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## New law envisages active presence for private sector in mining area

TEHRAN - All problems on the way of active presence of the private sector in mining sector have been removed and explorers will be provided with sufficient supports, said Minister of Mines and Metals, Eshaq Jahangiri here Sunday. Jahangiri told the 17th gathering on geology that the cabinet has approved the new law.

Jahangiri added that according to the new law, the Supreme Council for Mine Exploration has been formed to determine the exploration policies, priorities and standards.

The council has formulated programs for the next year and the Third 5-Year Development Plan, he said.

Iran's mines reserves are estimated to total 24 billion tons.

# ETTELA'AT

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

The Only International Persian Daily Newspaper

ISSN: 1353 - 8830 NO. 1158, TUESDAY, FEB. 16, 1999

President inaugurates new free way:

## Transit of goods plays key role in oil-free economy

TEHRAN - President Mohammad Khatami here Sunday said that transit of goods plays an important and determining role in an oil-free economy.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the inter-city phase of Tehran-Savez free way, the president said that the unique "transit" potential of the country, both in the region and the world, has not been exploited yet, IRNA reported.

Underlining the importance of development of roads, especially free ways, in the country and the pivotal role that roads play in the

national economy, Khatami said that economizing in energy consumption, facilitating transportation, providing security and protecting the environment are among positive features of the development of free ways.

Pointing to the existing facts and figures on the current status of roads throughout the country, he said statistics attest to the improvement achieved in the field of road building thanks to the ceaseless efforts of the Iranian experts and work force.

He praised efforts so far made in the area of develop-

ment of the country and appreciated services of all involved in construction projects, especially those in road building.

Elsewhere in his remarks the president pointed to the U.S. attempts to change the route for transfer of energy from Central Asia to Europe and said: "no doubt, Iran is the easiest, most economical and safest way for transfer of energy from Central Asia to Europe."

The inter-city section of the highway is 25 km and with its inauguration 112.5 km of Tehran-Savez main free way is now operational.

that Tehran-Savez free way was implemented by those the country greatly owes its independence and dignity.

He said that in the post-war era, the IRGC has accomplished great tasks by relying on its asset of faith, determination and experience.

Prior to the president's remarks, Roads and Transportation Minister Mahmoud Hojjati reported on the accomplishments of his ministry as well as projects already underway.

The minister said that with the opening of the free way, transportation difficulties will be removed and traffic will be eased in the towns of Islam-Shahr, Robat-Karim and Shahryar, in southwest Tehran, to a great extent.

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Vafaei, deputy commander of Khatam-ul-Anbia construction headquarters of IRGC which is the contractor of the project briefed the president on the progress of the project.

Minister of roads and transportation, commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), Tehran governor general and a number of officials attended the ceremony.

Praising services of the

Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in the sacred defense (1980-89 Iraqi imposed war), President Khatami said

### More suspects prosecuted in relation to recent murders

TEHRAN - Members of the committee in charge of investigating the recent serial murders met with President Mohammad Khatami on Sunday and reported to him the latest results of their investigations.

The committee told the president that it has prosecuted other suspects which might help clarify the issue, IRNA reported.

According to the news and information department of the presidential office, President Khatami underlined the need for the committee to seriously follow up the issue and report the results timely.

The president also called on the members of the committee to strongly follow up the case with coordination of the judicial and information bodies.

A member of the investigating committee said that Tehran's military prosecutor will disclose more details about the case early next week.

## Shipping organization authorizes discount on port fees

TEHRAN - In order to promote direct shipping services to the southern ports and encourage higher number of container ships to use Iranian ports, the Ports and Shipping Organization will extend discounts on port fees for one year to ships willing to transport goods from Imam Khomeini and Shahid Rajaei ports.

The organization will give 75 and 60 percent discounts for Iranian and foreign registered container ships, respectively, provided that the ships use Imam Khomeini as their destination, their original loading point is not in either Persian Gulf or the Gulf of Oman and their gross displacement capacity is up to 20,000 tons, IRNA reported.

Also the Iranian and foreign registered ships with more than 20,000 tons of gross capacity are exempted from up to 90 percent of several categories of tariffs and port fees.

All the Iranian and foreign registered ships with port of Shahid Rajaei as their destination, which their original loading point is not located in Persian Gulf or the Gulf of Oman and their gross capacity ranges from 12,500 to 19,999 tons are exempted from 60 percent of tariffs and port fees, the report concluded.

Meanwhile, Managing Director of the organization Mokhtar Kalantari said that Iranian ports handled about 46,421,123 tons of oil derivatives and non-oil commodities in the first ten months of this year (started March 21).

## Canadian trade delegation in Tehran

TEHRAN - A 37-member Canadian economic delegation is here to promote Tehran-Ottawa economic cooperation.

The delegation comprises representatives of different sectors active in industry, mining, roads, telecommunication, food industries, transport, technical as well as engineering and financial services.

The Iran-Canada Chamber of Commerce will hold a seminar during the five-day stay in Iran of the delegation.

The officials and businessmen of the two countries are keen to promote cooperation and people of Iran hold a positive view about Canada and developing of ties with that country.

The volume of Tehran-Ottawa trade exchanges amounts to about Dlrs 1.2 billion.

## Kuwaiti paper: Iranian president to visit Arab states

TEHRAN - Kuwaiti Ar-Rai al-Aam has said that Iranian President Mohammad Khatami will start a tour of several Arab states, including Kuwait soon.

The paper said the Iranian president's visits will also include Syria, Saudi Arabia and possibly Qatar, IRNA reported.

The Arabic language paper said Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad al-Abdullah as-Salim as-Sabah will visit Tehran soon.

Ar-Rai al-Aam said the crown prince's visit will probably take place by the end of the current month (February).

The Kuwaiti prince will hold talks with the Iranian president and vice-president on ways to develop bilateral relations, it further added.

## Iran ready to exchange college students with Vietnam

TEHRAN - Culture and Higher Education Minister Mostafa Moin praised great progress the country's universities and research centers have made since the victory of 1979 Islamic Revolution.

He made the remark in a meeting with Vietnamese Ambassador to Tehran Hoang Van Din, IRNA reported.

The two countries' resistance to the U.S. imperialism and economic and social bonds shared by the two countries have paved the

way for further expansion of Tehran-Hanoi relations, he added. Moin voiced Iran's readiness to exchange university students and teaching staff with Vietnam.

At the end of the meeting, the Vietnamese ambassador briefed the Iranian minister on performance of his country's higher education system.

### High employment target for third economic plan

TEHRAN - Head of the Plan and Budget Organization Mohammad Ali Najafi called for creation of 800,000-850,000 job opportunities in the country each year during the Third Five-Year Development Plan. If such a number of job opportunities are created, the rate of unemployment will be maintained the same as of the year 1375 (1996) which stood at 10 percent, he added, IRNA reported. Addressing an administrative meeting of the city of Chahbahar, he said that the country's oil revenue is some Dlrs nine billion this year and per capita oil income is Dlrs 150. At the end of the meeting, he underlined the need for development of coastal facilities and utilization of the existing marine and fishery potentials. Some Dlrs two billion is annually spent on purchase of marine vessels and their parts, Najafi said.

### Iran, South Africa underline expansion of oil, gas cooperation

TEHRAN - The visiting South African Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs Penuell Maduna met and conferred on Saturday with Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on expansion of mutual cooperation in oil, gas and petrochemical fields.

According to the public relation office of the Oil Ministry, the two sides also exchanged views on export of Iran's crude oil to South Africa as well as mutual cooperation in the areas of oil, gas and petrochemicals.

## Iranian buses in Ashkhabad

TEHRAN - Turkmen officials and experts have accorded warm welcome to an Iranian-made bus which has started its experimental operation in Ashkhabad.

A contract for sale of 92 Iranian-made buses (model 355-1) is being finalized by the Iranian and Turkmen officials.

Speaking to IRNA in Ashkhabad, Managing Director of Iran Khodro company Mohammad Hashem Roko said that 50 other Iranian-made buses are now ready to

## WHO praises Iran's health services record

TEHRAN - Director of Eastern Mediterranean Department of the World Health Organization (WHO) said in Tabriz, East Azarbaijan Province, that Iran's achievements in the area of vaccination has been far higher than those of a number of developed countries, including the United States.

Dr. Hussein Abdul-Razzaq Gezairy said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the first and most successful country in rendering health services to rural areas.

Gezairy, who is in Tabriz to inspect execution of a comprehensive medical care plan in this northwestern province, said the plan is entirely unique and fruitful.

He stressed that the plan is enforceable in other countries.

Parliament speaker:

## Iran will not tolerate foreign interference in its internal affairs

be unilateral.

Nateq Nouri described as historic and comprehensive the message of the Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, on occasion of the 20th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution saying the Leader called on the thinkers and intellectuals to hearten the people and inspire hope in them and to thwart enemy schemes aimed at disappointing the people.

The Majlis speaker called on officials, writers and the press to further strive to foil the conspiracies hatched by the aliens and to create tranquility and security in the society.

He laid emphasis on the Leader's statements that political groups should strive for political growth of the people saying groups and factions, while maintaining their divergent outlooks, should enter the scene just to please God and to carry out their duties. The officials, he said, as servants of the nation in the three branches, must value the masses.

## Insurance industry enjoys 24 pc growth

in the same period for their undertakings of which Rls 437 billion has been paid for the damages caused by car accidents.

He said Rls 106 billion has been paid for the cus-

tomers' spendings in medical care sector.

He said the insurance contracts for transport has reduced by 16 percent due to the fall in the imports to the country.

## Iran, Turkey review border security issues

TEHRAN - Iran and Turkey here Sunday held their 16th joint commission on the issue of mutual security, attended by representatives from the two countries' law enforcement, army staff and joint-staff headquarters, information ministries, foreign ministries and governor general of the Iranian East Azarbaijan Province.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey share a 511 km common border and naturally incidents of security breaches are bound to take place at the border points. So in order to prevent such incidents security memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries in 1993," said director general of the Iranian Interior Ministry security department Mr. Motahhar, IRNA reported.

"Based on the security agreement the two countries have set up a joint security committee to see over the implementation of the articles of the agreement," he added.

Motahhar pointed out "Iran and Turkey have cultural, religious and historical commonalities and that the policy of the two governments is for further expansion of bilateral relations particularly in area of security issues."

During the four-day session, he stated, "the security issues which will be taken care by the two governments will include the border problems such as pilgrims travelling overland to Syria through Turkey, the issue of the land mines, the setting up of border-posts and ways to fight drug traffickers, contraband smugglers and terrorist activities."

Tehran to host traffic engineering seminar

## Sound planning will improve traffic, reduce air pollution

TEHRAN - Iran's fourth traffic engineering seminar is to be held here from March 2-4.

Chief of the academic board of the seminar Gholamreza Shirazian told reporters that the goal behind the seminar is to make people familiar with transportation and traffic affairs,

decrease accidents as well as air pollution.

He referred to traffic safety, roads traffic management and control, public transportation and relief work, environment and traffic, pedestrians and traffic, economy of trans-

portation, education and traffic behavior and traffic rule violations and accidents as major topics to be discussed at the meeting, IRNA reported.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shirazian said vehicles accounted for 98 percent of gasoline used in the country and the remaining two percent are used by the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

He said that sound planning will improve the country's transportation and traffic system and will reduce the amount of gasoline used by motor cars.

According to Shirazian, experts from major auto companies in Europe and Australia are to attend the meeting.

The seminar is co-sponsored by ministries of roads and transportation, culture and higher education, industries, housing and urban development and education as well as Tehran's Municipality, the Plan and Budget Organization

(PBO), the Environmental Protection Organization (EPO), the association of transportation engineers, Topography Organization, subway company and several universities.

Meanwhile, head of the seminar's coordination board Mohammad Ra'ufi said that based on statistics released by the coroner's office, the rate of fatal road accidents increased by 15 percent in the first half of the year (started March 21), compared to that of similar period last year.

Ra'ufi said a total of 13,690 people lost their lives in road accidents last year while 7,917 died in the first half of current year. He added that the number of people injured in road accidents stood at 68,738 last year and at 39,690 in the first six months of this year.

He put the number of daily road accident casualties in Iran at 45 this year, 36 last year and 32 in the preceding year.

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