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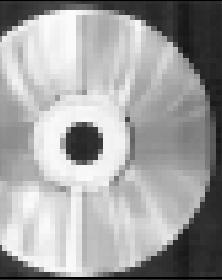
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Iran crowned as Asia-Pacific wrestling club champion

TEHRAN - The Iranian wrestling team has won the Asia-Pacific club championship of Greco-Roman wrestling.

The Iranian team won the championship of the tournament held in Manila, on the strength of nine gold medals.

Japan and the Philippines ranked second and third, respectively.

Three teams from the host country, as well as teams from Iran, Thailand, Japan, Taiwan, Vietnam, India and New Zealand took part in the tournament.

ETTELA'AT

INTERNATIONAL

The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8829 NO. 988, THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1998

U.N. chief:

Iran's contribution to regional, Intl. peace commendable

TEHRAN - U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan Tuesday praised Iran's contribution to international peace and security.

Annan made the remark in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi who is currently here to attend the U.N. special conference on drugs.

The two sides discussed key international and regional developments, the recent nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan in particular, as well as fight against narcotics and Iran-U.N. cooperation.

Annan said Iran has fully cooperated with U.N. on Afghanistan, Tajikistan and human rights issues and has taken effective steps to fight against illicit drugs, IRNA reported from New York.

Turning to the positive views of Indian and Pakistani officials on easing tension and avoiding further nuclear tests, Kharrazi said a more active role by the secretary general in talks between the two sides will be fruitful.

EU set for fresh talks with Iran late June

TEHRAN - EU foreign ministers said in Luxembourg on Monday that they would start fresh talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran this month.

Observers said the future discussion between Iran and the EU will include issues consistent with the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) currently chaired by the Islamic Republic of Iran, status of Muslims in Europe and the approach of

Affairs Council meeting in Brussels Monday, the ministers said that they welcomed the first meeting of resumed dialogue in Brussels between Iran and the EU Troika at regional director level on May 19.

They noted the "positive and constructive discussion which took place on this occasion" and expressed hope that it represented the beginning of a more comprehensive dialogue following March's decision for a fresh approach.

The British Foreign Office Tuesday was unable to confirm reports that senior EU officials would be travelling to Iran around June 20 for substantive talks on an agenda agreed at the first meeting.

However, the visit is expected to take place before the end of June, when EU foreign ministers are again due to consider further steps in improving relations with Iran, according to the provisional agenda.

Unlike the much-discredited "critical dialogue," discussions with Iran are to include issues of mutual interest, like economic cooperation, technology, energy, combating drugs, environment concerns and regional problems.

Meanwhile, an informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday welcomed the decision made by foreign ministers of European Union in Luxembourg.

In light of the EU bid to shift its former stand adopted as a result of unfounded charges, Iran will consider the decision and will announce its views on the time and level of the negotiators, he told IRNA.

The Foreign Ministry official said Iran would announce views on the agenda of the talks, the subjects of the fresh talks will be different from the former ones of which the European Union would be informed in advance, he said.

Kuwaiti minister:

Kuwait ready to expand ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Visiting Kuwaiti Minister of the Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khalid al-Ahmad as-Sabah told his Iranian counterpart on Tuesday that considering Iran's good will, Kuwait is interested in binding any kind of bilateral agreement and having cooperation with Tehran in all available fields of communication.

He said that some 62,000 Iranians are presently living in Kuwait and he is charged by the leader of his country to provide facilities for their living in that country.

He said that before Iraqi

Western oil firms prepare for return to Iran

TEHRAN - Western oil firms are pressing to re-open representative offices in Iran as the Islamic Republic prepares to open up its strategic oil and gas sector to foreign investment, said a report published in the Middle East Times weekly (MET).

British Petroleum PLC, France's Elf Aquitaine, Australia's Broken Hill PTY Co. Ltd. (BHP) and Russia's Gazprom are the latest firms aiming to move back to Tehran, said MET which is owned by an American organization but published from Cairo, Egypt, IRNA reported from Athens.

"These companies want to become very active in Iran," the English-language weekly quoted a source at the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) saying.

Iran's upcoming offer of a series of oil and gas development projects worth billions of dollars at an unprecedented seminar in London on 1-3 July is seen as a major factor behind renewed interest in Iran as an important oil play, stressed the weekly.

invasion, some 40,000 Iranians were living in Kuwait. He called resident Iranians in Kuwait as peace-loving and devout Muslim people.

The Kuwaiti minister in the meeting called for cooperation with Iran in removing problems in transit of people and goods and also trafficking of goods and drugs on the frontier.

Iranian Interior Minister Abdollah Nouri told the Kuwaiti minister that problems, if any, could be solved through negotiations.

He added that Iran has adopted a constant positive stand in supporting Kuwaiti sovereignty in international and regional forums and is determined to further friendly ties with that country.

Nouri said that the visit of Kuwaiti emir to Tehran was followed by development in bilateral ties and big strides have been taken to consolidate Iran-Kuwait bonds.

He stressed that exchange of visits by officials of the two countries would undoubtedly ensure protection of national interests and finding solution to any possible problems.

Four anti-revolutionary elements, two men and two women, tried to approach Kharrazi and his entourage

necessity of the two countries' cooperation at different international organizations particularly at the level of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

Expansion of Tehran-Bissau relations and preliminaries for the President Vieira's fourthcoming visit to Iran were some of the items reviewed at the meeting.

He made the remark in a meeting with Iran's accredited Ambassador to Guinea-Bissau Mohammad-Taher Rabbani.

He also underlined the

is spent annually on demand reduction programs including treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of addicts.

Kharrazi also remarked that in daily battles against drug traffickers, many of Iranian law enforcement personnel have been martyred, numbering 2,356 in the past 18 years.

He said that one of the most important concerns of all states of the region and to the international community is the critical issue of illicit cultivation of poppy and drug production in Afghanistan. He said, "my delegation is of the opinion that the international community has the responsibility to put an end to the current bloodshed and should try to seek for political stability, national consensus and commitments in Afghanistan to bring the alarming drug issue under control."

Kharrazi said that Iran encourages the U.N. Drug Control Program (UNDCP) to continue its efforts in controlling and curbing illicit supply through regional cooperation. He expressed satisfaction over an agreement signed by UNDCP to establish a central coordination unit in the Economic Cooperation Organization within the ECO secretariat in Tehran, adding that ECO can play an important role in stimulating action against illicit drug trafficking in the region.

He reiterated Iranian government's determination to continue its combat against the illicit drug trafficking but stressed that evidently no country could win this fight on its own and international cooperation is a key requisite for any successful plan of action.

Foreign Ministry official: Good words by U.S. not a substitute for good deeds

TEHRAN - A Foreign Ministry official of Iran said here Tuesday that good words and kind gestures by the U.S. would not be taken as a substitute for good deeds.

Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs Morteza Sarmadi said the U.S. should quit its hostile behavior towards Iran in order for Iran to have grounds for considering relations with it, IRNA reported.

Sarmadi said at the instigation of the Zionists, the Americans had gone a long way to offer an erroneous picture of Iran which effort, he said, had failed by the presence on all scenes of the Iranian people and especially by their massive participation at the previous presidential elections.

He added the absence of support to the U.S. by other countries in its continuing schemes against Iran is proof of Iran's plausible diplomacy worldwide.

Sarmadi said the Zionists and pressure groups in the United States that are partial to the Zionist regime try to offer a distorted view of Iran in a bid to prevent closeness of human societies.

He remarked that while the Zionist regime possesses a big supply of mass destruction weapons, one cannot blame India and Pakistan for their nuclear tests, although the tests should not be regarded as a good course of action.

He also said that as a member country in all world conventions regarding non-proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, Iran supports the notion of dismantling of such weapons in the region and in the world.

He added that since the absence of support to the U.S. by other countries in its continuing schemes against Iran is proof of Iran's plausible diplomacy worldwide.

Expressing regret over the incident, State Department Spokesman James Rubin said that neither Kharrazi nor his guards were injured.

He added that since Kharrazi is in the United States to attend the U.N. General Assembly, the U.S. must provide protection for him like any other official foreign visitor.

The incident occurred when the Iranian delegation was leaving the hotel for the U.N. headquarters.

Soon after the incident, Kharrazi and his entourage met with President of the U.N. Security Council, Antonio Monteiro, according to schedule.

Kharrazi arrived in New York on June 5 to attend the 20th special session of the U.N. General Assembly on drugs.

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<http://www.ettelaat.com>

Tehran, Brasilia to promote scientific cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and Brazil discussed expansion of scientific and educational cooperation between universities the two countries.

In a meeting in Brasilia between Chancellor of Brasilia University Laoro Muheri and Iran's Ambassador to Brazil Taherian Mobarakeh, the two sides exchanged views over bilateral cooperation in the said areas.

The two officials also agreed on upgrading scientific, cultural, research and educational cooperation between Tehran University and University of Brasilia.

Majlis deputies call for impeachment of interior minister

TEHRAN - Thirty one deputies staged by theologians of Qom Seminary, permitting certain gatherings, and inciting employees of the Interior Ministry and other people by creating tension after arrest of Tehran Mayor Gholamhosse Karbaschi,

The letter was read by Naeq-Nouri at the end of the open session of Majlis Wednesday morning, IRNA reported.

In their letter, the deputies said, "continuation of Nouri's service in the post of interior minister is detrimental to tranquility and stability in the country."

The motion will be read at the same session or the next and will be sent to the minister concerned.

The minister in question has to appear before the Majlis within 10 days to give the necessary explanations.

Ireland keen to expand ties with Iran in all fields

TEHRAN - Speaker of Iranian Parliament (Majlis) Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in a meeting here on Tuesday with the visiting head of Irish Parliament's commission for public auditing James Mitchel said Iran-Ireland relations in political and economic fields are good and called for further promotion of ties through efforts of the two countries' parliaments.

Nouri stressed the need for exchange of parliamentary delegations between Iran and Ireland and also formation of a joint economic commission. He also said that ensuring peace and stability in the region and all over the world constitutes Iran's strategic policy, IRNA reported.

Nouri added that war efforts have brought no prosperity to any country and that if certain countries were free from dominating tendencies, the world would experience peace and calm.

He also said that as a member country in all world conventions regarding non-proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, Iran supports the notion of dismantling of such weapons in the region and in the world.

He remarked that while the Zionist regime possesses a big supply of mass destruction weapons, one cannot blame India and Pakistan for their nuclear tests, although the tests should not be regarded as a good course of action.

He also said that as a member country in all world conventions regarding non-proliferation of weapon of mass destruction, Iran supports the notion of dismantling of such weapons in the region and in the world.

Expressing regret over the incident, State Department Spokesman James Rubin said that neither Kharrazi nor his guards were injured.

He added that since Kharrazi is in the United States to attend the U.N. General Assembly, the U.S. must provide protection for him like any other official foreign visitor.

The incident occurred when the Iranian delegation was leaving the hotel for the U.N. headquarters.

Soon after the incident, Kharrazi and his entourage met with President of the U.N. Security Council, Antonio Monteiro, according to schedule.

Kharrazi arrived in New York on June 5 to attend the 20th special session of the U.N. General Assembly on drugs.

Turkmenistan to sign pipeline agreements with Iran

TEHRAN - Turkmen President Saparmurat Niyazov says that he will sign agreements with Iran later this month covering oil and gas export pipelines, according to Middle East Economic Survey.

The weekly said one agreement will cover the construction of an oil pipeline that will carry Turkmen crude oil to the Persian Gulf, while the other will carry Turkmen gas across northern Iran to Turkey, IRNA reported from London.

Niyazov was also quoted saying Turkmenistan will invite Iran and Russia to participate in oil and gas pipeline projects across the Caspian Sea, as proposed by the U.S., but which has been opposed by Tehran and Moscow on environmental grounds.

The Cyrus-based newsletter reported that the Turkmen president planned to meet his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Khatami at the end of June.

Confirmation of the prospective pipeline deals follows the U.S. repeating its opposition to any type of pipeline crossing Iran and threatening any foreign company that becomes involved with such an undertaking under the controversial Iran-Libya sanctions act (ILSA).

Following the U.S. backing down in imposing sanctions on non-American firms investing in the development of Iran's oil industry, the National Iranian Oil Company last week challenged the new threat by launching a Dls. 400 million pipeline project tender.

The project to build a 392 kms pipeline from the Caspian Sea port of Neka to Tehran is to facilitate new contracts to transfer Kazakh and Turkmen crude and make equivalent quantities available for export from Kharg island in the Persian Gulf.

Anglo-Dutch Shell is also currently carrying out a feasibility study for a gas export pipeline across Iran to Turkey from Turkmenistan, with whom it has exclusive rights to promote a transport route.

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