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Internet-based SMS blocked for Iran's elections

LONDON, December 4 (IranMania) - In an effort to prevent the defamation of candidates of upcoming elections, the Internet connection between users and Iran Telecommunications Company's SMS server has been blocked.

Chairman of the company's Board of Directors, Vafa Ghaffarian, added that subscribers can send and receive SMSs as usual through their mobile phones, ISNA reported.

"Sending an SMS through the Internet is not possible since yesterday," he said, noting that this will continue till December 16--one day after holding the Experts Assembly, council and Majlis midterm elections concurrently.

Ghaffarian added that some people sent defamatory mobile phone messages to others through the Internet in previous elections and it was not possible to identify them.

"It has become possible to identify Internet-based SMS senders and block their connections," he said, adding that such senders will be prosecuted.

The official further said the content of SMSs sent via cellphones will not be controlled because they can be easily identified.

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