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فرهنگی

آژانس مسافرتی

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شرکت مسافرتی

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مواد غذایی

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U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan in Tehran for talks

TEHRAN - The special envoy of the U.N. secretary general on Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi arrived here Tuesday for a 2-day talks with senior Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi.

Brahimi will follow up the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Afghanistan and the decisions of the 6+2 group in New York.

Six neighbors of Afghanistan, namely Iran, Pakistan, China, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan, plus Russia and the U.S. are members of 6+2 group which held a ministerial meeting on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York in September.

After visiting Iran, Brahimi is expected to fly to Islamabad to hold talks with Pakistani officials on the Afghan crisis.

President Khatami in meeting with Kuwaiti speaker

Iran seeks peace, understanding in region

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami in a meeting with the Speaker of Kuwait's National Assembly, Ahmad al-Saadun here Tuesday stressed the close and good ties existing between Iran and other Islamic countries, particularly Kuwait.

He told the Kuwaiti speaker, "we are not at war with the world. However we want to say we are a historical ummah and have every right to live, not wage war. Due to this very reason we ask the countries which are the members of the Islamic family to respect international norms as well as the principles of peace and understanding because the grounds for peace will be created in this way," IRNA reported.

The greatest problem facing the Islamic countries today is the Palestine issue, said the president. He believed that the Islamic countries should do more for them than what they have so far done because a far larger number of displaced Palestinians live in various locations around the world than what actually live within the Palestinian territory.

A cruel regime in now ruling over this usurped territory of Palestine which yearns for unending bribes from the Palestinians, the governments and peoples of the region, said the chief executive.

He reiterated Iran's desires for peace and understanding in the region. However it believes that until such a time the rights of all Palestinians are not secured, there can be no lasting peace. So, he continued, Islamic countries should be more sensitive in their efforts to solve this

problem and achieve a lasting peace in the region and the world.

"We have never sought war and nor have we ever tolerated aggression and this is the very nature of the Islamic ummah. Real peace lies in justice and not aggression," the Iranian president declared.

Expressing his pleasure over expansion of ties between Muslim countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran, President Khatami stated, "based on our Islamic and philanthropic duty with the clear perception of stances, we extend the hand of cordiality with the warm hand shake to all Muslim brethren, specifically our Kuwaiti brothers in the trust that we shall not waste the golden opportunity as the blessing of Allah that have brought our hearts close.

"We are once more stressing that we want peace and stability in the region and that it cannot be achieved without the cooperation of the regional countries," Khatami said.

President also expressed hope that the presence of inter-parliamentary delegations from Muslim countries here would pave the way for cementing the bonds among the Muslim countries.

The speaker of Kuwait National Assembly said, "the initiatives of the Iran's Majlis Speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri in 1995 for the convention of Muslim inter-parliamentary conference is a factor that would help strengthen relation and solidarity among the Muslim community."

"I had invariably said that the Islamic Republic of Iran had severely con-

demned Iraq's transgression over Kuwait while we had continuously and openly supported Iraq in its aggression against Iran during the eight years," said Ahmad al-Saadun.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran had always adopted a righteous stance based on the teachings of Islam and therefore is worthy of great significance," said the Kuwaiti speaker condemning the so-called latest peace deal between Palestine and the Zionists in Palestine in the presence of the U.S. President Bill Clinton, the Kuwaiti speaker said, "we have drawn a cancellation line on all of our expectations regarding the deal."

Iran, Tajikistan sign cooperation accords

TEHRAN - Iran and Tajikistan signed ten cooperation agreements in the fields of economy, culture and defense here on Tuesday.

The agreements were signed at the end of three-day visit to Tehran of Tajik President Imomali Rahmanov and the accompanying delegation, IRNA reported.

The documents envision mutual cooperation in banking, defense, dam, railway and power plants construction, as well as the building of soft drink and foodstuff production and double tax exemption.

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and his Tajik counterpart also signed a declaration on expansion of amicable re-

Iran-EU talks to be held in Vienna

TEHRAN - The second round of talks between Iran and the European Union Troika will be held in Vienna Friday, a Foreign Ministry source told the English daily Iran News Monday.

"During the one day meeting, to be attended by (Iran's) Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, Morteza Sarmadi, economic issues, campaign against drugs and terrorism, environmental cooperation, political cooperation in regional issues, the Iraqi crisis, the Afghan imbroglio as well as various Middle East issues are on the agenda," said the unnamed source.

He said that Iran and the EU had entered "a new phase in their relations," adding that Iran had entered talks with the European Commission and was waiting for the results. "We are taking practical steps regarding the above-mentioned areas with Europe," he said.

The official said that Europe had realized that Iran wants peace and stability in the region and therefore wants to improve its ties with Tehran.

"In our ties with Europe, we are trying to progress from mere dialogue to negotiations and this has been accepted by the Europeans and it is to their benefit as well," he said, adding that "our ties with Europe are not strained anymore, and we have expanded our relations with the UK and promoted them to the ambassadorial level. Of course, this was also due to the independent policies of the Islamic Republic."

Khatami, Arap Moi exchange views on bilateral cooperation

Tehran, Nairobi to direct efforts to bring peace to Africa, Middle East

TEHRAN - The Iranian President Mohammad Khatami and his Kenyan counterpart President Daniel Arap Moi held talks here Tuesday evening.

In the meeting, President Khatami referring to growing relations between Tehran and Nairobi, said that the two nations are able to further expand their close cooperation through available potentialities in the two countries, IRNA reported.

Khatami added that such close cooperation will be in the interest of the two nations, in addition to helping bring peace to the East Africa and the Middle East.

Also referring to the terrorist activities which recently took the lives of a number of the Kenyan cit-

izens, President Khatami said many of the officials and innocent people of Iran also fell victims due to the terrorist acts, expressing hope that a day will dawn when there would be no terrorist around the world.

Khatami then underlining the main objective which lay behind fighting terrorism, said, "the efforts needed to be focused on achieving justice and honor for mankind throughout the world."

On the outcomes of the recent Iran-Kenya joint commission, he stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully determined to set up an expanded economic and trade relations with Kenya and for this purpose the experts of the two countries are exchanging their views to reach constructive accords.

The Kenyan president expressing satisfaction over the growing relations between the two nations, hoped that Tehran and Nairobi will attempt to promote their trade exchange based on the two countries' potentialities.

Attaching great importance to the Iranian key role in the region and also to the Kenyan position in the East Africa, Arap Moi noted that Iran and Kenya both are able to facilitate access to the important markets.

He also expressed hope that Tehran and Nairobi will direct their efforts in order to help bring peace in Africa and Middle East.

The Kenyan president arrived here Tuesday afternoon for a three-day official visit and was warmly welcomed by his Iranian counterpart at Sa'dabad Palace in northern Tehran.

Upon his arrival at Mehrabad airport, President Arap Moi said, "he is in Tehran to exchange views with the Iranian officials on further expansion of bilateral relations at regional and international levels."

He added that the other

goal of his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran is discussing restoration of peace in Africa. He expressed hope that Iran and Kenya will be able to play a constructive role in this regard through their cooperation.

"Continuous conflicts in Africa exacerbated the poverty in the vast African continent and that we should make serious efforts to find a way for resolving the problems," said the Kenyan president.

Iran's president referred to the visit of his Kenyan counterpart to the Islamic Republic of Iran and termed it as the two nations' volition for expanding bilateral relations and underlined that Tehran and Nairobi should try to further broaden relations at all levels.

Khatami reiterated that the principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is based on expanding relations with regional nations and the south, particularly the African countries.

"Today, the nations in the world are inter-related and no one is able to live independently but the important element here is to opt for the correct priorities," he said.

The Iranian president then noted that among the priorities of Iran's foreign policy is to set up relations with those countries which share clear objectives, programs and common problems with Iran.

The president offered condolences to the Kenyan president and nation over the recent deaths of a number of the Kenyans in the terrorist acts.

President Khatami stated that Tehran is ready to help Nairobi overcome the ongoing crisis through peaceful means.

A high ranking Kenyan delegation is accompanying President Arap Moi on his second visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Refugees, a humanitarian rather than a security issue in Iran

TEHRAN - The head of WFP/UNHCR Assessment Mission Rober Huaser said here Tuesday that Iran now regards the plight of refugees as a humanitarian rather than a security issue.

He was speaking at a press conference at the WFP's Tehran office on "the mission's mandate for the assessment of the food requirements of the Afghan and Iraqi refugees in camps in Iran for the April 1999-March 2000 period," IRNA reported.

Before the Huaser's remarks, the WFP representative/country director Majed Fassieh in a briefing said that the program has given Dlr 300 million in food aid and logistic to Iran for the estimated two mil-

lion refugees residing in Iran. He said that the agency stresses assistance to the most vulnerable refugees. The refugees in the country are currently housed in a total of 28 camps, comprising six camps for Afghan refugees and 22 camps for Iraqi nationals including Kurds and Arabs.

Fassieh added that the camps are located throughout the country with the majority being situated in the western regions jointly run by the U.N. High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP).

He stated that the camps are visited once a year by WFP/UNHCR delegation which makes necessary recommendations to officials

concerned. The camps are also equipped to be able to cope with sudden influx of refugees. Huaser who has extensive experiences in dealing with refugees in Afghanistan and Pakistan has visited 10 refugee camps in Iran this year.

He stressed that the policies of the agency is based on talks and communication with refugees to get first hand information on their living conditions. However, he said, the agency does not try to impose policies on them.

He further said that there is still a large number of refugees living outside the camps including those run by the Iranian Red Crescent Society.

Huaser also lauded the

Iranian government's attitude towards the refugees, adding that the government is flexible in its approach and favors open dialog and cooperation with the donor agencies.

He added that the WFP tries to welcome the donor countries by making public their contribution, such as the case with Japanese and Dutch relief donation to Iran.

He said that the agency assists the refugees to go

back to their homeland, even when they cross the border, but refugees are often unpredictable in their migration patterns.

He added that the refugees can cross the border but return several months later.

Between 400 and 600 Kurdish refugees are now returning voluntarily to Iraq daily and the figure is expected to exceed 1,000 per day by the end of December.

Registration for councils elections to commence next week

TEHRAN - Candidates running for the upcoming city and village councils throughout the country will start registration on December 23, 1998.

Mohammad Javad Haqshenas, director general for political, cultural and international affairs of the Interior Ministry, told IRNA that the elections will be launched in 720 cities and towns as well as about 40,000 villages with over 100 population, on February 25, 1999.

He said that over 200,000 representatives who will be directly elected by the people's vote will be delegated with the responsibility to elect mayors for each city.

Further elaborating on the issue, Haqshenas said councils representatives will propose mayors to governors general or the interior minister, adding that in cities with a population of below 200,000 the mayor will be appointed by governors general while in cities with a population of over 200,000 the appointment will be made by the interior minister.

The official added that following the city and village councils elections, district councils elections will be held throughout the country to elect district governors. Members of the ex-

ecutive boards in cities and districts will be elected by reliable people who will be invited by governors to cooperate in this connection.

The responsibility of the executive boards is to either to confirm or reject eligibility of the candidates while they will name places where ballot boxes will be installed and will assign the staff to supervise over the elections.

He said that candidates protesting against the ruling on their eligibility should file their complaints through monitoring bodies.

Haqshenas stressed that enforcement of law on city and village councils will encourage people's participation in political affairs, decentralization of authorities in the capital and dynamic presence of the youth and women in the country's affairs.

ism then we will be making an important contribution, not only to the future of Europe, but to the future of the world," the baroness said.

The conference is the fourth since the initiative was jointly launched by UNESCO and the Amar International Charitable Foundation, she started for Iraqi refugees. Over the past three years, it has held previous events in London, Oxford and Paris.

Attending the three days of discussions are leading academics, historians, theologians and politicians. Speakers and special guests include the former European Commission president Lord Jenkins, the Queen's cousin, Prince Michael of Kent and leader of

TEHRAN - The Traffic and Transportation Department of the law enforcement forces enforced special traffic restrictions in Tehran in a bid to reduce the alarming air pollution in the capital city. In an announcement released Tuesday, the department said the special restrictions which forced from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Wednesday, will be effective until further notice, IRNA reported.

According to the new decision, private cars with even number plates are allowed to travel in the city on even days only and those with odd number plates on odd days.

Fridays are excluded from the new restrictions, it said.

The announcement said the new regulations are even applied to vehicles which

have permits to enter the restricted traffic zones.

All organizations, ministries and military forces are requested to abide by the new regulations in an effort to provide a healthy living atmosphere.

The announcement said, "as of Wednesday morning, not only the plate number of vehicles violating the new regulations will be registered but the violators will be deprived of future concessions by traffic department."

All private cars and motorbikes which emit exhaust fumes due to malfunction will be stopped and fined, it further added.

It also called on drivers who have permits to travel within the restricted traffic zone, to coordinate with neighbors and relatives to give them a ride.

Iran unrivalled for piping oil, gas from Central Asia to Europe

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Mohsen Aminzadeh said on Tuesday Iran is unrivalled

for piping oil and gas from Central Asia to Europe and this is known to the entire Asian and European states.

Addressing a conference

of directors of the Asian and Pacific offices of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in Tehran, Aminzadeh explained the topics of the Iranian diplomacy concerning Afghanistan, Indian subcontinent, Central Asia, China, Taiwan, Korea, the South-East Asian nations, Far-East, Japan and Australia.

On Afghanistan, Aminzadeh said Iran is keen on formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

On South-East, he said the South-East Asian nations have valuable experiences and there exists a vast ground for economic cooperation between Iran and South-East Asia.

IRNA offices in Asia are working to reflect the developments in Asia and help explore the grounds for boosting cooperation between Iran and the Asian nations in line with the diplomacy of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The regional conference of directors of IRNA offices in Asia was opened in Tehran on Saturday. The conference of offices in Arab states was held in Beirut and directors of the European offices met in Rome earlier this year.

Foreign Ministry protests German defense minister's anti-Iran statements

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Assefi on Tuesday protested against the anti-Iran statements made by new German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping.

Assefi said it is regrettable that a European minister membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) does not differentiate between a popular and a dictatorial government and has made hostile statements against Iran, IRNA reported.

Scharping has said in an interview with Munich-based daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung that some countries including Iran have posed a serious threat to the international security.

Assefi said Scharping has made the hostile statement to justify expansion of NATO, a move that is against Islamic states.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also refuted a claim raised by Japanese NHK TV network that Iran is to request loan from Japan during the upcoming visit to Tokyo of Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi. The ministry's Information and Press Department said that Kharrazi had not raised an issue to this effect in his recent interview with NHK.

What the Iranian foreign minister said in reply to a question was that if the Japanese fulfilled their previous undertakings for giving loans to Iran, Tehran would welcome it, it said. It said that the representative of the Japanese TV network in Iran had been cautioned against repetition of such claims.

Iran beat China, march into final

TEHRAN - Iran's national soccer team beat China 1-0 Wednesday to guarantee itself a place in the finals of the Asian games in Thailand.

Iran's forward Ali Mousavi scored a goal in the 50th minute to give the country the lead for good, despite a ferocious Chinese pressure on Iran's goal in the closing minutes of the game.

The Iranians beat China 2-1 in a second round group match with Baqeri dominant in the midfield.

In the 52nd minute, Iran's super star Ali Daei seized on a defensive mistake and sprinted towards goal, but smashed his shot into the side netting. Two minutes later, wingback Ali Karimi put Daei through, but the striker fired wide.

Iran will next play Kuwait, who beat Thailand 3-0 later Wednesday.

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