



Tehran, Astana determined to boost CICA

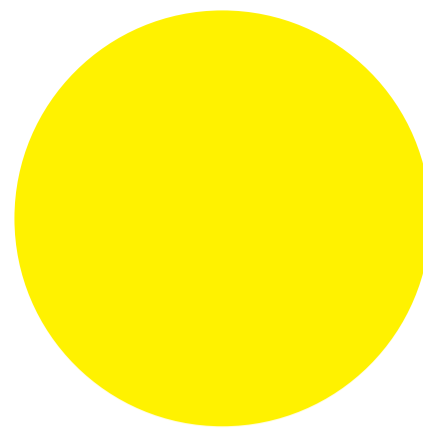
EXCLUSIVE

6 >



Local music needs urgent consideration not to fade into oblivion

8 >



Iran Daily



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir

Vol. 7309 • Thursday, June 8, 2023 • Khordad 18, 1402 • Dhu al-Qadah 19, 1444 • Price 40,000 Rials • 8 Pages

Economic cooperation to guarantee security, political deals

2 >

Images recently revealed from the Urmia Lake in northwestern province of West Azarbaijan show signs of revival, after the Iranian government's implementation of a water transfer project launched in February to stream water from a nearby dam to the crisis-hit lake.



Russia, Iran cooperating to save endangered Caspian Sea species

Economy Desk

Russia and Iran are making joint efforts to protect imperiled species of the Caspian Sea, a Russian lawmaker said Wednesday. "Russia and Iran will undertake concerted measures to promote biodiversity in the Caspian Sea under bilateral agreements," Nikolay Vasilev, the deputy chairman of the Agriculture Committee in Russia's State Duma told an Iranian parliamentary dele-

gation in Moscow. Vasilev added that the two nations had already taken concrete steps in safeguarding the invaluable species inhabiting the body of water, IRNA reported. He urged the respective parliaments of Russia and Iran to monitor these endeavors closely, with the aim of expediting progress in this area. Last month, Iran initiated a groundbreaking project focused on the artificial reproduction of the economically

valuable Caspian barbel fish, commonly known as Yellowfin. The plan was aimed at acquiring essential biotechniques to ensure successful propagation of the endangered species, which faces environmental challenges and the looming threat of extinction.

Iran, a potential grain transit hub

Speaking at the same meeting, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee in Russia's

State Duma Vladimir Kashin said Iran would become a grain transit hub once a major route that links Russian ports, situated along the Baltic Sea and Iranian ports, located in the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf, is completed. Kashin said the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) would play a key role in turning Iran into a grain transit hub. The INSTC, a comprehensive transportation network encompassing maritime, rail,

and road routes, spans a vast distance of approximately 7,200 kilometers, connecting Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran, and India. The final segment of the INSTC is the Rasht-Astara railway that runs along the Caspian Sea coast. In May, Iran and Russia signed a \$1.6-billion deal to build the railroad in order to complete the INSTC, which Russia believes holds the potential to rival the Suez Canal as a prominent global trade route.

Despite claims, U.S. sanctions have targeted Iran's pharmaceutical industry

By Sadeq Dehqan
Staff writer



Iranian MP Fatemeh Mohammad Beigi
IRAN DAILY

An Iranian lawmaker said that the United States has imposed sanctions on Iran's pharmaceutical and medical equipment industry despite pretending that it has not targeted the industry. The sanctions have created many problems in the supply and production of pharmaceutical products in the country. In an interview with Iran Daily, Fatemeh Mohammad Beigi said that the U.S. sanctions against Iran's pharmaceutical industry is an undeniable fact, which have caused many difficulties for Iranian companies, including the supply of raw materials and updating medical equipment and production lines. The Iranian lawmaker, who is also a member of the Parliament's Health Committee, underlined that the consequences of the sanctions have directly affected ordinary people. Describing the U.S. sanctions as unfair, immoral and inhumane, Mohammad Beigi said that these restrictions, which are against international standards, should be prosecuted through international tribunals. Since about 97% of the medicine needed in the country is being produced inside Iran, the country is not facing a shortage of medicine despite some media hype. But the main problem is its high price, which is caused by problems in the supply of raw materials from abroad. Another problem is its distribution, which needs to be solved. She said that good progress has been made in the country's pharmaceutical industry. However, there is a lack of coordination between the supply chain of raw materials to the production and distribution of the medicines.

Emphasizing the importance of the government's support for the industry, Mohammad Beigi said that the government provides good support to some industries, but the pharmaceutical industry has not received enough support compared to some other industries. The Iranian lawmaker said the industry is now facing some problems due to lack of support by the government. She said that the government can provide the medicine producers with low-interest loans to help them modernize their production lines and medical equipment. Mohammad Beigi underlined that, today, the pharmaceutical producers, which are mainly knowledge-based companies, need support from the government in a bid to increase their productions. She also pointed to the necessity of seriously fighting corruption in the field of medicines and medical equipment, and fighting against drug smugglers. She underscored that the existing problems of the country's pharmaceutical industry should be well monitored and followed up.



Ukrainians face homelessness, disease as floodwaters crest from destroyed dam

3 >



Rasht Grand Bazaar, a world of colors

4 >



36 drugs, vaccines produced, with more on the way

7 >

Raeisi to visit three LatAm nations next week

Iranian President Ebrahim Raeisi is set to visit three Latin American nations next week to boost political, economic and scientific relations. Heading a high-ranking delegation, Raeisi will set off for Venezuela, Nicaragua and Cuba on Sunday in line with his administration's policy of expanding ties with friendly countries, Press TV reported. During his Latin American tour, several documents will be signed between Iran and the three states to strengthen cooperation in various fields. The president will also sit down with Iranian and local tradesmen

and economic actors. Iran has close ties with many Latin American countries in different domains and seeks to further deepen its relations with those nations. Last June, Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year partnership agreement aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields during Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's visit to Tehran. The partnership agreement includes cooperation in the fields of science, technology, agriculture, oil and gas, petrochemicals, tourism as well as culture.

Iran plans to attract €20b of foreign investment in FTZs: Official

Economy Desk

Iran plans to offer facilities aimed at maximizing investor participation in its free and special economic zones, Masoud Hosseinpour, the deputy secretary of the Supreme Council of Free Zones, said Wednesday. Hosseinpour added that by the end of the current Iranian year (March 19, 2024), there would be a suitable environment for approximately €20 billion worth of investment in these zones, ISNA reported. He said existing capacities in the free zones have yet to be fully uti-

lized. "We are trying to actualize these capacities." Hosseinpour noted that despite significant infrastructure works already completed, efforts would continue to strengthen the free zones, making them Iran's "investment paradise." "Current conditions are not conducive to attracting investors, resulting in some choosing to invest elsewhere, such as in Turkey, the UAE, and Oman. However, if investors become aware of the available capacities and facilities, it is expected that they will bring their capital into Iran's free zones."