

# Iran has 6,000 centrifuges

Tehran should dismantle nuke plans: Obama

AP, AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday that Iran now possesses 6,000 centrifuges, machines used to enrich uranium, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The new figure is double the 3,000 centrifuges Iran had previously said it was operating in its uranium enrichment plant in Natanz.

"Islamic Iran today possesses 6,000 centrifuges," Fars quoted Ahmadinejad as telling university professors in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

In April, Ahmadinejad said Iran had begun installing 6,000 centrifuges at Natanz. His reported comments Saturday provided the first public assertion that Iran has

reached that goal.

The announcement is another act of defiance in the face of demands by the United States and other world powers for Iran to halt its enrichment work, which Washington and its allies fear Iran is intent on using to develop weapons.

A report by the UN's nuclear monitoring agency delivered to the Security Council in May said Iran had 3,500 centrifuges, although a senior UN official said at the time that Iran's goal of 6,000 machines running by the summer was "pretty much plausible."

Uranium can be used as nuclear reactor fuel or as the core for atomic warheads, depending on the degree of enrichment. Iran says it is interested in enrichment only for its nuclear power

programme.

The workhorse of Iran's enrichment programme is the P-1 centrifuge, which is run in cascades of 164 machines. But Iranian officials confirmed in February that they had started using the IR-2 centrifuge that can churn out enriched uranium at more than double the rate.

A total of 3,000 centrifuges is the commonly accepted figure for a nuclear enrichment programme that surpasses the experimental stage and can be used as a platform for a full industrial-scale programme that could churn out enriched material for dozens of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Barack Obama warned Iran to yield to demands to dismantle its nuclear weapons

programme as Republican presidential rival John McCain blasted the Democrat at home, saying that the Middle East could have plunged into widespread war had Obama had his way in Iraq.

McCain sharpened his criticism as Obama continued his well-received tour of the Middle East and Europe. The Arizona Republican contended that Obama's opposition to sending more troops to Iraq in the so-called "surge" would have led to humiliating defeat there and in Afghanistan.

McCain laid out a vision of near-apocalypse he said could have occurred had Obama managed to stop the troop buildup ordered by President George W. Bush, a move that was unpopular with the American people.

## Foreign tour could hit me in polls: Obama

AFP, London

Democratic US presidential hopeful Barack Obama admitted Saturday that despite the adulation overseas, his foreign campaign swing could hurt him in the polls back home.

The Illinois senator has made a whirlwind tour to Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Jordan, Germany, France and Britain in the last week. Some 200,000 people came to see him speak in Berlin.

But as he wound up his visit in London on Saturday, Obama said the trip may see his opinion poll support dip in the battle with Republican opponent John McCain.

"I am not sure that there is going to be some immediate political impact," Obama said outside British Prime Minister Gordon Brown's 10 Downing Street offices.

## Intimidation mars Cambodia elections

AFP, Phnom Penh

The ruling party's near monopoly on broadcast media and threats against opposition members have marrred campaigning for Cambodian elections this weekend, a rights group said yesterday.

Opposition parties challenging Prime Minister Hun Sen's 23-year rule have struggled to get their messages onto Cambodian television and radio, the main source of information for voters, Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

"They are counting on the passive attitude of the ruling majority, notably the Socialists, to prolong this story as long as possible and to be on the streets in order to get the public's attention," he told AFP.

Hundreds of ultra-nationalists have already marched on Belgrade's avenues each day since the Karadzic arrest, some of them venting their fury by attacking journalists.

They came with the Radicals pressing ahead with their plans to stage a massive protest rally against the new government in Belgrade on Tuesday.

Even before Karadzic's arrest, the Radicals and the party of former nationalist prime minister Vojislav Kostunica had blocked the work of the parliament.

On the day of his capture, the new government called a two-week pause of parliament because the filibuster was preventing the ratification of a rapprochement accord with the European Union and deals with Russia.

Another analyst indicated the opposition was taking advantage of Serb anger with the ICTY's recent decisions to acquit former Kosovo prime minister Ramush Haradinaj and Bosnian Muslim military commander Naser Ori.

"It's a convenient moment for them because a small percentage of citizens believe that The Hague tribunal can achieve justice," Slobodan Relic, the editor-in-chief of the newsweekly NIN, told AFP.

The public's "confidence was decreasing with The Hague tribunal and relations with the West as someone who promises a lot but doesn't offer anything," said Relic.

## McCain favours Nuremburg-type trial for Laden

AFP, Washington

US presidential candidate John McCain said Friday he favours a trial for al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in the fashion of the Nuremburg trials for Nazi leaders held after World War II.

Asked on CNN what he would do with bin Laden if he was the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks on the US -- ever caught, the Republican senator replied, "Of course you put him on trial."

"There are ample precedents for that. And it might be a good thing to reveal to the world the enormity of this guy's crimes and his intentions," McCain said.

"We have various options, but the Nuremburg trials are certainly an example of the kind of tribunal that we could move forward with."

"I don't think we would have any difficulty devising an internationally-supported mechanism that would mete out justice," he said.



Hamas militants stand with rifles on the back of a pickup in convoy during a funeral in Gaza City yesterday following a bomb blast the previous day. Hamas-run security forces fanned out across Gaza City Saturday, clashing with rival gunmen and arresting dozens of people after a bomb blast killed five senior Palestinian militants and a girl of five.

## Australia probes hole in plane

AP, Manila

Australian investigators on Saturday began examining a Qantas jumbo jet which had to make an emergency landing after a large hole opened on its fuselage, a Philippine aviation official said.

The Boeing 747-400 was cruising at 29,000 feet with 346 passengers Friday when it was shaken by an explosive bang. The plane descended rapidly before landing safely minutes later at the Manila airport.

There were no injuries among the passengers and crew, but some of the passengers suffered nausea. Ruben Ciron, chief of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, said four specialists from the Australian Transport Safety Bureau were still inspecting the aircraft to determine what caused the damage.

## Lawyers post off appeal to keep Karadzic from trial

AFP, Belgrade

Radovan Karadzic's bid to dodge trial for war crimes was literally in the mail Saturday after his lawyers sent off an appeal at the last possible minute against his transfer to a UN tribunal.

The appeal was posted by regular mail just before an overnight deadline expired, "so that it cannot be immediately forwarded to the war crimes court" in Serbia, said Svetozar Vujacic, a lawyer representing the indicted Bosnian Serb wartime leader, quoted by the Politika newspaper.

"Depriving the public of information about (the appeal) is part of the defence strategy," Vujacic was quoted as saying earlier by Tanjug news agency. Once it receives the appeal, a three-judge panel of Serbia's war crimes court will have three days to decide on its merits before the justice ministry must issue the final order for the transfer.

## Hamas hunts down Fatah rivals after Gaza bombing

Blast kills 5 senior Palestinian militants and a girl

AFP, Gaza City

Hamas security forces fanned out across Gaza City yesterday, clashing with rival gunmen and arresting dozens of people after a bomb blast killed five senior Palestinian militants and a girl of five.

"Those who carried out this crime are making war on God, on the security of Gaza, and on the resistance," he said. "They will not be released after six months but will be hanged from the gallows and shot."

Thousands of supporters marched through the streets on their way to the funeral, carrying the bodies on stretchers draped with green Hamas flags, firing guns into the air and voicing revenge.

"It is up to Fatah to determine their position straightforwardly, if they are with these criminals, or if they are with the ranks of the Palestinian street in confronting the enemy

(Israel)," Hamas chief Mahmud al-Zahar said.

"This is a crossroads at which everyone must determine their position. We will not permit this scene to repeat itself," he told reporters at the cemetery, adding that police had information on who was behind the attack.

In the hours after the attack, Hamas security forces arrested dozens of people across the territory, mostly Fatah supporters, and exchanged gunfire and rocket-propelled grenades with a clash in Gaza's Tel-al-Hawa district.

A senior Fatah official who asked not to be named said security forces had arrested over 120 Fatah members and raided at least 41 party offices and associated organisations across Gaza, confiscating computers and documents.

## Rice in diplomatic race against time

AP, Auckland

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is running a worldwide race against time, trying for diplomatic victories before the Bush administration ends in January.

With less than six months to go in office and unfinished business with Iran, North Korea, the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan, Rice has embarked on a grueling series of overseas trips and is packing in an impressive number of high-level meetings in Washington.

In June and July, Rice has literally circled the planet twice for

talks on those issues and in the first three days of next week will see top officials from Pakistan, China, Israel, Italy as well as Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators.

Rice will be pressing the Pakistani prime minister to do more to combat militants along the Afghan border, seeking additional support from China on Iran and North Korea and assessing the slow pace of progress in the effort to conclude an Israel-Palestinian deal by year's end.

Although prospects for any of those are uncertain, it is not for lack of trying, even if critics say it may be too little, too late.

## FURNISHED APARTMENT TOLET IN UTTARA SECTOR-4

FURNISHED 2000 SFT APARTMENT ON 2ND 3RD FLOOR CONSISTING OF 3 BEDROOM WITH BALCONY, 3 BATH DRAWING ROOM, DINING ROOM, KITCHEN EQUIPPED WITH GAS BURNER, MICRO OVEN, ALL ROOMS WITH AIRCONDITIONER AND CARPETED BATHS WITH HOT-COLD WATER. ALSO WASHING MACHINE, FRIDGE AND TELEPHONE AVAILABLE SEPARATE ROOM AND BATH FOR SERVANT. ELECTRICITY BACKUP BY UPS TO LIGHT AND FAN IN EACH ROOM. MOST SUITABLE FOR NEW ARRIVALS IN BANGLADESH AND / OR AIRLINE CREW. FOR ENQUIRY CONTACT PHONE- 8914371.

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশন  
প্রধান কার্যালয়

২৪ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা - ১০০০

জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনের অন্য ১(এক)জন আইন উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

জীবীক/আইন/১১২/২০০৮ তারিখঃ ১৭-৭-২০০৮ খ্রিঃ

যিতেইনার ফি প্রদানের ভিত্তিতে জীবন বীমা কর্পোরেশনে ১(এক)জন আইন উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগের ভিত্তিতে আইন উপদেষ্টা নিয়োগের বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

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A firefighter extinguishes a blaze in an olive forest near the town of Mandra, west of Athens in Greece on Friday.