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Ten-year-old Quran phenom's recitation appears on DVD 12

Tehran says its approach to UK, EU untouched by Brexit

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Tehran announced on Saturday it would respect the British public's vote to exit the European Union, noting it will have no impact on Iran's approach toward Britain or the European Union.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a country ruled by democracy, respects the British public's vote to leave the European Union, and considers it in keeping with the will of the majority of the country's people in regulating their foreign relations," said a statement carried by the website of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

On Thursday, Britain held a referendum on whether to leave the European Union, a process often referred to as "Brexit," final tally of which on Friday gave a 52%-48% leave vote, causing a political earthquake in the green continent.

Since 1973, Britain was a member of the EU which now has to continue with 27 nations.

Also, the statement said Iran has always been willing to expand relations with European countries "based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's national affairs," emphasizing that "Britain's exit out of European Union will bring no change in Iran's approach toward European states."



Minister dismisses security problems on Laylat al-Qadr

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Interior Minister Abodolreza Rahmani Fazli said on Saturday that there had been no security problems on Laylat al-Qadr (Night of

Decree) late on Friday.

Laylat al-Qadr is in Islamic belief the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed to the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

"The police and security forces and the Interior Ministry control the situation during Qadr nights and has taken necessary measures," Rahmani Fazli said.



Iran's 2-month agricultural exports climb 22.5% yr/yr

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's agricultural exports of agricultural products stood at 955,000 tons during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-May 20, 2016), registering an increase of 22.5 percent compared with the same time in previous year, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

The exported agricultural products were at the value of \$802 million, which also shows a hike of 4.59 percent, compared to the same period in the preceding year. In terms of value, the exported amount stands for 13.91 percent and in terms of weight constitutes 6.2 percent of the total exports of Iran's non-oil products in these two months.

Apples, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, yoghurt, tomato paste, milk, and cream were among the exported agro products in the said time.

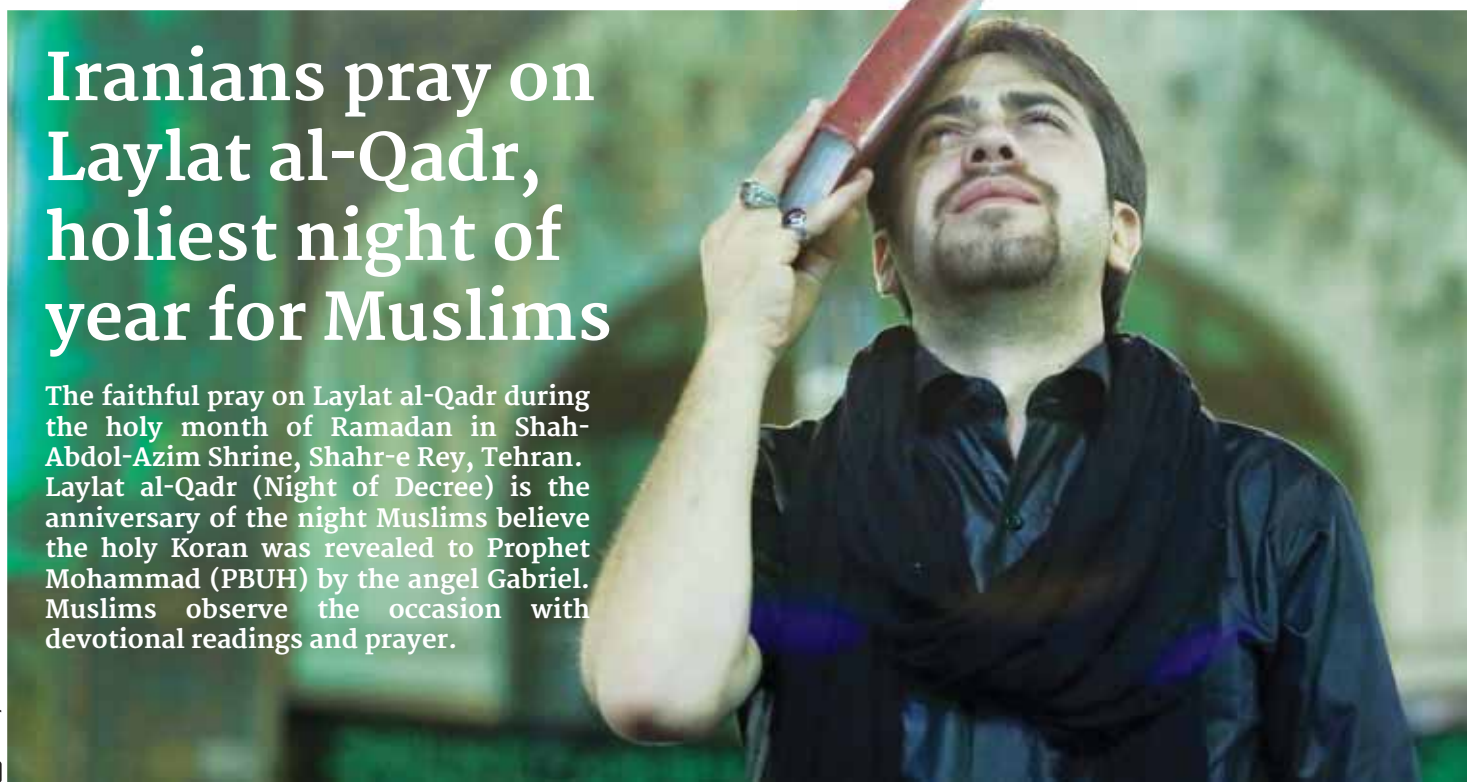
Iran's non-oil exports value with a 20 percent increase is planned to reach over \$50 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), IRIB quoted Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh as saying on May 30.

It is predicted that by the end of the current calendar year, the value of exports in industry, mining and trade sphere will reach \$38 billion and the figure for the agricultural products and gas condensate will stand at \$5 billion and \$7 billion, respectively, the minister added.

Iranians pray on Laylat al-Qadr, holiest night of year for Muslims

The faithful pray on Laylat al-Qadr during the holy month of Ramadan in Shah-Abdol-Azim Shrine, Shahr-e Rey, Tehran. Laylat al-Qadr (Night of Decree) is the anniversary of the night Muslims believe the holy Koran was revealed to Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) by the angel Gabriel. Muslims observe the occasion with devotional readings and prayer.

Mehr/Mahmoud Rahimi



"Dance of Torn Papers" on Stage in Toronto

ART TEHRAN — Actress-cum-director Aida Keikhai is directing "Dance of Torn Papers" by playwright Mohammad Yaqubi, who is also her spouse, at the Iranian Association at the University of Toronto (IAUT) in Canada.



Different casts of 12 actors have staged three different performances of the play over the past two nights.

Another cast, which includes Sara Imanzadeh, Sanaz Haqverdi, Sara Salehi, Amir Puyan, Yaser Qoreishi and Azadeh Chavoshi, will stage the play tonight.

The play is about an author who writes plays and presents them to his wife but she tears up the papers.

The IAUT is an independent cultural, academic and social organization that seeks to promote activities relating to Iran and the Iranian community at the University of Toronto and beyond.

Strong dust storms hit Sistan

ZAHEDAN (IRNA) — A meteorology expert said on Saturday that the speed of dust storms in the south-eastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan hit 100 kmph over the past 48 hours.

Talking to IRNA, Reza Azadmanesh put the dust density at 998 micrograms in one cubic meter in Sistan.

He said the horizontal sight had declined to 700 meters in this region.

Azadmanesh also predicted that the 120-day monsoon winds would decrease in this southeastern province on Saturday and Sunday.

The 120-day monsoon winds is a strong summer wind that blows from late in May to late in September. The wind originates from the central deserts in Iran and blows toward Sistan-Baluchestan province.

Leader expresses sorrow over death of soldiers

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution issued a statement on Saturday expressing his sorrow over the death of 19 soldiers whose bus plunged into a valley early on Wednesday on the road from Kerman to Shiraz.

Expressing condolences to the families of the soldiers, the Leader said "military and non-military" officials must do



whatever necessary to prevent such incidents.

"The saddening news of the road incident for dear soldiers...caused deep sorrow for me. I send condolences to the bereaved families from the bottom of my heart," the Leader said in part of his statement.

He added, "The lives of our dear youth must not be put in such dangers."

OFAC elaborates on implementation of the Iran nuclear deal

John E. Smith, acting director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Treasury Department, has enumerated on the pros and cons of the nuclear deal between Iran and great powers which went into effect in January.

Following is the text of the statement by Smith provided to the Tehran Times:

The Atlantic Council and the Iran Project held a symposium on June 16 on the implications on regional affairs and relations with Iran of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) a year after the agreement was reached. John E. Smith - Acting Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control - delivered a lecture at this event.

The text below was provided by the West Asia Council and ap-

proved by Mr. John E. Smith.

John E. Smith
Acting Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control

Atlantic Council Iran Event
• Thank you Bill for the kind introduction, and to the Atlantic Council and the Iran Project for hosting today's event.

• I'm here to speak with you about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - the JCPOA - as we near the one-year anniversary of the deal. It's hard to believe that it's been that long.

• It's a pleasure to be here to take some stock of the events of the past year, particularly since Implementation Day, and to reflect on the incredibly hard work that we at Treasury, our colleagues at the State Department and across the US Government, and our EU and other partners,



have done - and continue to do - to implement our commitments under the deal.

• Of course, hard work is only one part of the equation, and many implementation challenges remain. But I can stand here today and say with confidence and without hesitation that we at OFAC, and the US Government more broadly, have lived up to every commitment we made nearly one year ago.

• Over the course of the last several months, OFAC officials, in

conjunction with colleagues from the State Department, have traveled the globe, visiting more than two dozen countries.

• For my part alone, I've been to Europe three times in recent months, and have another trip coming up. I have met with EU finance ministers, various EU Member State government officials, senior and line members of financial institutions, and a host of other private sector businesses.

• Iran has kept its end of the deal, and we have upheld ours and are committed to continuing to do so. After all, by following through on our commitment to provide sanctions relief, we sustain the powerful incentive for Iran to adhere to this deal and provide the same for other malign actors to respond to sanctions by changing their behavior.

Too early to project impact of Brexit on integrity of trans-European unity: analyst

INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Nader Entessar, a professor of political science at South Alabama University, tells the Tehran Times that "it is too early to project the impact of the United Kingdom's exit from the EU on the integrity of trans-European unity."

In a report on its website, Reuters said Britain's decision to leave the EU is the biggest blow since World War Two to the European project of forging greater unity. The United Kingdom itself could also now break apart, with the na-

tionist leader of Scotland, where nearly two-thirds of voters wanted to stay in the EU, saying a new referendum on independence from the rest of Britain was "highly likely", Reuters said.

Entessar also says, "The relative success that we witnessed in the early years of the European integration was largely due to the fact that it included countries with similar levels of economic development and compatible sociopolitical outlook."

Following is the text of the interview:

■ What are the domestic implications of Britain's exit from the EU?

A: The vote in favor of leaving the EU is

probably the most important development in British politics in the past 50 years. Domestically, Britain will become more inward looking and insular, both psychologically and politically.

■ What will be the result of Britain's departure from the EU on Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland?

A: I think this will strengthen nationalist sentiments in the constituent parts of the United Kingdom and will boost the fortunes of political parties like the Scottish Nationalist Party and Sinn Fein which have long championed the interests of Scotland and Ireland, respectively.

PERSPECTIVE
By Ali Asghar Pahlavan
Tehran Times journalist

Iran needs more international aid to fight drug mafia

Today marks International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. It is commemorated throughout the world.

Though the horror of terrorism is not comparable to drug abuse, yet the death toll resulting from drug abuse has been much higher than those killed by terrorists. This is a silent death. It kills the youth without being highly noticed. Drug has also been a source of fund for terrorism in Afghanistan for decades.

I have read many remarks by world leaders but among which I selected the following statement by former UN chief Javier Perez de Cuellar who served as the fifth secretary general of the United Nations from 1982 to 1991.

"... let us resolve that this special session of the General Assembly, words lead to action and this action leads to success. Drug abuse is a time bomb in the heart of our civilization. We must find measures to deal with it before it explodes and destroys us."

The General Assembly in 1987 decided to observe June 26 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of addiction.

■ Afghanistan, hotbed of narcotic drugs

In terms of production, Afghanistan is still among the countries retaining its position as the world's leading producer and cultivator of opium in 2016, although a poor yield in the country reduced global opium production by 30 percent compared to 2011.

Iran, situated on international transit route of drug trafficking which shares a long frontier with Afghanistan, has been suffering for about four decades the highest rate of drug-related fatalities and financial losses.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

IRAN



Rouhani vows tough stance on inflated salaries

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani has said his government will take a tough-on policy on luxurious salaries.

The government is not tongue-tied for apologizing when it realizes it has made a mistake, Rouhani said on Friday, the Iran newspaper reported.

In relevant remarks, Majlis Deputy Speaker Masoud Pezeshkian said Rouhani still has time to make up for the scandal.

PRESSTV



FATF eases Iran restrictions

TEHRAN — The world's anti-money laundering body has suspended some of its restrictions against Iran, citing the country's commitment to legitimate business.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) hailed on Friday Iran's adoption of an action plan to address shortcomings in its anti-money laundering policies as well as its decision to seek assistance with the implementation, Press TV reported.

In its plenary meeting in South Korea, the body took into account Iran's implementation of an anti-money laundering law and its membership in the Eurasian Group, an FATF-style regional body.

Iran, however, will remain on the FATF black-list until the full implementation is complete, the body said. Moreover, if it fails to demonstrate "sufficient progress" at the end of the yearlong suspension, the restrictions will be re-imposed.

MEHR



'Palestine owing recognition to Quds Day'

TEHRAN — A senior advisor to the Quds Force commander has said "Palestine would have plunged into oblivion if there had been no Quds Day."

The Quds Day means the revival of values and Islamic culture in fighting oppression and continuation of the anti-Zionist crusade, Iraj Masjedi told Mehr in an interview published on Saturday.

NASIM



Iran threatens to publish Hajj contract with Riyadh if necessary

TEHRAN — If it is needed, Iran will publish the contract with Saudi Arabia about this year's Hajj ritual, the head of Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of Iran has said.

Saeed Owahadi also said Saudi Hajj officials, in meetings with Iranian counterparts in January and March, had vowed to pay for the lost lives caused by the last year's crane fall by this year's Hajj season, but have failed to keep their promise, Nasim reported.

They also vowed to announce the amount of compensation they would have to give for the Mina stampede victims after this year's Hajj season, Owahadi stated.

TASNIM



Principlists still have no option for president: Habibi

TEHRAN — The secretary general of the Islamic Coalition Party has said principlists still have no candidate for the next year's presidential election.

He made the remarks in response to recent statements by Combatant Clergy Association member Qolamreza Mesbahi Moqaddam who had said principlists might back Hassan Rouhani, Tasnim reported on Saturday.

ISNA



Parliamentary committee to address death of 19 soldiers

TEHRAN — The Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee will address the traffic accident in which a bus capsized, leading to the death of some 19 soldiers.

Committee member Mohsen Alavi, speaking to ISNA on Saturday, said he and his colleagues will do their best to provide a report about the tragic incident.

IRGC killing terrorists in northwestern Iran

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps issued a statement on Saturday announcing clashes with terrorists and anti-revolution groups in Mahabad in northwest Iran during which some terrorists were killed.

The operation to kill the rest of the terrorists will continue unabated, the statement said.

According to Press TV, the militants had last week clashed with the IRGC in the Oshnavieh County, also in West Azerbaijan Province.

On Monday, Iran's Intelligence Ministry also issued a statement announcing it has foiled one of the "biggest terrorist plots of Takfiri-Wahhabi groups" in Tehran and some other cities.

"Under the criminal plot of the anti-Islamic Takfiri terrorist group, a series of bombings in several spots of the country had been planned for the



coming events in Tehran and some other cities and the devil actions of the Takfiri terrorists were foiled... and the terrorists were arrested and a large

amount of explosives were seized," the statement said.

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on June 19 that some suicide attacks had been foiled in Tehran during the holy month of Ramadan.

Also on June 13, the IRGC announced that its forces had killed five members of the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) in the northwestern border city of Sardasht.

"A 5-member terrorist group affiliated to the PJAK was disbanded in Sardasht region in northwestern parts of the country in the precise intelligence and reconnaissance operations of the IRGC Ground Force," the IRGC said in a statement.

In another clash in southern city of Khash on June 13, Iranian police forces killed five members of a terrorist group which is an offshoot of Jaish ul-Adl.

Tehran says its approach to UK, EU untouched by Brexit

1 → According to Jalaladdin Sadatani, Iran's former charge d'affaires to England back in the 1980s, the exit will have no tangible influence on bilateral ties, particularly economic ones.

England was among the countries Iran signed the July 2015 nuclear deal with.

The decision to put EU membership to a public vote had created a schism within the Conservative Party, with a number of backbenchers campaigning against Cameron's argument to remain within the political and economic trading bloc.

The first victim of the body blow was Prime Minister David Cameron who announced he would step down in the coming autumn.

In a statement to the press, the prime minister acknowledged that the British people had "made a very clear decision to take a different path and thus the country requires fresh leadership to take it in this direction. I will do everything I can as Prime Minister to steady the ship over coming weeks and months. But I do think it would not be right to me to try to be the captain that steers our country to its next destination."



The statement says Iran has always been willing to expand relations with European countries based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's national affairs.

"The British people have voted to leave the European Union and their will must be respected," Cameron emphasized.

According to Cameron, the country should be expecting a new prime minister to be in place by the start of the Conservative Party conference in October, who will be most likely Boris Johnson, former mayor of London.

While Eurosceptics argue that the exit would reverse immigration, save taxpayers billions and free Britain from an economic burden, Europhiles counter that it would lead to deep economic uncertainty and cost thousands, possibly even millions, of jobs.

Apart from economic uncertainties likely to emerge in the aftermath of the exit, other serious concerns also loom large, including fears for escalation of nationalist sentiments across Europe.

Also, stronger independence calls from Ireland and Scotland also are likely to be heard though it is only the passage of time which proves which interpretations are right or wrong.

Rouhani congratulates Slovenia on anniversary of independence



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In a message to Slovenian President Borut Pahor on Saturday President Hassan Rouhani has congratulated the Slovenian government and people on the 25th anniversary of the country's independence.

The Iranian president expressed hope that relations between the two countries would be expanded in various areas of politics, culture and economy.

On 25 June 1991, Slovenia became an independent state.

Independence is considered the most important decision made by Slovenian citizens who, 25 years ago, understood the historic aspect of the opportunity and seized it, RTV Slovenija reported on Saturday.

In a separate message to Croatian

President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovi, Rouhani also congratulated the Croatian government and people on anniversary of the country's independence.

"I hope that we would witness expansion of relations and cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Croatia in various areas in line with serving the two nations' interests, given Your Excellency's latest visit to Tehran and the signed agreements," he wrote in the message.

Croatia declared independence on 25 June 1991. The Croatian president paid a three-day visit to Tehran in May.

A document on economic cooperation and a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the chambers of commerce were signed during her visit.

Larjani: Resistance economy materializes if domestic capacities are flourished



POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — To materialize the goals of resistance economy, there is need for flourishing all domestic capacities, parliament speaker says, deeming knowledge a key priority.

Ali Larjani made the remarks on Saturday during a visit to SAIPA, one of the two largest automotive giants in the country.

"Diversifying national products using all scientific capacities of the country is a priority," he said, linking it to resistance economy.

Emphasis on technological ownership and a knowledge-based economy has also been a key theme of other senior Iranian officials, including President Rouhani.

Without knowledge and science, neither independence nor successful materialization of resistance economy will be possible, said Rouhani during a recent Iftar party with university professors in Tehran.

The term "resistance economy," as outlined by the Supreme Leader, calls on the government to secure the utilization of the country's resources, struggle to promote a knowledge-based economy, take efforts to increase energy consumption efficiency, and finally, boost domestic production.

The term was introduced into the political rhetoric of the country after international sanctions brought it to the attention of Iranian officials the importance of self-sufficiency.

Iran needs more international aid to fight drug mafia

1 → For example since 1979, more than 3,700 Iranian security forces have lost their lives, and another 11,000 have been maimed in combat against drugs smugglers.

The sacrifices by Iran shows Tehran's strong dedication to moral principles in campaign against drug trafficking which has been benefitting the international community.

Drug lords mainly use the Iranian land to smuggle narcotics to Europe and other destinations. According to the numerous reports issued by the United Nations most of the opium going from Afghanistan to the West is smuggled through the Iranian territory. This amounts to approximately 2,500 tons of opium per year.

Unfortunately, the cultivation and production of nar-

cotic drugs in Afghanistan has increased.

Now that Iran is caught in an unending war against drug lords EU states along with other countries are morally obliged to provide more aid to Tehran in the campaign against drug trafficking. Without the close cooperation and coordination of international community fighting drug mafia is almost impossible.

Minister dismisses security problems on Laylat al-Qadr

1 → He called on the people to contact police forces in case of witnessing any suspicious moves.

Iran's Intelligence Ministry issued a statement on June 20 announcing that it had foiled one of the "biggest terrorist

plots of Takfiri-Wahhabi groups" in Tehran and some other cities.

Iranian police forces killed five

members of a terrorist group in another clash in southern city of Khash on June 13.

U.S.-Saudi Takfiri project threatening Mideast region: Nasrallah

Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah hails the movement's military commander Mustafa Badreddine, who was slain at the hands of Takfiri groups in Syria last month.

In a speech to mark 40 days since the killing of the commander, Nasrallah hailed him as a "strong and courageous commander" who never gave up defending the cause of the Lebanese resistance movement.

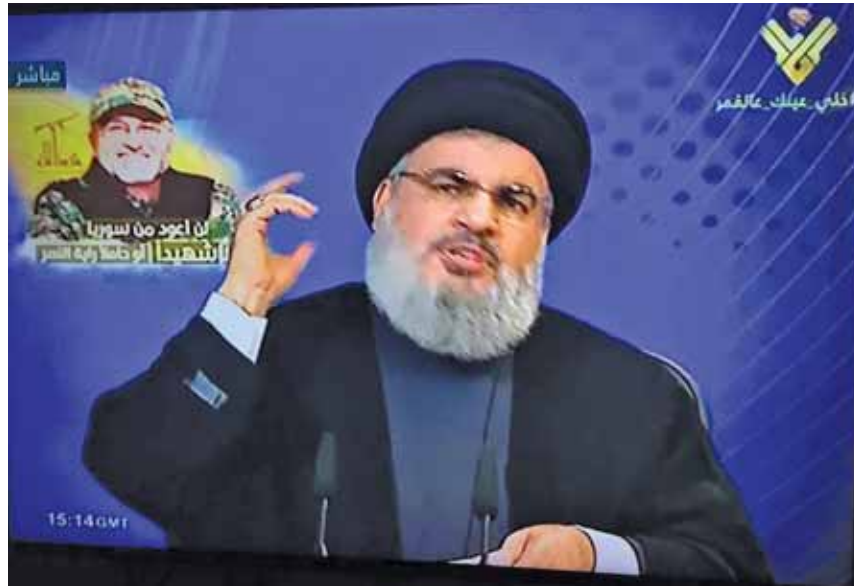
He said Badreddine believed Hezbollah had a big role to play in Syria and Iraq in defending the countries against the Takfiri militants.

The 55-year-old Hezbollah commander led Hezbollah's military wing, which is helping the Syrian government drive out foreign-backed Takfiri terrorists from Syria.

The Hezbollah leader added that Badreddine was involved in all phases of the conflict in Syria almost from the onset of the foreign-backed militancy in the Arab country in 2011.

"Turkey and Saudi Arabia, which have brought thousands of militants to Syria in the past months, have failed in their plan to topple the Syrian government," Nasrallah pointed out.

Nasrallah went on to say that Hezbollah



forces are fighting what he described as "an American-Saudi Takfiri project that threatens the whole region."

He also referred to Arab media reports that Hezbollah fighters were about to be defeated in the Syrian city of Aleppo as "lies," adding that over 600 terrorists were

killed and some 80 tanks and military vehicles were destroyed in joint operations with Syrian army forces in the northwestern city in June alone.

Hezbollah fighters are fighting alongside Syrian government forces against a range of terrorist groups operating in the

country, including Daesh and the al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front.

The movement has been helping the Syrian army to prevent the spillover of the crisis into Lebanon.

Nasrallah added that the military campaign in the city of Aleppo is the "greatest battle" in Syria, vowing to send more fighters to support Syrian forces.

He also vowed that the slain Hezbollah commander's comrades will continue their unwavering resistance against the Daesh Takfiri terrorists and other militant groups wreaking havoc in the region.

Hezbollah will "increase its presence in Aleppo... because the real, strategic, greatest battle is in Aleppo and the surrounding area," Nasrallah said.

Badreddine was killed by militant artillery shelling near the Damascus International Airport on May 13. He also directed military operations against the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and was a frequent target of attempts by Tel Aviv, Washington and its allies to assassinate or capture him.

Badreddine was the cousin and brother-in-law of Imad Mughniyeh, who was assassinated by Israel in 2008.

(Source: al Alam)

NEWS

Iraqis protest in support of leading Bahraini cleric

People have held demonstrations in the Iraqi cities of Basrah and Baghdad to express solidarity with Bahrain's prominent Shia cleric, Sheikh Isa Qassim, who was recently stripped of his citizenship by the Al Khalifah regime.



Hundreds of residents of Basrah gathered near the governorate building to denounce Manama's removal of Sheikh Qassim's nationality, the Arabic-language al-Sumaria news website reported.

Elsewhere, hundreds of supporters of senior Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr held a protest outside the Bahraini embassy in the Mansour district of the capital, Baghdad.

They chanted slogans in condemnation of Sheikh Qassim's citizenship repeal.

Iraqi security forces cordoned off the Mansour district and closed the nearby bridges of Jadrifa and Shuhada.

Also on Friday, Bahrain summoned the Iraqi ambassador to Manama, Ahmed Naif Rashid al-Dulaimi.

On June 20, Manama revoked the nationality of the clergyman, with Bahrain's Interior Ministry accusing him of seeking the "creation of a sectarian environment" through his connections with foreign powers.

The latest move by the Bahraini regime against Sheikh Qassim came less than a week after the Justice Ministry suspended all activities of al-Wafaq National Islamic Society, the main opposition group in the country.

The kingdom also dissolved two other opposition groups, namely al-Tawfiya and al-Risala Islamic associations.

The developments have raised fears of further unrest in the tiny Persian Gulf country, which has been witnessing regular anti-regime demonstrations since mid-February 2011.

The Al Khalifah regime is engaged in a harsh crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against the country's Shia majority. Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others injured or arrested in the island state, which is a close ally of the US in the Persian Gulf region.

(Source: Press TV)

Clinton regains double-digit lead over Trump: Reuters/Ipsos poll

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Clinton regained a double-digit lead over Republican rival Donald Trump this week, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll.

The June 20-24 poll showed that 46.6 percent of likely American voters supported Clinton while 33.3 percent supported Trump. Another 20.1 percent said they would support neither candidate.

Trump had enjoyed a brief boost in support following the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, as he doubled down on his pledge to ban Muslims from entering the country, cutting Clinton's lead to nine points.

But Trump's rise in popularity appeared to be only temporary, unlike his lasting surge among the Republican field last year after the attacks in Paris and in San Bernardino, California.

Clinton's 13.3 percentage point lead is about the same as she had before the Orlando attack.

Trump's slip this week came as he struggled to show that he can keep up with a Clinton campaign apparatus that has dwarfed his in size and funding.



Campaign finance disclosures released earlier this week showed Trump started June with a war chest of just \$1.3 million, a fraction of Clinton's \$42 million. Trump sought to ease concerns among his allies by saying that he could tap his "unlimited" personal wealth if needed, and also by bolstering efforts to raise money through fundraising events and online donations.

Meanwhile, Republican leaders including House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan and Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker continued to express reservations about their new standard bearer, who has angered some in the party with his fiery rhetoric.

Ryan and Walker both said over the past week that they felt Republicans should follow their "conscience" when deciding to support the party's likely nominee, instead of urging party members to support him.

The poll only captured some of the voter reaction to Britain's decision in Thursday's referendum to exit the European Union, a move that some pundits say suggests Trump's insurgent candidacy has tapped into a broad and powerful anti-globalization wave sweeping Western countries.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online and included interviews with 1,201 likely voters in all 50 states. It has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3.3 percentage points.

(Source: Reuters)

EU chiefs to UK: Leave 'as soon as possible' France calls for new British prime minister to be named soon

European Union officials have called for the UK to start the exit process as quickly as possible after Britons voted to leave the 28-member bloc, prompting the resignation of David Cameron, the prime minister, and dealing the biggest blow to European efforts at greater unity since the second world war.

The outcome of Thursday's EU referendum - a 52-to-48 split in favor of Britain's exit - caused financial markets to fall sharply and brought the British pound down to a 31-year low, its biggest drop in history.

There are now fears the vote could set off a chain reaction of further breakaway bids by other EU members battling hostility to Brussels.

There are also worries the outcome could lead to the break-up of the UK itself after Scotland raised the prospect of another independence vote.

On Saturday, foreign ministers from the six founding members of the EU - Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg, held a crisis meeting in Berlin to discuss the shock exit.

"The process after Article 50 has to be initiated ... as soon as possible to avoid a prolonged deadlock," Steinmeier said after

meeting his counterparts from France, Italy and the Benelux countries

- the founding members of the EU.

"Negotiations have to go quickly in the common interest," said Jean-Marc Ayrault, France's foreign minister, adding that the pressure would be "very strong" on Cameron at an EU summit on Tuesday to speed up the process.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the German foreign minister, said Britain must swiftly invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which guides member states wishing to leave the EU.

"The process after Article 50 has to be initiated ... as soon as possible to avoid a prolonged deadlock," Steinmeier said.

His call came a day after EU chiefs also issued a joint statement saying negotiations over the so-called Brexit should begin immediately.

"We now expect the United Kingdom government to give effect to this decision of the British people as soon as possible, however painful that process may be," said Donald Tusk, EU president; Jean-Claude Juncker, European Commission chief; Martin Schulz, European Parliament head; and Mark Rutte, Dutch prime minister, whose country holds the six-month EU presidency.

"Any delay would unnecessarily prolong uncertainty," German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the result a "blow" to Europe while French President Francois Hollande admitted it was a "grave test".



Merkel and Hollande will meet Matteo Renzi, Italy's prime minister, in Berlin on Monday to discuss future steps.

US President Barack Obama, who publicly threw his weight behind British EU membership during a visit to London in April, insisted the "special relationship" between the two countries was "enduring".

Following the UK's vote in favour of exiting the bloc, Dutch far-right MP Geert Wilders and French National Front leader Marine Le Pen called for referendums on EU membership in their own countries immediately.

The British vote will lead to at least two years of divorce proceedings with the EU, the first exit by any member state.

Cameron, who led the campaign to remain in Europe to defeat, after promising the referendum in 2013, said he would resign by October and it would be up to his successor to formally start the exit process.

"The British people have made the very clear decision to take a different path and as such I think the country requires fresh leadership to take it in this direction," Cameron, in office since 2010, said in an emotional televised address outside his residence on Friday. "I do not think it would be right for me to be the captain that steers our country to its next destination."

Yet, Juncker said he did not understand why the British government needed "until October to decide whether to send the divorce letter to Brussels."

"I'd like it immediately," the European Commission chief told German broadcaster ARD on Friday evening.

"It is not an amicable divorce but it was also not an intimate love affair," he added.

Cameron's Conservative Party rival Boris Johnson, the former London mayor who became the most recognizable face of the Leave camp, is now widely tipped to seek his job.

"We can find our voice in the world again, a voice that is commensurate with the fifth-biggest economy

on earth," Johnson said.

The "Leave" victory also threatens to shatter the unity of the UK, with Scotland and Northern Ireland voting to remain in while England - barring big cities like London - and Wales supported out.

Nicola Sturgeon, Scottish first minister, said a second independence vote was now "highly likely" after a 2014 referendum backed staying in the UK.

"The option of a second referendum must be on the table and it is on the table," she said, declaring it was "democratically unacceptable" for Scotland to be dragged out of the EU against its will.

The Scottish parliament is due to meet for an emergency session early on Saturday.

In Northern Ireland, the nationalist Sinn Fein party seized on the result to call for a vote on reunification with the Irish Republic.

The possibility of such a vote is included in the 1998 peace accord that largely ended three decades of violence in the province, but leaders north and south of the border were quick to dismiss the idea.

Highlighting the discord, a petition demanding a second EU referendum had gathered more than one million signatures on Saturday morning.

Risks ahead

The result caused the pound to fall to a 31-year low of \$1.3229 at one point but it recovered some ground after the Bank of England said it stood ready to pump £250bn (\$370bn) into the financial system to avert a crisis.

European stock markets dropped around eight percent at opening before recovering later, while British bank shares lost a quarter of their value in morning trade.

Credit rating agency Moody's downgraded the UK's economic outlook from stable to negative, saying Britain faces "a prolonged period of uncertainty ... with negative implications for the country's medium-term growth outlook".

Huge questions also face the large numbers of British expatriates who live and work freely elsewhere in the EU, as well the fate of EU citizens who live and work in Britain.

New PM

Meanwhile, France's foreign minister urged Britain Saturday to quickly name a new prime minister so that the process of the country's exit from the European Union can begin.

"A new prime minister must be designated, that will take a few days," Jean-Marc Ayrault told reporters at crisis talks in Berlin over Britain's shock referendum to quit the EU.

(Source: agencies)

Pope says 'never again' to tragedies like Armenian genocide

A somber Pope Francis, "with pain in my heart," paid tribute on Saturday to the 1.5 million Armenians massacred in 1915, an event which he has labeled a genocide, risking Turkey's ire.

Francis, on the second day of his trip to Armenia, made an early morning stop at the Tziternakaber, the "Genocide Memorial and Museum," a towering granite needle flanked by an eternal flame on a hillside overlooking the Armenian capital.

There, visibly moved, he took part in a prayer service along with President Serzh Sargsyan and leaders of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

"Here I pray, with pain in my heart, so that never again will there be tragedies like this, so that humanity does not forget and knows how to overcome evil with good," he wrote in the guest book in Italian.

On Friday night in a speech to the president, the government and diplomats, Francis departed from his prepared text to use the word "genocide," a description that infuriated Turkey when he said it a year ago.

As of Saturday morning there was no official reaction from Turkey, which last year recalled its ambassador to the Vatican after the pope used the 'genocide' term. The envoy was kept away for 10 months.

Turkey accepts many Christian Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire were killed in clashes with Ottoman forces during World War One, but contests the figures and denies the killings were systematically orchestrated and constitute a genocide. It also says many Muslim Turks perished at that time.

"There is no reason not to use this word in this case," Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi told reporters on Friday night. "The reality is clear and we never denied what the reality is."

At the Saturday morning ceremony, Francis chatted with descendants of Armenian orphans who were sheltered at the papal summer residence south of Rome at the start of the 20th century.

"May God grant the beloved Armenian people and the entire world peace and consolation. May God protect the memory of the Armenian people. Memory should not be diluted or forgotten. Memory is a source of peace and the future," he wrote in the guest book.

After the memorial service the pope flew to say a Mass in the provincial city of Gyumri, near the border with Turkey and within sight of Mount Ararat, where the Bible says Noah's Ark landed after the Great Flood.

(Source: Reuters)



NEWS

AirAsia X touches down in Iran

AirAsia X launched its inaugural service from Bangkok to the Iranian capital Tehran on June 22. This service will also run three times a week.

Also, the airline's inaugural flight took off from Kuala Lumpur on June 21, marking the start of a new three-times-a-week scheduled service to Tehran.

AirAsia X marked its return to the country following a near-four-year hiatus.

"We are glad to see that our guests boarding the inaugural flight to Tehran," said Arik De, AirAsia X's head of commercial. "Iran is a huge market to tap into and we will look forward to deepening our footprint in the region, and ensuring Malaysians and other citizens of ASEAN can fly further with us."

AirAsia X's flights will now depart KL every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday at 19:05 and arrive in Tehran at 23:40. The return flights will leave every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 01:05 and arrive back in KL at 12:45.

Thai AirAsia X's services depart Bangkok's Don Mueang Airport every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 15:10 and arrive in Tehran at 20:20. The inbound flights will take-off at 21:50 on the same days of the week and arrive back in the Thai capital at 08:00 the next morning.

Both routes will be served using AirAsia X's fleet of 377-seat, two-class Airbus A330-300 aircraft, which feature flat-bed seats in the premium cabin. And passengers will also be able to connect to AirAsia's vast regional network of destinations using the airline's 'Fly-Thru' transfer service at both KLIA2 and Don Mueang airports.

AirAsia X previously flew between KL and Tehran, but suspended the route in October 2012.

(Source: traveldaily.com)

EU plans for closer trade ties with China

The European Union's new strategy on China will accelerate the pace of cooperation, especially in the areas of trade and market status under the World Trade Organization rules, analysts said.

The strategy was set up in a joint communication issued on Wednesday by the European Commission and the European Parliament.

The document said that Europe sees China as a partner, which is rapidly increasing its international influence and should be more closely engaged for the next five years.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Thursday that China is willing to develop ties with the European Union from long-term perspective after gaining this information and China is urging that EU members to grant market economy status to China in December.

He Jingdong, a professor of economic policy at Nankai University in Tianjin, said: "China must prepare for more flexible strategies in dealing with Europe. This also requires China to readjust its policies to deal with individual members within the bloc to protect the interest of its companies."

"China also should enhance ties with Eastern and Central European countries to deepen cooperation to develop the Belt and Road Initiative."

The European Commission's last communication on China was adopted a decade ago in 2006. Brussels said the EU and China have both undergone considerable changes since then and China has a stronger presence in all regions of the world, economically and politically.

"Under such circumstances, the EU's new move will not only create a better platform for China to carry out its economic transformation, but is also key to Europe's own economic recovery. The EU can stimulate growth of new markets by diversifying trade and investment categories with Chinese companies," said Ma Yu, a senior researcher at the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation in Beijing.

Trade between China and the EU amounted to 521 billion euros (\$592 billion) in 2015 and China's share of total EU trade in goods has doubled since 2002, rising from 7 percent to 15 percent, data from EU show. (Source: [China Daily](http://ChinaDaily.com))

India to decide on projects to be referred to AIIB

India has a massive infrastructure programme and will decide on which of the projects under it could be referred to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for funding, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday.

Jaitley made the remarks ahead of the crucial AIIB Board of Governors meeting which he attended.

The Beijing-based AIIB was officially established last year with authorized capital of \$100 billion in which India and 56 other countries joined as founding members.

China is the largest shareholder with 26.06 percent voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 percent followed by Russia 5.93 percent and Germany with 4.5 percent.

On Friday, the bank announced its first set of four loans totaling to over \$509 million for infrastructure projects in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Tajikistan.

Speaking to the Chinese state-run CCTV ahead of the meeting, Jaitley said India which has undertaken massive infrastructure development program will decide on which of the projects should be referred to AIIB funding depending on the availability of finances.

"India has a massive infrastructure program which is going on," he said.

"It covers railways, airport, sea ports, water supply, sewage, smart city creation, more urbanization," Jaitley, who is on a five-day visit to China, said.

"Depending on the kind of finances which are available we would like to see which one of these projects, (or) some of them could be financed by the AIIB," Jaitley said.

India of course is the second largest partner in the bank after China. (Source: [The Indian Express](http://TheIndianExpress.com))

Single-digit inflation rate achieved in Iran: CBI

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the third Iranian calendar month of Khor-dad (June 20) compared to the same period in the previous year hit 9.7 percent, the Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday. Meanwhile, on June 21, Government Spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht had put the figure at 9.5 percent.

The inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the second Iranian calendar month of Ordibehesht (May 20) compared to the same period in the previous year was 10.2 percent.

On June 14, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ali Tayebnia had said the country planned to reduce the inflation



rate to a single digit by the coming two months.

Curbing inflation was one of the major promises by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during his presidential campaign. Under the previous administration, inflation skyrocketed to cross 44%.

Tayebnia also noted that the government is to institutionalize growth in the country's economy in a move to reach the five-percent economic growth which has been envisaged in the country's budget plan for the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20).

The official believes that removal of the West-led sanctions against Iran's economy provides many opportunities for the country to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Brexit market shock may push world into recession

Friday's hefty global equity losses may push the world economy into a contraction, the chief economist of an economics research firm said.

Stocks and stock futures tumbled on the shock news that the UK had voted in Thursday's referendum to leave the European Union. The pan-European STOXX 600 index closed 7 percent lower, with the UK's benchmark FTSE 100 dropped 3.2 percent.

World trade declined by 1.1 percent in the first quarter of 2016 compared with the previous three months. Weinberg said this shrinkage, which he attributed to the multiyear commodity price crash, provided an early indicator of economic distress.

"The global economy has been pretty disappointing in recent year(s), even in generally prosperous financial market conditions. Today's situation is different from yesterday," he said.

"In our view, a slam to global wealth

will bring a tightening of global financial conditions, discourage risk-taking and investment, and force a retraction of credit and leverage."

Other analysts disagreed: Capital Economics, for instance, circulated a report on Friday headlined "Brexit" is not a disaster for the world economy."

"Once the dust has settled, the global economic implications of the UK's vote to leave the European Union are likely to prove much less dramatic than many had suggested during the past few weeks," said Andrew Kenningham, senior global economist at Capital Economics.

The International Monetary Fund is yet to update its global growth forecast for the Brexit vote. In April, it forecast the world economy would grow by a modest 3.2 percent this year, roughly similar to 2015 and slightly lower than forecast in January.

(Source: [CNBC](http://CNBC.com))

Japan considers unilateral Yen intervention post Brexit: Nikkei

Japan's government and central bank are considering measures, including unilateral intervention in the currency market, to counter any abrupt gains in the yen, the Nikkei newspaper reported.

Intervention may take place if yen demand jumps abruptly following U.K.'s vote to leave the European Union, and there is enough pressure on the economy and inflation, the newspaper reported Saturday. It cited an unnamed Finance Ministry official as saying action is possible even without U.S. approval in a "fight" to protect "national interests." Calls to the ministry and the Bank of Japan outside business hours weren't answered.

Japanese authorities voiced growing concern at the yen's surge past 100 per dollar for the first time since November 2013 as the U.K. voted to leave the EU on Friday. While Finance Minister Taro Aso said he's ready to act in markets if needed, he declined to comment on

potential unilateral intervention or coordinated action with Group of Seven counterparts.

Japan's Ministry of Finance views unilateral intervention as an unlikely tool in the event of a surge in the yen should the U.K. vote to leave the European Union, people familiar with the matter said before the referendum. A joint intervention with G-7 partners would be preferred, and it's unlikely they would be supportive of Japan selling yen on its own, they said.

G-7 finance chiefs said after a conference call on Friday they will "continue to consult closely on market movements and financial stability, and cooperate as appropriate." Officials recognized that "excessive volatility and disorderly movements in exchange rates" can harm economic and financial stability and pledged to use "established liquidity instruments" to support the functioning of markets. (Source: [Bloomberg](http://Bloomberg.com))

PICTURE OF THE DAY © SHANA/Hasan Hosseini



Platform 18B of Iran's South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf) was loaded from Bandar-Abbas Yard on June 23 for delivery and installation over Phase 17 and 18 of the supergiant gas field. The platform will produce about 14 million cubic meters per day (mcm/d) of natural gas from the two phases. Phases 17 and 18 are projected to produce 50 mcm/d of natural gas, 80,000 barrels per day of condensate and 400 tons per day of sulfur.

Turkey to sell train rails to Iran in exchange for oil

Transportation, Maritime Affairs and Communications Minister Binali Yildirim has said Turkey will buy oil from Iran in exchange of train rails in line with an 80-million-euro deal.

Yildirim visited the Black Sea province of Karabuk to open a railway route, which was completed by European Union funds and Turkey's financial contributions, in the region on April 26.

Yildirim noted Turkey had inked a deal with Iran for Iranian oil in exchange for train rails, which are made in Karabuk.

"Karabuk has been one of the oldest industrial hubs of the Turkish Republic... Karabuk has now become an important train rail producer and exporter. We recently made an 80-million-euro agreement with Iran to sell train rails. In line with the deal, Turkish refinery TUPRAS will buy oil from Iran. In exchange for oil, Karabuk will sell rails worth 80 million euros," he said, adding that this deal was of great significance not only for Karabuk, but also for the entire country. (Source: railynews.com)



China tightens controls on paid-for internet search ads

China's internet regulator said on Saturday that search engines should tighten management of paid-for ads in search results, making clear which results are paid-for and limiting their numbers.

The Chinese government already exercises widespread controls over the internet and has sought to codify that policy in law.

Chinese regulators last month imposed limits on the number of lucrative healthcare adverts carried by Baidu Inc following the death of a student who underwent an experimental cancer treatment which he found using China's biggest internet search engine.

Wei Zexi, 21, died in April of a rare form of cancer, and the case sparked widespread public anger.



German court hands Springer partial victory in ad-blocking case

A German court on Friday handed publisher Axel Springer a partial victory in its fight against so-called ad-blockers, which users can install on computers or mobile devices to prevent advertising from being shown.

The court said ad-blocking provider Eyeo should not charge Axel Springer for putting it on its "white list" of publishers and advertisers it exempts from blanket blocking by consumers.

Springer, which depends on advertising to pay for its publications, is one of the most vocal opponents of ad-blocking software. Last year, the German publisher started banning readers who use ad-blockers from its Bild tabloid website.



PCOB to study Alibaba's shadow banking activities

China's central bank will study shadow banking activities at Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. as it tries to ensure a fair environment exists for competition in the industry, Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said.

Alibaba engages in activities that fall under the Financial Stability Board's definition of shadow banking and are subject to different capital requirements than traditional banks, Zhou said in a meeting with International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde in Washington.

"We encourage the development of internet companies, but under the current situation they need to comply with existing rules when engaging in financial activities," Zhou said, according to a transcript on the central bank's website.

NEWS IN BRIEF

As heat wave causes hikers deaths, experts share safety tips

Fifty miles east of Phoenix, Arizona, the Superstition Mountains rise out of a stark desert landscape. One of Arizona's most rugged ranges, the jagged hoodoos and narrow canyons were formed by volcanic eruption 30 million years ago. Last weekend, as a record-breaking heat wave struck the Southwest, temperatures in the wilderness area soared dangerously.

As the mercury climbed to 118°F in downtown Phoenix, the Pinal County Sheriff's Department got a desperate phone call: two young men had gotten lost and were in bad shape. Michael Snyder, the trooper paramedic who responded to the call, said it wasn't his first of the day: earlier, two female hikers had run out of water. He looked at the cell phone ping in the Superstitions from the sheriff deputy. Sometimes they're accurate, sometimes not. Then he loaded the necessary equipment in the helicopter, in case we needed to do a short haul rope under the helicopter, or rappel people in. As the helicopter took off he received word that the subjects' medical condition was deteriorating rapidly.

For me, as a medic, I was staging worse-case scenarios, Snyder says. These trails are very rugged; that's why sometimes we have to rappel to get rescuers in. Fortunately, the hikers had on brightly colored clothing, and there was a landing spot relatively close. Doing aerial recon looking for hazards, I saw one of the two hikers was doing CPR on the other, who was lying on the trail, Snyder says. The pair were at least two hours hiking time from the trailhead, and the heat was reaching the apex of the day. By the time we got there, he had expired, Snyder says. His friend did as much as he could, but he was past the point where he could resuscitate him in a wilderness setting.

Our response time was very rapid, Snyder says. It really speaks to how quickly you can get into trouble when out in these environments.

The next day, three tourists from Germany went hiking near Tucson and were



Bringing plenty of water with you is the first rule for hiking in extreme heat (Image: Rob Hammer)

caught out in the heat. One of the three managed to hike down for help, but by the time a rescue team arrived, it was too late for the others. One of the men's bodies was found about four miles away from the safety of the trailhead. A search continued for the third person until Tuesday, when the body of 33-year-old Marcus Turowski was found west of the trail. Another hiker passed away over the weekend in the Phoenix Mountain Preserve; another near Finger Rock Canyon.

What to watch for

With extreme heat like Arizona is experiencing, even what you would normally bring to be prepared is not enough, says Shelley Littin, an EMT with Southern Arizona Rescue Association. People familiar with exercising in hot temperatures know the best time to get outside is before the heat of the day, but Littin says in these temperatures, even that precaution may be insufficient. They don't realize that you can go from normal sweating to being in trouble very quickly. It can happen in 10 minutes. I know people who have died half a mile from their vehicles.

Typically, dehydration leads to heat ex-

haustion, which can have a variety of symptoms. People can sweat profusely, become very flushed, vomit, and develop intense headaches. Heat exhaustion can stem from general lack of fluids, but also from electrolyte imbalances in extreme temperatures, just rehydrating with water is insufficient to maintain a healthy balance of salts.

Hyponatremia, a condition when the level of sodium in your blood becomes abnormally low, can occur when you drink too much water without adding electrolytes. It causes your cells to swell, which can cause everything from muscle cramping to seizures and even death.

If protective measures aren't taken, heat exhaustion and hyponatremia can swiftly progress to heat stroke. Technically speaking, heat stroke is when your core body temperature rises above 104°F. Usually, at this point you've already lost your ability to sweat. As your skin dries up, heat radiates from your body. Your central nervous system starts breaking down, and you start to hallucinate. Symptoms can vary, but the end stages are always the same: coma, and then death.

How to prepare for extreme heat

People who get in trouble with heat underestimate just how dry our state is, says Carlos Pasano, a paramedic at Wilderness Medics Incorporated, the company the Arizona Fire Service contracted for rescue services for years. If you leave your home and it's 90, you might not be prepared for 120 as the temperatures rise.

Pasano's safety tips for exercise in the heat are pretty basic. Go with a group, and monitor each other for signs of dehydration: decreased urination, increased stumbling. Know who's the least fit and stay within their limits.

Solo long-distance backpacking veteran Andrew Skurka, author of *The Ultimate Hiker's Gear Guide* and a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year, has spent a lot of time hiking in the Southwest and has some hard-earned advice for hiking in hot temperatures. It's like altitude: your body must adjust to it, Skurka says. In order to train for the heat, go running or hiking with a layer or two more than you actually need. Maybe even increase the temperature in your house.

Snyder agrees. I've spent lots of hours training in the heat, he says. Of course you have to hydrate the night and even the day before. But with heat like this it comes down to acclimatization. Tourists coming from out of state, or out of the country, can be caught unaware. But the same is true for locals. I see people going from an air-conditioned office to an air-conditioned vehicle to an air-conditioned home. Then they think they can just go out. They're going to overheat a lot faster than someone who's spent a lot of time outdoors.

Unfortunately, Littin says, it usually takes two to three weeks to acclimatize, so when you have extreme heat waves like Arizona will continue to have this week, that's not possible. Ultimately, you have to be prepared for environment you are entering, Snyder says. Plan on having enough supplies to get you through, or don't go. (Source: National Geographic)

A CLOSER LOOK

Chupanan: Adobe desert village of Iran

By Edalat Abedini

Blogger and adventurer

Desert is among main attractions of Iran that brings tourists from different parts of Iran and other countries. In addition to its unique and mysterious nature, lifestyle and residence of locals in that area are also interesting for tourists who travel the places.

Chupanan village is one of these desert places. It is located near Naein country, Isfahan province and is 95 kilometers far from Anark city.

The establishment of Chupanan, which literally means shepherds, is dated back to almost 130 years ago when some Shepherds came there to delve aqueduct, but they noticed there is so much water there that can use it for agriculture.

Looking from height, the regular structure of the place makes it as most regular adobe village of Iran. Large alleys, similar houses, stay on height, which are made of red soil are amongst characteristics of the village.

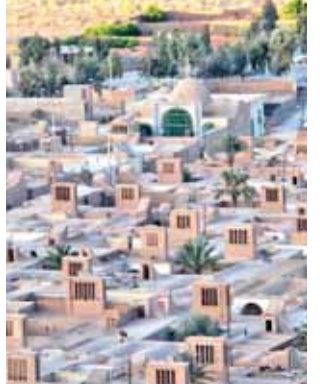
But the most important attraction in the village is desert that name is Rig-e Jen, a vast area of sand dunes in the north of this village and middle of Dasht-e Kavir.

The famous Swedish desert explorer Sven Hedin described his one-night stay at this village in his book *Iran Deserts* as the most impassable place in the world. Local people believe this place is accursed place, because everyone has gone there, has lost his life.

Dagh-e Ashtian, Hoz-e Abrisham, Robat-e Shajari, Abbas Abad Castle and Kaboudan Spring are some other attractions of this village.

The village has some agricultural products like wheat, pomegranate, garlic, date palm, grape and colocynth as well. Eshkaneh, Shouli, Ash-e Hossein, Sirak, Jireh-ba, Oujelzu, Polozardu, Kalajoush and Kepnon are some traditional cuisines of Chupanan.

To get this village from Tehran, you should pass Kashan, Ardestan, Naein by bus or car and then get to Chupanan. You can also take a train to Naein.



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Brexit: A wake up call for the EU, but will it listen?

By Luke Coffey

Defying the pollsters and the chattering classes, voters in the United Kingdom have chosen to leave the European Union, commonly referred to as Brexit.

Excuses are already flying - not only in the UK but across Europe. The opposition Labour Party was quick to blame UK Prime Minister (for now) David Cameron and the knives are already out for Labour's leader Jeremy Corbyn.

Those in Brussels are blaming "populism" for the British rejection of the EU - a complete denial of the undemocratic path the EU has chosen over the years.

In truth, the British people were fed up with living under the yoke of Brussels. After successive treaties and subsequent transfers of national sovereignty to the EU, a majority of the population reached a breaking point.

In many ways, a Brexit was not a matter of if, but when.

Leaving the EU might bring some short-term uncertainty, but its departure will allow Britain to grow economically and internationally in the long run. Far from a vote for simply

leaving the EU, Brexit means the UK is rejoining the rest of the world.

For many in the UK, the decision to leave the EU was a no-brainer. The UK is the world's fifth-largest economy. It is a member of the 53-nation Commonwealth. It has a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and has a "special relationship" with the U.S. It has one of the most capable militaries in the world and possesses nuclear weapons.

The UK trades more outside the EU than it does with the EU (and will continue to trade with Europe after it leaves the EU). Even though fewer than 6 percent of UK businesses trade with the EU, all have to implement the EU's red tape and regulation.

■ EU a supranational organization

An organization that started narrowly focused on the coal and steel industry in the 1950s has now morphed into a supranational organization touching almost every aspect of life in every EU member country.

Over the years, power has been incrementally shifted to Brussels, away from the national capitals. Consequently, it has been moved further away from those who are affected most.

The key decision-making bodies in the EU are largely unelected, and largely unaccountable to the national governments.

The EU is run by an unelected supranational commission. EU commissioners are not accountable to the member states, cannot be recalled by the member states, and break all allegiances to the member states once appointed.

There is also the Council of the European Union, formed with the various ministers from member states. Most of its decisions are made not by national ministers or leaders, however, but by unelected permanent representatives.

Then, there is the European Parliament. Although it is the only directly elected decision-making body in the EU, it is also the weakest.



Although successive treaties have given the European Parliament marginally more power, it still lacks some of the basic legislative powers that are found in national parliaments. It does not even have its own right of initiative to propose legislation. It has to formally request the commission to do so on its behalf.

Because of the transfer of sovereignty over

the years, the UK could not control its own borders, could not sign its own free trade deals (non-EU Iceland, with a population of 330,000, just signed a trade agreement with China) and regularly had its parliament and courts serve as the supreme law of the land.

Hardly an acceptable situation for one of the world's leading powers.

■ A wake up call

The vote should be a wake-up call for the EU elite. Instead, it appears that they are still in denial. A meeting of the original six founding members has been called, thus marginalizing the other 21 newer EU member states. This is not moving forward, this is moving back to 1952.

At a time in our history when the forces of globalization, social media, and the internet are empowering the individual, the institutions of the EU are trying to centralize more power than ever before. This goes against the natural state of affairs of modern and liberal democracies in the 21st century. Power must be able to flow back to member states, not just away from them.

→9

The EU is run by an unelected supranational commission. EU commissioners are not accountable to the member states, cannot be recalled by the member states, and break all allegiances to the member states once appointed.

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Apt. in Qeytarieh
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View of park, nice & cozy,
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Apt. in Shahrak-Qarb
2nd Fl., 120 sq.m, 2 bdrs,
fully furn, renovated, **1300 USD**
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Jordan
130 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, **\$1700**
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و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی
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Brexit casts dark shadow on world's great move to openness

Britain's departure from the European Union dealt what may be the biggest blow yet to globalization, challenging a decades-long embrace of freer movement of goods, services and people.

While the ultimate economic implications will take months, or years, to be quantified, central bankers didn't have the luxury of time in the aftermath of the UK referendum result on Friday. From London to Mumbai to Tokyo, they pledged to assure liquidity amid turmoil.

The success of the Brexit movement, fed by stagnant wages and resentment over inequality since the Great Recession, is one more jolt for a global economy left bruised by years of crisis fighting that's restricted momentum.

■ Bailout anger

Discontent fueled by the perception of bailouts for wealthy bankers amid the U.S. housing meltdown last decade, and euro-region debt crisis in the current one, has now been capped by Britons voting to leave the world's largest trading bloc.

In the eight years after central banks mobilized to address turbulence from the U.S. mortgage collapse, the global economy has suffered through the near breakup of the euro area, a U.S. budget impasse that temporarily shut down the government and a Chinese slowdown. Now, the Brexit-sparked market ructions are pulling policy makers back into action, and augur yet further monetary easing at least in some economies.

The reactions followed a sell-off in stocks that started in Asia, a collapse in the pound to its lowest level against the dollar since 1985, surge in the yen, tumble in oil futures and a rally in gold to the highest level since 2014. Yields on 10-year Treasuries headed for the biggest decline since 2011.

In the 19-nation euro area that's still struggling in places to shake off the debt crisis, the Brexit vote aftermath is likely to damp growth and inflation expectations. Yet the European Central Bank may struggle to support the economy further at a time when its policy instruments are already stretched.

■ Cameron's backfire

For Europe's establishment political parties, the UK referendum aftermath -- the result of an effort by Prime Minister David Cameron to stare down Euro-skeptics in his party -- serves up another danger sign, following the rise of populism in Greece, Spain and even Germany that has hampered the EU's ability to extricate itself from the financial crisis itself.

Spain's June 26 election, the second in six months after a surge in support for new parties left a hung parliament,



will offer the next reading of Europe's political backdrop.

Almost a quarter of EU citizens view the bloc "very negatively," according to the most recent Euro barometer public opinion poll conducted by the EU Commission in November 2015.

■ Fed implications

Fed policy makers, uncertain about the pace of expansion, have kept the target range for their benchmark rate at 0.25 percent to 0.5 percent for four consecutive meetings. Market disturbances -- which helped to stay their hand more than once in the past year -- will likely keep them on hold for several more meetings, economists said.

Japan, like the euro region, faces inflation rates distant

For Europe's establishment political parties, the UK referendum aftermath serves up another danger sign, following the rise of populism in Greece, Spain and even Germany that has hampered the EU's ability to extricate itself from the financial crisis itself.

from policy makers' targets, yet with even weaker growth, which has pushed the central bank ever deeper into unorthodox monetary steps. The Bank of Japan had already been forecast to step up stimulus in coming weeks, and the market turmoil only cements that call.

■ G-20 commitments

Throughout the economic and political turbulence of recent years, the world's top advanced and emerging markets have pledged to avoid competitive devaluations -- commitments reinforced in February with a Group of 20 communique. Governments also said then they would do more to help boost global growth.

Still, the uncertainty over the impact could drag on for months, economists said, because the scope of the fallout for the rest of Europe isn't clear, and the UK's withdrawal negotiation could take years.

■ Risk aversion

Emerging markets Friday were collateral damage from investors' exodus from riskier assets -- a trend that could leave China among those exposed in Asia if it becomes confronted with capital outflows. The financial hubs of Singapore and Hong Kong could also come under pressure, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

Whatever the longer-term economic outcome, for now the immediate lesson for investors is to prepare for greater volatility. (Source: Bloomberg)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ratings agency Moody's says Britain at risk of credit downgrade

Ratings agency Moody's said Britain's creditworthiness was now at greater risk after voting to leave the European Union, as the country would face substantial challenges to successfully negotiate its exit from the bloc.

Moody's assigned a negative outlook to its 'Aa1' rating for British government debt after a Thursday referendum showed that a clear majority of Britons wanted to leave the EU, prompting Prime Minister David Cameron to announce he would resign.

"During the several years in which the UK will have to renegotiate its trade relations with the EU, Moody's expects heightened uncertainty, diminished confidence and lower spending and investment to result in weaker growth," the agency said.

Britain's Treasury and central bank had warned voters the country would face a major economic hit if it left the EU after more than 40 years as a member, and sterling on Friday fell to its lowest against the dollar since 1985.

Rival credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's said before Thursday's referendum that Britain was likely to face a downgrade if it voted to leave, and Fitch Ratings said on Friday that the vote would be "moderately negative". (Source: Reuters)

UK 'Leave' vote deflates hopes for U.S.-EU trade deal

Britain's looming exit from the European Union is another huge setback for negotiations on a massive U.S.-EU free trade deal that were already stalled by deeply entrenched differences and growing anti-trade sentiment on both sides of the Atlantic.

The historic divorce launched by Thursday's vote will almost certainly further delay substantial progress in the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) talks as the remaining 27 EU states sort out their own new relationship with Britain, trade experts said on Friday.

With French and German officials increasingly voicing skepticism about TTIP's chances for success, the United Kingdom's departure from the deal could sink hopes of a deal before President Barack Obama leaves office in January.

"This is yet another reason why TTIP will likely be postponed," said Heather Conley, European program director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington.

"But to be honest, TTIP isn't going anywhere, I believe, before 2018 at the earliest," she said. (Source: Reuters)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Medical malpractice sends little girl into coma

MEDICAL TEHRAN — The future holds uncertain for the 6-year-old Elina Foroootan, who was taken to a hospital in Gorgan city, northern Iran, two months ago to only have her tonsil operated, yet shockingly, came out of the operating room in a coma.



According to a report published by IRNA on Thursday, once the operating team realizes Foroootan has slipped into coma, they sickeningly stop the surgery for "not being in a good mood to carry on."

The deputy chancellor of Golestan University of Medical Sciences in a press conference held for the local media on Wednesday expressed, "We cannot point the finger at any one and determine who is at fault in this incident," but "We must admit mistakes are natural part of practicing medicine."

Ahmad Hosseini thankfully noted that the care for the little girl continues as long as it should take.

Hosseini added at this phase, there is no hope for Foroootan's wellbeing and her treatment is out of doctors' hands. "May God's grace bring her back!"

Hosseini referred to The Forensic Medicine Organization as the entity responsible for medical malpractices, explaining unless the organization rules against the team and acknowledges medical negligence in Foroootan's case, "Those physicians remain in practice."

Hosseini then unveiled a plan according to which delinquent doctors, who fail to provide proper health care treatment, will face disciplinary actions.

ASSORTED NEWS

Solar panels have gotten thinner than a human hair

One of the reasons the solar photovoltaic power is going to take over the world is that it is scalable in a way no other power source can be. It can be used to build multi-hundred-megawatt power plants, or it can be scaled down. Way down.

How far down? Try less than the width of a human hair.

South Korean scientists have created solar PV cells that are 1 micrometer thick, hundreds of times thinner than most PV and half again as thin as other kinds of thin-film PV.

The cells are made with gallium arsenide as the semiconductor, "cold welded" directly onto a metal substrate, with no adhesive to make them thicker. Remarkably, they produce roughly as much power as thicker PV cells, though in testing, the "cells could wrap around a radius as small as 1.4 millimeters."

With cells this thin, solar PV can be integrated in all sorts of "wearables" — clothes, glasses, hats, or backpacks with solar cells integrated, continuously feeding power to our portable electronics. More to the point, PV could be integrated into just about anything.

The process takes place in a vacuum chamber at room temperature, without the solvents and high temperatures required to make conventional PV.

Researchers say the same fabrication process could work with a number of different materials, including quantum dots or perovskites, yielding solar cells small and transparent enough to be embedded in windows or building materials.

(Source: vox.com)

Massive tumor removed from woman's abdomen

MEDICAL TEHRAN — Physicians in a hospital in Tehran have removed a 10 kilogram tumor from a 34-year-old woman's stomach, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Ahmad Reza Doroshti, the hospital's general surgeon said the patient, who was under medical treatment for having pain in the abdomen for a while, came to the hospital for some lab tests but once diagnosed with fibromyositis, she immediately underwent surgery.

Fibromyositis is chronic inflammation of a muscle.

The surgeon in charge of the operation has confirmed that the 2.5-hour surgery was a success and the patient is in the early stages of recovery.

Obese dads may increase their daughters' risk of breast cancer: study

Women who are conceived when their father is overweight could be at a 30 percent higher risk of developing breast cancer, new research suggests.

Scientists at Georgetown University in Washington DC found that obese male mice which mated with normal weight females produced female pups that had an increased chance of developing breast cancer than pups from non-obese fathers.

The researchers found evidence that obesity changes the miRNA signature, or epigenetic regulators of gene expression, in both the father mouse's sperm and the daughter's breast tissue, suggesting that miRNAs may carry epigenetic information from obese fathers to their daughters.

The miRNAs the scientists identified regulate insulin receptor signaling, which is linked to alterations in body weight and other features associated with cancer development, such as hypoxia.

Maternal obesity is believed to influence breast cancer in humans, however



Maternal obesity is believed to influence breast cancer in humans, however up till now little research has investigated the influence of overweight fathers.

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Sonia de Assis, assistant professor in the department of oncology at George-

town, said: "Of course our study was done in mice, but it recapitulates recent findings in humans which show that obese men have significant epigenetic alterations in their sperm compared to lean men."

Epigenetic alterations

"Our animal study suggests that those epigenetic alterations in sperm may have consequences for next generation cancer risk."

De Assis, who led the research for the new study, which is published in Scientific Reports, said the next step would be to establish whether the same associations apply to daughters of human fathers who are overweight at the time of conception.

"Until we know about this association in men, we should stick to what we all know is good advice," she said.

"Women and men should eat a balanced diet, keep a healthy body weight and life-style not only for their own benefit but also to give their offspring the best chances of being healthy."

(Source: The Telegraph)

Pluto may still have a subsurface liquid ocean

The dwarf planet Pluto is proving to be a much more interesting object than we expected before the New Horizons probe finally reached it last year after a decade in space. Not only is the topography unique and the atmosphere cloudy, but Pluto may even have a liquid ocean. A new analysis of Pluto suggests that the subsurface ocean that gave rise to some of its geological anomalies could still be sloshing around down there.

The new work on Pluto comes from Noah Hammond and Marc Parmentier of Brown University and Amy Barr of the Planetary Science Institute. The early examination of Pluto's surface from the data returned by New Horizons showed long, deep faults running hundreds of miles.

These long canyons appeared to form as Pluto's crust expanded, which fits with a subsurface ocean expanding as it freezes. The question of whether or not it was already completely frozen had yet to be answered. According to the new study, maybe it hasn't.

A new model of Pluto was used in this study, devised by



Hammond. It takes into account what we now know about Pluto's size and density, and suggests that water freezing below Pluto's surface would have formed a compacted crystal structure known as ice II. This is a rare type of ice that forms under extreme pressure. Instead of the loose

hexagonal crystals you get with normal ice, ice II consists of small rhombohedral crystals (like cubes but made from rhombi instead of squares). As the ice transitioned to this form, it wouldn't have made Pluto larger. It actually would have caused the planet to shrink.

Pluto has shrunk

According to the researchers, there's no evidence on the surface that Pluto has shrunk. That means that ice II hasn't formed as the new model predicts. Thus, the subsurface ocean has not completely frozen, assuming the model is accurate. Ice II would only have formed in Pluto if its outer shell were at least 160 miles thick so as to place sufficient pressure on the ice. Hammond's model suggests that shell is closer to 190 miles thick, more than enough to produce ice II if the ocean had indeed frozen. It could be that the internal structure of Pluto is warmer than we thought, thanks to tidal stress or radioactive decay.

(Source: Extreme Tech)

Vapers and smokers have similar airway gene alterations



E-cigarette use is associated with significant changes in immune-related gene expression in the nasal mucosa similar to those reported in cigarette smokers, according to findings from a prospective study that compared gene-expression profiles in nonsmokers, cigarette smokers, and e-cigarette users.

Vapers showed decreased expression of a large number of immune-related genes, including all genes found to be decreased in cigarette smokers.

The findings do not imply that e-cigarette use has the same health impact as cigarette smoking, but they do suggest that vaping may have, as yet, unidentified effects on health. Ilona Jaspers, Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, Chapel Hill, and colleagues wrote in the American Journal of Physiology: "Despite the common perception that vaping e-cigarettes is a safe alternative to cigarettes, the data shown here demonstrate the need for further studies related to changes in respiratory immune health induced by vaping e-cigarettes."

Observational data

In an email exchange with MedPage Today, Jaspers noted that the effect on gene expression among e-cigarette users in the study was actually greater than among cigarette smok-

ers: "Our study collected observational data, and therefore we cannot speculate on whether and/or how e-cigarette use affects the overall health of these individuals. However, our observations demonstrate that e-cigarette use has an impact on the expression of genes associated with regulating immune responses and that these effects are broader than those seen in cigarette smokers," she said.

"Even in otherwise healthy subjects, smoking or secondhand smoke exposure is associated with enhanced susceptibility to microbial infections as well as enhanced infection associated severity and morbidity," the researchers wrote. "Smoking broadly suppresses multiple host defense mechanisms including epithelial cell responses and recruitment and activation of innate immune cells, such as neutrophils, macrophages, and natural killer cells."

Previous studies by Jaspers and colleagues showed that cigarette smoke exposure modified the ability of epithelial cells to mount an effective type I interferon response to viral infections and produce the cytokines needed to activate immune cells -- "effectively compromising innate immune host defense responses."

(Source: medpagetoday.com)

Researchers accidentally develop a material that may help fight water shortages



When science experiments don't go as planned, the result can be devastating. For chemist Satish Nune, engineer David Heldebrant, and post-doctoral research associate David Lao of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), however, the result was an astounding material that sucked moisture right out of the air.

The material consists of solid, carbon-rich nanorods, which David Lao created accidentally. When Nune began to investigate the material, the nanorods lost weight with increasing humidity. He assumed the weight loss was due to an error in the vapor analysis instrument he was using, so he placed the material under a high-power microscope and took another look.

At that moment, Nune observed a phenomenon known as "solvent capitation" under solve-phobic confinement, which makes the tiny rods ooze fluid. This didn't make sense. And maybe no one would have believed the result had the researchers not quickly hit "record" and captured a video of the event.

But the phenomenon they witnessed wasn't altogether unexpected — it was actually theorized 20 years earlier, according to PNNL.

Improving life quality

The video might not seem like much, but the discovery holds great real-world potential. "Now that we've gotten over the initial shock of this unforeseen behavior, we're imagining the many ways it could be harnessed to improve the quality of our lives," Heldebrant said in a PNNL news release.

Some of those ideas include water purification systems for developing countries, low-energy water harvesting for arid regions, and anti-sweat fabric that could suck up sweat and expel it as vapor.

Before the researchers get overzealous, Nune points out that they have a lot of work to do in order to manage the material and develop it for real-world applications. "Before we can put these nanorods to good use, we need to be able to control and perfect their size and shape," he said.

One-fifth of the world's population currently lives in regions that suffer from water scarcity, according to the United Nations. Another fifth live in areas that lack infrastructure required to transport clean water safely. And it's only projected to get worst.

(Source: Digital Trends)

Depression decreases adherence to COPD maintenance medications

A recent study in the Annals of the American Thoracic Society found that in a nationally representative sample of Medicare beneficiaries who were newly diagnosed with COPD, adherence to maintenance medications decreased with new episodes of depression.

"With a prevalence of 17 to 44 percent, depression remains one of the most common, yet least recognized and under-treated, co-morbidities among patients with COPD," said researcher Linda Simoni-Wastila, BSPHarm, MSPH, Ph.D., a professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy in Baltimore.

"While depression has been associated with reduced maintenance medication use in other chronic conditions, this is the first study to document the role of causality of concomitant depression on reduced COPD medication adherence in older adults with COPD."

In the study, "Adherence to Maintenance Medications Among Older Adults with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD): The Role of Depression," researchers obtained Medicare administrative claims data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Chronic Condition Data Warehouse and assessed a five percent random sam-

ple of Medicare beneficiaries (average age 68 years) from 2006 to 2012. This included beneficiaries with two years of continuous Medicare parts A, B and D coverage, and at least two prescription fills for inhaled corticosteroids, long-acting β -agonists and long-acting anticholinergics.

Presence of depression

Adherence was based on the number of prescriptions filled. Presence of depression was defined as at least one diagnosis code on at least one inpatient claim, or at least two outpatient claims during the study period.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Russian and Syrian warplanes pounded rebel-held areas of divided second city Aleppo on Saturday as government forces closed in on the rebels' sole remaining supply line, a monitoring group said.

An AFP correspondent in the rebel-held east of the city said the air strikes lasted throughout the night into the morning.

Aleppo, which was Syria's commercial and manufacturing hub before civil war broke out in 2011, has been a key battleground ever since rebels seized eastern neighborhoods of the city the following year.

A two-day truce brokered by Moscow and Washington earlier this month in a bid to rescue a wider ceasefire expired without renewal and Russia warned it would press ahead with its air campaign, saying the rebels had failed to deliver on promises to break ranks with Al-Qaeda loyalists.

The Russian strikes focused on the Castello Road, the only remaining route out of the rebel-held east of the city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Russia planes pound Aleppo as Syria army closes in



"Russian planes are backing a Syrian regime ground offensive on the northern edges of the city, while Syrian planes bomb the eastern neighbourhoods," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said.

A child was among two people killed in strikes on the rebel-held Al-Maysar neighbourhood, the White Helmets civil defence group said.

"In the past two days, my kids and I haven't been able to sleep all night because of the huge blasts, the likes of which we haven't heard before," said 38-year-old shopkeeper Abu Ahmed.

A father of three, Abu Ahmad owns a small convenience store in east Aleppo.

"We haven't been able to get any products or produce for the shop over the past two days because no one can use the (Castello) road," he said.

The renewed government offensive around Aleppo comes a day after another key ally, Lebanese resistance group Hezbollah, pledged to send more fighters to join the "greatest battle" of the war. (Source: AFP)

OFAC elaborates on implementation of the Iran nuclear deal

In every meeting, in every jurisdiction, I reiterate the same vow: OFAC – and indeed the entire US Government – will not stand in the way of permissible business that is within the scope of the sanctions lifting we provided under the JCPOA.

Our message is clear and unwavering: On Implementation Day, the USG broadly lifted our nuclear-related secondary sanctions – those sanctions that apply to non-US persons for transactions conducted outside the United States – by:

- removing more than 400 individuals and entities from OFAC's Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List (known as the SDN List),
- revoking certain Executive orders, and
- issuing waivers of relevant sanctions authorities.

We have explained in great detail that this sanctions lifting means that non-US persons no longer risk being cut off from the US or the US financial system for (1) dealing in the previously restricted sectors of Iran's economy or (2) knowingly conducting transactions with, or providing goods or services in support of, any of the individuals and entities we took off the SDN List.

Of course, certain US sanctions that were outside of the scope of the JCPOA remain in place. These include our sanctions authorities related to Iran's (alleged) support for terrorism, its ballistic missile program, its human rights abuses, and its ... activities in the region.

And more than 200 Iranian or Iran-related individuals and entities remain on the SDN List for such activities, among others, and secondary sanctions continue to apply to transactions with such designated parties.

The other significant area of sanctions that remains is the US primary embargo, which affects US persons or transactions within US jurisdiction.

Even after Implementation Day, US persons continue to be broadly prohibited from engaging in transactions with Iran, beyond three limited areas of relief agreed to in the JCPOA, in addition to longstanding authorizations in place prior to the JCPOA to allow exports of certain goods such as food, medicine, medical products, and agricultural commodities.

We have explained this sanctions lifting – as well as the sanctions that remain in place – as we've traveled the globe. Of course, all of the details also are contained in the extensive guidance and FAQs we published on our website on Implementation Day.

At this point, we've issued nearly 100 pages of guidance, including more than 100 FAQs, which we continue to update. In fact, as many of you know, we issued additional FAQs just last week in response to questions we've received from the business community and other

governments.

- So what does this all add up to?
- Our very clear message is that for foreign persons, there are two primary things to consider as they explore business with Iran. First, what is my secondary sanctions exposure? Second, what are my potential touch-points to US jurisdiction?

We also reiterate that in addition to the extensive information we have on our website related to the JCPOA, we also have resources available through our hotlines and our email inbox. If anyone is confused about the rules and need some guidance, reach out to us, we're here to answer.

I'd also like to offer our perspective on a few critiques that I hear on a relatively frequent basis.

- The first critique we've heard is that our remaining sanctions on Iran are just too complex to understand. While I will concede that our sanctions rules warrant careful study, particularly as they relate to our primary sanctions affecting US persons, I disagree that our rules with respect to non-US persons are too complex.
- As we've said frequently, there are just two simple rules for non-US persons and companies to understand:

- One – don't do business with Iran-related persons that remain on the SDN List, which should not be too difficult, given that many of those that remain on our SDN List – such as the IRGC – remain sanctioned by the EU.
- Two – don't involve a US person, the

Iran has kept its end of the deal, and we have upheld ours and are committed to continuing to do so.

US financial system, or the US in any way when you, as a non-US company, engage with Iran.

- That's it. Those are the rules for non-US individuals and entities to follow.

- The second critique floating around out there suggests that OFAC has not offered sufficient guidance or clarity to allow non-US firms to go back into business with Iran. Not surprisingly, I disagree.
- The extensive guidance and FAQs I mentioned already are far more than we have ever done at any point in our history, at least as far back as we can determine. And we haven't stopped since – we've been traveling the world, speaking at hundreds of meetings, and continuing to issue updated guidance and FAQs, where we can.

- When we've probed companies further about our supposed lack of clarity, their responses usually boil down to one of three concerns:
- One – a non-US company wants to use the US financial system or US persons as part of its Iran business, and wants OFAC to make an exception for it. The answer is generally going to be no, apart from activity that is covered by our existing general licenses or specific licensing policies. So this is not a case of OFAC being unclear; it's a case of companies

- not liking OFAC's guidance.
- Two – a non-US company has US person employees and wants to know whether it can use them as part of its Iran business or whether it needs to wall them off or ring fence them.
- The answer – as it has been for decades involving non-US companies dealing in countries under US sanctions, such as Iran, Cuba, or Sudan – is that the non-US company must wall off its US person employees, even senior executives and compliance officials. This is not a new concept, and many companies have been doing this successfully for years.
- Three – non-US companies have raised the concern that OFAC hasn't provided sufficient clarity on our due diligence expectations for dealing in Iran – particularly because of the (alleged) lack of transparency of the IRGC in its business holdings in Iran. My response here is two-fold:

- First, don't hold OFAC responsible for the IRGC's lack of transparency; that's where corporate actors can and should demand accountability and documentation from their potential Iranian clients, including the Government of Iran.
- Second, in terms of the levels of due diligence expected, that's a question I believe is best posed to the third country's domestic regulator. The IRGC remains on the EU List, as well as OFAC's SDN List, so those questions ought to be posed to the respective regulators.

- As much as many out there would want, OFAC will not be reviewing every company's business plans to ensure that it has established an appropriate compliance program.
- Nor will we be playing "gotcha" for companies that conducted the appropriate due diligence, collected the documentation, but – despite their best efforts – unwittingly found themselves dealing with an IRGC front company.
- Nor do we play "gotcha" with our primary sanctions enforcement. In fact, of all of our investigations of potential violations of our sanctions, over 95 percent result in No Action Letters or Cautionary Letters, neither of which are not public.
- And of the 5 percent that do result in a public enforcement action, such as a Finding of Violation or civil monetary penalty, more than 80 percent were for conduct that was reckless or willful.
- The third critique I've heard is that Iran is not reaping the benefits of the JCPOA because third-country companies fear making deals because of concerns over US sanctions.
- This is clearly not true. Iran already has received significant benefits from the deal.
- According to the Government of Iran and Iranian media reporting, since Imple-

mentation Day:

- Iran has received more than \$3.4 billion in foreign investment;
- It has increased its oil production to 3.5 million barrels per day and is exporting more than 2.3 million bpd;
- It has agreed with two foreign aircraft companies to purchase more than 230 civilian passenger aircraft;
- Its banks have generally reconnected to SWIFT and opened roughly 350 new foreign correspondent accounts;
- And foreign businesses have signed dozens of deals for future investment and business.

Having said that, it is clear that the Government of Iran anticipated near instantaneous reintegration into the global economy following JCPOA sanctions relief, underestimating the changes that Iran would itself need to make, including updating its financial and business systems to meet Western standards.

I will acknowledge that some non-US companies have indicated they do not want to take on any Iran business, despite the sanctions lifting, for a variety of reasons, including perceived sanctions risks.

These companies recognize that there are compliance costs in dealing with jurisdictions that may be assessed as higher risk – whether because of sanctions, instability, or lack of controls – and these businesses may have determined that the benefits of such trade do not outweigh the costs.

But many non-US companies have clarified to us that their so-called "sanctions concerns" center more on Iran's AML/CFT deficiencies, its lack of corporate transparency, and its status on the FATF blacklist.

These are real concerns and will be best addressed by Iran taking strides to make its investment climate more in line with Western standards.

And we believe that it's critical that business not simply use "US sanctions" as shorthand for these types of concerns. Not only does that inaccurately point a finger of blame on the USG and on OFAC but it also diminishes the pressure on the Government of Iran to undertake the long overdue and necessary changes it must make to its financial system to truly reenter the world economy.

Iran needs to continue to receive the message that it must modernize its economy, update its technology and business standards, increase transparency, and avoid provocative actions that diminish the confidence of Western business and investors.

In the meantime, OFAC will continue to be available to answer questions relating to US sanctions. And the USG will continue to live up to our commitments under the JCPOA.

We're just about one year down and less than five months from Implementation Day, and we are well prepared to keep this deal going for many more to come.

Thank you.

Turning to post-sanctions period, he said: "After a

The director general noted that top international rating agencies including Moody's and Fitch are expected to start assessing Iranian firms which could be helpful in the expansion of banking relations between the two countries. For his part, Hossein Eyvazlou, a board member of EDBI said that his bank's operations are in accordance with strict anti-money laundering international norms, adding: "We are also keen on expanding ties with Brazil's BNDES bank."

After lifting of Iran's sanctions in January, EDBI correspondences with a number of banks across the world, he opined.

Turning to post-sanctions period, he said: "After a

landmark deal signed between Iran and P5+1 in mid-July 2015 and implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) which put into force in Jan. 2016, Iran managed to establish brokerage ties with more than 50 foreign banks across the world."

He expressed his satisfaction over resumption of ties with Brazilian side and said: "Given the stable economic situation of Iran in region, Iran can help Brazil to enhance its trade and business status in the region."

In the end, he said: "EDBI is ready to establish SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) and brokerage ties with Brazilian banks such as BNDES Bank."

NEWS

Firefighters pull fox out of well

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The head of fire rescue department in Bijar, a city in western Kordistan Province, reported the rescue of a fox out of a mandug water well.

According to IRNA on Friday, Rasoul Heidari said that once a call came through about a fox fallen into a 30-meter well in proximity to Bijar, firefighters at the closest station to the scene got into the fire truck straightaway to rescue the wild animal.

Fortunately, after half an hour of rescue operation, the team successfully elevated the fox out of the well and once he was freed, they took him back to his native habitat.

Heidari recommended farmers intend to excavate water wells in the region, to raise the wellheads to at least 0.5 meter above the ground surface to prevent the fall of nocturnal animals in them in the dark of the night.

If it not be possible to raise the casing of the well pits above the ground, he stressed, then the wells should be covered securely to avert accidents.

Support jumps for Texas secession after Brexit

Support for the secession movement in the U.S. state of Texas has soared following Britain's startling vote to leave the European Union.

The Texas Nationalist Movement gained new momentum on social media and its petition got a boost after Thursday's referendum in Britain, known as Brexit.

TNM President Daniel Miller called on Governor Greg Abbott to schedule a statewide referendum on "Texas independence."

"The win for Brexit opens the door for Texit by establishing, concretely, that it is possible to have an adult conversation on independence and letting the people have the final say," Miller said in a statement on Friday.

"It is past time that the people of Texas had their say on our continued relationship with the union and its sprawling federal bureaucracy," he added.

TNM boasts over 261,000 supporters on its website and is calling for more Texans to join the secessionist movement and bring pressure on Abbott to allow a vote of independence from America.

Texas was an independent country from 1836 to 1845 and seceding from the US has long been an issue for debate in the southern state.

TNM has been leading the effort for 10 years to get a referendum on a ballot.

In 2012, there was a petition that called on the White House to allow Texas to withdraw from the union. The White House responded that it would not let political debate tear the country apart. (Source: ABC News)

Too early to project impact of Brexit on integrity of trans-European unity: analyst

Over the British interests. Of course, the unity of the United Kingdom is not in danger at this time, but the long-term implication of Great Britain's exit from the EU could affect the viability of the United Kingdom as it stands today.

The vote to quit the EU has inflamed similar feelings in countries such as France and the Netherlands. How do you assess this move?

A: It is too early to project the impact of the United Kingdom's exit from the EU on the integrity of trans-European unity. But, it is possible that anti-EU dissenting voices in countries like France and the Netherlands will become louder and these countries may be forced to hold referenda to determine their own future status in the EU.

Can Britain's exit from the union be interpreted as the failure of Ernst Haas's theory of neofunctionalism at least at regional level?

A: Although Ernst Haas's theory of neofunctionalism assumed that the growing economic interdependence at the regional level will have positive spillover effects in other areas of regional integration, the history of the European integration has demonstrated that the supranational neoliberal market rules have not been able to overcome national obstacles to genuine integration. Also, we should not forget that the expansion of the European Union membership resulted in bringing to the EU countries that were economically weak and became an economic and social burden to the EU. The relative success that we witnessed in the early years of the European integration was largely due to the fact that it included countries with similar levels of economic development and compatible sociopolitical outlook.

Brexit: A wake up call for the EU, but will it listen?

Europe needs to return to the fundamental basics of democracy. Instead of increasing policy competencies in opaque institutions in Brussels, power should be returned to the member states and to the people. The intrusive and excessive EU regulations need to be curtailed. Economic policies of growth need to be pursued.

This is not about destroying the EU. This is about the supremacy of the nation state and the sanctity of national sovereignty. The UK now has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to show that life can flourish outside the EU.

But the other member states will have a fight on their hands: Clawing back powers from Brussels will be no easy task. As the people living in the EU become more disenchanted, and the elite in Brussels become more aloof, there is no other alternative going forward.

Whatever happens post-Brexit in the EU, it cannot be business as usual. (Source: AL Jazeera)

Mulling over restoration of brokerage ties with Brazilian banks kicks off

ECONOMY A couple of days ago, a Brazilian economic delegation visited Iran in order to explore avenues for restoring brokerage ties between Iran and Brazil. The visiting delegation met Member of Board of Directors of Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) Dr. Hossein Eyvazlou.

In his meeting with officials from Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI), Director General of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Trade and Investment Promotion Department, Rodrigo de Azeredo Santo said: "The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the U.S. Treasury Department has given Brazilian banks permission to do business with Iran in euro."

The director general noted that top international rating agencies including Moody's and Fitch are expected to start assessing Iranian firms which could be helpful in the expansion of banking relations between the two countries. For his part, Hossein Eyvazlou, a board member of EDBI said that his bank's operations are in accordance with strict anti-money laundering international norms, adding: "We are also keen on expanding ties with Brazil's BNDES bank."

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Worthless people live only to eat and drink; people of worth eat and drink only to live. *Socrates*

LEARN ENGLISH

Government Reactions to Protests

Tom: Have you seen the news?
 Marianne: No, what's happening?
 Tom: People in McQuillanland are **rising up against** the dictator and **rallying** against his government.
 Marianne: Wow, this is big. I thought the dictator would order a **media blackout** and we wouldn't hear any news out of McQuillanland.
 Tom: There is a media blackout, but people are using social media to tell the world what's going on. Hundreds of thousands of **protesters** are **clashing** with police, and the government is having no success **putting down** the protests.
 Marianne: Has it been **violent**?
 Tom: It's early days yet, but the government has already used **tear gas** and **fired into** the crowd. It's hard to say how many people have been hurt.
 Marianne: So this may be the end of **tyranny** in McQuillanland.
 Tom: Don't bet on it. The dictator has **ruled with an iron fist** and won't hesitate to use any means necessary to **stay in power**.
 Marianne: Well, the protesters have a **fighting chance** and I'm betting that they'll topple the government and that **ruthless** tyrant!

(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

rise up against: if a large group of people rise, they try to defeat the government, army etc. that is controlling them
rally: a large public meeting, especially one that is held outdoors to support a political idea, protest et
media blackout: it refers to the censorship of news related to a certain topic, particularly in mass media, for any reason, a media blackout may be voluntary, or may in some countries be enforced by the government or state
protester: someone who takes part in a public activity such as a demonstration in order to show their opposition to something
clash: if two armies, groups etc. clash, they start fighting
put down: to stop a revolution etc. by using force
violent: involving actions that are intended to injure or kill people, by hitting them, shooting them etc.
tear gas: a gas that stings your eyes, used by the police to control crowds
fire into: to shoot
crowd: a large group of people who have gathered together to do something, for example to watch something or protest about something
tyranny: cruel or unfair control over other people
rule with an iron fist: to control a group of people in a very severe way
stay in power: to remain in the position of having political control of a country or government
a fighting chance: a chance to win but only with a struggle
topple: to take power away from a leader or government, especially by force; overthrow
ruthless: determined and firm when making unpleasant decisions

QUIZ OF THE DAY

174) Neither ___ there.
 a) was
 b) were
 c) Either could be used here.
 (Quiz No. 173 answer: a)

PHRASAL VERB

Throw up

■ **Meaning:** vomit; be sick
 ■ **For example:** I nearly threw up when I saw the injured passengers.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Grasp all, lose all

■ **Explanation:** trying to obtain everything will often result in gaining nothing

A fateful encounter turns teen's life around

Sixteen-year-old Chauncy Black had no idea that offering to carry a man's groceries in exchange for doughnuts would lead to thousands of dollars in donations for his family.

"This kid was really brave," said Matt White, whom Black approached at a Memphis Kroger store. "The look on his face was kind of broken. He looked hungry. I just thought to myself, if I was his age, I don't think I could go up to someone and ask them for food. I looked at him like he was my hero."

"Faith takes care of a lot of stuff," Black said, describing why he asked White for food. "That's what I had: faith. And he looked like he would help me out."

White, 30, went back into the store with the teen and bought him groceries and toiletries. Then he drove Black home so he wouldn't have to ride the bus. That's when White met Black's disabled mother, Barbara Martin, and saw their living conditions.

Black and Martin live in a house with nothing but a couch and a couple of lamps. Burglars wiped them out. They don't even have beds. Instead, they sleep on pads made out of sleeping bags. And



Matt White

their refrigerator was empty.

As a result, White set up a GoFundMe account called "Chauncy's Chance". The initial goal was to raise \$250 to buy a lawnmower so the straight-A student could earn money cutting grass. But the fund has since

exploded, raising more than \$120,000 in 10 days.

Black couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the outpouring of support and said, "I was very happy and proud."

"I am blown away how God has used the power of their story to provide so

much already for them," White wrote in a Facebook post. "I pray that he will continue to do so and that we will have all the funds and resources we need to secure Chauncy and his mom for the rest of their lives."

White is now hoping to raise enough money to move Black and his mother into a new home. He's also looking to buy them new furniture and clothes.

As for Black, he says he would like to eventually start his own lawn service.

"It means a whole lot to us and our family," the teen said. "We are very thankful to all of those who reached out to get us into a better home and a safe environment."

Choking back tears, his mother said, "I'm still stunned. I just don't know what to say. It's just so wonderful. I just know God is good and he sent a good person into our lives."

The fateful encounter at the grocery store also marked the beginning of a new friendship. According to White, he has started going to church with Black every Sunday and they enjoy an ice cream treat afterward.

(Source: CNN)

Florida man brags about burglary on Facebook, lands him in jail

A Florida burglar who posted a Facebook video bragging about a \$500,000 jewelry haul has landed himself and one of his accomplices in jail, police said on Thursday.

Officers from Pinecrest, Florida said they arrested Raderius Glenn Collins, 18, after he uploaded the video to Facebook on May 27. His friend, Marcus Terrell Parker, 27, was arrested after another burglary on June 9, police said.

They are still searching for a third suspect, who is seen in the video in the passenger seat of the car flashing \$100 bills to the camera.

The video, which runs more than seven minutes long and has over 3,000 views, showed the men bragging about their illegal earnings, exclaiming: "We got a safe" and "Can someone say check please?"

The man in the driver's seat makes sure the traffic light is still red and proceeds to proudly reveal his bag of cash to the camera while the other two men cheer.

The burglars stole a safe from a home with jewelry valued at more than \$500,000. Police say Collins and Parker later burglarized a second home and stole jewelry valued at more than \$10,000 and a screwdriver that would later tie one of the arrested men to the burglary.

One of the arrested subjects told



police that he and the other two subjects sold the stolen jewelry to a jewelry and watch shop and received \$1,300 each in return.

Michelle Hammontree, communications director for Pinecrest, told Reuters that the Facebook video helped police establish a link between the burglary and the jewelry store, where the suspects pawned their ill-gotten goods. The bag featured in the video is the same one given to the suspects at the store.

"It was just one dumb decision after another," Hammontree said.

Police said that while they are seeking a third suspect in the May 27 burglary, it is unclear whether he had involvement in the second break-in.

(Source: Reuters)

Yoga can help to cultivate healthier lifestyles: Ban

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message on the International Day of Yoga, said Yoga can help to cultivate healthier lifestyles.

The full text of his message reads:

Yoga is an ancient physical, mental and spiritual practice that originated in India and is now practiced in various forms around the world. The word 'yoga' derives from Sanskrit and means to join or to unite, symbolizing the union of body and consciousness.

Yoga balances body and soul, physical health and mental well-being. It promotes harmony among people, and between ourselves and the natural world. Recognizing its universal appeal, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.

This year's observance of the International Day of Yoga highlights the important role healthy living plays in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted last year by all 193 United Nations Member States.

As exercise, yoga has multiple benefits. Physical inactivity is linked with a number of non-communicable diseases, such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, which are among the leading causes of illness and death worldwide. By improving fitness, teaching us



how to breathe correctly, and working to diminish stress, yoga can help to cultivate healthier lifestyles.

Practicing yoga can also help raise awareness of our role as consumers of the planet's resources and as individuals with a duty to respect and live in peace with our neighbors. All these elements are essential to building a sustainable future of dignity and opportunity for all.

On this International Day of Yoga, I urge everyone to embrace healthier choices and lifestyles and to commit to unity with our fellow human beings, regardless of ethnicity, faith, age, gender identity or sexual orientation. Let us celebrate this Day – and every day – as members of one human family sharing one common, precious home.

(Source: UNIC)

IN FOCUS Mehr/ Narges Abbasi



The traditional Tolou Khorshid hotel is located in the heart of the historical city of Isfahan. It is in close proximity to Jame mosque and Atiq square.

Health minister: 'National will' needed to reduce road fatalities

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A "national will" is needed to reduce road fatalities, Health Minister Hassan Hashemi tweeted on Friday.

The remarks by the minister came after a bus, carrying 45 soldiers from Kerman to Shiraz, plunged into a valley early on Wednesday, killing 19 and injuring dozens.

"Regrettably, in our country car accident is the primary cause of death among the youth between 15 to 29 and third most important cause of death in the country. However, road accident is the ninth cause of death in the world," the minister stated.

He also said Iran is only ahead of six African and an Asian country in terms of road fatalities.

The minister added, "We must know that political view (toward such issues) will mislead us. To reduce damages from accidents we should join hands and use all our potentials to reduce such bitter incidents."

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

Iran Flute Society to hold seminar in Tehran

The Iran Flute Society is scheduled to hold its 6th Annual Tehran Flute Seminar at the College of Fine Arts of the University of Tehran from July 12 to 18.

Flute virtuosos Julie Brunet-Jailly from France, Artashes Grigoryan from Armenia and Vienna-based Iranian Flutist Reza Najfar are among the musicians scheduled to give performances on the sidelines of the event.

The organizers have also arranged a number of master classes and workshops.

سمینار انجمن فلوت ایران در تهران برگزار می شود

ششمین سمینار سالانه انجمن فلوت ایران ۲۲ تا ۲۸ تیر ماه امسال در پردیس هنرهای زیبا دانشگاه تهران برگزار می شود.

جولی برونِت زائی فلوتیست فرانسوی متخصص موسیقی، آرتاشس گریگوریان از ارمنستان، و رضا نازفر فلوتیست پیشکسوت ایرانی از وین از جمله هنرمندانی هستند که در حاشیه ی این سمینار به اجرای برنامه می پردازند.

کلاس های پیشرفته ی موسیقی و کارگاه های آموزشی نیز در این سمینار برگزار خواهد شد.

Gold first, world record second for Rahman

Iran's Siamand Rahman, the strongest Paralympian in the world, is hoping to reach the 300kg mark and win the Paralympic title at Rio 2016.

The 28-year-old broke his own world record earlier this year at a World Cup in Dubai, United Arab States, with a 296kg lift and seeks now to hold onto the title he won at London 2012.

"My training is based on the goal I am pursuing," he said. "If I do not have any problems and things go well, I will lift 300kg at the Paralympic Games."

Rahman knows that he should first secure the gold medal in his first attempt in the over 107kg category before trying to break the world record for a sixth time.

"I feel good and with positive energies," said Rahman, who is also the reigning world and Asian champion.

"My exercises keep me highly motivated and I am hopeful to shine in Rio."

Rahman made the decision to attempt to lift of 300kg in Rio after a long consultation with his team.

"A coach, better than anyone else, knows how each athlete can perform. My coaches consider I am in good physical conditions and I always respect what they say," he stated.

"I have lifted more 300kg in the training sessions, but at the same time I have to prevent potential injuries."

But Rahman assures that there will be other factors that will influence his performance at September's Paralympic Games.

"It is not just about my abilities but many other things. There is a long distance between Iran and Brazil, and that can affect travellers, especially people with impairment," he said.

"Everything should be perfect for me to lift 300kg. If I am physically and mentally strong, I will do it"



There are two people that have helped Rahman to become who he is today and have encouraged him to aim high.

"At this stage of my career, I think about the people

that taught me that with strength, someone can accomplish anything. And those people are no one but my father and mother," he said.

(Source: Paralympic.org)

Nothing is impossible at World Olympic Qualifying, Mashhoun says

S P O R T S Head of Iran Basketball Federation **d e s k** Mahmoud Mashhoun says that there is a small chance of booking an Olympic quota place but nothing is impossible in sports.

The Iranian team left Tehran on Saturday to hold a training camp in Latvia ahead of the FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Iran will play two warm-up matches against New Zealand and Latvia on June 26 and June 28 respectively in its training camp.

"Our team is in good shape at the moment but we have a difficult task ahead of us. I don't expect to qualify for the Olympics but on the other hand I believe that nothing is impossible," Mashhoun told Mehr news agency.

He went on to explain that the German coach Dirk Bauermann has given the team a fresh impetus.

"We have invited some young players to the national



team. With these players, Iran won the West Asia Basketball Association (WABA) tournament in early June and also won the 2016 FIBA Asia Challenge last week," he added.

"I believe that our young players have a bright future. Regardless of the results in the tournaments, they will earn experience and show their capabilities in the next competitions," Mashhoun concluded.

The FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament will be held between July 4 and July 9 at the multi-purpose Pala Alpitour indoor sports arena in Turin, Italy.

Iran, Greece and Mexico will trade blows in Group A, and the top two sides will advance to the Final Round to meet the top two sides from Group B, which includes Tunisia, Croatia and Italy.

The first-place team in Group A will take on the second-place team from Group B in one semi-final, and the side that comes top of Group B will go up against the second-top team in Group A in the other semi-final. The winners will then meet in a do-or-die showdown for a spot in the Olympics.

Iran's women football moves up two places at FIFA rankings



The Iranian women football team has moved up two places in the latest FIFA rankings released on Friday.

Iran climbed to 55th position with 1418 points.

It's while Iran has not played a single international match in the last year.

On the summit, reigning world champion the United States kept its place as the number one women team in the world, followed by

Germany, France, England and Australia.

Sixth to tenth places remained unchanged with Sweden, Japan, Brazil, Korea DPR and Canada completing the top 10 best women teams in the world.

The next FIFA Women's World Ranking will be released on 26 August, 2016.

(Source: Tasnim)

IPL top scorer Taremi remains at Persepolis



S P O R T S Persepolis striker Mehdi Taremi has extended his contract with the team for two more years on Saturday after his move to Europe failed due to unknown reasons.

The 25-year old striker was eager to continue his career in Europe as he had an offer from an unknown Greek side but his move failed and he decided to remain at Persepolis.

Taremi, who joined Persepolis in the 2014 summer with a two-year contract,

was one of the key members of Branko Ivankovic's team who nearly missed the title and finished second on the goal difference in the IPL 2015-16 season.

He scored 18 goals in 23 appearances for Persepolis to win the 2015-16 Iran Professional League top scorer award.

Persepolis has already signed Sasan Ansari, Ehsan Alvanzadeh, Alireza Beyranvand, Mohammad Aram Tab, Vahid Amiri and Jalal Hosseini in the transfer market.

Lionel Messi: 'I hope to change history and become a champion'

Argentina's Lionel Messi is determined to "change history and become a champion" as his side face Chile in the Copa America final on Monday.

Messi spoke of his sadness at having missed out with Argentina in consecutive finals – at the 2014 World Cup and the Copa America last year – and is focused on putting that right next week.

"The final is important for me because I could win a Copa America," Messi said at a press conference.

"It's the third final I've got to play in with the national team and I hope to change history one day and become a champion"

"Winning would certainly be the best gift we could give,



not only for me [in reference to turning 29 on Friday] but the whole group. We must seize this opportunity and win the cup by any means.

"[On possibly losing a third straight final with Argentina], I don't know if it'd be a failure.

"Still, this is my third consecutive final and not winning it would be a big disappointment."

"We're feeling very well, very excited and raring to play this game. We've arrived [for the final] spectacularly, but it's true that we have to prove it on the pitch.

"We've grown a lot as a team, as a group, and become more united this past year. We're focused on the cup and no-one can change that." (Source: Eurosport)

Germany's Boateng back in training for Slovakia game

Germany central defender Jerome Boateng returned to training on Saturday after overcoming a muscle injury and appeared fit for Sunday's Euro 2016 round of 16 clash against Slovakia.

Boateng picked up a calf muscle injury towards the end of their 1-0 victory over Northern Ireland this week and his partici-

pation on Sunday was in doubt.

He did not train with the team on Friday, undergoing an individual session involving cycling and jogging, and seemed fit on Saturday, as Germany prepare for their departure to Lille later in the day.

The 27-year-old, who has resumed his World-Cup winning partnership in central

defence with Mats Hummels, has helped the world champions keep a clean sheet in all three of their group stage matches in the tournament so far.

The winner of the round of 16 match will next play either Italy or Euro holders Spain in the quarter-finals.

(Source: Reuters)



Henry handball gives Irish extra motivation v France

Thierry Henry's handball sent such shockwaves that barely anyone remembers it was actually William Gallas who scored the infamous goal France that ruined Ireland's chances of a World Cup appearance more than six years ago.

On Sunday, Les Bleus face the Irish in Lyon in a Euro 2016 last-16 clash in which the host nation will start as heavy favourites.

In the stands, there is little doubt the Irish fans, who are enjoying growing popularity in France thanks to their good-natured presence in the streets across the country, will be out in force.

Qualification for a quarter-final against Iceland or England, however, will be decided on the field, where the Irish will take extra motivation from the drama at the Stade de France in 2009.

"It is absolutely (extra motivation), but we've got all the motivation in the world here regardless of that, we've got a side that are prepared and actually love playing for their country and that's very, very important. It's a driving force," Ireland manager Martin O'Neill told reporters.

His assistant Roy Keane believes the team have the qualities to trouble the French, who have been remarkably quiet on the Henry incident.

"It's massive game against France who will be red-hot favourites," he said, adding that Ireland's goal was to create another bit of history.

Keane hopes Ireland will make the most of their set pieces. "I'd like to think every time we get the ball in the box their fans will be nervous wrecks," he said.

France, who have yet to play a full match at their best in the tournament, have only conceded one goal in three matches, a penalty, but the back four have not been really tested.

Coach Didier Deschamps is likely to field the team who beat Romania in the tournament's curtain-raiser, with striker Olivier Giroud supported by Antoine Griezmann and Dimitri Payet -- himself a lethal weapon on set pieces.

France played their last group game on Sunday and will have had three more days to prepare than Ireland, who clinched their qualification with a last-gasp 1-0 win over a depleted Italy team on Wednesday.

"In the past, some teams have had a lot of time to get ready and they were knocked out," France assistant coach Guy Stephan said.

"You have to find the balance between recovery, preparation and training. It was difficult because at the beginning of the week we did not know who we would face."

Giroud and defender Adil Rami missed a training session each to nurse minor problems but will be fit for Sunday.

(Source: Reuters)

Darmian: Buffon is better than De Gea

The two goalkeepers will clash when Spain take on Italy at Euro 2016 and the Manchester United defender insists his international team-mate is better than his club-mate

Manchester United defender Matteo Darmian insists that Italy international Gianluigi Buffon is a better goalkeeper than David De Gea.

Darmian has experience of playing in front of Buffon, the legendary 38-year-old Juventus stopper, and De Gea, with the Spaniard becoming one of the best goalkeepers in the world in recent seasons at Old Trafford.

And, ahead of Italy's clash with Spain in the first knockout stage of Euro 2016, Darmian has claimed that Buffon will forever be considered a better stopper than De Gea.

"It's great to play against David, he is one of the best goalkeepers in the world. Of course, it will be difficult to score, but we also have a great goalkeeper," he told reporters.

"They are two of the best goalkeepers in the world and, yes, there are similarities between David and Gigi [Buffon], for sure. But I think that Gianluigi Buffon is the best goalkeeper of all time. For me as a defender I feel very lucky to play with them."

Italy won Group E, ahead of Belgium, while Spain finished second in Group D, losing out to Croatia.

(Source: Goal)

23 June 2016			
FRA		20:30	IRL
23 June 2016			
GER		20:30	SVK
23 June 2016			
HUN		23:30	BEL



SINCE 1979

Poem of the day

Free of who I was, free of presence, free of dangerous fear,
hope,
free of mountainous wanting.
The here-and-now mountain is a tiny piece of a piece of straw
blown off into emptiness.

Rumi

Prayer Times

Noon:13:07 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:04 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Sina Sarlak, Amir Nojan to duet in U.S.

T A R T TEHRAN — Vocalist Sina Sarlak and santur virtuoso Amir Nojan are scheduled to perform pieces of Iranian traditional in the U.S.

The Shiraz Art Academy is the organizer of their concerts, which will be held at Starbright Theater in Silicon Valley, San Jose on July 15 and 16.



Iran Philharmonic Choir to perform at Vahdat Hall

T A R T TEHRAN — The Iran Philharmonic Choir under the baton of conductor Alireza Shafaqinejad will give concerts at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on August 3 and 4.

Renowned pianist and composer Saman Eteshami along with several other instrumentalists will accompany the 80-person choir during the performances, which will feature pieces of classical Iranian music.



Book of Leader's views on major political issues published

T A R T TEHRAN — A collection of the stances adopted by the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about major issues from 1989 to 2015 has recently been published in a book entitled "I Am a Revolutionary".

Compiled by Morteza Mahdavi-Yeganeh, the book contains the Leader's views on a wide array of subjects, including the Islamic awakening in Arab countries and Iran's nuclear issue.

Saqi is the publisher of the book.



Homayun Shajarian to give concert in Belgium

T A R T TEHRAN — The celebrated Iranian vocalist Homayun Shajarian will perform at Henry Le Boeuf Hall in Brussels on October 29.

Composer and kamancheh virtuoso Sohrab Purnazeri, tar player Azad Mirzapour, santur player Mahyar Tarihi, daf player Hossein Rezainia and percussionist Ain Meshkatiyan will accompany Shajarian in the performance, which will be organized by Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES



Painting

■ Kamaledin Behzad Gallery is currently playing host to two separate exhibitions.

Paintings by Zeynab Yazdani, Narges Adilpur and Jabbar Nazari are on display in an exhibition at one of the gallery's halls. Sara Vasefnia is the curator of the exhibit.



Another hall of the gallery is showcasing pencil paintings by Leila Alai.

The exhibits run until June 30 at the gallery located at 284 Shanzdah-e Azar St. off Keshavarz Blvd.

Iranian movies line up for French festival

T A R T TEHRAN — Three movies by Iranian directors will be screened in various sections of the 39th Outdoor Short Film Festival of Grenoble, which will be held in the French city from July 5 to 10.

"The Return" by Yusef Hatamikia will be shown in the official section of the event.

The film is about a Christian criminal who asks for a priest at the foot of the gallows but he meets a Muslim seminary student instead.

"The Little Boy", an animation by Mona Abdollah-Shahi, is also scheduled to go on screen in the Young Audiences Competition while "Save" by Amir-Ali Mirderikvand will be screened in the non-competitive section of the festival.

Ten-year-old Quran phenom's recitation appears on DVD

CULTURE TEHRAN — DVDs containing recitation of the Holy Quran by Hannaeh Khalafi, a 10-year-old memorizer of the entire Quran, was unveiled during a ceremony at the 24th International Holy Quran Exhibition on Friday.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati where Hannaneh recited several verses from the Surah of Nur (the 24th surah of the Holy Quran), Persian media have reported.

A short film on the different processes of preparing and recording the collection was screened for the participants at the ceremony.

Expert on the Holy Quran recitation Mohammad-Hossein Sabzali who has collaborated in preparing the collection, called Hannaneh a genius who has been invited to different countries to perform.

Sabzali said that the visual section of the collection is also being prepared and will be released soon.

He asked the minister to prepare and donate copies of this collection to young reciters.

The Holy Quran is comprised of 114 surahs (chapter), and is divided into 30 sections, each of which is called a joz.

Quran exhibit is currently underway at Tehran's Imam Khomeini Mosalla and will be running until June 28.



Quran memorizer Hannaeh Khalafi in an undated photo

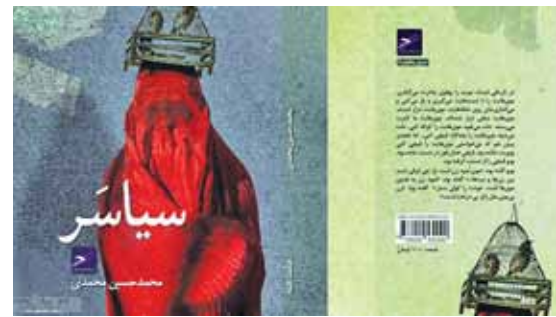
Afghan writer's new novel recounts Taliban oppression against women

T A R T TEHRAN — The Italy-based Afghan writer Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadi narrated Taliban oppression against women in his latest novel "Siasar", which has recently been published in Iran.

The book tells the story of a woman who was forced to take cover in the basement of her home in a region under the Taliban, Mohammadi has written on his Facebook.

The book was introduced by publisher Hekmat Kalameh during the 29th Tehran International Book Fair in May.

Mohammadi, 41, was forced to flee the war in his homeland in 1982 in search of hope and safety in



The cover of Afghan writer Mohammad-Hossein Mohammadi's latest novel "Siasar" about Taliban oppression against women

Iran.

He left Iran in 1996 to start a new life in his motherland Mazar-i-Sharif. However, he was forced again to flee the city just one later after the outbreak of war by the Taliban.

He was admitted to the M.A. degree in filmmaking in Iran.

His short story collection "The Red Figs in Mazar-i-Sharif" won several literary awards, including the Hushang Golshiri Award and Isfahan Literary Award.

An Italian translation of the book by Narges Samadi was published by Ponte33 in Italy in November 2012.

His credits also include "Being Forgotten" and "The Afghan Story Writing Dictionary".

PICTURE OF THE DAY

© Mehr/Faезeh Salimi



Marzieh Ali-Najafi holds a jajim, a type of Persian rug, in the courtyard of her workshop in the village of Ziarat near the northern Iranian city of Gorgan on June 24, 2016.

Nezameddin Kiai to donate antique tape recorders to Film Museum of Iran

T A R T TEHRAN — Sound recording engineer Nezameddin Kiai plans to donate two of his old tape recorders to the Film Museum of Iran.

Stellavox Sm5 and the mini Nagra SN are the two Swiss made tape recorders Kiai has used in recording Iranian films, the museum announced in a press release published on Saturday.

"It was in 1970's when I was working for German TV and was attracted to the Stellavox Sm5 for its distinguishing characteristics. It is a special tape recorder and was unique due to its small size in those years," Kiai has said.

"The Nagra SN is also a high-precision miniature audio tape recorder mostly used in the motion picture industry, for it was used for recording the actor's voice when shooting a movie and it could also record the voice longer than other recorders," he added.

He also said that he has used Nagra SN for recording "The Runner", a 1985 film by Amir Naderi.

The two recorders are due to go on display in the "Dubbing and Voice" Hall of the museum.

"Homeland", "The Orange Suit", "The Crazy Castle", "Age Forty", and "From Tehran to Paradise" are among the films Kiai has collaborated in as a sound recorder.

Chicago loses "Star Wars" museum to California

CHICAGO (Reuters) — Filmmaker George Lucas is pulling his "Star Wars" museum project out of Chicago in favor of a California location after he ran into legal challenges from an open-spaces group in Chicago, he said on Friday.

Lucas blasted the parks group that had sued to stop the building of the museum on the Lake Michigan shore in an area that is currently a parking lot for a sports arena.

"No one benefits from continuing their seemingly unending litigation to protect a parking lot," he said in a statement from the museum.

The statement said the museum's

leaders confirmed it would now be located in California but did not specify in which city.

Friends of the Parks, the group that filed suit last year to stop the museum project, did not immediately respond to requests for comment. The group argued the museum would be an eyesore on the waterfront and that it violated public use policy governing development on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel had pushed for the project, saying it would bring jobs, investment and tourism to Chicago. He lamented Lucas' decision, which came after he and other political leaders had

tried to negotiate with the parks group.

"Chicago's loss will be another city's gain," Rahm said in a statement. He said the city was losing a \$1.5 billion gift.

The proposed museum would feature exhibitions of Lucas' collection of paintings, illustrations and digital art from the blockbuster "Star Wars" movie franchise he started in 1977.

The Chicago location was announced in 2014 and approved by Chicago's City Council, the park district, planning commission and state officials.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti immediately stepped up his quest to woo the museum to his city with a

statement saying: "The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art would be perfect for Los Angeles."

A judge had allowed the lawsuit filed by Friends of the Parks to move forward, which spurred Emanuel's office into negotiations.

Emanuel's office offered an alternative site for the museum, but it also was on the lakefront and the parks group said it would also try to block that location in the courts.

Lucas' wife, Mellody Hobson, is one of the main drivers of the project and was very interested in putting the museum in Chicago, her hometown.