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TEHRAN - A high-ranking industrial-commercial delegation from Italy is to visit Tehran from October 4-8, said a local source in an interview with IRNA in Rome Monday. The source said the delegation would be led by Italian Foreign Trade Minister Augusta Fantozzi. What has encouraged Italy to have trade relations with Iran is the possibility of exporting 5,000 billion liras worth of goods to Iran, made possible after resumption of insurance coverage for exports to Iran. The Italian daily Corriere Della Sera wrote on Monday that the Italian export insurance institute, SACE, is to sponsor the visit. Members of the delegation are to be chosen from among industrialists, traders and farmers, the daily added.

President:

## People's rights must be preserved within constitution

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami said here Sunday evening that the constitution is the basis in the Islamic Republic and people's rights must be respected within this framework.

The president made the remarks in a meeting with members of the central council of the Islamic Coalition Society, IRNA reported.

The president said, "if we are able to implement a system of government in which people live a suitable life and their prestige, dignity and legitimate freedom are preserved, we have gone

a long way in attracting people to Islam and demonstrated that Islamic government is practical."

Turning to government plan to rehabilitate the economy, he said the administration wants to delegate responsibilities to the people, to create a safe atmosphere for investment and provide the necessary conditions to activate the private sector.

President Khatami referred to law as "an axis for convergence in the society" and added that laws should be implemented with no hesitation.

As for the issue of youth,

## Central Bank loosens grip on foreign exchange trading

TEHRAN - Per new guidelines from Central Bank of Iran and effective two weeks from now, the foreign exchange (forex) earned outside the country can be traded in free market at a mutually agreed upon rate between the buyer and the seller, the Managing Director of Iran's Export Promotion Bank, Norouz Kahzadi, said on Sunday.

Enumerating the cases covered by the law, Kahzadi enumerated the forex excess to the exporters' commitment to the Central Bank as well as the income earned by Iranians residing abroad including in-

heritance, IRNA reported.

However, he added, the law does not allow import of goods using the forex earned outside the country. The official further reported that in the near future the bank would make available at its branches throughout the country the information on daily trading at the Stock Exchange. The bank would also do stock trading using satellite networks, he added.

Turning to the facilities offered to exporters by the bank, Kahzadi said that exporters were granted Rls 450 billion in credits last year (ended March 20) and that the figure would rise to

Rls 600 billion this year.

The bank is also offering credits to countries importing Iranian manufactured goods, the credits having a one year term for consumer products and three years for capital equipment, the official said. According to Kahzadi, the per capita revenues from non-oil exports currently stands at Dhrs 50.

Nateq Nouri:

## Iran needs to reinforce defensive capability

TEHRAN - Majlis (Parliament) Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri said on Monday that Iran needs to reinforce its defensive capability owing to the enmity of the global arrogance with Iran.

Addressing the officials of Ministry of Defense and Logistics, Nateq Nouri said, "we should not be weak in defending the sovereignty and independence of the country and in protecting the Islamic principles and values."

He pointed to the successful test-firing of Shahab 3, a medium-range missile (in July) and said Iran is interested in peace and security in the region and the whole of the world and is against any kind of conflict and war.

Nateq Nouri said, "as

long as Islam governs Iran and as far as we are committed to principles and religious values in line with the late Imam Khomeini's aspirations, we don't yield to the bullying of the arrogant. The world arrogance will, however, go on with its conspiracies against Iran."

He said it is very naive if someone thinks that it is possible to make softer the heart of the enemy while being committed to Islam and the late Imam's line.

"We see now that the Americans who like to play cat and mouse game have not taken back from their conditions and are repeating their own words," Nateq Nouri said.

He said certain flexibility displayed by the U.S. to-

wards Iran emanated from its domestic problems and the pressure put on the administration by the American firms.

Nateq Nouri said the Zionist press and certain segments of Iranian press are lobbying that all the difficulties in the country are rooted in Iran's problem with the U.S.

"They want to pit the people against the government by introducing the U.S. as the angel of salvation, but to no avail."

In which part of the world, the U.S. has ever solved problems of a nation?" the speaker questioned.

On Pakistan's nuclear test (in May), Nateq Nouri

said Pakistan's nuclear test was bitter on the one hand, because the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and sweet on the other, because an Islamic state possessed nuclear arms along with the U.S., Russia and the other big powers.

"It is not right the U.S., Russia, other powers and even the Zionist regime have nuclear arms, but Pakistan should be deprived of it," Nateq Nouri said.

He referred to the regional situation, alliance of Turkey with Israel, presence of the U.S. warships in the region and situation in Iraq and said, "isn't it necessary for us to reinforce our defensive capability?"

In a letter to the head of the Taliban in Kabul, the independent organization for the defense of press freedom worldwide protested at his seizure, saying he was only in Afghanistan as a journalist.

General secretary of the Paris-based organization said that Reporters Sans Frontiers was asking Taliban to ensure Saremi was "well-treated and is immediately released."

IRNA's bureau chief was kidnapped when Taliban militia overran Mazar-i-Sharif on August 8 and was said to have since been transferred to the Kandahar area.

Concern has also been raised about the health of Saremi, who only returned to Afghanistan after surgery on his stomach two weeks ago.

He has been an IRNA correspondent for more than 18 months.

Reporters Sans Frontiers said it was sending a copy of its protest letter to human rights groups, all major news agencies, the Red Cross, and UNESCO as well as to Iran's pres-

ident and Pakistan's prime minister.

Meanwhile, Iran's permanent envoy to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in a letter to its director general urged him to make urgent efforts to secure release of the IRNA journalist.

The Iranian official Ahmad Jalali in his letter to Federic Mayor vehemently protested to the arrest of Mahmoud Saremi by the Taliban and called on him to take urgent steps in securing the safety and release of the IRNA correspondents in accordance with the organization's duty of preserving professional freedom of reporters and defending their rights.

In another development, Iranian Ambassador to Pakistan Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh said in Islamabad Monday that Iran had helped exit from Afghanistan of a number of its relief workers in cooperation with the United Nations.

He said an 8-member relief workers team and an Iranian embassy staffer in Bamian had returned to Pakistan on board a U.N. airplane Monday.

Leader of the team, Mehran Badre'i said that members of the team had been in Bamian for a period ranging from one week to three months and that they had been forced to leave the city due to lack of facilities.

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Jordanian foreign minister leaves Tehran:

## Iran, Jordan geared to upgrade political, economic ties

TEHRAN - The Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jawad al-Anani said on Monday, "we support the policies of the Islamic Republic, its constructive dialog, in particular." Al-Anani, speaking to re-

porters before leaving Tehran, said that there are good grounds for expansion of bilateral relations, calling for more exchange visits by officials of the two countries.

Referring to Iran's chairmanship of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), Al-Anani said that Islamic countries do not have coherent groupings able to resolve their current issues.

But he added, thanks to the policy of dialog initiated by Iran it can help solve the problems facing the Muslim world.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi, who was at the Tehran airport to see off the Jordanian delegation, called his talks with his Jordanian counterpart as "frank and sincere" and added that these talks laid good basis for expansion of bilateral ties.

Kharrazi said, "we have stressed in our negotiations that disputes between the two countries left from the past should be removed." He further said, "naturally we have some difference of opinion on certain issues but we stressed the fact that given their common enemy, all regional countries should get united."

The Iranian foreign minister said, "we talked about the military pact between Turkey and Israel which is a threat to the whole region." In conclusion, Kharrazi expressed hope that the visit

## Iran, South Korea study expansion of cooperation

TEHRAN - South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Shin Jang Bum conferred here on Monday with head of Iran-South Korea parliamentary friendship group at the Iranian Parliament Hussein Hashemi on expansion of an all-out cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Hashemi welcomed joint investments by Iran and South Korea in microwave, electronics, mines, shipping as well as car manufacturing industries, IRNA reported.

The Iranian Parliament is ready to legislate all necessary laws which lead to expansion of mutual cooperation between the two countries, he said.

World countries including European Union member states now have a better understanding of the Islamic Republic of Iran's stands, he said.

Iran as powerful country plays a key role in preserving peace and tranquility in the region, he said.

The South Korean ambassador in reply called for further enhancement of his country's all-out relations with Iran mainly in the fields of telecommunications, electronics industries and auto making.

In the forthcoming session of joint economic commission to be held during the second half of October in Iran, cooperation in metals, petrochemical, oil and minerals would top on the agenda of talks, Shin Jang Bum said.

## Iranian wrestlers take first place at world contest

TEHRAN - The Iranian wrestlers ranked first at international youth free-style championship held in Los Vegas, Nevada, by bagging two gold, two silver and three bronze medals.

The Iranian team with 77 scores was followed by the Russian and American teams, respectively.

The Iranian youth wrestlers have been world champion for two successive times. Wrestlers within the age category of 17-20 from 35 countries competed in the contest which ended Monday.

of the Jordanian foreign minister would lead to expansion of political, economic and cultural ties between the two countries.

any obstacle impeding broadening of bilateral relations and expressed hope that the ground would be further prepared for consolidation of mutual cooperation.

In a separate meeting before his departure, Al-Anani conferred with Industries Minister Gholamreza Shafei on ways of expanding technical and industrial cooperation between the two countries.

According to the public relations office of the ministry, the Jordanian minister said that his country welcomes expansion of continuous cooperation in industrial sector with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Jordanian minister enumerated his country's potentialities and existence of suitable facilities for foreign investments, and shipping and transportation as well as insurance services.

He called on the Islamic Republic of Iran to provide Jordan with industrial equipment for transfer of water and setting up a pipe producing factory.

Referring to the Iran-Jordan joint economic commission which met last year, the Iranian minister said that the area of mutual cooperation go beyond the limits mentioned in the joint commission and that the Iranian Industries Ministry is determined to expand its industrial and technical cooperation with Jordan.

Elaborating on the growth of industries in Iran and measures taken in previous years in this respect, the minister voiced Iran's readiness to contribute to implementation of industrial projects in Jordan.

Kharrazi for his part expressed hope that Iran and Jordan would manage to promote bilateral relations by implementing the mutually reached agreements.

He called for removal of

## Reporters Sans Frontiers call for release of IRNA correspondent

TEHRAN - Reporters Sans Frontiers Monday

added its voice to the international campaign for the release of Mahmoud Saremi, IRNA bureau chief in Afghanistan, who was kidnapped Saturday by Taliban militia with 11 Iranian diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif.

In a letter to the head of the Taliban in Kabul, the independent organization for the defense of press freedom worldwide protested at his seizure, saying he was only in Afghanistan as a journalist.

General secretary of the Paris-based organization said that Reporters Sans Frontiers was asking Taliban to ensure Saremi was "well-treated and is immediately released."

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