

# Current News

## **Economics- Japanese, German Investments in Lorestan**

German investors are to embark on the construction of low-cost prefabricated housing units in Lorestan province, the governor general said.

In a meeting with German delegation, Hossein Saberi said since housing shortage is seen across this western province, the governor general office wants to remove the problems through domestic and foreign investment, Mehr News Agency wrote.

On Mehr Housing Scheme in Lorestan, the official said currently the lands have been allocated and prepared for the purpose. At preset, over 45,000 locals have registered for the scheme. According to the official, a domestic plant will provide the German developers with the necessary construction materials. Close to 3 percent of housing units in Iran are prefabricated.

## **Politics- Egypt Summons Iranian Diplomat**

MOSCOW (IRNA) – Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Wednesday that Iran, as a non-nuclear member of the NPT, must have the right to pursue peaceful nuclear energy. He said Iran, as a non-nuclear member of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, enjoyed the right to pursue nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, just the way other NPT members did. There is no place for any deal or exchange over Iran's peaceful nuclear activities, he reiterated. He said he was absolutely confident there was no evidence indicating Iran's access to nuclear weapons.

## **Social- Smoking Age Reduced to Under 10 in Iran**

“Smoking age has reached below 10 in the country”, Mohammad-Reza Ma'dani lamented. Describing it as a social disastrous phenomenon, he called for concerted efforts to resolve the problem. According to head of research center of IATA, Iran signed the FCTC convention in July 2006, based on which the parliament approved Iranian Comprehensive National Tobacco Control Law in 20 articles and 5 notes. Ali Abdollahinia referred to some articles of the law and said we should undertake a comprehensive ban on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship within five years of ratifying the treaty.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the first treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. It was adopted by the World Health Assembly in May 2003 and entered into force in February 2005. The treaty recognizes that raising prices is an effective and important means of reducing tobacco consumption by various segments of the population, youngsters in particular, the IATA secretary added