news correctly and tells the leaders of the country, he/she can help government agencies in running the country.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

Mr. Abdolnaser Moheimani, a journalist in the city of Gorgan, has spoken about the problems of journalists in the entire world. In a conversation with Radio Farda, he talked about the special conditions of journalists in Iran. He mentioned that it could take many years for someone to get a permit for a newspaper. However, it only takes only a few minutes for the government to shut down a publication. Abdolnaser Moheimani will explain it for you:

[Abdolnaser Moheimani]

Generally, managers and those who are in charge do not tolerate criticism. Their ability to accept criticism is especially low in the case of newspapers. This is the main problem that we can find in every place around Iran, and more or less, we can even see it in other countries. In Iran, the situation is more sensitive because we do not have many independent and private publications, and also, we do not have an independent radio and television station. Therefore, publications will be assaulted and placed in difficult

situations. According to the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the publication of newspapers is free unless it insults the sacred beliefs of Islam. Although the publication of newspapers is free, people often have to wait one to six years and overcome many obstacles to get a permit to start a newspaper.

This is against the law and is also illogical because we have the law that says newspapers are free, but the government says that they should get a permit in order to be eligible for publication. However, the main problem of this issue is that this permit does not provide any security for that publication and it will not guarantee that the publication won't be closed. Nevertheless, officials in charge make applicants wait for several years. With all of these problems and a one to six year wait for getting the permit, closing down a publication can happen in one second or even in the middle of the night. This is the main problem we are facing now.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

The motive for choosing this day as Journalists' Day in Iran is that on the 17<sup>th</sup> of Mordad of the year 1377 [1998], according to the Islamic Republic, a group of Iranian diplomats was attacked in Mazari Sharif in Afghanistan by the Taliban forces. In this attack, nine of them were killed, one of whom was a journalist named Mahmoud Salemi.

[Music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

You are listening to the nightly "Evening News Magazine" of Radio Farda.

[Music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

The best songs and the latest news by Radio Farda.

[Mixture of voices and music]

[Male announcer]

...Radio Farda news...

[Male announcer]

...It is 11. My colleagues and I will inform you about the latest news...

[Female announcer]

...It is 8 PM. Hello. I will be with you the following 15 minutes ....

[Male announcer]

...Everything just in a glimpse in Radio Farda's website with the latest pictures...

[Female announcer]

...A variety of reports...

[Male announcer]

...The latest science news...

[Female announcer]

...About sports...

[Male announcer]

...About culture...

[Female announcer]

...And politics...

[Female announcer]

...Even interesting web logs to read.

[Music]

[Male announcer]

...All of this on [www.radiofarda.com](http://www.radiofarda.com) ...

[Music]

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

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I repeat: [www.radiofarda.com](http://www.radiofarda.com).



[Male announcer]

This is Radio Farda.

[Host Fariba Mavedat]

To begin the second portion of the evening magazine of Radio Farda, we will have a summary of the latest news from Iran and the world.

[Female announcer]

Greetings to you. According to one of the officials at the Environmental Protection Agency for the province of Fars, Bakhtegan National Park and Wildlife Refuge is about to be wasted due to lack of water. This shortage of water came up due to the construction of several dams in the surrounding elevated areas. Engineer Zahrabi, one of the officials with the Environmental Protection Agency for the Province of Fars, has told the ISNA news agency that Bakhtegan National Park and its surroundings are one of the richest spots in the world, as far as the variety of its ecosystem and its creatures is concerned. However, a large portion of it has turned into a salt marsh. As a result, thousands of flamingos either have died or are wandering in the salty marsh of this lake.

Approximately 700 tribal and religious leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan are supposed to have a meeting tomorrow, Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, with the participation of the leaders of these two countries. In this four-day meeting, which is labeled as "Combined Circle of Peace," which will be held in a giant tent in Kabul, they will be discussing methods to fight al-Qaeda and the Taliban on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

According to some reports, Feizi Gelgi Merdov, former Minister of Agriculture in the Republic of Turkmenistan, was arrested for charges of misuse of funds and other violations in that country's cotton industry. Mr. Merdov, who is considered one of the wealthiest individuals in the republic of Turkmenistan, was removed from his post as Minister of Agriculture in 1994. Government officials in the Republic of Turkmenistan have not confirmed or denied the reports of his arrest.

Officials at the Russian Gazprom Company say that the government of Belarus had completely repaid its debts to that company. The Gazprom Company had threatened last week that if Belarus did not pay 460 million

dollars of arrears within one week, it would stop sending gas to that country.

[Fariba Mavedat]  
In the next half hour.

[Background Music]

The International Trade Union Confederation has called for the freedom for Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

A joint complaint by the religious students in the city of Qom addressed to Mohammad Khatami.

[Music]

[Fariba Mavedat]  
Along with the call of the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Transport Workers' Federation, workers' unions and organizations in over 30 countries in five continents are expected to hold ceremonies. These ceremonies are labeled "The International Day of Taking Action for the Freedom of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi." Osanloo is the President of the Board of Directors of the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran and Suburbs, and Salehi is a workers' activist in the province of Kurdistan. There are protests planned to obtain freedom for the detained workers' activists in Iran. Behrouz Karooni will give us a report.

[Behrouz Karooni]  
Janek Kuczkiewicz, the Director of Human and Trade Union Rights of the International Trade Union Confederation, has talked to Radio Farda about the actions that the organizations and workers' unions in the world are going to take to obtain freedom for Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, two imprisoned workers' activists in Iran. He stated: "The International Trade Union Confederation and the International Transport Workers' Federation have asked all of their member unions and organizations in five continents of the world to protest against the arrests of worker activists in Iran, especially Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi."

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

We have asked them, where there is an Iranian Embassy, to ask for a meeting with the Embassy...

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

We have also asked member unions and organizations to organize gatherings in front of Iranian embassies in their countries, and [to] have meetings with Iranian officials of the embassy, especially the ambassadors. They should also write protest letters to them. It should be mentioned that we have started a campaign on the website of the International Transport Workers' Federation, which has been signed by thousands of people so far. We have asked for some copies of this Internet-based protest letter to be handed to Iran's embassy staff, to show what the world thinks about the situation in Iran.

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

Their own domestic public's opinion call their attention to their situation in Iran...

[Behrouz Karooni]

To the question if the protests made by the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Transport Workers' Federation have been productive, and what type of reaction these protests have drawn from the Iranian government, Mr. Kuczkiewicz says:

[In English]

There is no response from the government. There is no official response and we are of course...

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

There has been no official response from the Iranian government. This means so far they have not given us any response that would make us happy, and we are still concerned. Naturally, in some instances, such as in the case of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, we received some answers from the Iranian government. These responses were provided rather late. However, the government responded to our concerns and took some actions.

I personally had some consultations with the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. The Iranian Embassy assured me that they had conveyed our concerns and point of view to the Labor Ministry as well as

the Ministry of Foreign affairs in Tehran. At the same time, I was told that there were some actions that were being taken for the freedom of our worker colleagues, Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. However, these were just words and we were not given any guarantees that they would be set free.

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

Actual work being done inside Iran to obtain the release of Osanloo and Salehi.

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

The Director of Human and Trade Union Rights of the International Trade Union Confederation says that Iranian officials had told him to be optimistic about the future and the release of Iranian worker activists. He adds that in comparison to the ceremonies that took place last year in 30 countries and five continents of the world to secure the freedom for Mansour Osanloo, the actions that will take place on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, the international day of freedom for Osanloo and Salehi, give reason to be optimistic. At the same time, Janek Kuczkiewicz expressed concern about the condition of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi.

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

Now we are extremely worried about the health conditions of both...

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

At the present time, we are extremely concerned about the health condition of Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi in the Evin and Sanandaj jails. This is especially worrisome because they have no contact with their defense attorneys and their families. All of this is going on while we are aware that they are severely ill. In our opinion, denying these two individuals health care services and access to their defense attorneys is totally unacceptable. All of this is contrary to international rules and regulations, which the Islamic Republic of Iran had approved and ratified.

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

[Inaudible] and treaties that have been ratified by the government of the Islamic Republic.

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

This member of the International Trade Union Confederation also mentioned that the family of Mansour Osanloo was concerned about the mental and physical pressures applied to this detained workers' activist. Mr. Kuczkiewicz also said the International Trade Union Confederation was extremely worried about this issue. Mr. Kuczkiewicz added that the family of the President of the Board of Directors of the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran was deprived of visitations or even telephone contacts with him.

Furthermore, when Mansour Osanloo's defense attorneys don't have the right to meet with their own client, this issue also has to create concerns for everyone. In Janek Kuczkiewicz's opinion, it seems that the government of Iran has something to hide. One of the issues demanded by these organizations and international workers' unions is having visitation rights for the families of Mr. Osanloo and Salehi and having access to their defense attorneys. Their other demand is freedom for all imprisoned workers in Iran.

The Director of Human and Trade Union Rights at the International Trade Union Confederation emphasized that due to the recognition these imprisoned worker activists [are receiving around] the world, especially the President of the Board of Directors of the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran, torturing an individual such as Mansour Osanloo would be a stupid act. If such an action were to take place against him, the government of Iran would have to pay a heavy diplomatic and political price. Janek Kuczkiewicz also makes the following comment regarding the ceremonies conducted in Iran on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, for obtaining freedom for imprisoned workers:

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

We are aware of a call by the Vahed syndicate to...

[Behrouz Karooni - interpreting]

We learned that the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran is considering having some ceremonies at Mansour Osanloo's house on Thursday. This action is taking place by this union as a member of the International Transport Workers' Federation and the International Trade Union Confederation. This action is done in response to their call. In any event, we are extremely concerned about arrests or abuse and harassment of the participants in this ceremony. If anyone participating in these

ceremonies gets arrested, we will strongly protest against that and will add it to our complaint letter against the government of Iran, which we had previously handed over to the International Labor Organization.

[Janek Kuczkiewicz, comments in English]

...also will be added to our existing complaint at the International Labor Organization.

[Behrouz Karooni]

In this regard, there are reports from Iran that the Union of Employees of Vahed Bus Company in Tehran and Suburbs has announced in a published statement that as a sign of solidarity with the International Transport Workers' Federation and the International Trade Union Confederation, it will have some ceremonies at Mr. Osanloo's house. Furthermore, the Council for the Cooperation of the Organization of Active Workers [sic] has informed us that there will be a protest gathering on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, in front of the main gate of Tehran University to obtain freedom for Mahmoud Salehi, Mansour Osanloo and other detained workers and activists.

[Fariba Mavedat]

The General Union of Workers in Austria has also asked everyone to walk out into the streets tomorrow, Thursday, which is the day of solidarity with Osanloo and Salehi, to sign a petition, demanding the freedom of these two workers' activists. This petition would later be handed to the Iranian Embassy in Austria. Shahram Merian will have a report for us.

[Shahram Merian]

"Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, union activists in Iran, need support and solidarity." This is the first sentence that was mentioned in the statement issued by the General Union of Workers in Austria, which has the acronym VIDA. This organization has asked everyone, especially workers, to actively participate on the day of solidarity for these two detained workers' activists and to make every effort for the freedom of these two detained workers, as well as the freedom for union activities in Iran. This large European workers' union has also reminded everyone to hand over the gathered signatures on Thursday, the 18<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, along with other signatures from Iranian organizations in Austria, to the Iranian Embassy in the city of Vienna as a sign of support and solidarity for Osanloo and Salehi. This statement also mentions that the

gathering of signatures for the freedom of Salehi and Osanloo has been made possible with the efforts of the International Transport Workers' Federation. So far, there have been thousands of members of this International Workers Federation who have signed a petition for the freedom of Salehi and Osanloo.

Prior to this, the International Labor Organization had asked workers' unions and activists of the workers' movement in the entire world to join the campaign and activities for the purpose of freeing Mansour Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi. These movements have the purpose of freeing these two worker activists and are a sign of protest against a new wave of executions in Iran. Another protest movement is expected to get started next Monday for a period of one week. This movement has been organized by the International Anti-Death Penalty Association [sic] and the International Society for Human Rights, in the city of Frankfurt. Ms. Mina Adi, the head of the International Anti-Death Penalty Association, told more about this week of protests in an interview with us.

[Mina Adi]

As a sign of protest against the new wave of executions, arrests and pressuring of the imprisoned Osanloo and Mahmoud Salehi, there is a wave of protests all around the world, opposing these arrests. The International Committee Against the Death Penalty along with the "Internationale Gesellschaft der Mehschenrechte," or the International Society for Human Rights, headquartered in the city of Frankfurt in Germany, had a meeting yesterday. In this meeting, there was a decision made with Mr. Karl Haffen, the head of this society, which would call one week in the whole world as the week to protest executions in Iran. This week will be from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of August.

There are supposed to be demonstrations, meetings and tents put up in various cities of Europe to protest against the new wave of executions in Iran. At the end of this week, on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, Mr. Karl Haffen (the head of the International Society for Human Rights) and I expect to travel to the city of Brussels and have a meeting with the acting president of the European Parliament. In this meeting, we will ask the European Union to present a complaint with stronger language against the executions in Iran. Our demand is that the death penalty be abolished in Iran.

[Fariba Mavedat]

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

The contradictory statements made by Security and Judiciary officials in Iran regarding the summoning and arrest of new individuals related to the case of Haleh Esfandiari and Kian Tajbakhsh, detained Iranian-American researchers, is still continuing. Farin Asemi will have a report for us.

[Farin Asemi]

Gholam-Hussein Mohseni Ezhei, the Islamic Republic's Minister of Information, who has expressed his opinion for the second time in one week regarding the case of the detained Iranian-Americans, stated the investigations in this matter were still continuing and there were new individuals summoned. In the beginning of the month of Mordad and just one week after the showing of the television footage which was labeled as the "Television confessions of Haleh Esfandiari and Kian Tajbakhsh," Mr. Mohseni Ezhei had stated that a number of individuals related to the cases of these two individuals had been arrested.

The Minister of Information for the Islamic Republic had hoped that these peoples' names and information would be published. However, just one week later, the spokesman for the Judiciary Branch stated in his weekly meeting with journalists that there had not been any new arrests related to that case. Alireza Jamshidi stated that he contacted the assistant prosecutor of Tehran on Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad. He emphasized that no one with connection to that case was arrested.

Haleh Esfandiari and Kian Tajbakhsh are two Iranian-American researchers who are imprisoned on charges of espionage. They participated in a television program called "In the Name of Democracy" towards the end of the month of Tir and spoke about actions they had taken to promote democracy in Iran. These statements were interpreted by fanatic officials and media outlets of the Islamic Republic as efforts by the US for a bloodless coup and overthrow of the Islamic Republic. The *Kehyan* and *Resalat* newspapers announced at the same time that the number of defendants in this case was increasing. The *Resalat* newspaper, one of the fanatic and conservative newspapers, reported, "Another cell for the bloodless overthrow of the government had been recognized by vigilant security officials; however, their names will be disclosed sometime in the future."



The Minister of Information for the Islamic Republic has stated in his latest statements today, Wednesday, in a discussion with reporters that there were other new individuals related to this case, who had been summoned. The Minister of Information was not prepared to provide more details about this matter.

While it has been several weeks since the arrest of several Iranian-American researchers and the confiscation of the passport of Nazi Azima, a reporter for Radio Farda in Iran, Iranian Judiciary officials have not said anything regarding the court proceedings and the manner in which they would investigate these charges. Haleh Esfandiari is the head of Middle Eastern Studies at the Woodrow Wilson Research Center, and had traveled to Tehran to visit her ill mother and was arrested. During this visit, she was arrested with Kian Tajbakhsh, who was a consultant for the Research Center for an Open Society in Tehran and was charged with similar violations as Ms. Esfandiari was charged with. Based on the statements made by the Ministry of Information and Judiciary Branch of the Islamic Republic, these two individuals were accused of endangering the national security of the country with the goal of a soft overthrow of the government.

[Fariba Mebadat]

You were listening to a report by Farin Asemi. A group of religious students at the Center for Religious Studies in the city of Qom has complained against Seyed Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran, for shaking hands with an Italian lady during his trip to Italy. The spokesman for the Special Spiritual Court said on Tuesday that he would file the complaint presented by this group. Mahin Gorji will have a report for us.

[Mahin Gorji]

A group of religious students at the Center for Religious Studies in the city of Qom has filed a complaint with the Special Spiritual Court of Qom against Seyed Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran, for shaking hands with an Italian woman during his trip to this country in the last two months. This is while a group of religious students at the Center of Religious Studies in the city of Mashhad had filed a complaint against the former President of Iran. The Special Spiritual Court of the city of Qom announced on Tuesday that the complaint by the students against Seyed Mohammad Khatami would be filed. Reformists, who are preparing

themselves for a return to the political scene of the country, consider these actions an effort to discredit Seyed Mohammad Khatami's reputation. Seyed Hossein Moosavi Tabrizi, the head of the council of research and study centers in the city of Qom, stated that there was a group of people in the country, who had more chance of winning a political race compared to others. Those with little chance of winning are fearful, therefore they are stepping up their destructive tactics against them. Dr. Akbar Karami, an analyst in political affairs in the city of Qom, stated in a conversation with Radio Farda: "Considering Mr. Khatami's popularity, these actions are a means of removing him as the main player of the reformist groups."

[Dr. Akbar Karami]

There are religious groups and some individuals who want to remove Mr. Khatami with these methods. This is especially true since there are elections coming up, that are followed by presidential elections. It seems like Mr. Khatami will be the candidate for the reformists. As a result, right wing activists and fanatics are looking to get Mr. Khatami out of the race with these methods.

[Mahin Gorji]

On the other side, Nemat Ahmadi, an attorney and jurist, says: "Even though there is nothing written clearly about handshakes between men and women, this act is considered a crime in Iran."

[Nemat Ahmadi]

There is nothing clearly written in the law that would make shaking hands a crime. However, religion considers this act a violation of the law.

[Mahin Gorji]

According to Mr. Ahmadi, Iranian courts have announced charges against Mr. Khatami based on code Section 5 of the Islamic Penal Code.

[Nemat Ahmadi]

According to the Islamic Penal Code, especially Code Section 5, the crimes that take place outside the country are under the jurisdiction of the Iranian Courts. For that reason, you can see that Mr. Khatami was charged with a crime in relation to the complaint in the city of Mashhad and the current complaint by the religious students in Qom. Based on Code Section 5 of the Iranian Penal Code, any Iranian who commits any crimes outside the

boundaries of the country of Iran and then returns to Iran, will be punished according to the Iranian Penal Code.

[Mahin Gorji]

To the question of why there were no such reactions when Mr. Mashayeri, the head of the Ministry of Culture, was present at a dance recital in Turkey or when Mr. Ahmadinejad was present during the opening ceremonies of the Asian Games in Doha in December of 2006 and witnessed belly dancers and kissed the hand of his teacher on Teacher's Day, this attorney tells Radio Farda the following:

[Nemat Ahmadi]

In my opinion, this issue has more of a political weight than a legal weight. Since Mr. Khatami is welcomed inside the country and enjoys the kind of popularity outside the country which he would not lose by a simple religious violation, I believe this issue is a very political issue.

[Mahin Gorji]

Seyed Mohammad Khatami's office called the allegations of shaking hands with an Italian woman simply a made-up story and said he had not shaken hands with any woman during his trip.

[Fariba Mavedat]

Mahin Gorji was reporting about the complaints of a group of religious students at the Religious Study Center in the city of Qom against the former President of Iran for shaking hands with an Italian lady.

Today, Wednesday at noon, the Islamic Parliament passed legislation to extend the trial period for the implementation of the Islamic Penal Code, which was passed in 1370 of the calendar. Two points of this bill were approved generally by the Parliament yesterday and the details were discussed and approved by the representatives. According to this Parliament authorization, the temporary implementation of the laws of Islamic Penal Code will be extended for another year. We will hear a report by Fereydoon Zarnegar.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

The bill for extending the Islamic Penal Code, which was sponsored by the Judiciary Department, was approved by the cabinet by setting two priorities. After the termination of the period of validity of the Islamic Penal

Code on the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month of Mordad, there were some concerns expressed regarding the creation of a vacuum in the laws. Gholam-Hossein Elham, Minister of the Judiciary Branch for the Islamic Republic, mentioned on Tuesday that failure to extend the trial period of the Islamic Penal Code would create a legal vacuum. He emphasized that the Judiciary Branch would convey the legislation for the Islamic Penal Code to the Parliament in the next three months. At the same time, he emphasized that the Judiciary Branch did not necessarily have to present a new bill or alter the law. That is because the laws of the Islamic Penal Code cover only The Islamic Punishment [Hodoud] and Retaliation [Ghessas]; and as far as the Punishment not Specified in Sharia [Tazirat] is concerned, the law remains permanent.

Mohammad Hossein Aghassi, a jurist and attorney in Tehran, told Radio Farda the following in Tehran, about the importance of extending this law.

[Mohammad Hossein Aghassi]

The Islamic Penal Code consists of four sections: The Islamic Punishment [Hodoud], Blood Money [Diyaat], Retaliatory Punishment [Ghessas] and Punishment not Specified in Sharia [Tazirat]. Punishment not Specified in Shaira [Tazirat] in the government doesn't necessarily have anything to do with religious regulations [Sharia]. This is especially true for determining the severity of the punishment and these laws have been permanent and have not been experimental. However, as far as the other three sections are concerned, meaning Islamic Punishment, Blood Money, and Retaliatory Punishment, our laws had been implemented on an experimental basis for a period of five years and were extended for an additional five years.

These laws were renewed one year ago and it was clarified and emphasized that the Judiciary Branch would present its own bills. The main problem that is being discussed now at an international level and also in the community, is that a number of articles, especially regarding retaliatory punishment, and some other laws regarding the laws about Islamic Punishment [Hodoud] need to be significantly revised. For example, the issue of stoning, which judges are asking be stopped and which was implemented in [inaudible], is one of the issues in the law that needs to be revised. Section 219 talks about the killing of a human being by its guardian and the immunity that the guardian enjoys from prosecution. This law has to be revised and the Judiciary Branch and Mr. Shahrudi

have emphasized this issue. Of course, these revisions have to be approved by the Parliament and the Guardian Council.

[Fereydoon Zarnegar]

The Islamic Penal Code was approved on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Azar in the year 1370 [1991] by the “Expediency Discernment Council of the System” and was implemented for a trial period of five years. Following those five years, that law was renewed two more times on a temporary basis.

[Fariba Mavedat]

You heard a report by Fereydoon Zarnegar. We now come to the latest sports news and reports of the “Evening News Magazine” with Fereydoon Sheibani.

[Music]

[Fereydoon Sheibani]

The world of sports.

Mohammad Khalili, a member of the special management committee for Iranian soccer, told the official governmental news agency of the Islamic Republic that the International Soccer Federation had verbally given Iran a deadline of the end of the month of August, or the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month of Shahrivar, to convene a general meeting and choose the head of the Soccer Federation. Following the suspension of bereavement of the Iranian Soccer Federation by FIFA for the purpose of coming up with new articles of association, now their approved articles of association have been conveyed to a governmental delegation.

According to Gholam-Hossein Elham, Justice Minister and the spokesperson for the Islamic Republic, these articles of association have been sent to the cultural committee for a preliminary review. Even though these articles of association that are sent by FIFA cannot be altered by the Islamic Republic, the Ministry of Sports had asked for a speedy and formal approval of those articles. However, Safahi Farahani, the elected head of this committee by FIFA, had threatened to resign. His statements and the statements made by Khadidi regarding the danger of written warnings by FIFA and the danger of a new suspension make the issues in these articles of association [inaudible] from the point of view of the government. That is

especially true since Dr. Khadidi has stated that he hoped possible changes would be minor and the standards established by FIFA would be respected. If the framework of FIFA were not to be respected, there would be a serious challenge.

According to statements made today by the former deputy head of the Soccer Federation, Kiumars Hashemi and Hasan Reghbati, elected members of the Ministry of Sports in the special committee, will have a meeting with the officials of this organization today.

According to the Pars News Agency, there are only four athletic teams from a total of 18 different sports; men's Taekwondo completely, and the remaining teams partially, will go to the Univisiad games, the student Olympics in Bangkok, Thailand. However, there are a large number of staff members who are traveling with the athletes. During this trip, the technical assistant, deputy director, head of financial affairs, head of the communications department and even one of the employees of the Ministry of Sciences will travel along with the athletic director of Payam Nour Univeristy.

There will also be seven members of athletic committees of the main office to organize the Ministry of Sports and the Federation of Students. All of this is happening while the volleyball and soccer teams will miss this trip due to a lack of cooperation by the respective federations and the Ministry of Sciences. Considering all of these facts, the number of travelers accompanying the athletes exceeds the number of athletes going to these games.

According to the same news agency, in a meeting with Vaez Mousavi, a preacher and the cleric accompanying this delegation in Bangkok, Mehdi Talebpour, the head of the delegation, announced that moral and cultural issues are more important in these games than training champions.

According to the Iranian Students News Agency, Hossein Kashani, the head of the Persepolis club, had announced in a meeting of the board of directors last night that there had been a call for financial assistance to the Persepolis Sports Club from the Ministry of Sports. That is because in the last two months and during the time the new management had taken over their duties, Persepolis Sports Club had not received any assistance from

the Ministry of Sports. In the meantime, the Esteghlal Sports Club has received financial assistance from the Ministry.

[Fariba Mavedat]

You were listening to the "Evening News Magazine" with Radio Farda. At the conclusion of today's program, we will give you a summary of today's news.

- Nouri al-Maliki, Prime Minister of Iraq, went to Tehran.
- It has been said that Russia has said it would guarantee fuel for the nuclear reactor in Bushehr only if the Islamic Republic clarifies its nuclear goals.
- The government of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has asked the Islamic Parliament to increase the budget for gasoline imports.

We have reached the end of today's news, reports, and opinions of experts about the news of the day. I am Fariba Mavedat and I wish you a good night. Good-bye.

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