Many great NTERNATIONALDAILY Persian poets influenced by Imam Ali(AS): scholar 12

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'Smart money' moving towards Iranian capital market: IFB CEO

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW By: Haniyeh Sadat Jafariyeh

To reach an average 8 percent economic growth during the next five-year period, according to decree of the Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, and following withdrawal of the financial embargo in January, the Iranian administration is shifting from a bank-based financial system into a more market-based one (i.e. switching the trend of financing away from banks towards securities market). This would create great plenty of opportunities and special incentives to entice overseas investments into the country in a bid to finance economic projects.

To capture a comprehensive view over the current conditions of the Iranian capital market, the Tehran Times conducted an interview with Amir Hamooni, CEO of Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran's secondary securities exchange. Following is the full text of interview with him.

How do you evaluate the general trend of IFB market after implementation of the nuclear deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in January?

After the execution of the JCPOA and in the last three months of previous Iranian calendar year of 1394 (December 21, 2015- March 19, 2016), IFB could manage to attract up to



"Muhtesem Suleyman" arrives at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — Turkish author and historian e s k Yavuz Bahadiroglu's "Muhtesem Suleyman ve Hurrem Sultan" has recently published in Persian by Nimaj

The book rendered into Per-

sian by Mahla Mansuri tells the



version of "Muhtesem

story of Ottoman Sultan Suleyman I (1494-1566) who is commonly known as Suleyman the Magnificent in the West as well as his wife Hurrem Sultan, a slave girl who ultimately became Sultan. Suleyman Í was also an accomplished poet who wrote in both Persian and Turkish. A vast array of monumental structures was constructed throughout the Ottoman Empire under his patronage.

Suleyman ve Hurrem Sultan" The sultan sought to turn Constantinople into the center of Islamic civilization by implementing a series of architectural projects, including construction of bridges, mosques and palaces as well as setting up various charitable and social establishments.

Lionel Messi retires from international football

Lionel Messi has retired from international duty after missing in a penalty shootout as Argentina lost a fourth major final in nine years.

"For me, the national team is over." he said after defeat by Chile in the Copa America final. "I've done all I can. It hurts not to be a champion."

Messi, 29, has won eight La Liga titles and four Champions Leagues with Spanish side Barcelona. But his only major international honour is Olympic gold at the 2008 Games. As well as losing two Copa America finals on penalties to Chile, Messi was in the Argentina side beaten 1-0 by Germany in the 2014 World Cup final.

The forward, who was been awarded the Ballon d'Or five



times, was also on the losing side against Brazil in the 2007 Copa Ámerica final.

"It's been four finals, I tried," added Messi, who made his debut for Argentina in 2005 and has played 113 times for his country.

"It was the thing I wanted the most, but I couldn't get it, so I think it's over.

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"I think this is best for everyone. First of all for me, then for everyone. I think there's a lot of people who want this, who obviously are not satisfied, as we are not satisfied reaching a final and not winning it," Messi said. (Source: BBC)

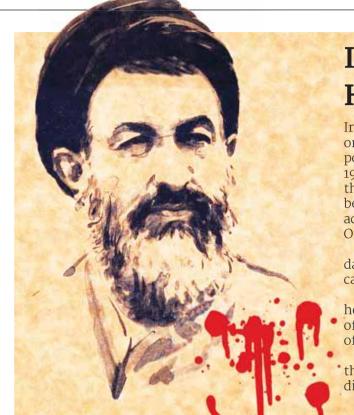
Saudis set conditions for Iran only: hajj official

TPOLITICAL TEHRAN — Tehd e s k ran has categorically rejected claims by the Saudis that the draft contract for Hajj pilgrimage that they had proposed to the Iranian side

other Islamic countries, saying nothing could be further from the truth.

Some Saudi ambassadors to Islamic countries had claimed the content of the this year's Hajj ritual for Iranians. →2

tiators were trying to work out was the same, preemptively seeking to put the ball in Iran's court for the cancellation of



Iran marks Haft-e Tir bombing

Iran on Monday commemorated the memory of 72 officials who were martyred in a powerful bomb blast in Tehran on June 28, 1981. The explosion happened at the office of the Islamic Republic Party while the members were holding a meeting. The terrorist act was carried out by the Mojaheddin Khalq Organization (MKO).

The bombing fell on the seventh (Haft) day of the fourth month (Tir) of the Iranian calendar, known as Haft-e Tir bombing.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti, four cabinet ministers, 27 members of parliament and several other government officials were among the dead.

MKO operatives fled to Iraq in 1986, where

they were given a sanctuary by former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

Leader: Aggression on Sheikh Isa Qassim will backfire on Bahrain

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, in a meeting on Saturday with a group of families of martyrs of the June 28, 1981 blast at the Islamic Republic Party headquarters as well as families of combatants who embraced martyrdom fighting holy shrines in Syria, praised the "faith, combat, valor and high cognition of martyrs" and "patience and steadfastness of the esteemed families of martyrs". Describing the martyrs as the pillars of strength and power of the Islamic Republic of Iran's establishment, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said: "The only way for Islamic Iran to make progress is to revive the revolutionary and combative spirit"

At the start of his speech, Ayatollah Khamenei extended condolences on the



anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), the first Shia imam, describing the venerable imam as the most influential martyr in the history of humanity, martyr of altar and martyr on the path of righteousness, firmness and steadfastness. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said 35 years have passed since ranks with someone like [former Iraqi the deadly bomb blast at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in still enjoying US support."

1981, adding: "The perpetrators of this crime are a wicked and ruthless terrorist group who, after having fled the country, have during these years been sheltered by European countries and the US who claim to be advocates of fighting terrorism and supporting human rights."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution described this issue as a big and historical scandal for European countries and the US, adding: "This terrorist group comprises those who joined struggles with the claims of defending people and even defending Islam, but later they gave rise to mishaps like the Haft-e Tir (June 28) incident and the assassination of ordinary people and in the end they closed dictator] Saddam [Hussein] and they are

Doosan Heavy Industries lands \$186m desalination deal in Iran

South Korea's Doosan Heavy Industries & Construction Co. won a 220 billion won (\$185.9 million) worth order from Iran-based Sazeh Sazan Co., to build a seawater reverse osmosis desalination (SWRO) plant in the Middle East country.

The company said Monday that the deal marks the first SWRO procurement a foreign company clinched from Iran since international

this year.

The plant - dubbed SAKO SWRO plant - will be built at Bandar Abbas, the capital of Hormozgan Province in Iran. It will desalinate around 200,000 tons of water a day, which would be supplied to mines in the region in annual capacity enough for 670,000 people after its construction is completed in Octo-

sanctions were lifted early ber 2018. Doosan will be in standing (MOU) agreement charge of engineering, procurement, construction and test operation of the facility and also provide operation and maintenance (O&M) services until October 2030.

> Yoon Seok-won, the executive vice president and CEO of Doosan's Water BG, said that the latest deal was product of persistent and all-around endeavors. The company signed a Memorandum of Under

with Iranian National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company (NWWEC) in April. President Park Geun Hye's state visit to Iran in May served as an impetus. He added that the company will keep up its efforts to cement its foothold in the Iranian reverse osmosis desalination market, which is expected to reach \$2 billion

(Source: pulsenews.co.kr)

Erdogan apologizes to Putin over death of Russian pilot, calls Russia 'friend & strategic partner'

ceived a letter in which Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan apologized for the death of the Russian pilot who was killed when a Russian jet was downed over the Syrian-Turkish border last November, the Kremlin said.

Erdogan expressed readiness to restore relations with Moscow, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday.

The incident involving the downing of the Russian Su-24 bomber led to the worst deterioration of Turkish-Russian relations in recent history, with Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin has redescribing it as a "stab in the back."

"The head of the Turkish state expressed his deep sympathy and condolences to the relatives of the deceased Russian pilot and said 'sorry," Peskov said.

In his letter, Erdogan called Russia "a friend and a strategic partner" of Ankara, with whom the Turkish authorities would not want to spoil relations.

"We never had a desire or a deliberate intention to down an aircraft belonging to Russia," the letter read, according to a statement published on the Kremlin website. According to the statement, Erdogan's letter stressed that

"the Turkish side undertook all the risks and made a great effort to recover the body of the Russian pilot from the Syrian opposition, bringing it to Turkey. The organization of the pre-burial procedures was conducted in accordance with all religious and military procedures."

The address by the Turkish leader also informed that a criminal investigation has been launched against the person suspected of killing the Russian pilot, the Kremlin said. Turkish Hurriyet newspaper reported that sources close to Erdogan have confirmed that the letter with the apology was sent to Moscow. (Source: RT)

Tehran sends senior coordinator to Moscow, Syria crisis in focus

POLITICAL TEHRAN — On d e s k Monday Tehran dispatched its senior emissary Ali Shamkhani to Moscow amid unconfirmed news that Iran is ready to show more flexibility to find a political solution to the Syrian conflict which has been dragging on since 2011.

This is Shamkhani's maiden meeting with Russians over the Syrian crisis in his capacity as coordinator, the mission Tehran commissioned him with after defense ministers of Iran, Syria, and Russia convened in Tehran

They are expected to exchange ideas on the latest developments in the region as well as in Syria.

The trip comes at a critical moment after Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his American counterpart John Kerry met on the sidelines of the Oslo Forum 2016 in Norway.

Al-Monitor quoted Zarif as having signaled during the Oslo meeting that he has now more authority on the Syria file than he had before, and that Iran may be prepared to show more flexibility to advance a political solution.

→2

Iranian, Lebanese officials discuss fight against terrorism

TPOLITICAL TEHRAN — Hosd e s k sein Jaberi Ansari, the new Iranian deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs, met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil in Beirut on Monday, discussing the latest developments in Syria and the fight against terrorism.

The meeting took place as a group of suicide bombers detonated their explosives' vests in a northeastern Lebanese village near the border with Syria on Monday, killing five people and wounding at least 15.

The blasts occurred in the predominantly Christian village of Qaa, only few hundred meters (yards) away from the border. The state-run National News Agency said four suicide bombers were involved in the rare multiple attack.

Jaberi Ansari also held separate meetings on Monday with Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Nabih Berri, the Lebanese parliament speaker.

The Iranian Ambassador to Beirut, Mohammad, Fathali also attended the

meetings. On June 19, Iranian Foreign Minis-

ter Mohammad Javad Zarif appointed Ansari, the former Foreign Ministry spokesman, as his deputy for African and Arab affairs. He replaced Hossein Amir-Abdollahian who held the post for several years.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Assembly of Experts member holds phone talks with Bahrain's Qassim

TEHRAN — The vice-chairman of Iran's Assembly of Experts said on Sunday that Bahraini religious leader Sheikh Isa Qassim is an example for Shia Muslims, Islam and the Muslim Ummah in general.

Speaking to Qassem on phone, Ayatollah Mahmoud Hashemi Shahroudi lauded the Bahraini religious leader for his religious thoughts and said he plays a grave role in the Islamic world, AhlulBayt News Agency reported.

Hashemi Shahroudi condemned disrespect to the Bahraini religious leader by the Bahraini ruling family who has stripped him of his nationality.



Al-Khalifa should be stripped of Bahraini citizenship: Makarem-Shirazi

TEHRAN — The ruling Al-Khalifa family should be stripped of their Bahraini citizenship as their origin is Najd, Saudi Arabia, an Iranian grand ayatollah

They have revoked Sheikh Isa Qassim's citizenship while the sheikh and his ancestors have all been Bahrainis, Ayatollah Nasser Makarem-Shirazi said on Monday, according to his website makar-



Majlis committee to launch workgroup on inflated salaries

TEHRAN — Article 90 Committee of the Majlis is going to form a workgroup to address the case of proportionately high salaries by certain mid-ranking officials, the committee's chairman said on

The workgroup will not only address the recent high salaries, but also gifts of gold coin handed out by the previous government, Davod Mohammadi



All U.S. plots against Islamic revolution futile: commander

TEHRAN — The United States' hostile acts against the Islamic Revolution in the past few decades have all ended in failure, the IRGC Navy chief has noted.

Addressing a cultural ceremony in the central city of Ardestan on Sunday, Ali Fadavi referred to Washington's enmity toward the Islamic Republic and described the nature of the hostility as one of falsehood against the truth, Tasnim reported.

In every confrontation between Iran and the U.S., it is the Islamic Revolution that has emerged victorious, the rear admiral underscored.



Government appoints two new governors-general

TEHRAN — In its session on Sunday the cabinet appointed two new governors-general, ISNA re-

Accordingly, Ali Akbar Parvizi was appointed as governor-general of South Khorasan. Mohammad Reza Salehi was also named as the governor-general of North Khorasan.



Zaghari arrested over links to 2009 riots: official

TEHRAN — A judiciary official has said Nazanin Zaghari, held in Iran since April, was apprehended while leaving for London over her involvement in post-election riots that engulfed Tehran and some

The revelations by Yadollah Movahed, the head of the Justice Department of Kerman, are the first details about the 37-year-old's case, Press TV reported on Sunday.

Movahed said Zaghari was among the suspects who "conducted activities against the security of the country by designing websites and carrying out campaigns in the media" during the post-election

"In 2014-2015, the intelligence service of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps in Kerman Province identified and arrested members of one of the groups," Movahed said.

"Some members of the group were outside Iran, including the suspect Nazanin Żaghari," he added.

Rangers are in frontline of defending natural reserves: Rouhani

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Saddened by the death three rangers indicates the necessity of countering d e s k of three rangers by illegal hunters in recent days President Hassan Rouhani has praised the difficult task of rangers, saying they are in the frontline of defending the country's natural reserves.

"Our dear rangers, who are in the frontline of defending the country's fragile natural reserves, have unfortunately been targeted by the groups and people who only seek their own benefits," he said in a letter of condolences over the martyrdom of the three rangers

Rouhani called the rangers "defenders who sacrificed their lives to defend the God's blessings and keep the promise they gave people."

On June 23, Mohammad Dehqani and Parviz Hormozi were shot by poachers in the Geno biosphere reserve in the southern province of Hormozgan. On June 24, Manouchehr Shojaeian was also shot by poachers in the Bamou national park near Shiraz. He died due to severe injuries later.

Rouhani wrote in the letter that martyrdom of the leadership will not allow the poachers go unpunished.

those who jeopardize the environment.

He expressed sympathy with families of the victims and offered condolences to the people of Hormozgan and Fars provinces

The president also praised police forces for identifying and arresting the criminals.

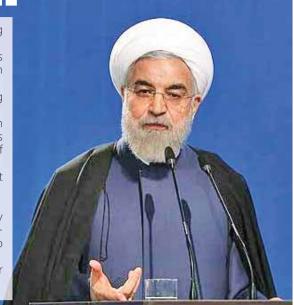
Department of Environment chief Ma'soumeh Ebtekar who had visited Hormozgan said a bill has been submitted to parliament to guard the lives of rangers, ISNA reported on Monday.

She also said a modernization of the equipment

carried by rangers is on the agenda. She also said rangers are "always under threat".

Ebtekar described rangers as soldiers who bravely defend the country's environment. "There is no difference between these people (rangers) and soldiers who defend the national borders."

She also vowed that the organization under her



Leader: Aggression on Sheikh Isa Qassim will backfire on Bahrain

Ayatollah Khamenei said the June 28, 1981 incident was a big one containing lessons. The Leader of the Islamic Revolution criticized the little work done to introduce martyrs' important events and incidents following the 1979 Islamic Revolution to current generation, saying: "After 35 years, we do not have even a single movie or a play or a novel about the Haft-e Tir incident and Martyr [Ayatollah Mohammad] Beheshti (then secretary general of Islamic Republic Party) and the martyrs of this incident and the fact that it is still alive is because of the revolutionary spirit of people themselves."

Referring to books written about operations and martyrs of Sacred Defense (1980-1988 Iraq-Iran War), Ayatollah Khamenei recommended everyone, the youth in particular, to study those books carefully, saying: "Although many books have been written in this field there is still ground for writing about the different aspects and dimensions of Sacred Defense and the lofty martyrs of war, because the behavior, words and deeds of each of the martyrs open a window into a world of cognition."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said an outstanding feature of the Sacred Defense was the presence of popular forces with strong motivation and from different walks of life, with no monopoly by official forces on the war, noting: "Today, we recommend government officials to benefit from people's potentialities in different sectors particularly the economic one with a view to a people-run economy."

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to highlight the issue of defending the holy shrines of the Prophet Muhammad's Household and the combatants who were martyred fighting the shrines in Syria, adding: "This issue is one of astonishing events and a wonder in history that young [combatants] from Iran and other countries, with strong faith and motivation, leave behind their young wife and minor children and their tranquil life to combat for God's sake in a foreign country and they embrace martyrdom

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the strong faith of holy shrine martyred defenders and the patience of their families as aspects of this wonderful issue, saying: "Another aspect of this issue pertains to the elements of the strength of the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is based on faith, determination and willpower of pious people, combatants and

Noting that the enemies of the Islamic Republic are never able to understand the pillars of strength and capabilities of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "The martyrs and their families are rock-style pillars of the Islamic Republic of Iran establishment and that is why the [Islamic] establishment has managed to overcome a variety of challenges."

"Wherever we have leaned towards Revolution and the revolutionary spirit, we have made progress, and wherever we have backed down from [revolutionary] values to please the elements of Arrogance and we have

shied away in expressing revolutionary stances we have suffered backwardness and harms," said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Ayatollah Khamenei said arrogant enemies must be dealt with based on a revolutionary spirit adding: "Faith in God, belief in jihad and the strong motivation of faithful and revolutionary youth are the sources of Islamic establishment's power in an asymmetrical war with the Arrogant Front and although they see the effects of this source of power, they are unable to analyze its reality and therefore they resort to violent and cruel methods."

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said the formation of Takfiri terrorist groups like Daesh was one of these violent methods for countering the Islamic establishment, adding: "The main objective behind the creation of Takfiri terrorist groups and their actions in Iraq and Syria was to invade Iran, but the power of the Islamic Republic establishment pinned them down in Iraq and

Noting that Takfiri terrorist groups make no difference between Shias and Sunnis and that they target every Muslim who defends the Islamic Revolution and is the enemy of the US, Ayatollah Khamenei referred to ongoing events in Bahrain and said "In Bahrain, the issue is not a Shia-Sunni [strife] either. Rather the main issue involves the tyrannical rule of a selfish arrogant minority over a vast majority."

Full text is available at tehrantimes.com.

(source: leader.ir)

Tehran sends senior coordinator to Moscow, Syria crisis in focus

"What [Zarif] seemed to be signaling was that he has more authority on the Syria file than he has had until now," a U.S. non-governmental source who met with Zarif on the sidelines of the Oslo Forum had told Al-Monitor.

"He seemed to suggest that Iran is prepared to show more flexibility on how fast that question [of Assad] is dealt with and how."

The comments were indirectly confirmed by Kerry who had said "... I do believe the conversation I had with Zarif indicates to me possibilities for how this could be achieved."

"And my hope is that we will open up some political space to try to resolve ... one of the most complex international challenges the community has faced in at least a generation."

The news, however, drew immediate

disproval of the Iranian Foreign Ministry which rejected any shift in its Syrian pol-

Relevant to this was Zarif's new appointments in the Foreign Ministry, particularly appointing Hossein Jaberi Ansari, who had been serving as the ministry spokesman since November 2015, as his deputy to handle policies related to the Arab world.

Jaberi Ansari replaced Hossein sador to South Africa Javid Amir-Abdollahian, who held the position for five years.

Ever since the Syrian conflict broke out in 2011, Amir-Abdollahian proved to be a key player in Iran's Middle East policies, representing Iran in Syrian talks occasion-

Another broad hint was Zarif's recent remarks during his visit to the Netherlands that both General Soleimani and he think the Syrian crisis can be resolved only through dialogue. Although Iranian officials

have always been supporting a political solution for the Syrian war, this is the first time Major General Soleimani, as the commander of the IRGC Quds Force, is quoted as having backed the mechanism.

Former Iranian ambas-Qorban Oqli is one of those optimistic of a changed Syrian policy, citing Zarif as having said in Norway that any possibility about the Syrian war can be considered.

Now with Shamkhani on board, it seems a more unified and realistic face of Iran's regional policy is

likely to be presented. There are reasons to believe so. Shamkhani is moderate politically, showing mature and logical understanding of regional develop-

ments.

Also, he is secretary of the Supreme National Security Council which is a powerful body presided by Pres-Rouhani and responsible making tant decisions.

Besides, Shamkhani is a trustee of the Leader, leaving him with more leeway to act and

Saudis set conditions for Iran only: hajj official

Tension between Tehran and Riyadh has been escalating since 464 Iranians lost their lives in a stampede in the area of Mina in September 2015 during the last Hajj.

Following the incident Tehran has been seeking assurances from Saudi Arabia to show strong commitment to safety of Iranian pilgrims.

Earlier in May, a six-member Iranian delegation departed Tehran for Saudi Arabia for a new round of talks on performing the annual Hajj. However, after several rounds of negotiations to hash out discrepancies over the issue, Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of Iran announced on May 29 that it won't dispatch pilgrims this year to Mecca because of inconsistency at decision-making level by Saudis.

"We studied meticulously texts of memorandums of understanding Saudis had finalized with other countries, and none of restrictions considered for Iranian pilgrims had been included in the manuscripts," Saeed Ohadi, head of the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of Iran, said in an interview with Tasnim on Sunday.

Prior to the remarks, Ohadi had threatened to publish the Hajj contract, which could come as a blow to Saudis'



Previously, Iranian officials had called the limitations "contrary to the dignity of Iranians".

This is while Ministry of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia announced that the Iranian delegation had refused to sign an agreement regarding the planned arrangements for this year's pilgrimage season

The Saudis had demanded that all Iranian pilgrims must not carry the Koran and prayer pamphlets with themselves, Ohadi revealed.

"The differential memorandum of understanding that

they (Saudis) emphasized that we should sign included items such as a ban on flying Iran's flag, carrying the Koran and prayer books, as well as consular services."

The row over hajj has been indirectly affected by differences between Iran and Saudi Arabia over other issues, most notably the conflicts in Syria and Yemen.

While Saudi Arabia and certain Arab states have launched attacks on Yemen and been backing the militant groups in Syria to overthrow the government of President Bashar al-Assad, Iran has strongly criticized the Saudi-led attack on Yemen and been supporting the Syrian government nonstop.

"The MOU had been drafted under the direct influence of the interior and foreign ministries of Saudi Arabia," Ohadi noted, blaming Saudis for sabotaging this year's Hajj for Iranians for political reasons.

The prospect of an immediate solution seems distant as Tehran has announced it will file a case against Riyadh over the death of hundreds of Iranian pilgrims in the Mina stampede.

As recently as June 9, Iran's Justice Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi said Tehran is intent on filing a lawsuit at international courts against Saudi Arabia, citing complaints from the families of victims of the Mina tragedy.

Lebanon attack: Suicide bombers strike village of Qaa

At least five people have been killed and more than a dozen wounded in suicide bombing attacks in northeastern Lebanon near the border with Syria, officials and a witness have said.

Four suicide bombers blew themselves up early on Monday in the village of Qaa in Bekaa valley, the state-run Lebanese News Agency reported.

A villager told Al Jazeera that a local became suspicious of the group of men passing through Qaa after confronting them near his house at around 4am

Qaa is a predominantly Christian village, located just a few kilometers off a border checkpoint.

The Lebanese Red Cross confirmed the death toll, adding that around 15

people were wounded, four of them in serious condition.

Earlier on Monday, Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV had said six people were killed in the attack and 19 people wounded.

No one has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but Al-Manar blamed it on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant group (ISIL/Daesh).

"ISIL has been positioned in the mountains above Qaa for the last several years and the Lebanese army as well as Hezbollah have been fighting ISIL [in Syria]," Al Jazeera's reporter Ghoneim said.

She added that if ISIL's involvement was confirmed, it would mark the first time the armed group would have targeted a Christian village in Lebanon.



Austrian far-right figure warns of 'Auxit' vote within a year

JUNE 28, 2016

The European Union should avoid any moves towards political "centralization" or else Austria could hold a referendum on membership of the bloc within a year, a far-right candidate who almost won the country's presidential election said.

Norbert Hofer of the anti-immigration Freedom Party narrowly failed to become the European Union's first far-right head of state in Austria's presidential run-off last month. His party has, however, challenged that result and a ruling is pending.

Britain's Brexit vote last week to leave the European Union has emboldened populist, anti-EU parties across the continent, including the Freedom Party (FPO) and France's National Front, which called on Friday for a "Frexit" referendum.

FPO leader Heinz-Christian Strache has taken a more cautious view, saying only that an Austrian referendum on the issue might become a party objective in the future. But Hofer went further in an interview published on Sunday.

"If a course is set within a year further towards centralization instead of taking (the EU's) core values into

account, then we must ask Austrians whether they want to be members," he told the tabloid newspaper Oes-

Hofer and his allies believe the bloc should be based on economic rather than political union.

"The founding fathers (of the EU) wanted to ensure closer economic cooperation because states that cooperate economically do not wage war against each other," he said. "That worked very well until the political union

Austria's Constitutional Court is examining FPO allegations of irregularities in the counting of postal ballots during the election. It is already clear that rules on when those ballots should be counted and processed were

But even if the FPO's challenge is successful and the court orders a re-run, which is one possible outcome, the president alone does not have the power to order

Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern has said Austria will not hold a referendum on EU membership, which



the country's media have dubbed an "Auxit" or "Oexit" vote, a reference to Oesterreich, which means Austria

But the two parties in his often-divided centrist coalition government must find a way to work together until 2018 and win over voters or face a snap parliamentary election that polls suggest the FPO would win.

(Source: Reuters)

George Osborne: Only Britain can trigger Article 50

Britain should only trigger Article 50 to leave the European Union when it has a "clear view" of how its future in the bloc looks, finance minister George Osborne said following last week's shock referen-

The surprise decision to leave the EU sparked the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron, who had backed the unsuccessful Remain campaign - but has left the activation of Article 50, which triggers the departure, to his successor.

'The prime minister has given us time as a country to decide what that relationship should be by delaying the decision to trigger the Article 50 procedure until there is a new prime minister in place for the autumn," Osborne said on Monday, in his first public comments since the re-

Article 50 is a five-point plan should any country wish to leave the EU.

The remarks, given at a Treasury news conference in central London, were timed to calm investor jitters ahead of the opening of European stock markets at 07:00 GMT.

The London stock market opened down by 0.8 percent, however. The pound sank to fresh 30-year lows.

"Only the UK can trigger Article 50, and in my judgment we should only do that when there is a clear view about what new arrangement we are seeking with our European neighbors," he added.

"In the meantime, and during the negotiations that will follow, there will be no change to people's rights to travel and work, and to the way our goods and services are traded, or to the way our economy and financial system is regulated."

Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne expressed confidence that the British economy was strong enough to withstand the fallout from its EU exit.

Britons cast aside warnings of isolation and economic disaster to vote 52 percent to 48 percent in favor of quitting the EU in Thursday's vote.

Osborne said he was not rowing back from the "concerns I expressed during the campaign" but added: "I fully accept the result of the referendum and will do everything I can to make it work for Brit-

He cautioned, however, that it was "inevitable" that Britain's economy would "have to adjust to the new situation we find ourselves in."



Elsewhere, leading Leave campaigner Boris Johnson tried to reassure those who had voted to remain in the EU

He wrote in a column for The Telegraph newspaper: "The only change and it will not come in any great rush - is that the UK will extricate itself from the EU's extraordinary and opaque system of legislation: the vast and growing corpus of law enacted by a European Court of Justice from which there can be no ap-

"This will bring not threats, but golden opportunities for this country - to pass laws and set taxes according to the needs of the UK."

Also on Monday, Britain's Labour Party continued to disintegrate, with the number of members who resigned from leader Jeremy Corbyn's opposition rising.

(Source: agencies)

Israel: Turkey deal 'immense' boost to economy

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has confirmed Israel's deal with Turkey to normalize relations, adding that the agreement will be a huge boost for his country's economy.

After talks with United States Secretary of State John Kerry in Rome, Netanyahu on Monday said it would have "immense implications for the Israeli economy".

Netanyahu promised to outline the full details of the deal later in the day. His Turkish counterpart is expected to do the same in Ankara.

The anticipated deal will see Israel apologize for raiding a Turkish aid flotilla heading to Gaza in 2010, provide compensation for the families of the ten victims of that raid and allow Ankara to provide humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza Strip, a senior Turkish official has con-

No references were made to Hamas in the agreement, according to officials, despite reports that Turkey agreed to curb the group's activities.

Initial reports of the deal described Turkey's key conditions to include an Israeli lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip. This stipulation, however, will not be met.

Both sides have been seeking reconciliation in recent months, with Israel in search of a potential customer for its offshore gas exports and Turkey wanting to restore its regional clout.

The Hamas political movement, which controls the Gaza Strip, has said it hopes that the agreement will have a wider impact across the Palestinian territories.

Kerry welcomed the agreement and congratulated Netanyahu, adding that the U.S. has been working on the rapprochement for several years, calling it a "positive step".

Israeli-Turkish relations soured in 2010 after the deadly Israeli raid on the six-ship Turkish flotilla seeking to break the Israeli blockade on Gaza and to deliver aid to the Palestinians living there.

Nine activists aboard the Mavi Marmara ferry were killed, with a 10th person later dying of his wounds.

(Source: agencies)

Israel injures 29 Palestinians in new clashes at al-Aqsa

Israeli forces have engaged in fresh clashes with Palestinians as the regime's troops and settlers stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in the Israeli-occupied Old City of al-Quds (Jerusalem) for the second day, leaving at least 29 worshipers injured.

Scores of Israeli settlers, accompanied by Israeli forces, stormed the holy site on Monday.

The Israeli soldiers attacked the worshipers — who protested the desecration of the mosque — firing teargas and rubber-coated steel bullets.

Similar scuffles erupted on Sunday after Israeli settlers and forces stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound. Several Palestinians were injured and at least four

The occupied Palestinian territories have been the scene of heightened tensions since August 2015, when Israel imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound.

Palestinians are angry at increasing

violence by Israeli settlers at the mosque and their attacks on Palestinian property, saying the Tel Aviv regime seeks to

change the status quo of the sacred site. Nearly 220 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces since the beginning of last October.

(Source: Press TV)

Trump camp scrambles to shape up before GOP convention

Republicans are sprinting to shape up Donald Trump's presidential campaign before the party's national convention in three weeks, even as leading members of the party carry a deep antipathy or outright opposition to his claim on the

GOP (Grand Old Party)

His campaign chairman said on Sunday there's a hiring spree in 16 states and the campaign is working with the Republican National Committee to solidify other matters. Paul Manafort said Trump is not all that involved in the race to organize an offensive against Democrat Hillary Clinton and catch up to her massive fundraising



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Sunday that Trump can't win the presidency unless he can compete with Clinton on the financial front.

McConnell refused to say whether Trump is qualified to be president. And he suggested that the GOP platform would not reflect Trump's ideas, including restrictions on Muslim immigration to the U.S.

A few hundred delegates to the Republican National Convention are pushing to change the rules and make it possible for them to vote for someone other than Trump. The Cleveland gathering begins in three weeks.

Besides their uphill fight to win enough delegate support to change the rules, the coalition of anti-Trump groups are raising money to hire parliamentarians and lawyers to attend the convention, run TV ads and protect recalcitrant supporters they say face threats of retaliation.

Another speaker, former Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., supported the presidential effort of Ohio Gov. John Kasich. Humphrey called Trump "just about the worst candidate you could think of, for the country first and for the party second."

The Trump campaign and many top GOP officials are working to defeat the anti-Trump forces, including lobbying delegates and making sure that establishment party supporters dominate the convention's crucial rules committee.

Ed Brookover, Trump campaign liaison to the GOP, said on Sunday the defiant delegates' chances of winning are "almost zero." He said so far, "approaching 75 percent" of the rules committee's 112 members oppose changing the rules — nearly enough to prevent a convention vote on the rebels' proposal to let delegates support any candidate they want.

The Trump campaign and the RNC (Republican National Convention) are still laboring to set up staff in what Manafort said were 16 states in which the campaign aims to compete heavily. He said the campaign will announce more about staffing this week, an effort to reassure people that Trump's unorthodox campaign is viable.

On Sunday, Manafort sought to calm the angst, describing a partnership between Trump's campaign operation and the Republican National Committee that goes beyond the RNC's traditional role of raising money for the GOP nominee. He said the transition to the general election is complete but the details have not necessarily been made public.

McConnell and other Republicans said they got the first glimmers of reassurance this week when Trump fired former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski in what Trump described as a change of direction from the GOP primaries to the general election.

Clinton blames Republican leaders for a "paralyzed" Congress

Meantime, presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton chastised Republican lawmakers on Sunday for a "paralyzed" Congress, saying they've fueled populist anger by refusing to "do their job."

Clinton ticked off a list of items that GOP congressional leaders have refused to schedule for a vote. They include a proposed immigration overhaul, holding confirmation hearings to fill a Supreme Court vacancy, and strengthening background checks and banning firearms sales to people on the government no-fly list.

Her remarks come as voter unrest has fueled the outsider candidacies of Trump, as well as her Democratic primary opponent, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

"Leaders in Congress refuse to act on a wide range of issues that really matter to American working families," Clinton said during an address to the United States Conference of Mayors in Indianapolis.

"I know we can respect the Second Amendment and make common-sense reforms," she said. "Yet Congress is paralyzed. Not a filibuster in the Senate, not a sit-in in the House could convince the leadership to move forward. I really believe the American people deserve better."

Clinton was referring to an effort by Democrats in the Senate and House to advance gun control legislation in the aftermath of the deadly Orlando nightclub shooting. The National Rifle Association opposed the measures. Senate Democrats held a 15-hour filibuster over the issue, while those in the House held a 25-hour sit-in that ground proceedings nearly to a halt last week.

She also touched on the Senate's refusal to hold confirmation hearings for President Barack Obama's nominee for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland.

"They could vote down Judge Garland but instead they refuse to act," Clinton said. "I think that is part of what is driving the frustration on the part of so many Americans. Let's have a vote. We're a democracy. Either vote somebody up or vote somebody down."

Clinton also contrasted Republicans in Congress with the mayors in the audience.

Mayors show up. You do your job. The American people show up and do their job. We should expect nothing less from the United States Congress," Clinton said. "Instead of solving problems, Washington is too often making them worse."

(Source: AP)

KRX to offer Iranian securities: SEO chief

TTECONOMY TEHRAN — South Korean Stock Exchange d e s k (KRX) has voiced readiness to offer Iranian securities, specifically Sukuk (Islamic Sharia-based bonds), Chairman of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Mohammad Fatanat announced in a press conference, IRNA reported on Monday.

Underlining foreign investors' tendency towards purchasing Iranian securities, Fatanat added that on the way to their boost confidence in Iranian capital markets, the active companies in the market have been ranked according to their transparency and governance structures.

He also expressed content about the ever-increasing volume of the issued Sukuk, which shows a remarkable increase from 39 trillion rials (\$1.11 billion) in the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (March 2013- March 2014) to its current 189 trillion rials (\$5.41 bil-

As Iran's Securities and Exchange News Agency (SENA) reported in mid-March, an Iranian delegation led by Fatanat visited Seoul to further implement the content of a bilateral memorandum of understanding signed between the SEO and KRX on Oc-

During the visit, the Iranian officials met a number of executives of the South Korean capital market, including the heads of the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS), Korea Securities Deposi-

The two sides agreed to make strong efforts to build on already "well-established" relations to further improve bilateral cooperation. They also agreed to establish a system to link the capital markets of the two countries, enabling investors from each side to have access to the other side's capital market under certain conditions

Indonesia's Pertamina to sign Iran oil block deal next week

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Indonesia's state energy company Pertamina will sign a deal to purchase a stake in an oil and gas block in Iran within a week, an official at Indonesia's energy ministry said on Monday.

"The government to government agreement is done, so now (we're) following up with a company to company (deal)," Oil and Gas Director General Wiratmaja Puja told reporters, noting that a deal was expected before the end of the Muslim fasting month.

Iran's non-oil trade falls to \$19.4b in spring

TTECONOMY TEHRAN — According to Iran's Customs Administration, the value of Iran's non-oil trade fell to \$19.473 billion in spring 2016, which corresponds to the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), from \$24.245 billion in spring 2015, IRIB reported.

The Customs Administration put the worth of Iran's non-oil exports and non-oil imports at \$10.472 billion and \$9.001 billion, respectively, during the first quarter of this year.

The figures were \$11.859 billion and \$12.386 billion for the exports and imports in the same quarter of the last year.

According to Iran's Customs Administration, in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19, 2016, the value of the country's non-oil trade reached over \$83 billion.

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

Oil trades near \$48 a barrel as Brexit spurs market volatility

Oil traded near \$48 a barrel as market volatility continued after the UK last week voted to leave the European Union.

Futures pared a loss of as much as 1.5 percent to trade little changed in New York after slumping 4.9 percent Friday, the biggest drop in four months. The turmoil in financial markets continued Monday with the pound extending its selloff, while demand for haven assets drove gold higher. Oil prices may plunge further if the shock of Britain's vote to exit the EU is combined with a boost in output, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said.

Oil capped a second weekly drop on Friday as prices slid with industrial metals and European equities after the UK voted to guit the EU following more than four decades of membership. Nigerian output may return to about 2.2 million barrels a day next month after the repair of a pipeline as talks with militants continue, State Minister for Petroleum Resources Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu said in Bloomberg television interview

'Serious' drop

Brent for August settlement was up 10 cents at \$48.51 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange after falling as much as 1.3 percent earlier. The contract dropped \$2.50, or 4.9 percent, to \$48.41 on Friday. The global benchmark crude traded at a premium of 94 cents to WTI.

Returning production in Canada and Nigeria, which has been disrupted by wildfires and rebel attacks, combined with the Brexit result could mean "the drop in prices in the shortterm may be serious," Russia's Novak said in an e-mailed statement. If supply isn't restored, a return to fundamentals is likely

fairly quickly, he said. Nigerian output was at 1.8 million barrels to 1.9 million barrels a day as of two days ago, Kachikwu said, predicting prices may end the year \$50 to \$55 a barrel. (Source: Bloomberg)

Quarterly exports from Iran's mining industry up 47% yr/yr

TT**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's d e s k exports from mining industry raised 47 percent in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar vear (March 20-June 20) compared to the same period of time in the past year, ISNA reported on Monday.

Mining industry's worth of exports reached \$1.188 billion in the mentioned period which equates achieving 104 percent progress in export plans for this sphere, Mohammad Reza Modoudi, the vice president of Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPO), was quoted by ISNA as saying.

According to Modoudi, the planed value of exports for mining industry in the mentioned period was \$1.140 billion



which was exceeded by \$48 million.

More than one-fifth of the total value of exports during the last Iranian calendar year of 1394 (ended on March 19, 2016) was related to the mining sector, based on Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development & Renovation Organization, known as

In 1394 the total value of foreign trade in mining industry stood at \$11.5 billion from which \$7.05 billion belonged to exports and \$4.44 billion related to imports, Tasnim News Agency cited a report by IMIDRO in May 2016.

The share of mining sector from the country's total export in 94 was 21.6 percent, while the share of imports

'Smart money' moving towards Iranian capital market: IFB CEO

Overseas investors sought to enter IFB market by investing in Structured Financial Products and via purchasing securities and principals, interest payments of which are fully guaranteed by the Iranian government (including different types of sukuk and Islamic Treasury Bills (ITBs)). They also pursue their investment goals through forging partnership with Iranian companies in IFB that need to apply modern technology to accelerate their renovation procedure, among we can name Pakvash. The recent Henkel-Pakvash agreement (Germany's Henkel one of the largest household and personal care manufacturing companies in the world - purchased 30 percent of Pakvash for a total value of around €51 million through IFB). It is worth mentioning that some other similar contracts with foreign investors are to be finalized within the next few weeks and consequently, the total volume of attracted foreign investments to IFB would surplus 10 trillion rials (above \$288 billion) over the past six months following the JCPOA implementation

How do you analyze risk-return relations in domestic capital market at the present time?

Iran's primary and secondary capital market indices (TEDPIX and IFX respectively), have always reflected the country's economic situation, clearly. During the past six months, despite some specific occasions when some emotional responses have influenced the market's behavior, the general trend of the market has been rational.

How do you consider the impact of Iran's current political situation as well as its relations with international financial bodies on domestic capital

We cannot deny the challenges that we still face in our relations with some international banks or some other global entities according to some political issues; however, it is worth noting that the said 4 trillion rials (above \$288 billion) of foreign investments, as an available example, has been attracted under such trying circumstances and the related financial transactions have been carried out through Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT). Our near future transactions will also be done under the same conditions, since it would take some time both for us and our foreign partners to remove obstacles on the way to increase and ease our mutual transactions.

Some experts voice concern that Iran's bureaucracy and opaque ownership structures may hinder attraction of foreign investments. How do you think?

The money which is presently moving towards the Iranian capital market is smart, i.e. it is invested by those foreigners experienced, well-informed, in-the-know or all three. Overseas investors have a comprehensive overview of their Iranian partners as well as the country's regulations. They will pave their way to Iran's Jucrative market as

they did under the sanctions, when the conditions were much tougher. There are some power plants in Iran, technology and equipment of which were imported in sanctions era. They were established and put into operation under the same conditions and now they are taking preparatory steps to offer their stakes through a block sale on IFB. Smart money knows where to go and who to do business with. Now it is time for us to offer various investment opportunities. Of course, well-organized Iranian investment funds and banks as well as investment advisors and brokers are highly active in luring foreign investments in sectors which are in Iran's economy's favor and accord our own economic strategies and targets.

Iran's Sixth Five-Year Development Plan (2016- 2021), which outlines government strategies in its budget planning for the next five years and is going to be finalized by the parliament, pays a specific attention to improving the performance of securities markets with the participation of domestic and foreign investors in a bid to finance economic projects across the country via attracted investments rather than through banking resources. Will this plan be a practical and efficient one regarding Iran's conditions? Can it hit the set targets?

The situation is set to apply market-based financing system in Iran. By the JCPOA execution, the country has reached a historical turning point and in comparison with

the past years, holds enormous potentials, including well-educated human resources in financial engineering, financial economics, accounting and etc., who can improve financial knowledge of the country in the future, as they did so during the recent years. As the available evidence proves, the IFB's stake of financing the country's projects has reached 30 percent at the present time, from the previous two percent when it started operation. This proves that seizing the current opportunities, IFB and of course Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) can remarkably expand their share of financing in the near future.

Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) membership status in International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) became final recently, what about IFB membership in the international body?

IOSCO is currently studying our membership request as an affiliate member. Our next step would definitely be to apply for World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)

Iran has been inundated with the rush of foreign investors who want to find a foothold to Iran's untapped market. What is your message to them?

Islamic Treasury Bills and Sukuk offer one of the best investment opportunities for foreigners. Iranian sukuk offer very high yields compared to European bond yields, providing a lucrative opportunity for foreign investors. We are trying to rate our debt securities to ease their investment.

Iran's new oil investment contract to be ready this summer: Zanganeh

DUBAI (Reuters) — The first of Iran's new oil and gas investment contracts for international companies will be launched this summer and will invite bids to develop 10-15 fields, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh was quoted by the Shana news agency as saying.

The Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) is a cornerstone of the country's plan to raise crude production to the presanctions level of four million barrels per day (bpd), and the OPEC member desperately needs \$200 billion in foreign money to reach the goal.

Zanganeh said a final draft for the contracts will be approved by the government shortly after some amend-



ments to appease both critics and foreign companies. "Some critics had raised some issues on the model of these contracts, we held meetings with them," Zanganeh

Zanganeh said that the contracts were amended to enable Iran to develop the oil and gas fields either through a buy-back system or other methods. He did

Oil majors have said they would go back to Iran if it made major changes to the buy-back contracts of the 1990s, which companies such as France's Total or Italy's Eni said made them no money or even incurred losses.

Sri Lanka negotiating with Iran Air to dispose 3 Airbus A350-900

The Sri Lankan government met Iran Air manager and Iran government officials on Thursday to renegotiate the orders for the three A350-900 aircrafts ordered by the last

One official said that Iran Air CEO and an Iranian minister met with Deputy Min-

ister Public Enterprise Development Eran Wickramaratne and other ministry officials to negotiate the three aircrafts, adding "the meeting was positive". Iranian Air officials were also interested in a codeshare arrangement with SriLankan Airlines.

Airlines entered into a contract in 2013 with Airbus for the purchase of eight A350-900 aircrafts to replace the existing wide-body fleet. Mr. Wickramaratne told the Business Times earlier this week. Out of these eight, four aircrafts are due this year and the bal-The former management of SriLankan ance four were to come during a span of six

years. "We settled a wet lease for one aircraft due this year and there're three more to settle which we are in the process of negotiating." The official said that on Thursday the Iranian officials met with the Ministry officials to discuss the wet leases of these three aircrafts. (Source: sundaytimes.lk)



Intel considers sale of cyber security business: FT

Chipmaker Intel Corp is considering the sale of its cyber security business, the Financial Times reported on Sunday.

According to the report, the company has been talking to its bankers about options for the Intel Security unit, which was previously known as McAfee. Intel bought McAfee for \$7.7 billion in 2011.

A spokesperson for Intel could not be immediately reached for comment. The company said in April that it planned to cut up to 12,000 jobs globally as it refocuses its business toward making microchips that power data centers and Internet-connected devices and away from the declining personal computer industry it helped found.



Swedish payments firm Klarna taps debt market for the first

Swedish payments firm Klarna, one of Europe's most highly valued tech startups, said on Monday it had tapped debt markets for the first time, issuing subordinated notes totaling 300 million crowns (\$35.2

The move comes as other technology firms are also opting for debt rather than equity to raise fresh

Klarna, which handles about 10 percent of all online transactions in Europe and launched last year in the United States on online payments giant Paypal's home turf, said it issued debt to support its expansion and diversify funding. It added that this issue was a first small step to a wider presence in debt capital



China tech powerhouse Tsinghua bets \$7.5b on R&D, urges faster reforms

State-backed Chinese technology group Tsinghua Holdings plans to spend \$7.5 billion on research and development over the next five years, accelerating China's drive to build a high-value semiconductor industry to challenge global chipmaking rivals.

As the firm that controls acquisitive chip supplier Tsinghua Unigroup outlined the target, its chairman, Xu Jinghong, also said China has been too slow to reform its economy, and must move faster to promote high-margin tech operations rather than cheap manufacturing.

In the chip development drive - a strategic priority for Beijing - Tsinghua Unigroup aims to become the world's No. 3 chipmaker after Intel Corp and Samsung Electronics Co.

Experiences you shouldn't leave Iran without!

Most travelers see Iran as a once in a life opportunity that's probably not going to be happening anytime soon. They take as many days off as they can and squeeze in as many cities possible in a 10-day voyage. No wonder why by the end of the trip they are shattered and actually in need of another holiday to recover.

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Let's pretend you're short on time, you're not the couch surfing type who stays with locals and you've brought a camera that needs to go back with a full memory, but you actually crave a little something that would make you feel more of a local and less of a tourist. You've done this without knowing many times before. Like when you rent a bike to find your way around Amsterdam, or the time you order croissants with your coffee in Paris. But what is there to do in Iran?

■ Buy bread right from the oven and have it with cheese and fresh veggies

Bread in Iran is holy and very unique to this part of the world. It's so sacred that we avoid cutting it with a knife and it's so exclusive that it's one of the first things we crave away from home. Barbari, Sangak, Taftoon and Lavash are the leaders and each is cooked in their own bakery. We swoon over a piece of fresh crusty Barbari and relish over the extra doughy sides. So next time you pass the baker's in Iran, don't just sneak in for a photo. Get yourself bread and see if there will be any left once you're back in the hotel.

Have a picnic

We Iranians are experts when it comes to picnics and we don't compromise with sandwiches and a can of coke. We take a huge pot of warm Lubia Polo (beans with rice) and do not dare to leave our Shirazi salad behind. We set a whole feast and eat with style. You'll witness a ton of this strolling in Shiraz or Esfahan on a delightful afternoon and you'll see everything at full glory if you get the chance to visit Iran on Nature's day on April 2nd, when picnics are not just out of pleasure but a tradition to follow.

So instead of spending another night in a fancy restaurant and munching on another plate of Kebab, consider a picnic. Ask for a take out, buy a bowl of Ash if it's winter and have it in a local park, in the middle of Naqsh-e Jahan or besides Arg-e Karim Khan in Shiraz. And don't be shy to ask a local family for a cup of tea before you leave. You never know what else could come with it.

Sleep in a caravanserai

It's not just a starry night, but also getting to see the sunrise peaking from behind the mountains that makes a sleep over at a caravanseral such a rewarding experience. It's not everyday that you get to live like a wealthy

visiting a Zoorkhaneh has been one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of traveling Iran

merchant and sleep under a blanket of stars in the middle of nowhere. Due to the huge number of abandoned caravanserais in Iran, many of them are now being converted into hotels and restaurants. Some as fancy as 5 start hotels and others more humble. But for the most authentic experience head out to Caravanserai of Zeinodin. I swear by this place and had one of the best stays of my life here. I doubt if it could get any better.

visit a mosque at prayer's time

You're likely to visit plenty of mosques while you're in Iran but visiting them at the right time makes such a huge difference. Visits to Nasir-ol Molk mosque in Shiraz should be done in the morning when the sun rays hit through the stained glass windows and their reflection dances over the rows of lavishing Persian carpets. Sheikh Lotfollah mosque in Esfahan is most serene in the late afternoon when the glittering sun creates such a heavenly feel.

But besides seeking for the most picture-perfect tim-

ing, visiting a mosque just before the evening prayers is an experience you ought to not miss. Getting to witness men and women rushing for the lines and the call of prayers echoing through the chambers adds so much charm to the majestic structure.

Dizi on a weekend

Lazy weekends in Iran are supplemented with Dizi for lunch. Known as one of the oldest food recipes of Iran, Dizi or Abgoosht – however you like to call it – is mashed meat with chickpeas, onion and potatoes and is served with pickles. It's not something you find in a fancy posh restaurant. It's rather found in traditional places or Dizi Saras, which are exclusive to serving Dizi. You'd find a ton of places where you could try it, but Azari restaurant near Tehran's railway station has been serving it for decades and knows the trick. Not to mention the atmosphere is also a bonus point. But for my favourite Dizi place in Tehran, you'd have to be a bit more adventurous and head over to the old Jewish neighbourhood of the capital to have it served in the once oldest bank of the country.

■ Visit a Zoorkhaneh

Even from a point of view of an Iranian, visiting a Zoorkhaneh has been one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my travels. Zoorkhaneh or literally 'Power House' is a place where an ancient version of training or wrestling was practiced in Persia and dates back to as late as the times of Parthians. Today it's a hub for young men who don't mind a few minutes of workout while going back to their routes in the most spiritual way and keeping the traditions alive.

Unfortunately many Zoorkhanehs are left abandoned and the whole ritual is quickly being forgotten, but if you ever get the chance to witness one, do not hesitate to go. You never know, you might even get the chance to lift a few weights and do an actual spin on the stage if you're lucky.

Test your singing skills under the Khaju Bridge
Khaju Bridge in Esfahan has long become a hub for those
who don't mind to show off their singing skills in public. Head
over here in the afternoon and there are bunch of people
singing along to songs that vary from heroic poems to cheesy
love songs. Don't be intimidated to give it a little try yourself.
Perhaps with something that sounds more like home. There
will be people cheering you in no time, no matter how awful
you might sound. Fitting a few, if not all of these experiences to
your already overloaded itinerary won't set you back so much
but it's bound to leave you with some memories that will be
etched in your memory for a lifetime.

(Source: travestyle.com)

A CLOSER LOOK

Lies you tell yourself while traveling!

We all do it sometimes—tell ourselves little white lies while traveling. Some of them are designed to make us feel better about our choices, and some are just delusions we choose to believe out of convenience (even if we know deep down that they're not true). How many of these lies do you make yourself believe when you're traveling?

■ I burned off all that food by walking around

"I must have walked for miles today. That totally justifies this pizza and ice cream dinner that I'm about to demolish. I mean, I'm probably going to lose weight because I'm getting so much exercise on this trip!"



■ This bag is totally carry-on sized

"I can't really lift it, and the zippers are hanging on for dear life since it's so overstuffed, but it's totally going to fit in the bag sizer at the airport. Man, I'm such an awesome packer."

I won't check my work e-mail

"I've got that out of office message on, and I'm not checking in until I'm back in the office! Except my boss needed an answer on that one project and I'm not sure that the other project is getting taken care of..."

We won't spend any time in the hotel anyways

"We're going to be spending all of our time out and about exploring, not holed up in the hotel room anyway, so booking this fleabag hotel to save a few bucks won't have any impact on the quality of our trip at all!"

These shoes won't give me blisters

"I mean I just bought them yesterday, but they're really cute and I'm sure they won't give me blisters after wearing them on a day-long walk." See also: "These flip-flops are a very practical choice for walk around a city!"

I'll only spend x amount

"Okay, if I go to the ATM just once at the beginning of the trip and take out exactly \$100, I won't spend any more than that while I'm here."

(Source: smarter traveler)



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Benefiting from Brexit: Boris Johnson's folly

On the day of his greatest triumph, Boris Johnson left his house with his hands shoved deep into his pockets, his shoulders slumped. His expression made him look like a child being called into the school principal's office for causing trouble. His neighbors booed him as he passed by, with some calling "shame on you,

It was a striking scene, for Johnson had just scored his greatest political victory -- one that could even make him the next prime minister

But the man who was berated on the streets of London on Friday morning envisioned things ending up this way from the very beginning. He had gambled and he had won.

It hasn't even been a year since we interviewed Johnson back when he was the mayor of London. We sat together in City Hall, just across from the financial district, and he didn't have much to say about Brexit. Johnson shrugged his shoulders, said that there were reasons for it and many against it, but that he didn't believe Britain's departure from the European Union would be the end of the world.

Johnson more animated

Johnson became far more animated when the discussion turned to one of his favorite topics: The great statesman Winston Churchill, that larger-than-life British icon who refused to back down to the Nazis, sporting a bowler hat, chomping on a cigar and carrying a machine gun, announcing he'd rather die than shake

Churchill had principles, but what Johnson truly admired about him was that Churchill was a gambler. One prepared to go so far as abandoning his own political party simply to gain

At the time, one year ago, Johnson was politically adrift. He had no great challenge awaiting him after leaving City Hall behind. British Prime Minister David Cameron, Johnson's eternal rival going back to their days together in Oxford's snobby student drinking outfit the Bullingdon Club, remained untouchable for

There would be no glory for him inside parliament, so Johnson needed an outside



Boris Johnson is Britain's most talented populist. He has seduced his country to leave the European Union -and it could make him prime minister. But those supporting him could end up paying most dearly.

movement he could hitch his fortunes to. That would become the Leave campaign. Before he and Michael Gove, Cameron's friend and British secretary of justice, joined the campaign to

abandon the European Union, it was a repository for provincial freaks, gin-drinking nostalgists and malcontents such as Nigel Farage, someone who considers his nicotine addiction

an act of nonconformity and resistance.

Brexit supporters were set to remain politically irrelevant, confined to Farage's UKIP party of pub revolutionaries and armchair rebels, content to down three or four pints of ale and never take more than 10 percent of the vote.

A gifted populist

But Johnson changed all of that. He is a gifted populist and can read and articulate the feelings and desires of his fellow Britons like no other British politician of his generation. This despite the fact that he is an elitist through and through, a product of the country's best schools. He uses charm and humor to win over London's upper classes, but is equally at ease in the most provincial parts of England. Swinging his ample belly to and fro, he's a man of the common folk in those places where there's little hope left, such as Hull or Carlisle.

At home, Johnson likes to quote Ovid, but when he's visiting town squares in northern England, or whatever the economic downturn has left of them, he gladly chows down on bangers and mash with the locals.

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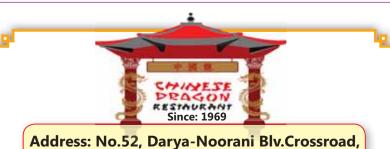


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Investors map post-Brexit strategies amid global market upheaval

Britain's vote to leave the European Union almost a quarter century after its creation with the Maastricht Treaty left global markets in disarray Friday. Today, investors start to figure out the way forward

http://www.tehrantimes.com/economy

While investors were caught off guard by the vote, several themes emerged from the frantic trading and onslaught of research reports. This market map for the coming months may or may not lead to treasure but almost certainly involves

Stocks

European equities are likely to bear the downdraft's brunt. Credit Suisse Group AG cut year-end targets for UK, European and U.S. stock benchmarks by 6.5 percent, 14 percent and 7.5 percent, respectively. Morgan Stanley sees Britain's FTSE 100 Index falling as much as 19 percent and the Euro Stoxx 50 Index dropping up to 14 percent, with financial and consumer discretionary stocks hit hardest and staples and health-care shares outperforming.

Jeff Kleintop, chief global investment strategist at Charles Schwab & Co., predicted rippling consequences: U.S. dollar gains from haven-seekers will push down commodities, cutting companies' earnings and prompting devaluation of the yuan as fewer exports to Europe, China's biggest customer, possibly "renew economic hard landing concerns for China."

Yogi Dewan, chief executive officer at Hassium Asset Management, says he's selling European stocks to buy UK equities, because he expects the Bank of England to cut rates and reignite its quantitative easing program to support growth. Capelo said such moves may make matters worse for banks already "crippled by the negative rates."

RBC Capital Markets suggested investing in Nordic banks including Danske Bank A/S, Swedbank AB and DNB ASA because "they have relatively low beta and their earnings should be more re-



silient." Strategists at Wells Fargo Investment Institute predicted the U.S. dollar will emerge unscathed, helping U.S. companies that sell overseas, and stood by a 2016 target for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index that implies a 7.5 percent gain from Friday's close.

Currencies

The largest risks in the foreign-exchange markets involve commodity-rich countries and economies reliant on the UK the biggest beneficiaries are likely to be the traditional safe havens, the dollar and the yen.

Lee Ferridge, the Boston-based head of macro strategy for North America at State Street Global Markets, said the yen may strengthen to 95 per dollar by yearend, from about 102 Friday. The pound will probably recoup some losses and

trade at about \$1.40 against the U.S. dollar, he said.

Deutsche Bank AG is keeping its bearish year-end euro forecast at \$1.05, George Saravelos, co-head of global foreign-exchange research in London, said in a note. The euro slumped 2.4 percent to \$1.1109 on Friday.

Bonds

Credit Suisse said in a note that it sees 10-year Treasury yields "threatening historical lows, while Germany and Japan will move further into uncharted negative territory."

Benchmark 10-year Treasury yields fell about 19 basis points on Friday to 1.56 percent, after approaching the record low of 1.38 percent, set in 2012.

"Fixed-income portfolios should limit profit taking this month," wrote Jim Vo-

The largest risks in the foreign-exchange markets involve commodity-rich countries and economies reliant on the UK, the biggest beneficiaries are likely to be the traditional safe havens, the dollar and the yen.

gel, head of interest-rate strategy at FTN Financial in Memphis, Tennessee. "Probability is high a counter-party will need, and be willing to pay more for, current portfolio items sometime in the next several weeks." Turn to municipal bonds to escape volatility because fundamentals move more slowly for state and local governments, he said.

Merrill Lynch's municipal bond index has returned 4.3 percent this year, compared with a 5 percent gain for the Merrill Lynch Treasury Master Index.

For now, yields on Treasuries and gilts are both falling as they did after the U.S. was downgraded in 2011, with gilts leading the way. "Should gilts lead Treasuries? We think not. We still expect capital to flow out of the UK, with the U.S. being a very likely destination," they said.

Emerging markets

The impact on developing countries will be modest, said Geoffrey Dennis, head of global emerging-market strategy at UBS Securities. He may rethink his slight over-weighting of stocks in Europe, the Middle East and Africa because countries like Turkey, Greece and South Africa send significant slices of their exports to the UK

Corporate debt

"Our view is that the expected panic in credit markets will only last a day or two, and will provide an opportunity to buy at better levels," Credit Suisse said in a note.

Morgan Stanley advised being "brave" by buying European corporate debt due to potential and existing support from the European Central bank. "We expect a strong response from the ECB," a note from the firm said.

Dan Ivascyn, group chief investment officer of Pacific Investment Management Co., said he's eyeing housing-related assets that may remain shielded from political turmoil in Europe, including "senior, well-protected risk in the mortgage market"

(Source: Bloomberg)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rosneft agrees to sell Siberia stake as Putin boosts China ties

Rosneft PJSC, the world's largest publicly traded crude producer, agreed to sell a stake in a key unit to China as Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks to bolster energy ties with Asia.

The state-run company committed Saturday to negotiating the sale of 20 percent of its Verkhnechonsk unit to Beijing Enterprises Group Co., Rosneft said in a statement. The deal was signed in Beijing in the presence of Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, during a visit meant to boost trade between the two countries.

Talks on the stake in the East Siberian unit, which increased its oil production 5 percent last year to 8.6 metric tons, or about 170,000 barrels a day, will be completed "soon," Rosneft Chief Executive Officer Igor Sechin told reporters in Beijing. The Russian company plans to sign binding documents not later than the fourth quarter.

China has provided more than \$100 billion to Russian energy firms in the past decade through loans and oil-supply advance payments, helping Rosneft become the world's top publicly traded producer in 2013.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Post-Brexit global equity loss of over \$2 trillion worst ever: S&P

The \$2.08 trillion wiped off global equity markets on Friday after Britain voted to leave the European Union was the biggest daily loss ever, trumping the Lehman Brothers bankruptcy during the 2008 financial crisis and the Black Monday stock market crash of 1987, according to Standard & Poor's Dow Jones Indices.

Global markets skidded following the unexpected result from the June 23 referendum, in which Britons voted to withdraw from the EU by a 52 percent to 48 percent margin.

Markets in mainland Europe were hit the worst, with Milan and Madrid each down more than 12 percent for their biggest losses ever. Britain's benchmark FTSE 100 was down nearly 9 percent at one point on Friday, but rallied to close down 3.15 percent.

The route started in Asia, with the Nikkei down 7.9 percent, and carried over into Wall Street as the S&P 500 fell 3.6 percent.

(Source: Reuters)



The Curiosity rover is going to look for water on Mars

We're already testing crops grown on Martian soil, so of course it's only natural that we begin searching for water on the Red Planet as well. After all, we need to get it ready for our habitation, right? NASA certainly thinks so, and the space agency has suggested that the Curiosity rover begin its quest for liquid sustenance.



The rover will take a closer look at recurring slope lineae (RSL), which are the streaks seen near the planet's Gale Crater

After taking initial photographs with its mast camera, the rover will make its way to the area in question to collect samples. And hopefully, results will confirm what scientists said last year that liquid water does indeed exist on Mars.

The presence of water

The presence of water on

the planet would be a huge

step forward in establishing

Mars as a viable alternative for

And the hope is that if there's

water, there might also be

even if living organisms are

present on the Red Planet and

the Curiosity manages to take

samples, they wouldn't survive

the sterilization process, or

the harsh conditions on Mars

itself. All the same, being able

to prove the presence of wa-

ter could catalyze further mis-

sions to Mars, perhaps with

Of course, it's unlikely that

signs of life on Mars.

The presence of water on the planet would be a huge step forward Earth, should the need arise. in establishing Mars as a viable alternative for Earth, should the need arise. And the hope is that if there's water, there might also be signs of life on

even more exciting revelations.

"Soon, hopefully within a year, we will be in a position to take higher-resolution images of the area that's purported to be an RSL, at a much higher resolution than that of MRO (Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter)," Jim Green, Director of NASA's Planetary Science Division, told Aviation Week of the rover's upcoming expedition. "And then we'd be able to observe it ... and say, 'no, that's really a dust slide,' or watch it change."

So get excited, friends. Your second home away from Earth may be becoming more viable after all. (Source: Digital Trends)

EWS IN BRIEF

Have we been missing a hidden haven of biodiversity?

If someone asked you to list the most important kinds of ecosystem for the preservation of biodiversity, what would you say? Rainforests? Coral reefs? Wetlands?

Whatever your answer, there is one that may have slipped your mind: gravel-bed rivers. And, according to a paper published Friday in the journal Science Advances, they should prob-

In considering these broad valleys that sweep from glaciated mountains the world over, the multidisciplinary team of experts, based mainly out of the University of Montana, determined that their importance in supporting a multitude of different organisms is far more substantial than their size would imply.

A "little over a year ago, in February 2015, I brought together a very select group of people representing fisheries, amphibians, avian populations, big ungulate-wolf interactions, and grizzly bears," lead author Ric Hauer, director of the University of Montana's Center for Integrated Research on the Environment (CIRE), tells The Christian Science Monitor in a telephone inter-

What they found was that these gravel-bed river floodplain systems, which cover only 3 percent of the landscape in innermountain North America, are "by far the most important feature" in the region.

About 240 bird species make their home in the rugged "Yellowstone to Yukon" portion of the Rocky Mountains, a region that stretches from Montana to northern Canada. Of them, more than 200 – greater than 80 percent – are directly reliant on having a viable gravel-bed river system to survive, with roughly 100 actually nesting and rearing their young in

(Source: The CSM)

Flu shots work better than nose spray

The nasal flu vaccine spray, preferred by millions of anxious parents looking for a needle-free way to get their children immunized against the flu, as well as by adults who would rather not get a flu shot, is ineffective and should not be used in the upcoming flu season.

That is the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, a committee of experts on immunization that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. On Wednesday, the committee announced that the nasal vaccine, FluMist, does not work and that children and others should instead get the flu shot.

(Source: The NYT)

Five EB patients receive free of charge operation in Tehran

TMEDICAL TEHRAN — Cosmetic d e s k surgeons at Fatemeh Zahra Hospital in Tehran have performed complimentary surgeries on five patients down with Epidermolysis bullosa (EB), the head of EB Health House in Tehran said

According to IRNA, Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Hamid Reza Hashemi Golpaygani reported that over the past two months five EB patients, whose fingers were fused together, had undergone cosmetic surgery in that hospital.

If EB patients postpone or delay seeking operation and treatment particularly on their fingers, they will lose fingers mobility

Pointing to at least another 15 EB patients awaiting to go under the knife, Hashemi Golpaygani estimated the cost of the operation to be at 400 million rials (about \$11,000), "but thanks to health minister's directive the surgery comes at no cost to patients."

Expressing gratitude to the health min-



ister for his goodwill, Hashemi Golpaygani called on the ministry to provide further assistance for the EB patients in need of surgery to reduce the average waiting time for their operation.

Hashemi Golpaygani also asked people to refer EB patients from across the country to the EB Health House in Tehran so that they can take advantage of the services of the facility.

Back in June of 2015, the first EB Health House in Tehran was opened to provide patients with free medical services, including continuous supply of their dressing and prognosis of the patients' illness by special-

The establishment of the Health House followed an instruction from Health Minister Hassan Oazizadeh Hashemi whose ministry is eyeing to resolve the problems surrounding the EB patients and is determined to alleviate their misery.

Around two months ago, the health minister dropped in at the Health House and promised the patients to provide necessary assistance to resolve their eye problems, dental and gastroenterology

EB is a group of inherited connective tissue diseases that cause blisters in the skin and mucosal membranes. It is a result of a defect in anchoring between the epidermis and dermis, resulting in friction and skin

Although 420 EB patients are receiving medical care at the EB Health House, it is estimated that another 800 to 1,000 patients are yet to get help at the center.

Science suggests genes can hugely influence academic performance

Research shows that a student's genetic makeup can have a strong influence on their academic performance.

Some interpret this to mean there is little that can be done to help those who struggle academically—and that spending extra money on these students to help them suc-

A major misconception is that genes are destiny. This is wrong because genes are never the full story.

Environmental factors ("nurture") also play a role in levels of academic achievement. Well-designed and well-delivered remediation can also help struggling students even in cases where genetic factors ("nature") may be the source of the difficulties.

Genetic influence

We know about strong genetic influences on academic skills primarily through the use of the twin method, where the genetic makeup of identical twins is compared with non-identical twins. Evidence of genetic influence emerges if identical twins are more alike in terms of academic performance than non-identical ("fraternal") twins. Identical



twins share all their genes, while "fraternal" twins share half of their genes, but both types share homes and schools.

Thus, researchers can estimate the degree to which genes affect academic achievement over and above the effects of homes and schools: that is, they can estimate how much ability is inherited. And because non-identical twins can be opposite-sex, researchers can also identify

if nature and nurture play out differently with males and

For the most part the same genes appear to affect boys and girls, and in general gender effects are in danger of being exaggerated in public discourse.

Studies with twin children have been conducted worldwide, including in Australia, the U.S., the UK, continental Europe, Asia, and Africa, with an emphasis on the core areas of literacy and numeracy. Estimates of genetic influence vary somewhat among subjects and locations, but range from near 50% to as high as 80%.

The studies have used standardized tests as well as school-administered tests.

Twin studies can also parse environmental influence into factors that twin children mostly share, such as home socio-economic status (SES) and school attended. There are also those that are unique to each child in a twin, such as illnesses and, often enough, separate teachers.

(Source: Quartz)

Autonomous shuttles start giving rides in Sion



Autonomous shuttles made history in Switzerland on June 13 when they began carrying passengers in the historical district of Sion, the largest city in the Canton of Valais. Two vehicles will wend their way along the edge of town and through the pedestrian area, and stops will include the Place de la Planta and the Place du Midi. This pilot project, which is part of the Mobility Lab Sion Valais initiative, is an opportunity for EPFL researchers to test and improve their traffic and fleet-management algorithms.

The smart vehicles will be run by PostBus, Switzerland's leading public bus operator. They will carry up to 11 passengers at a time, at a maximum speed of 20 kilometers per hour. They will be monitored and controlled by a remote operator using a software program developed by the EPFL startup BestMile. For reasons of safety and security, an attendant will be onboard during this groundbreaking test phase. The shuttles will be free of charge, and a set schedule will be announced once the test phase has been completed.

Technical and legal considera-

The Swiss Federal Roads Office and the Valais Roads Service carefully analyzed both

technical and legal considerations before green-lighting the tests. But the electric vehicles had to be brought up to spec first. This included installing air conditioning, a second battery, an access ramp for people with reduced mobility and a windshield wiper for the front window.

The challenge for the researchers from EPFL's Urban Transport Systems Laboratory is to develop a fleet-management system able to handle the many situations that autonomous vehicles could encounter. The vehicles must also be able to communicate with each other and with others on the road so that they can adjust their speed as necessary and respect the right-of-way.

The two-year project is supported by the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI). It will include a reliable system for managing the specific needs of passengers, such as on-demand service, booking a ride in advance and offering

The algorithms will have to be able to manage these tasks in real time, without sacrificing safety or cost efficiency. Once ready, the algorithms will be incorporated in the central fleet-management system.

(Source: phys.org)

Beneficial bacteria may protect breasts from cancer



Bacteria that have the potential to abet breast cancer are present in the breasts of cancer patients, while beneficial bacteria are more abundant in healthy breasts, where they may actually be protecting women from cancer, according to Gregor Reid, PhD, and his collaborators. These findings may lead ultimately to the use of probiotics to protect women against breast cancer. The research is published in the ahead of print June 24 in Applied and Environmental Microbiology, a journal of the American Society for Microbiology.

In the study, Reid's Ph.D. student Camilla Urbaniak obtained breast tissues from 58 women who were undergoing lumpectomies or mastectomies for either benign (13 women) or cancerous (45 women) tumors, as well as from 23 healthy women who had undergone breast reductions or enhancements. They used DNA sequencing to identify bacteria from the tissues, and culturing to confirm that the organisms were alive.

Reid is Professor of Surgery, and Microbiology & Immunology at Western University and Director, Canadian Centre

for Human Microbiome and Probiotic Research at Lawson Health Research Institute in London, Ontario, Canada.

Breast cancer

Women with breast cancer had el evated levels of Escherichia coli and Staphylococcus epidermidis, are known to induce double-stranded breaks in DNA in HeLa cells, which are cultured human cells. "Double-strand breaks are the most detrimental type of DNA damage and are caused by genotoxins, reactive oxygen species, and ionizing radiation," the investigators write.

The repair mechanism for doublestranded breaks is highly error prone, and such errors can lead to cancer's develop-

Conversely, Lactobacillus and Streptococcus, considered to be health-promoting bacteria, were more prevalent in healthy breasts than in cancerous ones. Both groups have anticarcinogenic properties. For example, natural killer cells are critical to controlling growth of tumors, and a low level of these immune cells is associated with increased incidence of breast cancer.

(Source: EurekAlert)

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Pls. send CV to: _uint.resume@gmail.com_ Vets are calling for a ban on homeopathy

for pets claiming animals cannot benefit from the placebo effect because they are unaware they are being treated.

Danny Chambers, who teaches at the University of Edinburgh, said that homeopathy has no basis in science and prevents the use of orthodox remedies, which can lead to unnecessary suffering and even death.

More than 1,000 vets have now signed a petition, started by Chambers, which calls

on the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to prohibit homeopathic treatments.

Homeopathy can kill pets and should be banned, say vets

The "danger is not only due to the remedies being ineffective, but the belief held by some homeopaths that such therapies can be a substitute for orthodox

Writing in New Scientist, he said: "Amazingly it is still offered and promoted by a small number of vets in the UK. This is plain weird when you think about it.

Placebo effect

"Animals do not experience a placebo effect because they are unaware they are being treated.

"Vets who practice homeopathy should not be permitted to use their professional standing to promote its validity.

"They should not be allowed to charge a fee for something that has been proven to be ineffective. This line must be drawn.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Weapons shipped into Jordan by the United States Central Intelligence Ágency (CIA) and the House of Saud regime intended for Syrian rebels have been systematically stolen by Jordanian intelligence operatives and sold to arms merchants on the black market, according to American and Jordanian officials.

Some of the stolen weapons were used in a shooting in November that killed two Americans and three others at a police training facility in Amman, FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) officials believe after months of investigating the attack, according to people familiar with the investigation.

The existence of the weapons theft, which ended only months ago after complaints by the U.S. and Saudi governments, is being reported for the first time following a joint investigation by Al Jazeera and The New York Times.

The theft, involving millions of dollars of weapons, highlights the messy, unplanned consequences of programs to arm and train rebels - the kind of program the CIA and Pentagon have conducted for decades - even after the Obama administration had hoped to keep the training program in Jordan under

The Jordanian officers who were part of the scheme reaped a windfall from the weapons sales, using the money to buy expensive SUVs, iPhones and other luxury items, Jordanian officials said.

The theft and resale of the arms - including Kalashnikov assault rifles, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades - have led to a flood of new weapons available on the black arms market.

Investigators do not know what became of most of them, but a disparate collection of groups, including criminal networks and rural Jordanian tribes, use the arms bazaars to build their arsenals. Weapons smugglers also buy weapons in the arms bazaars to ship outside the

The FBI investigation into the Amman shooting, run by the bureau's Washington field office, is continuing

But American and Jordanian officials said the investigators believed that the weapons that a Jordanian police captain, Anwar Abu Zaid, used to gun down two Jordanians, two American contractors and one South African had originally arrived in Jordan intended for the Syrian rebel-training program.

The officials said this finding had come from tracing the serial numbers of the weapons.

Mohammad H al-Momani, Jordan's minister of state for media affairs, said allegations that Jordanian intelligence officers had been involved in any weapons thefts were "absolutely incorrect".

"Weapons of our security institutions are concretely tracked, with the highest discipline," he said.

He called the powerful Jordanian intelligence service, known as the General Intelligence Directorate, or GID, "a world-class, reputable institution known for its professional conduct and high degree of cooperation among security agencies". In Jordan, the head of the GID is considered the second most important man after the king.

Representatives of the CIA and FBI declined to comment.

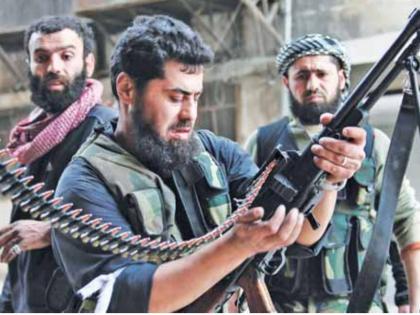
The U.S. State Department did not address the allegations directly, but a spokesman said that the U.S.' relationship with Jordan remained solid.

"The United States deeply values the long history of cooperation and friendship with Jordan," said John Kirby, the spokesman. "We are committed to the security of Jordan and to partnering closely with Jordan to meet common security challenges."

Some of the weapons have also ended up in the hands of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists.

Amnesty International also reported last year that ISIL had developed a substantial lethal arsenal from U.S.-made weapons and equipment they had cap-

Weapons for Syrian rebels sold on Jordan's black market



tured from the Iraqi military and fighters.

In October 2014, ISIL released a video in which it bragged about recovering weapons and supplies that the U.S. military had intended to deliver to Kurdish fighters in the Syrian city of Kobani (Ayn

ISIL terrorists, who were initially trained by the CIA in Jordan in 2012 to destabilize the Syrian government, control parts of the country and also overran neighboring Iraq in 2014.

The training program, which in 2013 began directly arming the rebels under the code name Timber Sycamore, is run by the CIA and several Arab intelligence services and aimed at building up forces opposing the legitimate Syrian President

The terrorists have been carrying out horrific acts of violence such as public decapitations and crucifixions against all communities, including Shias, Sunnis, Izadi Kurds, and Christians, in the areas under their control.

The U.S. and the House of Saud regime are the biggest contributors, with the Saudis contributing both weapons and large sums of money, and with CIA paramilitary operatives taking the lead in training the rebels to use Kalashnikovs, mortars, antitank guided missiles and other weapons.

The existence of the program is classified, as are all details about its budget. U.S. officials say that the CIA has trained thousands of rebels in the past three years, and that the fighters made substantial advances on the battlefield against Syrian government forces until Russian military forces - launched last year in support of Assad - compelled

The training program is based in Jordan because of the country's proximity to the Syrian battlefields. From the beginning, the CIA and the Arab intelligence agencies relied on Jordanian security services to transport the weapons, many bought in bulk in the Balkans and elsewhere around Eastern Europe.

The program is separate from that the Pentagon set up to train rebels to combat ISIL terrorists, rather than the Syrian military. That program was shut down after it managed to train only a handful of Syrian rebels.

Jordanian and American officials described the weapons theft and subsequent investigation on the condition of anonymity because the Syrian rebel training is classified in the United States and a government secret in Jordan.

News of the weapons theft and eventual crackdown has been circulating inside Jordan's government for several

Husam Abdallat, a senior aide to several past Jordanian prime ministers, said he had heard about the scheme from current Jordanian officials. The GID has

some corrupt officers in its ranks, Abdallat said, but added that the institution as a whole is not corrupt.

Jordanian officials who described the operation said it had been run by a group of GID logistics officers with direct access to the weapons once they reached Jordan. The officers regularly siphoned truckloads of the weapons from the stocks, before delivering the rest of the weapons to designated drop-off points.

Then the officers sold the weapons at several large arms markets in Jordan. The main arms bazaars in Jordan are in Ma'an, in the southern part of the country; in Sahab, outside Amman; and in the

It is unclear whether the current head of the GID, General Faisal al-Shoubaki, had knowledge of the theft of the CIA and Saudi weapons. But several Jordanian intelligence officials said senior officers inside the service had knowledge of the weapons scheme and provided cover for the lower-ranking officers.

Word that the weapons intended for the rebels were being bought and sold on the black market leaked into Jordan government circles last year, when arms dealers began bragging to their customers that they had large stocks of U.S.- and Saudi-provided weapons.

Jordanian intelligence operatives monitoring the arms market - operatives not involved in the weapons-diversion scheme - began sending reports to headquarters about a proliferation of weapons in the market and of the boasts of the arms dealers.

After the Americans and Saudis complained about the theft, investigators at the GID arrested several dozen officers involved in the scheme, among them a lieutenant colonel running the operation. They were ultimately released from detention and fired from the service, but were allowed to keep their pensions and money they gained from the scheme, according to Jordanian officials.

Jordan's decision to host the CIA-led training program is the latest episode in

Beginning in the Eisenhower administration, the CIA made large payments to King Hussein, who ruled Jordan from 1952 until his death in 1999, in exchange for permission to run numerous intelligence operations on Jordanian soil.

CIA money and expertise also helped the king establish the GID and put down internal and external threats to his gov-

Since the September 11, 2001, attacks, the United States has flooded Jordan with money for various counterterrorism programs. American and Jordanian spies have run a joint counterterrorism centre outside Amman, and a secret prison in Jordan housed prisoners the CIA captured in the region.

In his 2006 book, State of Denial, the

journalist Bob Woodward recounted a 2003 conversation in which George J Tenet, then the director of central intelligence, told Condoleezza Rice, then the national security adviser, "We created the Jordanian intelligence service, and now

It is a relationship of mutual dependence, but Jordan has particular leverage because of its location in the heart of the Middle East and its general tolerance to be used as a base of U.S. military and intelligence operations.

Jordan's security services also have a long history of trying to infiltrate armed groups, efforts that have yielded both success and failure.

In 2009, a Jordanian doctor - brought to the CIA by a GID officer after the doctor said he had penetrated al-Qaeda's leadership - turned out to be a double agent and blew himself up at a remote base in Afghanistan. Seven CIA employees, as well as the GID officer, were killed

Two recent heads of the service, also known as the Mukhabarat, have been sent to prison on charges including embezzlement, money laundering and bank

One of them, General Samih Battikhi, ran the GID from 1995 to 2000 and was convicted of being part of scheme to obtain bank loans of around \$600m for fake government contracts and pocketing about \$25m. He was sentenced to eight years in prison, but the sentence was eventually reduced to four years that were served in his villa in the seaside

General Mohammad al-Dahabi, who ran the service from 2005 to 2008, was later convicted of stealing millions of dollars that GID officers had seized from Iraqi citizens crossing into Jordan in the years after the American invasion of Iraq

His trial showed that he had also arranged for money to be smuggled in private cars from Iraq into Jordan and had been involved in selling Jordanian citizenship to Iraqi businessmen. He was sentenced to 13 years in prison and fined tens of millions of dollars.

President Barack Obama authorized the covert arming program in April 2013, after more than a year of debate inside the administration about the wisdom of using the CIA to train rebels trying to oust Assad.

The decision was made in part to try to gain control of a chaotic situation in which Arab countries were funneling arms into Syria for various rebel groups with little coordination.

The Qataris had paid to smuggle shipments of Chinese-made FN-6 shoulder-fired weapons over the border from Turkey, and Saudi Arabia sent thousands of Kalashnikovs and millions of rounds of ammunition it had bought, sometimes with the CIA's help.

By late 2013, the CIA was working directly with Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other nations to arm and train small groups of rebels and send them across the border into Syria.

The specific motives behind the November shooting at the Amman police training facility remain uncertain, and it is unclear when the FBI will officially conclude its investigation.

This year, the widows of the Americans killed in the attack sued Twitter, alleging that it knowingly permitted ISIL to use its social media platform to spread the group's violent message, recruiting and raising funds.

Captain Abu Zaid, the gunman, was killed almost immediately. His brother, Fadi Abu Zaid, said in an interview that he still believed his brother was innocent and that he had given no indications he was planning to carry out the

The Jordanian government, he said, has denied him any answers about the shooting, and has refused to release his brother's autopsy report.

(Source: agencies)

Poland 'shocked' by xenophobic abuse of Poles in Britain

Poland's ambassador in London has expressed his shock and concern about what he said we're incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community following Britain's decision to leave the European Union

Dozens of alleged racist incidents were reported to the police in parts of England over the weekend, including cases where Poles and other eastern Europeans were the victims of racial abuse.

In Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, local media said that police were probing reports that signs reading "No more Polish vermin" had been distributed in the area, including outside schools, hours after the referendum's result - a 52 to 48 split in favor of Britain's exit - was announced on Friday.

In a separate incident in Hammersmith, west London, the front of a Polish cultural centre was reportedly smeared with offensive graffiti.

"We are shocked and deeply concerned by the recent incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community and other UK residents of migrant heritage," Witold Sobkow, the Polish ambassador in London, said in a statement on Monday.

Sobkow said the embassy had been in contact with the "relevant institutions" and that police were investigating the Hammersmith and Huntingdon cases.

"We call on all Polish nationals who fall victim of xenophobic abuse and on all witnesses to report such incidents to local authorities," Sobkow said.

The approximately 800,000-strong Polish community in Britain accounts for one of the top three minority groups in the country.

On Thursday, Britain became the first country in the history of the European Union to vote to leave the 28-member bloc, following a referendum campaign replete with racism and fear.

bate ahead of the vote, with Brexit backers arguing that Britain could never control immigration until it left the

In the aftermath of the murder of Labour MP Jox Cox, campaigners for Brexit faced accusations that they caused the debate about immigration to become too

Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, former Conservative Party chairwoman and the first Muslim woman to serve in the Tory cabinet, defected to the "Remain" camp ahead of the vote, citing "hate and xenophobia" as the reasons for changing her position.

A few days before the referendum, the far-right, anti-immigrant UKIP party was accused of racism after unveiling a poster showing a queue of refugees with the slogan "Breaking point" and a plea to leave the EU.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

NEWS

ISIL claims responsibility for Jordan border attack

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group has claimed responsibility for a car bomb suicide attack last week on the Jordanian border with Syria.

The attack, which took place in a buffer zone opposite the Syrian refugee camp of al-Rukban, killed seven Jordanian troops and wounded 13. ISIL's news agency released a statement on Monday claim-

ing to have carried out what it described as a suicide attack targeting the "American Jordanian al-Rukban military base". The group also posted a video showing a car speeding

through flat desert towards an army post, followed by an explosion near the site. Jordanian officials said last week that the attack involved

multiple vehicles. Following the attack, Jordan said it would respond with

It sealed off the border, cutting off about 70,000 Syrian refugees stranded in the area from international aid delivery. Aid officials say no food and little water have reached the

The latest attack came two weeks after five Jordanian intelligence agents were killed when a gunman stormed the General Intelligence Directorate office in Ain el-Basha near the Palestinian refugee camp of al Baqa'a.

ISIL controls large areas in neighboring Syria and Iraq, and Jordan has fortified border defenses to prevent attacks and infiltration attempts.

Jordan has also widened a crackdown on ISIL sympathizers at home, jailing hundreds in the past two years for promoting the group's ideas on social media.

The kingdom is a member of the United States-led international military coalition against ISIL and has been carrying out air strikes in both Iraq and Syria.

One of its pilots was captured by ISIL terrorists when his plane went down in Syria in December 2014. ISIL later released gruesome footage of him being burned alive, spark-

(Source: agencies)

Spain election: Conservatives win, but without majority

Spain's repeat election has failed to clarify the political future of the country, with the main parties placing roughly the same as in last December's ballot, which brought six months

With 97 percent of the votes officially counted on Sunday, the conservative Popular Party (PP) had won the most seats in the 350-member parliament.

The party won 137 seats, up from 123 in December, but short of the 176 needed to form a government on its own. Its earlier efforts to find support from rival parties proved

The interior ministry said the centre-left Socialist Party was in second place with 85 seats.

Unidos Podemos (United We Can) - which brings together Podemos, a two-year-old party that grew out of a grassroots protest movement, and the communists and the Greens was third with 71 seats.

The caretaker prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, said his PP had won the election and therefore claimed the right to gov-

Sunday's repeat vote came after the four main political parties failed to agree on a coalition after December's general election resulted in a hung parliament.

All eyes will now be on subsequent coalition negotiations, with political leaders under more pressure this time to form some sort of government.

Rajoy argued that since the PP came to power in 2011, it has brought Spain back to growth and overseen a drop in unemployment - though at 21 percent, it was still the second highest rate in the EU after Greece.

But his rivals retort that inequalities have risen and the jobs created are mainly unstable

The PP has also been engulfed by corruption scandals in recent years, with jailed party treasurer Luis Barcenas telling investigators about a scheme of illegal contributions and donations to the party.

The Socialists were fighting smaller scandals of their own, involving allegations that former party members ran a fraud scheme by siphoning off public funds.

(Source: agencies)

Benefiting from Brexit: Boris Johnson's folly

6 → The Brexit campaign became Johnson's latest populist plaything. He took over the movement like an investor snapping up a company -- but this was no hostile takeover. The freaks desperately needed Johnson.

Now he's achieved his goal. He gathered up all of the provincial rage outside of the capital and used it to place a huge bet. And perhaps it was too large. During his first statement after a long night of dismay for most continental Europeans, it sounded as if he wanted to prepare his country for hard

"No time for haste," Johnson said. It sounded like he hoped protracted negotiations with Europe could stave off the worst for Britain.

Johnson will end up costing the British a lot of money. Back in his Bullingdon Club days in Oxford, Johnson and his cohorts would sometimes smash up the restaurants they visited, tossing food on the walls and trashing the furniture. Only to return the next day to pay in pounds for their vandalism.

This time it's different. The entire nation will end up paying for Johnson's folly. And the highest price is sure to be paid by those most downtrodden -- those who voted as Johnson (Source: Spiegel)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"She is the creature of life, the giver of life, and the giver of abundant love, care and protection. Such are the great qualities of a mother. The bond between a mother and her child is the only real and purest bond in the world, the only true love we can ever find in our lifetime." Ama H. Vanniarachchy

Working long hours is way worse for women's health than for men's

Spending too much time in the office isn't just giving you FOMO—it's also upping your chances of developing a life-threatening illness, according to a study published this week.

The research, spearheaded by Allard Dembe, an Ohio State University professor of health services management and policy, was based on data from interviews with almost 7,500 women who were part of the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1979, which tracked adults born between 1957 and 1964 over a



32-year period. Dembe and his colleagues found that women who worked an average of 60 hours or more over the three decades of the study had three times the risk of getting diabetes, cancer, heart trouble and arthritis than those who worked 40-hour weeks.

Men weren't nearly as affected by long work hours, the researchers found: They had a higher incidence of arthritis, but none of the other chronic diseases. Moreover, men who worked

41-50 hours per week had a lower risk of heart disease, lung disease and depression than those who worked fewer than 40 hours.

Dembe tells Fortune that he was "so, so surprised by the real gender difference," noting that he has never before seen such a pronounced divide between men's and women's results in his research.

Subscribe to the Broadsheet, Fortune's daily newsletter on the world's most powerful women.

Why do women's bodies respond so much more dramatically

to longer hours? The answer may have to do with all the responsibilities they shoulder at home. "My speculation is that women have multiple roles to maybe a greater extent than men," Dembe says. "It may just be that they don't have time to take care of themselves" because they spend much of their time outside of work on caretaking.

Another possibility is that women's bodies are simply not as able as men's to withstand long hours, says Dembe, though he notes that both of these explanations are simply unproven hypotheses.

(Source: fortune.com)

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Chakchouka (Shakshouka)

"Chakchouka (also called shakshouka) is a Tunisian dish of tomatoes, onions, pepper, spices, and eggs being cooked mostly in the holy month of Ramadan. It is easy to make. It is similar to the Turkish dish 'Menemen' and to the Latin American breakfast dish 'Huevos Rancheros.'"

Ingredients



- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 1/3 cups chopped onion
- 1 cup thinly sliced bell peppers, any color
- 2 cloves garlic, minced, or
- 2 1/2 cups chopped toma-
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- L teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 hot chile pepper, seeded and finely chopped, or to taste

4 eggs Directions:

Heat the olive oil in a skillet over medium heat. Stir in the onion, bell peppers, and garlic; cook and stir until the vegetables have softened and the onion

has turned translucent, about 5 minutes. Combine the tomatoes, cumin, paprika, salt, and chile pepper into a bowl and mix briefly. Pour the tomato mixture into the skillet, and stir to combine.

Simmer, uncovered, until the tomato juices have cooked off, about 10 minutes. Make four indentations in the tomato mixture for the eggs. Crack the eggs into the indentations. Cover the skillet and let the eggs cook until they're firm but not dry, about 5 minutes. Serve it for Iftar!

Status of women and family in Imam Ali's (AS) opinion

emotions who has been created by the Almighty God to shoulder responsibility for educating society and moving toward perfection. God created woman as symbol of His own beauty and to give solace to her partner and her family.

Women's status in Imam Ali's (AS) opinion

Due to high importance that Islam attaches to women, there are many recommendations about venerating and respecting women and being kind to them. Islam lauds women and Imam Ali (AS) has quoted Prophet Mohammad (S) as saying that "Nobody respects women but those who are dignified and generous and nobody insults them but those who are mean and contemptible." In another tradition, Prophet Mohammad (S) appreciates a mother noting, "The entire respect that a child has for his/her mother would not be equal to one day of suffering that she has underwent to bring him/her to this world."

In pre-Islamic Arab society, people considered no value for women and girls and some tribes even went as far as burying their female infants alive. However, after the advent of Islam, Prophet Mohammad (S) did his best to change women's status and promote new attitudes toward women. Every time that Prophet Mohammad (S) saw his daughter, Fatemeh (SA), he greatly respected her and kissed her brow. Basically, respect for women is prominent in traditions as well as the conduct of Prophet Mohammad (S) and his progeny. Ali (AS) has been quoted as saying, "Girl is good deed and boy is bounty. Good deeds are rewarded while people are held accountable for bounties." He has also been quoted as saying that "He who has a daughter will avail of blessing and forgiveness of God."

A major issue which has been addressed by leaders of Islam is to keep women out of the way of harm, both physical and psychological. In our time, inattention to this issue has caused many women to fall victims to moral and sexual assaults. Anthony Giddens, a Western sociologist, has noted that sexual abuse of women has become ordinary in the West and it also includes working women.

A British journalist has noted that violence against women is escalating in the United States, adding, "Every day a number of women fall victims to violence of their husband or friends and are killed.

Imam Ali (AS) enumerates ways to prevent physical as well as psychological damage to women and notes that women can take part in economic, political and social activities while behaving in such a way as to keep off offenders. Imam Ali (AS) advises women to cover their bodies properly when they get out of their homes to shoulder social responsibilities or attend public places.

Although chastity is good for everybody, it is even better for women.

Therefore, Imam Ali (AS) has noted in Epigram 474 of Nahj-ul-Balagha, "The reward given to a combatant killed for the

cause of God would not be bigger than the reward of a chaste person who is able to do sin, but stays away from it. Verily, a chaste person is an angel among angels of God." Today, women in many parts of the world guard their human status in proper ways.

Imam Ali (AS) has considered modesty, caution and being calculating as major characteristics of any Muslim woman. It seems that women should be both modest and firm in social encounters because this would prevent evil men to harm them. Imam Ali (AS) has also noted that women should be wise in social interactions to prevent others from exploiting them and look at them as a consumer commodity. Imam Ali (AS) has opined that a Muslim woman should be calculating and protect honor and property of their spouses. Therefore, if a woman is modest, calculating and cautious, she would be able to take constructive and effective steps.

Woman's status in family

Marriage and family formation is among basic needs of all human beings which will help them prosper. Undoubtedly, relations among family members are important and leave their mark on the society. At present, Western thinkers are concerned about collapse of family institution and growing number of single parent families and are trying to find solutions for this problem. An American researcher has noted that modern families which are not the result of legal marriage lack good resources for upbringing of their children and cannot help shape moral conscience of their offspring. He says that such families are doomed to collapse. Today, 22 percent of children demands are detrimental to the marital

the situation is alarming.

Islam attaches great significance to family institution. Men and women are supposed to do their part in social, religious and educational system of families. Imam Ali (AS) has noted that "woman oversees domestic as well as her hus-

Through good supervision over family, a woman can create a warm and understanding atmosphere and lay suitable grounds for a healthy, vivid and successful family life.

Imam Ali (AS) did his best to make women understand true value of women and know that they need attention and kindness more than anything else and do not deserve to be treated harshly and violently. Imam Ali (AS) has been quoted as saying, "God will not accept prayer and good deeds of a man who harasses his wife and he is among the first people to enter the Hell."

Imam Ali (AS) has also noted, "every man who is unfair to his family cannot be hoped to do good to others." In other words, such a person would not be qualified to undertake social responsibilities and cannot even be trusted to manage a family life. Since women are susceptible to emotional upheavals, they should be able to rely on their spouses in such times. At the same time, a woman should give solace and comfort to her man.

Most family problems are due to trouble caused by one of the spouses. Sometimes domestic problems are a result of quibbling over trivial matters or illogical demands on the part of wife or man. Imam Ali (AS) maintains that such are born out of wedlock, while the figure life and calls on both men and women was only 11 percent in 1970. Therefore to love each other and do not ask for

something that would end in resentment During nine years of his marital life with Fatemeh (AS), Imam Ali (AS) had a warm and affectionate relationship to his wife. When he was asked about their marital life, Imam Ali (AS) said, "I bring God as witness that I never made Fatemeh (AS) angry and never made her do anything. Fatemeh (AS) was also like that and she never made me angry and never diso-

Since the main goal of marriage is to attain peace of mind and produce offspring, criteria used for choosing one's spouse should be such that they would guarantee establishment of a lasting family relationship. Imam Ali (AS) has frequently explained about suitable criteria for marriage. One of those criteria is that man and woman who are intent to marry should be similar in social status and rank. They should understand each other and have common ideals and ideas as much as possible so as to supplement each other.

He has advised both men and women to choose a spouse that would match them in status. From the viewpoint of Islam, similar status, religion, culture, and personal characteristics constitute major factors which will cement a marital relationship. Apparent feathers such as intelligence and age may be also taken as additional criteria.

Therefore, to prevent future problems, men and women should pay due attention to each other's characteristics and select a spouse which matches them more closely. It is through correct selection that one can provide his/her and children with a calm, healthy and productive home environment.

(Source: iranreview.org)

IN FOCUS Mehr/ Alliveh Sa'adatpour



Turkmen women of Iran's northeast while preserving rich Turkmen culture and traditions, are actively participating in economic and social scenes of their community.

Subway commuters defend Muslim women

NEW YORK (FOX5NY) — Amaira Hasan, 25, says she is not just proud to be Muslim but also a New Yorker. She was overwhelmed to see how New Yorkers of all backgrounds came to the defense of two Muslim women on the subway this week.

We have seen it on social media and even on television these last couple of days: people speaking out against the Muslim community in the wake of the Orlando terror attack.

On Monday morning, Hasan experienced it for herself on the F train. She says that a man got on the train in Jackson Heights and began berating two women wearing hijabs. He called them foreign terrorists and that they don't belong here, according to Hasan.

She took to social media to explain what had happened and her post went viral. It read in part: "The entire train erupted in anger. A black man, a Romanian, a gay man, a bunch of Asians, and a score of others came to their defense demanding that this man leave these women alone and get off this train."

Rahman's coach strategies for the big lift

Ahmad Deljavan explains how he has built up the world's strongest Paralympian to reach 300kg in Rio 2016.

In deciding to lift a world record 300kg at Rio 2016, Iran's Siamand Rahman had a lot of guidance from his team, especially his coach Ahmad Deljavan who has strategically planned for the world's strongest Paralympian to peak this September.

While Rahman has surpassed 300kg during training sessions, Deljavan does not want Rahman to just jump into Rio and set the world record. Instead, it has to be a gradual build up.

"I always choose weights in a way that the first attempt be for stabilising his [Paralympic] Championship, and the second attempt being at most 10kg different from the world record and about 10kg less than that," Deljavan explained. "The purpose behind choosing such weights is that if Siamand Rahman in his third attempt fails to lift the weight to break the world record, fulfilling this goal will still be possible for him in his fourth attempt.

"However, if the chosen weight in the second attempt differs more than 10kg from the world's record, then it is impossible to reach it in the fourth attempt."

It was a strategy Rahman followed at the 7th Fazza IPC Powerlifting World Cup in Dubai, UAE in February.

Athletes are given three lift attempts, and the winner is the athlete who lifts the highest number of kilograms. Competitors are allowed a fourth lift if they wish to attempt a record.

Rahman, who competes in the men's over 107kg category, broke his own world record earlier this year with a 297kg lift.

In training Rahman, Deljavan said he is careful in deciding what the Paralympic champion lifts during sessions.



"Making balance in choosing weights is important; I never take risks," he said. "In fact for choosing weights in training sessions I use algebraic formula which is more reasonable rather than risky; I also do the same in competitions."

Deljavan knows the expectations Rahman but their workouts are, in fact, no different from other powerlifters.

Rahman has training sessions for two weeks per month in a focused training camp that is under supervision of his technical staff and Deljavan. Then for another two weeks, Deljavan gives Rah-

man a training schedule to do on his own, Paralympic.org wrote.

"It means that training the world's strongest man is the same as other powerlifters," Deljavan said. "We never put him under extra pressure because of his position as world's strongest man.

"Siamand is a wise and good-tempered man with high understanding. If he follows his training in this logical procedure, he can be present strongly in championships."

In the last training camp, Rahman reached 290kg. If they stick accord-

ing to schedule, Rahman should lift his own world record of 297kg in the next camp. And if they continue to remain on schedule, Rahman is expected to reach 300kg in September.

He has done it before, unofficially. "I wish to remind you that Rahman in his previous training camps has set records of 302kg, 305kg, 306kg, and 310k," Deljavan said. "Generally speaking, we

cords of 302kg, 305kg, 306kg, and 310k," Deljavan said. "Generally speaking, we have planned in a way to see Siamand's best performance in Rio 2016. I hope he faces no obstacles and lift the highest weight in the Paralympic Games."

Hamid Sourian on verge of missing Olympics

TTS PORTS TEHRAN — Olympics gold medallist Hamid Sourian is on the verge of missing out on the 2016 Olympic Games.

Sourian suffered an apparent neck injury after taking part in the Greco-Roman wrestling training on Sunday.

The six-time world champion hopes to make a quick and full recovery to join the Iranian team participating at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.



"I suffered an injury in the training and felt pain in my neck. Injury is an inevitable part of sport but I hope I get well soon." Sourian said.

Sourian secured his Olympic quota place after winning gold medal at the 2nd World Olympic Games Qualifier at Turkey in May.

Wrestling at the 2016 Olympic Games will be held in Rio de Janeiro from August 14 to 21.

Iran's Tasisat to face Benfica for 7th place at Futsal Int'l Cup



Iran's Tasisat Daryaei will play Portuguese champion Benfica on Tuesday for the 7th/8th position of the 2016 Futsal Intercontinental Cup.

Tasisat Daryaei, who was defeated against FC Barcelona Lassa 4-2 and Carlos Barbosa 4-3 in Group A, was held to a 2-2 draw against Dinamo Moscow Sunday night at the Aspire in Doha, Qatar.

On Tuesday, FC Barcelona Lassa will meet Magnus Futsal in the semifinals,

while Al Rayyan face Carlos Barbosa in the stage

In its 15th edition, the Intercontinental Futsal Cup is considered to be one of the best club tournaments in the world.

The inaugural edition of the tournament was held at Porto Alegre in Brazil in 1997 when Sport Club Internacional of Brazil won the title beating FC Barcelona 4-2 in the final.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran's long jumper Arzandeh secures Rio Olympics berth



TT S P O R T S d e s k lete Mohammad Arzandeh won a place for Rio 2016 Olympics on Sunday.

He came first with a jump of 8.16 meters to surpass the Olympic qualification mark by 0.01 at the XXVI International Meeting G Kosanov Memorial in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Arzandeh became Iran's eighth athlete overall to confirm his berth for the Rio Olympics.

Ankit Sharma from India finished in first place with a jump of 8.17 meters.

Sobhan Taherkhani, also from Iran, finished in third place, jumping 7.90 meters.

The Rio Olympics is slated to be held from August 5 to August 21.

Furthermore, Leyla Rajabi won the gold medal in the shot put with a throw of 17.40 meters.

Iranian hammer thrower Reza Moghaddam also finished in the first place with 69.20 meters.

Iranian freestylers win four medals at Stepan Sargsyan Cup

Iranian freestyle wrestlers claimed two gold and two silver medals in the 2016 Stepan Sargsyan Cup.

Alireza Karimi defeated Armenian Shamir Atyan 10-0 in the final match of the 86kg and took a gold medal.

In the 125kg weight category, Parviz Hadi beat Russian Baldan Tsizhipov 10-6 in the final match to win a

Meysam Nasiri lost to Russian Alan Gogayev in the

65kg final match and seized a silver medal.

Amir Mohammadi also was defeated against Armenian Georgy Ketoev in the 97kg weight category and won silver.

The International freestyle wrestling competition 'Stepan Sargsyan' took place from June 24 to 26 in Vanadzor, Armenia.

(Source: Tasnim)



Persepolis winger Rezaeian linked with Turkey's Bursaspor

Persepolis winger Ramin Rezaeian has been linked with a move to Turkish club Bursaspor.

According to local media, Bursaspor is to pen a oneyear contract with the Iranian international right-back.

The 26-year-old player started his career with Saba in 2009 and joined Rah Ahan after four years.

Regarding joined Personalis on a two year contract in

Rezaeian joined Persepolis on a two-year contract in 2015 after rejecting an offer from Turkish Super Lig club



Eskisehirspor

He was called into Iran's 2015 AFC Asian Cup squad on 30 December 2014 by Carlos Queiroz and made his debut against Iraq in a friendly on 4 January 2015.

Rezaeian also played a friendly match against Sweden. He scored his first international goal on 17 November 2015 in a 6–0 victory against Guam.

(Source: Tasnim)

EURO2016 FRANCE

Griezmann: Stern words led to second-half fightback

France were 1-0 down at the break against Republic of Ireland before Antoine Griezmann netted twice to book a quarter-final spot.

Match-winner Antoine Griezmann revealed harsh words were said at half-time as France fought back to beat Republic of Ireland 2-1 at Euro 2016.

Didier Deschamps' side fell behind to Robbie Brady's early penalty and looked well below their best in the first half, but Griezmann – who scored twice in three second-half minutes – said "the proper French team" emerged from the interval.

Asked if the half-time break was tough for the hosts, the Atletico Madrid forward replied: "Yes, for all us. We were shouting at each other. We knew we had to improve.

"In the beginning it was quite difficult. We didn't play very well. In the second half we were the proper French team that we want to be fighting to the end. I'm happy I was able to help.



"The manager brought Kingsley [Coman] on and he caused some damage. I was closer to our striker and the penalty area. I hope we continue in that way."

Despite the match being a closer call than France might have expected, Griezmann felt right at home amid the growing tension.

"For me it's like this all year round with Atletico. We win matches 1-0 and we're suffering until the end," the 25-year-old added.

"We were hoping it would be different with the French team, but it's been similar. We knew it would be a complicated game.

"We're going to look at what we've been doing well and what we need to improve."

Deschamps' men will take on England or Iceland, who meet on Monday, in the quarter-finals.

However, they will be without N'Golo Kante and Adil Rami after the pair were booked and incurred suspensions.

(Source: Goal)

Draxler shares the plaudits as Germany beat Slovakia

The Wolfsburg man put in an outstanding performance to help his side into the Euro 2016 quarter-finals, but he insists the whole team deserve the credit for their display

Julian Draxler shifted the spotlight from his superb individual performance in Germany's 3-0 win over Slovakia, insisting his focus was simply on helping the team.

The Wolfsburg man assisted the second and scored the third as the world champions secured a place in the Euro 2016 quarter-finals - where they will now meet either Italy or Spain - having come into the starting line-up in place of Mario Gotze.

But despite stealing many of the headlines, Draxler said that his main aim was simply to ensure the Germans progressed, although he did agree it was one of his finest performances on the international stage.

"I just wanted to help the team, it wasn't easy not to play in the last game and I'm very happy that I played a good game," the 22-year-old said.

"A couple of minutes after the game, it's difficult to say if it's my best. I'm just glad to help the side, it doesn't matter if it was the best or second best.

"We have a lot of quality, that's why it's not a problem not to play in one or two matches. I wanted to show in training that the manager can count on me and I'll continue to do that.

"He [Joachim Low] trusts in my quality and he wanted me to look for one-on-one chances."

(Source: Goal)

Chile wins Copa America tournament

Chile won second straight Copa America title, beating Argentina football team on penalty shootout after goalless draw.

Messi blazed a penalty over the bar in the shoot-out before Lucas Biglia missed to leave Chile's Francisco Silva with the task of stroking home the winning spot-kick in New Jersey, USA.

It was a carbon copy of last year's Copa America final, also won by Chile on penalties after a goalless draw.

This is the third defeat in a major final following losses to Germany in the 2014 World Cup and Chile in last year's Copa

The defeat also ensured Argentina's 23-year wait for a major title.

The final had gone to penalties after finishing dead-

locked at 0-0 after 120 minutes.

(Source: By staff & agencies)

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Poem of the day

Prayer Times

Of absence, and is bitter toil thy part? Thy lamentations and thy tears, oh Heart,

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Filmmaker Ebrahim **Hatamikia undergoes** operation

R T TEHRAN — Ebrahim Hatamikia, who is e s k mostly known for his films on the 1980-



1988 Iran-Iraq war, has undergone an operation at Tehran's Baqiyatollah Hospital remove to gallstones, some Persian news websites announced on Sunday.

> 55-year-old filmmaker was in good condition and was released from the hospital on

> He is director of acclaimed movies "Bodyguard", "Che", "From Kharkeh to Rhine" and "The Glass Agency".

S IN BRIEF



"Elegy" to compete in American festival

T<mark>ART TEHRAN –</mark> Iranian director d e s k Yusef Kargar's acclaimed short film "Elegy" will be screened at the 2nd Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, which will be held in the American city from August 25 to 28.

Produced by the Iranian Young Cinema Society (IYCS), "Elegy" tells the tragedy of an old man who has been waiting for the return of his missing son for a period of 25 long years.



Iran's House of Cartoon hosts anti-Zionist exhibit

R T TEHRAN – A collection of antid e s k Zionist cartoons by 40 artists from Iranian and several other countries is currently on display in an exhibition at Iran's House of Cartoon.

The exhibit runs until July 21 at the center that can be found at No. 44, West Gol Nabi St., off Shariati Ave.

New York Times fashion photographer Bill **Cunningham dies at 87**

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Bill Cunningham, the celebrated New York Times fashion photographer known for his shots of emerging trends on the streets of New York City, died on Saturday at age of 87 after being hospitalized for a stroke.

Cunningham worked for the New York Times for nearly 40 years, operating "as a dedicated chronicler of fashion and as an unlikely cultural anthropologist," the newspaper said.

His photo spreads were a staple of the paper's Style section and chronicled changing fashion through his choice of themes such as swirling skirts, Birkin bags and gaudy floral prints.

"A lot of people complain about fashion and fast fashion. There is no fashion. That is baloney. Look at this," he said in a video for a recent spread in the paper on the use of black and white contrasts in clothing.

Cunningham took pictures of celebrated New Yorkers at swank events and traveled the city by bicycle for decades, often wearing his signature blue jacket, to shoot street fashion typically using a single-lens reflex camera.

"He wanted to find subjects, not be the subject. He wanted to observe, rather than be observed. Asceticism was a hallmark of his brand," the newspaper said.

Cunningham, who had tried his hand at hat making, was drafted by the U.S. Army during the Korean War. After he got out in 1953, he eventually found work as a fashion reporter.

In the mid-1960s he acquired a small camera to help him with his work, and that started him off in fashion photography.

"I had just the most marvelous time with that camera. Everybody I saw I was able to record," he wrote in the Times in 2002.

In 2008, the French government awarded him the Legion d'Honneur for his work. A year later, he was named a Living Landmark by the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

Cunningham became known to a wider world through an acclaimed 2010 documentary chronicling his career, in which Voque Magazine editor Anna Wintour quipped: "We all get

In an obituary in Vogue, editor-at-large Hamish Bowles wrote "his scrupulous editorial standards of both content and comportment were old world."

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., publisher and chairman of the Times, said Cunningham's "company was sought after by the fashion world's rich and powerful, yet he remained one of the kindest, most gentle and humble people I have ever met."

Many great Persian poets influenced by Imam Ali (AS): scholar

TTCULTURE TEHRAN — Seyyed Mohammadde s k Mehdi Jafari, the author of "The Nahi-ul-Balagha's Impact on Poets Who Lived from the Seventh Century to Nine Century AH", has said that many great Persian poets, including Ferdowsi, Attar, Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi, Sadi and Hafez, were strongly influenced by the discourses of Imam Ali (AS).

"Although Seyyed Razi had completed compiling the Nahj-ul-Balagha of Imam Ali (AS) in 400 AH, many Shia and Sunni poets were already under the influence of the sermons of Imam Ali (AS) before the book was compiled," he told the Persian service of ISNA on

Jafari pointed to his article on the Nahj-ul-Balagha's impact on Persian literature and said that Ferdowsi has made many allusions to the discourses of Imam Ali (AS) in his masterpiece, the Shahnameh.

"Ferdowsi pursued two aims by composing the Shahnameh; first, he wanted to promote Shiism against the Sunni ideology that was being promoted the by Sultan Mahmud and second, he aimed to salvage the Persian language, which was being threatening by the Arab caliphate and Turkish sultanate... thus Ferdowsi and his Shahnameh were always looked upon with disfavor by Sultan Mahmud," he stated.

He said that compiling the Nahj-ul-Balagha increased the influence of Imam Ali (AS) on Persian poetry, and works by poets such as Sanai, Nasser Khosrow and Attar are full of allusions to his discourses.

He added that Rumi even more strongly than Attar was under the influence of Imam Ali (AS).

"In his works, he made many direct references to the Imam's discourses compiled in the Nahj-ul-Balagha,"



shrine of Imam Ali

According to Jafari, Sadi made 250 references to the Imam's discourses in his Bustan (The Orchard) while Hafez made about 60 allusions to the Imam's ethics in his divan.

Jafari asked the youth to study the Nahj-ul-Balagha and told them, "You can find the right answers for

many of your own questions in that book

The political discourses, sermons, letters and sayings of Imam Ali (AS) were collected by Seyyed Razi (d. 1015) in a book entitled Nahj-ul-Balagha ("The Peak of Eloquence"). It has been translated into many languages, including English, French, Russian and

Second book of people's comments on culture of sacrifice published

TTAR TEHRAN — "People's Book of d e s k Sacrifice", a book containing comments on the culture of sacrifice made by people visiting the 29th Tehran international Book Fair, has recently been published.

This is the second volume of the series that centers on the culture of sacrifice and Quran, and was unveiled during a ceremony held at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance attended by Culture Minister Ali Jannati, the Public Relations Office of the Culture Ministry reported on Monday.

"The word sacrifice is a Quranic concept. The Holy Quran has pointed to the issue of sacrifice and the number of Muslims who have placed the needs of others above their own, especially during wars. Making sacrifices to defend and save one's country exists in all the nations, and all nations and governments respect those who have



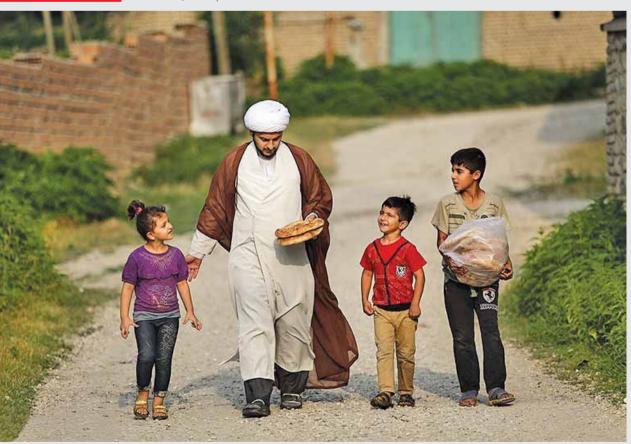
Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati (L) and his colleagues unveil copies of "People's Book of Sacrifice" in Tehran on June 26, 2016.

defended their countries," Jannati said at the ceremony.

"We experienced the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq (which is called the Sacred Defense in Iran), in which we observed the highest range of sacrifice. People with empty hands fought in the war with their iron will. We witnessed how people helped in the liberation of Khorramshahr after the city had been captured by Iraqis on October 26, 1980 during the early months of the war," he remarked.

He said that the culture of sacrifice is one of the solutions, which can save the youth and the society, adding, "Making the youth familiar with Quranic wisdom, or through films, books and plays can help us keep the culture of sacrifice alive."

The minister praised the efforts of those who have helped collect the notes of people at the fair and said that these types of activities and publications of books can help promote the culture of sacrifice in the country.



Muslim cleric Mohammad Nuri walks along with children in the village of Shamushak near the northeastern Iranian city of Gorgan on June 25, 2016. Islamic seminaries send groups of clerics to remote regions across the country every year during the holy month of Ramadan to answer people's religious questions.

Maestro Loris Tjeknavorian undergoes angioplasty

TT<mark>ART TEHRAN</mark> — Veteran desk Iranian composer Loris Tjeknavorian has successfully undergone balloon angioplasty at Day General Hospital in Tehran, the Persian media reported on Monday.

Tjeknavorian was admitted to the hospital last week.

Several colleagues and a number of cultural officials, including Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Ali Moradkhani, visited him at the hospital.

Tjeknavorian, who is of Armenian origin, has widely performed across the world, having conducted international orchestras in Austria, Britain, the United States, Canada, Hungary, Iran, Finland, Armenia, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Africa and Denmark.

His own compositions have also been performed by major orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Helsinki Philharmonic Orchestra, the American Symphony Orchestra in New York and the Tehran Symphony Orchestra.

Roster of top stars honor Prince at annual BET awards

LOS ANGELES(Reuters) — Stars paid tribute to the late singer Prince at Sunday's Black Entertainment Television awards in a series of performances honoring the late singer, while veteran actor Samuel L. Jackson was honored for lifetime achievement.

ranging from Erykah Badu and the Roots to Stevie Wonder, Dave Chapelle and Jennifer Hudson, who sang one of Prince's most iconic hits, "Purple Rain". Prince, 57, died in April at his home in Minnesota.

The string of performances spanned The tributes came from entertainers the more-than three and one-half

hour BET broadcast, which was hosted by Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson from Los Angeles' Microsoft Theater

Boxer Muhammad Ali, who died earlier this month aged 74, was also honored in a special tribute which included his daughter, Laila and Oscarwinning actor Jamie Foxx.

Jackson, accepting BET's Lifetime Achievement Award which usually honors musicians, paid tribute to fellow honoree Jesse Williams, who received the Humanitarian Award, calling the "Grey's Anatomy" star " the closest thing I've heard to a 1960s activist."