

Iran, Malaysia review scientific, technical cooperation

TEHRAN - The Iranian Ambassador to Kuala Lumpur, Hussein Fereydoun Tuesday morning called on Malaysian secretary general of the ministry of science, technology and environment, Dana Balan and discussed with him exchange of industrial experts as well as computer programs between Iran and Malaysia.

Dana Balan described cooperation in the development sector and research in information technology as a good ground for expanding scientific cooperation with Iran. He invited the Iranian side to participate and cooperate with relevant Malaysian centers in this regard.

Fereydoun spoke of the ways to coordinate cooperation between the two countries at regional and international conferences on science, technology and environment.

Foreign minister:

Iran, South Africa determined to expand cooperation

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi on Monday reiterated resolve of the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Africa to expand political, economic and trade cooperation in the light of the existing potentials of the two countries.

Speaking at a press conference in Pretoria, also attended by his South African counterpart Alfred Nzo, the Iranian foreign minister stressed the key role both Iran and South Africa play in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and underscored significance of the stance of NAM and the developing countries in the new world order.

Further elaborating on the issue, Kharrazi said that the U.S. was making a grave mistake by assuming that the time is ripe for a unipolar world.

Today, he further added, different groupings such as NAM and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) as well as regional groupings such as EU and ASEAN are demanding greater share in administering world affairs.

Therefore, added Kharrazi, the U.N. should play a more determining role in the process of global decision-making.

Culture minister pledges full support for West Asian games

TEHRAN - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Attaollah Mohajerani stressed that more teams from the Persian Gulf littoral states should participate in the West Asian games.

Mohajerani, who is a

Yugoslavia calls for expansion of commercial ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Iran's Charge d'Affaires to Belgrade, Ahmad Hedayati, met with Yugoslavian Minister of Foreign Trade, Borislav Vukovic in Belgrade Monday where they exchanged views on ways to expand commercial relations between the two countries.

Expressing satisfaction with the outcome of the recently concluded session of the joint economic commission in Tehran, Vukovic called for further cooperation of Iran and Yugoslavia with Central Asian and African countries. The Iranian diplomat in reply expressed Iran's readiness for further broadening of relations between the two countries mainly in the field of commerce.

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Dubai, Iran sign agreement for cultural exchanges

TEHRAN - Iran and Dubai signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at expanding cultural cooperation between the Iranian National Library and the sheikdom's cultural center, announced the public relations office of Iran's National Library here on Monday.

The nine-article memorandum envisages exchange of books, periodicals, movies, microfilms, copies of manuscripts as well as exchange of experiences in maintaining original manuscripts between the two parties.

Joint research projects, translation and research regarding manuscripts, organizing training sessions, exchange of delegations as well as experiences on library sciences and information technology are also covered by the agreement. The memorandum was signed by the head of Iranian National Library, Kazem Mousavi Bojnourdi, and the head of Dubai's cultural center.

Kharrazi:

Iran welcomes Kinkel's interest in patch-up talks

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told IRNA in Pretoria Monday that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed Klaus Kinkel's interest in conducting talks that would facilitate mending of ties between Iran and Germany.

Kharrazi added that Kin-

kel's request would not go unanswered.

He further pointed out that Iran would closely scrutinize the proposals, specifically those coming from friendly countries, which also assure Iran's stand on the return of the European ambassadors to the Islamic Re-

public of Iran.

Iran's foreign minister then deduced that the affairs which took shape in matters of relations between Germany and the Islamic Republic of Iran, has hurt the public feelings of Iranians and that the matter needed to be somehow and somewhat compensated.

Intl. confab on energy opens in Tehran

TEHRAN - The 12th international conference on energy aiming to upgrade the knowledge as well as scientific and technical skills of Iranian experts and provide for exchange of information between Iranian and foreign researchers was inaugurated on Monday.

The two countries also signed another agreement expected to bolster Tehran-Pretoria economic cooperation in the area of investments.

The memorandum of understanding signed between South Africa and Iran would accommodate both medium term and long range financial facilities between the South African financial institutions and Iranian banks.

Such financial back-up

would facilitate easy trans-

actions of capital transfer to Iran.

All cities as well as over

95 percent of rural areas in

Iran have been supplied with electricity, he added.

The share of agriculture and industry sectors in the country's total energy consumption increased from 30 percent in 1989 to 42 percent at the end of 1996, he said.

The per capita electricity production in the said period rose from 917 kilowatts/hour to 1,365 kilowatts/hour, the minister added. In addition to a 49 percent growth in the per capita electricity production

recorded in the First Development Plan, the waste of electricity in the national grid fell by 1.2 percent and the capacity of the country's power stations rose from 13,500 megawatts to 23,000 megawatts. In the three-day confab, experts from Australia, Indonesia, Sweden, Republic of Azerbaijan, the U.S., Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russia, Romania, Japan, Moldova and Malaysia are to present their articles.

Thousands of people converge in front of former U.S. embassy

TEHRAN - A special ceremony marking the national day of campaign against global arrogance was held in front of the former U.S. embassy in Tehran Tuesday morning.

A huge number of school and university students and thousands of people from all walks of life as well as a large number of senior officials of the country took part in the anti-U.S. rally.

By chanting slogans such as "down with the U.S." and "down with Israel", the demonstrators displayed the wrath of the Iranian nation against the policies of global arrogance, IRNA reported.

Majlis Speaker Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri and a number of Majlis deputies joined the demonstrators.

Hundreds of local and foreign reporters, photographers and cameramen covered the event in front of the former U.S. embassy, now known as "the den of espionage."

First phase of Anzali special economic zone becomes operational

RASHT, Gilan - The first phase of Anzali special economic zone (SEZ) costing Rls. 50 billion and employing 238 people went on stream this week.

The chairman of the board of directors of Anzali SEZ Mohammad Ali Najafi said that in this phase, 100,000 square meters of land has been divided into plots of 600 to 2,000 square meters and are ready to be ceded to the public.

He added that up to now five companies engaged in packaging, household electronic items, assembly of electronic equipment, auto making, spare parts production, and clothing has started their operation in the SEZ.

Najafi said that SEZ management has agreed to

Yemen asks Iran's assistance in telecommunications projects

TEHRAN - The Yemeni Ambassador to Tehran, Abdulla Ali al-Razi here Sunday expressed interest in applying Iran's experiences and also making use of its potentials in the area of post and telecommunications.

He made the remark in a meeting with Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT) Mohammad Reza Aref.

Al-Razi proposed importing copper cables and optical fibres manufactured by

Iran's PTT Ministry as well as technical know-how of the Iranian experts for implementing key telecommunication projects in Yemen.

Stressing promotion of ties in various fields among Muslim countries, Aref said Iran is interested in taking an active role in telecommunication projects in Yemen. The third session of Iran-Yemen joint economic commission is to be held in Tehran shortly.

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Iran Air highest passenger load in Middle East



TEHRAN - Iran Air retained its position last year with the top passenger-kilometer rate among national carriers in the Middle East, according to figures from the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The airline's 71.2 per cent load factor compared with 70.4 for Emirates Airline, 68.2 per cent for Kuwait Airlines, 66.7 per cent for Gulf Air, 65.8 per cent for Royal Jordanian, 64.8 for Saudia, 62.9 for Egypt Air and 53.6 per cent for Syrian Arab, IRNA reported from London.

Other selected regional rates quoted by Middle East Economic Digest included Cyprus Airways with 69.2 per cent, Turkish Airlines with 67.2 per cent, Pakistan Inter-

national with 64 per cent and Middle East Airlines with 50.4 per cent.

Iran Air's passenger performance was achieved with 38 aircraft, one of the smallest fleets among major carriers in the Middle East and with a tiny proportion of international passengers.

IATA figures quoted Iran Air's passengers on domestic flights totalling 5.8 million, second in the region to Saudi's 7.8 m, whose fleet is almost three times the size with 112 listed aircraft.

In terms of international flights, Iran's national airline 842,217 passengers is dwarfed by Saudi Arabia's 3.9 m, Gulf Air's 3.5 m, Turkish 3.4 m, Emirates 2.9 m, Egypt Air 2.8 m and Pakistan 2.5 m.

Guinea inaugurates its embassy in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Afro-Arab Affairs Mohammad Sadr in his speech here Monday at the inauguration ceremony of the Guinean embassy in Tehran said "the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized on further promotion of relations with the African countries."

Referring to the African states desire to establish their embassies in Tehran, Sadr considered it as an implication of the Islamic Republic of Iran's political status and strategically strong position in the regional and international issues and its capabilities in the areas of economy and trade potentialities.

Referring to the upcoming summit meet of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran, next month the Guinean ambassador regarded the Islamic Republic of Iran as a powerful country and the supporter of the African states.

SALE OF ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPTS

Islamic theologian in Germany is selling his private collection of Islamic manuscripts from the Holy Quran and other Islamic books (e.g. on medicine, astrology, mystic and poetry) - 100 to 620 years old - to an Islamic university, bank, institute or a private person. For further information please contact: Sidigullah Fadai, Amalienstrasse 89, 80799 Munich, Germany, Tel: 0049-89-281724, Fax: 0049-89-281493

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