

Kish-Ashkhabad direct flight starts

KISH, Hormuzgan - The Kish-Ashkhabad weekly direct flight began on Sunday as a group of 42 passengers from the Turkmenistan Republic arrived at the island on board an aircraft, Director of Kish Free Trade Zone Organization for Tourism Affairs Mohsen Gharib said.

Gharib stated the passengers included tourists, reporters and journalists.

According to the official 1,000 foreign tourists from Europe, the Persian Gulf littoral states and Far East, have travelled to the island over the past few months.

He added that Kish international airport handles between 19 and 21 domestic and foreign flights daily.

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Kharrazi confers with King Fahd:

Tehran, Riyadh review promotion of cooperation, future ties

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and King Fahd ibn Abd al-Aziz as-Saud of Saudi Arabia in a meeting here Sunday exchanged views on Tehran-Riyadh future relations, promotion and convention of the 8th summit of Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran, next month.

At the meeting, King Fahd, expressing pleasure over Tehran-Riyadh promotion of relations, called for a greater cooperation between the two neighboring countries at the regional and international level, IRNA reported from Riyadh.

The king pointed out that Saudi Arabia deems the 8th OIC summit as significant and believed that many issues and problems existing in the world of Islam could be resolved through joint cooperation of the Muslim states particularly at the upcoming OIC summit.

Kharrazi said for his part that the new Iranian government gives prior-

ity to expansion of relations with the neighboring and regional states in its foreign policy.

Referring to the existing atmosphere of understanding and friendship between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the regional states, Iran's foreign minister stated that Saudi Arabia being an important state of the region, would be able to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in order to play a significant role in further bringing about of the Islamic solidarity.

Kharrazi heading a top political delegation arrived in Riyadh, Saudi Arabian capital, Sunday morning to convey the message of 'friendship and good-will' of President Khatami's government to the most senior officials of the Persian Gulf Arab states.

The visit to Riyadh of the Iranian foreign minister will also take him to other Arab capitals of the Persian Gulf region such as Kuwait, Manama, Muscat, Doha and Abu Dhabi.

Meanwhile, Saudi Crown Prince Amir Abdullah bin Abd al-Aziz in Riyadh on Sunday underlined that his

country is for strengthening atmosphere of friendship among Iranian and Saudi governments and for cooperating and exchange of views with President Mohammad Khatami's administration in various fields.

Talking to the visiting Iranian foreign minister on Sunday, Abdulaziz said the atmosphere of confidence between the two Muslims and big states of the region can serve as a basis for expansion of cooperation between the two countries in various levels.

He said that Iranian and Saudi Arabian efforts for taking firmer strides towards strengthening and improving mutual cooperation can eventually help solve problems faced by the world of Islam.

He said that his country attaches special significance to the 8th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC), due to be held in Tehran from December 4-11, and would attend it.

He said that main policy of new Iranian government is based on strengthening and expanding friendly relations with Saudi government and having cooperation with Muslim states.

lim states.

Kharrazi said that President Khatami pays special attention to talks with Muslim and regional states and to dialog among civilizations.

He said that time has come when Muslim countries can assume an important role at the international scene.

TEHRAN session can provide Muslim states with the suitable chance to exchange view on problems faced by the world of Islam and adopt joint stance in order to solve them, said Kharrazi, adding that security and stability serve as bed of economic development and cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia can prepare the ground for establishment of peace and stability around the globe.

Economic cooperation between Tehran and Riyadh and its extension to get other states of the region involved in the process would result in economic flourishing, guaranteeing Muslim nations' interests, he concluded.

Majlis summons sports officials over soccer team failures

TEHRAN - The officials of Iran's Physical Education Organization as well as those of the Soccer Federation have been summoned to Majlis to respond to deputies' questions concerning the recent weak results by the national soccer team in the world cup qualifiers as well as the recently announced changes in the team's coaching staff.

A member of Majlis Committee on Sports, Lotfollah Zarei Qanavati, here on Sunday told IRNA "the change in the national soccer team's coaching staff contrary to previous statements by the head of the Physical Education Organization Mostafa Hashemi-Taba, who had announced unequivocal support for the coaches, has raised question for Majlis deputies."

This has prompted the summoning of the officials to the afternoon session of Majlis on Tuesday to field questions on the issue, added the legislator.

Touching on reported discord within the national soccer team, the deputy from city of Chabahar criticized the coaching staff for what he called not being current on modern tactics of the sport as well as lack of team cohesion.

Welcoming the change in the coaching staff, Qanavati called for initiatives by the new skippers to address the team's problems.

President:

Communications, foundation for a developed society

Aref briefed Khatami on the general policies of the ministry.

Aref referred to financial discipline, abstaining from unnecessary expenditure, focus on development, special attention to research and review of the organizational structure as major guidelines for his ministry's activities.

Addressing hundreds of employees of the Post, Telegraph and Telephone Ministry, Khatami added "communications is a foundation for a developed society, a very important fact which can't be overlooked by us," IRNA reported.

Stressing that advances in the communications technology no longer benefits an exclusive club alone, the president added that information formerly accessible by a pri-

vileged group is now available to all people without any documentation.

Khatami expressed appreciation for efforts of all the people involved in the industry's development in the country.

Addressing the importance of planning and research to achieve progress in the field of communications, the chief executive called for further cooperation between the country's communications institutions and universities to accelerate progress in the field.

Prior to the president's speech, the Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephone (PTT), Mohammad Reza

New administration supports free trade zone objectives

need of the zones to invest in infrastructural field at the beginning forced them to meet their demand through import and collection of tariffs.

But, Alviri stated, with the formulation of policies for the development of industry in Chabahar (southeast Iran), gradually the zone will present commodities manufactured domestically instead of imported goods.

He said now that the ground was being prepared and banking regulations were set, foreign investors would soon be encouraged to take part in trade activities at the Iranian free trade zones.

Given that Chabahar free trade zone has access to both sea and land transport facil-

ties, Alviri remarked, measures were being taken to develop transit of goods from the zone to the Central Asian republics.

Meanwhile, to facilitate air traffic to Chabahar, a new airport will be built beside the present one in Konarak.

Kazakhstan to change composition of crude oil delivered to Iran

TEHRAN - Deputy oil minister for oil and gas in the Caspian Sea said that Kazakhstan will change the composition of its crude oil delivery to Iran for transference to the Persian Gulf.

Ali Majedi stated that Kazakhstan was presently delivering a different composition of its crude oil to Iran which would be continued up to the end of the current month.

He said no additional contract has been signed between the two countries for the new delivery, adding that only the type of the crude oil has been changed, IRNA reported.

Implementation of the contract for transfer of Kazakh crude oil via Iran which started early last spring, was halted on the grounds that the crude contained high amounts of mercaptan which could not be processed at the Iranian refineries.

According to the terms of contract, Kazakhstan will transfer two to six million tons of crude oil to Iran annually for a period of 10 years and Iran will deliver the same amount to Kazakhstan's customers in the Persian Gulf.

Ebtekar warns against development at environment's expense

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RASHIT, Gilan - Iran's Vice-President and head of the country's Environmental Protection Organization, Masoumeh Ebtekar, here on Sunday stated "development with no regards for the environment would jeopardize the society's future."

Ebtekar, on a visit to the Gilan Province since Friday, referred to the upward trend of forest destruction in the coastal province, adding that statistics as well as expert studies point to the insufficiency of rehabilitation efforts to compensate for destruction of

forests which she referred to as a "God-given blessing."

She further called for adhering to national and international standards regarding the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to the environment of Gilan.

Iran's first woman vice-president announced that Rls. 150 billion is needed for full implementation of the projects aimed at saving the province's fragile environment.

On a more positive note, Ebtekar predicted that establishment of garbage recycling plants and sanitary disposal of garbage would

greatly reduce the magnitude of threats to the delicate environment.

She further called for adhering to national and international standards regarding the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to the environment of Gilan.

Meanwhile, the head of Anzali's Environmental Research Center, Alireza Mohammadzadeh, announced that annually more than one million liters of pesticides and 86,000 tons of chemicals as well as 23 million liters of wastes are dispersed in the coastal province's environment.

Innovator employs clove as anesthetic for fish

YASOUJ, Kohkilouyeh-Boyerahmad - An Iranian expert in charge of Yasouj Shahid Motahari fish farm, for the first time in the country successfully used powder of clove flowers as anesthetic for trout.

The Iranian innovator, Yadollah Mehrabi, told IRNA that the natural anesthetic can replace the imported chemical MS-222, widely used to immobilize trout for the purpose of extracting roe.

Mehrabi further stated that the effect of the natural anesthetic is directly proportional to its concentration as well as the weight of the trout.

Tokyo's decision to continue consultations between the senior officials of Iran and Japan fall into this framework, said Endo.

He stressed that Iran's special geographical location has enabled the country to offset effects of U.S. economic sanctions.

The Japanese economist further stated that transfer of oil and gas from Central Asia through Iran was more economical than other routes, adding that the fact has even been realized by the government.

While the government is seeking to boost investment in the Middle East despite the fact that Tokyo met about 80 percent of its oil requirements from the region, he said this could be contributed to discrepancy between the government and the private sector.

He said that American experts are now in favor of resumption of friendly ties with Iran, but he stressed unfamiliarity of the majority of Americans with realities in Iran has led to election of representatives

fish, adding that the natural anesthetic has no adverse effects on humans or animals.

The imported chemical costs Drs 200-300 per kg, while the clove flower powder is available in herbal medicine stores at less than 2 percent of the cost, added the expert.

The newly-invented system has yielded 11,600,000 roe obtained from 4,723 pieces of fish in the last two months.

Prior to this discovery, Mehrabi successfully administered the out-of-season farming of trout through doctoring the medium light.

Through the system, roe

can be extracted from the fish twice a year, doubling the natural once-a-year production of the fish.

The Yasouj fish farm with 75 pools and 20,000 fish is a source of fish roe as well as fingerlings for the farms across the country.

The conic-shaped clove trees are raised in Iran for their beautiful decorative flowers.

Harvest of flowers from the tree, standing 10-12 meters high with ever green leaves, starts when they are 10-year-old.

The blossoms are exposed to sunlight for three days. The dried flower is used as a fragrance in soaps, toothpaste and mouth wash.

The dried flower has customarily been used as herbal medicine in Iran. Furthermore, they are also used as pain killers for toothache in villages.

Sultan Qaboos invited to OIC summit in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Muscat, Siyavush Zargar Yaqubi, offered on Monday the invitation letter of President Mohammad Khatami of Iran to Sultan Qaboos bin Said, to attend the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December.

In the meeting, Sultan Qaboos wished for success and prosperity of the Iranian president and termed the upcoming OIC summit in Tehran as being significant for the entire world of Islam.

He also said that his country is to be represented at the summit at the highest level. In conclusion, the two sides exchanged views on major international and regional issues as well as matters of mutual interests.

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