

NEWS IN BRIEF

Afghanistan's first rail cargo exported to Turkey via Iran



TASNIM - Afghanistan's first export shipment containing 1,100 tons of mineral ore was exported by train from Roznak station to Turkey via Iran.

In a statement, the Afghanistan Railway Department announced that this export included talc mineral exported to the city of Mersin, Turkey.

This is the first shipment of Afghanistan's "talc" that has gone to Turkey through Iran, the report added.

Spokesman for the Transportation and Aviation Authority of the Taliban government in Afghanistan Imamuddin Ahmadihad previously announced that import and export between Afghanistan and Turkey will be carried out by land route for the first time.

Hand-woven carpets and rugs, dried fruits and precious stones are among the goods exported from Afghanistan to Turkey and other countries.

Tehran to renovate public transportation fleet with 2,000 EVs



IRNA - Tehran Municipality has announced to replace 2,000 old taxis with electric vehicles (EVs). Shadi Maleki, the caretaker of the Taxi Organization of Tehran, said that the measure takes place as part of plans to renovate the city's transportation fleet to help improve air quality.

She noted that under an agreement between her organization and Modiran Vehicle Manufacturing Company, owners of taxis older than 10 years can register for a supportive package to receive EVs in exchange for their taxis.

Some 27,500 taxis, as well as 5,000 vans, are scheduled to join Tehran's transportation fleet this year, the official said, adding that some 10,000 electric taxis will be supplied to the applicants in the first phase. The head of Modiran Vehicle Manufacturing Company has also said that an agreement has been signed for the supply of 2,000 cars. He noted that in the first phase, the company will supply 1,000 vehicles.

Iran's imports of airliners at 66 in over two years to March



The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) of Iran announced imports of 66 airliners of different types from the date the current Iranian government took office in August 2021 till March 2024.

Most of the imported airliners were large wide-body planes, the CAA spokesman Jafar Yazarlou told IRNA on Sunday.

Also, seven light aircraft for training and transporting or-

gans of brain dead patients have been imported to the country, Yazarlou added.

During the mentioned period, five helicopters were imported to the country, he said, adding that 14 airliners have been overhauled and joined the Iranian airlines during the period.

So, in total, 92 airliners and helicopters have been imported to the country and overhauled since the begin-

ning if the current Iranian government.

Iran's civil aviation chief has announced that the country has developed its first passenger aircraft manufacturing factory.

Mohammad Mohammadi-Bakhsh, head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization, made the remarks at a press conference held in Tehran on December 19, on the sidelines of the seventh

edition of the International Exhibition of Transportation, Logistics, and Related Industries.

"Today, we can say that the Islamic Republic is in possession of a [passenger] plane manufacturing factory," he said. Mohammadi-Bakhsh said the factory was hosting the manufacturing process of the country's first passenger aircraft, which he named Simorgh.

Iran's Roads and Urban Development Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade were involved in the aircraft's manufacturing process, the official said.

Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company (HESA) has been engaged in developing fighter planes since the late 1990s, including Azarakhsh (Lightning) and Saeqeh (Thunderbolt).

Private sector supports weekends change to Friday-Saturday plan



By Reza
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PERSPECTIVE

The private sector of Iran has begun efforts to persuade the Parliament and state-run sector to change the country's system of holidays into one more easily coordinated with global trade.

The head of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) said on Sunday that "We expect the Parliament to consider the opinions of the private sector in determining the weekend holidays."

Mahmoud Najafi-Arab also claimed that in the private sector, you cannot find even one person who is ready to accept Thursday and Friday holidays.

He added that we have announced in different ways that instead of Thursday and Friday, Friday and Saturday could be suitable to be adopted as weekend in Iran.

Last week, the Social Committee of the Parliament approved the increase of the official weekly holiday to two days along with the reduction of four hours of

the employees' weekly work and added Thursday to the weekly holiday of Friday.

Since world economy goes on weekend holidays on Saturday and Sundays and Iranian Parliament plans to do so on Thursdays and Fridays, a four-day gap makes Iran fall behind global markets. The private sector in Iran supports the narrowing of the gap.

Currently, Iranian labor forces work an average of 44 hours a week, more than people do in all Asian countries or member states in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), a club of the world's most advanced economies. According to the Parliament Research Center, per capita productivity in the country is low in comparison with other countries. Many experts believe the low labor productivity is the Achilles' hill of Iran's economy.

The problem with Iran's different holidays is also of a religious and cultural nature. Friday is the sole regular holiday while the other red-letter days are mainly religious observance holidays that rotate every year as their lunar calendar anniversary



saries are recognized in the country's official solar calendar.

Considering the economic conditions of the country, one of the most important things we must do is to pave the ground for the economic atmospheres of the country for more production. The head of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture of Khorasan Razavi Province believes that if there is a necessity to increase the number of days off per week, the number of working hours should not be interfered with, or at least the private sector should be excluded from this matter.

Firouz Ebrahimi has said

on Friday that closing on Saturdays instead of Thursdays will have a better effect on business activities of Iranians in the international arena from an economic point of view.

The decisions made by the Parliamentarians in the field of economic and social issues should be consulted with private sector, he believes.

Closing on Thursday means the disconnection of the country's banks along with the daily problems in foreign exchange transactions, Ebrahimi criticized saying that we expect Parliament to revise its recent decision.

Iran to host economy ministers of African states: TPOI

Iran will host economy ministers from more than 40 African countries at the second Iran-Africa International Summit set to be held later this month, an official at the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI) said.

The deputy head of the international businesses promotion office of the TPOI pointed to the significance of trade with African states and added that African countries are home to numerous unknown trade opportunities and will play a leading role in global trade in the future, reported Tasnim News Agency.

Africa enjoys untapped resources that have not so far been introduced, Mohammad Sadegh Qanadzadeh said, adding that China and Turkey have increased the level of their trade with this continent. He further noted that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Iranian Presi-

dent Ebrahim Raisi have placed special emphasis on expanding trade and economic relations with African states.

It is a matter of regret to say that Iran's trade with African countries has fallen into oblivion in the past four decades, so, the organization is trying to take effective steps to boost trade with Africa, he noted, Mehr news agency reported. Identifying and introducing the export potentials of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been cited as one of the main goals of the 2nd International Iran-Africa Summit, Qanadzadeh further stated. He pointed out that specialized business-to-business (B2B) meetings and various expert-level discussion panels including specialized steel industries, petrochemical and agricultural panels will be held on the sidelines of the summit.

