

Cabinet approves two projects involving foreign investment

TEHRAN - In a decision Sunday night, the Iranian Cabinet approved a German company's bid to invest in 'Nowzhand' industrial complex for manufacturing steel wires and another bid by a Luxembourg-based manufacturer to make propylene films.

Government spokesman Ataollah Mohajerani said here Sunday that the Cabinet had also approved a general protocol for economic, business, scientific, technical and sports and physical education cooperation between the youth of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

President:

Economic prosperity requires jump in national production

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami here on Sunday said that social justice and economic prosperity is not possible but through increasing national production and better utilization of human resources.

The remark was part of the president's message to the second conference to 'support national products' held in Tehran's 'Tarbiat Modares' University, IRNA reported.

The message, read by Majlis Deputy labor leader Aboiqassem Sarbadizadeh, also referred to manufacturing jobs as driving force for the national economy.

Reliance on domestic human resources, creation of a suitable legal and administrative structure, reforming the system of distribution as well as defining a proficient system government non-oil exports were emphasized by

Afghanistan's Dostum thanks Iran for peace efforts

TEHRAN - The head of the Afghan National-Islamic Movement, Abdulrashid Dostum, on Sunday thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

In a meeting with the Iranian Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrizi, in Tehran, Dostum said "the Islamic Republic of Iran has stood by the Afghan nation in the most difficult situations and worked to put

an end to the crisis in the country, IRNA reported. "We would never forget the assistance by our Iranian brothers," he said. Dostum emphasized the determination by the Afghan northern alliance to work for establishment of peace in the war-torn country, adding that the oppressive policies of the Taliban have been sources of the nation's many pains and sufferings.

He further called on the Taliban to be sincere in the forthcoming negotiations for peace.

The Iranian foreign minister stressed the Iranian stance that unity amongst all Afghan groups would guarantee peace and stability in Afghanistan.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a neighbor and the chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, is ready to help solve Afghan nation's problems and to bring peace and tranquility to the country," Kharrizi said.

General Dostum is presently in Tehran to confer with Iranian officials on the latest Afghan developments.

TEHRAN - The Syrian First Vice-President Abd al-Halim Khaddam wound up his visit to Tehran and left for Damascus early Sunday afternoon after meeting President Mohammad Khatami.

Khaddam, who was officially seen off by his Iranian counterpart Hassan Habibi, told reporters at the airport before departure that he was satisfied with his visit to Tehran, IRNA quoted him as saying.

In a meeting with President Khatami who is also the current chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Khaddam briefed him on the latest regional developments, including the recent Zionist ploy on conditional withdrawal from South Lebanon.

Khaddam appealed to Muslim countries to join hands to solve problems facing the world of Islam.

Underlining the need to further strengthen the role of OIC, the Syrian official said that a new chapter will be opened in OIC under the chairmanship of Iran.

On growing Tehran-Damascus relations, he said that the friendly relations between the two countries provides the best pattern for other Islamic countries.

Meanwhile, President Khatami urged the Islamic countries to unite in the face of Zionist conspiracy and rally around their common interests and promote understanding among themselves.

Referring to Tehran-Damascus amicable relations, President Khatami called for further promotion of regional cooperation within OIC and U.N.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran, he said that he had submitted a message from President Hafiz al-Assad to his Iranian counterpart inviting him to pay a state visit to Syria.

He added that during the meetings held between the two countries' officials, Iran and Syria shared common viewpoints on different issues which will be announced in a joint communiqué later.

On the critical situation in Iraq, he noted that his country stresses the need to maintain territorial integrity of Iraq and is opposed to any military act against that country.

Meanwhile, Habibi called for implementation of the U.N. resolution 425, saying Syria and Lebanon will not accept any condition for withdrawal of the Zionist forces from South Lebanon. Iran has also approved of the two countries' stands in this regard, he added.

On Iran-Syria cooperation, he said that bilateral economic and trade relations will persuade other regional countries to join the two countries.

Australia attaches importance to ties with Iran

TEHRAN- The Australian Ambassador to Tehran Stuart Hume said that his country attaches importance to its economic ties with Iran.

He stressed that his country considers Iran as a major trade partner and therefore, an Australian economic delegation will visit Iran in the near future, he added.

Recently there has been positive international attitude towards Iran, he said, adding that the trend is growing further. The Australian ambassador, on a tour of Kerman Province, met Governor General of the province, Masoud

Mahmoudi who said that grounds are paved for investment in the province.

He stressed that the decision of the government in creating two free trade zones in Sirjan and Bam has given the province special importance promising a bright prospect.

The Australian diplomat stressed that European companies are trying to establish close relations with Iran in order to make investment in the country.

He further called for export of Iranian petrochemical prod-

ucts to his country.

Hume said that the Australian company, BHP which is active in oil, copper, steel and other mineral substance projects has made investments in Sarcheshmeh copper mines in Kerman and Songoon of Aharin northwestern province of East Azarbaijan.

Talks are underway between the two countries' officials to activate the provincial copper mines by the BHP and other Australian companies, he said.

Oil minister underlines importance of joint ventures

TEHRAN - Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said that participation in joint ventures with other countries can provide an opportunity for Iran to make use of technical know-how of its foreign partners, the morning Persian language daily 'Iran' reported Saturday.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the third international oil, gas and petrochemical exhibition, opened here Thursday, the oil minister called on Iranian engineers and experts to consider oil technology as a national wealth.

Another speaker at the ceremony, Sepahbodi, underlined the significance of oil, gas and petrochemical industries in running the wheels of world industries.

Sepahbodi who is the deputy chairman of Export Promotion Center of Iran, added

that in addition to its huge oil resources Iran stood second in the world for its gas reserves. This has placed Iran in an important position in the Middle East, he stated.

He said that four million tons of petrochemical products exported last year fetched Dls. 600 million, constituting 20 percent of Iran's non-oil exports.

The official said that the exhibition provides a good opportunity for domestic and foreign experts to become acquainted with technological achievements of one another.

Some 165 production and industrial companies in the field of exploration and exploitation of oil and gas, petrochemical products and the subsidiary industries from Britain, France, Russia, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Canada, Sweden, Hungary, Romania, the United Arab Emirates, Greece, Japan, Monaco and Ukraine are taking part in the four-day exhibition.

deputy minister:

Economic reform plan to be offered to Cabinet soon

TEHRAN - Deputy Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs of Iran Abbas Arab-Mazar said here that a plan for a national economic reform would shortly be presented to the Cabinet for interim approval.

He told IRNA that among the various goals of the new revised plan is to maintain national development, ensure stable growth, control inflation at possible levels, and distribute income in the society on a fair basis.

Another goal of the plan is to eliminate parallel decision making centers and duplication of administrative operations in the area of national economy.

He said the taxation revenues of the administration is fairly good, but that to reduce dependence on oil revenues in the coming years, taxation revenues should be sufficient enough for current expenditures and oil revenues will have to be earmarked for national development budget.

The Finance Ministry official said that due to the preventive policies of the past few administrations in Iran inflation had dropped from 44 percent in 1995 to only 17 percent in 1997. He also hoped that new revised regulations would encourage exports in the future.

Pedestrian demonstrators against child labor arrive in Tehran

TEHRAN - A group of pedestrian demonstrators against child labor that set off from Manila, the Philippines, three months ago arrived in Tehran Sunday.

In their symbolic protest rally, the group that comprise children and young adults from Asian countries shouted slogans imploring national governments to adopt sanctions against hazardous child labor, facilitate basic education, and make it compulsory for school age children the world over.

They arrived at the Iranian border of Mirjaveh last Friday, and are to continue their long walk to Turkey this week, IRNA reported.

The young demonstrators who have walked across the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, India and Pakistan come from the Philippines, India, Honduras, Cambodia, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

Iran, Qatar to expand cooperation in educational field

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Doha Mahmoud Movahedi and Qatari Education Minister Muhammad Abdulrahim Kafud in a meeting in Doha on Sunday explored ways of expanding mutual cooperation in the field of education.

The two sides also exchanged views on further consolidation and expansion of mutual cooperation in all areas, the educational field in particular.

Kafud expressed satisfaction with excellent ties enjoyed by Iran and Qatar.

ETTELA'AT
INTERNATIONAL
The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8829 NO. 958, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1998

Khaddam:

Tehran-Damascus relations growing

TEHRAN - The visiting Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nouri said in Muscat on Sunday that Israel possesses nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction, seeking to penetrate into the Persian Gulf region.

Nateq-Nouri told Oman's Minister of Defence Massoud bin Harib that Israel has dealt many blows on Muslims and that if Muslim states refrain from getting united or exercising vigilance, Israel will continue to deal blows on them, IRNA reported from Muscat.

Underlining the need for unity among Muslim states in the face of the dangers threatening Islam and Muslims, Nateq-Nouri expressed hope that the Islamic countries would try to identify their enemies.

Hareb said for his part that relations between Iran and Oman are "exemplary" in the region.

He added that Oman believes that Muslim states should have coordinated stance against the enemies of Islam and Iran can play an important role in this regard.

In another meeting with his Omani counterpart Abdullah bin Ali al-Qatabi here on Sunday, Nateq-Nouri cautioned against enemies' efforts to create an atmosphere of distrust in the region to strengthen their own presence.

He said that an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood among regional states would strip foreigners of any pretext to maintain their presence in the region. Therefore, he added, regional

confidence.

The workshop will also study the aid operations during the quakes as well as the experiences obtained from the said events, added Ghafouri.

Some 30 experts would have presentations during the workshop, Ghafouri said, adding that the presentations would focus on the quakes in Japan's Kobe as well as Iran's Ardeabil, Bojnord, Qa'en and Birjand.

Ghafouri said that the workshop can be a turning point in Iran-Japan cooperation in earthquake research.

The 51-member Japan-based International Institute for Seismology and Earthquake Engineering was founded in 1962 and aims to work on seismology and earthquake engineering for the purpose of reducing earthquake damage in the world.

Iran, Japan to cooperate in research on earthquake

TEHRAN - The first expert workshop to study the recent earthquakes in Iran and Japan would be held in Tehran May 16-18. The workshop is sponsored by the International Institute for Seismology and Earthquake Engineering as well as Japan's Kobe University.

The announcement was made by an official of the international institute, Mohsen Ghafouri, who further told IRNA that the workshop is a forum for presenting results of studies on the technical, economic, social and psychological impacts of the recent earthquakes in Iran and Japan.

The workshop would also study the aid operations during the quakes as well as the experiences obtained from the said events, added Ghafouri. Some 30 experts would have presentations during the workshop, Ghafouri said, adding that the presentations would focus on the quakes in Japan's Kobe as well as Iran's Ardeabil, Bojnord, Qa'en and Birjand.

Ghafouri said that the workshop can be a turning point in Iran-Japan cooperation in earthquake research.

The 51-member Japan-based International Institute for Seismology and Earthquake Engineering was founded in 1962 and aims to work on seismology and earthquake engineering for the purpose of reducing earthquake damage in the world.

Chinese experts in Iran to study construction of bridge

QESHM - An eight member Chinese team of experts on Sunday inspected the proposed construction site of the 'Persian Gulf' bridge in Qeshm island's port of Loft.

The Deputy Director of Qeshm Free Trade Zone (FTZ) Development and Expansion Organization Nikar-Isfahan said that the Chinese experts are in Qeshm for feasibility study on the bridge, IRNA reported.

He added that it is the second time in the past month that this group, affiliated to

Official denies Japan's mediation in Iran-U.S. disputes

TEHRAN - Iran's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Asia and Pacific Mohsen Aminzadeh here Sunday disclaimed rumors that Japan might be interceding between Iran and the U.S. He said in a meeting in Tehran last week, special envoy of Japan Masahiko Komura had simply voiced the pleasure of his government with the improving atmosphere between Tehran and Washington, IRNA reported.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official said that Iranian authorities had reminded the Japanese envoy that still in many respects the U.S. administration is sticking to its hostile policies in connection with the Islamic Republic. He said as the result of the more recent political developments in Iran many peoples of the world had revised their feelings about Iran. Japan's state secretary for foreign affairs who visited Tehran last week was the first ranking official of the country to visit Tehran since President Khatami of Iran took office. The Iranian Foreign Ministry official said the visit of the Japanese envoy was a big stride for further developing relations between Iran and Japan. He added that the Japanese had also indicated their interest in more regular exchange visits between the officials of Iran and Japan.

He said Iran would welcome Japan's investment in oil, petrochemical, power plants and transportation projects.

You can advertise in

ETTELA'AT International Edition

For details:

Phone: 0171-250-0840 {Europe (London)

Fax: 0171-250-0842 {

Phone: (212)246-4521 {USA (New York)

Fax: (212)246-4332 {

ETTELAAT ON THE INTERNET
<http://www.ettelaat.com>