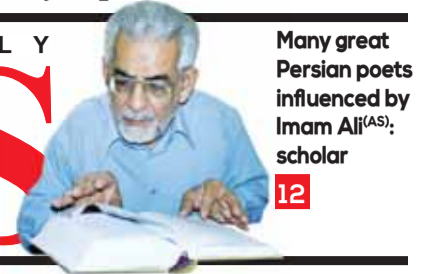


TEHRAN TIMES



12 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12586 | Tuesday | JUNE 28, 2016 | Tir 8, 1395 | Ramadan 22, 1437

'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 2 trillion rials (above \$57.6 billion, at free market exchange rate) of foreign investments and has been successful to absorb the same amount during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20, 2016), i.e., around 4 trillion rials (above \$115 billion) of foreign investments has been absorbed by IFB as of the sanctions' removal. **See page 4**



"Muhtesem Suleyman" arrives at Iranian bookstores

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



The cover of the Persian version of "Muhtesem Suleyman ve Hurrem Sultan"

The book rendered into Persian by Mahla Mansuri tells the 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 I 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.

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 America 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)



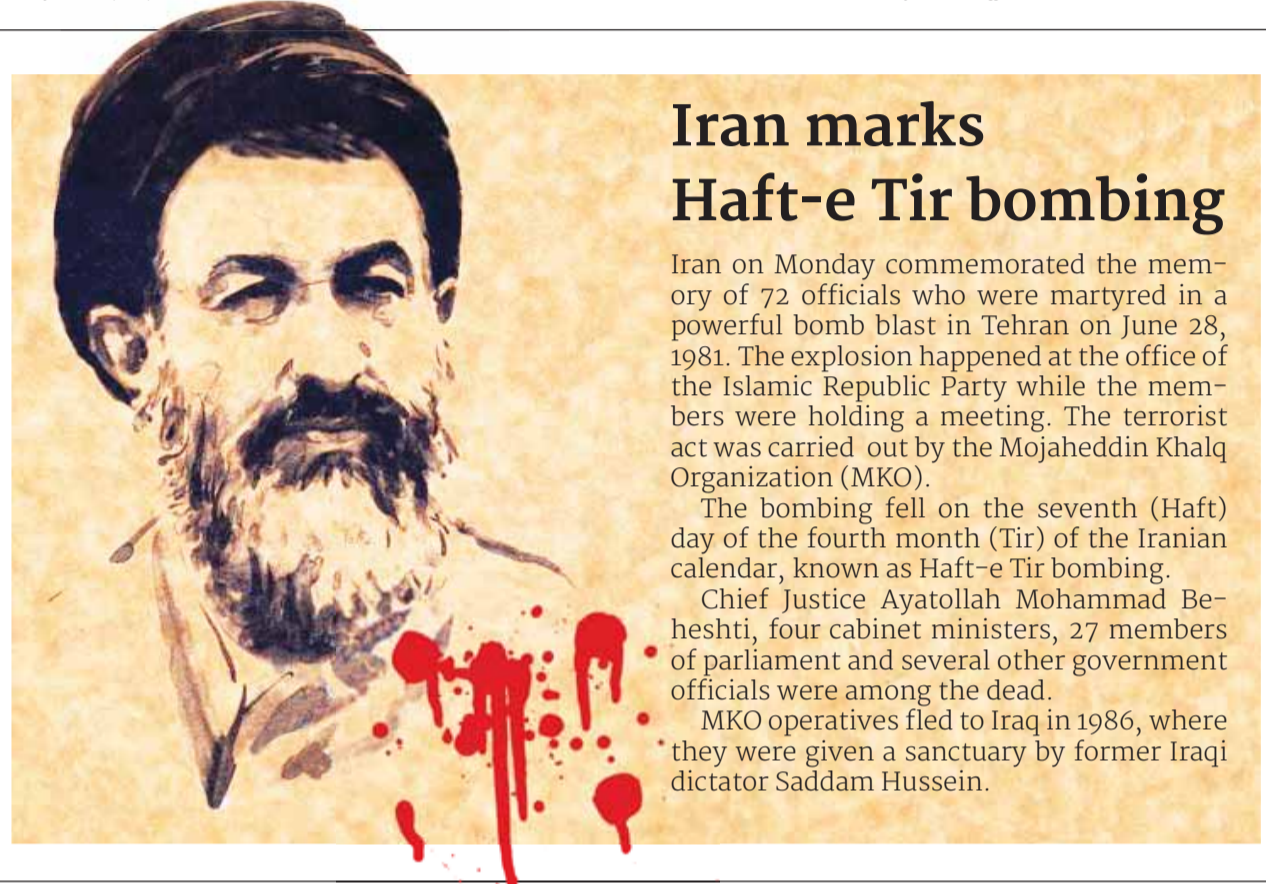
Saudis set conditions for Iran only: hajj official

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Tehran has categorically rejected claims by the Saudis that the draft contract for Hajj pilgrimage that they had proposed to the Iranian side

was the same as Riyadh had offered to other Islamic countries, saying nothing could be further from the truth.

Some Saudi ambassadors to Islamic countries had claimed the content of the

Hajj document Iranian and Saudis negotiators were trying to work out was the same, preemptively seeking to put the ball in Iran's court for the cancellation of this year's Hajj ritual for Iranians. **→2**



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 the deadly bomb blast at the headquarters of the Islamic Republic Party in

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 ranks with someone like [former Iraqi dictator] Saddam [Hussein] and they are still enjoying US support." **→2**

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

sanctions were lifted early 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-

ber 2018. Doosan will be in 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-

standing (MOU) agreement 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 by 2018. (Source: pulsenews.co.kr)

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin has received 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

describing 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 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 in June.

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

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Hossein Jaber 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.

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

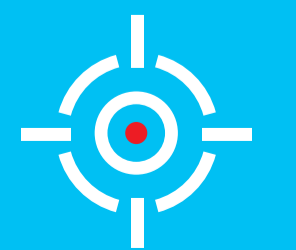
The Iranian Ambassador to Beirut, Mohammad, Fathali also attended the meetings.

On June 19, Iranian Foreign Minister 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.

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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.

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

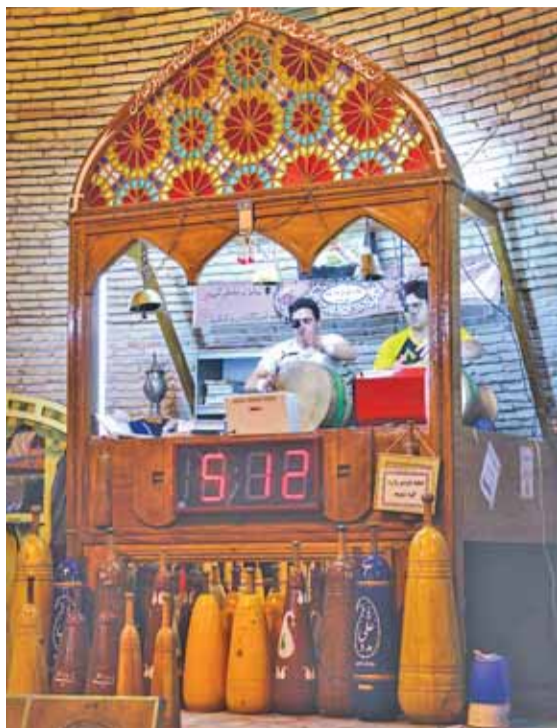
We Iranians are experts when it comes to picnics and we don't compromise with sandwiches and a can of coke. We take a huge pot of warm Lubia Polo (beans with rice) and do not dare to leave our Shirazi salad behind. We set a whole feast and eat with style. You'll witness a ton of this strolling in Shiraz 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 caravanserai such a rewarding experience.

It's not everyday that you get to live like a wealthy



visiting a Zookhaneh 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 star 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 lavish 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 Zookhaneh

Even from a point of view of an Iranian, visiting a Zookhaneh has been one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my travels. Zookhaneh 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 Zookhanehs 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, Boris."

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

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.

He seemed to not particularly care.

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 Hitler's hand.

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 more power.

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 him.

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 be 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.

→9

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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.

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 Treasuries:

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 year-end, 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-

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 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.



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NEWS

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 for signs of H₂O.

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 Earth, should the need arise. And the hope is that if there's water, there might also be signs of life on Mars.

Of course, it's unlikely that 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 water could catalyze further missions to Mars, perhaps with 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*)

NEWS 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 probably join that list.

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 interview.

What they found was that these gravel-bed river floodplain systems, which cover only 3 percent of the landscape in inner-mountain 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 that ecosystem.

(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

MEDICAL TEHRAN — Cosmetic desk 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 on Monday.

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 forever.

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

medicines as well as diagnosis, control and prognosis of the patients' illness by specialists.

The establishment of the Health House followed an instruction from Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh 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 issues.

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 fragility.

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 succeed is pointless.

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 females.

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 wind 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 considerations

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 flexible routes.

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 elevated 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 double-stranded breaks is highly error prone, and such errors can lead to cancer's development.

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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Homeopathy can kill pets and should be banned, say vets

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.

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 treatment.”

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*)

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

NEWS

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 to taste
- 2 1/2 cups chopped tomatoes
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 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

Woman is a delicate creature with strong 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. Imam 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 are born out of wedlock, while the figure was only 11 percent in 1970. Therefore

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 husband's affairs."

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 demands are detrimental to the marital life and calls on both men and women 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 disobeyed me."

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 features 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 spouse and children with a calm, healthy and productive home environment.

(Source: iranreview.org)

IN FOCUS Mehr/ Alliyeh 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.

She has 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 Rahman

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 310kg," 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

S P O R T S TEHRAN — Olympics gold medalist 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



S P O R T S TEHRAN — Iran's long jump athlete Mohammade 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 at 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 Tshipov 10-6 in the final match to win a gold medal.

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 Yerevan, 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 one-year 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.

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)



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 deadlocked at 0-0 after 120 minutes.

(Source: By staff & agencies)



Poem of the day

Art thou with grief afflicted, with the smart
Of absence, and is bitter toil thy part?
Thy lamentations and thy tears, oh Heart,
Are not in vain.

Hafez

Prayer Times

Noon:13:08 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:51 (tomorrow)

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■ Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
■ www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co. Tel: 88911433
■ Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
■ Printed at: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

NEWS

Filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia undergoes operation

T A R T TEHRAN — Ebrahim Hatamikia, who is mostly known for his films on the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, has undergone an operation at Tehran's Baqiyatollah Hospital to remove gallstones, some Persian news websites announced on Sunday.

The 55-year-old filmmaker was in good condition and was released from the hospital on Monday.

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

NEWS IN BRIEF

"Elegy" to compete in American festival



T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director 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



T A R T TEHRAN — A collection of anti-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 Vogue Magazine editor Anna Wintour quipped: "We all get dressed for Bill."

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

T A R T CULTURE TEHRAN — Seyyed Mohammad-d e s k Mehdi Jafari, the author of "The Nahj-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 Sunday.

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 by the 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,"



The holy shrine of Imam Ali (AS) in Najaf, Iraq

Jafari said.

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 Spanish.

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

T A R T TEHRAN — "People's Book of 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.

PICTURE OF THE DAY © Tasnim/Mostafa Hassanzadeh



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

T A R T TEHRAN — Veteran 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.

The tributes came from entertainers

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 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 Oscar-

winning 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."