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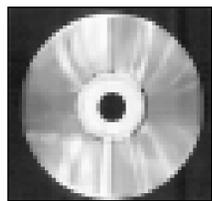
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Iran, Pakistan discuss health cooperation

TEHRAN - Deputy Health Minister Dr. Sayyari and Pakistani Acting Health Minister Hassan Pasha in a meeting stressed the need for cooperation between Tehran and Islamabad in health areas.

Sayyari said that Iran is ready to transfer its expertise to Pakistan in related fields.

The two sides also explored avenues for mutual cooperation, exchange of experts and upgrading of medical training quality.

The Pakistani delegation is to inspect some health and research centers including Pasteur Institute in Karaj, the serum producing plant in Hesarak and a number of health care centers in Isfahan and Tehran, during its stay in Iran.

ETTELA'AT

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'Iran Babaei' joins Iranian commercial fleet

TEHRAN - A multi-purpose ship 'Iran Babaei' is to join the fleet of the Islamic Republic Shipping Line at Shahid Rajaei jetty on November 19.

The ship has been named after Major General Babaei, operational deputy commander of the air force who attained martyrdom during the Iraqi imposed war.

The ship is 168.4 meters long, 26 meters wide, has a speed of 16.5 knots, its displacement capacity is 22,621 metric tons and has enough rooms for carrying 1,000 containers.

Iran Babaei is among the six 22,000 metric ton vessels which have been ordered by IRSL to South Korea.

President inaugurates TV booster station:

Free flow of information boosts people's confidence in media

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami Sunday inaugurated Jamaran TV/radio booster station in northern Tehran in a ceremony which was also attended by a number of officials, including those of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

The station has been set up at a cost of Dlr 4.2 million plus Rls. 11.6 billion with an aim to boost reception quality of TV programs as well as FM radio transmission in the metropolitan Tehran, IRNA reported.

With the operation of the station, people in the cities of Tehran, Shahriyar and Qods as well as those in 358 surrounding villages whose population amount to 67.6 percent of the total population of Tehran Province (7,239,891) will be able to receive programs of five TV channels with no difficulty.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, IRIB head Ali Larjani said in the course of the two five-year development plans (to end 1999), in addition to increase in the coverage span of the five TV channels in Tehran Province, seven other TV channels became operational in Isfahan, Khuzestan, Mazandaran, Gilan and West

Azərbaycan provinces.

Underlining IRIB's performance in launching different radio stations and TV channels throughout the country, Larjani said utilization of Iranian expertise and technical know-how at various stages of designing, installation and operation are among outstanding features of the said projects.

Addressing the participants at the inaugural ceremony, President Khatami said that people reasonably expect IRIB to reflect policies, programs, strategies and orientations of the Islamic system and the people.

"But," he stressed, "this does not mean that a strategic body as IRIB be a one-sided admirer of country's programs."

The president said that in the contemporary world when people have easier access to information and data which is further facilitated every day, if people are provided with one-sided information, they would turn to other media which will satisfy them more.

He said, "we are faced with this reality that first a relationship based on respect and confidence should be forged between those who receive the message and

those who sent it. Therefore, people will feel that they are being respected. Governments should not merely practice the authority which has been delegated to them by the people themselves."

Stressing that respect and confidence is a prerequisite to receiving the message, Khatami said people should see themselves be reflected by IRIB, adding that this is the key to national security as well.

Of course, he added, it should not be interpreted that IRIB should allow individual preferences to influence its programs. However, through respect and confidence the audience will be influenced more, the president said.

Underlining the significance of free flow of information, he said that people should be told the truth, otherwise "we will be deceiving ourselves."

Pointing to the soaring prices and economic difficulties in the society, the president said if hardships are not reflected and people only hear about positive aspects, they will gradually lose confidence in IRIB.

Elsewhere in his address the president criticized bombardment of viewers with news which are of secondary

importance while there are major international events worth covering.

He said although people should be informed of the performance of the president, he himself prefers not to be shown on TV if there are other developments with greater priority.

President Khatami said creation of opportunities for people to make analysis over various decision-makings and plannings of the government will further boost people's confidence.

However, he said, the audience should not develop the feeling of being treated as tools but rather as independent and thoughtful individuals who hold their own views and questions concerning the system and its policies.

The president stressed that people should be informed of issues while various aspects of national security and territorial integrity of the country are taken into consideration.

He said that IRIB is not expected to make analysis over issues from the platform of an opposition, but rather people prefer if it elaborates on policies and programs which need to be completed.

President Khatami reiterated that if such questions are not raised in a sound atmosphere, no mutual confidence will be forged and people will no more regard IRIB as their own voice and vision.

He added, "there are questions in the minds of men and women in our young society which should be addressed, partly by the press. If we do not let questions be raised, immediately they become suppressed which in certain times emerge as social explosions."

Admitting that IRIB head faces many problems when

Bayer Leverkusen:

Iran's soccer capable of progress at world level

TEHRAN - Three senior members of Germany's Bayer Leverkusen soccer club who are currently in Iran said the talented youth and great interest of the population in this sport are two factors which will help elevate Iran's soccer to world level.

Reiner Calmund and Kund Vuack, the head and chairman of the Bayer Leverkusen along with the club's ex-player Rudi Voller, who arrived in Tehran on Friday at the invitation of Esteghlal club made the remark at a press conference.

Turning to the match between Pirouzi and Esteghlal clubs held on Friday as part of the nationwide football league, in which Pirouzi beat Esteghlal 1-0, Voller said he was delighted to see such a huge number of fans turn out at Azadi Stadium to watch the game.

Voller said he be-

lieved that with such talents and so many fans the Iranian soccer should be paid more attention.

Reiner Calmund said it is the second time he is visiting Iran and that he is pleased to see so many people are interested in soccer.

The Iranian footballer, Mehdi Pashazadeh, is currently playing for the Bayer Leverkusen club.

Aqa'ie further stated that the statistics for the month of Mehr (ended October 22) was 38.5 million liters, showing an increase of 7.9 percent compared to that for the same month last year.

The high demand for gasoline, Aqa'ie added, forced imports of 900 million liters of gasoline during the seven month period.

The official cited fuel inefficiency of the automobiles running in the country, some due to age and some because of their inefficient designs, as the reason for the high consumption of gasoline in Iran.

Turning to production of oil products in the country, Aqa'ie said that the average daily production of the products over the seven month span stood at 207.9 million liters, registering an

Iran welcomes easing of U.N.-Iraq tension

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi on Sunday expressed pleasure with easing of tension between the United Nations and Iraq over arms inspection team.

Kharrazi hoped that the U.N.-Iraq crisis would come to an immediate end through diplomatic means, IRNA reported.

The Iranian foreign minister said, "as we have declared earlier, use of force and violence will have no result but instability and insecurity in the region."

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and a neighboring country of Iraq has employed every diplomatic channel to stop escalation of crisis between the United Nations and Iraq and bring the crisis to an immediate end, Kharrazi said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that in light of the approval of the OIC summit in December 1997 in Tehran, the U.N. Security Council is required to lift the sanctions against Iraq coincident with Iraqi compliance with the U.N. resolutions," Kharrazi said.

Tehran to host Intl. seminar on historical monuments corrosion

TEHRAN - The fourth international seminar on environmental corrosion of historical and cultural monuments is to be held at the Islamic Eras Museum from November 21-25. Director of the Research Center for Protection and Restoration of Historical and Cultural Monuments and secretary of the seminar Rasul Vandoost told IRNA on Sunday that the seminar aimed to identify environmental elements cor-

roding historical sites and to provide participants with an opportunity to exchange views in related field.

He said the seminar, held every three years, has an effective and constructive role in protecting and preserving cultural heritage.

A total of 190 scholars and experts, including 35 foreigners, are to attend the meeting, said the Iranian official, adding that 20 out of 48 essays received have been chosen for presentation at the seminar.

Moreover, Vandoost said, the third international seminar on protection and repair of historical objects and architectural decorations is to be held from November 29 to December 2, upon a proposal made by Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Ataollah Mohajerani.

The official predicted that some 3.43 million barrels of oil would be needed on daily basis to address the energy and oil product needs of the country by the end of the Third Economic Development Plan (ends in the year 2004).

The domestic consumption currently stands at 2.35 million barrels of oil on daily basis. According to the official, another dilemma facing the government regarding the oil products, specially gasoline, is their illegal trafficking to the neighboring countries due to their high quality and relatively low prices.

FELICITATIONS

Today, Tuesday November 17, marks the anniversary of the beginning of prophetic mission of Prophet Mohammad (peace be upon him). The staff and management of Ettela'at International wish to congratulate Muslims all over the world on this auspicious occasion.

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Stronger India-Iran cultural ties on cards

TEHRAN - India-Iran cultural ties are poised to get a face-lift when the two countries sign 1998-2000 'executive program of cultural, scientific and technical exchange' at their 10th joint commission meeting in New Delhi next month.

The two sides have already finalized the draft, a copy of which has been made available to IRNA, of the program. It envisages wide-ranging cooperation i.e. exchange of scholars, media personalities, literature, works of art and films between India and Iran.

Education, art and culture, radio, television, press and films have been identified as major areas of cultural/scientific cooperation in the document.

In the field of education, the draft provides for participation in each other's seminars, collaboration between scientific documentation centers, Iran providing two teachers of Persian language to work at Indian universities and facilitating researches on the topic of mutual interest.

It also specifies exchange of delegations between institutions of higher education, exchange of experts and materials in the fields of adult, vocational, scientific and computer education, exchange of books, periodicals, publications and audio-visual materials pertaining to history and education, agreement on mutual recognition of each other's degrees, scholarships to each other's students, and preparation of Hindi-Persian and Persian-Hindi dictionaries.

Of special significance among these is that Iran will provide two teachers of Persian to Indian universities. Persian still remains a strong link between two nations,

with the subject being taught in most of the Indian universities at graduate, post-graduate and doctoral levels.

It is in the light of this, does the provision for preparation of Persian-Hindi and Hindi-Persian dictionaries also assume importance.

As regards art and culture, the two sides have proposed exchange of experts in the fields of cultural education in schools and documentation of arts and production of cultural resources, conservation of wall painting, folklore, dance, music and fashion technology.

The draft also provides for exchange of publications, photographs, manuscripts in the area of art and culture.

It includes a provision for exchange of researchers to study the art of papier mache for the first time.

Exchange of senior level curators, education officers, librarians museum officers, theater teachers and directors, performing troupes and cultural groups also constitutes a salient feature of the executive program.

So do the exchange or participation in each other's exhibitions on contemporary art and handicrafts, exchange of microfilms and manuscripts, Iranian side training

Indian personnel on fabrication of ceramic tiles (used in Indian historic buildings), India and Iran publishing collection of each other's poetry, Indian side deputation of a cultural anthropologist to Iran, collaboration in the study of Asian musical traditions and exchange of children's paintings, children's books and costume dolls.

Under the radio, television, press and films head, the draft envisages exchange of programs "depicting various faces of life and culture in the two countries", beaming of the TV coverage of each other's national day, exchange of radio/TV personnel, journalists and cinema personalities, organization of "film week" of each other's feature films and participation in each other's international film festivals as well as documentary, short and animation film festivals. However, the utility of this all-encompassing program on bilateral cooperation will hinge on its implementation, given the dismal record of an equally comprehensive 1995-97 executive program, but in the field of exchange of feature films, cinema personalities and participation in each other's film festivals.

Siamese twins separated successfully

TEHRAN - The four-month old Siamese twins who were born in Ramsar, in northern Iran, were separated in a successful surgical operation Saturday in Tehran. Dr. Javad Ahmadi, head of the surgery team told IRNA that the two children are presently in a satisfactory condition and will survive by 98 percent. The Siamese twins who shared abdominal parts, underwent an operation at children's ward of Tehran's Medical Sciences University, he added. The twins were both boys and were born in the third delivery by their 24-year old mother, the doctor said. During the three-hour operation the team was successful in separating wishbones, livers and intestines of the two children, he said adding that following the operation, each child weighed six kilograms.

Tourists visit historical sites in Bam

KERMAN - About 150,000 Iranian and foreign tourists visited the provincial city of Bam in the first half of the year (ending September 22). Governor of Bam Mohammad-Ali Towhidi said.

Towhidi said that number of tourists is expected to exceed 400,000 by the year end on March 20, 1999.

He said that last year, about 300,000 tourists visited historical monuments of Bam, which date back to 2,000 years ago.

The Iranian official said that serious measures have been adopted over the past two years to construct residential units with an aim to attract more tourists to the city.

Construction of a 110-bed hotel has been completed this year and 90 percent of work on establish-



ment of another hotel has been over, said Towhidi, adding that residential units in Bam can host 500 to 700

tourists now. Towhidi said that nearly 200 billion rials in infrastructural investment has

been made in New Arg of Bam over the past five years.

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