

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia chief banker to visit Iran soon



IRAN FRONT PAGE – Iran's ambassador to Russia announced that the head of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation will visit Iran in the near future.

Kazem Jalali told Parleman-skaya Gazeta newspaper that Elvira Sakhripzadovna Nabiullina, head of the Central Bank of Russia, will discuss financial and banking issues with her Iranian counterpart Mohammadreza Farzin in Tehran.

Iran and Russia have recently discussed the Financial Messaging System of the Bank of Russia (SPFS), which is a safe and reliable channel for exchanging electronic messages on financial transactions.

New Shiraz-Najaf flight launched



IRNA – Saha Airlines started new flights between the Iranian city of Shiraz and the Iraqi holy city of Najaf. According to Fakhroddin Keshavarz, the director general of Fars Province's Airports, the first roundtrip of the route started on Friday.

Iran opens ...

"The enemies sought to stop Iran by means of brutal sanctions, but could not achieve their goals," he said.

Raeisi said the enemies have resorted to a hybrid war and waged various psychological, media, economic and political operations in order to block the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran; however, their bids have all failed in the face of the vigilance and awareness of the Iranian nation. South Pars gas field, whose development has been divided into 28 phases, is located in the Persian Gulf straddling the maritime border between Iran and Qatar.

It covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, of which 3,700 square kilometers belongs to Iran.

It is estimated that the Iranian section of the field contains 14 trillion cubic meters of gas and 18 billion barrels of condensates in place.

Iraq seeks to buy more gas from Iran

Iraq's Minister of Electricity Ali Fadel announced that his country is currently in the process of finalizing a contract to purchase gas from Iran in the summer season.

In a recent interview with Iraqi News Agency, Fadel emphasized that Iraq needs 35,000 megawatts to ensure 24-hour electricity supply during the summer season. Currently, Iraq's electricity production is at 15,600 megawatts, and citizens have access to 18 hours of electricity per day. Fadel also stated that the situation regarding electricity supply this coming summer will be different from previous years. The Iraqi Ministry of Electricity is ready to sign an agreement with Iran to purchase the required amount of gas for the summer season, which will add 7,000 megawatts of electricity to Iraq's supply, Tasnim News Agency reported.

However, the shortage of fuel is preventing an increase of 5,000

megawatts, although facilities are ready for the production of this amount of electricity.

The minister also mentioned that Iraq's contracts with Siemens and General Electric will enter the implementation phase this March. As a result, Siemens will produce 1,400 megawatts at the Beiji Power Plant and 600 megawatts at the Dhi Qar Power Plant in the first phase, while General Electric will also produce 3,000 megawatts of electricity.

Fadel added that the two companies are obligated to conduct the necessary studies to collect associated gas. With the contracts between Iraq and Siemens and General Electric entering the implementation phase, Iraq's electricity supply is set to receive a significant boost. In addition, the purchase of gas from Iran will further increase Iraq's electricity supply and help the country meet its energy needs during the summer season.



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Iran's alumina powder production tops 190k tons: *IMIDRO*

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Iran produced 190,782 tons of alumina powder during the first 10 months of the current Iranian year (March 21, 2022-January 20, 2023), according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The figure indicates a nearly one percent drop compared to the output in the 10-month period of the previous year, which was 193,534 tons, reported IRNA.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

Iran's Chabahar FTZ ready to host Japanese investors

The managing director of the Chabahar Free Trade-Industrial Zone announced the FTZ's readiness to host Japanese investors and develop scientific and research relations with the country. Amir Moqaddam made the remarks at a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Tehran Kazutoshi Aikawa, IRNA reported.

He added called for the use of Japanese knowledge and technology as an accelerator in the field of post-border infrastructure development.

He announced the region's readiness to host investors in the field of surface water management, recirculation of wastewater, completion of treatment plants, and water and sewage system based on social responsibilities.

After naming some of Chabahar's natural attractions, he considered hosting Japanese tourists as an opportunity for gaining experience and calling for more interactions in the field of tourism.



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Iran shining in ICT sector in region: *Minister*

Iran's Minister of Information and Communications Technology Issa Zarepour said that Iran is one of the leading countries in the region in communication and information technology and has made significant efforts in the development of international relations among the members of D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation in the past year. Zarepour made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with Secretary General of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, IRNA reported.

Referring to the latest promotions in Iran's ICT, he added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has developed various domesti-

cally-developed platforms and messengers by relying on its experts.

He said that these platforms are now hosting millions of Iranian users and have been able to boost business activity in virtual space to a large extent, announcing that Iran is ready to transfer experience and technology in this field with the member states of the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation.

Meanwhile, in a meeting with Imam on Wednesday evening, Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian said politics has overshadowed the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation as he expressed hope that the organization could return

to its core mission which is to foster economic growth in member states, according to Press TV.

"Other regional organizations have performed better than the D-8 in recent years. Thus, it is necessary for the D-8 to return to its core missions," he said, adding that member states should seek to set aside their differences and commit to their responsibilities vis-à-vis the organization.

Mehrabian said he welcomes a proposal by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to hold a summit of D-8 energy ministers in Tehran.

Imam, for his part, said the D-8 secretariat seeks to activate more trade potentials between mem-



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bers of the organization. He said trade between D-8 members could reach some \$500 billion by 2030, up from a current figure of \$137 billion per year.

The Developing Eight (D-8) was established through the Istanbul Declaration,

which was agreed upon at the First D-8 Summit on June 15, 1997, in Istanbul, Türkiye.

D-8 consists of eight developing countries, namely Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Türkiye.