



نیاز مندیهای هموطنان خارج از کشور (آمریکا-کانادا)

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Fourth Sirri oil platform completed by Iranian experts

TEHRAN - The head of Vali-e Asr industrial complex, Massoud Rabbani, announced completion of the fourth oil platform to be installed in Sirri oil field. The 65-meter high, 1,415-ton platform has been designed and constructed by Iranian experts in a mere four month period, and has already been transferred to the region, Rabbani told IRNA.

According to Rabbani, a fifth platform is being constructed by Refah-e Sahel firm, affiliated to the industrial complex. The complex started the construction of five platforms last year, of which three have so far been completed and installed in Sirri oil field, he added. Rabbani said that the platforms, while being constructed in a relatively short period of time, are of high quality compared to the similar foreign made platforms.

ETTELA'AT

INTERNATIONAL

The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8829 NO. 1002, WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1998

Iran holds cultural, economic exhibition in Australia

TEHRAN - An Iranian cultural and economic exhibition titled "Persia 98" opened in the city of Brisbane in Australia Monday.

Iran's Ambassador to Australia Mohammad Rohisefat, local officials in Brisbane and a large number of Iranian nationals residing in Australia attended the opening ceremony, IRNA reported. Scores of Iranian companies have put on display their products such as carpets, handicrafts, pottery and furniture as well as cultural works like copies of the Holy Quran, books on religious, political and scientific subjects, and Iranian traditional music.

Australian businessmen are among those people visiting the Iranian fair. An Iranian traditional restaurant serves Iranian foods to the visitors to the fair. It is the first time that an Iranian exhibition of this kind has been held in Australia.

Foreign Ministry spokesman:

Iran ready to promote ties with Persian Gulf countries

TEHRAN - Spokesman of Iran's Foreign Ministry Mahmoud Mohammadi appreciated the readiness of Persian Gulf countries for broadening relations with Iran.

In reaction to the communique of the 67th assembly of the foreign ministers of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, he said that continued exchange of visits by the authorities of Iran and those countries would promote good mutual understanding between Iran and the Persian Gulf countries, IRNA reported.

He reminded, however, that the three islands of Greater and Lesser Tunbs and Abu-Musa are integral parts of Iran's territory.

Mohammadi added that as far as Iran is concerned the only way for solving issues between Iran and UAE is to continue talks between the two countries.

Bright prospect for development of Iran-Italy trade ties

TEHRAN - The visit to Tehran of Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi on Tuesday night will help him get a tangible and clear outlook toward the Islamic Republic of Iran, Foreign Ministry Director General for Western European Affairs Ali Ahani said on Monday.

He told IRNA that no doubt reflection of the Prodi's outlook to the other European leaders will help them better understand the realities in Iran and will result in an immediate thaw in relations between Tehran and the European Union.

He said Prodi has been formerly the chairman of Italian Financial and Industrial Enterprise and his former visits to Tehran have succeeded in carrying out several industrial projects in Iran.

Ahni said Prodi is expected to hold talks with President Khatami, Chairman of the Expediency Council of the Islamic Republic Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Speaker of Parliament Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, First Vice-President Hassan Habibi, several ministers and heads of economic and industrial organs, on political, and economic issues and would address a conference at Tehran University titled "look into the east" organized by the Ministry of Culture and the Islamic Guidance.

He said there are areas of cooperation between the two countries including the close stand of Tehran and Rome toward restructuring of the United Nations Security Council, campaign against the organized crimes and drug trafficking, membership in the international convention banning proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

He expressed hope that unification of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and South Korea would help the Korean nation's long standing wish come true.

change of visits to Tehran and Rome by the officials of the two countries and preparatory talks on holding the next round of Tehran-Rome joint economic commission.

He said Italy is a main trade partner of Iran with volume of trade exchanges standing at Dirs. 2.3 billion last year.

"Italy is willing to boost economic cooperation with Iran.

Italian partnership in a variety of industrial projects in Iran heralded a bright prospect for development of economic cooperation between Tehran and Rome," Ahani said.

Italian exports to Iran rose by 30 percent to lira 1,441 billion (Dir. 935 million) last year in the absence of cover from its state credit agency, SACE, according to official figures.

Imports also saw a 1.2 percent increase to lira 3 billion in 1997 despite a 6 percent fall in Iranian oil supplied to Italy.

An Italian Foreign Affairs Ministry official quoted by the Middle East Economic Digest said it was hoped to be able to open "case-by-case SACE cover, for Iran after the visit."

Iran is one of only a few Middle East countries with which Italy has a trade deficit and where state credit cover is unavailable for transactions.

The blossoming trade has proved to be an exception to the lack of SACE cover.

Along with Italian oil firms, state-owned Mediocredito Centrale is looking at new opportunities in Iran being unveiled by the National Iranian Oil Company at this week's international conference in London.

Ali Sheikh from the project finance department says that his joint stock firm, which is slated for privatization, is keen to support Italian companies interested in the future development of Iran's energy industry.

Italian engineering company, Tecnimont, is also known to be looking closely at developments in Iran, including the ambitious Dir. 12 billion petrochemicals program to treble ethylene output to 30 m tons a year by 2010.

TEHRAN - A leading U.S. think-tank says that the U.S. administration and Congress should permit American energy companies to initiate discussions about investments in Iran's oil and gas sector.

Any consequent deals negotiated, the Baker Institute suggested, could be "implemented only after sanctions are lifted," IRNA reported from London.

Such discussions would "reduce the clear advantage European and Russian firms now enjoy in Iran while potentially facilitating progress in an U.S.-Iranian official dialogue," it said in a report on Iran's strategic role. The call, quoted in Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey, comes ahead of a strong contingent of U.S. firms expected to attend the unveiling of a new round of oil and gas projects in Iran at an international seminar in London this week.

American oil companies, it was rumored here, were likely to even buy tender information packages for some 20 development projects, estimated to be worth over Dir. 5 billion.

IBC Conferences, organizing the four-day seminar starting Tuesday, have had problems accommodating the demand. It has taken bookings from 400 delegates, saying "which ever oil company you can think of will be there."

"While helping to have uninterrupted publication of the press, we support court rulings dealing with publications violating their legal boundaries," Mohajerani said.

The daily 'Gozaresh-e Rooz' was specially singled out by the Islamic guidance minister as a publication which has repeatedly violated press laws.

In conclusion, Mohajerani expressed the hope that a boost in domestic production of paper this year would alleviate any paper shortages experienced by the press corps.

France explores avenues for economic, scientific cooperation with Iran's Kurdistan

TEHRAN - French Ambassador to Tehran Jean Pierre Masset conferred on Monday with Governor General of Kurdistan Province Abdollah Ramezan-Zadeh on mutual scientific and academic cooperation.

The French ambassador said that security is the infrastructure of economic development and that Kurdistan Province has reached a point to experience economic development in coming years, IRNA reported.

He also quoted leaders of Kurdish groups in neighboring countries as saying that industrial investments are made only in the Kurdistan Province of Iran while Kurdish populated regions in the neighbouring countries practically have no industrial unit.

Two French economic and scientific delegations are to visit Kurdistan Province to explore ways of promoting economic and scientific cooperation in the province.

Masset also invited the governor general of the province to pay an official visit to France to participate in celebrations marking the anniversary of French revolution.

Kurdistan Province is the most secure province of the country and the government has concentrated all its efforts on investments in the province for its economic development, Ramezan-Zadeh said.

The province is one of the major centers of animal husbandry, and fruit as well as wheat production, he said.

Iran's President Mohammad Khatami will back any policy that may result in the economic blossoming of the Kurdistan Province, concluded Ramezan-Zadeh.

Iran welcomes expansion of ties with New Zealand, South Korea

TEHRAN - Parliament Speaker Ali-Akbar Nateq-Nouri received ambassadors of New Zealand and South Korea Warwick Alexander Hawker and Shin Jang Bum in separate meetings here on Monday.

Hawker, expressing satisfaction with age-old relations between Tehran and Wellington, said that his government gives top priority in its policy of expanding relations with Iran in all political, economic and cultural fields.

He pinpointed the importance of Iran's role at the regional and global levels and called for mutual understanding between western and eastern cultures, IRNA reported.

Nateq-Nouri said that no doubt, Iran and New Zealand can make joint investments and increase their cooperation in many areas.

He said that convention of the joint economic commission were among ways of promoting bilateral economic relations. He expressed hope that Iran and New Zealand would benefit from all the existing potential in order to promote their relations.

Meanwhile, South Korean Ambassador Bum told Nateq-Nouri that South Korean officials were happy to be Iran's third major trade partner and to see that Iran is the third largest supplier of oil to that country.

He said that Iran is a reliable supplier of oil to South Korea and stressed that recent economic crisis in South Korea would not affect growing trade and economic relations between Tehran and Seoul.

The Iranian speaker said for his part that Iranian Parliament supported expansion of relations with South Korea and is ready to support any agreement with the country.

He said that without a doubt parliaments serve as the arms of governments and any legislative cooperation would be a kind of support for cooperation among governments.

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Seminar on Ferdowsi wraps up in New York

TEHRAN - The seminar on famous Iranian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi, best known for his epic masterpiece 'Shahnameh', wrapped up its work in New York Saturday night.

The two-day seminar, sponsored by the council for promulgation of Persian language and literature in North America, was attended by some 250 Iranian and foreign scholars, IRNA reported from New York.

At the conclusion of the seminar at Columbia University, the participants committed to cooperate for establishment of 'Iran-Sara' cultural foundation in city of Toos in Iran's Khorasan Province to take on the task of publication of Ferdowsi's works all over the world.

The participants also committed to work for inclusion of Persian language courses in New York's high schools and colleges.

Speaking at the session, Professor Mansour Rastegar Fasa'i said Ferdowsi's works were a source of unity amongst Iranians all over the world. He called on Iranians residing abroad to enhance their contacts with Persian language and literature.

Another speaker at the seminar Ms. Olga David of the U.S. praised Ferdowsi's poetry, adding that her attraction to Iranian miniature and Ferdowsi's Shahnameh was her main motivation to learn Persian language.

Also speaking at the gathering was Ms. Tajmah Asefi who highlighted the special attention given to justice in Ferdowsi's works. "Ferdowsi presents justice as the first condition for legitimacy of kingdoms, and is of the belief that earth and heavens were founded on justice," she said.

The audience also heard speeches by Iranian literary personalities, Mohammad Ali Eslami Nadoushan, Ali Mohammad Sajadi and Ali Ravaqi who presented the results of their researches on the works of the great Iranian poet.

The seminar also featured Iranian traditional music which was received enthusiastically by the audience.

220 journalists appeal to president to reverse ruling on daily

TEHRAN - Some 220 journalists have appealed to President Mohammad Khatami to try to reverse the court verdict revoking the publication licence of the daily Jame'e whose case is currently in the appeal court.

The branch 1410 of public court revoked the publication licence of the daily Jame'e on June 10. Based on the court ruling, the publisher of Jame'e, also its managing director, was banned from holding similar responsibilities with other publications for a year, IRNA reported.

He was further assessed RIs 16 million in fines.

In an open letter to the president, the journalists expressed deep concern over the court's ruling concerning the daily. They further called for changes in the relevant laws which they said targets corporate entities for punishments.

"One of the bitter realities in the history of the press in the country, specially the newspapers, is their short lifespan," the letter read, adding that this is brought about by a lack of distinction between the corporate identity of the dailies and that of their publishers.

While all over the world punitive measures against press target real entities, in Iran, unfortunately, punitive measures target corporate entities of the press, the journalists added.

In another development, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ataollah Mohajerani said that while the board of jurists on press determines the scope of press violations, the judiciary has the task of deciding on the actual punishments.

The board of jurists is selected from the press corps, lawyers as well as representatives from other segments of the society. The selections are approved by the head of Tehran Judicial Department, the minister of culture and Islamic guidance and the City Council, Mohajerani added, quoted by IRNA.

"While helping to have uninterrupted publication of the press, we support court rulings dealing with publications violating their legal boundaries," Mohajerani said.

The daily 'Gozaresh-e Rooz' was specially singled out by the Islamic guidance minister as a publication which has repeatedly violated press laws.

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TEHRAN - Scores of footprints belonging to prehistory animals have recently been discovered in north of Birjand, north-eastern Province of Khorsan.

Manager of the Cultural Heritage Department for southern Khorsan told IRNA Monday that a total of 40 footmarks belonging to 50 million years ago have been discovered in the area by experts of the department.

The official said that the oval-shaped marks which have been discovered on sedimentary rocks date back to the third geological age.

He said that members of the academic board of Birjand University have confirmed authenticity of the discovery.

Meanwhile, chancellor of the university Mohammad Hassan Karimpour said the footprints dated back to some 40 to 50 million years ago.

Hussein Ali-Abadi, an expert with the Cultural Heritage Department, said the footmarks had been left on a tiny layer of sediments when giant animals passed the region.

The layers had been turned to rocks after so many million years and the marks have now been exposed as a result of erosion, he further added.

Ali-Abadi said study shows a harmony among all the footprints, with their measurement ranging from 48x26 cm to 12x8 cm, lending further proof to the theory that they moved in groups from east to west.

He added that although identification of prehistoric species needs in-depth studies, however, research works conducted so far back the possibility that the footprints belong to a specific species of dinosaurs.

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Call for U.S. firms to be allowed to participate in Iran oil talks

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TEHRAN - The fourth session of trial of Tehran's suspended mayor, Gholamhussein Karbaschi, on graft charges started on Tuesday.

In the previous session of the hearing held on June 16, Karbaschi and his lawyers responded to the charges on payment of a RIs 600 million loan to Behzadizadeh of the Persian daily Hamshahri, a contract between Hamshahri and 'Chap Gostar' printing company and payment of 80 half size gold coins to Sazegarnejad.

The court session also heard Karbaschi's defense on giving away apartments in Tehran, giving cash assistance and gifts including three cars, land, apartment and coins to the then deputy mayor of Tehran Abolqasem Ashourian and giving 80 foreign made cars at a discount of 20 million to a number of people introduced by the municipality.

Many foreign and domestic reporters covered the proceedings. The trial was chaired by Hojatoleslam Gholamhussein Mohseni Ejei.

Karbaschi is charged by branch 1402 of the public court of Tehran with complicity in embezzlement of RIs 14.53 billion plus Dir. 90,000 as well as receiving bribes, mismanagement of public funds, illegitimate ownership of public properties and fraud.

In the first session of the hearing, Karbaschi rejected all charges terming them as "baseless".

The suspended mayor was arrested on April 4 and was released 11 days later after the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei intervened at the request of President Mohammad Khatami.

Former Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati, attended the courtroom almost an hour after the proceedings started.

Besharati attended the hearing at the request of the judge to offer explanations on the case of Tehran municipality.

In the second session of Karbaschi's hearing, Hojatoleslam Mohseni Ejei said he would ask Besharati to appear in court to provide information on the issues raised at the hearing.

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