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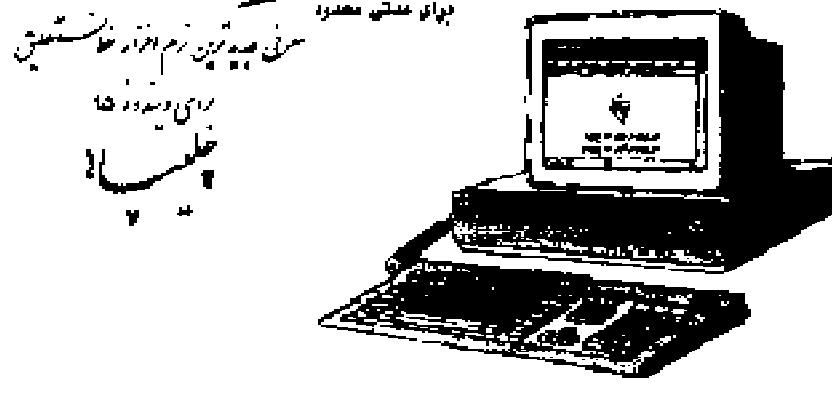
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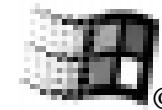
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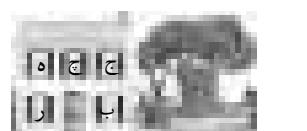
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Iran's literacy campaign movement wins world titles

GORGAN - Iran's Literacy Campaign Movement has won first and second places in the world in terms of offering education and literacy campaign, respectively, said head of Iran's Literacy Campaign Movement Mohsen Qera'ati here on Tuesday.

Qera'ati, who made the remark in a ceremony to present new director general of the movement's branch office in Golestan Province Mehdi Abutorabi, put total number of illiterates in the country at ten million, four million of which are below the age of 40.

He concluded that the movement organizes 100,000 classes for the applicants annually.

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INTERNATIONAL

The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8829 NO. 1018 THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1998

Parliament gives vote of confidence to new interior minister

TEHRAN - Members of Parliament (Majlis) gave a vote of confidence to President Mohammad Khatami's proposed Interior Minister Abdolvahed Mousavi Lari at noon Wednesday.

Out of 266 votes cast, 177 were in favor, 67 against and 22 blank, IRNA reported.

Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri had earlier announced that all votes of abstention will be counted as votes against Lari.

Tehran Deputy Mohammad Reza Bahonar who earlier in the session spoke against Mousavi Lari's nomination, said, however, that the parliament majority faction had decided to give a vote of confidence to Lari in a bid to reduce tension.

President Mohammad Khatami in a letter to the parliament speaker on July 15 nominated Mousavi Lari, 44, for the post of interior minister. He has served in the first and third terms of parliament as deputy for Lar (Fars Province) and Tehran constituencies, respectively.

Mousavi Lari substitutes former interior minister Abdollah Nouri who, after nine months in office, was impeached and received a vote of no confidence from 137 parliament deputies out of 270.

The president the same day appointed Deputy Inter-

ior Minister for Political and Security Affairs Mustafa Tajzadeh as the ministry's caretaker.

Nouri was later appointed as vice-president for development and social affairs.

Speaking at the parliament open session Wednesday, President Khatami expressed the hope that parliament will give a vote of confidence to his proposed interior minister.

In his address to the parliament deputies, President Khatami outlined priorities of his proposed interior minister at the open session of parliament here Wednesday.

Thanking the parliament speaker and the deputies, Khatami hailed services of the caretaker of the Interior Ministry Mustafa Tajzadeh and other personnel of the ministry in running the ministry following what he called "depriving the government of the valuable services of a dear brother, Mr. Nouri."

However, he said, in the light of the key role of the Interior Ministry, the minister should be appointed as soon as possible.

He said given that the main pillars of the Islamic system are people, therefore, public security and enthusiasm of the people lay the foundation for any progress, security and sustainable development.

He said given that the main pillars of the Islamic system are people, therefore, public security and enthusiasm of the people lay the foundation for any progress, security and sustainable development.

The president stated "real security" demands public participation in all affairs, adding that what is even more important is the feeling among the public that they have a share in determining fate of the society.

"It is our responsibility to prepare the ground for people's participation in all the economic, political and cultural affairs of the society," Khatami stressed, adding that this grave task should be accomplished by the Interior Ministry.

He said security and stability in the society can be realized only in the light of rule of law, adding that the criterion for order in the society is the general policy determined by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the plans which are presented to the public and accepted.

President Khatami stated that the state of liveliness prevailing over the society in the era of stabilization, should be maintained and even heightened.

Pointing to Mousavi Lari's academic and political background, the president

This sense of bliss and joy stems from the fact that rights of the people are respected, he said adding that it is the duty of all to ensure and protect rights of all citizens.

He said, "real security depends on people's sense of cooperation with and participation in the state of affairs, on considering government's success and failure as their own, and on their presence in all areas."

He underlined the Interior Ministry's instrumental role both within the government and in the society.

Therefore, he stressed, parliament deputies should preserve this right for the president to propose an individual to the post of the interior minister with whom he enjoys greater coordination, who is fully capable of performing his duties, and serves as a consolidating factor within the government.

President Khatami stated that the state of liveliness prevailing over the society in the era of stabilization, should be maintained and even heightened.

Rafsanjani:

Iran's borders highly strategic

TEHRAN - Chairman of the Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani speaking at a gathering of commanders of the law enforcement forces said that given its revolutionary stands on hegemonic powers, its strategic situation in the region and pending issues with certain neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains target of enemies, IRNA reported.

Prior to Rafsanjani's speech, commander of the law enforcement forces General Hedayat Lotfian said Iran has 8,755 km joint borders with 15 neighboring countries, 2,700 km of which is sea border.

At present, he added, the law enforcement forces are stationed at 756 border and coastal posts, patrolling the borders and monitoring frontier agreements.

Rafsanjani said that the final peace accord with Iraq is yet to be concluded, adding that the Kurdish issue remains unsolved in the northwest and lack of law and order prevails on eastern borders.

Added to this, is the presence of alien forces, the arch enemies of the Islamic Revolution, beyond the southern borders, he added.

Therefore, said the Expediency Council chairman, Iran's strategic location makes the responsibility of the law enforcement forces in safeguarding the border greater.

Stressing the significance of advanced technology in safeguarding the borders, Rafsanjani underlined the need for equipping

the law enforcement forces with the latest technology and offering specialized courses to the personnel.

Lauding services of the law enforcement forces, the Expediency Council chairman said that given its revolutionary stands on hegemonic powers, its strategic situation in the region and pending issues with certain neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains target of enemies, IRNA reported.

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Lauding services of the law enforcement forces, the Expediency Council chairman said that given its revolutionary stands on hegemonic powers, its strategic situation in the region and pending issues with certain neighboring countries, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains target of enemies, IRNA reported.

To this end, he said, justice should not be ignored within the administrative arbitration itself, stressing that justice is not a relative or individual matter but rather a social issue which should be

said a person who has given up his private life to serve the revolution will, no doubt, be steadfast in preserving its principles.

He said Mousavi Lari is a clear-sighted, rational and committed personality, who never imposes his preferences on others.

The president stressed that the society needs dialog and tolerance more than ever to further consolidate pillars of the system, adding that his full knowledge of the parliament can serve as a factor to bring closer the executive and the legislative powers.

He expressed the hope that the Interior Ministry will be given the privilege of having Mousavi Lari as the minister thus allowing the society to benefit from further stability and development.

Therefore, he added, given its grave responsibilities in economic and political fields, the government will be able to accomplish its tasks with cohesion.

In a brief interview with IRNA after addressing the

open session of parliament, President Khatami here Wednesday morning expressed the hope that the parliament will give vote of confidence to Mousavi Lari.

Parliament has a legal right and the deputies will raise general issues while debating nomination of Mousavi Lari, he said.

"Whatever the result of the debate, we will accept it," President Khatami told IRNA. The president added that it was too early to predict the outcome of the vote of confidence on Mousavi Lari.

The move by SACE is expected to give new momentum to Tehran-Rome trade relations.

The issue of the halt in the coverage by SACE, a major impediment in the way of Tehran-Rome trade, had been raised in the course of the last month visit of Italian prime minister Romano Prodi to Tehran.

It was announced during the visit that Italian exporters were waiting for resumption of the insurance coverage in order to export more than three billion dollars worth of goods to Iran.

Iranian product fair held in Chittagong

TEHRAN - A one-month Iranian product exhibition was inaugurated at Nasir Abad in Chittagong (Bangladesh) by the City Mayor, Mohi-ul Din Chowdhury Monday. Chowdhury expressed hope that such fairs would help positively contribute towards the betterment of current bilateral relations specifically in the economic area, IRNA reported from New Delhi.

The Chittagong city mayor said that the display of the Iranian products would help the people of his country learn from the close quality and standard of Iranian finished products.

The exhibition is displaying a variety of items such as carpets, leather products, handicrafts, machinery, ornament-wares and plastic items in 62 different pavilions.

Italy resumes insuring exports to Iran

TEHRAN - Italy's state export guarantee and insurance company (SACE) has resumed offering insurance coverage for exports from Italy to Iran.

SACE made the decision on the eve of the scheduled meeting of the Iranian industries minister with his Italian counterpart in Rome.

Iran's Industries Minister Gholamreza Shafeie is in Rome on a four-day official visit and is to hold talks with Italian Foreign Trade Minister Fantozzi. Shafeie is also due to address a group of Italian industrialists during his visit.

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Iran provides a good model for developing African nations

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi and the visiting Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Equatorial Guinea Miguel Oyono Ndong Mifumu here Monday night signed a letter of understanding on bilateral political, economic, technical and scientific cooperation.

According to the letter of understanding, the two sides will establish diplomatic ties at ambassadorial level. They also agreed to cooperate in agricultural, technical and health areas. Construction of power plants, roads and clinics by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Equatorial Guinea is also stated in the document.

Both Iran and Equatorial Guinea stressed establishment of joint industrial and trade companies as well as exchange of information.

Meanwhile, Mifumu told reporters that the Islamic Republic of Iran provides a good model for developing African countries.

Speaking to reporters, Mifumu termed Iran's role in international community as constructive and called for expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic. The Iranian foreign minister said Iran attaches importance to its ties with African countries and announced readiness to establish full relations with Equatorial Guinea in all fields.

In a separate meeting here on Tuesday, Health Minister Mohammad Farhad and Equatorial Guinean foreign minister and deputy premier announced their respective countries' readiness to form a common market to offer pharmaceuticals and medical equipment.

Per the agreement signed by the two sides, Iran is to dispatch experts to Guinea to offer training courses to Guinean specialized physicians. The two officials also exchanged views on potential cooperation between the two countries in the areas of education and culture.

Iran's wheat production: a success story

TEHRAN - Iran has witnessed a steep increase in wheat production in the last few years. With wheat being the primary staple food of the Iranians, this success is worth noting and celebrating.

The credit for this goes to Iran's revolutionary 'Five Year Agricultural Development Program' - 1989-1994, aimed at enhancing wheat production in the country's irrigated cultivation belt, IRNA reported from New Delhi.

A detailed appraisal of the 1989-94 program is carried out by the Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions (APAARI), Bangkok, Thailand, in a study "wheat production in Iran: a success story."

APAARI, which Iran is a member of, collects, organizes and disseminates information about agriculture-related developments in the member-countries.

According to the APAARI study, conducted by Iranian agricultural scientists Abbas Keshavarz and Mohammed Javed Mirhadi, prior to the implementation of the plan, the five years (1984-1989) average data on wheat production in Iran show that irrigated wheat area as 2.14 million hectares, the average yield as 1976 kg per hectare and the total production as 4.23 million tons.

However, says the study, after the completion of First Development Plan (1994) the total area covered for wheat cultivation rose to 2.39 million hectares, the average yield to 3090 kg per hectare and the total production to 7.4 million tons.

These figures suggest an increase of 11.9 percent in cultivated areas, 56.4 percent in yield per hectare and that of 74.9 percent in the total production.

The per capita consumption of bread wheat in Iran is about 150 kilogram. With the increasing population its demand also increased resulting in the import of this grain in the 80s, says the study, a copy of which was given to IRNA by the India's Ministry of Agriculture.

Prior to the implementation of this project 30 percent of Iran's wheat requirements were met through import. And with

the anticipated increase in population it was estimated that every year about 300-350 thousand tons of wheat shall have to be imported.

This led to a serious thinking by the government and the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Iran during which the potential capability of the country to enhance its own wheat production was critically examined, culminating into the introduction of the 'Five Year Agricultural Development Program,' informs the study.

A project "enhancement of production of irrigated wheat of the country" was started under the First Five Year Plan. The project continued its activities throughout the program.

During the course of the plan period, the publication notes, the actual increase in the area under cultivation was only marginal.

However, at the same time, a sharp increase in total production of irrigated wheat was noticed. This was mainly due to the eye catching improvement in yield per hectare.

The success story' says that the First Five Year Development Plan has been influenced by many factors, not solely limited to quantitative and qualitative improvement of farming operations and use of scientific findings.

It rather encompassed many other socio-economic measures and other phenomena, such as developing suitable strategies and policies, execution of efficient procedures, sincere guidance and supervision of method of execution and acceptance of project by farmers and producers.

UNESCO-ISESCO agreement on promoting education in Islamic countries

TEHRAN - The Secretary-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its counterpart at the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) signed a cooperation convention at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

The convention will include in particular educational programs that are aimed at Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, apart from programs aimed at saving children and the marginalized youth (street kids), IRNA reported from Paris.

The agreement will make available to them educational protection in the framework of the training programs and a concerted effort to ameliorate their conditions.

She added that a large number of country's 29.5 million female population are housewives who are highly important in raising the future generation.

She added that housewives face many problems, have the least access to social and cultural centers and suffer from many injustices.

Ms. Shojaie said that an independent organization for women must be established.

By providing protection and training, abuse of women in the family will be reduced, she said.