

TEHRAN TIMES

Human emotions make Iranian cinema special: Fajr jury member

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Tehran in talks with customers to sell heavy water

U.S. is the first country to purchase 32-ton heavy water from Iran

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said on Saturday that Tehran is in talks with a number of countries to sell its heavy water.

However, final decision will be subject to strategic and commercial considerations, Kamalvandi stated.

The AEOI spokesman did not go into details as to which countries the country is to sell the material.

According to the JCPOA, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Iran is disallowed accumulation of heavy water for a time expansion of 15 years.

Also, under the deal, Iran has to make available for export to the international market any excess heavy water. Iran's annual heavy water production stands at almost 20 tons.

On Iran selling 32 tons of heavy water to the U.S., Kamalvandi remarked annual excess heavy water will be shipped out to what he called "trustable markets."

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Rouhani: Without Iran we have faced terrorist state of Daesh

POLITICAL TEHRAN — President Rouhani has asserted that Iran has been in the frontline of counterterrorism both ideologically and pragmatically, saying if it had not been for Iran's supports, Damascus and Bagdad would have fallen into the hands of Daesh, the Arabic acronym for ISIL.

Rouhani made the remarks in an international seminar on environment, culture, and religion on Saturday in Tehran.

"Without Iran... now we have faced the terrorist government of Daesh," Rouhani noted.

Syrian and Iraqi officials have already

thanked Iran for helping them in their fight against the self-styled Islamic caliphate. Rouhani added if ISIL's dreams had come true, the whole world would have been in jeopardy and the world had no idea of what would have happened to Paris, Brussels, and New York.



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Bidding for Iran's oilfields to start in June or July: official

The head of Iran's petroleum contracts committee said on Thursday that bidding and negotiations for Iran's oilfields will start in June or July.

The fields that will come for bidding are mostly big fields, Seyed Mehdi Hosseini told reporters after an oil summit in Paris, adding that some common fields Iran shares with other countries would also be open to bidding.

"Bidding will begin in late June or early July," the official said.

He added that the National Iranian Oil Company may also carry out negotiations for some individual projects.

He invited international oil companies to "start sending their interests" on potential projects. Iran hopes to attract international oil companies to invest in its oil sector and boost production with the new contracts.

The official said the government had approved a model for new contracts but it was still being processed by a commission.

Asked when the final draft of the contract will be ready and presented, Hosseini said the committee he chairs was hoping for June or July.

"We are doing our best to do something in June or July," he said, adding that the Iranian government had approved the model for the new contract.

(Source: Reuters)



PERSPECTIVE

By Harun Yahya
political expert

All for one, one for all

The 13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation Summit which was held recently in Istanbul is still hitting the headlines. This meeting was special in many ways such as the significance of the host city, Istanbul, which has been the house of the caliphate for more than five centuries. For the first time since its foundation was established in 1969, this was marked as the highest attendance at the level of presidents. Even though the organization has not brought any significant solutions to the issues faced by Muslims, this was at least a promising union in the midst of the blazing conflicts in the Islamic world. It gives a hope that this time this assembly will make a necessary change to prevent the loss of even one innocent life.

No doubt, among the participants, President Rouhani and King Salman attracted a great deal of attention by the media due to recent disagreements between the two powerful Islamic countries.

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Pretoria and Tehran to pen 3 agreements

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ali Tayebnia has said Iran and South Africa will be signing three agreements, including establishing a joint bank in South Africa.

In addition to giving a boost to banking ties, the agreements will be on joint commissions and investment, according to the economy minister.

Documents will be inked during the visit to Iran by South African President Jacob Zuma at the head of a high-level delegation.

The visit, scheduled for April 24-25, is an important structural catalyst in elevating bilateral and economic relations into a substantive strategic partnership.

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Big construction deals on horizon during Park's Iran visit

South Korean construction companies are set to sign a series of big development projects in Iran when a business delegation visits the Middle Eastern nation next month to promote bilateral economic ties, industry officials said Saturday.

President Park Geun-hye is to visit Iran from May 1-3 to discuss ways to promote

Hyundai is set to invest \$3.6 billion to build a gas refining facility. The firm also plans to participate in a private power plant construction project estimated at \$500 million.

business ties between the nations, leading a delegation of some 200 businesspeople from such areas as construction, energy and finance.

Her visit, the first of its kind by a South Korean president since the two sides established diplomatic relations in 1962, comes as Iran has been emerging as a high-potential market after years of international sanctions were lifted in January.

Leading Korean builders plan to set memorandums of understanding and preliminary agreements on building railway, dam, petrochemical plant and hospitals, with the value of contracts estimated around 15-20 trillion won (\$13-17 billion), according to industry officials.

Daelim Industrial said it plans to ink a \$4.9

billion deal on railway projects and a preliminary agreement on a dam and water plant deal estimated at \$2 billion next month. It has also been pushing for participating in a petrochemical project, hoping to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Tehran government during the delegation visit.

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Daelim plans to ink a \$4.9 billion deal on railway projects and a preliminary agreement on a dam and water plant deal estimated at \$2 billion next month.

Finnish selection of Shahnameh unveiled in Tehran

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — A Finnish translation of a selection from Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh by Jaakko Hameen-Anttila, a professor at the University of Helsinki, was unveiled during a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday.

Anttila, Finnish Ambassador Harri Kamarainen and some Iranian cultural officials attended the ceremony held in the Majlis Library, Museum and Documentation Center.

The professor said that he takes great pride in having translated the Book of Kings (Shahnameh) into the Finnish language, and having made it available for the people of his country.

"My own translation is a prose translation of Shahnameh from Persian into Finnish and it is not complete. I hope to add the second vol-

ume to the first to cover the entire book," he told the participants.

"I chose the version of Shahnameh by distinguished (Iranian) Shahnameh researcher Jalal Khaleqi-Motlag as my original source. However, I chose to render the selection into prose since I felt that translation into verse would be above my abilities," he explained.

However, he said that he is planning to choose some short stories from Shahnameh to translate into Finnish in verse at some other time.

The professor also noted that the book came out last week and he is not sure if the books have been distributed in bookshops across Helsinki yet.

"The epic of Ferdowsi is a window to see what Iranian people see and how they feel, and Finnish people will learn more about Iranians through this book," he said.



The ambassador for his part called April 23rd a day of joy and celebration, and considered the translation of Shahnameh a wonderful treasure to read.

"Through Shahnameh, the peo-

ple of Finland will learn to know about the history and culture of Iran. Iran has given so much to the world's civilizations. Iranian poets have been the source of inspiration for Europeans, and my Finnish countrymen will be able to read Shahnameh in their own language," the ambassador added.

Shahnameh, which is known as the "Book of Kings" in English, is the celebrated work of the epic poet Ferdowsi in which the Persian national epic found its final and enduring form. It was completed in 1010. The Shahnameh millennium was accepted on UNESCO's 2010 calendar of events.

The Majlis Library director Mohammadreza Majidi, and the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLA) Director Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri were among the participating guests at the ceremony.

Tehran hosts seminar on environment, religion and culture

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A two-day international seminar on environment, religion and culture kicked off in Tehran on Saturday with the participation of representatives of 15 countries from all continents.

The event has been held in a joint cooperation with the Department of Environment, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UNESCO in Pardisan Park, IRNA reported. Iran's president who attended the seminar said, "Our mission today is to take

responsibility for global and regional change." Hassan Rouhani stated, "I am delighted to see that the seminar is coinciding with the endorsement of the climate deal in New York, and that climate change has turned into a global concern."

"I hope that Tehran's message with that from New York and Paris send a strong message to the world that with unity, sustainable effort and follow-up, we can reach our [environmental] goals," he continued.

Life on earth will be hard or even impossible if eco-friendly efforts are abandoned, the pres-

ident noted. Rouhani also said that all religions have a common message for people that the nature belongs to them, therefore they are responsible to take care of it. During the seminar, lecturers from nine different religions are scheduled to exchange views on environment and religion.

The seminar revolves around the theme of "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" which was approved in the recent UN summit in New York on September 15.



ARTICLE

By Omid Sohrabi-Nik
Political analyst

Supreme Leader's messages highlight importance of economy

The fact that Iran's highest authority, Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, has named the Persian New Year "Resistance Economy" shows that he has admitted that the country's economy is in dire need of attention.

Ayatollah Khamenei has been naming Iranian years after religious figures and concepts since 1999. But he has focused on economy over the past seven years, using the word "economy" in the titles of four years.

Every year, the Supreme Leader names the Iranian years that start from March 20 or March 21 in order to draw the attention of the officials and the people to a "value as well as a problem".

Before 2009, titles of the years included the names of figures like Imam Khomeini (the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran), Imam Ali (the first Shia Imam) and The Prophet (Muhammad).

Values and concepts like the Honor and Dignity of Hossein (the third Shia Imam), Service, Responsibility, National Unity and Islamic Solidarity, and Innovation were used in the titles of the years as well.

Since 2009, however, it seems that one issue has been standing out: Economy.

This is while Iranian officials barely admitted that international sanctions over its nuclear program - first slapped by the United Nations Security Council in 2006 - had any effect on the country's economy. They always described the sanctions as an "opportunity" for them to rely on their domestic capabilities.

However, the Islamic Republic made the decision to prescribe "resistance" for its ailing economy since 2010, after U.S.-led sanctions against it gained momentum.

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MEDIA MONITOR

**Schmid reassures foreign investors about Iran's market**

TEHRAN — The 28-member European Union and world powers have agreed to cooperate in efforts to boost foreign economic entities' confidence for investing in Iran's market following the removal of sanctions on Tehran, EU deputy foreign policy chief Helga Schmid has said.

"E3/EU+3 reviewed Iran's nuclear commitments and agreed to continue work together to reassure economic operators about sanctions lifting," Helga Schmid said in a message posted on her Twitter account on Friday.

**JCPOA committee forms anti-sanctions workgroup**

TEHRAN — Tehran and the 5+1 group have decided to form a workgroup to facilitate the removal of economic sanctions on Iran, according to Iran's deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs.

It was agreed to discuss matters within this workgroup whenever Iran finds out that the lifting of sanctions do not bring real results, said Abbas Araghchi on Friday, the YJC reported.

The Iranian diplomat said the attending sides of the JCPOA committee meeting in Vienna had thoroughly discussed the obstacles that prevent the lifting of sanctions and reviewed ways to remove them.

**Aref, Larijani's chance to become Majlis speaker is 50-50: MP**

TEHRAN — Reformist MP Masoud Pezeshkian has said the chances for Ali Larijani or Mohammad Reza Aref to become speaker in the next Majlis are 50-50.

Each of the sides has some privileges, one has a brilliant record while the other is currently the speaker, so no decisive opinion can be given who will become the next speaker, Pezeshkian told ISNA on Saturday.

**Iran to attend security conference in China**

TEHRAN — Iran plans to participate in the fifth regular meeting of the foreign ministers of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) due to be held in Beijing in the coming days.

The meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday and Thursday with nearly 40 delegations from CICA countries and observer members as well as international organizations, Mehr reported on Saturday.

**Baku after closer ties with Tehran: Azeri PM**

TEHRAN — The Republic of Azerbaijan's prime minister has voiced his country's enthusiasm for a rapid promotion of ties with Iran in a whole host of fields.

In a meeting with Iran's Minister of Communications and Information Technology Mahmoud Vaezi in Baku, Artur Rasizade welcomed closer economic and trade cooperation with neighboring Iran, APA reported on Saturday.

Rasizade urged enhancement of ties in agriculture, tourism industry, banking, pharmaceutical industry, and transportation among other fields.

**Russia, Iran hold talks on space cooperation**

TEHRAN — A delegation of officials from the Iranian Space Agency traveled to Russia on Saturday to discuss cooperation with Roscosmos State Corporation officials.

The Iranian Ministry of Communications and Information Technology said an Iranian delegation headed by Vice Minister Mohsen Bahrami traveled to Moscow in order to continue talks and implement the agreements concluded in the past, ILNA reported.

He said the visit comes after the travel of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin to Tehran and negotiations between the leaders of the Iranian and Russian space organizations.

Any plan contrary to Syrian interests not acceptable, Iran says

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A senior desk foreign policy adviser to the Supreme Leader said on Saturday that any plan that runs contrary to the interests of the Syria people is not acceptable.

"Iran still supports the territorial integrity [of Syria], the legitimate Syrian government and the people's right to determine their destiny," Ali Akbar Velayati said during a meeting with Adnan Mahmoud, the Syrian ambassador to Tehran.

Pointing to the Syrian people and government's resistance against the terrorist groups, Velayati said that "axis of resistance" has proven that "faith" can win against extremist and terrorist movements and resolve all problems.

"Certainly that the Islamic Republic of Iran supports Syria's territorial integrity and independence and Bashar al-Assad's legal government which has been elected by the people and any plan against the Syrian nation's interests will not be accepted," the veteran politician noted.

He described the April 13 parliamentary elections in Syria as an "important move" which demonstrated the Syrian government's "power" and the people's



role in determining their destiny.

Velayati also said that the U.S. and some other countries that support the terrorists seek to form a puppet government in Syria but they will not succeed.

He also said that Iran has "advisory" presence in Syria and this has come upon a request by the "legal" and "legitimate" government of Syria.

For his part, the Syria ambassador

thanked Iran for its supports.

The Syrian government is making efforts to reach an agreement with the opposition groups that would meet the people's interests after five years of resistance against foreign backed militants, Ambassador Mahmoud said.

He added that initiatives presented by the terrorists and the opposition groups are very similar to the Zionist regime of Israel's.

He expressed regret over the fact that some Arab countries which provide help to the terrorists do not adopt any position against the Zionist regime's actions.

According to ghanaweb.com, the UN special envoy for Syria has estimated that 400,000 people have been killed during the last five years of war in Syria.

Explaining that the death toll was based on his own estimate, Staffan de Mistura said on Friday that it was not an official UN statistic.

"We had 250,000 as a figure two years ago," said de Mistura. "Well, two years ago was two years ago."

According to Press TV, Syria's chief negotiator in peace talks plans to resume talks with the UN special envoy early next week.

Bashar al-Jaafari, who also serves as Syria's ambassador to the United Nations, made the remarks at a news conference after the government delegation's meeting with de Mistura on Friday.

"We agreed with the special envoy that we meet once again on Monday at 11 o'clock, and devote the session to discuss our modifications on the paper submitted by the special envoy," he said.

Tehran in talks with customers to sell heavy water U.S. is the first country to purchase 32-ton heavy water from Iran



He added, "Those markets in need of the material which put it to good use."

This is a key question, as according to Kamalvandi, heavy water is a sensitive material, only exportable under international commitments due to security issues.

The U.S. was the first customer of Iran's heavy water, which was announced for the first time by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

The official let slip that 32 tons of heavy water have been "sold" to the U.S. since the nuclear agreement went into effect in January.

The U.S. will spend \$8.6 million for the purchase where the country's Department of Energy will resell the heavy water to commercial and lab facilities in the U.S., including the Oak Ridge National Lab, CNN quoted from an official as saying.

Also, Hamid Ba'edinejad, the director general for political and international security affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, confirmed signing of an agreement be-

tween Iran and U.S. during the two-day expert-level joint JCPOA committee meeting.

State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau confirmed on Friday the transaction, as well.

"Our purchase of the heavy water means it will instead be used for critically important research in non-nuclear industrial requirements here in the United States. We expect the heavy water to be delivered to the U.S. in the coming week, initially stored at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and then resold to — at commercially reasonable prices to domestic commercial and research buyers," State Department website quoted her as saying in a press conference.

She added that this transaction provides U.S. industry with a critical product while also enabling Iran to sell some of its excess heavy water, as contemplated in the JCPOA.

This is the first time that Tehran and Washington pen an agreement relevant to the nuclear industry.

Quality of the heavy water produced by Iran has al-



ready been confirmed by some U.S. laboratories including Savannah Laboratory which reported a 99.75 percent purity for the material.

The heavy water deal is a step forward in implementing the JCPOA, laying the ground for more cooperation between the two sides in the future.

Rouhani: Without Iran we have faced terrorist state of Daesh



In the beginning when ISIL launched rapid savage attacks on Syria and Iraq, Iran was the only regional country that rushed to the support of Iraq and Syria to block ISIL's rapid advances.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rouhani implied that Tehran

has had the concern to make the world a better place to live by proposing initiatives such as a united world against violence and terrorism and dialogue among civilizations.

In 2103, Iran invited the international community to embrace Tehran's vision of a "world against violence and extremism (WAVE)," which later on was endorsed by the

UN General Assembly.

Also, in 2001, Iran proposed the dialogue among civilizations, calling for a more peaceful world.

Rouhani's remarks come days after Iran, coupled with Hezbollah, was branded as backer of terrorism in the final draft of the 13th Organization of Islamic Cooperation in the region.

Rafsanjani: Iran seeking interaction with world

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, said on Saturday that Iran is seeking interaction and co-operation with the international community.

"Iran is determined to powerfully follow its independence seeking policies through

relying on the people and domestic capabilities under any situation; however, it is seeking interaction and cooperation with the international community," he said during a meeting of the Expediency Council.

He also expressed hope that officials would be able to facilitate transactions with

foreign banks and companies.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has said Washington would not stand in the way of foreign banks or firms doing business with Iranian companies that are no longer subject to U.S. sanctions.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Rafsanjani de-

scribed talks over purchase of heavy water from Iran by the U.S. as "useful."

The U.S. has said it is buying 32 tons of heavy water from Iran by paying 8.6 million dollars.

Iranian officials have confirmed the sale of heavy water to the United States.

U.S. won't block foreign business deals under nuke deal: Kerry

By staff and agency

Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that the U.S. would not stand in the way of foreign banks or firms doing business with Iranian companies that are no longer subject to U.S. sanctions.

Kerry also said the administration was willing to further clarify what transactions are now permitted with Iran and urged foreign financial institutions to seek answers from U.S. officials if they have questions. They should not assume, he said, that was once prohibited is still prohibited. Nor, he added, should they assume that transactions with Iran that remain illegal for U.S. companies are illegal for foreign firms, AP reported.

"The United States is not standing in the way and will not stand in the way of business that is permitted with Iran since the (nuclear deal) took effect," Kerry said, reading carefully from a prepared text. "We've lifted our nuclear-related sanctions as we committed to do and there are now opportunities for foreign banks to do business with Iran. Unfortunately, there seems to be some confu-



sion among foreign banks and we want to try to clarify that as much as we can."

The areas needing clarification, he said, include access to funds and financing for foreign firms to do business with Iran along with Iran's access to its own money, which had been frozen abroad under the nuclear sanctions. Access to all of these is permitted, Kerry said.

"We have no objection (to) foreign banks engaging with Iranian banks and companies, obviously as long as those banks and companies are not on our sanctions list for non-nuclear reasons," he said.

Zarif — who, with other senior Iranian officials, has complained that they are getting short-changed on the sanctions relief they deserve — expressed hope that Kerry's comments would unblock the flow of cash and trade that Iran is entitled to under the nuclear accord.

"We hope that with this statement by Secretary Kerry (that) now we will see serious implementation of all JCPOA benefits that Iran should derive from this agreement," he said, referring to the nuclear deal — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — by its formal acronym.

"We hope that the statement made today by Secretary Kerry will begin to open the difficult path that had been closed because of concerns that banks had about the U.S. approach toward implementation of the commitments under the JCPOA."

Supreme Leader's messages highlight importance of economy



The strategy was an attempt to thwart the effects of the sanctions and accelerate the implementation of a long-awaited plan to reduce the country's reliance on oil exports.

The idea to adopt a "resistance economy" came from Ayatollah Khamenei, who announced it in a speech in summer 2010. He later proclaimed the new year (starting March 2011) as the "Year of Economic Jihad." Twelve months after that, the Supreme Leader proclaimed the "Year of National Production," encouraging authorities to produce a revolution in the country's economy in defiance of Washington's demand that Tehran abandon its

nuclear energy program or face continued economic punishment.

The United States, however, slapped new sanctions on Tehran, leaving large parts of Iran's nearly one-trillion-dollar economy disconnected from the rest of the world.

Ayatollah Khamenei dubbed the next year (2013) "Year of Political and Economic Epic" and the year after that (2014) "Year of Economy and Culture" in an indication that the economy had to be placed high on the agenda of relevant officials.

It goes without saying that the economic pressure caused by the sanctions was one of the reasons Tehran

agreed to the nuclear deal reached between Iran and the P5+1 powers in Vienna in July 2015, the year that had been dubbed by Ayatollah Khamenei "Year of Nation and Government."

After the nuclear deal was struck, the Western side, particularly the U.S. did not fully honor its commitments. So Ayatollah Khamenei named the new year (2016) "Resistance Economy: Determination and Action." This shows that the highest authority in the Islamic Republic is gravely concerned about the economic situation and financial well-being of the people. His message is that economy is the top priority at the present.

TWITTER

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NEWS

MTN Group to invest in infrastructure projects in Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The multinational mobile desk communication MTN Group intends to make investments in some infrastructure projects, including IPTV services and fiber optic, in Iran, the Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

The South African group entered the Islamic Republic about eleven years ago to cooperate in a project with Iran-cell Telecommunication Services Company (MTN Iran-cell), 2nd mobile operator in Iran.

Possessing 49 percent of stakes of Iran-cell, the company could manage to become the commercial partner of Iran Electronic Development Company.

MTN Group, formerly M-Cell, is a South Africa-based multinational mobile telecommunications company, operating in many African, European and Asian countries. It offers an integrated suite of communications products and services to customers, including traditional and mobile voice and data, digital and mobile financial services as well as enterprise services to SME, public sector and corporate clients.

With energy deals in mind India's Modi will visit Iran in May

Stepping up further engagement with Iran, the energy rich and strategically important Persian Gulf country, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi plans a trip to the country in May.

Modi's visit to Tehran is billed to be a landmark one. The visit could see some key outcome documents in connectivity projects (that would give India much needed access to Afghanistan, Central Asia, Russia, and beyond) and energy partnerships.

This may include Delhi-Tehran-Kabul trilateral agreement for Transport and Transit Corridors or the Chabahar Agreement that will operationalize the strategic port for the three countries giving India the gateway to Central Asia, Russia and beyond in absence of transit rights through Pakistan; the commercial contract on Chabahar as well as the modalities for extending \$150 million credit for Chabahar Port for making jetties and berths by India. India would make another \$20 billion investment for the Chabahar port complex including SEZ.

The visit is also expected to give momentum to the International North South Transport Corridor -- India is in an initial signatory to this along with Iran and Russia. Pact for Indian investments in Iranian railways which will be key links in the transport corridors through that country could also be expected during the PM trip. In the energy sector the two sides could finalize the deal for India's participation in the Farzad-B gas field. While Iran is seeking Indian investments in both upstream and downstream sectors including petrochemicals and fertilizers (Source: Economic Times)

Reliance looking at long-term oil supplies from Iran

Reliance Industries Ltd, India's biggest oil refiner, said it is looking to buy more crude from Iran as the company seeks to rebuild ties to benefit from shorter shipping distances.

The company had made small purchases from Iran in the current quarter and was currently engaged in talks for bigger supplies, indicating that it could also get into a long-term supply contract, said V Srikanth, Reliance's joint chief financial officer.

"We have had engagements with Iran before the sanctions and they have grades of crude that are attractive to us from where we are," Srikanth said at a news conference on Friday.

India is set to import at least 400,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Iranian oil in the year from April 1, with refiners looking to ramp up purchases after the sanctions targeting Tehran ended in January, sources had told Reuters.

Iran was India's second biggest oil supplier before economic sanctions aimed at Iran's nuclear program hampered its trade relations. Now, Indian buyers are being drawn back to Iran in part by freight discounts that increase as more barrels are purchased.

The comments came as Reliance posted its biggest quarterly profit in over eight years on better margins in the company's core refining and petrochemical business.

Reliance, controlled by Mukesh Ambani, reported an estimate-topping net profit of 73.98 billion rupees (\$1.11 billion) for the Jan-March period -- its highest quarterly profit since December 2007. (Source: Reuters)

Saras looking to resume Iran crude trade in coming months

MILAN (Reuters) — Italian refiner Saras hopes to resume taking shipments of Iranian crude oil in the coming months if not weeks, its managing director Dario Scaffardi said on Friday.

Saras, which is part owned by Russian oil giant Rosneft, used to take a significant part of its crude feedstock from Iran before the U.S.-led embargo on the country.

Speaking on the sidelines of a shareholder meeting, Scaffardi said the group had renewed its contract with National Iranian Oil Company but added there were still some hurdles to overcome on the banking payment front.

"I hope these will be resolved soon and we can start in a few months, maybe even weeks," Scaffardi said.

Most international sanctions against Iran were lifted in January after a deal with world powers to curb the country's nuclear program.

But the U.S. kept some sanctions and fear of being caught up in those has deterred most foreign banks from restoring links with Tehran.

Saras, controlled by brothers Gian Marco and Massimo Moratti, with a 25 percent stake each, recently visited Iran with an Italian trade delegation led by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

Stockholm ready to participate in Iranian power projects

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The visiting Sweden's Minister for Energy Ibrahim Baylan, in a Saturday meeting with his Iranian counterpart Hamid Chitichian in Tehran, expressed his country's willingness to take part in various projects of Iran's power sector.

According to the IRNA news agency, referring to the proper ground set for expansion of mutual cooperation in energy sector, following the removal of anti-Iranian financial embargo, the Swedish minister suggested that the Swedish company of ABB, a leading supplier of products and systems for power transmission, can make ties with Iran Grid Management Company under the approval of the Iranian energy ministry.



Swedish Energy Minister Ibrahim Baylan (R) visited his Iranian counterpart Hamid Chitichian in Tehran on Saturday.

Baylan, who headed a delegation of representatives from Swedish private companies, referred to the 27,000-megawatt-capacity of Sweden and the country's high amount of experience in the electricity sector and said that Stockholm can enhance cooperation level with Iranians in various fields namely power generation, smart grids, energy storage, energy efficiency and other areas.

The Iranian minister, for his part, noted that Iran's electricity grid is to witness a great improvement and underlined that the government's priority in power sector is implementation of joint projects which transfer information into the country.

Monthly non-oil trade hits \$5.6b in Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — According to Iran's Customs Administration's report, the value of the country's non-oil trade hit \$5.6 billion in the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (which ended on April 19).

According to this report, more than \$3.6 billion worth of non-oil goods have been exported to other countries in the first month, the Fars news agency reported.

Liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane and butane were among the major exported goods and China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, India and South Korea were leading importers of these goods.

According to Iran's Customs Administration, in the past Iranian calendar year,

which ended on March 19, 2016, the value of the country's non-oil trade reached over \$83 billion.

In the past year, the Tasnim news agency reported, Iran exported \$42.415 billion worth of goods while its imports reached \$41.499 billion, showing a 16.11 percent decrease in the value of exports and a 22.53 percent decline in the value of imports when compared to its previous year.

Iran had set a target of \$77.5 billion in non-oil exports for the past year, according to Mojtaba Khosrotaj, the Iranian deputy industry, mining, and trade minister.

In its preceding year, the country's total non-oil exports hit \$49.744 billion while non-oil imports reached \$52.477 billion.

Renault's Iranian market share rises 7-fold in post-sanction era

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The stake of French car maker, Renault, in Iranian auto market has been increased seven times in the first three months of 2016, compared to the same time in the preceding year, the Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

As reported, in the said time i.e., as of the implementation of the accorded deal between Iran and P5+1 (known as JCPOA), 14,540 of Renault sedans have been assembled in Iran, which is seven times more than the registered amount in the same period in 2015, when the figure did not pass 2,130 cars.

Iranian joint venture Renault Pars officially launched the Renault Sand-

ero assembly line in past September. "Despite all the problems as a result of the sanctions, we managed to design and manufacture Sandero in two years," said Mehdi Jamali, managing director of Iranian carmaker Saipa.

He noted by the end of the year (March 20, 2016), 10,000 Sandero will be manufactured.

Renault Pars is an Iranian joint venture established in 2004 and owned by Renault and Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran. The company is in charge of managing the assembly of completely knocked down Renault cars by local manufacturers Iran Khodro, Saipa and Pars Khodro.

Iran finds Doha meeting, despite failure, a positive step

DUBAI (Reuters) — Iran's oil minister said on Saturday that last week's Doha meeting to freeze oil production, despite its failure, was a positive step and Iran would support any plan to stabilize the market.

"Doha meeting was not fruitful but we see it as a positive step as it initiated negotiations between OPEC and non-OPEC member countries and showed to the main oil producers in OPEC that something should be done



South African Energy Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson (L) met Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh in Tehran on Saturday. (Photo: Hasan Hosseini/Shana)

to change the situation," Bijan Namdar Zanganeh was quoted as saying by the oil ministry's news agency, SHANA.

Zanganeh, who was meeting the energy minister of South Africa in Tehran, added that Iran's oil production has increased by 1 million barrel per day since the lifting of international sanctions on Iran in January. He said Iran will continue increasing oil production until it regains its lost share of oil market.

Pak-Iran trade to touch new heights: envoy

Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan Mehdi Honardoost has expressed optimism and confidence that Pak-Iran trade would touch new heights commensurate with their respective potential.

He was speaking at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

The ambassador said that Iran and Pakistan have some most important achievements from the recent visit of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to Pakistan, which has also started a new era of cordial relations between the two countries.

The friendship of the two countries should be translated into the mutual economic ties, as well, he said.

The Iranian envoy said: "I was shocked to see the statistics of mutual trade volume, which does not reflect the friendly relations and potential of the two countries."

He said that the lack of trade-related information is one of the biggest reasons of low trade volume. Chambers of commerce and industry of the two countries should play role in this regard.

Honardoost said that Iran is not only a big market, but also have 15 neighboring countries that Iranian businessmen are keen to enhance business with their Pakistani counterparts; therefore, they should come forward and start joint ventures with their Iranian counterparts.

Iran is ready to fulfill the growing energy needs of Pakistan, he said.

To a question, the ambassador said that Pak-Iran Gas Pipeline project could be completed in a short span of time, adding that this project must be completed, as energy is necessary for all trade and economic activities. (Source: thenews.com.pk)

Peace pipeline gets a quiet burial, confirms Iranian envoy

Touted once a 'Peace Pipeline' and a harbinger of regional connectivity, the famed tri-nation India-Pakistan-Iran (IPI) has been given a quite burial. Soon after the international community decided to lift sanctions on Iran, it was hoped the pipeline project, proposed to cover 1,620-mile (2,700 km) from Iran's South Pars fields in the Persian Gulf to Pakistan's major cities of Karachi and Multan and then further to Delhi will be revived. But Iran's ambassador to India Gholamreza Ansari here frankly admitted that there was no possibility of its revival, keeping in view opposition from vested interests.

"I think we should forget about pipeline because the people who have invested in the LNG in India... I don't think that they will let any pipes to come in a substantial quantity. They have invested in LNG so much ...

Americans are looking for the Indian market for the future," he said. He described the pipeline as unrealistic in current circumstances, fearing that United States would prevent its operationalization.

"You can forget about the pipeline. The Americans will simply not allow this project to take off," he further added.

According to data available with the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), as much as US\$ 6.62 billion stand invested in LNG sector in India between 2000 and 2015. Ansari said, any talk of pipeline will put an end to these investments.

India had not taken part in the talks on the IPI gas pipeline since 2007, citing security and commercial concerns. But experts believe it was more because of New Delhi's engagements with the U.S. on the issue of nuclear deal. (Source: dnaindia.com)

NEWS IN BRIEF

**Iran able to boost oil output to even 6 mb/d**

Iran has a capacity to increase oil production to even 5.5-6 million barrels per day (mb/d), but not under the current situations, Fereydoon Barkeshli, former general manager at National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) in OPEC and international affairs, told Trend on April 21.

Iran's oil output plunged by more than one million barrels to 2.8 mb/d during a 3-year sanctions, imposed by western countries in 2012. Iran had to shut down some fields, but resumed the output to around 3.3 mb/d in March, three months after lifting sanctions.

Tehran says it would increase this figure to the pre-sanctions level.

**Armenia-Iran trade can be increased to several billion dollars**

The trade turnover between Armenia and Iran can be increased up to several billion of dollars a year, the head of an Armenian parliamentary committee on economic affairs, Vardan Ayvazyan, said on Friday.

Speaking to reporters, he said at present the trade turnover between the two neighboring countries stands at about \$340 million, "but if Armenian business community shows a greater activity and initiative, the trade can be increased to several billion of US Dollars."

The most promising sector to enhance cooperation, he said, is energy sector.

"In 2018, when new power transmission lines connecting Iran with Armenia and Armenia with Georgia will come online, we will be able to connect the power grids of Armenia, Georgia, Iran and Russia.

**Turkey continues to ease trade with Iran**

Two new steps are being taken regarding trade agreements in order to reach the \$30 billion trade goal between Iran and Turkey. Firstly, 30 new products will be added to the preferential trade agreement, which was put into effect as of Jan. 1, 2015. Secondly, in order to solve problems regarding the implementation process, a trade facilitation agreement will be signed. Meeting with members of the Economy Reporters Association, Development Minister Jevdet Yilmaz said that a preferential trade system with Iran would have an important effect, and the decision was made in terms of better implementation.

According to Yilmaz, 30 more products will be included in the preferential trade's expansion. Economy Minister Mustafa Elitash will also visit Iran.

Best Iranian tourist cities in Noruz announced



Zarivar Lake, Marivan, Iran

TOURISM TEHRAN — Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization (CHTHO) announced the best seven Iranian tourist cities during Noruz holidays (March 20 to April 1). Isfahan, Mashhad, Sari, Khorramabad,

Neyshabur, Marivan, and Ramsar are the selected cities, CHTHO Deputy Director for Tourism Affairs Morteza Rahmani-Movahhed said on Friday. Officials of the cities will be honored in early May, he added. "The cities have been selected based

on the seven indices of information dissemination, supervision, public services, accommodation, coordination, accidents, and accountability."

The plan has been implemented for the first time in the country, he said, add-

ing that the indices were determined by the Ministry of Interior.

Meanwhile, the cities of Shiraz, Tabriz, Ilam, Sanandaj, Maragheh, Abadan, and Baneh were appreciated for their acceptable services to tourists, he noted.

On the rooftops of Masouleh: A town in the mist

On the wooden balcony and behind the geraniums, the old man was watching the people walking over the courtyard of his house. Noise of vehicles was far away, because no motor vehicle was allowed in. I knew this. I've been to the city once many years ago when I was a child. I do not have a clear picture of what I had seen that time though. It was not very known touristic place that time and we had traveled there after a flood which had left the place quite muddy. I had not stepped in there until recently when I decided to show my home-province to my Tajik friend.

We drove 20 kilometers from Fooman through deep forests and thick mist. The fog did not lift when we arrived. Many cars were lined up to enter the parking lot and there was too much traffic. So we just stopped the car somewhere before the crowd and walked some short distance to reach the welcome sign of the city on the other side of the river: "Welcome to ancient town of Masouleh! The town of history and attraction".

Although it has been written that the community was established around 10 AD, the town is much older than that. The first village of Masouleh was established around 1006 AD, 6 km northwest of the current city, and it is called Kohneh Masouleh (Old Masouleh). It is said people moved from Old-Masouleh to the current city because of attacks from neighboring communities. Once been on the famous Silk Road trade route, the town is covered by forests and is blessed by annual rainfall, as is the characteristic of Gilan province. Masouleh-Roudkhan river passes through the city.

We crossed the river to reach first 'stair road'. There and then the spender of Masouleh was witnessed. In this beautiful



Old man on the wooden balcony

picturesque town of Gilan province with population of a village, the buildings have been built on a steep slope in a way that each house's courtyard is other house's rooftop. In fact, courtyards and rooftops both serve as the pedestrian roads similar to streets. To put it simply, "The yard of the building above is the roof of the building below."

It may have been the only city in Iran which no vehicles are allowed to pass through due to its unique layout. The small alleys and the narrow stairs would not simply make it possible for vehicles to enter anyway.

On my way to main market, I found

many Akkas-khaneh or photo houses inside which there were so many traditional Gilaki costumes for rent and some lovely decorations here and there, so that people would wear the clothes and take pictures.

Although the small shops start from the very beginning of the road but Masouleh's market in downtown is the hub of trade. There are sweet shops, bakeries, grocery stores, knife-making shops, leather works, artwork and pottery shops, food stalls and several traditional Chay-Khaneh (teahouses).

Old women are usually seen at the doorstep of their house while knotting and chatting with the neighbors. The doors of such houses are wide open and there are knotted dolls, colorful socks and other handicrafts hanged from doors for sale. At the downtown mosque, there is shrine of a grandchild of prophet known as Aun bin Ali. I was in fact walking on the rooftop of the mosque that I spotted the old man. Nobody had noticed him behind the geraniums. I asked him from far if I am allowed to take photo pointing out my camera. He smiled and nodded his head in agreement. Just then, people who were climbing the stairs discovered this new subject to capture. It just took few seconds and crowd was gathered in front of the house with their cameras and smart phones. The old man seemed little bit annoyed by all the suddenly attracted tourists treating him like an interesting 'touristic object' for photography!

To be honest, I felt guilty that I had disturbed his very peaceful moment of solitude on his beautiful balcony. But then he went inside and was back few minutes later with a small watering can. He watered the geraniums very carefully, quite distracted from the cameras and people walking in the courtyards. After all, Masouleh was no longer an

unknown village peacefully situated in the Alborz range. It is now a booming and crowded touristic spot which attracts thousands of Iranians and international tourists each year. This has brought great prosperity for the locals. People in Masouleh have kept the city clean and unchanged. It still shows off the great harmony between man and nature. But tourism has eventually had some of its side effects.

Masouleh is no longer a quite picturesque destination to get lost in its beautiful deep forests and thick mist. Well, it has them all yet but not the calm. Everyone in Masouleh seems to have adapted to this fact and so did the old man on the wooden balcony. (Source: Dream of Iran)

A CLOSER LOOK

A brief history of marathons

Contrary to the popular belief that it has its antecedents in the Classical World, the marathon is actually a comparatively modern invention. While the Ancient Olympics can be dated back to 776 BC, there is no evidence of a 26-mile foot race ever taking place. The marathon was, however, included in the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896.

In Britain there had been a tradition of long-distance races and endurance challenges. However, the marathon had been the idea of Michel Breal, a Frenchman and student of Greek mythology. The study of Ancient Greece was prominent in the education of Western elites and Breal's idea sprung from the legend of the Athenian courier Pheidippides, who in 490 BC ran from the site of the battle of Marathon to Athens with the message of 'Nike' ('Victory'). He then promptly collapsed and died.

Whatever the veracity of this legend, 17 runners lined up on 10 April 1896 for the first Olympic marathon from Marathon to the Panathenaic Stadium in Athens – a distance of 40 kms. (The Greeks had actually held two trials over the course and distance in the month beforehand). The race was won by a local named Spiridon Louis and resulted in much national rejoicing in Greece. Following the success and drama of the first race, the marathon quickly established itself as the Olympics' most anticipated event, its Blue Riband.

Its reputation was cemented at the 1908 London Olympics, still probably the most famous marathon ever run. First into the stadium had been the Italian Dorando Pietri, but he collapsed near the finish and was helped over the line by a British official. The second-placed runner, an American named Johnny Hayes, protested and was awarded the race. But the public's sympathy was with Pietri, who received a special medal from the queen.

These early Olympic marathons helped to establish the popularity of the event. In 1897 the Boston Marathon – the oldest annual marathon – was first held and in Britain the Polytechnic Marathon was founded in 1909.

While the Olympics were restricted to amateurs, professional marathons were also staged, some indoors. Pietri turned professional after the London games and in November 1908 he won a re-match against Hayes at Madison Square Gardens. In December 1909 Pietri ran against the Briton CW Gardiner in the Royal Albert Hall over a track that, at 19 laps to the mile, measured out at a head-spinning 524 laps for the marathon distance. The craze for indoor marathons soon passed, however, and attention again switched to the Olympics.

(Source: History Extra)

PICTURE OF THE DAY qeshm.ir/Asghar Besharati



Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization chief Masoud Soltanifar (2nd right) attended a ceremony on Thursday opening the four-star Eram hotel on the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm. (qeshm.ir/Asghar Besharati)

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Reality vs. ideology on immigration at the Supreme Court

By Jesse Wegman

As she often does, Justice Sonia Sotomayor got to the human heart of a complicated legal dispute at the Supreme Court Monday morning, in *United States v. Texas*, one of the most politically explosive cases to reach the justices in years.

The lawsuit involves a challenge 26 states brought against President Obama's 2014 executive actions protecting millions of undocumented immigrants from deportation for three years, and letting them apply to work here legally in the meantime.

Everyone agrees that setting immigration policy is the sole province of the federal

government, and that Congress has given the president extremely wide latitude to exercise his or her discretion in enforcing that policy — a discretion presidents from Dwight Eisenhower through George W. Bush have used liberally.

In a 2012 opinion written by Justice Anthony Kennedy and joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., the court held that the "broad dis-



cretion" the president enjoys includes deciding "whether it makes sense to pursue removal at all."

Undocumented immigrants

Everyone also agrees that there are more than 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States, and no one save Donald Trump actually believes we can deport them all.

→9

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China seizes biggest share of global exports in almost 50 years

Chinese exporters have found a silver lining in weak global demand by seizing market share from their competitors - good news for China but an expansion that is aggravating trade tensions.

China's proportion of global exports rose to 13.8 percent last year from 12.3 percent in 2014, data from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Employment shows, the highest share any country has enjoyed since the United States in 1968.

The success belies widespread predictions rising costs for Chinese labor and a currency that has increased nearly 20 percent against the dollar in the last decade would cause China to lose market share to cheaper competitors.

Instead, China's manufacturing infrastructure built during the country's industrial rise of recent decades is keeping exports humming and providing the basis for firms to produce higher-value products.

"China cannot be replaced," said Fredrik Guitman, formerly China general manager for a Danish maker of silver products, adding that reliable delivery times were more important than price. "If they say 45 days, it will be 45 days."

Still, even as Chinese firms compete in more sophisticated product lines, they are unloading overstocked inventory from entrenched industrial overcapacity in sectors like steel, an irritant in global trading relationships. The United States and seven other countries this week called for urgent action to address a steel supply glut that many blame on China.

At the same time, China's imports from other countries fell sharply - down over 14 percent in 2015 - leading some economists to suggest China was deploying an "import substitution" strategy that is pushing foreign brands out of its domestic markets.

On Wednesday, Beijing rolled out fresh measures to support machinery exports, including tax rebates, and encouraged banks to lend more to exporters. Machinery and



mechanical appliances make up the biggest portion of China's exports.

Such policies may not be welcomed in the United States, where Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump has called for 45 percent tariffs on Chinese imports - a message that appears to resonate with American voters.

The risk is that the Chinese firms successfully moving up the value chain will see their overseas profits destroyed by a trade war if Trump's ideas find place in policy.

Advantage

Chinese firms' tenacity in overseas markets is largely built on the country's investment in a massive and integrated supply chain infrastructure, which makes them faster and more reliable to foreign companies that outsource all or some of their production.

"Reliability and speed is more important than price," Guitman said. "An out-of-stock product will hurt much more than a slightly higher price."

This manufacturing playground is allowing companies that make their own original goods to tinker with their products and

branch out.

"China's export structure may not be as sophisticated as that of high-income economies, but with a better educated labor force and increasing investment in innovation, the country's products are now generally of a higher unit value and require more skilled labor," HSBC economists said in a report.

Critics say much of China's move up the value chain has been the result of pressure on foreign firms to transfer technology combined with a systematic and sustained campaign of industrial espionage targeting foreign technology.

The legions of mid-sized Chinese companies that now make drones, high-tech labels, smart home devices, and wind power equipment may lack the cachet of Chinese social media firms like Tencent, but they are a far greater combined threat to complacent foreign competitors, analysts say.

Privately owned SZ DJI Technology Co Ltd, a drone maker, is an example of how far Chinese exporters have come. The company has taken advantage of the smartphone component manufacturing ecosystem in the southern city of Shenzhen to take 70

percent market share in the United States, a report by investment bank Oppenheimer & Co says.

But the company's investment in LED, or light emitting diode, is now paying off, giving it a fresh product line to export to the United States.

The LED line boasts gross margins of over 30 percent, compared to low single digits for solar modules, the company's financial statements show.

ReneSola's U.S. marketing head Naveed Hasan said that the firm's position in China was an advantage.

"We are able to use our brand and leverage the great number of contract manufacturers."

The price challenge

But while China has expanded its share, that share is of a shrinking pie and the country's firms have yet to develop the branding power of the likes of an Apple or Louis Vuitton.

Much of Chinese industrial innovation has focused on process and production improvements to make products at lower cost but acceptable quality.

That has some worried rising labor costs and a stronger yuan, or renminbi (RMB), will have an impact.

"This has put pressure on firms to upgrade," Li Jian, head of foreign trade research at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation, the Commerce Ministry's think-tank, said.

China's producer pricing power has been falling for four years and the Chinese government sees more rough weather ahead.

"The circumstances surrounding foreign trade this year remain both complicated and gloomy," Commerce Ministry spokesman Shen Danyang said on Tuesday. More than half of 3,000 companies surveyed by the ministry "believe the situation this year is increasingly grim."

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

EU to draw up tax haven blacklist

EU nations have agreed to draw up a blacklist of tax havens in the wake of the Panama Papers leaks.

Finance ministers have endorsed the move, which is to be completed by the end of the summer.

The European Commission says nations on the tax blacklist should be sanctioned if appeals for change go unheeded.

The leak of millions of files from Panama law firm Mossack Fonseca revealed how the rich and powerful use tax havens to hide their wealth.

Plans for a single EU list of "non-cooperative jurisdictions" have been blocked in the past by conflicting national interests.

Currently the 28 EU states have different national lists of tax havens and can decide individually whether to impose restrictive measures.

Negotiations on the new common list are expected to be complex and the number of jurisdictions to be included remains unclear.

Ministers have also agreed to exchange information on the beneficial owners of companies and the EU is planning a crackdown on banks and tax advisers who help clients hide money offshore. (Source: BBC)

Russia, Saudi Arabia to pump as much as possible: IEA expert

Ahead of the doomed Doha talks last weekend, Russia and Saudi Arabia said they were willing to discuss freezing oil output, but less than a week later both have threatened to ramp up production. On Friday, the head of the Oil Industry and Markets Division at the International Energy Agency (IEA) told CNBC that he believed both producers will continue to "pump as much oil as possible."

"In the post-Doha world, when we're still in what is essentially a free market for oil, they (the Russians) will pump as much oil out as the market will absorb and the Saudis have said much the same thing," the IEA's Neil Atkinson told CNBC.

"We're back to where we were before Doha where people produce what they can, sell what they can for whatever price they can achieve and the market takes care of the surpluses in time."

Atkinson noted that "as far as the Russians are concerned, even in the run-up to Doha when they were going to be party to an agreement to freeze production, they were actually pumping up production anyway." (Source: CNBC)



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran among top 15 countries for treating immunodeficiency diseases

MEDICAL TEHRAN— Iran is among the top 15 countries in the world for making great advances in treating immunodeficiency diseases, the secretary of the 8th International Conference of Immunodeficiency Diseases said on Saturday.



Nima Rezaei, speaking on the sidelines of the conference, said Iran is considered as the hub of the treatment of immunodeficiency diseases in the Middle East, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Iranian researchers have written more than 500 articles on immunodeficiency disorders, which have been published by valid scientific journals, Rezaei added.

He then noted that Iranians have pulled off maintaining a good cooperation with foreign researchers, the result of which has been the discovery of 10 genes.

So far 2,000 patients with immunodeficiency diseases have been identified in Iran, but the figure is not valid since some of the patients have died as a result of severe infection without proper diagnosis.

Family marriage has taken its toll on ranking Iran high among other countries in immunodeficiency diseases, he regretted.

Iran Health 2016 to open on May 15

SCIENCE TEHRAN — Tehran Permanent International Fairground is the venue for the 19th Iran Health International Exhibition on Medical, Dental, Laboratory Equipment and Pharmaceutical Products (Iran Health 2016) on May 15-18, IRNA reported.

The event aims at unveiling the world's latest technology in healthcare, enhancing medical tourism as well as backing entrepreneurs and brilliant minds.

The head of the exhibition, Hossein Salmanzadeh, said the annual fair will bring in a number of credible companies, locally and internationally, together.

In an amicable environment, the newly established enterprises as well as century-old companies will hold rounds of bilateral talks with the national and international firms for investment purposes, Salmanzadeh explained.

The event will showcase products like surgical and operating room instruments, urology and dialysis equipment, hospital clothing, etc.

To get more information about the event, log on to www.iranhealthexhibition.org.

The water purifier that also generates electricity and creates Wi-Fi connections

Imagine a machine that can turn contaminated water from a river, ocean or even sewage into drinking water, while at the same time generating enough electricity to power itself with surplus, and connecting everywhere within a kilometer radius to Wi-Fi.

It sounds too good to be true, but Marco Attisani has created just that. Watly is a solar-powered water purification machine that can service a community of up to 3,000 people.

The project is designed to solve three major weaknesses in infrastructure all at once: access to water, electricity and internet. Across the world, 783 million people do not have access to clean water, 1.2 billion lack access to electricity, and 4.2 billion are still without internet access.

Watly isn't just designed for developing countries. It can also help communities that have high levels of sunlight, but struggle to find sustainable solutions to generating clean water.

The "only things it needs to run are dirty water and a lot of Sun," said Attisani, the 44-year-old Italian creator of Watly. From that it can purify 5,000 liters of water and "generate enough electricity to power itself and to power external devices, thousands of them."

(Source: The Telegraph)

Loneliness may be bad for your heart

Researchers, writing in the journal Heart, pooled data from 23 studies and found that social isolation or feelings of loneliness were tied to an increased risk for coronary heart disease and stroke.

The studies included data from 181,006 men and women 18 and older. There were 4,628 coronary events and 3,002 strokes in follow-up periods ranging from three to 21 years. Three of the papers measured loneliness, 18 looked at social isolation and two included both. Social isolation and loneliness were determined with questionnaires; the researchers depended on medical records and death certificates for determining coronary events and stroke.

The scientists found that loneliness and social isolation increased the relative risk of having a heart attack, angina or a death from heart disease by 29 percent, and the risk of stroke by 32 percent. There were no differences between men and women.

"People have tended to focus from a policy point of view at targeting lonely people to make them more connected," said the lead author, Nicole K. Valtorta, a research fellow at the University of York in England. "Our study shows that if this is a risk factor, then we should be trying to prevent the risk factor in the first place."

(Source: The NYT)

First direct evidence of ancient Mars's oxygen-rich atmosphere

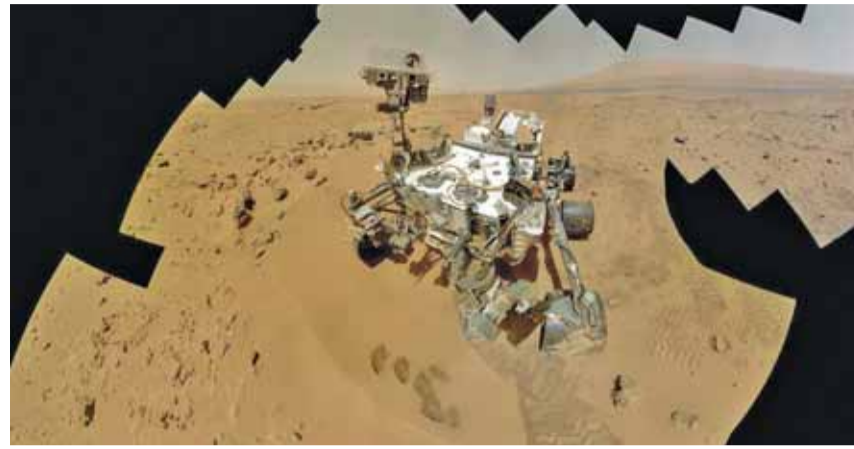
Rocks on the surface of Mars have yielded the best clue yet that the planet once had an atmosphere rich in oxygen.

Mars owes its sobriquet the "Red Planet" to the abundance of iron oxide, otherwise known as rust, on its surface. But in addition to all that iron, NASA's Curiosity rover has now found substantial amounts of manganese oxide in rocks in Mars's Gale crater.

"We found 3 percent of rocks have high manganese oxide content," Agn s Cousin of the Research Institute in Astrophysics and Planetology in Toulouse, France, told the European Geophysical Union meeting in Vienna, Austria, earlier this week. "That requires abundant water and strongly oxidizing conditions, so the atmosphere may have contained much more oxygen than we thought."

Mars's current atmosphere is 95 percent carbon dioxide and contains only trace amounts of oxygen.

Nevertheless, many researchers have argued that Mars must once have been rich in atmospheric oxygen. This is the most direct



Mars's current atmosphere is 95 percent carbon dioxide and contains only trace amounts of oxygen.

evidence to date, the Curiosity team claim.

Future data

The rover identified the manganese ox-

ide with the help of its ChemCam, an instrument which zaps rocks with a laser and analyzes the resulting dust cloud to iden-

fy chemicals and minerals. The researchers haven't yet pinned down the exact age of the manganese oxide, but hope to do so with future data from the rover.

Because many of the manganese oxide deposits are close to where a lake once existed in the crater, Cousin says that flowing liquid with dissolved oxygen in it may have played a part in its formation. "It's a real possibility that there was oxygen in the atmosphere, and possibly water available locally that was oxidizing," she says.

If there was too much oxygen, though, it might not have been a good thing for early life, says Damien Loizeau of the University of Lyon, France. On Earth, oxidation breaks up biological molecules. The appearance of oxygen on Earth was linked to organisms that produced it, but was a disaster for those organisms' neighbors.

"O₂ is bad for life as we know it, but we only know life to be able to create large amounts of O₂," he says.

(Source: New Scientist)

Google Translate totally fails foreign couples trying to say their wedding vows in English

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here to join these couples in holy matrimony. And to compare ElaN Languages with Google Translate when it comes to translating international couple's wedding vows, written in their native languages, to English.

In this amusing campaign for ElaN, from J. Walter Thompson Amsterdam, three real couples—not actors—ran the vows through both online translation tools, and read the results in English at their actual ceremonies. The translations were derived from Hindi, Portuguese, Spanish, Polish, Dutch and Norwegian.

One shoot took place at a wedding, one during a rehearsal and another at a renewal of vows. In

each case, the bride and groom were in on the joke, "but the double vows were a surprise to many of the guests," agency executive creative director Bas Korsten tells AdFreak.

As for the presence of commercial film crews, well, "they must have just thought their friends decided to really splurge on the wedding videography."

Needless to say, Google's translations go awkwardly awry, though "I promise to grow old with you and keep your children alive" has a certain forthright charm, as does "I promise to be the best me that fits your best regional areas."

Alas, telling a bride "You're my biggest size" won't win

a groom many points (though if she said that to him... well, anyway).

ElaN's translations, meanwhile, include more traditional-sounding sentiments, such as "I'm forever changed because of who you are and what you mean to me" and "I couldn't imagine growing old with anyone else." Aww...

The campaign, titled "Promise the Translation," follows last year's Epica Grand Prix-winning "Taste the Translation," in which a Japanese recipe was translated by both Google and ElaN, with the results prepared by a chef and tasted by passersby.

(Source: adweek.com)

Scientists discover coral reef near the mouth of the Amazon River



Scientists have discovered vibrant coral reef ecosystem near the mouth of the Amazon River that stretches roughly 3,700 square miles -- even though coral isn't supposed to be able to grow there in the first place.

The reef described in the journal Science Advances could shed light on how these delicate organisms, which provide essential scaffolding for so much marine wildlife, might survive in less-than-ideal conditions.

Coral are tiny little soft-bodied animals, related to anemones and to jellyfish, that band together to build their protective, rock-like reefs by pulling calcium and carbonate out of the ocean water. Reefs serve as hot spots of biodiversity, home to a vast array of sea creatures, from crabs, sea urchins and algae to fish, sharks and turtles.

Coral reefs thrive in clear waters along tropical shelves, but river systems like the Amazon are thought to create gaps where they do not grow. That's in part because the plume of murky, sediment-filled water spilling out from the gargantuan river and into the ocean doesn't allow much light to come through.

Total surprise

So the discovery came as a total surprise to study coauthor Patricia Yager, an oceanographer at the University of Georgia, who in 2012 set out with Brazilian scientists aboard the research vessel Atlantis to study the plume coming out from the river mouth and flowing into the ocean.

But one of the researchers on board, Rodrigo Moura of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, showed her a paper from the 1970s that indicated that reef fish had been caught near the continental shelf. He and another researcher were interested in following up this lead by looking for coral reefs in the river mouth.

"I kind of looked at him like he was crazy, thinking, 'You know how muddy it is there -- how could there possibly be a reef there?'" Yager recalled.

But Yager isn't a reef specialist, so she shrugged and got him some needed equipment. During the cruise Moura began ping-ponging the seafloor using an acoustic detector, pointing out spots that he thought might be coral. Later, in a spot that looked promising, Moura ran a dredge through the water to gather samples — and hit the jackpot.

(Source: The LAT)

Common medicines tied to changes in the brain



Commonly used drugs for problems like colds, allergies, depression, high blood pressure and heart disease have long been linked to cognitive impairment and dementia. Now researchers have some fresh evidence that may help explain the connection.

The drugs, known as anticholinergics, stop a chemical called acetylcholine from working properly in the nervous system. By doing so, they can relieve unpleasant gastrointestinal, respiratory or urinary symptoms, for example.

The list of such drugs is long. Among them: Benadryl for allergies, the antidepressant Paxil and the antipsychotic Zyprexa, Dimetapp for colds and the sleep aid Unisom.

In the new analysis, researchers looked at brain scans and cognitive test results from 451 older adults — including 60 who had been taking anticholinergic drugs for at least a month. The study participants were about 73 years old on average.

Brain scans

But brain scans of people who used anticholinergic drugs showed lower levels of glucose processing in the brain — an indicator of brain activity — in a region of the brain associated with memory that's also affected early in the course of Alzheimer's disease.

In addition, patients who used these medications had reduced brain volume

and thickness in some regions linked to cognitive function, the researchers report in JAMA Neurology.

People who used these drugs also scored lower on tests of immediate memory recall and executive function compared to people who weren't using these drugs, researchers found.

"There are definitely medical benefits to all of the anticholinergic medications we looked at, which could outweigh the cognitive risks," said lead study author Shannon Risacher of the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center at the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis.

"But if alternative therapies are available that provide effective treatment of these conditions, patients and doctors might want to consider avoiding anticholinergic medications," Risacher added by email.

The study can't prove the anticholinergics were the cause of participants' brain and memory differences.

The authors also acknowledge limitations of their study. In addition to the small number of participants taking anticholinergic drugs, another problem is that the study relied on participants to accurately recall and report on drug use, which wasn't verified by medical records or prescription data.

(Source: Reuters)

Hepatitis C virus linked to certain head and neck cancers

Hepatitis C virus infection was associated with certain non-opharyngeal and human papillomavirus (HPV)-positive oropharyngeal head and neck cancers,

a study published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute has shown.

Hepatitis C virus infection is associated with increased risk for developing hepatocellular carcinoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

In 2009, The University of Texas MD Anderson in Houston established the first clinic in the United States for treating patients with cancer who were infected with hepatitis C virus.

There, they observed a surprisingly large number of patients with head and neck cancers. Therefore, the investigators sought to determine whether hepatitis C virus



infection is associated with head and neck cancers.

Analyzed data

For the study, researchers analyzed data 34 545 pa-

tients with cancer tested for hepatitis C virus antibodies at MD Anderson Cancer Center between 2004 and 2014.

Of those, 164 had oropharyngeal cancer, 245 had non-opharyngeal head and neck cancers, 378 had lung cancer, 168 had esophageal cancer, and 148 had bladder cancer.

The patients with cancers other than head and neck cancers were considered controls.

Results showed that the prevalence of hepatitis C virus seropositivity was higher in patients with oropharyngeal cancer (14.0%; 95% CI, 8.7 - 19.4), particularly those with HPV-positive oropharyngeal cancer (16.9%; 95% CI, 8.7 - 24.9), and patients with non-opharyngeal head and neck cancers (20.0%; 95% CI, 14.9 - 25.0) than in control subjects (6.5%; 95% CI, 4.6 - 8.3).

(Source: Cancer Therapy Advisor)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them. Dalai Lama

LEARN ENGLISH

Being Arrested by the Police

I was walking down the street minding my own business one evening when I was stopped by a police officer. After asking me a couple of questions about where I'd been, he told me to put my hands behind my back. He was going to arrest me! He handcuffed me and gave me the Miranda warning. When I asked him why he was arresting me, he said that he had probable cause to believe that I was the suspect they had been looking for in a robbery that took place on the next street.

I couldn't believe it! I was completely innocent, but the officer didn't want to hear it. He put me in the back of a police car and drove to the police station. I was placed in a jail cell and, after a few hours, I was taken to a room and interrogated.

A police officer asked me question after question, and after four hours of questioning, I was finally released! I found out later that it was a case of mistaken identity. I looked very much like the suspect they were looking for and I was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I could sue the police department for false arrest, but I decided not to. I'd rather put the entire thing behind me and hope that I'm never that unlucky again!

(Source: espod.com)

Words & phrases

be minding your own business: to be doing something ordinary on your own when something unexpected happens to you
arrest: if the police arrest someone, the person is taken to a police station because the police think they have done something illegal

handcuff: to put a pair of metal rings joined by a chain which are used for holding a prisoner's wrists together

Miranda warning: a right to silence warning given by police in the United States to criminal suspects in police custody

probable cause: reasonable grounds to believe that a particular person has committed a crime, especially to justify making a search or preferring a charge

suspect: someone who is thought to be guilty of a crime

robbery: the crime of stealing money or things from a bank, shop etc., especially using violence

innocent: not guilty of a crime

interrogate: to ask someone a lot of questions for a long time in order to get information, sometimes using threats

release: to let someone go free, after having kept them somewhere

mistaken identity: a situation in which someone believes that they have seen a particular person when in fact it was someone else - used especially in relation to crimes

false arrest: the illegal act of putting someone in prison or arresting them for a crime they have not committed

put the entire thing behind you: to try to forget about an unpleasant event or experience and think about the future

QUIZ OF THE DAY

144) One word is missing in the sentence below. Find this word. The girl was dressed in blue head to foot. (Quiz No. 143 missing word is: live *on* memories)

PHRASAL VERB

Shop around

Meaning: compare prices

For example: It's always wise to shop around before buying anything.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Constant occupation prevents temptation

Explanation: when you are busy working, you avoid temptation



Without water, everything withers

Environment, insurance bodies join hands to save Persian leopard

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — The Department of Environment, the National Environment Fund, and the Ma Insurance Company signed a memorandum of understanding here on Saturday, aiming to coordinate measures to save the endangered Persian leopard.

The Persian leopard, also called the Caucasian leopard or Central Asian leopard, is listed as endangered on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.

"Being an umbrella species, Persian leopards are very important to the environment and the lives of other species," the Department of Environment official Ali Teymouri said on the sidelines of the signing ceremony.

Umbrella species are species selected for making conservation-related decisions, typically because protecting these species indirectly protects the many other species that make up the ecological community of its habitat.

The insurance aims at compensating for the losses inflicted upon human beings, livestock such as lambs, horses, donkeys, cows, and camels, and the leopards themselves, Teymouri explained.

Wildfire, human activities, poaching leopards' prey species, road accidents, and



From left to right Houman Liaqati, director general for National Environment Fund, Farhad Dabiri, deputy director for natural environment, and Majid Safdari, director general for Ma Insurance Co.

getting killed or injured by the shepherds while attacking the livestock are of the reasons that endanger these species, Teymouri said, lamenting, about 150 leopards got killed or died from 2008 to 2016.

47 organizations ranging from health, oil, and interior ministries to NGOs and Majlis are committed to participate in this

plan, he added.

"We have had talks with Management and Planning Organization in order to add a clause to the sixth five-year development plan for the protection of Persian leopards," he highlighted.

"Additionally we are trying to expand international ties to introduce Persian leopard

to its former habitat in Russia," he noted.

Majid Safdari, the director general of Ma Insurance Company, also pledged to compensate for the death of a leopard recently killed in Yasuj, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, which happened to be pregnant with quadruplets and promised to make a public announcement when they make the first payment.

Masoumeh Ebtekar, the head of the Department of Environment, for her part, noted that such agreements can encourage the world to protect the environment and make them more attentive to it.

"This can also help to reduce the conflicts between locals and leopards," she said.

Three losers turned into three winners

Achim Steiner, the UNEP Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, who attended the ceremony, declared the agreement as an innovative plan which turns three losers into three winners.

The leopards which attack the livestock and get hurt killed as a result, the shepherds who bear losses as a result of such attacks and the Department of Environment that is in charge of wildlife protection are the three winners, Steiner said.

He expressed hope that in other countries the economic sector would enter environmental matters as well.

Non-communicable diseases increasingly threaten Iranians: deputy minister

Some \$3 billion being spent on smoking annually

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Non-communicable diseases are growing to threaten the health of Iranians, the deputy health minister Ali-Akbar Sayyari said on Friday.

70 percent of deaths are the unfortunate result of diseases such as diabetes, cancer, heart attack, asthma, and respiratory conditions, IRNA news agency quoted Sayyari as saying.

Almost all these conditions are rooted in lack of movement, smoking, high blood sugar, high cholesterol, unhealthy diet, and drinking, he explained.

Sayyari regretted the fact that annually some 10 trillion rials (nearly \$3 billion) is being spent on smoking which is one of the leading causes of various diseases.

Salt and sugar consumption can also cause high blood pressure, diabetes, and high cholesterol, he said, adding, five million Iranians suffer from diabetes, 15



million from high cholesterol and 10 million from high blood pressure. Sayyari went on to say that currently there are 422

million people who have diabetes worldwide of whom half don't know they have it and additionally 83 percent of the people die of high blood pressure.

Every 20 seconds one leg is being amputated as a result of diabetes though one can prevent such a catastrophe by taking the self-care measures, he added.

The average amount of sugar intake is 25 grams per day while there is 30 grams of sugar in one bottle of cola, he warned, noting, in Iran people consume some 65 grams of sugar per day on average.

He further commented on the amount of salt Iranians consume as being 10 to 12 grams per day whereas normally for those who are under 50 years 5 grams and those above 50 only 3 grams of salt is recommended.

Taking less than 500 kilocalories each day and 30-minute walk on a daily basis would help to lose 500 grams per week, he suggested.

Massachusetts man returns human ashes fund at the beach

NEW BEDFORD, Mass. (AP) — A Massachusetts man trying to enjoy a book at the beach got quite surprise when he found a box containing human ashes.

George Silva tells the Standard-Times he found the box wedged in the rocks in New Bedford on Tuesday. Inside was a bag that had the name and number of a

New Jersey crematorium. He called and was told the ashes were from a cremation performed three years ago in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

Silva was told someone must have accidentally dropped the box while trying to dump the ashes of a loved one into the ocean.

Rhino follows worker to staff yard at Denver Zoo

A greater one horned rhino was able to leave part of its enclosure at the Denver Zoo and wader into ta yard occupied by staff and volunteers.

The Denver Post reports that staff members say the rhino, named Bandhu, appeared surprised by in the yard when he found his away three on Thursday.

Zoo staff says Bandhu was moved to an indoor enclosure and zoo guests were never in any danger.

No one was injured and Bandhu is known for having an exceptionally calm demeanor. Officials say they are reviewing the incident.

(Source: abcnews.go.com)

IN FOCUS IRNA/ Hamed Gholami



Iran's Neuroscience Research Center, with around 80,000 square meters built-up area, is being constructed in Tehran under the supervision of Professor Majid Samii, the distinguished Iranian neurosurgeon and medical scientist. Construction operations started in 2010. The 11-storey building is planned to have 14 advanced operation rooms and 55 clinics.

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

President Rouhani praises self-sacrificing teacher

President Hassan Rouhani praised Hamidreza Gongozehi, a teacher who lost his life to save three students.

On Sunday, Gongozehi who worked at a school in Khash village, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, throw himself under an unstable wall which was about to fall down to save three of his students.

"The memory of Hamidreza Gongozehi, a teacher who taught us all bravery and dedication by sacrificing himself would be eternal," Rouhani wrote on his twitter account on Monday.

Recent rainfalls had made the wall to start to crumble away and on the day of the incident the wind speeded the process and the wall finally collapsed. He succeeded to save the students but sadly he himself lost his life under the debris of the wall.

روحانی از معلم فداکار قدرتانی کرد

حسن روحانی رئیس جمهور از حمیدرضا گنگوزهی، معلمی که جان خود را برای نجات دادن سه دانش آموز از دست داد، تقدیر کرد.

روز شنبه گنگوزهی که در مدرسه ای در روستای خاش در سیستان و بلوچستان مشغول به کار بوده است خود را به زیر دیوار مخروبه ای که در حال ریزش بود می اندازد تا جان سه دانش آموز خود را نجات دهد.

روحانی روز دوشنبه در توییت خود نوشت: یاد و نام حمیدرضا گنگوزهی، معلمی که با نثار جان خود، به همه ما درس شجاعت و فداکاری آموخت، جاودان باد.

دیوار که به دلیل بارندگی های اخیر استحکامش به کمترین حد خود رسیده بود در روز حادثه به علت وزش باد نهایتاً فرو ریخت.

وی موفق به نجات جان دانش آموزانش شد اما متأسفانه خودش در زیر آوار دیوار جان سپرد.

Karim Ansarifard: It would be fantastic to play in two consecutive World Cup

SPORTS Iranian international striker Karim Ansarifard likes Team Meli to qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup since it will be for the first time for Iran to take part at the event for the second time in a row.

Iran has been drawn in Group A of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying round in Asia alongside South Korea, Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria.

"I would like to participate in the World Cup finals for the second time in a row with Iran national team but we have a tough path ahead of us. In football you must not underestimate any team and I think we have been drawn in a difficult group. Our main opponent is South Korea while we should not forget China, Qatar, Uzbekistan and even Syria," Ansarifard said.

Ansarifard has done a great job in this season's Greek Super League with Panionios scoring 9 goals in 27 games and he has received an offer from AEK Athens.

"AEK officials have contacted my agent while Panionios has offered me a contract extension. I have not decided about my future so far and we will wait and see what happens at the end of the season. The season is over but we have to compete for the European Champions League play-off as we have finished in fifth place," he added.



Iran's Sarkhosh wins bronze at Asian Snooker Championship



SPORTS Amir Sarkhosh from Iran claimed a bronze medal at the 32nd Asian Snooker Championship at the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy on Friday.

Sarkhosh lost to the UAE's Mohamed Shehab 5-1 in the semi-final.

Soheil Vahedi, Arman Dinarvand and Amir Sarkhosh represented Iran in

the competition.

The event brought around 60 players from 20 countries together in the biggest snooker event in Asia. The players were divided into 12 groups for the preliminary rounds.

The champion took home \$3,500 and the runner-up \$1,750. The losing semi-finalist collected \$500 each.

Iran to participate at Asian Weightlifting Championship



SPORTS Iran will take part at the 2016 Asian Weightlifting Championship with eight athletes.

The championships will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 23 to 30.

The 2016 Asian Weightlifting Championship will bring a total of 161 lifters from 30 countries together and will serve as the qualification event for the Olympics.

It was the 46th men's and 27th women's championship.

Men's team comprises eight weightlifters in the event.

Ali Miri (77kg), Ayyoub Mousavi (85kg), Ali Hashemi and Reza Beiravand (94kg), Mohammad Reza Barari and Kia Ghadami (105kg), Mohsen Bahramzadeh and Bahador Molaei (+105kg) will represent Iran in the event.

Iran's Greco-Roman wrestler Ghasemi secures Olympic berth

Greco-Roman wrestler Amir Ghasemi from Iran emerged with a ticket to Rio 2016 at the first World Olympic Games Qualifying Tournament in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Friday.

Ghasemi defeated Iosif Chugoshvili from Belarus 2-0 in the semi-final of the 130kg weight category.

He had to meet Meng Qiang in the final match but his Chinese rival withdrew from the game and the Iranian won the gold medal.

Earlier in the day, Iran's Hamid Sourian lost to Armenian Roman Amoyan 7-4 in Round of 32 in the 59kg and was knocked out of the competition.

The 2016 World Wrestling Olympic Qualification Tournament 1 was the first of two worldwide qualification tournaments for the 2016 Olympics.

The top three competitors in each weight class qualified for the Olympics.

(Source: Tasnim)



Iran to participate in Latvian basketball tournament

Iran will take part in a basketball tournament which will take place in Latvia in June.

The tournament will be held with the participation of Latvia, Iran and New Zealand basketball teams.

land basketball teams.

Dirk Bauermann's men are scheduled to face New Zealand on June 26 and will play Latvia two days later.

Iran is preparing for the Turin Olympic Qualifying Tournament (OQT), where the Asian giant will face Greece, Mexico, Italy, Croatia and Tunisia.

Only the winning side of the OQT will progress to the Rio de Janeiro Games. The Turin tournament will run from 4-9 July.

(Source: Tasnim)

Ramos: I understand why Madrid fans whistle Ronaldo



Sergio Ramos understands why Real Madrid fans have been whistling Cristiano Ronaldo this campaign and has told his team-mate any criticism should serve as a motivation to improve.

The Portugal international has been jeered on more than one occasion this term, most notably when Madrid struggled to find their best form during the first half of the season.

Ramos has told Ronaldo not to let any jeers affect him, though, as he is not the first high-profile name to be subjected to criticism from the Santiago Bernabeu faithful.

"I can understand that people whistle Cristiano. Why not? They have also whis-

tled me, they whistled Manolo Sanchis, [Jose Antonio] Camacho, [the Brazilian] Ronaldo, [Zinedine] Zidane. The fans have whistled everyone," Ramos told COPE.

"There is always a reason for it when you get this kind of attention from the fans. You should always look at the positive side of things. The fans might think you can do a bit more and their whistles can lead to a reaction, to help you get the best out of yourself. And then everybody is happy again.

"I would never sell Cristiano, not for all the money in the world."

The prolific attacker picked up a minor knock in Madrid's win over Villarreal in midweek and could miss this weekend's trip to Rayo Vallecano, but Ramos is hopeful he will be fit in time for the Champions League semi-final clash with Manchester City.

"We hope that Ronaldo can play against City. We all know how important he is to the team," Ramos added.

"We hope it is nothing serious and that he will be there in the most important game of the season.

(Source: OmniSport)

UEFA investigates Liverpool's Mamadou Sakho over doping violation



Liverpool defender Mamadou Sakho will not feature for the club pending a UEFA investigation into a potential anti-doping violation.

The Press Association reports that the alleged offence relates to the Reds' Europa League second-leg tie at Manchester United and French station RMC has reported that it concerns a "fat-burning" substance.

The Press Association adds that the France international is highly likely to request his B sample be tested, with the deadline for that request set for Tuesday.

Sakho has not been suspended ei-

ther by the club or UEFA, but the Press Association reports that after discussion between the club's owners Fenway Sports Group, manager Jurgen Klopp and the player himself it was decided the centre-back should not play in the immediate future, even though he is still eligible for Premier League matches and Thursday's Europa League semifinal first leg in Villarreal.

A statement on Liverpool's official website on Saturday read: "Yesterday, Friday April 22 2016, a formal communication was received from UEFA stating that they are investigating a possible anti-doping rule violation by Mamadou Sakho.

"The player will respond to UEFA on the matter.

"The player is currently not subject to any playing suspension. However, the club, in consultation with the player, has decided that while this process is followed the player will not be available for selection for matches.

"There will be no further comment at this time."

(Source: ESPN)

FOOTBALL

Iran's path to Russia: An analysis

■ **China** – One of the bigger surprises of the 2015 Asian Cup, the Chinese topped their group with three wins out of three group stage matches only to fall 2-0 in the quarter-finals to eventual champions Australia. The team slipped a little bit in 2018 world cup qualification, just barely managing to squeeze their way into the final round as the 4th and final second place team to clinch a spot into the third round. They will surely look to get back on track and make a big push to get to Russia.

The Chinese don't have as much history with Team Meli as the teams above, however, they have had several encounters with Iran that Iranian fans will never forget – the semi-final of the 2004 Asian Cup and the 1990 world cup qualifiers, both of which they eliminated Iran from advancing. Iran last played China in a competitive match in 2007 where they only pulled off a 2-2 draw. So like any other team in this group, China will be looking to take some points away from Team Meli for sure, although unlikely, it is still possible. Given that Iran has enjoyed a much more stable and consistent progress of their national team's form over the last 5 years as mentioned by assistant coach Ou Chuliang, Carlos Queiroz's men should manage to take care of business against China and snag 6 points from them.

Players to watch out for: Zheng Zhi (Guangzhou Evergrande), Yang Xu (Shandong Lueng), Yu Dabao (Beijing Guoan)

■ **Syria** – Very few people expected Syria to make it this far, what they have achieved given the circumstances of their country is both remarkable and something for everyone to admire. Their team has a unique driving force to motivate them that no other team in the world has. They played very decent football in the second round of world cup qualifiers – scoring 14 goals in 6 matches and winning every match along the way excluding their two encounters with Japan.

Most would have probably thought Singapore would be favorites to finish second in group E, however, Syria proved that their hunger to bring some light and happiness into the lives of their people would be enough to see them through. As admirable as their performances in the second round may have been, it is unlikely they will be able to test Iran during this round. Iran should snatch 6 points pretty comfortably seeing how other Asian giants such as Japan have fared against them recently, however, Team Meli fans learned the hard way that you can never count out any opposition after falling to Lebanon in Beirut in 2012 – Iran will likely not make the mistake of taking an opposition so lightly ever again, especially not as long as Queiroz is in charge. Six points should be expected by fans, but with caution.

Players to watch out for: Mohammad Khirbin (Al Dharfa), Sanharib Maliki (Kasimpasa), Abdelrazaq Al Husain (Al Ahed)

An upcoming golden generation of talented players, many of which have gained a lot of experience under Carlos Queiroz, makes this current crop a very exciting and promising one to watch out for in the coming 18 months and beyond. A perfect combination of experienced players along with youngsters Queiroz has introduced since the 2015 Asian Cup have proven to be great additions and will help pave the way to Russia. The road to a world cup has never been a smooth one for Iran, but if there has ever been a campaign that looks like it should have the potential to run smoother than years past, it can certainly be said that this will be it. Whether Queiroz's men will be able to carry out the expectations remains to be seen.

Ancelotti is like Heynckes, it will be good to work with him - Boateng

Bayern Munich defender Jerome Boateng is looking forward to working under Carlo Ancelotti and expects the Italian to be a similar coach to Jupp Heynckes.

Heynckes guided Bayern to a historic treble in 2012-13, before making way for Pep Guardiola, who has been able to lead the team to domestic success but is yet to replicate his predecessor's European dominance.

Ancelotti in turn will replace Guardiola as the man in charge ahead of the 2016-17 campaign and Boateng has little doubt the 56-year-old is the right man for the job.

"It's not like I started calling people right away to find out what kind of coach Ancelotti is," Boateng told Abendzeitung.

"You simply know stuff like that already. Toni Kroos and Sami Khedira, who worked with him at Real Madrid, had already told me about him before.

"He is a bit like Heynckes. He is pretty calm, talks a lot to his players and has a good relationship with the team. And not a whole lot of coaches will be able to match him tactically.

"Ancelotti has seen and done it all, he has won a lot of silverware. It will be quite something to work with him and I am looking forward to it."

(Source: Goal)





NEWS

Low budget films face problems finding an audience: Stefan Forner

T A R T TEHRAN — Stefan Forner, the German member of the Interfaith (Interreligious) section jury of the 34th Fajr International Film Festival, said that low budget films face problems finding an audience in his country.



"What I see in Germany is that the most powerful productions with the most money have the best chance to be seen," Forner said in an interview that the organizers of the festival published on Friday.

"Smaller countries even in Europe and with films with smaller budgets have greater problems finding an audience," added Forner who is a member of the Catholic Film Commission in Germany and was on ecumenical juries of film festivals in Cottbus, Cannes and Berlin.

He said that festivals provide an opportunity for films with low budgets to be seen.

"At Berlinale, I'd like to see films from countries that I could never see in the cinema... It should be possible to see more films not only from Iran, but also from other countries with a great national cinema," he stated.

Many of the films are never shown in German movie theaters, he lamented.

The Interfaith section screens films on religious themes at the Fajr International Film Festival, which is currently underway at Tehran Charsu Cineplex.

The event will wrap up on Monday.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian troupe to perform "A Man's a Man" at Tehran theater

T A R T TEHRAN — A troupe led by director Hassan Moini will perform Bertolt Brecht's "A Man's A Man" at the Entezami Hall of the Iran Artists Forum in Tehran on May 1.

"A Man's A Man" tells the story of Galy Gay, the hapless protagonist of Brecht's 1925 play, who falls victim to several mind games during the course of his brainwashing at the hands of British soldiers stationed in India.

Mohammadreza Maaleki, Vahid Zarei, Anahita Khosravi, Ehsan Tayyeb are the main members of the cast for the play, which will be on stage until May 19.



"Silence" wins UNICEF Child Rights Award at Indian filmfest

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Mehرداد Hassani's short film "Silence" won the UNICEF Child Rights Award at the 8th CMS International Children's Film Festival (ICFF) in Lucknow, India, the organizers announced last week.

The film is about an Afghan boy with a disability who has to deliver mail to people's houses in order to make a living.

No signs of trauma or suicide in Prince's death: police

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Investigators found no sign of trauma or indication of suicide in the death of U.S. music superstar Prince, but results of an autopsy could take weeks to be made public, authorities said on Friday.

The intensely private musician, whose hits included "Purple Rain" and "When Doves Cry," was found dead in an elevator at his home in suburban Minneapolis on Thursday at the age of 57, shocking millions of fans around the world and prompting glowing tributes by fellow musicians.

Carver County Sheriff Jim Olson, whose office is investigating the circumstances of his death, said Prince was last seen alive by an acquaintance who dropped him off at his home at about 8 p.m. on Wednesday night.

"There were no obvious signs of trauma on the body," Olson told a news conference. "We have no reason to believe at this point that this was a suicide. The rest is under investigation."

The influential star, born Prince Rogers Nelson, was found unresponsive in an elevator at the Paisley Park Studios complex where he lived in the suburb of Chanhassen, authorities said.

Human emotions make Iranian cinema special: Fajr jury member

T A R T TEHRAN — Indian actor Javed Jaffrey, a member of the jury for the Eastern Vista section of the 34th Fajr International Film Festival, said that Iranian cinema is identified in the world with human relationships and emotions.

"I mean emotional content considering family issues; for instance, how a mother loves her children and relationships between siblings," he said in an interview published by the organizers of the festival on Friday.

He has seen some films from Iranian directors, including Dariush Mehrjui, Abbas Kiarostami, Majid Majidi, Tahmineh Milani and Asghar Farhadi.

However, he said that what he knows about Iranian cinema is "not much."

"I like some of them very much. It is very interesting for me to see how Iranian directors tell a story perfectly. Their focus is on scripts," he added.

He has been impressed by Kiarostami's "Through the Olive Trees" and Milani's "Superstar."

Jaffrey who has previously visited the Iranian cities of Mashhad and Qom, and Kish Island in the Persian Gulf, said, "I like Iranian culture. It is a very old and deep culture."

He said that he expects to be "watching good movies and seeing nice people" at the Fajr festival.



Indian actor Javed Jaffrey in an undated photo

Fifteen movies are competing in the official section of the festival, which is currently underway at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex. The festival will come to an end with the announcement of winners on Monday.

"The Salesman" joins Cannes competition

T A R T TEHRAN — Oscar-winning Iranian director Asghar Farhadi's social drama "The Salesman" was added to the main competition of the 69th Cannes Film Festival, media announced on Friday.

The film starring Shahab Hosseini and Taraneh Alidusti tells the story of a couple who are forced out of their apartment due to hazardous work on a neighboring building.

They move into a new flat in downtown Tehran. However, an incident linked to the previous tenant dramatically changes their fate.

Farhadi's "The Past" won its star, Berenice Bejo, the Palme d'Or for best actress in 2013.



Hossein Shahabi acts in a scene from Asghar Farhadi's drama "The Salesman".

Several Iranian movies, including "Maman Soori's Case" directed by Hossein Hejrat and "Unfortunately" by Shahrokh Dolku will go on screen in the Short Film Corner of the festival, which will be held in the French city of Cannes from May 11 to 22.

Sadi commemorated at Madrid university

CULTURE TEHRAN — Persian poet Sadi was commemorated during a meeting at Salamanca University in Madrid on Thursday, which was Iran's Sadi National Day.

Clemente Gonzalez-Martinez of the university made a short speech at the meeting, calling Persian one of world's richest languages, which should be given greater regard at Salamanca University.

The meeting, which was organized in collaboration with the Iranian cultural attaché's office, continued with a speech by Joaquin Rodriguez Vargas on satire in Sadi's works.

He is the author of "Gramatica General del Persa Moderno" ("Gen-



eral Grammar of Modern Persian"). Scholars Maryam Haqrusta and Anthony Gonzalez Carbo also spoke at the meeting.

Sheikh Muslih od-Din Sadi Shirazi (c. 1213-1291) is one of the greatest figures of classical Persian literature, famous worldwide for his Bustan (The Orchard) and Gulistan (The Rose Garden).

PICTURE OF THE DAY

Tasnim/Hamed Malekpur



Iranian filmmaker Puran Derakhshandeh speaks during a workshop at the 34th Fajr International Film Festival at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex on April 23, 2016.

Italian director Pierangelo Pompa to hold workshop in Tehran

T A R T TEHRAN — Altamira Studio Theater founder Pierangelo Pompa will be holding a workshop at the 19th edition of the International Iranian Festival of University Theater.

Entitled "Actions and Relationships", the five-day program will be held during the festival running from May 15 to 29, the studio has announced on its website.

Based in Denmark, Altamira Studio Theater is an international group of theater creation and research founded by Italian director Pompa in 2014.

Born in Rome in 1979, Pompa has



studied directing in different theaters, among them Theatre du Soleil. Since 2006, he has worked at Odin Teatret as Eugenio Barba's assistant in various productions and projects in Denmark, Italy and Taiwan. Since 2009, he has published essays and reports in the Italian magazine "Teatro e Storia".

Fajr good chance to meet Iranian cineastes: Javier Angulo

T A R T TEHRAN — The artistic director of the Valladolid Film Festival (Seminci), Javier Angulo, said that the Fajr International Film Festival provides a good chance for him to meet Iranian cineastes face to face.

He called his trip to Iran a very good opportunity to meet and hold talks with Iranian filmmakers and distributors, the Persian service of IRNA reported on Saturday.

He said that he has so far met with seven film distributors and he is also planning to watch at least 30 films to select for (Spanish film festival) Valladolid.

Angulo also called the film market with many filmmaking companies in attendance, the best chance for himself, adding that the jury has chosen a selection of good films for the festival.

He also said that there have always been films from Iranian filmmakers in the Valladolid, pointing to Abbas Kiarostami and his film "Under the Olive Trees," which won the Golden Spike at the 39th Valladolid International Film Festival in 1994.

The 34th Fajr International Film Festival will be running at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex until April 25.

Rome exhibit to showcase "Hunting" by Leila Vismeh

T A R T TEHRAN — The MAC Maja Contemporary Art in Rome will put Iranian painter Leila Vismeh's latest collection "The Hunting" on display during a group exhibit to be held from May 6 to June 25.

The metaphorical collection highlights the oppressive relationship between rabbits and wolves. It also displays a variety of animals with colorful and almost expressionistic intensity but the human figures are in black and white.

U.S. cartoonist and playwright James Grover Thurber's 1939 fairytale "The Rabbits Who Caused All the Trouble" inspired the collection, Vismeh told Honaronline on Saturday.

The exhibition will also showcase works by Isabella Ducrot from Naples, Georgina Spengler from Greece, Rodolfo Villaplana from Venezuela, and Italian artists Margareth Dorigatti, Andrea Calabresi and Roberto Bossaglia.