

## 1 December 2008-23 June 2009

### December 2008

Dec. 1: In a meeting with UN officials of the Vienna-based anti-drug office in Tehran, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki expressed concern over increase in production of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan. He also called for international support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's anti-drug campaign.

Dec. 1: Armenia officially completed the construction of a natural gas pipeline from neighboring Iran which could reduce its heavy dependence on Russian energy resources and significantly boost its electricity exports.

Dec. 2: Shanghai Cooperation Organization Secretary General Bolat Nurgaliyev traveled to Tehran to discuss ways to expand cooperation between Iran and the Shanghai block as well as the latest regional and

international developments. Nurgaliyev welcomed Iran's bid to deepen its relations with the SCO, saying Tehran and the SCO share similar stance toward international issues.

Dec. 3: The Islamic Republic plans to build two new 1000-megawatt units at the Bushehr nuclear power complex. The deputy director of the Iran Atomic Energy Organization, Ahmad Fayyaz Bakhsh, said that instead of completing the second unit at the Bushehr plant, Iranian authorities have decided to build two new reactors.

Dec. 4: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki harshly criticized the UAE for its recent anti-Iran claims and called on the emirates to disavow policies of "bankrupt" extremists in Washington and London.

Dec. 5: Secretary of Human Rights Headquarters of Iran's

judiciary Mohammad-Javad Larijani in a meeting with French Secretary of State for Human Rights Rama Yade in Paris expressed concern over human rights status in France and the wave of Islamophobia in Europe.

Dec. 6: In a joint press conference with his Ecuadorian counterpart Rafael Correa, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Iran is determined to establish comprehensive cooperation with Ecuador, despite the fact that the two countries still have no diplomatic relations.

Dec. 7: The First vice Speaker of Iran's parliament, Mohammad-Hassan Aboutorabi, called for an emergency session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to discuss Israel's crimes in Gaza. He also called on Egypt which currently holds the OIC presidency, to open the Rafah crossing and prepare the ground for the dispatch of aid to the people of Gaza.

Dec. 8: A board member of the non-profit organization of energy cooperation among

Islamic countries, Seyyed Mehdi Hossein said the organization will soon begin its work. The new organization is aimed at bringing Islamic states together for broader cooperation in the field of energy.

Dec. 9: French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Manouchehr Mottaki invited Mottaki to pay a visit to Paris to attend the meeting on Afghanistan which starts next week. Kouchner insisted that consultations between Iran and France are necessary to tackle the problems in Afghanistan.

Dec. 10: Addressing a UN Security Council meeting on threats posed by terrorist groups to international peace and security, Iran's Permanent Ambassador to the United Nations Mohammad Khazaei said that terrorism is the most important challenge facing the international community. He underlined the need for all out struggle against ominous phenomenon of terrorism by the international community with the UN key role.

Dec. 11: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki and Belarusian Prime Minister Sergey Sidorskiy agreed in a meeting in Minsk to establish a joint economic commission in order to expand relations.

Dec. 12: Addressing a ceremony to commemorate commanders, generals and 500 martyrs of Boein Zahra, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said that it is disgraceful for Muslim countries to cooperate with Israel while the Palestinians are under siege. Larijani referred to the presence of Arab leaders at a recent interfaith conference in New York in which Israeli President Shimon Peres and some pro-US Arab rulers were also present, and said, "Some Arab leaders attending the meeting held cordial talks with Zionist officials.

Dec. 13: In a meeting with Algerian Minister of Religious Affairs, Bouabdellah Ghlamallah, The leader's representative for Hajj affairs, Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri urged the Muslim world to help

prevent Israel from creating another human tragedy in Gaza and the West Bank. He also underscored the need for vigilance of Muslim nations against the enemy and its bid to sow discord among Islamic states.

Dec. 14: Iran criticized inaction of the United Nations and the Security Council in the face of Israel's brutalities against the Palestinians and called on the world body to adopt serious and immediate measures to stop Zionists' ongoing crimes against innocent people in Gaza. "A nation is gradually diminishing before the eyes of the International Community and efforts by the world nations to help the people in the Gaza strip are being resisted with the pressure and bullying of the Zionist authorities." Iran's permanent Ambassador to the United Nation Mohammad Khazaei said in his letters to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the President of the Security Council.

Dec. 15: During a joint press conference with Armenian Minister of energy and Natural Resources Armen Movsisyan in Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that the undiplomatic remarks of French President Nikolas Sarkozy were the main reason Iran did not attend the recent two-day conference on Afghanistan.

Dec. 16: On the occasion of Kazakhstan Independence Day, a special ceremony was held at the National Library in the presence of ambassadors based in Tehran and several cultural and political officials.

Dec. 17: Iranian deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs Mehdi Safari visited Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain Miguel Angel Moratinos in Madrid. Moratinos said that Madrid is willing to hold sincere, friendly and open talks with Tehran over major regional developments.

Dec. 18: Iranian deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs Mehdi Safari met with Croatian President Stepan

Mesic in Zagreb. During the meeting, Safari said unilateralism on the international scene is the main cause of Iranian non-confidence toward the West. "Given the existing capacities, the two countries can upgrade their relations," he said. Mesic, for his part, said Croatia is keen on developing ties with Iran.

Dec. 19: Speaking on the occasion of Eid al-Ghadir, Ayatollah Khamenei warned the Muslim community against plots to cause a sectarian rift among Sunnis and Shias. He said the enemy view Muslim unity and the growing interest of Muslim nations in the Islamic Revolution as a threat and therefore makes every effort to foment discord among Shias and Sunnis.

Dec. 20: Iran and ALBA member states held their first joint congress for the expansion of industrial and economic cooperation in Tehran.

Dec. 21: Visiting Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called for

unity among Asian states as the continent's immediate need.

Dec. 22: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told the visiting Togolese Foreign Minister Kofi Essaw that "the black days of the domination of the world powers are coming to an end." He also called on developing countries to build a united front to fight the spirit of expansionist policies of the imperial order in the world.

Dec. 23: In the third ministerial session of the Economic Cooperation Organization, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad offered major proposals for shifting from dollar to other currencies and strengthening of the organization. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also called on the member states to help strengthen ECO by promoting further bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the technological, scientific, technical and engineering projects.

Dec. 24: In a meeting with Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, Afghan Vice-President Abdul Karim Khalili said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a great and influential country in the region. He added that Kabul is interested in Iran's participation in all regional and international circles to help settle the existing problems and regional crises.

Dec. 25: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a message congratulated Pope Benedict XVI, leader of Catholics throughout the world and followers of Jesus Christ on Christmas.

Dec. 26: During a joint press conference with his visiting Bahraini counterpart Khalid bin Ahmad al-Khalifa; Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that ties between Iran and Persian Gulf's Arab littoral states entered a new phase despite enemies' conspiracies. Bilateral cooperation in fight against illicit drugs, organized crimes and terrorism as well as setting up a joint security

committee were main topics discussed.

Dec. 27: In a meeting with the Iraqi parliamentary delegation headed by Seyyed Mohammad Heidari, Ali Larijani said that the Iranian Majlis is ready to share its experiences with the Iraqi parliament.

Dec. 28: In a telephone conversation with academic and political activist Ramadan Abdullah, President Ahmadinejad denounced the recent Israeli onslaught against the people of Gaza. He also promised Gazans the support of his nation, saying Iran will stand by the oppressed people of Palestine.

Dec. 29: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the United Nations court specialized in war crimes to sue the Israeli leaders for their crimes against humanity in Gaza Strip.

Dec. 30: Pakistani Federal Minister of Petroleum and Natural Resources Asim Hussain met President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other leading Iranian officials in Tehran. The Iran-Pakistan-

India pipeline was on the top of the agenda of the talks. Iran and Pakistan will sign the IPI pipeline deal in February, if everything goes according to schedule and it will be completed in 2013 if the deal is signed in February, Mr. Hussain told.

Dec. 31: Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani warned Arab states that Israel is targeting all regional countries. Israel is hatching plots against Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia in the UN Security Council, Larijani said. The remarks by Larijani came as the Zionist army was relentlessly pounding the Gaza Strip for the fifth consecutive day.

### **January 2009**

Jan. 1: Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Alaeddin Boroujerdi conveyed the message of the Iranian lawmakers to Knut Ostby, the new UN Resident Coordinator in Iran. In their message, the Iranian parliamentarians stated that the Israeli military attack on the Gaza Strip, which has killed over 380 Palestinians

and injured about 1,800 others, is a clear act of genocide.

Jan. 2: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki criticized Arab governments' inaction on the Gaza crisis and called on Islamic states to team up to pressure Israel to stop air strikes on Gaza, open all border crossings and allow humanitarian aid into the besieged territory.

Jan. 3: Iran's Supreme national Security Council secretary Saeed Jalili visited Damascus and held talks with Syrian President Bashar al- Assad. They discussed "ways Islamic countries can force Israel to immediately stop the massacres against the Palestinian people, end the Gaza blockade and open the crossing points."

Jan. 4: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad made the remarks in a meeting with Ahmad Khalifa Niaz, the special envoy of the Senegalese President whose country chairs OIC presidency. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said

that current developments in Gaza are rooted in the past 60 years of occupation and "Our Islamic and humanitarian responsibilities" urge us to support the Palestinians in defining their legitimate rights. The Senegalese envoy for his part, submitted the written message from his country's president. He also added that his country as the OIC presidency agrees with Iran's stands on Gaza and try to find an effective strategy to put an end to Israeli crimes in Gaza.

Jan. 5: Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi has announced that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has sent 22 members of his cabinet as special envoys to different countries to seek an "immediate halt" to the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip and ending the "siege" on the coastal strip.

Jan. 6: Expediency Council chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has said that the Gaza tragedy is "unprecedented in the

history". "The events that are happening in Gaza are a catastrophe which is unprecedented in the history," Rafsanjani told.

Jan. 7: Secretary of Iran's Supreme national Security Council Saeed Jalili discussed the Gaza crisis with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Recep Erdogan and Turkish President Abdullah Gul in Ankara. Jalili urged Muslim states to take effective measures by using their potentials to halt Israel's "savagely attacks" against the Palestinians.

Jan. 8: The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warned Arab countries near the occupied territories about the "dangerous consequences" of not helping the Gaza people caught up in Israel's senseless gunfire. The Leader warned that if Israel succeeds to break up the resistances of Palestinian people it would turn against other countries in the Middle East region.

Jan. 9: Iran's Parliament Speaker, Ali Larijani, held talks with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Hamas political

bureau chief Khaled Meshaal in Damascus and discussed the ongoing crisis in Gaza Strip.

Jan. 10: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad strongly condemned the performance of The United Nations in dealing with the horrific crimes of the Zionists in Gaza and called for a fundamental change in the United Nations Security Council.

Jan. 11: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called on China to step up its efforts for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1860 which calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

Jan. 12: The Iranian Foreign Minister announced that Tehran will surely respond in an "appropriate" way to any change in new U.S. administration's behavior toward the country.

Jan. 13: Iran's judiciary chief, ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi, calls for the UN's mediation to stop the ongoing genocide in the Gaza Strip. "The brutal acts of the usurping regime against the

oppressed people in Gaza and Hamas are clear samples of genocide which is an international crime", Shahrودي said in a letter to the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon.

Jan. 13: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei issued a fatwa stating that Muslims should boycott Israeli goods.

Jan. 14: Ali Larijani who went to Turkey at the head of a political and parliamentary delegation to attend an extraordinary session of executive committee of the Islamic Interparliamentary Union on Gaza crisis, called for further support of the Turkish government for the defenseless Palestinian nation.

Jan. 15: In a meeting with visiting Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that the worst tragedy is taking place in Gaza because the Israeli rulers are in panic and continue to slaughter of innocent Palestinians. Wade

for his part, supported Iran's position on Palestine and said, Senegal as the rotating chair of the Organization of Islamic Conference is cooperating with all OIC members on resolving the Gaza crisis.

Jan. 16: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Israeli leaders must be brought before an international tribunal for crimes against Palestinians. Ahmadinejad made the call in an address to an emergency summit of regional leaders in Doha aimed at discussing the Gaza crisis. He also appealed for "punishing the criminal leaders of the Zionist entity" for the 21-day-old Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Jan. 17: Russia plans to develop friendly relations with Iran, President Dmitry Medvedev said. "We strongly urge the problem around the Iranian nuclear program be resolved solely with political diplomatic methods", Medvedev said at a ceremony of receiving the credentials from foreign

ambassadors which was also attended by Iran's new ambassador in Moscow.

Jan. 18: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced that the unilateral ceasefire declared by the Zionist regime signified its defeat in the face of "heroic resistance" shown by the Gaza people.

Jan. 19: Iran has broken up a CIA-backed network that sought to carry out a "soft revolution" in Iran through people-to-people contacts. The "soft revolution" plan is based in Dubai and is similar to a U.S. plan that targeted the Soviet Union in 1959, the director of the counterespionage department of the Intelligence Ministry told reporters at a press conference.

Jan. 20: Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Saeed Jalili in a meeting with Iraqi national security advisor Muwafaq al-Rubaei in Tehran said that cooperation is necessary to improve the regional security system which is a common concern.

Jan. 21: Iran reportedly will chair the executive board of the UN Development Program and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in 2009. The Iranian envoy to the United Nations, Mahmoud Khaza'i, was selected as a candidate for the portfolio due to his experience in development affairs on international levels. Despite efforts by the U.S., France and Britain to hamper Iran's appointment to the post, members of the developed and developing countries of the UNDP and UNFPA voted for Iran.

Jan. 22: In a meeting with Iraq's National Security Advisor Muwafaq al-Rubaei in Tehran, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad noted that a powerful Iraq will enable the Iraqi people to fulfill their humanitarian and Islamic duties in the region. He hoped that Iraq would soon emerge as a progressive country, saying Iran will strongly support the neighboring country.

Jan. 23: Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone visiting Iran's presidential aide Mojtaba Hashemi Samareh in

Tokyo said that Japan wants to consolidate ties with Iran as a big and important country in the Middle East. On Iran's nuclear issue, Nakasone said all countries, including Iran, are entitled to peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Jan. 24: Iran welcomed moves by the new U.S. President Barack Obama to pull American troops out of Iraq and insisted that Tehran would not meddle in Elections in Iraq.

Jan. 25: Iran calls on the UN to take legal action against Israel after its soldiers admitted to the illegal use of white phosphorous in Gaza. The Iranian ambassador to the UN, Mohammad Khazaee called on the UN to address international concern over possible war crimes committed by Tel Aviv in its recent military operations in Gaza.

Jan. 26: The Iranian government cabinet approved a bill to launch investigations into alleged war crimes and prosecute war criminals in any part of the world. The bill will

be sent to the Majlis for ratification. The approval followed the Zionist regime's crimes against humanity especially in its 22-day insane war on Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

Jan. 27: An Egyptian diplomat in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to hear Tehran's protest to Cairo for stopping Iranian relief aid ship to Gaza. Tehran also protested violation of international law by Israeli warships barring Iranian cargo ship from approaching Gaza waters.

Jan. 28: President Barack Obama said that America was prepared to extend a hand of peace to Iran. Choosing an Arab television station to broadcast his first formal TV interview as president, Obama also sought to heal U.S. ties with the Arab and Muslim world, telling them "Americans are not your enemy."

Jan. 29: Five Mps from the Iranian-British parliamentary group, led by Hossein Nejabat, arrived in the UK for a five day

visit on Tuesday of the invitation of their counterparts in the House of Commons. The delegation held talk with British Foreign Office minister Bill Rammell on expansion in bilateral as well as major international and regional developments.

Jan. 30: Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani announced that Tehran expects the new U.S. administration to take a "fair and wise" approach toward Iran in regard to its nuclear program.

### **February 2009**

Feb. 1: Hamas political bureau chief Khaled Meshal met with Iranian supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and briefed him about the victory of the resistance movement against the Zionist regime during the 22-day war on the Gaza Strip and the war's aftermath. The Leader again congratulated the resistance movement on their victory and said, "The people of Gaza and the Islamic resistance made us all proud, and through their patience and resistance they successfully

passed this great and extremely difficult test."

Feb. 2: Iran has successfully launched its first domestically produced satellite into orbit. The satellite which is called Omid, intended for telecommunications and research activities, soon reached its orbit and made contact with ground stations.

Feb. 3: Head of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammad ElBaradei said the world should not hype the issue of Iran's nuclear enrichment. In an interview with CNN ElBaradei ruled out the contention that Iranian nuclear activities pose an immediate threat to stability.

Feb. 4: in a meeting with Pakistan's new ambassador to Tehran, M.B. Abbasi Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani suggested that if the U.S. and NATO intend to adopt a "correct policy" in the region, they should understand that cooperation with Iran and Pakistan is the main "pivot" for resolving regional issues.

Feb. 5: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in separate meetings received credential of So se Pyong and Ahmed Hassan, the new North Korean and Ghanaian ambassadors to Tehran respectively. In his meeting with North Korean ambassador, Ahmadinejad described Tehran-Pyongyang relations as strong and amicable, saying that both countries seek to defend peace and justice in the world. Also, Ahmadinejad told new Ghanaian ambassador to Tehran, that an expansion of relations between Iran and Ghana will benefit both countries. He said Iran is ready to promote ties and share its experiences with Ghana in all areas.

Feb. 6: Meeting with ElBaradei on the sidelines of the 45<sup>th</sup> Munich Security Conference, Ali Larijani made clear that bilateral cooperation would proceed based on earlier agreed modalities. ElBaradei expressed hope that a political dialogue could ultimately

settle the Iranian unclear standoff.

Feb. 7: The United States is prepared to hold talks with Iran, but will continue to block Iran from attaining sensitive nuclear technology, US Vice President Joe Biden told the Munich Security Conference. He also warned that the United States will not tolerate an Iran with nuclear technology.

Feb. 8: Iranian Majlis speaker Ali Larijani held separate meetings with the foreign ministers of France, Germany, and Britain and the European Union foreign policy chief on the sidelines of the Munich Conference on Security Policy. Iran's nuclear program, the Middle East crisis, including the Gaza war, cooperation on Afghanistan, and removal of the Mojahedin Khalq organization from European Union's terrorist list were some of the issues discussed.

Feb. 9: Iran's cabinet gave the green light for the signing of a free trade agreement between Iran and the Persian Gulf

Cooperation Council. The deal will greatly promote Iran's trade with the six PGCC countries (Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, and Bahrain).

Feb. 10: In a meeting with foreign ambassadors, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad chastised global power for their failure to administer justice in certain parts of the world. The Iranian president criticized the UN Security Council for being persuaded by hegemonic lobbyists, saying it has led to the UN body's inefficiency in maintaining international peace and security.

Feb. 11: Iraqi President Jalal Talebani in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called for the development of "strategic ties" between Iran and Iraq. Mottaki for his part expressed satisfaction over the current level of ties between Iran and Iraq, saying the Islamic Republic of Iran is intent on the expansion of its ties with Iraq.

Feb. 12: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki speaking

in Iraq, called for the release of Iranians held in Iraq by the US military. The call came amid signs Tehran was warning to the administration of President Barrack Obama.

Feb. 13: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in a meeting with the Iraqi's top Shiite religious authority, Ayatollah Ali Sistani said thanks to the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 the world wants to become more familiar with the teachings of genuine Islam. He also emphasized that the stranglehold of the big powers on scientific and modern technology has been effectively broken. Sistani for his part underlined the need for fulfillment of the divine objectives of the Islamic Revolution.

Feb. 14: Tehran and Ashgabat will take "firm steps" to increase ties, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in a meeting with Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berbymukhammedov. The statement came as Iranian Oil Minister Gholamhossein Nozari and Turkmen Deputy

Prime Minister Tachberdy Tagiyev signed an agreement on gas cooperation. Ahmadinejad said the two neighbors have always “stood by one another” and have a very strong will to expand bilateral relations.

Feb. 15: President Obama’s top envoy to Afghanistan, Richard C. Holbrooke declared that Iran should play a vital role helping stabilize the war-torn country. New York Times reported that it was the latest statement by Obama officials signaling a clear shift away from the Bush administration’s policy of avoiding direct engagement with Tehran.

Feb. 16: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki called for expansion of cooperation between Iran and the republic of Congo. Mottaki made the remarks at a joint press conference with his Congolese counterpart Basile Ikouebe. Referring to Iran’s policy of expanding cooperation with African countries, Mottaki said Tehran is ready to broaden all-

out economic cooperation with Congo.

Feb. 17: Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency while addressing a seminar at the Cairo American University said that although Iran enjoys high potentials and capability in the nuclear technology arena, it has not produced atomic bomb.

Feb. 18: Deputy foreign minister for education and research, Ali Ahani, in a meeting with a group of ambassadors and charge d’affaires from Asian countries and heads of think-tanks of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) said regional countries should improve cooperation to overcome the major challenges visiting the region. He noted that Iran considers energy as prerequisite for sustainable development and hence it emphasizes the security of the pipelines. The Asian diplomats emphasized the need for meaningful dialogue at both the regional and international

level to identify and address regional challenges.

Feb. 19: Foreign ministers of Iran and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum of understanding in Baku at their seventh joint economic commission. The 114-article deal stipulates the ways for the promotion of ties in the fields of trade, transportation, urban development, gas and oil, petrochemicals, agriculture, industry, banking, environment, tourism, health, and education.

Feb. 20: Iranian First Vice President Parviz Davoudi in a meeting with Afghan President Hamid Karzai described foreign countries' military presence in Afghanistan as harmful for the nation. On Iran and Afghanistan relation, he said his trip is in line with improving bilateral ties between the two Muslim nations.

Feb. 21: Iran and Afghanistan issued a joint statement stressing a boost in bilateral economic, political, scientific, cultural and educational cooperation. In the joint statement, Tehran and Kabul

reached agreement on 17 cases based on the United Nations charter and their neighborly relations.

Feb. 22: Iran's ambassador to Germany, Ali Reza Sheikh-Attar gave word of a new chapter in Tehran-Berlin ties. Referring to the negotiations in Tehran with former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, he said, "Schroeder has underlined that Europe needs gas to the extent that the presence of another important partner like Iran is gas relations is crucial for ensuring Europe's energy security and is no nuisance to Russia." He also added that Iran can engage in joint ventures with Germany in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa and Latin America.

Feb. 23: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki was invited to attend a conference on Afghanistan on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit in Italy in June. The invitation followed Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini's telephone conversation with Mottaki.

Feb. 24: Hamas political chief Khaled Meshaal thanked Iran's help to Palestinians during the Zionist regime's ruthless war on Gaza and asked Iranian students to join the Palestinian resistance movement in helping to liberate Al-Quds. "God willing we will liberate Al-Quds (Jerusalem) together and pray together there," he told students at Tehran University.

Feb. 25: Iran's first nuclear power plant started its pilot stage operation. The 1000-MW power plant, which is built with the help of Russia, is situated in the southern province of Bushehr. Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Director Reza Aqazadeh and Rosatom State Atomic Corporation of Russia Director Sergey Kiriyyenko were present at the ceremony to start the trial run of the power plant.

Feb. 26: European powers are considering imposing new sanctions on individuals and institutions linked to Iran's nuclear program, diplomats in

several capitals said. Also according to a report in the Financial Times, Britain, France and Germany have drawn up a list of 34 Iranian entities and 10 people they would like to see punished for helping in Tehran's enrichment of nuclear fuel. Again according to the Financial Times, EU members Greece, Cyprus, Spain, Austria and Sweden are opposed to Europe taking new measures against Tehran.

Feb. 27: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told his visiting Iraqi counterpart Jalal Talabani and his accompanying delegation, that Tehran faces no limitations for expanding cooperation with Baghdad. Ahmadinejad underscored that under the global conditions it is an exigency to expand regional cooperation in key areas, in particular the economic sector. The two presidents also underlined the need for all-out progress in Tehran-Baghdad cooperation.

Feb. 28: Iran has invited Italy to discuss the worsening security situation of Afghanistan to find

ways and help stabilize the war-shattered country. This is while Foreign Minister Franco Frattini expressed openness to inviting Iran to a June conference on Afghanistan hosted by Italy, which holds the Group of Eight presidency.

Feb. 29: Iran has expressed readiness to expand tourism and energy cooperation with Mexico. Alireza Salari, Iran's deputy foreign minister for the Americas said that the Iranian delegation visiting Mexico is to study possibilities for trade and tourism with the Latin American nation.

Feb. 30: Pakistani's interior minister and senior security advisor to the prime minister, Rehman Malik arrived in Tehran to address mounting concerns over the rising terrorist activities at the Iran-Pakistan border. Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki meeting Rehman Malik said Iran's cordial ties with Pakistan stem from the firm will of the leaders of the two countries and is compatible with the interests of both nations. Malik, for his part, briefed Mottaki on

Islamabad's moves for fighting terrorism and radicalism.

### March 2009

March 1: Iranian Chief Prosecutor Ayatollah Qorban-Ali Dori-Najafabadi charged 29 senior Zionist officials with committing war crimes during the 22-day offensive on the Gaza Strip. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Defense Minister Ehud Barak, Mossad Chief Meir Dagan, Chief of the General Staff of the IDF Gabi Ashkenazi, and Attorney General Menachem Mazuz were the highest ranking Israeli officials charged with war crimes.

March 2: In a meeting in Tehran, Iranian Oil Minister Gholamhossein Nozari and Russian Energy Minister Sergey Ivanovich Shmatko agreed to establish a joint energy committee. The two countries have holding negotiations on proposals for natural gas swaps, construction of a refinery in the Caspian Sea region and the Neka-jask pipeline, as well as exploration and development of oilfields.

March 3: Talking in the One-day conference of international law experts to explore the scope the crimes committed by Israeli leaders in Gaza, Iran's prosecutor General Ghorbanali Dorri Najafabadi, urged The Hague-based international tribunals to inquire into war crimes Israeli rulers have perpetrated in the Gaza Strip.

March 4: In an inaugural address to the international conference on Palestine in Tehran, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said, "Break the spell of impunity for the Zionist criminals... and bring to trial the political and military heads of the usurper regime." As a democratic and viable solution to the decades-long Palestinian conflict, the Leader also suggested that "all those who have a legitimate stake in the territory of Palestine, including Muslims, Christians, and Jews, should choose their own system of government in a general referendum."

March 5: United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that US President Barack Obama's administration in its first public overture to Tehran intends to invite Iran to an international conference on Afghanistan planned for this month.

March 6: Morocco cut off diplomatic relations with Iran claiming that Tehran is trying to spread Islam in this Sunni Arab kingdom. Iranian Foreign Ministry called this decision a "strange action" which does not serve the Muslim world's interests.

March 7: UN General assembly Chief Miguel d'Escoto Brockman said in a joint press conference with Manouchehr Mottaki in Tehran that former U.S. president George Bush should be put on trial for the wars he unleashed in Iraq and Afghanistan which led to the death of a million people.

March 8: Iran says it is ready to host tourists who wish to visit its nuclear power plant in

Bushehr during the Persian New Year holidays.

March 9: The 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of foreign ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization ended in Tehran with three memorandums of understanding on the expansion of multilateral relations being signed. MOUs on the drafting of a charter for the ECO Regional Institute for Standardization, Conformity assessment, Accreditation and metrology, the formulation of a protocol to streamline trade between ECO members, and Islamic Development Bank financial grants to ECO member states were signed.

March 10: In a meeting with Azeri president Ilham Aliyev in Tehran, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said that serious measure must be taken to counter the efforts of the United States and Israel to undermine the close relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

March 11: Economic Cooperation Organization member states restated their

commitment to establish a free area by the year 2015 in the final statement of the 10<sup>th</sup> ECO summit, which was issued in Tehran. Leaders of the ten member economic bloc also welcomed the suggestion to set up an ECO trade and development bank, which would be a turning point for the facilitation of trade in the region.

March 12: A number of Iranian cultural heritage institutions have asked the Foreign Ministry to pursue the artifact robbery from Persepolis by a South Korean diplomat. The appeal was made in a statement issued by the Union for Scientific Associations of Archaeology Students, the National Coalition of Isfahan Cultural Heritage Enthusiasts, and the Iranian Cultural and Natural Heritage Watch. A stone fragment of a bas-relief from Persepolis was discovered in the possession of the South Korean Embassy's third secretary at Shiraz Airport on February 14, but no report was published about the case until last week due to his diplomatic immunity.

March 13: In a joint press conference with his Armenian counterpart Edward Nalbandyan in Yerevan, Iranian foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that Tehran is ready to mediate between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan over settling the conflict over Nagorno karabakh issue.

March 14: Iran and China signed a 2.6 billion euro gas deal for the annual production of 10.5 million tons of liquefied natural gas in the South Pars gas field. The deal was signed in Tehran by the Iran LNG Company and a Chinese-led consortium.

March 15: Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholamhossein Nozari and Russian Energy Minister Sergey Ivanovich Shmatko signed a memorandum of understanding to boost energy cooperation. According to the MOU, the sides will promote cooperation on the exploration and development of oil and gas fields. Setting up a joint company to work on energy

projects in Iran, Russia and other countries was also included in the MOU.

March 16: In a meeting with Iranian foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in Riyadh, King Abdullah said that he greatly respects the Iranian government and nation and stressed the need to increase bilateral cooperation. Mottaki said a new movement is needed to strengthen ties. He added regional and international developments necessitate more consultations between the two countries' officials.

March 17: The charge d'affaires of the Czech Republic, whose country holds rotating presidency of EU, was summoned by Iran's Foreign Ministry. At a meeting held in Tehran, the foreign minister's deputy director general for human rights and women's affairs voiced Iran's strong protest against EU's double standards on terrorism.

March 21: The Supreme Leader declared that the Obama

administration should take concrete steps to prove that Washington's behavior toward Tehran is changing "in practice", saying that Iran will respond in kind to U.S. policy shift.

#### **April 2009**

April 3: Iran and Venezuela officially launched their first joint bank in Tehran. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Venezuelan counterpart Hugo Chavez attended the inaugural ceremony. The move took place during Chavez's trip to Iran as part of the agreement signed between the two countries in March 2007.

April 4: Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez met the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The Leader praised the courageous stance of Chavez during the Gaza war.

April 5: In a meeting with Iran's Minister of Road and Transportation, Hamid Behbahani who is visiting Armenia at the invitation of the country's Minister of Energy Armen Movsisyan, Armenian president Serzh Serksyan said

that Iran is Armenia's true friend and the two countries enjoy good political relations.

April 6: Iran sent a message of sympathy and an offer of aid to Italy for an earthquake that killed over 150 people in the center of the country. In his message to his Italian counterpart Franco Frattini, Iran's Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki expressed the Iranian nation's sympathy with the Italy and offered his country's condolences to the Italian people, government and families of the victims.

April 7: On the second day of the President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's visit to Kazakhstan, Iran and Kazakhstan signed five cooperation agreements in different fields. An agreement on setting up a joint tanker company and a deal on health, sports, and tourism were among documents signed between the two countries.

April 8: Belarusian ambassador to Tehran submitted a message from his boss Sergey Martynov to Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki in a

meeting in Tehran. Also during the meeting, Mottaki discussed bilateral cooperation and expressed satisfaction over improving ties between the two countries.

April 9: With the inauguration of the nuclear Fuel Manufacturing Plant in Isfahan, which produces uranium pellets and rods used in reactors, Iran has now mastered all stages of the uranium enrichment process and completed construction of all facilities necessary for this work. The inauguration of the plant came on Iran's National Nuclear Day.

April 10: Officials of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan, resolved to make joint efforts to fight terrorism, extremism and other trans-regional crimes through increased cooperation. The officials met in Islamabad to consider preparations of an Afghanistan-Iran-Pakistan trilateral summit in Tehran next month, which will aim at foreign mutual understanding on key issues threatening regional peace and stability.

April 11: In the meeting of foreign policy and defensive council of Russia, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that the Islamic Republic of Iran can play a prominent role in resolving regional issues in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as other parts of the Middle East region.

April 12: Addressing an open session of the Parliament, Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said that the legislative body would check on the country's next nuclear talks between Tehran and P5+1.

April 13: Saeed Jalili, a top official with the Supreme National Security Council of Iran, told EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in a telephone call that Tehran is willing to discuss with a group of six world powers over its nuclear programs, a move that could help resolve the deadlock over Tehran's atomic push.

April 14: Iran and Armenia discussed avenues for developing ties especially in

the energy and transport sectors after Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking economic and political delegation. Bilateral relations should be expanded in different fields including trade, energy, and transportation. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told in a joint meeting of senior delegation from Iran and Armenia held in presidential office.

April 15: Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that Tehran will offer a new package to world powers for negotiations aimed at resolving the country's nuclear energy issue.

April 16: In a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker, Ali Larijani, Former Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan described Iran's Islamic Revolution as the most important phenomenon and reality in the contemporary era, and said the Islamic Republic has played a crucial role in strengthening unity and solidarity among Muslims.

April 17: At a conference of aid donors to Pakistan in Tokyo, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said: "Iran is drawing up a plan to create regional stability." Mottaki also thanked Japan for hosting the conference, saying the meeting of Pakistan's allies is not only a major step to help the country at a sensitive time in its history but also a good measure to help prevent the spread of a crisis whose dimensions are still unknown.

April 18: Iranian First Vice President Parviz Davoudi stated in the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2009 in Hainan, southern China, that the expansion of economic relations between Asian countries and moving towards the establishment of a single Asian currency can greatly reinforce the status of Asia in the world.

April 19: A delegation comprising Iranian nuclear officials and experts arrived in Beijing to attend an international conference on "Energy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The Iranian team composed of

deputy director for Planning and International Affairs at Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Mohammad Saeedi, AEIO's deputy director for power plants Ahmad Fayyaz Bakhsh and Iran's Ambassador to IAEA Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh arrived in Beijing.

April 20: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad received an ovation at the UN conference on racism in Geneva after proposing that the veto power of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council should be immediately abolished. Ahmadinejad also suggested that the global financial system should be transformed.

April 21: At the international conference of Islamic prosecutors, which opened in Tehran, Iranian Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi proposed that an international Islamic tribunal should be established for trying cases of serious crimes committed against Muslims or Islamic states. Over 200 legal

experts from Islamic states attended the conference.

April 22: In a statement, Iran officially announced it welcomes "constructive and fair" talks on its nuclear program with the 5+1 group. It said Iran will continue its nuclear activities in "active collaboration" with the international Atomic Energy Agency "within the framework of the NPT like other members." The statement was Tehran's response to the United States, Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain which on April 8 said they would ask European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana to invite Iran to a new round of talks over the country's nuclear issue.

April 23: Iran's Supreme National Security Council chief spoke on phone with European Union's top diplomat Javier Solana after Tehran released a statement announcing it was ready to hold "constructive and fair" talks with major powers. Solana said Tehran's statement "contains

constructive items and a new opportunity for advancement of talks.”

April 24: In a sermon at Friday prayers in Tehran, Expediency Council Chairman Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani urged U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to refrain from using the antagonistic language that was the trademark of George W. Bush administration. During an address to the U.S. Congress earlier this week, Clinton had said, “WE are more than willing to reach out to the Iranians to discuss a range of issues. However if diplomacy fails, we are also laying the groundwork for the kind of very tough sanctions that might be necessary in the event that our offers are either rejected or the process is inconclusive or unsuccessful.”

April 25: Supreme Leader Ayatollah eyed Ali Khamenei blamed U.S. security and military forces in Iraq for the recent suicide attacks against Shia pilgrims and offered condolences to the victims’ families.

April 26: Washington Friday prayer leader Feisal Rauf met

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki. Rauf pointed out that the Muslims throughout the globe are interested in the Islamic Republic of Iran because of its policies that are based on Islamic thought.

April 27: Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad received credentials from new ambassadors to Tehran. The new ambassadors from India, South Africa, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Saint Vincent and Grenadines submitted their credentials to Ahmadinejad in separate meetings.

April 28: Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of Saint Vincent and Grenadines, met President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Referring to Iran’s strategic location in the region, Gonsalves called for an expansion in ties that benefit both nations.

April 29: In discussions with Austrian officials and intellectuals in Vienna, Syrian President Basher al-Assad called for the probe into Iranian nuclear activities to be confined to the pertinent UN

body. The Syrian President also called on the Un Security Council to send Iran's nuclear case back to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has a more technical outlook.

April 30: In response to a U.S. annual report accusing Iran of sponsoring terrorism, Tehran questioned Washington's jurisdiction in passing judgment on other countries. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, who was in Cuba to attend a Non-aligned movement meeting, responded to the allegations at a press conference.

### May 2009

May 1: Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton charged that China and Iran have made "quite disturbing" gains in Latin America, the result of Bush administration efforts to isolate its adversaries in the hemisphere.

May 2: Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone and Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki issued a joint statement in Tehran

announcing that the two countries have agreed to work together in the international efforts for the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

May 3: President Hugo Chavez met with a delegation from Iran to prepare for an upcoming visit from President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, an alliance that has provoked concern in Washington.

May 4: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that Iran has not formulated ant strategy for a "permanent enmity" with Washington. Iran monitors U.S. actions, and if it changes its conduct Tehran will consider it, he told a gathering of university students in Tehran.

May 5: In a meeting with the new UAE ambassador to Iran, Khalifa Shaheen al-Merri, Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that regional cooperation in Persian Gulf is a necessity. Mottaki added that Iran welcomes the

expansion of ties with the United Arab Emirates.

May 6: Addressing a joint news conference with Jordan's King Abdullah, German Chancellor Angela Merkel reaffirmed support for an active diplomacy with Iran aimed at setting the row over Tehran's nuclear program. The German leader welcomed the U.S. readiness to hold direct talk with Iran, saying Berlin and Washington were in "close contact" over the issue.

May 7: Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said that Iran-Russia military and technical cooperation are in accordance with the international and Russian regulations. "All our actions in the sphere of military technical cooperation with Iran are absolutely legal," Lavrov made the remark answering the questions of an audience of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

May 8: Iranian delegation participating in the third meeting of the preliminary committee of the 2010 NPT Review Conference in a statement strongly criticized

the failure of nuclear countries to fulfill their commitments envisaged by the NPT in past four decades. Iran also called for instant and unconditional beginning of Non-Proliferation Treaty discussions.

May 9: First Vice President Parviz Davoudi arrived in Johannesburg, South Africa to attend the swearing-in ceremony for the president-elect of that country in Pretoria.

May 10: During a conference on Iran-China economic cooperation in Tehran, that hosted some 500 Iranian and Chinese officials and businessmen, Iranian and Chinese private sectors signed dozens of agreements to increase their cooperation in various economic fields.

May 11: Foreign Ministry spokesman Hassan Qashqavi rejected allegations that the U.S. had sent a letter to Iran and set a three-month deadline for talks with Tehran. Talking to reporters during weekly press briefing, he also denied claims of a Zionist publication saying Tehran and Washington

would negotiate in October 2009.

May 12: In a meeting with Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Radion Popov, Deputy Foreign Minister European Affairs Mehdi Safari expressed Iran's readiness to transfer gas to Europe. Safari called on Iranian and Bulgarian officials to make use of the two countries' potentials to enhance trade exchanges. The Bulgarian official, for his part, voiced his country's willingness to boost relations with Iran in different areas and called for bolstering of cooperation in oil and gas fields.

May 13: During a meeting with Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said in Muscat, Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said that Iran's military might is an asset for Islamic countries. He also noted that the United States and European countries have finally understood that military intervention cannot resolve any of the problems in the Middle East.

May 14: Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi met in Tehran and called for more cooperation among Islamic countries to deal with regional issues.

May 15: In a meeting with the caretaker of Iran's Embassy in Italy over 100 Italian industrialists, bankers, and managers of big firms called for expansion of trade ties with Iran.

May 16: In a meeting in Tehran, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Ugandan counterpart, Yoweri Museveni discussed ways to promote cooperation between the two countries at the bilateral and regional levels.

May 17: During a meeting on the Middle East peace process in Shuneh Jordan, Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa stated that Arab countries do not have any problem with Iran and efforts to reach a compromise with Israel have not produced any positive result. "The main problem and

major threat to the region and Arabs is Israel's nuclear activity" he added.

May 18: Addressing a gathering on "Palestine and Responsibilities of Nations", Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said that under no circumstances will Iran recognize the Zionist regime, adding the Islamic Republic believes that any country doing so would lose its dignity among world nations.

May 19: Iran's president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been invited to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit to be held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, by his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev.

May 20: Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met with his Iranian counterpart, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and Iranian commerce officials in Tehran to hold bilateral talks on economic cooperation. Both sides agreed to consider provisions for the construction of an oil refinery in Uganda as well as measures that allow Ugandan petroleum officials to train at the Petroleum

University of Technology in Iran. Tehran said it would consider fuel supplies to power a thermal energy facility in Uganda as part of a broader trade package that includes provisions in the mining and agricultural sectors.

May 21: Iran has test-fired a new "long-range" surface to surface missile which is a multi-stage missile. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called it good news for the country's space program.

May 22: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said that Italy will soon send a special envoy to Tehran to examine ways and means of Iran's contribution to Afghanistan security.

May 23: Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Muallem urged certain Arab countries not to be deceived by Zionist media hype which tries to spread Iranophobia in the Middle East.

May 24: The presidents of Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan held a summit meeting in Tehran to discuss ways to fight extremism and terrorism, drug

smuggling and trafficking, and other regional security problems as well as the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Iran and Pakistan also signed an important gas pipeline deal.

May 25: Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei expressed his strong support for the trilateral agreements reached between Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

May 26: Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced that Iran and Gabon have signed four agreements. According to these agreements, both countries will reopen their embassies, allow visa-free travel for their political officials, increase periodical talks between their foreign ministers, and establish a joint economic committee.

May 27: During a ceremony held on the occasion of Africa's National Day attended by ambassadors of African countries to Iran as well as the Kenyan Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Gabon, the

Iranian Foreign Minister voiced the Islamic republic's readiness to help develop the African continent.

May 28: In a meeting with Sri Lankan Minister of Tourism Asoka Milinda Moragoda, Head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, Esfandiar Rahim Mashaei called for establishment of Iran-Sri Lanka joint tourism foundation.

May 29: Iran plans to drill an exploratory well in the Caspian Sea as the preliminary step for the construction of the Iran-Arab semisubmersible drilling rig. Proven reserves in the Caspian Sea are estimated to be 15-29 billion barrels of oil; and an additional 100 billion barrels may exist.

May 30: Iranian First Vice President Parviz Davoudi and new South African Ambassador Ebrahim M. Saley agreed that the two countries should expand their relations during a meeting in Tehran. Ambassador Saley said the two

countries should expand their ties since Tehran-Pretoria relations are unsatisfactory despite the current level of cooperation.

### June 2008

June 1: The central Intelligence Agency has launched a new program to recruit staff fluent in Farsi, Arabic and Urdu, as part of its fight against "America's enemies." The three languages, widely spoken in the Middle East, Pakistan and Afghanistan, will enable the agency to continue gathering intelligence against its adversaries in the area.

June 2: In a meeting with Sanjay Singh, the new Indian Ambassador to Tehran, The Expediency Council Chairman, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani suggested that Iran and India should join hands in the campaign against terrorism in the region.

June 3: Iran and China signed a \$5billion deal to develop upstream phase 11 of South Pars gas field in Beijing. Due to the negligence of French Oil Major Total and its repeated delays, the Iranian side

decided to sign the deal with the Chinese company CNPC.

June 4: In a keynote speech to the Muslim world in Cairo, U.S. President Barrack Obama made a major gesture of conciliation to Iran when he admitted U.S. involvement in the 1953 coup which overthrew the government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh. "In the middle of the Cold War, the United States played a role in the overthrow of a democratically elected Iranian government." He said. It was the first time a serving U.S. president had publicly admitted American involvement in the coup.

June 5: In its latest report, the international Atomic Energy Agency reconfirmed that there has been no diversion of Iran's nuclear material. The report also stated that Iran's enrichment activities at the Natanz facility "remain under agency containment and surveillance."

June 6: Iran and Pakistan officially exchanged documents related to the contract on the exports of Iranian gas to Pakistan, putting

the finishing touch to the deal in Istanbul. National Iranian Gas Export Company Managing Director Seyyed Reza Kasaiizadeh and Pakistan's Inter-State Gas System CEO Seyyed Hassan Nawab exchanged the contract documents in a third country as the deal has stipulated.

June 7: Bahrain's foreign minister Sheikh Khalid bin Ahmad Al-Khalifa said that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council has no concerns about Iran's peaceful nuclear program. PGCC states welcome direct talks between Iran and US, he added.

June 8: The world's largest gas injection project was inaugurated in Iran's Aghajari oilfield. The \$300-million project is aimed at recovering oil through injecting up to 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day.

June 9: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that Iran has become a regional superpower with respect to political maturity and security

affairs. Mottaki in a public meeting in Semnan province expressed hope that the country would soon become a major player in the scientific and technological spheres.

June 10: Iran's ambassador to Baghdad said that the visa for Iraqi Kurdistan Region is only valid for this region and pilgrims cannot enter Baghdad or other religious cities in Iraq with such visa.

June 11: Iran's outgoing ambassador to Spain, Davoud Salehi, conferred with the country's King Juan Carlos in a farewell meeting. Describing bilateral ties as growing, Salehi hoped that the trend will be maintained in all fields including economy, politics and culture.

June 12: Iranians turned out in very large numbers to vote in the presidential election.

June 13: Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has been declared the winner of Iran's presidential election as the official results show that he

received 62.63 percent of the vote.

June 14: In separate messages, top foreign officials including Qatar's Amir, Pakistani, Iraqi, Venezuelan and Syrian presidents, Lebanon's Hezbollah movement and Arab League Secretary General congratulated Ahmadinejad's victory in Iran's presidential election.

June 15: Mohammad ElBaradei, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, urged Iran to agree to Washington's offer of direct dialogue.

June 16: In a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Russia, leaders of some of the most powerful economies gathered to discuss how they can exert more control over the global financial system as it takes its first wobbly steps toward recovery. At the gathering, Mr. Ahmadinejad gave a speech in which he referred to regional problems, describing Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine as occupied and unstable.

June 17: In an address to the meeting of the International Atomic Energy of the IAEA, Iran's Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Ali Asghar Soltaniyeh called on the world to stop its aggressive approach and make up for its previous mistakes. Addressing states announcing that they would change their foreign policies, the Iranian diplomat said any change in those states' policies should be based on honesty and avoiding a repetition of their previous mistakes.

June 18: Iran has been elected as the chairman of the OPEC Fund for International Development ministerial council for the second consecutive year.

June 19: Addressing the Friday Prayer congregation in Tehran, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei described the unprecedented turnout of almost 85 percent in the election as "a political quake" for the enemy. The leader added that the high voter turnout in the election was "a

real celebration” for the friends of the country.

June 20: President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said that the June 12 presidential election had 40 million winners. Condemning interference of certain foreign powers in Iran’s domestic affairs, Ahmadinejad reiterated that the nation will not consider such governments as friends. He urged western states, particularly the US and Britain to change their policy of interference in Iran’s domestic affairs.

June 21: The world must respect Iran and the election “triumph” of its incumbent president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said. The Venezuelan foreign ministry also issued a statement blasting “the fierce and unfounded campaign from outside of Iran to discredit” the Iranian president.

June 22: Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki rebuked western attempts seeking to dramatize the post-election

unrest in the country. He focused much of his criticism on France, Germany and Britain and recommended them to “think twice before questioning the democratic process of the recent election”.

June 23: Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani in a meeting with the chairman of the Council of Republic of the national Assembly of Belarus, Barys Batura said cooperation between Iran and Belarus is efficient and effective. Larijani referred to the effective role of the two parliaments in helping bolster cooperation and voiced the preparedness of the Majlis to follow up and support the improvement in mutual ties.