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 RUEABND/DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMIN HQ WASHINGTON DC//POL//  
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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL

SERI SERIAL: IAP200101090000009

COUN COUNTRY: IRAN

SUBJ SUBJ: Iran Daily Carries 'What's Up?' Column for 9 Jan

SOUR SOURCE: Tehran Iran Daily (Internet Version-WWW) in English 9 Jan  
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TEXT TEXT:

\* [FBIS Transcribed Text] UFO Sighting in Kerman

An illuminated object appeared over the skies of Kerman on Sunday evening. The object was the size of a football and moved at low altitude from east to west. An eyewitness said that it was surrounded by flames and emitted beams of coloured light. The object could be seen for three minutes around Kerman. Kerman Airport officials said that they have not received any report in this respect. Qom Teachers Protest A number of teachers in Qom gathered in front of the Qom Education Department in protest over what they called "discrimination between them and other civil servants". Nearly 300 teachers took part in the demonstration. Another group of teachers, in a declaration, said they would not take part in a rally for increasing their salaries.

#### Impeachment Quashed

Majlis Speaker Mehdi Karroubi said that a significant number of those who sought the impeachment of Health Minister Mohammed Farhadi have reconsidered their action. He noted that since only five MPs favour impeachment, the matter will not be discussed in Parliament. However, Semirom MP Keramatollah Emadi (in Kerman province) was quoted as saying that this is the second time he has tried to have the health minister impeached. Factional Approach Seyyed Ali Asghar Hashemi Shahidi, Lamard (in Fars province) Friday prayer leader, attributed the incidents of past two months (in Lamard) to the consequences of the factional approach of city officials. He also noted that upgrading the status of Mehr District of Lamard to a township is opposed by a majority of Lamard's citizens.

#### Abduction of a Villager

Armed Afghans abducted Kamal Sheikh Jami, a resident of Jahanabad Village (a district in Taybad). Local sources were quoted as saying that four Afghans, who were involved in kidnapping Sheikh Jami, blocked all the routes leading to Jahanabad. The border regiment stationed at Taybad and the Law Enforcement Forces are following up the matter. Death of a Killer An informed official at Shahriyar (Tehran province) said that one

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of the assassins of the head of Shahriyar Anti-Drug Headquarters died at Karaj's Shahid Madani Hospital. Drug traffickers also killed Amir Fallah and Amir Fouladvand, two law enforcement officers. Several people accused of murdering the head of Shahriyar Anti-Drug Headquarters are currently in jail. High Interest Rate

Kermanshah's director general for commerce said that Iranian banks take 18 percent more in interest rates than other countries. Kheirollah Khadem added that the maximum banking rate in other countries is 9 percent, while the Iranian banks receive a 19-percent rate. According to him, high interest rates for banking operations create problems for businessmen and exporters. Dialogue With EU

Radio Cologne reported that Iran and the European Union are to resume a constructive dialogue. It added that the EU is hopeful that Iran's reform programs will continue and that bilateral cooperation between EU and Iran will get a boost. It added that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has announced its intention of participating in comprehensive collaboration with European countries.

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