



دفتر اروپا (لندن) تلفن: ۰۱۷۱-۲۵۰۰۸۲۰

دفتر آمریکا (نیویورک) تلفن: (۲۱۲) ۲۴۶۴۵۲۱

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Austria evaluates developments in Iran as positive

TEHRAN - Secretary General of Austria's Foreign Ministry Albert Rohan told Iranian Ambassador to Vienna Ebrahim Rahimpour that his government has a positive evaluation of developments in Iran and added that it had consistently supported dialog between Iran and Europe.

The Iranian ambassador hoped that talks in Vienna later this month would strengthen present relations between Iran and Europe.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Morteza Sarmadi is to preside over the second round of EU Troika conference in Vienna this month that is a convening of the union's past, present and future heads.

ETTELA'AT

INTERNATIONAL

The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8829 NO. 1113, FRIDAY, DEC. 4, 1998

Iranian students bag 13 medals at international contests

TEHRAN - Iranian student athletes have bagged 13 medals at international various international competitions since March 21, it was announced on Wednesday.

Mehrzad Hamidi, director general of physical education department of the Ministry of Higher Education said that the Iranian students have so far bagged six gold, three silver and four bronze medals in different fields including wrestling and karate at international competitions.

Some 38,000 student athletes in 50 universities in the country are currently active in 36 sports fields, Hamidi added.

Khatami:

Iranian nation, inherently talented to create civilizations

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami on Wednesday said that the Islamic civilization is the result of employing Islam to answer the needs of the time, adding that Muslims can once again be creators of a great civilization.

Addressing a group of researchers at Razi Medical Research Festival, Khatami added that Islam provides man with a vision, and a model of behavior which has to be used to address the needs of the time.

On the impact of Islam on the progress of the Iranian nation, IRNA quoted the president as saying that Islam and the Iranian nation helped each other's progress.

Islam provided the Iranian nation, inherently talented to create civilizations, an opportunity to bloom, and the Iranian nation in turn provided Islam with a suitable forum for progress, the president said.

"Iran, if not the most important center for development of Islamic civilization, should be considered as one of the biggest of such centers."

The president further emphasized the importance of self-confidence, reliance on own culture and religion, free thinking, research and utilization of human's intellectual accomplishments as

necessary requirements for creation of civilizations, adding "only in such circumstances we can become creators and not imitators."

"We must look to the future, decide how the future should look like, and then proceed by using the collection of human accomplishments from the very beginning. This includes the positive accomplishments of the Western civilization."

Khatami referred to sciences as amongst the foundations for development, adding that sciences can only advance through research.

He expressed regret that research in Iran is approached so casually, adding that the inadequacy is due to not allocating proper financial resources as well as poor research management.

"I confess that the share of research from the gross domestic product is very small," Khatami said. The president acknowledged that Iran considerably lags behind the advanced world in terms of science and technology, adding that in parallel with utilizing others advances, the Islamic Republic should give due attention to basic researches.

He specially singled out medicine as a field greatly reliant on research, further calling on medical students and

professors to give due attention to research in their field.

Stating that Iranian researchers lack adequate access to latest information in science and technology, Khatami expressed hope that the High Council of Information, formed within the High Council of Cultural Revolution, help reduce the magnitude of the problem.

The president also stressed the importance of ethics in the medical practice, adding "we cannot only be the top of the class in some branches of science, but we can also become the class of medical ethics on the strength of our religion and culture."

Khatami also visited an exhibit of Iranian accomplishments and innovations in the medical field, and presented awards to 15 top researchers selected in the festival. Prior to the president's speech, Minister of Health Mohammad Farhadi told the audience that 8,742 researchers are active in the 39 medical colleges in the country. The colleges employ 8,453 as faculty members, he added. Calling for measures to encourage research in the medical field, Farhadi said that the faculty of the medical schools should allocate more time and energy to research in their area of expertise.

Iran welcomes friendly talks with Persian Gulf states

TEHRAN - Spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry Hamid Assefi, on the threshold of the meeting in Abu Dhabi of member states of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, said that Iran welcomes friendly talks between and consultation with Persian Gulf states.

He commented on the recent statements by the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan, saying that the Islamic Republic would look forward to settling all issues within the framework of the 1971 accord, IRNA reported.

Assefi stressed the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic that also includes the three Persian Gulf islands of the Great and Lesser Tombs and Abu-Moussa, but commented that every question in that respect would be solvable by negotiation.

Italy calls for new steps to cement ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Speaker of Italian Chamber of Deputies Luciano Violante told visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi on Wednesday that new steps should be taken to further consolidate relations between Tehran and Rome.

Violante expressed satisfaction with amicable relations between his country and Iran and said that Iranian and Italian parliaments can have good relations and cooperation in fighting illicit drugs and terrorism.

Termining cooperation between Iranian and Italian parliaments as "positive", Violante said that Italian officials are firmly determined to expand relations with Tehran in all political, cultural, economic and parliamentary spheres, IRNA reported from Rome.

He said necessary grounds should be prepared to familiarize Iranian and Italian nations with each other's civilization in view of the current dialog among the four ancient civilizations of Iran, Italy, Egypt and Greece. He also stressed the need for expansion of mutual cooperation in the field of tourism. Kharrazi for his part said that exchange of visits by Iranian and Italian parliament speakers was an indication of the two sides'

firm determination to boost bilateral relations and of the close bonds linking the Iranian and Italian nations.

He welcomed cooperation between Tehran and Rome in the fields of culture and tourism.

The two sides also discussed latest regional developments, including those in Afghanistan, Iraq and the Middle East, with Kharrazi recalling Iran's role in settlement of regional crises.

Iran and Italy stressed further promotion of bilateral trade cooperation with respect to the existing potentials and capabilities.

Kharrazi and Italian Minister of Foreign Trade Piero Fassino in their talks also discussed ways to boost economic and commercial relations.

Fassino who is the chairman of the Iran-Italy joint commission voiced his country's resolve to upgrade trade relations between the two countries adding that any obstacle preventing promotion of these ties should be removed.

Fassino referred to the visit to Tehran of presidents of 120 Italian companies to inspect the Tehran international trade fair and strike cooperation agreements as a sign of Italian trade and industrial sectors' desire to

boost cooperation with Iran.

Kharrazi described the political resolve in Iran and Italy as an important factor in upgrading mutual cooperation.

He also referred to the potentials existing in the two countries for industrial cooperation as another ground for promotion of bilateral ties.

The two sides also discussed an increase in number of permits granted to Iranian trucks and in weekly flights between Rome and Tehran.

Speaking at a press conference which was also attended by his Italian counterpart Lamberto Dini, Kharrazi said that Iran will not establish ties with countries or powers which intend to hinder its independence and freedom.

"Our foreign policy is to have relations with other countries based on mutual respect and also the principle of equality," he said, adding that Iran doubted whether the U.S. was ready for such relations. "Therefore, we do not need relations which violate our foreign policy principles," he said.

He described Tehran-Rome ties as very good and exemplary and based on mutual understanding. He added that the two countries could cooperate on such important issues as the Middle East.

Deputy foreign minister:

Iran's view on women's rights moderate

TEHRAN - Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Mohammad-Javad Zarif said on Wednesday that Iran holds a moderate viewpoint on women's rights and has logical position on observation of women's rights for presentation to the world.

Zarif, who was speaking at the opening session of the first theoretical and practical educational training courses, arranged for women to prepare their presence at the international communities said that Iranian women should have further presence at international communities to transfer Islamic values.

Iran is capable of providing the world with an independent view on women due to its highly progressive stance on women which has its origin in Islam, said Zarif.

Contrary to the viewpoint held by the West, Islam considers creation of man and woman equal and Iran inspired by Islamic teachings has much words to tell the world, said Zarif, adding that women should transfer the values to the international communities.

UNSCOM urges Iraq to hand over Iran-related document

TEHRAN - Chief of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) Richard Butler will continue pressuring Iraq to hand over a document on the use of chemical weapons during its war against Iran (1980-88), U.N. sources said.

Butler has urged Iraqi officials to submit a copy of the document which UNSCOM inspectors had seen and taken its picture at Iraq's Air Force headquarters. Iraq has refused to submit the document so far, IRNA reported from New York. Iraq says it is ready to disclose the document only in the presence of U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy Prakash Shah.

Butler said he hoped to submit a report to the U.N. Security Council on the extent of Iraq's cooperation with UNSCOM.

In case Butler approves resumption of Iraq's full cooperation with UNSCOM, the U.N. Security Council would revise its inspection programs in that country.

First vice-president:

Iran keen to develop relations with North African countries

TEHRAN - First Vice-President Hassan Habibi said on Wednesday Iran is keen on developing relations with the North African states especially with Tunisia.

In a meeting with new Tunisian ambassador to Iran Saeed Nasser Ramazan, Habibi pointed to the historical relations and religious amity between Iran and the North African states and said Iran and Islamic states including Tunisia are required to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation within the framework of the Organiza-

tion of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

There exists enormous grounds for economic, cultural and political cooperation between Muslim states, IRNA quoted Habibi as saying.

He said Islamic states should also hold dialog with other civilizations in order to introduce the great achievements of Islam.

The first vice-president called for activation of Tehran-Tunis joint economic commission, hoping that the next session of the economic commission would be held soon.

Iran, Thailand call for promotion of all-out ties

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and the Pacific, Mohsen Aminzadeh and his Thai counterpart, Sukhumbhand Paribatra, stressed promotion of Tehran-Bangkok relations.

Aminzadeh who accompanied Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri, voiced Iran's readiness to boost relations with Thailand in political, economic and cultural fields.

He also expressed hope that Tehran-Bangkok relations will further expand in tourism and arts areas, IRNA reported.

Welcoming expansion of Tehran-Bangkok relations, Sukhumbhand voiced his country's readiness to actively participate in the fifth session of Iran-Thailand joint economic commission, slated for next spring in Tehran.

He added that Iran and Thailand enjoy high potentials for joint cooperation in economic fields.

Referring to Iran's strategic importance in the region, Sukhumbhand expressed hope that Nateq Nouri's visit to Thailand will open a new chapter in Tehran-Bangkok relations.

Nateq Nouri, on the third day of his visit to Thailand, visited Ayutthaya Province.

Greeting the Iranian delegation, Yuwat Vuthimedhi, the provincial governor gen-

eral, said he and his fellow countrymen pay respect to the Muslims living in this part of the country.

The Iranian delegation also visited historical sites and research centers in the region.

The Majlis speaker also visited the tomb of Sheikh Ahmad Rouhi, known as Qomi, in the province.

Sheikh Ahmad Qomi, who was a promoter of Islam in Thailand, was born in the city of Qom, in central Iran, in 1543. He later immigrated to Thailand. He was the first who introduced Shiism in Thailand.

The sheikh died at the age of 88 and was buried in Ayutthaya region. He is highly respected in South East Asia.

The Majlis speaker Wednesday afternoon wrapped up his visit to Thailand, and left Bangkok for the Vietnamese capital, Hanoi.

Speaking to reporters prior to his departure, Nateq Nouri expressed hope that agreements reached with the Thai government during his visit would bring about the desired results.

"I hope for continuation of amicable ties between Iran and Thailand, and also further development of bilateral relations as well as the two countries cooperation in the region and at international arena," Nateq

Nasser Ramazan conveyed the greetings of the Tunisian prime minister to Habibi and welcomed Iran's plan to broaden its relations with Muslim states.

He said Muslim nations are living under hard conditions and therefore they should work to resolve the problems of the Muslim world.

He stressed the need for holding the session of Tehran-Tunis joint economic commission and said the two countries have large capacity for economic cooperation.

Nouri said.

Nateq Nouri earlier on Wednesday had visited a sports complex which presently serves as the site of the 13th Asian games in the Thai capital.

Anti-drug campaign must be worldwide to be effective

TEHRAN - Drug Fight Society of Iran sat for its first meeting with its headquarters for drug fight Mohammad Fallah told reporters that drug abuse is a widespread global problem beyond the fighting capacity of any single world power.

He said the problem should be approached with due attention to its various psychological, economic, social and cultural aspects and must be dealt with full knowledge of every element that contributes to that problem. The Drug Fight Society which is a non-governmental entity aims to solicit popular contribution to the nationwide fight against drug abuse.

Preliminary stage of naval war games conducted in Persian Gulf

BANDAR ABBAS, Hormuzgan - The preliminary stage of Vahdat-77 (unity-77) naval war games was conducted by the Naval Forces of the Army and the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) in the Persian Gulf waters.

Spokesman for the maneuvers, Issa Golvardi, said that in this stage, the forces were stationed in the pre-determined positions to repel hypothetical enemy's chemical offensives and conduct guerrilla operations.

The main stage of the joint maneuvers will start on December 5 in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Vahdat-77 is part of the joint maneuvers held annually by the IRGC and the Army Naval Forces.

The 5-day maneuvers will cover an area of 20,000 square miles from the Strait of Hormuz and Chabahar on the Gulf of Oman to the middle of the Persian Gulf. Joint cooperation between the IRGC and the Army in practice, exercising new management structure, sharing experiences between young and veteran personnel and modernizing previous combat strategies are among other objectives of the maneuvers.

Some 40 warships, frigates and vessels, marine divisions, helicopters, missile divisions, anti-aircraft artillery units of the Army Naval Forces and 122 small vessels, speed boats, marine, diving and missile divisions of the IRGC will take part the war games. Several submarines will also participate in the military exercise.

Yemeni ex-president:

Arab states must reinforce ties with Iran

TEHRAN - Head of the Damascus-based center for Arab strategic studies Ali Nasser Nohammad said in Tehran on Wednesday that Arab states have not a common strategy concerning their relations with Iran.

Addressing a seminar at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) in the presence of Tehran-based Arab diplomats and regional experts, the former Yemeni president said lack of a common strategy in confronting regional tensions has created a problem for the Arab world. They are required to forge solid relations with neighboring states especially with Iran, he was quoted by IRNA as saying.

Nasser Mohammad said the current developments in relations between Iran and Arab states proved to what extent the Arabs and Iran would strengthen their relations. Iran has shown interest in relations with Arabs, such an interest should be reciprocated, he said.

He called for development of political, economic and cultural relations between Iran and Arab world to prevent outbreak of dispute as well as impression that one country intends to interfere in the domestic affairs of others.

The former Yemeni president recommended that joint commissions should be set up between Iran and Arab states to agree upon a mechanism to upgrade mutual relations or the head of states make exchange visits.

Nasser Mohammad said in improving relations the in-

fluence of the new unipolar world order should be overlooked. He called on Iran and Arab states to check the crises through regular contacts and serious and direct negotiations at government-to-government or people-to-people levels to adopt an acceptable approach to settle the disputes.

He said Iran has signed important economic accords with Arab states including Syria, Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Kuwait and the level of participation of Arab leaders in the summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December 1997 indicated Iran's success in promoting relations with the neighboring states.

He said certain misunderstandings between Iran and Arab world emanated from the disinformation campaign launched by the Western mass media to create a kind of anxiety over Iran-Arab relations.

The former Yemeni president condemned presence of the U.S. forces in the region and said, "from the beginning, we were against the U.S. presence in the region, because the U.S. is a cause of tension and concern among the nations.

He said the majority of Arab states are against presence of the U.S. forces in the region and that the U.S. forces do not serve the interest of the region.

He welcomed President Mohammad Khatami's proposal to name 2001 as the year of dialog amongst civilizations and said that dialog would leave favorable effects on the Iranian diplomacy.

Non-oil exports starts upward trend

TEHRAN - The economic rehabilitation plan, going into effect last September, has already had a positive impact on the country's non-oil exports, which for the month of Aban (October 23-November 22) has shown increases of 2.2 percent in terms of value, and 3.5 per-

cent in terms of weight compared to the figures in the same period last year.

The remark was made by head of the Customs Administration Mehdi Karbasian in an address on Wednesday to the national conference of the top officials of the customs offices across the country.

Karbasian further stated that facilities to encourage exports figured prominently in the economic rehabilitation plan, adding "with the upward trend of the non-oil exports, it is expected that the value of exports for the year (started March 21) would reach last year's level."

Exports of hand-woven carpets and agricultural products for the month of Aban rose 11 and 12 percent, respectively, compared to those of last Aban, while pistachio exports increased 550 percent.

Amongst measures by the Customs Department to help non-oil exports, Karbasian noted designation of customs offices in Tehran's Shahriar as well as in Bam and Sari as 'export customs offices.'

Another service offered

Italy anxiously looking forward to Khatami's visit

TEHRAN - Italian Prime Minister Massimo d'Alema Wednesday said that his government is anxiously looking forward to the upcoming visit to Rome of Iran's President Mohammad Khatami.

He said in his recent meetings with a number of European leaders he had found that they were all eager to cooperate with the Islamic Republic in every area, IRNA reported from Rome.

The Italian official also observed that the Italian government had recently formed a commission for the purpose of identifying possible areas of collaboration between Iran and Italy and also for removing present obstacles on the way of closer cooperation between the two countries.

The Italian prime minister acknowledged Iran's contribution to regional peace and security.

Sealing material produced domestically

TEHRAN - With the mass production of a special type of polymer based adhesive, the country does not need to import any more of the product, said the Central Province's industrial and scientific research organization head, Ali Akbar Motahedi.

He told IRNA that the project to produce the material was approved by the organization in the first half of the current Iranian year (started March, 21, 1989).

He also said that the producer has signed contracts to supply the material for petrochemical and vegetable oil industries and refineries. Motahedi added that RIs 200 million in subsidies has been granted to the producer for the mass production of the product. He stated that the import of the product used to cost the country Dirs 150 per kg.

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