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**TEHRAN: THE IRAQI ELECTIONS ARE A WELCOME STEP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS**

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The Iranian Foreign Ministry confirmed that Tehran welcomes the holding of elections within the framework of the developmental and civil process in Iraq, as it considered it a step to develop diplomatic relations on the international arena.

In his weekly press conference, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said: "We welcome the holding of elections within the framework of the developmental and civil process in Iraq.

Zadeh added: "What is happening in this country is an internal affair related to the Iraqi people and the parties there, but what is important for Iran is that the Iraqi elections are a step in developing diplomatic relations on the international scene.

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