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Regime is pulling funds out of European banks

IranTimes: The Iranian government has announced it is withdrawing funds from European banks in fear the EU may soon freeze Iranian bank accounts. Mohsen Talai, the deputy foreign minister for economic affairs, said the Islamic Republic was converting some of its bank deposits into gold and equities. "Upon the decision of the government's task force, a segment of Iran's foreign exchange assets will be converted into real assets, such as gold and stocks," Talai told the daily Etemad-e Melli Tuesday. Talai did not, however, say how much would be converted. But he said the goal was to neutralize the impact of any possible new sanctions. Talai also effectively acknowledged that the U.S. lobbying of major banks around the world is having an impact on Iran's ability to conduct international banking. "From now on, Iran's cooperation with small banks around the world will increase," he said. Months ago, U.S. officials said they anticipated Iran would shift business to smaller and more obscure banks. Talai's comments on converting Iranian foreign exchange followed a story that appeared the previous day in The Daily Telegraph of London. That story said President Ahmadi-nejad had ordered foreign exchange deposited in Europe to be repatriated to the Central Bank in Tehran. But Talai said nothing about moving assets to Tehran. Talai's announcement was made the same day U.S. President Bush arrived in Europe intent on lobbying for more action against Iran. C. Boyden



Gray, the U.S. special envoy to the European Union, told reporters Bush hoped to persuade EU members to do more to stanch the flow of Iranian money. "There are Iranian bank activities that could be curbed; there could be further restrictions," Gray said. Europe and the United States must "make sure there are no evasions whereby Iranian banks can continue to do business to further this nuclear program." Gray's words indicated Bush was focused on restricting Iranian bank activity, rather than freezing Iranian assets, as Talai seemed to fear.

Texas moms want Islam out of school

IranTimes: A group of Texas parents have complained to school administrators over a plan to educate their children about Islam, fearing it might hide a ploy to convert the students. The conflict was in the Friendswood school district, located in southeastern Texas. The Daily News of Galveston said pointedly that the presentation on Muslims was not an attempt to proselytize but to inform the students about Islam, with the hope of battling prejudice and stereotypes.

Herbert Taylor of The Daily News wrote a commentary saying, "It's obvious that much of the uproar is simple bigotry. Many people who have written or called this newspaper have made it a point to say they aren't prejudiced but... Then they put their bigotry on display." Taylor said of the school's plan: "The idea is that, if the average junior-high student knows something about Muslims, he might conclude they are human beings who don't deserve the persecution."

Report: U.S. 'preparing the battlefield' in Iran

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- The Bush administration has launched a "significant escalation" of covert operations in Iran, sending U.S. commandos to spy on the country's nuclear facilities and undermine the Islamic republic's government, journalist Seymour Hersh said Sunday. White House, CIA and State Department officials declined comment on Hersh's report, which appears in this week's issue of The New Yorker. Hersh told CNN's "Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer" that Congress has authorized up to \$400 million to fund the secret campaign, which involves U.S. special operations troops and Iranian dissidents. President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney have rejected findings from U.S. intelligence agencies that Iran has halted a clandestine effort to build a nuclear bomb and "do not want to leave Iran in place with a nuclear program," Hersh said. "They believe that their mission is to make sure that before they get out of office next year, either Iran is attacked or it stops its weapons program," Hersh said. The new article, "Preparing the Battlefield," is the latest in a series of articles accusing the Bush administration of preparing for war with Iran. He based the report on accounts from current and former military, intelligence, and congressional sources. "As usual with his quarterly pieces, we'll decline to comment," White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe told CNN. "The CIA, as a rule, does not comment on allegations regarding covert operations," CIA spokesman Paul Gimigliano said. Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad, denied U.S. raids were being launched from Iraq, where American commanders believe Iran is stoking sectarian warfare and fomenting attacks on U.S. troops. "I can tell you flatly that U.S. forces are not operating across the Iraqi border into Iran, in the south or anywhere else," Crocker said. Hersh said U.S. efforts were staged from Afghanistan, which also shares a border with Iran. He said the program resulted in "a dramatic increase in kinetic events and chaos" inside Iran, including attacks by



Kurdish separatists in the country's north and a May attack on a mosque in Shiraz that killed 13 people. The United States has said it is trying to isolate Iran diplomatically in order to get it to come clean about its nuclear ambitions. But Bush has said "all options" are open in dealing with the issue. Iran insists its nuclear program is aimed at providing civilian electric power, and refuses to comply with U.N. Security Council demands that it halt uranium enrichment work. U.N. nuclear inspectors say Tehran held back critical information that could determine whether it is trying to make nuclear weapons. Israel, which is believed to have its own nuclear arsenal, conducted a military exercise in the eastern Mediterranean in early June involving dozens of warplanes and aerial tankers. The distance involved in the exercise was roughly the same as would be involved in a possible strike on the Iranian nuclear fuel plant at Natanz, Iran, a U.S. military official said. In 1981, Israeli warplanes destroyed an Iraqi nuclear reactor. Iran's parliament speaker, Ali Larijani, warned other countries against moves that would "cost them heavily." In comments that appeared in the semi-official Mehr news agency Sunday, an Iranian general said his troops were digging more than 320,000 graves to bury troops from any invading force with "the respect they deserve." "Under the law of war and armed conflict, necessary preparations must be made for the burial of soldiers of aggressor nations," said Maj. Gen. Mirfaisal Baqerzadeh, an Iranian officer in charge of identifying soldiers missing in action. Journalist Shirzad Bozorghmehr in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

One God, One Message, One Religion

Which Religion?

Even though the religious customs are different, worshipping 'GOD ALONE' is the basis and essence of all religions

Unity of All Religions

Quran 42:13

He decreed for you the same religion decreed for Noah, and what we inspired to you, and what we decreed for Abraham, Moses, and Jesus: "You shall uphold this one religion, and do not divide it."

Mark 10

17: As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

18: "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good—except GOD ALONE."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: "The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Yasna 34:7

Therefore I wish You alone to be my shelter and helper through truth and righteousness.

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Bardot fined for hating Muslims

IranTimes: Brigitte Bardot, the former French actress, animal rights activist and international sex icon, has been fined \$23,000 by a French court for inciting hatred against Muslims. The trial of Bardot, now 73 years old, began April 15 and ended with her fifth fine in 11 years for "inciting racial hatred." The court last Tuesday ordered Bardot to pay 15,000 euros (\$23,000 dollars) for inciting hatred against Muslims and \$1,555 in damages to MRAP, the leading French anti-racism group. Last year, MRAP filed a suit against her for an anti-Islamic letter she wrote in December 2006 to French President Nicolas Sarkozy—who was then the interior minister. Bardot's letter argued that Muslims should stun animals before slaughtering them during the Eid-e Qorban holiday, when sheep are sacrificed to commemorate the prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son on God's orders. The star of "And God Created Woman" and "Contempt," was also quoted as saying, "I've had enough of being led by the nose by this whole population [Muslims] which is destroying us, [and] destroying our country by imposing their ways." Prosecutors asked the Paris court to hand the former actress a two month suspended prison sentence and fine her 15,000 euros for saying the Muslim community was "destroying our country and imposing its acts." French anti-racism laws prevent inciting hatred and discrimination on racial or religious grounds. Anne de Fontette, a prosecuting attorney, had told the court she was seeking a tougher sentence than



usual, saying: "I am a little tired of prosecuting Ms. Bardot." When Bardot retired from the entertainment industry in the 1970s, she became a prominent animal rights activist but became controversial when she wrote a book criticizing Islam, immigration—from predominantly Muslim countries—homosexuality and the unemployed; she publicly lamented the "Islamization of France." Bardot did not attend the trial because she said she was physically unable to—the former actress suffers from arthritis, but wrote the court, "I'm sickened by how [these organizations] are harassing me." France is currently home to five million Muslims, Europe's largest Muslim community, making up eight percent of France's population. Bardot said, "I will not shut up until stunning is carried out" on animals before their ritual slaughter. Bardot's lawyer, Francois-Xavier Kelidjian, said he would talk to her about the possibility of an appeal. "She is tired of this type of proceeding. She has the impression that people want to silence her. She will not be silenced in her defense of animal rights."