















دفتر آرو (لندن) تلفن: ۰۲۰۰-۱۷۱۰۰۸۰۰
دفتر آمریکا (نیویورک) تلفن: (۲۱۲)۴۶۴۵۲۱

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# ETTELA'AT

INTERNATIONAL

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## Six foreign banks now ready to have branch offices in Qeshm

QESHM ISLAND - Six foreign banks of Canada, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Germany and Switzerland have indicated their readiness to have branch offices on Qeshm island of Iran at the Persian Gulf.

A law that allows foreign banks to operate at Iran's free trade zones, adopted by the Expediency Council, becomes operative this month.

Managing Director of Qeshm free trade zone of Iran Behrouz Bushehri said that branch offices of foreign banks in Qeshm would accelerate infra-structural projects and exchange of goods. About 1,200 companies now operate in the free trade zone area of Qeshm island.

## New chapter in Tehran-Tokyo relations

TEHRAN - In a meeting with Iran's President Mohammad Khatami, visiting Japanese State Secretary for Foreign Affairs Masahiko Komura presented him a written message of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto here Saturday.

President Khatami underlining the principled stance of Tehran in association with the issues of the region and those at international level, stated that "mollification of tension formed the main axis of Iran's foreign policy," IRNA reported.

The president further outlined that "the Islamic Republic of Iran was fully prepared to further bolster relation with the nations around the world based on mutual respect and ratiocinated dialog.

The chief executive expressed satisfaction with the growing trend of Iran's relations with the neighboring countries.

Khatami eying the prospect for a bilateral cooperation between Japan and the Islamic Republic of Iran stated that "divine consideration, history, and geopolitical sensitivity have been the binding force in the share of a common destiny. He added that the two nations could jointly work to promote peace and stability in the region and in the world as well as cooperate for the betterment of the two nations.

Khatami stated that assessing the current circumstances, it was an appropriate time for the expansion of bilateral cooperation in all the possible economic, technical and technological spheres due to commonalities in culture and history.

The president expressed hope that Komura's visit would open up new horizons in the area of cooperation.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and Komura in a meeting here on Thursday underlined that Tehran and Tokyo are to open a new chapter in their comprehensive cooperation in the areas of economy, politics and culture.

The two sides also exchanged views on different aspects of Tehran-Tokyo ties as well as on the international and regional issues.

They also reviewed key international and regional issues, including the Persian Gulf and the Middle East issues as well as Iran's role in settlement of regional crises

**Majlis speaker:**

## Iran, Oman enjoy historical relations

TEHRAN - Iranian Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in Muscat on Saturday held talks with Omani Deputy Prime Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sayed Fahd bin Mahmoud as-Said on issues of mutual interest.

Nateq Nouri said the historical relations between Tehran and Muscat have always been friendly and has further developed in the course of time, preparing grounds for the regional and international cooperation. IRNA reported from Muscat.

The Iranian parliament speaker said the regional states are in need of security and stability for development and the states in the region are required to cooperate to this end.

He said the enemies and the global arrogance have attempted to make the regional states frightened of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a bid to sell more arms to them and buy their oil at a cheap price.

Referring to the successful performance of the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran last December, Nateq Nouri said the OIC leaders had made good coordination on issues concerning Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine.

He said the Islamic states are expected to take strides in setting up common market and developing inter-parliamentary cooperation.

On the geographical locations of Iran and Oman, Na-

teq Nouri said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a gate to the Central Asia and the two countries would develop economic cooperation at the regional level.

As-Said said relations between Iran and Oman are excellent and the level of relations is expected to be upgraded.

He expressed congratulation on the success of the OIC summit in Tehran and hoped that the results of the summit would serve to strengthen the bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Nateq-Nouri received the Omani Minister of Commerce and Industry Maqbool bin Ali bin Sultan in his residence in Muscat Saturday.

Referring to the two nations' historical friendship, Nouri stated that Iran and Oman has established an appropriate level of political relations, whereas due to some executive obstacles they were not able to suitably expand their economic and trade exchange.

Majlis speaker of Iran considering the will of the Plan and Budget Organization, Mohammad Ali Najafi discussed promotion of Tehran-Bangkok ties with the Thai Parliament Speaker, Wan Mohammad Nor Matha, in Bangkok Wednesday evening.

Najafi is currently visiting Thailand to attend the 54th annual meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (ESCAP). IRNA reported.

The Iranian vice-president expressed hope that the fifth session of Iran-Thailand joint commission to be held in Tehran in early summer will help further promote bilateral ties.

Mohammad Nor Matha, stressing further consolidation of Tehran-Bangkok relations, called for further attention to joint ventures by the two countries.

He said that the measures taken by the Mayor of Tehran, Gholam-Hussein Karbaschi in matters related to city services, environment, training and the issues of culture have captivated the attention of UNECO, adding that "his positive services have been the reason for Tehran being selected as the city of peace among the twenty cities in the world.

Jalali stated that the mayor of Tehran had worked hard on the creation of 'green belts' and providing 'open space for recreation' in the most congested parts of the megapolis, IRNA reported from Paris.

He said that his other services included converting public transportation from gasoline and diesel burning to natural gas consumption system in an already over-polluted city. He said that

traffic jams had been drastically minimized through the creation of express ways, ringways and fly ways connecting the four geographical directions of the city.

The Iranian ambassador stated that besides the establishment of the 'qahveh khaneh' (tea-houses) to present the cultural aspects of Iranian ancient traditions in matters of meal services, it has set up art galleries and sky observation towers all of which had transformed the city's profile.

Jalali then pointed out special sports centers had been designed for the women for their healthy sports activities and many other training facilities created for the Ministry of Education, adding that his contribution towards education was remarkable.

He stated the objectives of UNESCO had drastically changed since the sixties and seventies and that the organization was concentrating its effort in promoting the four-fold objective, culture, education, training and communications in the cities of the world.

Iran's ambassador to UNESCO stated that in the coming twenty first century, over 50 percent of the world population are expected to be urban dwellers, adding that it was for this reason that UNESCO is trying to assume a much more active role in matters related to cities.

Jalali stated that the world agency also a UNESCO award for the city of Olongapo (the Philippines) as 'city of peace'.

Iran, Tajikistan to expand economic cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Tajikistan Rasul Musavi and Tajik Economy and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Dolat Othman in a meeting Dushanbe on Thursday explored ways of expanding Tehran-Dushanbe economic cooperation.

The two sides at the meeting stressed the need for formation of a joint economic cooperation commission in order to improve bilateral economic relations, IRNA reported.

Musavi at the meeting said that Iran is ready to form the commission, which he said would remove certain obstacles on the way of expanding mutual economic cooperation and implementation of the formerly reached agreements.

He submitted Iranian Economy and Finance Minister Hossain Namazi's congratulation message to Othman on his appointment to the ministerial post in Tajikistan. Othman, calling mutual economic cooperation as "significant" for expansion of bilateral relations, promised to help solve problems in the way of expanding bilateral cooperation in the area of economy.

ETTELAAT ON THE INTERNET  
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## Russia for increased cooperation with Iran over Tajik talks

TEHRAN - Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Yevgeny Primakov has sent a message to his Iranian counterpart Kamal Kharrazi regarding current developments in Tajikistan.

Primakov in his message has expressed concern over Tajik current developments, calling for further Tehran-Moscow cooperation aimed at promoting Tajik national reconciliation and the establishment of a permanent peace in the war-stricken Central Asian republic according to the accord reached in Moscow. IRNA reported.

In another part of his message the Russian foreign minister attaching great importance to the two countries' fruitful cooperation particularly in convincing Tajik government and the opposition group to discuss their differences at the negotiating table, expressed hope that such cooperation would be further continued.

Russian ambassador to Iran Konstantin Shiuvalo handed over Primakov's message to the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif in a meeting here Friday.

## Iran, Syria reject Israeli conditional withdrawal from Lebanon

TEHRAN - The Syrian First Vice-President, Abd al-Halim Khaddam, here Saturday afternoon rejected the Israeli plan for conditional withdrawal from Southern Lebanon, calling it in violation of the U.N. Security Council resolution 425.

Speaking to reporters at Mehrabad International Airport upon his arrival in Tehran, Khaddam added that through this plan, Israel is trying to get out of the jam it has created by its aggressive and expansionist policies, IRNA reported.

"To implement the resolution 425, the Israeli regime has to withdraw its forces from Southern Lebanon, a move which would constitute a victory for the resistance in Lebanon, Syria and elsewhere in the world.

"Who would believe that Netanyahu would give such a victory to the Lebanese resistance?"

"The Israeli regime sets fourth three conditions for implementation of the resolution 425, every one of which violates the said resolution."

According to the Syrian official, in return for a retreat from Southern Lebanon, Israel is demanding arrangements to guarantee its security, the participation of its mercenaries, the Southern Lebanese Army (SLA), in such arrangements and their absorption in the Lebanese army as well as start of negotiations.

In response to a question on the forthcoming negotiations

which served to open a new chapter in developing cultural and arts relations.

Masset voiced his country's willingness to promote cultural and arts relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The ambassador said, "I'm fond of the Iranian cinema. The Iranian cinema has succeeded in establishing relations with cinema-goers around the world."

Masset said Iranian movies scored success in the Cannes annual film festival and hoped that this year too the Iranian movie-makers would also win top prizes.

This year's Cannes film festival will open in the next few weeks.

The ambassador said the French daily, Le Monde, has planned a tour to Iran of 200 of its readers to see the developments in the Islamic Re-

public of Iran. He called for screening of the French movies in the Iranian cinemas.

conditions are not reasonable and certainly not supported by Iran."

Habibi further reiterated Iranian objections to Turkish military cooperation with the Zionist regime, adding that the issue would be discussed in meetings with the visiting Syrian officials.

Besides Habibi, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi was at the airport to greet the Syrian officials.

## Grounds prepared for boosting Tehran-Paris cultural relations

TEHRAN - Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ataollah Mohajerani said on Saturday that France is the cradle of the European culture and stressed the need for boosting Tehran-Paris cultural cooperation.

In a meeting with French Ambassador to Iran Jeanne Pierre Masset, Mohajerani said there are vast grounds for cultural cooperation including tourism, restoration of historical monuments, archeology, cinema, the press, cooperation between the news agencies and Iranology studies, IRNA reported.

He pointed to the project underway to build a new national library in Tehran and said Iran is ready to make use of the experiences of French architects in the project.

He said he held a meeting with the French minister of culture in Paris early this year

UNESCO names Tehran 'city of peace'

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to UNESCO, Ahmad Jalali stated in Paris Thursday that the measures taken by the Mayor of Tehran, Gholam-Hussein Karbaschi in matters related to city services, environment, training and the issues of culture have captivated the attention of UNECO, adding that "his positive services have been the reason for Tehran being selected as the city of peace among the twenty cities in the world.

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## Tehran hosts Intl. oil, gas exhibition

TEHRAN - The third international oil, gas and petrochemicals exhibition was inaugurated here on Thursday in presence of Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

The three-day exhibition, wherein 257 oil companies, including 92 ones from Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, Sweden, Japan and several other countries have taken part, is to put on show the latest developments in the oil industry and to maintain a link between Iranian and foreign experts.

President:

## World in need of peace, tranquility

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami here on Saturday said "peace in the world is possible only through understanding amongst governments and their joint cooperation."

Receiving the outgoing South Korean Ambassador to Tehran, Kim Jae Kyu, the president added "friendship amongst nations can help the peace and tranquility in the world," IRNA reported.

"We are all in need of peace and tranquility," said Khatami, also expressing hope that Iran and South Korea would further consolidate their economic, political and cultural ties. The friendship between the two countries would help the regional peace, he added.

Referring to the economic problems recently experienced by South Korea, the chief executive expressed confidence that "the capable and prudent nation of Korea"

would overcome the hardships.

Assessing his mission to Tehran as fruitful, the ambassador expressed delight that he has helped strengthen Iran-Korea ties during his

mission.

"There are ample grounds for expansion of ties between the two countries which should be suitably utilized for their higher level of cooperation," Kim Jae Kyu said.

**General Dostum:**

## Iran able to materialize peace in Afghanistan

TEHRAN - Visiting Leader of Afghan National Islamic Movement General Abdulrashid Dostum told IRNA here Saturday that the Islamic Republic of Iran was always beside the Afghan nation playing an important role aimed at materializing peace in the war-ravaged Afghanistan.

On his first ever visit to Iran, the Afghan vice-president and the top military brass in charge of the northern part of Afghanistan said that considering the significant role of Iran in the region he came here to help the materialization of a permanent peace in his country.

He added that the restoration of peace depended on Taliban's cooperation, expressing hope that Islamabad meeting would be fruitful.

The representatives of Taliban and the allied opposition front led by President Burhanuddin Rabbani were expected to hold a joint meeting in Islamabad.

Meanwhile, the Iranian special envoy on Afghan affairs Alaeddin Boroujerdi stated that Tehran was interested in putting an end to the Afghan crisis.

"Iran as the chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) was the home of those who pursue the policy of ending the conflicts," he added.

Referring to upcoming Islamabad joint meeting between the Afghan conflicting parties, Boroujerdi pointed out that the meeting was a joint initiative of the representatives of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conference which had recently negotiated the matter with both the allied national Islamic front and Taliban.

Boroujerdi indicated that negotiation between different Afghan factions and political parties was the only way out of the current internal bloodsheds, saying that Tehran was optimistic about Islamabad meeting and regarded it as a step toward restoration of peace and tranquility in the war-stricken Afghanistan.

Dostum heading a political delegation arrived here Saturday evening on a four-day visit.

He is expected to hold talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, and other Iranian officials on current Afghan situation.

While in Tehran Dostum may also confer with President Mohammad Khatami.

## Georgia favors promotion of Tehran-Tbilisi cooperation in region

Central Asia and Caucasus, and disputes in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Karabakh, IRNA reported from Tbilisi.

The two sides took note of the upcoming 4th session of Irano-Georgian joint commission in Tbilisi, calling it as an appropriate time for further enhancing of the two countries' economic cooperation.

The Georgian president appreciated the cordial message sent by his Iranian counterpart, assessing developments achieved during President Khatami's administration as 'vital' and 'captivating'.

At the end of his talks Shevardnadze invited President Khatami to pay a visit

to Georgia.

Sarmadi on his part referring to Iran's political will which was aimed at further expanding bilateral and regional relations particularly in the area of economy, said that the Iranian diplomacy was based on thorough alleviation of tension in the international relations specially in the relations between the neighboring nations.

He added that the Islamic Republic of Iran was determined to seriously pursue such policy particularly after the successful eighth summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran, in December 1997.

## Iran protests to Baghdad against assassination of senior ayatollah

TEHRAN - Iraqi Charge d'Affaires to Iran Salah Nouri as-Samarrad was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Thursday in protest at assassination of a senior Iranian ayatollah in Najaf. Ayatollah Morteza Boroujerdi, 70, living in Najaf was shot dead Tuesday on his way home from the holy shrine of Imam Ali (a.s.) in Najaf where he was performing prayers everyday, IRNA reported. He received several bullet wounds and died immediately. his two companions who were accompanying him to his residence were also wounded. The assailants managed to escape the scene.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry Director General for the Persian Gulf Affairs Ali Asghar Khaji condemned the assassination and voiced the regret of the Iranian government and nation over the tragic incident.

He called on the Iraqi government to arrest and punish those involved in the assassination.

Khaji urged the Iraqi government to take precautionary measures to stop repetition of such incidents.

As-Samarrad announced the Baghdad government's regret over the bitter incident and said he would report Iran's protest to his government and would give its answer to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The eminent jurisprudent, Ayatollah Boroujerdi was source of emulation (Marja-e-Taqlid) with many followers around the Muslim world.

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